

**VOLUME 9**  
**Titles 73 through 84**

---

**2012**  
**REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON**

---

**Published under the authority of chapter 1.08 RCW.**

---

Containing all laws of a general and permanent nature through the 2012 2nd special session which adjourned April 11, 2012.

# REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON

2012 Edition

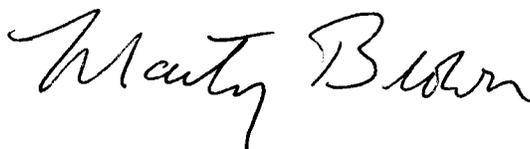
---

© 2012 State of Washington

---

## CERTIFICATE

The 2012 edition of the Revised Code of Washington, published officially by the Statute Law Committee, is, in accordance with RCW 1.08.037, certified to comply with the current specifications of the committee.



MARTY BROWN, Chair  
STATUTE LAW COMMITTEE

PRINTED ON RECYCLABLE MATERIAL

For recycling information call:

Recycle Hotline  
1-800-732-9253



## PREFACE

**Numbering system:** The number of each section of this code is made up of three parts, in sequence as follows: Number of title; number of chapter within the title; number of section within the chapter. Thus RCW 1.04.020 is Title 1, chapter 4, section 20. The section part of the number (.020) is initially made up of three digits, constitutes a true decimal, and allows for new sections to be inserted between old sections already consecutively numbered, merely by adding one or more digits at the end of the number. In most chapters of the code, sections have been numbered by tens (.010, .020, .030, .040, etc.), leaving vacant numbers between existing sections so that new sections may be inserted without extension of the section number beyond three digits.

**Citation to the Revised Code of Washington:** The code should be cited as RCW; see RCW 1.04.040. An RCW title should be cited Title 7 RCW. An RCW chapter should be cited chapter 7.24 RCW. An RCW section should be cited RCW 7.24.010. Through references should be made as RCW 7.24.010 through 7.24.100. Series of sections should be cited as RCW 7.24.010, 7.24.020, and 7.24.030.

**History of the Revised Code of Washington; Source notes:** The Revised Code of Washington was adopted by the legislature in 1950; see chapter 1.04 RCW. The original publication (1951) contained material variances from the language and organization of the session laws from which it was derived, including a variety of divisions and combinations of the session law sections. During 1953 through 1959, the Statute Law Committee, in exercise of the powers in chapter 1.08 RCW, completed a comprehensive study of these variances and, by means of a series of administrative orders or reenactment bills, restored each title of the code to reflect its session law source, but retaining the general codification scheme originally adopted. An audit trail of this activity has been preserved in the concluding segments of the source note of each section of the code so affected. The legislative source of each section is enclosed in brackets [ ] at the end of the section. Reference to session laws is abbreviated; thus "1891 c 23 § 1; 1854 p 99 § 135" refers to section 1, chapter 23, Laws of 1891 and section 135, page 99, Laws of 1854. "Prior" indicates a break in the statutory chain, usually a repeal and reenactment. "RRS or Rem. Supp.—" indicates the parallel citation in Remington's Revised Code, last published in 1949.

Where, before restoration, a section of this code constituted a consolidation of two or more sections of the session laws, or of sections separately numbered in Remington's, the line of derivation is shown for each component section, with each line of derivation being set off from the others by use of small Roman numerals, "(i)," "(ii)," etc.

Where, before restoration, only a part of a session law section was reflected in a particular RCW section the history note reference is followed by the word "part."

"Formerly" and its correlative form "FORMER PART OF SECTION" followed by an RCW citation preserves the record of original codification.

**Double amendments:** Some double or other multiple amendments to a section made without reference to each other are set out in the code in smaller (8-point) type. See RCW 1.12.025.

**Index:** Titles 1 through 91 are indexed in the RCW General Index. A separate index is provided for the State Constitution.

**Sections repealed or decodified; Disposition table:** Information concerning RCW sections repealed or decodified can be found in the table entitled "Disposition of former RCW sections."

**Codification tables:** To convert a session law citation to its RCW number (for Laws of 1999 or later) consult the codification tables. A complete codification table, including Remington's Revised Statutes, is on the Code Reviser web site at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/codereviser>.

**Notes:** Notes that are more than ten years old have been removed from the print publication of the RCW except when retention has been deemed necessary to preserve the full intent of the law. All notes are displayed in the electronic copy of the RCW on the Code Reviser web site at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/codereviser>.

**Errors or omissions:** (1) Where an obvious clerical error has been made in the law during the legislative process, the code reviser adds a corrected word, phrase, or punctuation mark in [brackets] for clarity. These additions do not constitute any part of the law.

(2) Although considerable care has been taken in the production of this code, it is inevitable that in so large a work that there will be errors, both mechanical and of judgment. When those who use this code detect errors in particular sections, a note citing the section involved and the nature of the error may be sent to: Code Reviser, Box 40551, Olympia, WA 98504-0551, so that correction may be made in a subsequent publication.

# TITLES OF THE REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON

1	General provisions		
	<b>Judicial</b>	46	<b>Highways and motor vehicles</b>
2	Courts of record	47	Motor vehicles
3	District courts—Courts of limited jurisdiction		Public highways and transportation
4	Civil procedure	48	<b>Insurance</b>
5	Evidence		<b>Labor</b>
6	Enforcement of judgments	49	Labor regulations
7	Special proceedings and actions	50	Unemployment compensation
8	Eminent domain	51	Industrial insurance
9	Crimes and punishments		<b>Local service districts</b>
9A	Washington Criminal Code	52	Fire protection districts
10	Criminal procedure	53	Port districts
11	Probate and trust law	54	Public utility districts
12	District courts—Civil procedure	55	Sanitary districts
13	Juvenile courts and juvenile offenders	57	Water-sewer districts
14	<b>Aeronautics</b>		<b>Property rights and incidents</b>
	<b>Agriculture</b>	58	Boundaries and plats
15	Agriculture and marketing	59	Landlord and tenant
16	Animals and livestock	60	Liens
17	Weeds, rodents, and pests	61	Mortgages, deeds of trust, and real estate contracts
	<b>Businesses and professions</b>	62A	Uniform Commercial Code
18	Businesses and professions	63	Personal property
19	Business regulations—Miscellaneous	64	Real property and conveyances
20	Commission merchants—Agricultural products	65	Recording, registration, and legal publication
21	Securities and investments		<b>Public health, safety, and welfare</b>
22	Warehousing and deposits	66	Alcoholic beverage control
	<b>Corporations, associations, and partnerships</b>	67	Sports and recreation—Convention facilities
23	Corporations and associations (Profit)	68	Cemeteries, morgues, and human remains
23B	Washington business corporation act	69	Food, drugs, cosmetics, and poisons
24	Corporations and associations (Nonprofit)	70	Public health and safety
25	Partnerships	71	Mental illness
26	<b>Domestic relations</b>	71A	Developmental disabilities
	<b>Education</b>	72	State institutions
27	Libraries, museums, and historical activities	73	Veterans and veterans' affairs
28A	Common school provisions	74	Public assistance
28B	Higher education		<b>Public resources</b>
28C	Vocational education	76	Forests and forest products
29A	<b>Elections</b>	77	Fish and wildlife
	<b>Financial institutions</b>	78	Mines, minerals, and petroleum
30	Banks and trust companies	79	Public lands
31	Miscellaneous loan agencies	79A	Public recreational lands
32	Mutual savings banks		<b>Public service</b>
33	Savings and loan associations	80	Public utilities
	<b>Government</b>	81	Transportation
34	Administrative law		<b>Taxation</b>
35	Cities and towns	82	Excise taxes
35A	Optional Municipal Code	83	Estate taxation
36	Counties	84	Property taxes
37	Federal areas—Indians		<b>Waters</b>
38	Militia and military affairs	85	Diking and drainage
39	Public contracts and indebtedness	86	Flood control
40	Public documents, records, and publications	87	Irrigation
41	Public employment, civil service, and pensions	88	Navigation and harbor improvements
42	Public officers and agencies	89	Reclamation, soil conservation, and land settlement
43	State government—Executive	90	Water rights—Environment
44	State government—Legislative	91	Waterways

# Title 73

## VETERANS AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

### Chapters

- 73.04 General provisions.**
- 73.08 Veterans' relief.**
- 73.16 Employment and reemployment.**
- 73.20 Acknowledgments and powers of attorney.**
- 73.24 Burial.**
- 73.36 Uniform veterans' guardianship act.**
- 73.40 Veterans' memorials.**

*Colony of the state soldiers' home: RCW 72.36.040.*

*Estates of absentees: Chapter 11.80 RCW.*

*Firefighters' retirement, credit for military service: RCW 41.16.220, 41.18.150.*

*Liquor control board employment, veteran preference: RCW 66.08.016.*

*Mental illness, commitment: Chapter 71.05 RCW.*

*Militia and military affairs: Title 38 RCW.*

*Nuncupative wills: RCW 11.12.025.*

*Oaths, military personnel, who may administer: RCW 38.38.844.*

*Police retirement, credit for military service: RCW 41.20.050.*

*Professional, occupational licenses, moratorium: RCW 43.24.130.*

*Property taxation exemptions: RCW 84.36.030.*

*Public employment, veterans' scoring criteria status in examinations: RCW 41.04.010.*

*Soldiers' and veterans' homes and veterans' cemetery: Chapter 72.36 RCW.*

*State employees' retirement*

*credit for military service: RCW 41.40.170.*

*exception from membership: RCW 41.40.023(6).*

*State hospitals for insane, war veterans: RCW 73.36.165.*

*Statewide city employees' retirement, prior service credit: RCW 41.44.120(4).*

*Teachers' retirement, credit for military service: RCW 41.32.260.*

*Veterans' rehabilitation council: Chapter 43.61 RCW.*

*Wills*

*proof when witness in war service: RCW 11.20.040.*

*who may make: RCW 11.12.010.*

### Chapter 73.04 RCW GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sections

- 73.04.010 Pension papers—Fees not to be charged.
- 73.04.020 Pension papers—Fees not to be charged—Penalty.
- 73.04.030 Discharges recorded without charge—Exemption from public disclosure—Fee.
- 73.04.040 Discharges recorded without charge—Certified copy as proof.
- 73.04.042 Honorable discharge recorded—Veterans of Spanish-American War and World War I.
- 73.04.050 Right to peddle, vend, sell goods without license—License fee on business established under act of congress prohibited.
- 73.04.060 Right to peddle, vend, sell goods without license—Issuance of license.
- 73.04.070 Meeting hall may be furnished veterans' organizations.
- 73.04.080 Meeting place rental may be paid out of county fund.
- 73.04.090 Benefits, preferences, exemptions, etc., limited to veterans subject to full, continuous military control.
- 73.04.115 Free license plates for surviving spouses or surviving domestic partners of deceased prisoners of war.
- 73.04.120 Documents available for free—Who may request.

- 73.04.130 Veteran estate management program—Director authority—Criteria.
- 73.04.131 Veteran estate management program—Definitions.
- 73.04.135 Veteran estate management program—Claims against veteran's estate—Account created.
- 73.04.140 Guardians—Department officers and employees prohibited.
- 73.04.150 Joint committee on veterans' and military affairs.
- 73.04.160 Veterans' history awareness month—Commemoration of contributions of veterans.

*Department of veterans affairs: Chapter 43.60A RCW.*

*Veterans classified as resident students: RCW 28B.15.014.*

#### 73.04.010 Pension papers—Fees not to be charged.

No judge, or clerk of court, county clerk, county auditor, or any other county officer, shall be allowed to charge any honorably discharged soldier or seaman, or the spouse or domestic partner, orphan, or legal representative thereof, any fee for administering any oath, or giving any official certificate for the procuring of any pension, bounty, or back pay, nor for administering any oath or oaths and giving the certificate required upon any voucher for collection of periodical dues from the pension agent, nor any fee for services rendered in perfecting any voucher. [2008 c 6 § 510; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 106; 1891 c 14 § 1; RRS § 4232.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### 73.04.020 Pension papers—Fees not to be charged—

**Penalty.** Any such officer who may require and accept fees for such services shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars nor more than fifty dollars. [1891 c 14 § 2; RRS § 4233.]

#### 73.04.030 Discharges recorded without charge—

**Exemption from public disclosure—Fee.** Each county auditor of the several counties of the state of Washington shall record upon presentation without expense, in a suitable permanent record the discharge of any veteran of the armed forces of the United States who is residing in the state of Washington.

The department of veterans affairs, in consultation with the association of county auditors, shall develop and distribute to county auditors the form referred to in RCW 42.56.440 entitled "request for exemption from public disclosure of discharge papers."

The county auditor may charge a basic recording fee and preservation fee that together shall not exceed a total of seven dollars for the recording of the "request for exemption from public disclosure of discharge papers."

County auditors shall develop a form for requestors of military discharge papers (form DD214) to verify that the requestor is authorized to receive or view the military discharge paper. [2005 c 274 § 349; 2002 c 224 § 3; 1989 c 50 § 1; 1943 c 38 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10758-10. FORMER

PART OF SECTION: 1923 c 17 § 1 now codified as RCW 73.04.042.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

**Working group on veterans' records:** See note following RCW 42.56.210.

**73.04.040 Discharges recorded without charge—Certified copy as proof.** A certified copy of such record shall be prima facie proof for all purposes of the services rendered, citizenship, place and date of birth of such veteran. [1943 c 38 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10758-11.]

**73.04.042 Honorable discharge recorded—Veterans of Spanish-American War and World War I.** It shall be the duty of county auditors to record without charge, in a book kept for that purpose, the certificate of discharge of any honorably discharged soldier, sailor or marine who served with the United States forces in the war with Germany and her allies and veterans of the Spanish-American War. [1923 c 17 § 1; 1919 c 86 § 1; RRS § 4094-1. Formerly RCW 73.04.030, part.]

**73.04.050 Right to peddle, vend, sell goods without license—License fee on business established under act of congress prohibited.** Every honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine of the military or naval service of the United States, who is a resident of this state, shall have the right to peddle, hawk, vend, and sell goods, other than his or her own manufacture and production, without paying for the license as now provided by law, by those who engage in such business; but any such soldier, sailor, or marine may engage in such business by procuring a license for that purpose as provided in RCW 73.04.060.

No county, city, or political subdivision in this state shall charge or collect any license fee on any business established by any veteran under the provisions of Public Law 346 of the 78th congress. [2012 c 117 § 504; 1945 c 144 § 9; 1903 c 69 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10755. Formerly RCW 73.04.050, part and 73.04.060. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1945 c 144 § 10 now codified as RCW 73.04.060.]

**Reviser's note:** 1945 c 144 §§ 9 and 10 amending 1903 c 69 §§ 1 and 2 were declared unconstitutional in *Larsen v. City of Shelton*, 37 Wn. (2d) 481.

*Peddlers' and hawkers' licenses: Chapter 36.71 RCW.*

**73.04.060 Right to peddle, vend, sell goods without license—Issuance of license.** On presentation to the county auditor or city clerk of the county in which any such soldier, sailor, or marine may reside, of a certificate of honorable discharge from the army or naval service of the United States, such county auditor or city clerk, as the case may be, shall issue without cost to such soldier, sailor, or marine, a license authorizing him or her to carry on the business of peddler, as provided in RCW 73.04.050. [2012 c 117 § 505; 1945 c 144 § 10; 1903 c 69 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10756. Formerly RCW 73.04.050, part. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1945 c 144 § 9, part now codified in RCW 73.04.050.]

**Reviser's note:** 1945 c 144 § 10 amending 1903 c 69 § 2 declared unconstitutional, see note following RCW 73.04.050.

**73.04.070 Meeting hall may be furnished veterans' organizations.** Counties, cities and other political subdivisions of the state of Washington are authorized to furnish free of charge a building, office and/or meeting hall for the exclusive use of the several nationally recognized veterans' organizations and their auxiliaries, subject to the direction of the committee or person in charge of such building, office and/or meeting hall. The several nationally recognized veterans' organizations shall have access at all times to said building, office and/or meeting hall. Counties, cities and other political subdivisions shall further have the right to furnish heat, light, utilities, furniture and janitor service at no cost to the veterans' organizations and their auxiliaries. [1945 c 108 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10758-60.]

**73.04.080 Meeting place rental may be paid out of county fund.** Any post, camp or chapter of any national organization of veterans now, or which may hereafter be, chartered by an act of congress which has qualified to accept relief from the veteran's assistance fund of any county may draw upon said county fund for the payment of the rent of its regular meeting place: PROVIDED, That no post, camp or chapter shall be allowed to draw on such fund for this purpose to exceed a reasonable amount approved by the county legislative authority in any one year, or in any amount for hall rental where said post, camp or chapter is furnished quarters by the state or by any municipality.

Before such claims are ordered paid by the county legislative authority, the commander or authorized disbursing officer of such posts, camps or chapters shall file a proper claim each month with the county auditor for such rental. [1985 c 181 § 1; 1947 c 180 § 7; 1945 c 144 § 8; 1921 c 41 § 8; 1915 c 69 § 1; 1909 c 64 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10743.]

**73.04.090 Benefits, preferences, exemptions, etc., limited to veterans subject to full, continuous military control.** All benefits, advantages or emoluments, not available upon equal terms to all citizens, including but not being limited to preferred rights to public employment, civil service preference, exemption from license fees or other impositions, preference in purchasing state property, which by any law of this state have been made specially available to war veterans or to persons who have served in the armed forces or defense forces of the United States, shall be available only to persons who have been subject to full and continuous military control and discipline as actual members of the federal armed forces or to persons defined as "veterans" in RCW 41.04.007. Service with such forces in a civilian capacity, or in any capacity wherein a person retained the right to terminate his or her service or to refuse full obedience to military superiors, shall not be the basis for eligibility for such benefits. Service in any of the following shall not for purposes of this section be considered as military service: The office of emergency services or any component thereof; the American Red Cross; the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary; United States Coast Guard Reserve Temporary; United States Coast and Geodetic Survey; American Field Service; Civil Air Patrol; Cadet Nurse Corps, and any other similar organization. [2002 c 292 § 6; 1991 c 240 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 45; 1947 c 142 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10758-115.]

*Emergency management: Chapter 38.52 RCW.*

**73.04.115 Free license plates for surviving spouses or surviving domestic partners of deceased prisoners of war.**

(1) The department shall issue to the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of any deceased former prisoner of war described in RCW 46.18.235(1)(c), one set of regular or special license plates for use on a personal passenger vehicle registered to that person.

(2) The plates shall be issued without the payment of any license fees or excise tax on the vehicle. Whenever any person who has been issued license plates under this section applies to the department for transfer of the plates to a subsequently acquired motor vehicle, a transfer fee of five dollars shall be charged in addition to all other appropriate fees. If the surviving spouse remarries or the surviving domestic partner registers in a new domestic partnership, he or she shall return the special plates to the department within fifteen days and apply for regular license plates.

(3) For purposes of this section, the term "special license plates" does not include any plate from the armed forces license plate collection established in \*RCW 46.18.200(3). [2010 c 161 § 1159; 2008 c 6 § 511; 2005 c 216 § 5; 1990 c 250 § 91; 1987 c 98 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 46.18.200 was amended by 2011 c 229 § 1, 2011 c 225 § 1, and 2011 c 171 § 69, each changing subsection (3) to subsection (2).

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

*Persons with disabilities, versions of special plates for:* RCW 46.19.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.04.120 Documents available for free—Who may request.** County clerks and county auditors, respectively, are authorized and directed to furnish free of charge to the legal representative, surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner, child or parent of any deceased veteran certified copies of marriage certificates, decrees of dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership, or annulment, or other documents contained in their files and to record and issue, free of charge, certified copies of such documents from other states, territories, or foreign countries affecting the marital status of such veteran whenever any such document shall be required in connection with any claim pending before the United States veterans' bureau or other governmental agency administering benefits to war veterans. Where these same documents are required of service personnel of the armed forces of the United States for determining entitlement to family allowances and other benefits, they shall be provided without charge by county clerks and county auditors upon request of the person in the service or his or her dependents. [2012 c 117 § 506; 2008 c 6 § 508; 1985 c 44 § 19; 1984 c 84 § 1; 1967 c 89 § 1; 1949 c 16 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10758-13b.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**73.04.130 Veteran estate management program—Director authority—Criteria.** The director is authorized to implement a veteran estate management program and manage the estate of any incapacitated veteran or incapacitated veteran's dependent who:

- (1) Is a bona fide resident of the state of Washington; and
- (2) The United States department of veterans affairs or the social security administration has determined that the payment of benefits or entitlements is dependent upon the appointment of a federal fiduciary or representative payee; and
- (3) Requires the services of a fiduciary and a responsible family member is not available; or
- (4) Is deceased and has not designated an executor to dispose of the estate.

The director or any other interested person may petition the appropriate authority for the appointment as fiduciary for an incapacitated veteran or as the executor of the deceased veteran's estate. If appointed, the director may serve without bond. This section shall not affect the prior right to act as administrator of a veteran's estate of such persons as are denominated in RCW 11.28.120 (1) and (2), nor shall this section affect the appointment of executor made in the last will of any veteran. [1994 c 147 § 2; 1979 c 64 § 1; 1977 c 31 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 63 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 4 § 1.]

**73.04.131 Veteran estate management program—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this title.

- (1) "Director" means the director of the department of veterans affairs or the director's designee.
- (2) "Veteran estate management program" means the program under which the director serves as administrator or federal fiduciary of an incapacitated veteran's estate or incapacitated veteran's dependent's estate, or the executor of a deceased veteran's estate. [1994 c 147 § 1.]

**73.04.135 Veteran estate management program—Claims against veteran's estate—Account created.** (1) The director may place a claim against the estate of an incapacitated or deceased veteran who is a veteran estate management program client. The claim shall not exceed the amount allowed by rule of the United States department of veterans affairs and charges for reasonable expenses incurred in the execution or administration of the estate. The director shall waive all or any portion of the claim if the payment or a portion thereof would pose a hardship to the veteran.

(2) The veteran estate management account is hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer. Fees, reimbursements, and grants collected from estates of incapacitated veterans or incapacitated veterans' dependents shall be deposited into the account. Funds in the account shall be expended solely for the purpose of providing financial operating and maintenance support to the veteran estate management program and shall be the sole source of funding for the program. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2006 c 372 § 905; 1994 c 147 § 3.]

**Severability—2006 c 372:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2006 c 372 § 908.]

**Effective date—2006 c 372:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state gov-

ernment and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 31, 2006]." [2006 c 372 § 909.]

**73.04.140 Guardians—Department officers and employees prohibited.** The director or any other department of veterans affairs employee shall not serve as guardian for any resident at the Washington state veterans' homes. [1994 c 147 § 5.]

**73.04.150 Joint committee on veterans' and military affairs.** (1) There is hereby created a joint committee on veterans' and military affairs. The committee shall consist of: (a) Eight members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate, four of whom shall be members of the majority party and four of whom shall be members of the minority party; and (b) eight members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker, four of whom shall be members of the majority party and four of whom shall be members of the minority party. Members of the committee shall be appointed before the close of the 2005 legislative session, and before the close of each regular session during an odd-numbered year thereafter.

(2) Each member's term of office shall run from the close of the session in which he or she was appointed until the close of the next regular session held in an odd-numbered year. If a successor is not appointed during a session, the member's term shall continue until the member is reappointed or a successor is appointed. The term of office for a committee member who does not continue as a member of the senate or house of representatives shall cease upon the convening of the next session of the legislature during an odd-numbered year after the member's appointment, or upon the member's resignation, whichever is earlier. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as described in subsection (1) of this section. All such vacancies shall be filled from the same political party and from the same house as the member whose seat was vacated.

(3) The committee shall establish an executive committee of four members, two of whom are members of the senate and two of whom are members of the house of representatives. The executive committee shall appoint one cochair from the two executive committee members who are senators and one cochair from the two executive committee members who are representatives. The two cochairs shall be from different political parties and their terms of office shall run from the close of the session in which they are appointed until the close of the next regular session in an odd-numbered year. The executive committee is responsible for performing all general administrative and personnel duties assigned to it in the rules and procedures adopted by the joint committee, as well as other duties delegated to it by the joint committee.

(4) The joint committee on veterans' and military affairs has the following powers and duties:

(a) To study veterans' issues, active military forces issues, and national guard and reserve component issues, and make recommendations to the legislature; and

(b) To study structure and administration of the department of veterans affairs and the military department, and make recommendations to the legislature.

(5) The joint committee shall adopt rules and procedures for its orderly operation. The joint committee may create subcommittees to perform duties under this section. [2005 c 141 § 1; 2001 c 268 § 1.]

**73.04.160 Veterans' history awareness month—Commemoration of contributions of veterans.** The legislature declares that:

(1) November of each year will be known as veterans' history awareness month;

(2) The week in November in which veterans' day occurs is designated as a time for people of this state to celebrate the contributions to the state by veterans; and

(3) Educational institutions, public entities, and private organizations are encouraged to designate time for appropriate activities in commemoration of the contributions of America's veterans. [2003 c 161 § 1.]

## Chapter 73.08 RCW VETERANS' RELIEF

### Sections

73.08.005	Definitions.
73.08.010	County veterans' assistance programs for indigent veterans and families—Requirements.
73.08.035	Veterans' advisory boards.
73.08.070	County burial of indigent deceased veterans.
73.08.080	Tax levy authorized.
73.08.090	Public assistance eligibility.

*Soldiers' and veterans' homes and veterans' cemetery: Chapter 72.36 RCW.*

*Soldiers' home: State Constitution Art. 10 § 3.*

**73.08.005 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Direct costs" includes those allowable costs that can be readily assigned to the statutory objectives of this chapter, consistent with the cost principles promulgated by the federal office of management and budget in circular No. A-87, dated May 10, 2004.

(2) "Family" means the spouse or domestic partner, surviving spouse, surviving domestic partner, and dependent children of a living or deceased veteran.

(3) "Indigent" means a person who is defined as such by the county legislative authority using one or more of the following definitions:

(a) Receiving one of the following types of public assistance: Temporary assistance for needy families, aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits, pregnant women assistance benefits, poverty-related veterans' benefits, food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically, refugee resettlement benefits, medicaid, medical care services, or supplemental security income;

(b) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of up to one hundred fifty percent or less of the current federally established poverty level, or receiving an annual income not exceeding a higher qualifying income established by the county legislative authority; or

(c) Unable to pay reasonable costs for shelter, food, utilities, and transportation because his or her available funds are insufficient.

(4) "Indirect costs" includes those allowable costs that are generally associated with carrying out the statutory objectives of this chapter, but the identification and tracking of those costs cannot be readily assigned to a specific statutory objective without an accounting effort that is disproportionate to the benefit received. A county legislative authority may allocate allowable indirect costs to its veterans' assistance fund if it is accomplished in a manner consistent with the cost principles promulgated by the federal office of management and budget in circular No. A-87, dated May 10, 2004.

(5) "Veteran" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 41.04.005 and 41.04.007, and includes a current member of the national guard or armed forces reserves who has been deployed to serve in an armed conflict.

(6) "Veterans' advisory board" means a board established by a county legislative authority under the authority of RCW 73.08.035.

(7) "Veterans' assistance fund" means an account in the custody of the county auditor, or the chief financial officer in a county operating under a charter, that is funded by taxes levied under the authority of RCW 73.08.080.

(8) "Veterans' assistance program" means a program approved by the county legislative authority under the authority of RCW 73.08.010 that is fully or partially funded by the veterans' assistance fund authorized by RCW 73.08.080. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 17; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 17; 2009 c 35 § 1; 2008 c 6 § 502; 2005 c 250 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**Intent—2005 c 250:** "(1) It is the intent of the legislature that each county establish a veterans' assistance program to benefit indigent veterans and their families. These programs must be funded, at least in part, by veterans' assistance funds. The legislature intends also for each county to establish a veterans' advisory board responsible for advising the county legislative authority on needed and appropriate assistance programs for local indigent veterans and their families. Recognizing the valuable insight and perspectives that veterans offer, it is the intent of the legislature that each board be comprised entirely of veterans.

(2) The legislature recognizes that ongoing veterans' relief or assistance programs in some areas of the state have provided meaningful assistance to indigent veterans and family members. The legislature further recognizes that veterans' service organizations have traditionally been the initial point of contact for indigent veterans and family members seeking assistance. In recognition of these factors, the legislature intends to authorize, upon the satisfaction of certain administrative requirements, existing veterans' relief or assistance programs to continue providing needed and effective assistance to indigent veterans and their families.

(3) The legislature recognizes that counties respond to the needs of indigent veterans and family members in the manner most appropriate to the needs and resources of the county. The legislature intends for the provisions of this act to facilitate the effective use of assistance funds through efficient model programs that benefit veterans and family members experiencing financial hardships.

(4) It is the policy of the state of Washington that bias shall not play a role in the distribution of the veterans' assistance fund." [2005 c 250 § 1.]

**73.08.010 County veterans' assistance programs for indigent veterans and families—Requirements.** (1) For the relief of indigent veterans, their families, and the families of deceased indigent veterans, the legislative authority of

each county shall establish a veterans' assistance program to address the needs of local indigent veterans and their families. The county legislative authority shall consult with and solicit recommendations from the veterans' advisory board established under RCW 73.08.035 to determine the appropriate services needed for local indigent veterans. Veterans' assistance programs shall be funded, at least in part, by the veterans' assistance fund created under the authority of RCW 73.08.080.

(2) The county legislative authority may authorize other entities to administer a veterans' assistance program or programs through grants, contracts, or interlocal agreements. If the county legislative authority authorizes another entity to administer a veterans' assistance program or programs, the terms of the grant, contract, or interlocal agreement must, for each program, specify:

- (a) The details of the program;
- (b) The responsibilities of all parties;
- (c) The duration of the program;
- (d) The costs and sources of funding;
- (e) Any insurance or bond requirements;
- (f) The format and frequency of progress and final reports; and
- (g) Any other information deemed necessary or appropriate by either party.

(3) If the county legislative authority authorizes another entity to administer a veterans' assistance program or programs, the authorized entity should, to the extent feasible and consistent with this chapter, ensure that a local branch of a nationally recognized veterans' service organization is the initial point of contact for a veteran or family member seeking assistance.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or be construed as prohibiting a county from authorizing the continued operation of a veterans' relief or assistance program or programs existing on January 1, 2005, if the authorizing legislative authority:

- (a) Solicits advice from the veterans' advisory board established in RCW 73.08.035; and
- (b) Satisfies the grant, contractual, or interlocal agreement requirements of subsection (2) of this section. [2005 c 250 § 3; 2002 c 292 § 7; 1983 c 295 § 1; 1947 c 180 § 1; 1945 c 144 § 1; 1921 c 41 § 1; 1919 c 83 § 1; 1907 c 64 § 1; 1893 c 37 § 1; 1888 p 208 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10737. Cf. 1935 c 38 § 1.]

**Intent—2005 c 250:** See note following RCW 73.08.005.

*Soldiers' home and colony:* Chapter 72.36 RCW.

*Veterans' rehabilitation council:* Chapter 43.61 RCW.

**73.08.035 Veterans' advisory boards.** (1) The legislative authority for each county must establish a veterans' advisory board. Upon its establishment, the board shall advise the county legislative authority on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to local indigent veterans, and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

(2) The county legislative authority must solicit representatives from either local branches of nationally recognized veterans' service organizations or the veterans' community at large, or both, to serve on the board. No fewer than a majority of the board members shall be members from nationally

recognized veterans' service organizations and only veterans are eligible to serve as board members.

(3) Service on the board is voluntary. The county legislative authority may provide for reimbursement to board members for expenses incurred. [2005 c 250 § 4.]

**Intent—2005 c 250:** See note following RCW 73.08.005.

**73.08.070 County burial of indigent deceased veterans.** (1) The legislative authority for each county must designate a proper authority to be responsible, at the expense of the county, for the burial or cremation of any deceased indigent veteran or deceased family member of an indigent veteran who died without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses. The costs of such a burial or cremation may not exceed the limit established by the county legislative authority nor be less than three hundred dollars.

(2) If the deceased has relatives or friends who desire to conduct the burial or cremation of such deceased person, then a sum not to exceed the limit established by the county legislative authority nor less than three hundred dollars shall be paid to the relatives or friends by the county auditor, or by the chief financial officer in a county operating under a charter. Payment shall be made to the relatives or friends upon presenting to the auditor or chief financial officer due proof of the death, burial or cremation, and expenses incurred.

(3) Expenses incurred for the burial or cremation of a deceased indigent veteran or the deceased family member of an indigent veteran as provided by this section shall be paid from the veterans' assistance fund authorized by RCW 73.08.080. [2005 c 250 § 5; 2002 c 292 § 9; 1997 c 286 § 1; 1983 c 295 § 5; 1949 c 15 § 1; 1947 c 180 § 6; 1945 c 144 § 6; 1921 c 41 § 6; 1919 c 83 § 6; 1917 c 42 § 1; 1907 c 64 § 6; 1899 c 99 § 1; 1888 p 209 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10757. Formerly RCW 73.24.010.]

**Intent—2005 c 250:** See note following RCW 73.08.005.

*Counties, disposal of remains of indigent persons: RCW 36.39.030.*

**73.08.080 Tax levy authorized.** (1) The legislative authority in each county shall levy, in addition to the taxes now levied by law, a tax in a sum equal to the amount which would be raised by not less than one and one-eighth cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and not greater than twenty-seven cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the taxable property of their respective counties, to be levied and collected as now prescribed by law for the assessment and collection of taxes, for the purpose of creating a veterans' assistance fund. Expenditures from the veterans' assistance fund, and interest earned on balances from the fund, may be used only for:

(a) The veterans' assistance programs authorized by RCW 73.08.010;

(b) The burial or cremation of a deceased indigent veteran or deceased family member of an indigent veteran as authorized by RCW 73.08.070; and

(c) The direct and indirect costs incurred in the administration of the fund as authorized by subsection (2) of this section.

(2) If the funds on deposit in the veterans' assistance fund, less outstanding warrants, on the first Tuesday in September exceed the expected yield of one and one-eighth cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the taxable

property of the county, the county legislative authority may levy a lesser amount. The direct and indirect costs incurred in the administration of the veterans' assistance fund shall be computed by the county auditor, or the chief financial officer in a county operating under a charter, not less than annually. Following the computation of these direct and indirect costs, an amount equal to these costs may then be transferred from the veterans' assistance fund to the county current expense fund.

(3) The amount of a levy allocated to the purposes specified in this section may be reduced in the same proportion as the regular property tax levy of the county is reduced by chapter 84.55 RCW. [2005 c 250 § 6; 1985 c 181 § 2; 1983 c 295 § 6; 1980 c 155 § 6; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 4 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 86; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 9; 1969 c 57 § 1; 1945 c 144 § 7; 1921 c 41 § 7; 1919 c 83 § 7; 1907 c 64 § 7; 1893 c 37 § 2; 1888 p 210 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10742. Formerly RCW 73.08.020.]

**Intent—2005 c 250:** See note following RCW 73.08.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.08.090 Public assistance eligibility.** The department of social and health services shall exempt payments provided under RCW 73.08.005, 73.08.035, 73.08.010, 73.08.070, and 73.08.080 when determining eligibility for public assistance. [2005 c 250 § 7.]

**Intent—2005 c 250:** See note following RCW 73.08.005.

## Chapter 73.16 RCW

### EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT

#### Sections

73.16.005	Intent—Purpose.
73.16.010	Preference in public employment.
73.16.015	Enforcement of preference—Civil action.
73.16.020	Failure to comply—Infraction.
73.16.031	Definitions.
73.16.032	Employment rights—Prohibited actions.
73.16.033	Reemployment of returned veterans.
73.16.035	Eligibility requirements—Exceptions—Burden of proof.
73.16.041	Leaves of absence of elective and judicial officers.
73.16.051	Restoration without loss of seniority or benefits.
73.16.053	Continuation of health plan coverage during absence—Reinstatement of health plan coverage upon reemployment.
73.16.055	Determination of pension benefits and liabilities for reemployed persons.
73.16.061	Enforcement of provisions.
73.16.070	Federal act to apply in state courts.
73.16.080	Bona fide executive, administrative, and professional employees—Offset of military pay.
73.16.090	Application of chapter—Other rights and benefits preserved.
73.16.100	Legislative declaration—Other civil actions abolished.
73.16.110	Preference in private employment—Permissive.
73.16.900	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**73.16.005 Intent—Purpose.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature to guarantee employment rights of members of the reserve and national guard forces who are called to active duty. The federal uniformed services employment and reemployment rights act of 1994 protects all such federal personnel. The legislature intends that similar provisions should apply to all such state personnel. Therefore, the legislature intends for chapter 133, Laws of 2001 to ensure protections for state-activated personnel similar to those provided by federal law for federal-activated personnel.

(2) The purposes of this chapter are to:

(a) Encourage noncareer service in the uniformed services by eliminating or minimizing the disadvantages to civilian careers and employment that can result from such service;

(b) Minimize the disruption to the lives of persons performing service in the uniformed services as well as to their employers, their fellow employees, and their communities, by providing for the prompt reemployment of such persons upon their completion of such service; and

(c) Prohibit discrimination against persons because of their service in the uniformed services.

(3) Therefore, the legislature intends that the governmental agencies of the state of Washington, and all the political subdivisions thereof, should be model employers in carrying out the provisions of this chapter. [2001 c 133 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.010 Preference in public employment.** In every public department, and upon all public works of the state, and of any county thereof, honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines who are veterans of any war of the United States, or of any military campaign for which a campaign ribbon shall have been awarded, and their widows or widowers, shall be preferred for appointment and employment. Age, loss of limb, or other physical impairment, which does not in fact incapacitate, shall not be deemed to disqualify them, provided they possess the capacity necessary to discharge the duties of the position involved: PROVIDED, That spouses of honorably discharged veterans who have a service connected permanent and total disability shall also be preferred for appointment and employment. [1975 1st ex.s. c 198 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 107; 1951 c 29 § 1; 1943 c 141 § 1; 1919 c 26 § 1; 1915 c 129 § 1; 1895 c 84 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10753.]

*Veterans to receive scoring criteria status in competitive examinations for public employment: RCW 41.04.010.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.015 Enforcement of preference—Civil action.** Any veteran entitled to the benefits of RCW 73.16.010 may enforce his or her rights hereunder by civil action in superior court. [2001 c 133 § 2; 1951 c 29 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.020 Failure to comply—Infraction.** All officials or other persons having power to appoint to or employment in the public service set forth in RCW 73.16.010, are charged with a faithful compliance with its terms, both in letter and in spirit, and a failure therein shall be a class 1 civil infraction. [1987 c 456 § 30; 1895 c 84 § 2; RRS § 10754.]

**Legislative finding—1987 c 456:** See RCW 7.80.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.031 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Attorney general" means the attorney general of the state of Washington or any person designated by the attorney general to carry out a responsibility of the attorney general under this chapter.

(2) "Benefit," "benefit of employment," or "rights and benefits" means any advantage, profit, privilege, gain, status, account, or interest (other than wages or salary for work performed) that accrues by reason of an employment contract or agreement or an employer policy, plan, or practice and includes rights and benefits under a pension plan, a health plan, an employee stock ownership plan, insurance coverage and awards, bonuses, severance pay, supplemental unemployment benefits, vacations, and the opportunity to select work hours or location of employment.

(3) "Employee" means a person in a position of employment.

(4) "Employer" means the person, firm, or corporation, the state, or any elected or appointed public official currently having control over the position that has been vacated.

(5) "Health plan" means an insurance policy or contract, medical or hospital service agreement, membership or subscription contract, or other arrangement under which health services for individuals are provided or the expenses of such services are paid.

(6) "Notice" means any written or verbal notification of an obligation or intention to perform service in the uniformed services provided to an employer by the employee who will perform such service or by the uniformed service in which such service is to be performed.

(7) "Position of employment" means any position (other than temporary) wherein a person is engaged for a private employer, company, corporation, or the state.

(8) "Qualified," with respect to an employment position, means having the ability to perform the essential tasks of the position.

(9) "Rejectee" means a person rejected because he or she is not, physically or otherwise, qualified to enter the uniformed service.

(10) "Resident" means any person residing in the state with the intent to remain other than on a temporary or transient basis.

(11) "Seniority" means longevity in employment together with any benefits of employment which accrue with, or are determined by, longevity in employment.

(12) "Service in the uniformed services" means the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service under competent authority and includes active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty training, full-time national guard duty (including state-ordered active duty), and a period for which a person is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty.

(13) "State" means the state of Washington, including the agencies and political subdivisions thereof.

(14) "Temporary position" means a position of short duration which, after being vacated, ceases to exist and wherein the employee has been advised as to its temporary nature prior to his or her engagement.

(15) "Undue hardship," in the case of actions taken by an employer, means actions requiring significant difficulty or expense when considered in light of:

(a) The nature and cost of the action needed under this chapter;

(b) The overall financial resources of the facility or facilities involved in the provision of the action; the number of persons employed at such facility; the effect on expenses and resources; or the impact otherwise of such action upon the operation of the facility; and

(c) The type of operation or operations of the employer, including the composition, structure, and functions of the workforce of such employer, the geographic separateness, administrative, or fiscal relationship of the facility or facilities in question to the employer.

(16) "Uniformed services" means the armed forces, the army national guard, and the air national guard of any state, territory, commonwealth, possession, or district when engaged in active duty for training, inactive duty training, full-time national guard duty, or state active duty, the commissioned corps of the public health service, the coast guard, and any other category of persons designated by the president of the United States in time of war or national emergency. [2001 c 133 § 3; 1953 c 212 § 1.]

*Employment and reemployment rights of members of organized militia upon return from militia duty: RCW 38.24.060.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### 73.16.032 Employment rights—Prohibited actions.

(1) A person who is a member of, applies to be a member of, performs, has performed, applies to perform, or has an obligation to perform service in a uniformed service shall not be denied initial employment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment by an employer on the basis of that membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation.

(2) An employer may not discriminate in employment against or take any adverse employment action against any person because such person (a) has taken an action to enforce a protection afforded any person under this chapter, (b) has testified or otherwise made a statement in or in connection with any proceeding under this chapter, (c) has assisted or otherwise participated in an investigation under this chapter, or (d) has exercised a right provided for in this chapter. The prohibition in this subsection (2) applies with respect to a person regardless of whether that person has performed service in the uniformed services.

(3) An employer shall be considered to have engaged in actions prohibited:

(a) Under subsection (1) of this section, if the person's membership, application for membership, service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services is a motivating factor in the employer's action, unless the employer can prove that the action would have been taken in the absence of such membership, application for membership, service, application for service, or obligation for service; or

(b) Under subsection (2) of this section if the person's (i) action to enforce a protection afforded any person under this chapter, (ii) testimony or making of a statement in or in connection with any proceeding under this chapter, (iii) assistance or other participation in an investigation under this chapter, or (iv) exercise of a right provided for in this chapter, is a motivating factor in the employer's action, unless the employer can prove that the action would have been taken in the absence of such person's enforcement action, testimony,

statement, assistance, participation, or exercise of a right. [2001 c 133 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.033 Reemployment of returned veterans.** Any person who is a resident of this state or is employed within this state, and who voluntarily or upon order from competent authority, vacates a position of employment for service in the uniformed services, shall, provided he or she meets the requirements of RCW 73.16.035, be reemployed forthwith: PROVIDED, That the employer need not reemploy such person if circumstances have so changed such that reemployment would be impossible or unreasonable due to a change in the employer's circumstances, or would impose an undue hardship on the employer: PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section shall not apply to a temporary position.

If such person is still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position, he or she shall be restored to that position or to a position of like seniority, status and pay. If he or she is not so qualified as a result of disability sustained during his or her service in the uniformed services, but is nevertheless qualified to perform the duties of another position, under the control of the same employer, he or she shall be reemployed in such other position: PROVIDED, That such position shall provide him or her with like seniority, status, and pay, or the nearest approximation thereto consistent with the circumstances of the case. [2001 c 133 § 5; 1953 c 212 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.035 Eligibility requirements—Exceptions—Burden of proof.** (1) In order to be eligible for the benefits of this chapter, an applicant must comply with the following requirements:

(a) The applicant must notify his or her employer as to his or her membership in the uniformed services within a reasonable time of accepting employment or becoming a member of the uniformed services. An employer may not take any action prohibited in RCW 73.16.032 against a person because the person provided notice of membership in the uniformed services to the employer.

(b) The applicant must furnish a receipt of an honorable, or under honorable conditions discharge, report of separation, certificate of satisfactory service, or other proof of having satisfactorily completed his or her service. Rejectees must furnish proof of orders for examination and rejection.

(c) The applicant must make written application to the employer or his or her representative as follows:

(i) In the case of an applicant whose period of service in the uniformed services was less than thirty-one days, by reporting to the employer:

(A) Not later than the beginning of the first full regularly scheduled work period on the first full calendar day following the completion of the period of service and the expiration of eight hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the applicant from the place of that service to the applicant's residence; or

(B) As soon as possible after the expiration of the eight-hour period in (c)(i)(A) of this subsection, if reporting within that period is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the applicant;

(ii) In the case of an applicant who is absent from a position of employment for a period of any length for the purposes of an examination to determine the applicant's fitness to perform service in the uniformed services, by reporting in the manner and time referred to in (c)(i) of this subsection;

(iii) In the case of an applicant whose period of service in the uniformed services was for more than thirty days but less than one hundred eighty-one days, by submitting an application for reemployment with the employer not later than fourteen days after the completion of the period of service or if submitting such application within such period is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the applicant, the next first full calendar day when submission of such application becomes possible;

(iv) In the case of an applicant whose period of service in the uniformed services was for more than one hundred eighty days, by submitting an application for reemployment with the employer not later than ninety days after the completion of the period of service;

(v) In the case of an applicant who is hospitalized for, or convalescing from, an illness or injury incurred or aggravated during the performance of service in the uniformed services, at the end of the period that is necessary for the applicant to recover from such illness or injury, the applicant shall submit an application for reemployment with such employer. The period of recovery may not exceed two years. This two-year period shall be extended by the minimum time required to accommodate the circumstances beyond the applicant's control that make reporting within the two-year period impossible or unreasonable;

(vi) In the case of an applicant who fails to report or apply for employment or reemployment within the appropriate period specified in this subsection (1)(c), the applicant does not automatically forfeit his or her entitlement to the rights and benefits conferred by this chapter, but is subject to the conduct rules, established policy, and general practices of the employer pertaining to explanations and discipline with respect to absence from scheduled work.

(d) An applicant who submits an application for reemployment shall provide to the applicant's employer, upon the request of that employer, documentation to establish that:

(i) The application is timely;

(ii) The applicant has not exceeded the service limitations set forth in this section, except as permitted under (c)(v) of this subsection; and

(iii) The applicant's entitlement to the benefits under this chapter has not been terminated pursuant to (e) of this subsection.

(e) The applicant must return and reenter the office or position within the appropriate period specified in (c) of this subsection after serving four years or less in the uniformed services other than state-ordered active duty: PROVIDED, That any period of additional service imposed by law, from which one is unable to obtain orders relieving him or her from active duty, will not affect reemployment rights.

(f) The applicant must return and reenter the office or position within the appropriate period specified in (c) of this subsection after serving twelve weeks or less in a calendar year in state-ordered active duty: PROVIDED, That the governor, when declaring an emergency that necessitates a longer period of service, may extend the period of service in

state-ordered active duty to up to twelve months after which the applicant is eligible for the benefits of this chapter.

(2) The failure of an applicant to provide documentation that satisfies rules adopted pursuant to subsection (1)(c) of this section shall not be a basis for denying reemployment in accordance with the provisions of this chapter if the failure occurs because such documentation does not exist or is not readily available at the time of the request of the employer. If, after such reemployment, documentation becomes available that establishes that the applicant does not meet one or more of the requirements referred to in subsection (1)(d) of this section, that applicant's employer may terminate the employment of the person and the provision of any rights or benefits afforded the person under this chapter.

(3) An employer may not delay or attempt to defeat a reemployment obligation by demanding documentation that does not then exist or is not then readily available.

(4) The application in subsection (1) of this section is not required if the giving of such application is precluded by military necessity or, under all of the relevant circumstances, the giving of such notice is otherwise impossible or unreasonable. A determination of military necessity for the purposes of this subsection shall be made by the adjutant general of the state of Washington military department and is not subject to judicial review.

(5) In any proceeding involving an issue of whether (a) reemployment is impossible or unreasonable because of a change in an employer's circumstances, (b) reemployment would impose an undue hardship on the employer, or (c) the employment is for a temporary position, the employer has the burden of proving the impossibility or unreasonableness, undue hardship, or the brief or nonrecurrent nature of the employment without a reasonable expectation of continuing indefinitely or for a significant period. [2001 c 133 § 6; 1969 c 16 § 1; 1953 c 212 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.041 Leaves of absence of elective and judicial officers.** When any elective officer of this state or any political subdivision thereof, including any judicial officer, shall enter upon active service or training as provided in RCW 73.16.031, 73.16.033 and 73.16.035, the proper officer, board or other agency, which would ordinarily be authorized to grant leave of absence or fill a vacancy created by the death or resignation of the elective official so ordered to such service, shall grant an extended leave of absence to cover the period of such active service or training and may appoint a temporary successor to the position so vacated. No leave of absence provided for herein shall operate to extend the term for which the occupant of any elective position shall have been elected. [1953 c 212 § 4.]

**73.16.051 Restoration without loss of seniority or benefits.** Any person who is entitled to be restored to a position in accordance with this chapter shall be considered as having been on furlough or leave of absence, from his or her position of employment, during his or her period of active military duty or service, and he or she shall be so restored without loss of seniority. He or she shall further be entitled to participate in insurance, vacations, retirement pay, and other benefits offered by the employer pursuant to established rules

and practices relating to employees on furlough or leave of absence in effect with the employer at the time such person was ordered into the service; and he or she shall not be discharged from such position without cause within one year after restoration. [2001 c 133 § 7; 1953 c 212 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.053 Continuation of health plan coverage during absence—Reinstatement of health plan coverage upon reemployment.** (1) If a person, or the person's dependents, have coverage under a health plan in connection with the person's position of state employment, and the person is absent from his or her position of state employment by reason of service in the uniformed services, the plan shall provide that the person may elect to continue the coverage as provided in this section. The maximum period of coverage of a person and person's dependents under such an election shall be the lesser of:

(a) The eighteen-month period beginning on the date on which the person's absence begins; or

(b) The day after the date on which the person fails to apply for or return to a position of state employment, as determined under RCW 73.16.035.

(2) A person who elects to continue health plan coverage under this section may be required to pay not more than one hundred two percent of the full premium under the plan associated with the coverage for the state employer's other employees, except that in the case of a person who performs service in the uniformed services for less than thirty-one days, the person may not be required to pay more than the employee share, if any, for the coverage.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, if a person's coverage under a health plan was terminated because of service in the uniformed services, an exclusion or waiting period may not be imposed in connection with the reinstatement of the coverage upon reemployment under this chapter if an exclusion or waiting period would not have been imposed under a health plan had coverage of the person by the plan not been terminated as a result of his or her service. This subsection applies to the person who is reemployed and to any dependent who is covered by the plan because of the reinstatement of the coverage of the person. [2001 c 133 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.055 Determination of pension benefits and liabilities for reemployed persons.** (1)(a) In the case of a right provided under any state law governing pension benefits for state employees, the right to pension benefits of a person reemployed under this chapter shall be determined under this section.

(b) A person reemployed under this chapter shall be treated as not having incurred a break in service with the state because of the person's period of service in the uniformed services.

(c) Each period served by a person in the uniformed services shall, upon reemployment under this chapter, be deemed to constitute service with the state for the purpose of determining the nonforfeitability of the person's accrued benefits and for the purpose of determining the accrual of benefits under the plan.

(2) When the state is reemploying a person under this chapter, the state is liable to an employee pension benefit plan for funding any obligation of the plan to provide the pension benefits described in this section and shall allocate the amounts of any employer contribution for the person in the same manner and to the same extent the allocation occurs for other employees during the period of service. For purposes of determining the amount of such liability and any obligation of the plan, earnings and forfeitures shall not be included. For purposes of determining the amount of such liability and purposes of a state law governing pension benefits for state employees, service in the uniformed services that is deemed under subsection (1) of this section to be service with the state shall be deemed to be service with the state under the terms of the plan or any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

(3) A person reemployed by the state under this chapter is entitled to accrued benefits pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this section that are contingent on the making of, or derived from, employee contributions or elective deferrals (as defined in section 402(g)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986) only to the extent the person makes payment to the plan with respect to such contributions or deferrals. No such payment may exceed the amount the person would have been permitted or required to contribute had the person remained continuously employed by the state throughout the period of uniformed service. Any payment to the plan described in this subsection shall be made during the period beginning with the date of reemployment and whose duration is three times the period of the person's services, such payment period in the uniformed services, not to exceed five years.

(4) For purposes of computing an employer's liability of the employee's contributions under subsection (2) of this section, the employee's compensation during the period of service shall be computed:

(a) At the rate the employee would have received but for the period of service in subsection (1)(b) of this section; or

(b) In the case that the determination of such rate is not reasonably certain, on the basis of the employee's average rate of compensation during the twelve-month period immediately preceding such period or if shorter, the period of employment immediately preceding such period. [2001 c 133 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.061 Enforcement of provisions.** (1) In case any employer, his or her successor or successors fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of RCW 73.16.031 through 73.16.061 and 73.16.090, the attorney general shall bring action in the superior court in the county in which the employer is located or does business to obtain an order to specifically require such employer to comply with the provisions of this chapter, and, as an incident thereto, to compensate such person for any loss of wages or benefits suffered by reason of such employer's unlawful act if:

(a) The service in question was state duty not covered by the uniformed services employment and reemployment rights act of 1994, P.L. 103-353 (38 U.S.C. Sec. 4301 et seq.); and

(b) The employer support for guard and reserve ombudsman, or his or her designee, has inquired in the matter and has been unable to resolve it.

(2) If the conditions in subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section are met, any such person who does not desire the services of the attorney general may, by private counsel, bring such action. [2001 c 133 § 10; 1953 c 212 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.070 Federal act to apply in state courts.** The federal soldiers' and sailors' civil relief act of 1940, Public Act No. 861, is hereby specifically declared to apply in proper cases in all the courts of this state. [2001 c 133 § 11; 1941 c 201 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10758-7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.080 Bona fide executive, administrative, and professional employees—Offset of military pay.** An offset of any military pay for temporary service in the uniformed services in a particular week against the salary of a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional employee in a particular week shall not be a factor in determining whether the employee is exempt under \*RCW 49.46.010(5)(c). [2001 c 133 § 12.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 49.46.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (5) to subsection (3).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.090 Application of chapter—Other rights and benefits preserved.** This chapter shall not supersede, nullify, or diminish any federal or state law, ordinance, rule, regulation, contract, agreement, policy, plan, practice, or other matter that establishes a right or benefit that is more beneficial to, or is in addition to, a right or benefit provided for such person in this chapter. [2001 c 133 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.100 Legislative declaration—Other civil actions abolished.** The legislature declares that the public policies articulated in chapter 133, Laws of 2001 depend on the procedures established in chapter 133, Laws of 2001. No civil or criminal action may be maintained relying on the public policies articulated in chapter 133, Laws of 2001 without complying with the procedures in this chapter. To that end, all civil actions and civil causes of action for such injuries and all jurisdiction of the courts of this state over such causes are hereby abolished, except as provided in this chapter. [2001 c 133 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.16.110 Preference in private employment—Permissive.** (1) The legislature intends to establish a permissive preference in private employment for certain veterans.

(2) In every private, nonpublic employment in this state, honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines who are veterans of any war of the United States, or of any military campaign for which a campaign ribbon has been awarded, and their widows or widowers, may be preferred for employment. Spouses of honorably discharged veterans who have a service connected permanent and total disability may also be preferred for employment. These preferences are not considered violations of any state or local equal employment opportunity law, including but not limited to any statute or regulation adopted under chapter 49.60 RCW.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) "Veteran" has the same meanings as defined in RCW 41.04.005 and 41.04.007, and includes a current member of the national guard or armed forces reserves who has been deployed to serve in an armed conflict. [2011 c 144 § 1.]

**73.16.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 172.]

**Chapter 73.20 RCW  
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND  
POWERS OF ATTORNEY**

Sections

73.20.010	Acknowledgments.
73.20.050	Agency created by power of attorney not revoked by unverified report of death.
73.20.060	Affidavit of agent as to knowledge of revocation.
73.20.070	"Missing in action" report not construed as actual knowledge.
73.20.080	Provision in power for revocation not affected.

**73.20.010 Acknowledgments.** In addition to the acknowledgment of instruments and the performance of other notarial acts in the manner and form and as otherwise authorized by law, instruments may be acknowledged, documents attested, oaths and affirmations administered, depositions and affidavits executed, and other notarial acts performed, before or by any commissioned officer in active service of the armed forces of the United States with the rank of second lieutenant or higher in the army or marine corps, or with the rank of ensign or higher in the navy or coast guard, or with equivalent rank in any other component part of the armed forces of the United States, by any person who either

(1) is a member of the armed forces of the United States, or

(2) is serving as a merchant seaman outside the limits of the United States included within the forty-eight states and the District of Columbia; or

(3) is outside said limits by permission, assignment or direction of any department or official of the United States government, in connection with any activity pertaining to the prosecution of any war in which the United States is then engaged.

Such acknowledgment of instruments, attestation of documents, administration of oaths and affirmations, execution of depositions and affidavits, and performance of other notarial acts, heretofore or hereafter made or taken, are hereby declared legal, valid and binding, and instruments and documents so acknowledged, authenticated, or sworn to shall be

admissible in evidence and eligible to record in this state under the same circumstances, and with the same force and effect as if such acknowledgment, attestation, oath, affirmation, deposition, affidavit, or other notarial act, had been made or taken within this state before or by a duly qualified officer or official as otherwise provided by law.

In the taking of acknowledgments and the performing of other notarial acts requiring certification, a certificate endorsed upon or attached to the instrument or documents, which shows the date of the notarial act and which states, in substance, that the person appearing before the officer acknowledged the instrument as his act or made or signed the instrument or document under oath, shall be sufficient for all intents and purposes. The instrument or document shall not be rendered invalid by the failure to state the place of execution or acknowledgment.

If the signature, rank, and branch of service or subdivision thereof, of any such commissioned officer appear upon such instrument or document or certificate, no further proof of the authority of such officer so to act shall be required and such action by such commissioned officer shall be prima facie evidence that the person making such oath or acknowledgment is within the purview of this section. [1945 c 271 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10758-13a. See also, 1943 c 47. Formerly RCW 73.20.010 through 73.20.040.]

*Acknowledgments, generally: Chapter 64.08 RCW.*

**73.20.050 Agency created by power of attorney not revoked by unverified report of death.** No agency created by a power of attorney in writing given by a principal who is at the time of execution, or who, after executing such power of attorney, becomes either (1) a member of the armed forces of the United States, or (2) a person serving as a merchant seaman outside the limits of the United States, included within the forty-eight states and the District of Columbia; or (3) a person outside said limits by permission, assignment or direction of any department or official of the United States government, in connection with any activity pertaining to or connected with the prosecution of any war in which the United States is then engaged, shall be revoked or terminated by the death of the principal, as to the agent or other person who, without actual knowledge or actual notice of the death of the principal, shall have acted or shall act, in good faith, under or in reliance upon such power of attorney or agency, and any action so taken, unless otherwise invalid or unenforceable, shall be binding on the heirs, devisees, legatees, or personal representatives of the principal. [1945 c 139 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10758-70.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**73.20.060 Affidavit of agent as to knowledge of revocation.** An affidavit, executed by the attorney-in-fact or agent, setting forth that the maker of the power of attorney is a member of the armed forces of the United States or within the class of persons described in RCW 73.20.050, and that he or she has not or had not, at the time of doing any act pursuant to the power of attorney, received actual knowledge or actual notice of the revocation or termination of the power of attorney, by death or otherwise, or notice of any facts indicating the same, shall, in the absence of fraud, be conclusive proof of the nonrevocation or nontermination of the power at such

time. If the exercise of the power requires execution and delivery of any instrument which is recordable under the laws of this state, such affidavit shall likewise be recordable. [2012 c 117 § 507; 1945 c 139 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10758-71.]

**73.20.070 "Missing in action" report not construed as actual knowledge.** No report or listing, either official or otherwise, of "missing" or "missing in action", as such words are used in military parlance, shall constitute or be interpreted as constituting actual knowledge or actual notice of the death of such principal or notice of any facts indicating the same, or shall operate to revoke the agency. [1945 c 139 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10758-72.]

**73.20.080 Provision in power for revocation not affected.** RCW 73.20.050 through 73.20.070 shall not be construed so as to alter or affect any provision for revocation or termination contained in such power of attorney. [1945 c 139 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10758-73.]

## Chapter 73.24 RCW BURIAL

### Sections

73.24.020	Contract for care of veterans' plot at Olympia.
73.24.030	Authorized burials in plot.

**73.24.020 Contract for care of veterans' plot at Olympia.** The director of the department of enterprise services is hereby authorized and directed to contract with Olympia Lodge No. 1, F.& A.M., a corporation for the improvement and perpetual care of the state veterans' plot in the Masonic cemetery at Olympia; such care to include the providing of proper curbs and walks, cultivating, reseeding and fertilizing grounds, repairing and resetting the bases and monuments in place on the ground, leveling grounds, and transporting and setting headstones for graves of persons hereafter buried on the plot. [2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 257; 1937 c 36 § 1; RRS § 10758-1.]

**Effective date—Purpose—2011 1st sp.s. c 43:** See notes following RCW 43.19.003.

*Cemeteries, endowment and nonendowment care: Chapters 68.40, 68.44 RCW.*

**73.24.030 Authorized burials in plot.** The said plot shall be available, to the extent such space is available, without charge or cost for the burial of persons who have served in the army, navy, or marine corps in the United States, in the Spanish-American war, Philippine insurrection, or the Chinese Relief Expedition, or who served in any said branches of said service at any time between April 21, 1898 and July 4, 1902 and any veteran as defined in RCW 41.04.007. [2002 c 292 § 10; 1977 c 31 § 4; 1937 c 36 § 2; RRS § 10758-2.]

## Chapter 73.36 RCW UNIFORM VETERANS' GUARDIANSHIP ACT

### Sections

73.36.010	Terms defined.
73.36.020	Administrator party in interest in guardianship proceedings—Notice.

73.36.030	Appointment of guardian—Necessary when.
73.36.040	Guardian—Number of wards permitted.
73.36.050	Guardian—Appointment—Contents of petition.
73.36.060	Guardian for minor—Appointment—Prima facie evidence.
73.36.080	Notice of petition.
73.36.090	Guardian's bond.
73.36.100	Accounting by guardian—Copies of all proceedings to be furnished administration—Hearings.
73.36.110	Failure to account—Penalties.
73.36.120	Compensation of guardian.
73.36.130	Investment of funds—Procedure.
73.36.140	Use of funds—Procedure.
73.36.150	Purchase of real estate—Procedure.
73.36.155	Public records—Free copies.
73.36.160	Discharge of guardian—Final account.
73.36.165	Commitment to veterans administration or other federal agency.
73.36.170	Application of chapter to other guardianships of veterans.
73.36.180	Construction of chapter—Uniformity.
73.36.190	Short title.

*Guardianship, generally: Chapters 11.88, 11.92 RCW.*

**73.36.010 Terms defined.** As used in this chapter:

"Person" means an individual, a partnership, a corporation, or an association.

"Veterans administration" means the veterans administration, its predecessors or successors.

"Income" means moneys received from the veterans administration and revenue or profit from any property wholly or partially acquired therewith.

"Estate" means income on hand and assets acquired partially or wholly with "income."

"Benefits" means all moneys paid or payable by the United States through the veterans administration.

"Administrator" means the administrator of veterans affairs of the United States or his or her successor.

"Ward" means a beneficiary of the veterans administration.

"Guardian" means any fiduciary for the person or estate of a ward. [2012 c 117 § 508; 1951 c 53 § 1.]

**73.36.020 Administrator party in interest in guardianship proceedings—Notice.** The administrator shall be a party in interest in any proceeding for the appointment or removal of a guardian or for the removal of the disability of minority or mental incapacity of a ward, and in any suit or other proceeding affecting in any manner the administration by the guardian of the estate of any present or former ward whose estate includes assets derived in whole or in part from benefits heretofore or hereafter paid by the veterans administration. Not less than fifteen days prior to hearing in such matter notice in writing of the time and place thereof shall be given by mail (unless waived in writing) to the office of the veterans administration having jurisdiction over the area in which any such suit or any such proceeding is pending. [1951 c 53 § 2.]

**73.36.030 Appointment of guardian—Necessary when.** Whenever, pursuant to any law of the United States or regulation of the veterans administration, it is necessary, prior to payment of benefits, that a guardian be appointed, the appointment may be made in the manner hereinafter provided. [1951 c 53 § 3.]

**73.36.040 Guardian—Number of wards permitted.** No person other than a bank or trust company shall be guardian

(2012 Ed.)

of more than five wards at one time, unless all the wards are members of one family. Upon presentation of a petition by an attorney of the veterans administration or other interested person, alleging that a guardian is acting in a fiduciary capacity for more than five wards as herein provided and requesting his or her discharge for that reason, the court, upon proof substantiating the petition, shall require a final accounting forthwith from such guardian and shall discharge him or her from guardianships in excess of five and forthwith appoint a successor. [2012 c 117 § 509; 1951 c 53 § 4.]

**73.36.050 Guardian—Appointment—Contents of petition.** (1) A petition for the appointment of a guardian may be filed by any relative or friend of the ward or by any person who is authorized by law to file such a petition. If there is no person so authorized or if the person so authorized refuses or fails to file such a petition within thirty days after mailing of notice by the veterans administration to the last known address of the person, if any, indicating the necessity for the same, a petition for appointment may be filed by any resident of this state.

(2) The petition for appointment shall set forth the name, age, place of residence of the ward, the name and place of residence of the nearest relative, if known, and the fact that the ward is entitled to receive benefits payable by or through the veterans administration and shall set forth the amount of moneys then due and the amount of probable future payments.

(3) The petition shall also set forth the name and address of the person or institution, if any, having actual custody of the ward and the name, age, relationship, if any, occupation and address of the proposed guardian and if the nominee is a natural person, the number of wards for whom the nominee is presently acting as guardian. Notwithstanding any law as to priority of persons entitled to appointment, or the nomination in the petition, the court may appoint some other individual or a bank or trust company as guardian, if the court determines it is for the best interest of the ward.

(4) In the case of a mentally incompetent ward the petition shall show that such ward has been rated incompetent by the veterans administration on examination in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the veterans administration.

(5) All proceedings under this chapter shall be governed by the provisions of chapters 11.88 and 11.92 RCW which shall prevail over any conflicting provisions of this chapter. [1994 c 147 § 4; 1951 c 53 § 5.]

*Prohibitions: RCW 73.04.140.*

**73.36.060 Guardian for minor—Appointment—Prima facie evidence.** Where a petition is filed for the appointment of a guardian for a minor, a certificate of the administrator or his or her authorized representative, setting forth the age of such minor as shown by the records of the veterans administration and the fact that the appointment of a guardian is a condition precedent to the payment of any moneys due the minor by the veterans administration shall be prima facie evidence of the necessity for such appointment. [2012 c 117 § 510; 1951 c 53 § 6.]

**73.36.080 Notice of petition.** Upon the filing of a petition for the appointment of a guardian under this chapter, notice shall be given to the ward, to such other persons, and in such manner as is provided by the general law of this state, and also to the veterans administration as provided by this chapter. [1951 c 53 § 8.]

**73.36.090 Guardian's bond.** (1) Upon the appointment of a guardian, he or she shall execute and file a bond to be approved by the court in an amount not less than the estimated value of the personal estate and anticipated income of the ward during the ensuing two years, except in cases where banks or trust companies are appointed as guardian and no bond is required by the general state law. The bond shall be in the form and be conditioned as required of guardians appointed under the general guardianship laws of this state. The court may from time to time require the guardian to file an additional bond.

(2) Where a bond is tendered by a guardian with personal sureties, there shall be at least two such sureties and they shall file with the court a certificate under oath which shall describe the property owned, both real and personal, and shall state that each is worth the sum named in the bond as the penalty thereof over and above all his or her debts and liabilities and the aggregate of other bonds in which he or she is principal or surety and exclusive of property exempt from execution. The court may require additional security or may require a corporate surety bond, the premium thereon to be paid from the ward's estate. [2012 c 117 § 511; 1951 c 53 § 9.]

*Guardianship, generally: Chapters 11.88 and 11.92 RCW.*

**73.36.100 Accounting by guardian—Copies of all proceedings to be furnished administration—Hearings.**

(1) Every guardian, who has received or shall receive on account of his or her ward any money or other thing of value from the veterans administration, at the expiration of two years from date of his or her appointment, and every two years thereafter on the anniversary date of his or her appointment, or as much oftener as the court may require, shall file with the court a full, true and accurate account under oath of all moneys or other things of value received by him or her, all earnings, interest, or profits derived therefrom, and all property acquired therewith and of all disbursements therefrom, and showing the balance thereof in his or her hands at the date of the account and how invested. Each year when not required to file an account with the court, the guardian shall file an account with the proper office of the veterans administration. If the interim account be not filed with the veterans administration, or, if filed, shall be unsatisfactory, the court shall upon receipt of notice thereof from the veterans administration require the guardian forthwith to file an account which shall be subject in all respects to the next succeeding paragraphs. Any account filed with the veterans administration and approved by the chief attorney thereof may be filed with the court and be approved by the court without hearing, unless a hearing thereon be requested by some party in interest.

(2) The guardian, at the time of filing any account with the court or veterans administration shall exhibit all securities or investments held by him or her to an officer of the bank or

other depository wherein said securities or investments are held for safekeeping or to an authorized representative of the corporation which is surety on his or her bond, or to the judge or clerk of a court of record in this state, or upon request of the guardian or other interested party, to any other reputable person designated by the court, who shall certify in writing that he or she has examined the securities or investments and identified them with those described in the account and shall note any omissions or discrepancies. If the depository is the guardian, the certifying officer shall not be the officer verifying the account. The guardian may exhibit the securities or investments to the judge of the court, who shall endorse on the account and copy thereof, a certificate that the securities or investments shown therein as held by the guardian were each in fact exhibited to him or her and that those exhibited to him or her were the same as those in the account and noting any omission or discrepancy. The certificate, and the certificate of an official of the bank in which are deposited any funds for which the guardian is accountable, showing the amount on deposit, shall be prepared and signed in duplicate and one of each shall be filed by the guardian with his or her account.

(3) At the time of filing in the court any account, a certified copy thereof and a signed duplicate of each certificate filed with the court shall be sent by the guardian to the office of the veterans administration having jurisdiction over the area in which such court is located. A duplicate signed copy or a certified copy of any petition, motion, or other pleading pertaining to an account, or to any matter other than an account, and which is filed in the guardianship proceedings or in any proceedings for the purpose of removing the disability of minority or mental incapacity, shall be furnished by the persons filing the same to the proper office of the veterans administration. Unless hearing be waived in writing by the attorney of the veterans administration and by all other persons, if any, entitled to notice, the court shall fix a time and place for the hearing on the account, petition, motion, or other pleading, not less than fifteen days nor more than sixty days from the date same is filed, unless a different available date be stipulated in writing. Unless waived in writing, written notice of the time and place of hearing shall be given the veterans administration office concerned and to the guardian and any others entitled to notice, not less than fifteen days prior to the date fixed for the hearing. The notice may be given by mail, in which event it shall be deposited in the mails not less than fifteen days prior to said date. The court or clerk thereof, shall mail to said veterans administration office a copy of each order entered in any guardianship proceeding wherein the administrator is an interested party.

(4) If the guardian is accountable for property derived from sources other than the veterans administration, he or she shall be accountable as is or may be required under the applicable law of this state pertaining to the property of minors or persons of unsound mind who are not beneficiaries of the veterans administration, and as to such other property shall be entitled to the compensation provided by such law. The account for other property may be combined with the account filed in accordance with this section. [2012 c 117 § 512; 1951 c 53 § 10.]

**73.36.110 Failure to account—Penalties.** If any guardian shall fail to file with the court any account as required by this chapter, or by an order of the court, when any account is due or within thirty days after citation issues and provided by law, or shall fail to furnish the veterans administration a true copy of any account, petition, or pleading as required by this chapter, such failure may in the discretion of the court be ground for his or her removal, in addition to other penalties provided by law. [2012 c 117 § 513; 1951 c 53 § 11.]

**73.36.120 Compensation of guardian.** Compensation payable to guardians shall be based upon services rendered and shall not exceed five percent of the amount of moneys received during the period covered by the account, except that the court may allow a fee of not exceeding twenty-five dollars per year, as a minimum fee, upon the approval of the chief attorney for the veterans administration. In the event of extraordinary services by any guardian, the court, upon petition and hearing thereon may authorize reasonable additional compensation therefor. A copy of the petition and notice of hearing thereon shall be given the proper office of the veterans administration in the manner provided in the case of hearing on a guardian's account or other pleading. No commission or compensation shall be allowed on the moneys or other assets received from a prior guardian nor upon the amount received from liquidation of loans or other investments. [1951 c 53 § 12.]

**73.36.130 Investment of funds—Procedure.** Every guardian shall invest the surplus funds of his or her ward's estate in such securities or property as authorized under the laws of this state but only upon prior order of the court; except that the funds may be invested, without prior court authorization, in direct unconditional interest-bearing obligations of this state or of the United States and in obligations the interest and principal of which are unconditionally guaranteed by the United States. A signed duplicate or certified copy of the petition for authority to invest shall be furnished the proper office of the veterans administration, and notice of hearing thereon shall be given said office as provided in the case of hearing on a guardian's account. [2012 c 117 § 514; 1951 c 53 § 13.]

**73.36.140 Use of funds—Procedure.** A guardian shall not apply any portion of the income or the estate for the support or maintenance of any person including the ward, the spouse or the domestic partner, and the minor children of the ward, except upon petition to and prior order of the court after a hearing. A signed duplicate or certified copy of said petition shall be furnished the proper office of the veterans administration and notice of hearing thereon shall be given said office as provided in the case of hearing on a guardian's account or other pleading. [2008 c 6 § 509; 1951 c 53 § 14.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**73.36.150 Purchase of real estate—Procedure.** (1) The court may authorize the purchase of the entire fee simple title to real estate in this state in which the guardian has no interest, but only as a home for the ward, or to protect his or

her interest, or (if he or she is not a minor) as a home for his or her dependent family. Such purchase of real estate shall not be made except upon the entry of an order of the court after hearing upon verified petition. A copy of the petition shall be furnished the proper office of the veterans administration and notice of hearing thereon shall be given said office as provided in the case of hearing on a guardian's account.

(2) Before authorizing such investment the court shall require written evidence of value and of title and of the advisability of acquiring such real estate. Title shall be taken in the ward's name. This section does not limit the right of the guardian on behalf of his or her ward to bid and to become the purchaser of real estate at a sale thereof pursuant to decree of foreclosure of lien held by or for the ward, or at a trustee's sale, to protect the ward's right in the property so foreclosed or sold; nor does it limit the right of the guardian, if such be necessary to protect the ward's interest and upon prior order of the court in which the guardianship is pending, to agree with cotenants of the ward for a partition in kind, or to purchase from cotenants the entire undivided interests held by them, or to bid and purchase the same at a sale under a partition decree, or to compromise adverse claims of title to the ward's realty. [2012 c 117 § 515; 1951 c 53 § 15.]

**73.36.155 Public records—Free copies.** When a copy of any public record is required by the veterans administration to be used in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in benefits made available by the veterans administration, the official custodian of such public record shall without charge provide the applicant for such benefits or any person acting on his or her behalf or the authorized representative of the veterans administration with a certified copy of such record. [2012 c 117 § 516; 1951 c 53 § 16. Formerly RCW 73.04.025.]

**73.36.160 Discharge of guardian—Final account.** In addition to any other provisions of law relating to judicial restoration and discharge of guardian, a certificate by the veterans administration showing that a minor ward has attained majority, or that an incompetent ward has been rated competent by the veterans administration upon examination in accordance with law shall be prima facie evidence that the ward has attained majority, or has recovered his or her competency. Upon hearing after notice as provided by this chapter and the determination by the court that the ward has attained majority or has recovered his or her competency, an order shall be entered to that effect, and the guardian shall file a final account. Upon hearing after notice to the former ward and to the veterans administration as in case of other accounts, upon approval of the final account, and upon delivery to the ward of the assets due him or her from the guardian, the guardian shall be discharged and his or her sureties released. [2012 c 117 § 517; 1951 c 53 § 17.]

**73.36.165 Commitment to veterans administration or other federal agency.** (1) Whenever, in any proceeding under the laws of this state for the commitment of a person alleged to be of unsound mind or otherwise in need of confinement in a hospital or other institution for his or her proper care, it is determined after such adjudication of the status of such person as may be required by law that commitment to a

hospital for mental disease or other institution is necessary for safekeeping or treatment and it appears that such person is eligible for care or treatment by the veterans administration or other agency of the United States government, the court, upon receipt of a certificate from the veterans administration or such other agency showing that facilities are available and that such person is eligible for care or treatment therein, may commit such person to said veterans administration or other agency. The person whose commitment is sought shall be personally served with notice of the pending commitment proceeding in the manner as provided by the law of this state; and nothing in this chapter shall affect his or her right to appear and be heard in the proceedings. Upon commitment, such person, when admitted to any hospital operated by any such agency within or without this state shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the veterans administration or other agency. The chief officer of any hospital of the veterans administration or institution operated by any other agency of the United States to which the person is so committed shall with respect to such person be vested with the same powers as superintendents of state hospitals for mental diseases within this state with respect to retention of custody, transfer, parole, or discharge. Jurisdiction is retained in the committing or other appropriate court of this state at any time to inquire into the mental condition of the person so committed, and to determine the necessity for continuance of his or her restraint, and all commitments pursuant to this chapter are so conditioned.

(2) The judgment or order of commitment by a court of competent jurisdiction of another state or of the District of Columbia, committing a person to the veterans administration, or other agency of the United States government for care or treatment shall have the same force and effect as to the committed person while in this state as in the jurisdiction in which is situated the court entering the judgment or making the order; and the courts of the committing state, or of the District of Columbia, shall be deemed to have retained jurisdiction of the person so committed for the purpose of inquiring into the mental condition of such person, and of determining the necessity for continuance of his or her restraint; as is provided in subsection (1) of this section with respect to persons committed by the courts of this state. Consent is hereby given to the application of the law of the committing state or district in respect to the authority of the chief officer of any hospital of the veterans administration, or of any institution operated in this state by any other agency of the United States to retain custody, or transfer, parole, or discharge the committed person.

(3) Upon receipt of a certificate of the veterans administration or such other agency of the United States that facilities are available for the care or treatment of any person heretofore committed to any hospital for the insane or other institution for the care or treatment of persons similarly afflicted and that such person is eligible for care or treatment, the superintendent of the institution may cause the transfer of such person to the veterans administration or other agency of the United States for care or treatment. Upon effecting any such transfer, the committing court or proper officer thereof shall be notified thereof by the transferring agency. No person shall be transferred to the veterans administration or other agency of the United States if he or she be confined pur-

suant to conviction of any felony or misdemeanor or if he or she has been acquitted of the charge solely on the ground of insanity, unless prior to transfer the court or other authority originally committing such person shall enter an order for such transfer after appropriate motion and hearing.

Any person transferred as provided in this section shall be deemed to be committed to the veterans administration or other agency of the United States pursuant to the original commitment. [2012 c 117 § 518; 1951 c 53 § 18. Formerly RCW 71.02.700 through 71.02.720.]

**73.36.170 Application of chapter to other guardianships of veterans.** The provisions of this chapter relating to surety bonds and the administration of estates of wards shall apply to all "income" and "estate" as defined in RCW 73.36.010 whether the guardian shall have been appointed under this chapter or under any other law of this state, special or general, prior or subsequent to the enactment hereof. [1951 c 53 § 21.]

**73.36.180 Construction of chapter—Uniformity.** This chapter shall be so construed to make uniform the law of those states which enact it. [1951 c 53 § 19.]

**73.36.190 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the "uniform veterans' guardianship act". [1951 c 53 § 20.]

#### Chapter 73.40 RCW VETERANS' MEMORIALS

##### Sections

- 73.40.010 Memorial honoring state residents who died or are missing-in-action in southeast Asia.
- 73.40.030 Memorial honoring state residents who died or are missing-in-action in southeast Asia—Display of individual names.
- 73.40.040 Memorial honoring state residents who died or are missing-in-action in the Korean conflict.

**73.40.010 Memorial honoring state residents who died or are missing-in-action in southeast Asia.** The secretary of state shall coordinate the design, construction, and placement of a memorial within the state capitol building honoring Washington state residents who died or are "missing-in-action" in the southeast Asia theater of operations. [1984 c 81 § 1. Formerly RCW 40.14.200.]

**73.40.030 Memorial honoring state residents who died or are missing-in-action in southeast Asia—Display of individual names.** The memorial authorized by \*RCW 40.14.200 through 40.14.210 shall display the individual names of the Washington state residents who died or are "missing-in-action" in the southeast Asia theater of operations. [1984 c 81 § 3. Formerly RCW 40.14.210.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 40.14.200 through 40.14.210 were recodified as RCW 73.40.010 through 73.40.030.

**73.40.040 Memorial honoring state residents who died or are missing-in-action in the Korean conflict.** The director of the department of veterans affairs shall coordinate the design, construction, and placement of a memorial within the state capitol grounds honoring Washington state residents who died or are "missing-in-action" in the Korean conflict. [1989 c 235 § 1. Formerly RCW 40.14.220.]

# Title 74

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

### Chapters

- 74.04** General provisions—Administration.
- 74.08** Eligibility generally—Standards of assistance.
- 74.08A** Washington WorkFirst temporary assistance for needy families.
- 74.09** Medical care.
- 74.09A** Medical assistance—Coordination of benefits—Computerized information transfer.
- 74.12** Temporary assistance for needy families.
- 74.12A** Incentive to work—Economic independence.
- 74.13** Child welfare services.
- 74.13A** Adoption support.
- 74.13B** Child welfare system—Contracting for services.
- 74.14A** Children and family services.
- 74.14B** Children’s services.
- 74.14C** Family preservation services.
- 74.15** Care of children, expectant mothers, developmentally disabled.
- 74.18** Department of services for the blind.
- 74.20** Support of dependent children.
- 74.20A** Support of dependent children—Alternative method—1971 act.
- 74.25** Job opportunities and basic skills training program.
- 74.25A** Employment partnership program.
- 74.26** Services for children with multiple handicaps.
- 74.29** Rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities.
- 74.31** Traumatic brain injuries.
- 74.34** Abuse of vulnerable adults.
- 74.36** Funding for community programs for the aging.
- 74.38** Senior citizens services act.
- 74.39** Long-term care service options.
- 74.39A** Long-term care services options—Expansion.
- 74.41** Respite care services.
- 74.42** Nursing homes—Resident care, operating standards.
- 74.46** Nursing facility medicaid payment system.
- 74.48** Skilled nursing facility safety net assessments.
- 74.50** Alcoholism and drug addiction treatment and support.
- 74.55** Children’s system of care.
- 74.60** Hospital safety net assessment.
- 74.62** Aged, blind, or disabled assistance program—Pregnant women assistance program—Essential needs and housing support program.
- 74.64** Medical services program—Waste, fraud, abuse detection, prevention, and recovery solutions.
- 74.66** Medicaid fraud false claims act.
- 74.98** Construction.

*Assistance and relief by counties: Chapter 36.39 RCW.*

*Assistance for parolees, work release, and discharged prisoners: RCW 9.95.310 through 9.95.370.*

*Child abuse or neglect, reports by practitioners of healing arts: Chapter 26.44 RCW.*

*Displaced homemaker act: Chapter 28B.04 RCW.*

*Domestic violence prevention: Chapter 26.50 RCW.*

*Jurisdiction over Indians as to public assistance: Chapter 37.12 RCW.*

*Low-income patients, malpractice insurance for retired physicians providing health care services: RCW 43.70.460.*

*Missing children clearinghouse and hot line: Chapter 13.60 RCW.*

### Chapter 74.04 RCW

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—ADMINISTRATION

#### Sections

- 74.04.004 Definitions—Fraud and abuse.
- 74.04.005 Definitions—Eligibility.
- 74.04.00511 Limitations on "resource" and "income."
- 74.04.0052 Teen applicants’ living situation—Criteria—Presumption—Protective payee—Adoption referral.
- 74.04.006 Contract of sale of property—Availability as a resource or income—Establishment.
- 74.04.011 Secretary’s authority—Personnel.
- 74.04.012 Office of fraud and accountability.
- 74.04.014 Office of fraud and accountability—Authority—Confidentiality.
- 74.04.015 Administration and disbursement of federal funds—Public assistance—Medical services programs.
- 74.04.025 Bilingual services for non-English speaking applicants and recipients—Bilingual personnel, when—Primary language pamphlets and written materials.
- 74.04.033 Notification of availability of basic health plan.
- 74.04.040 Public assistance a joint federal, state, and county function—Notice required.
- 74.04.050 Department to administer certain public assistance programs—Authority to administer medical services programs.
- 74.04.055 Cooperation with federal government—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements.
- 74.04.057 Promulgation of rules and regulations to qualify for federal funds.
- 74.04.060 Records, confidential—Exceptions—Penalty.
- 74.04.062 Disclosure of recipient location to police officer or immigration official.
- 74.04.070 County office—Administrator.
- 74.04.080 County administrator—Personnel—Bond.
- 74.04.180 Joint county administration.
- 74.04.200 Standards—Established, enforced.
- 74.04.205 Simplified reporting for the food stamp program.
- 74.04.210 Basis of allocation of moneys to counties.
- 74.04.225 Opportunity portal—Access to available services facilitated—Report to legislature and governor.
- 74.04.230 Medical care services benefits—Mental health services.
- 74.04.265 Earnings—Deductions from grants.
- 74.04.266 Aged, blind, or disabled assistance—Medical care services—Earned income exemption to be established for unemployable persons.
- 74.04.280 Assistance nontransferable and exempt from process.
- 74.04.290 Subpoena of witnesses, books, records, etc.
- 74.04.300 Recovery of payments improperly received—Lien—Recipient reporting requirements.
- 74.04.310 Authority to accept contributions.
- 74.04.330 Annual reports by assistance organizations—Penalty.
- 74.04.340 Federal surplus commodities—Certification of persons eligible to receive commodities.
- 74.04.350 Federal surplus commodities—Not to be construed as public assistance, eligibility not affected.
- 74.04.360 Federal surplus commodities—Certification deemed administrative expense of department.
- 74.04.370 Federal surplus commodities—County program, expenses, handling of commodities.

- 74.04.380 Federal and other surplus food commodities—Agreements—Personnel—Facilities—Cooperation with other agencies—Discontinuance of program.
- 74.04.385 Unlawful practices relating to surplus commodities—Penalty.
- 74.04.480 Educational leaves of absence for personnel.
- 74.04.500 Food stamp program—Authorized.
- 74.04.510 Food stamp program—Rules.
- 74.04.515 Food stamp program—Discrimination prohibited.
- 74.04.520 Food stamp program—Confidentiality.
- 74.04.535 Food stamp employment and training program.
- 74.04.600 Supplemental security income program—Purpose.
- 74.04.610 Supplemental security income program—Termination of federal financial assistance payments—Supersession by supplemental security income program.
- 74.04.620 State supplement to national program of supplemental security income—Authorized—Reimbursement of interim assistance, attorneys' fees.
- 74.04.630 State supplementation to national program of supplemental security income—Contractual agreements with federal government.
- 74.04.635 State supplement to national program of supplemental security income—World War II Philippine veterans.
- 74.04.640 Acceptance of referrals for vocational rehabilitation—Reimbursement.
- 74.04.650 Individuals failing to comply with federal requirements.
- 74.04.655 Vocational rehabilitation—Assessment, referral.
- 74.04.657 Veterans' benefits—Assessment for eligibility.
- 74.04.660 Family emergency assistance program—Extension of benefits during state of emergency.
- 74.04.670 Long-term care services—Eligibility.
- 74.04.750 Reporting requirements—Food stamp allotments and rent or housing subsidies, consideration as income.
- 74.04.760 Minimum amount of monthly assistance payments.
- 74.04.770 Consolidated standards of need—Rateable reductions—Grant maximums.
- 74.04.790 Supplementary program—Reimbursement for employees being victims of assault.
- 74.04.800 Incarcerated parents—Policies to encourage family contact and engagement.
- 74.04.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Collection agencies to collect public debts: RCW 19.16.500.*

*Identification cards—Issuance to nondrivers and public assistance recipients: RCW 46.20.117.*

**74.04.004 Definitions—Fraud and abuse.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Abuse" means any intentional use of public assistance benefits that constitutes a violation of any state statute or regulation relating to the use of public assistance benefits. This definition excludes medicaid and other medical programs as defined in chapter 74.09 RCW, and fraud and abuse committed by medical providers and recipients of medicaid and other medical program services.

(2) "Disclosable information" means public information that (a) is not exempt from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW; and (b) does not pertain to an ongoing investigation.

(3) "Fraud" means an intentional deception or misrepresentation made by a person with the knowledge that the deception could result in some unauthorized benefit to himself or herself or some other person.

(4) "Office" means the office of fraud and accountability.

(5) "Public assistance" or "public assistance programs" means public aid to persons in need including assistance grants, food assistance, work relief, disability lifeline benefits, temporary assistance for needy families, and, for purposes of this section, working connections child care subsidies. This definition excludes medicaid and other medical programs as defined in chapter 74.09 RCW, and fraud and abuse committed by medical providers and recipients of med-

icaid and other medical program services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 21.]

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** "The legislature finds that eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse of public assistance benefits should be a priority of the department of social and health services, and this can best be reflected in a newly organized, accountable, and proactive fraud unit directly under the secretary's authority with the resources necessary to combat fraud and to ensure the confidence of the public in the critical social safety net programs it funds." [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 20.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**74.04.005 Definitions—Eligibility.** For the purposes of this title, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Aged, blind, or disabled assistance program" means the program established under RCW 74.62.030.

(2) "Applicant" means any person who has made a request, or on behalf of whom a request has been made, to any county or local office for assistance.

(3) "Authority" means the health care authority.

(4) "County or local office" means the administrative office for one or more counties or designated service areas.

(5) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(6) "Director" means the director of the health care authority.

(7) "Essential needs and housing support program" means the program established in RCW 43.185C.220.

(8) "Federal aid assistance" means the specific categories of assistance for which provision is made in any federal law existing or hereafter passed by which payments are made from the federal government to the state in aid or in respect to payment by the state for public assistance rendered to any category of needy persons for which provision for federal funds or aid may from time to time be made, or a federally administered needs-based program.

(9) "Income" means:

(a) All appreciable gains in real or personal property (cash or kind) or other assets, which are received by or become available for use and enjoyment by an applicant or recipient during the month of application or after applying for or receiving public assistance. The department may by rule and regulation exempt income received by an applicant for or recipient of public assistance which can be used by him or her to decrease his or her need for public assistance or to aid in rehabilitating him or her or his or her dependents, but such exemption shall not, unless otherwise provided in this title, exceed the exemptions of resources granted under this chapter to an applicant for public assistance. In addition, for cash assistance the department may disregard income pursuant to RCW 74.08A.230 and 74.12.350.

(b) If, under applicable federal requirements, the state has the option of considering property in the form of lump sum compensatory awards or related settlements received by an applicant or recipient as income or as a resource, the department shall consider such property to be a resource.

(10) "Need" means the difference between the applicant's or recipient's standards of assistance for himself or herself and the dependent members of his or her family, as measured by the standards of the department, and value of all nonexempt resources and nonexempt income received by or

available to the applicant or recipient and the dependent members of his or her family.

(11) "Public assistance" or "assistance" means public aid to persons in need thereof for any cause, including services, medical care, assistance grants, disbursing orders, work relief, benefits under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.220, and federal aid assistance.

(12) "Recipient" means any person receiving assistance and in addition those dependents whose needs are included in the recipient's assistance.

(13) "Resource" means any asset, tangible or intangible, owned by or available to the applicant at the time of application, which can be applied toward meeting the applicant's need, either directly or by conversion into money or its equivalent. The department may by rule designate resources that an applicant may retain and not be ineligible for public assistance because of such resources. Exempt resources shall include, but are not limited to:

(a) A home that an applicant, recipient, or their dependents is living in, including the surrounding property;

(b) Household furnishings and personal effects;

(c) A motor vehicle, other than a motor home, used and useful having an equity value not to exceed five thousand dollars;

(d) A motor vehicle necessary to transport a household member with a physical disability. This exclusion is limited to one vehicle per person with a physical disability;

(e) All other resources, including any excess of values exempted, not to exceed one thousand dollars or other limit as set by the department, to be consistent with limitations on resources and exemptions necessary for federal aid assistance. The department shall also allow recipients of temporary assistance for needy families to exempt savings accounts with combined balances of up to an additional three thousand dollars;

(f) Applicants for or recipients of benefits under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.220 shall have their eligibility based on resource limitations consistent with the temporary assistance for needy families program rules adopted by the department; and

(g) If an applicant for or recipient of public assistance possesses property and belongings in excess of the ceiling value, such value shall be used in determining the need of the applicant or recipient, except that: (i) The department may exempt resources or income when the income and resources are determined necessary to the applicant's or recipient's restoration to independence, to decrease the need for public assistance, or to aid in rehabilitating the applicant or recipient or a dependent of the applicant or recipient; and (ii) the department may provide grant assistance for a period not to exceed nine months from the date the agreement is signed pursuant to this section to persons who are otherwise ineligible because of excess real property owned by such persons when they are making a good faith effort to dispose of that property if:

(A) The applicant or recipient signs an agreement to repay the lesser of the amount of aid received or the net proceeds of such sale;

(B) If the owner of the excess property ceases to make good faith efforts to sell the property, the entire amount of

assistance may become an overpayment and a debt due the state and may be recovered pursuant to RCW 43.20B.630;

(C) Applicants and recipients are advised of their right to a fair hearing and afforded the opportunity to challenge a decision that good faith efforts to sell have ceased, prior to assessment of an overpayment under this section; and

(D) At the time assistance is authorized, the department files a lien without a sum certain on the specific property.

(14) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and health services.

(15) "Standards of assistance" means the level of income required by an applicant or recipient to maintain a level of living specified by the department.

(16) For purposes of determining eligibility for public assistance and participation levels in the cost of medical care, the department shall exempt restitution payments made to people of Japanese and Aleut ancestry pursuant to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the Aleutian and Pribilof Island Restitution Act passed by congress, P.L. 100-383, including all income and resources derived therefrom.

(17) In the construction of words and phrases used in this title, the singular number shall include the plural, the masculine gender shall include both the feminine and neuter genders, and the present tense shall include the past and future tenses, unless the context thereof shall clearly indicate to the contrary. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 8; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 61; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 4; 2003 1st sp.s. c 10 § 1; 2000 c 218 § 1. Prior: 1998 c 80 § 1; 1998 c 79 § 6; prior: 1997 c 59 § 10; 1997 c 58 § 309; prior: 1992 c 165 § 1; 1992 c 136 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 10 § 1; 1991 c 126 § 1; 1990 c 285 § 2; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 816; prior: 1987 c 406 § 9; 1987 c 75 § 31; 1985 c 335 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 36; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 5; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 1; prior: 1981 c 8 § 1; prior: 1980 c 174 § 1; 1980 c 84 § 1; 1979 c 141 § 294; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 2 § 1; 1963 c 228 § 1; 1961 c 235 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.005; prior: (i) 1947 c 289 § 1; 1939 c 216 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10007-101a. (ii) 1957 c 63 § 1; 1953 c 174 § 17; 1951 c 122 § 1; 1951 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 178, approved November 7, 1950); 1949 c 6 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-33c.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 61 and by 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 8, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 8:** "Section 8 of this act takes effect November 1, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 40.]

**Alphabetization—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** "The code reviser shall alphabetize the subsections containing definitions in RCW 74.04.005." [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 35.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Implementation—2010 1st sp.s. c 8 §§ 1-10 and 29:** See note following RCW 74.04.225.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**Findings—Purpose—1990 c 285:** "(1) The legislature finds that each year less than five percent of pregnant teens relinquish their babies for adoption in Washington state. Nationally, fewer than eight percent of pregnant teens relinquish their babies for adoption.

(2) The legislature further finds that barriers such as lack of information about adoption, inability to voluntarily enter into adoption agreements,

and current state public assistance policies act as disincentives to adoption.

(3) It is the purpose of this act to support adoption as an option for women with unintended pregnancies by removing barriers that act as disincentives to adoption." [1990 c 285 § 1.]

*Consolidated standards of need: RCW 74.04.770.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.00511 Limitations on "resource" and "income."** For purposes of \*RCW 74.04.005 (10) and (11), "resource" and "income" do not include educational assistance awarded under \*\*the gaining independence for students with dependents program as defined in chapter 19, Laws of 2003 for recipients of temporary assistance for needy families. [2003 c 19 § 8.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.04.005 was amended by 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 4, changing subsections (10) and (11) to subsections (11) and (12), respectively. RCW 74.04.005 was subsequently alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsections (11) and (12) to subsections (13) and (9), respectively.

\*\* (2) The gaining independence for students with dependents program is codified in chapter 28B.133 RCW.

**Finding—Intent—Short title—Captions not law—2003 c 19:** See RCW 28B.133.005, 28B.133.900, and 28B.133.901.

**74.04.0052 Teen applicants' living situation—Criteria—Presumption—Protective payee—Adoption referral.** (1) The department shall determine, after consideration of all relevant factors and in consultation with the applicant, the most appropriate living situation for applicants under eighteen years of age, unmarried, and pregnant who are eligible for benefits under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.220. An appropriate living situation shall include a place of residence that is maintained by the applicant's parents, parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative as their or his or her own home and that the department finds would provide an appropriate supportive living arrangement. It also includes a living situation maintained by an agency that is licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW that the department finds would provide an appropriate supportive living arrangement. Grant assistance shall not be provided under this chapter if the applicant does not reside in the most appropriate living situation, as determined by the department.

(2) A pregnant minor residing in the most appropriate living situation, as provided under subsection (1) of this section, is presumed to be unable to manage adequately the funds paid to the minor or on behalf of the dependent child or children and, unless the minor provides sufficient evidence to rebut the presumption, shall be subject to the protective payee requirements provided for under RCW 74.12.250 and 74.08.280.

(3) The department shall consider any statements or opinions by either parent of the unmarried minor parent or pregnant minor applicant as to an appropriate living situation for the minor, whether in the parental home or other situation. If the parents or a parent of the minor request, they or he or she shall be entitled to a hearing in juvenile court regarding designation of the parental home or other relative placement as the most appropriate living situation for the pregnant or parenting minor.

The department shall provide the parents or parent with the opportunity to make a showing that the parental home, or home of the other relative placement, is the most appropriate living situation. It shall be presumed in any administrative or

judicial proceeding conducted under this subsection that the parental home or other relative placement requested by the parents or parent is the most appropriate living situation. This presumption is rebuttable.

(4) In cases in which the minor is unmarried and unemployed, the department shall, as part of the determination of the appropriate living situation, provide information about adoption including referral to community-based organizations providing counseling.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "most appropriate living situation" shall not include a living situation including an adult male who fathered the qualifying child and is found to meet the elements of rape of a child as set forth in RCW 9A.44.079. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 18; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 18; 1997 c 58 § 502; 1994 c 299 § 34.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

*Aid to families with dependent children: RCW 74.12.255.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.006 Contract of sale of property—Availability as a resource or income—Establishment.** The department may establish, by rule and regulation, the availability of a contract of sale of real or personal property as a resource or income as defined in RCW 74.04.005. [1973 1st ex.s. c 49 § 2.]

**74.04.011 Secretary's authority—Personnel.** The secretary of social and health services shall be the administrative head and appointing authority of the department of social and health services and he shall have the power to and shall employ such assistants and personnel as may be necessary for the general administration of the department: PROVIDED, That such employment is in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state merit system. The secretary shall through and by means of his assistants and personnel exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the public assistance laws of this state.

The authority vested in the secretary as appointing authority may be delegated by the secretary or his designee to any suitable employee of the department. [1979 c 141 § 295; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 4; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.011. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 3. (i) 1937 c 111 § 3; RRS § 10785-2. (ii) 1937 c 111 § 5; RRS § 10785-4.]

*State civil service law: Chapter 41.06 RCW.*

**74.04.012 Office of fraud and accountability.** (1) There is established an office of fraud and accountability within the department for the purpose of detection, investigation, and prosecution of any act prohibited or declared to be unlawful in the public assistance programs administered by the department. The secretary will employ qualified supervisory, legal, and investigative personnel for the program. Program staff must be qualified by training and experience.

(2) The director of the office of fraud and accountability is the head of the office and is selected by the secretary and

must demonstrate suitable capacity and experience in law enforcement management, public administration, and criminal investigations. The director of the office of fraud and accountability shall:

(a) Report directly to the secretary; and

(b) Ensure that each citizen complaint, employee complaint, law enforcement complaint, and agency referral is assessed and, when risk of fraud or abuse is present, is fully investigated, and is referred for prosecution or recovery when there is substantial evidence of wrongdoing.

(3) The office shall:

(a) Conduct independent and objective investigations into allegations of fraud and abuse, make appropriate referral to law enforcement when there is substantial evidence of criminal activity, and recover overpayment whenever possible and to the greatest possible degree;

(b) Recommend policies, procedures, and best practices designed to detect and prevent fraud and abuse, and to mitigate the risk for fraud and abuse and assure that public assistance benefits are being used for their statutorily stated goals;

(c) Analyze cost-effective, best practice alternatives to the current cash benefit delivery system consistent with federal law to ensure that benefits are being used for their intended purposes; and

(d) Use best practices to determine appropriate utilization and deployment of investigative resources, ensure that resources are deployed in a balanced and effective manner, and use all available methods to gather evidence necessary for proper investigation and successful prosecution.

(4) By December 31, 2011, the office shall report to the legislature on the development of the office, identification of any barriers to meeting the stated goals of the office, and recommendations for improvements to the system and laws related to the prevention, detection, and prosecution of fraud and abuse in public assistance programs. [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 22; 2008 c 74 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**Finding—2008 c 74:** See note following RCW 51.04.024.

**74.04.014 Office of fraud and accountability—Authority—Confidentiality.** (1) In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the office of fraud and accountability shall have prompt access to all individuals, records, electronic data, reports, audits, reviews, documents, and other materials available to the department of revenue, department of labor and industries, department of early learning, employment security department, department of licensing, and any other government entity that can be used to help facilitate investigations of fraud or abuse as determined necessary by the director of the office of fraud and accountability.

(2) The investigator shall have access to all original child care records maintained by licensed and unlicensed child care providers with the consent of the provider or with a court order or valid search warrant.

(3) Information gathered by the department, the office, or the fraud ombudsman shall be safeguarded and remain confidential as required by applicable state or federal law. Whenever information or assistance requested under subsection (1) or (2) of this section is, in the judgment of the direc-

(2012 Ed.)

tor, unreasonably refused or not provided, the director of the office of fraud and accountability must report the circumstances to the secretary immediately. [2012 c 253 § 4; 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 24.]

**Findings—Purpose—2012 c 253:** See note following RCW 74.08.580.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**74.04.015 Administration and disbursement of federal funds—Public assistance—Medical services programs.** (1) The secretary of social and health services shall be the responsible state officer for the administration and disbursement of all funds, goods, commodities, and services, which may be received by the state in connection with programs of public assistance or services related directly or indirectly to assistance programs, and all other matters included in the federal social security act as amended, or any other federal act or as the same may be amended except as otherwise provided by law.

(2) The director shall be the responsible state officer for the administration and disbursement of funds that the state receives in connection with the medical services programs established under chapter 74.09 RCW, including the state children's health insurance program, Titles XIX and XXI of the social security act of 1935, as amended.

(3) The department and the authority, as appropriate, shall make such reports and render such accounting as may be required by federal law. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 62; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 2; 1981 c 8 § 2; 1979 c 141 § 296; 1963 c 228 § 2; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.015. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 49; 1937 c 111 § 12; RRS § 10785-11.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

*Center for research and training in intellectual and developmental disabilities, assistant secretaries as advisory committee members: RCW 28B.20.412.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.025 Bilingual services for non-English speaking applicants and recipients—Bilingual personnel, when—Primary language pamphlets and written materials.** (1) The department, the authority, and the office of administrative hearings shall ensure that bilingual services are provided to non-English speaking applicants and recipients. The services shall be provided to the extent necessary to assure that non-English speaking persons are not denied, or unable to obtain or maintain, services or benefits because of their inability to speak English.

(2) If the number of non-English speaking applicants or recipients sharing the same language served by any community service office client contact job classification equals or exceeds fifty percent of the average caseload of a full-time position in such classification, the department shall, through attrition, employ bilingual personnel to serve such applicants or recipients.

(3) Regardless of the applicant or recipient caseload of any community service office, each community service office shall ensure that bilingual services required to supplement the community service office staff are provided through

contracts with language access providers, local agencies, or other community resources.

(4) The department shall certify, authorize, and qualify language access providers as needed to maintain an adequate pool of providers.

(5) The department shall require compliance with RCW 41.56.113(2) through its contracts with third parties.

(6) Initial client contact materials shall inform clients in all primary languages of the availability of interpretation services for non-English speaking persons. Basic informational pamphlets shall be translated into all primary languages.

(7) To the extent all written communications directed to applicants or recipients are not in the primary language of the applicant or recipient, the department and the office of administrative hearings shall include with the written communication a notice in all primary languages of applicants or recipients describing the significance of the communication and specifically how the applicants or recipients may receive assistance in understanding, and responding to if necessary, the written communication. The department shall assure that sufficient resources are available to assist applicants and recipients in a timely fashion with understanding, responding to, and complying with the requirements of all such written communications.

(8) As used in this section:

(a) "Language access provider" means any independent contractor who provides spoken language interpreter services for department appointments or medicaid enrollee appointments, or provided these services on or after January 1, 2009, and before June 10, 2010, whether paid by a broker, language access agency, or the department. "Language access provider" does not mean an owner, manager, or employee of a broker or a language access agency.

(b) "Primary languages" includes but is not limited to Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, and Chinese. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 63; 2010 c 296 § 7; 1998 c 245 § 143; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 33.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—2010 c 296:** See note following RCW 41.56.510.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.033 Notification of availability of basic health plan.** The department shall notify any applicant for public assistance who resides in a local area served by the Washington basic health plan and is under sixty-five years of age of the availability of basic health care coverage to qualified enrollees in the Washington basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW, unless the Washington basic health plan administrator has notified the department of a closure of enrollment in the area. The department shall maintain a supply of Washington basic health plan enrollment application forms, which shall be provided in reasonably necessary quantities by the administrator, in each appropriate community service office for the use of persons wishing to apply for enrollment in the Washington basic health plan. [1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.040 Public assistance a joint federal, state, and county function—Notice required.** The care, support, and relief of needy persons is hereby declared to be a joint federal, state, and county function. County offices are charged with the responsibility for the administration of public assistance within the respective county or counties or parts thereof as local offices of the department as prescribed by the rules and regulations of the department.

Whenever a city or town establishes a program or policy for the care, support, and relief of needy persons it shall provide notice of the program or policy to the county or counties within which the city or town is located. [1981 c 191 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.040. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 12; 1939 c 216 § 5; RRS § 10007-105a.]

**74.04.050 Department to administer certain public assistance programs—Authority to administer medical services programs.** (1) The department is designated as the single state agency to administer the following public assistance programs:

(a) Temporary assistance to needy families;

(b) Child welfare services; and

(c) Any other programs of public assistance for which provision for federal grants or funds may from time to time be made, except as otherwise provided by law.

(2) The authority is hereby designated as the single state agency to administer the medical services programs established under chapter 74.09 RCW, including the state children's health insurance program, Titles XIX and XXI of the federal social security act of 1935, as amended.

(3) The department and the authority are hereby empowered and authorized to cooperate in the administration of such federal laws, consistent with the public assistance laws of this state, as may be necessary to qualify for federal funds.

(4) The state hereby accepts and assents to all the present provisions of the federal law under which federal grants or funds, goods, commodities, and services are extended to the state for the support of programs referenced in this section, and to such additional legislation as may subsequently be enacted as is not inconsistent with the purposes of this title, authorizing public welfare and assistance activities. The provisions of this title shall be so administered as to conform with federal requirements with respect to eligibility for the receipt of federal grants or funds.

(5) The department and the authority shall periodically make application for federal grants or funds and submit such plans, reports and data, as are required by any act of congress as a condition precedent to the receipt of federal funds for such assistance. The department and the authority shall make and enforce such rules and regulations as shall be necessary to insure compliance with the terms and conditions of such federal grants or funds. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 64; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 3; 1981 c 8 § 3; 1963 c 228 § 3; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.050. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 21; 1953 c 174 § 6; 1939 c 216 § 6; RRS § 10007-106a.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.055 Cooperation with federal government—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements.** In furtherance of the policy of this state to cooperate with the federal government in the programs included in this title the secretary or director, as appropriate, shall issue such rules and regulations as may become necessary to entitle this state to participate in federal grants-in-aid, goods, commodities and services unless the same be expressly prohibited by this title. Any section or provision of this title which may be susceptible to more than one construction shall be interpreted in favor of the construction most likely to satisfy federal laws entitling this state to receive federal matching or other funds for the various programs of public assistance. If any part of this chapter is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the receipts of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this chapter is hereby inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict with respect to the agencies directly affected, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 65; 1991 c 126 § 2; 1979 c 141 § 298; 1963 c 228 § 4; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.055. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 50.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.04.057 Promulgation of rules and regulations to qualify for federal funds.** The department is authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to qualify for any federal funds available under Title XVI of the federal social security act, and any other combination of existing programs of assistance consistent with federal law and regulations. [1969 ex.s. c 173 § 3.]

**74.04.060 Records, confidential—Exceptions—Penalty.** (1)(a) For the protection of applicants and recipients, the department, the authority, and the county offices and their respective officers and employees are prohibited, except as hereinafter provided, from disclosing the contents of any records, files, papers and communications, except for purposes directly connected with the administration of the programs of this title. In any judicial proceeding, except such proceeding as is directly concerned with the administration of these programs, such records, files, papers and communications, and their contents, shall be deemed privileged communications and except for the right of any individual to inquire of the office whether a named individual is a recipient of welfare assistance and such person shall be entitled to an affirmative or negative answer.

(b) Upon written request of a parent who has been awarded visitation rights in an action for divorce or separation or any parent with legal custody of the child, the department shall disclose to him or her the last known address and location of his or her natural or adopted children. The secretary shall adopt rules which establish procedures for disclosing the address of the children and providing, when appropriate, for prior notice to the custodian of the children. The notice shall state that a request for disclosure has been received and will be complied with by the department unless the department receives a copy of a court order which enjoins the disclosure of the information or restricts or limits the

(2012 Ed.)

requesting party's right to contact or visit the other party or the child. Information supplied to a parent by the department shall be used only for purposes directly related to the enforcement of the visitation and custody provisions of the court order of separation or decree of divorce. No parent shall disclose such information to any other person except for the purpose of enforcing visitation provisions of the said order or decree.

(c) The department shall review methods to improve the protection and confidentiality of information for recipients of welfare assistance who have disclosed to the department that they are past or current victims of domestic violence or stalking.

(2) The county offices shall maintain monthly at their offices a report showing the names and addresses of all recipients in the county receiving public assistance under this title, together with the amount paid to each during the preceding month.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to duly designated representatives of approved private welfare agencies, public officials, members of legislative interim committees and advisory committees when performing duties directly connected with the administration of this title, such as regulation and investigation directly connected therewith: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any information so obtained by such persons or groups shall be treated with such degree of confidentiality as is required by the federal social security law.

(4) It shall be unlawful, except as provided in this section, for any person, body, association, firm, corporation or other agency to solicit, publish, disclose, receive, make use of, or to authorize, knowingly permit, participate in or acquiesce in the use of any lists or names for commercial or political purposes of any nature. The violation of this section shall be a gross misdemeanor. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 66; 2006 c 259 § 5; 1987 c 435 § 29; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 32; 1973 c 152 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.060. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 7; 1950 ex.s. c 10 § 1; 1941 c 128 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10007-106b.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

*Child support, department may disclose information to internal revenue department: RCW 74.20.160.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.062 Disclosure of recipient location to police officer or immigration official.** Upon written request of a person who has been properly identified as an officer of the law or a properly identified United States immigration official the department or authority shall disclose to such officer the current address and location of a recipient of public welfare if the officer furnishes the department or authority with such person's name and social security account number and satisfactorily demonstrates that such recipient is a fugitive, that the location or apprehension of such fugitive is within the officer's official duties, and that the request is made in the proper exercise of those duties.

When the department or authority becomes aware that a public assistance recipient is the subject of an outstanding warrant, the department or authority may contact the appropriate law enforcement agency and, if the warrant is valid,

provide the law enforcement agency with the location of the recipient. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 67; 1997 c 58 § 1006; 1973 c 152 § 2.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.070 County office—Administrator.** There may be established in each county of the state a county office which shall be administered by an executive officer designated as the county administrator. The county administrator shall be appointed by the secretary in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state merit system. [1979 c 141 § 299; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.070. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 13; 1941 c 128 § 2, part; 1939 c 216 § 4, part; Code 1881 §§ 2680, 2696; 1854 p 422 § 19; 1854 p 395 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10007-104a, part.]

**74.04.080 County administrator—Personnel—Bond.** The county administrator shall have the power to, and shall, employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title, which employment shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state merit system, and in accordance with personnel and administrative standards established by the department. The county administrator before qualifying shall furnish a surety bond in such amount as may be fixed by the secretary, but not less than five thousand dollars, conditioned that the administrator will faithfully account for all money and property that may come into his possession or control. The cost of such bond shall be an administrative expense and shall be paid by the department. [1979 c 141 § 300; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.080. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 14; 1941 c 128 § 2, part; 1939 c 216 § 4, part; Code 1881 §§ 2680, 2696; 1854 p 422 § 19; 1854 p 395 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10007-104a, part.]

**74.04.180 Joint county administration.** Public assistance may be administered through a single administrator and a single administrative office for one or more counties. There may be a local office for the transaction of official business maintained in each county. [1959 c 26 § 74.04.180. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 15; 1939 c 216 § 12; RRS § 10007-112a.]

**74.04.200 Standards—Established, enforced.** It shall be the duty of the department of social and health services to establish statewide standards which may vary by geographical areas to govern the granting of assistance in the several categories of this title and it shall have power to compel compliance with such standards as a condition to the receipt of state and federal funds by counties for social security purposes. [1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 4; 1981 c 8 § 4; 1979 c 141 § 302; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.200. Prior: 1939 c 216 § 14; RRS § 10007-114a.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.205 Simplified reporting for the food stamp program.** (1) To the maximum extent allowable by federal law, the department shall implement simplified reporting for the food stamp program by October 31, 2004.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "simplified reporting" means the only change in circumstance that a recipient of a benefit program must report between eligibility reviews is an increase of income that would result in ineligibility for the benefit program or a change of address. Every six months the assistance unit must either complete a semiannual report or participate in an eligibility review. [2004 c 54 § 3.]

**Findings—Conflict with federal requirements—2004 c 54:** See notes following RCW 28A.235.160.

**74.04.210 Basis of allocation of moneys to counties.** The moneys appropriated for public assistance purposes and subject to allocation as in this title provided shall be allocated to counties on the basis of past experience and established case load history. [1959 c 26 § 74.04.210. Prior: 1939 c 216 § 15; RRS § 10007-115a.]

**74.04.225 Opportunity portal—Access to available services facilitated—Report to legislature and governor.**

(1) An online opportunity portal shall be established to provide the public with more effective access to available state, federal, and local services. The secretary of the department of social and health services shall act as the executive branch sponsor of the portal planning process. Under the leadership of the secretary, the department shall:

(a) Identify and select an appropriate solution and acquisition approach to integrate technology systems to create a user-friendly electronic tool for Washington residents to apply for benefits;

(b) Facilitate the adaptation of state information technology systems to allow applications generated through the opportunity portal and other compatible electronic application systems to seamlessly link to appropriate state information systems;

(c) Ensure that the portal provides access to a broad array of state, federal, and local services, including but not limited to: Health care services, higher education financial aid, tax credits, civic engagement, nutrition assistance, energy assistance, family support, and the programs under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.220 and as defined in RCW 10.101.010, 13.34.030, 70.96A.530, 74.04.005, \*74.04.652, 74.04.655, 74.04.657, and 74.62.005 through 74.62.030;

(d) Design an implementation strategy for the portal that maximizes collaboration with community-based organizations to facilitate its use by low-income individuals and families;

(e) Provide access to the portal at a wide array of locations including but not limited to: Community or technical colleges, community college campuses where community service offices are colocated, community-based organizations, libraries, churches, food banks, state agencies, early childhood education sites, and labor unions;

(f) Ensure project resources maximize available federal and private funds for development and initial operation of the opportunity portal. Any incidental costs to state agencies shall be derived from existing resources. This subsection does not obligate or preclude the appropriation of future state funding for the opportunity portal;

(g) Determine the solution and acquisition approach by June 1, 2010.

(2) By December 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the department of social and health services shall report to the legislature and governor. The report shall include data and information on implementation and outcomes of the opportunity portal, including any increases in the use of public benefits and increases in federal funding.

(3) The department shall develop a plan for implementing paperless application processes for the services included in the opportunity portal for which the electronic exchange of application information is possible. The plan should include a goal of achieving, to the extent possible, the transition of these services to paperless application processes by July 1, 2012. The plan must comply with federal statutes and regulations and must allow applicants to submit applications by alternative means to ensure that access to benefits will not be restricted.

(4) To the extent that the department enters into a contractual relationship to accomplish the purposes of this section, such contract or contracts shall be performance-based. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 19; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.04.652 was repealed by 2012 c 57 § 1.

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Contingent validity—2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 2:** "If private funding sufficient to implement and operate the portal authorized under section 2 of this act is not secured by December 31, 2010, section 2 of this act is null and void." [2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 36.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The code reviser's office was informed by the department of social and health services that funding was secured to implement this section.

**Implementation—2010 1st sp.s. c 8 §§ 1-10 and 29:** "Sections 1 through 10 and 29 of this act shall be implemented within the amounts appropriated specifically for these purposes in the omnibus operating appropriations act." [2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 37.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Low-income families and individuals often face significant barriers to receiving the services and benefits that they are qualified to receive. These services are essential to meeting individuals' basic needs, and provide critical support to low-income individuals who are working or who have disabilities that prevent them from working;

(b) Each year millions of federal dollars go unclaimed due to underutilization of benefits such as tax credits, health care coverage, and food support;

(c) State agencies have been engaged in an effort to implement an online benefit portal to simplify and streamline access to state, federal, and local benefits that include a broad array of public benefits;

(d) Access to education and training gives low-income individuals and families the opportunity to acquire the skills they need to become successfully employed and attain self-sufficiency; and

(e) Agencies have been engaged in efforts to increase access to training and education for recipients of federal food assistance.

(2) The legislature therefore intends to strengthen existing efforts by providing enhanced structure and direction to ensure that a strong partnership among colleges, state agencies, community partners, and philanthropy be established. The legislature also intends to provide an efficient, effective, integrated approach to the delivery of basic support services and education and training programs. The integrated approach should include the creation of a one-stop-shop, online benefits portal where individuals can apply for a broad array of services, including public benefits and education and training support, and the expansion of the food stamp employment and training program.

(3) The legislature further finds that:

(a) The general assistance program can be reformed to better support the ability of persons who are unable to work due to physical or mental health impairments to either return to work, or transition to federal supplemental security income benefits; and

(b) Persons who are homeless and suffering from mental illness or chemical dependency are particularly vulnerable, because homelessness is a

(2012 Ed.)

substantial barrier to successful participation in, and completion of, needed treatment services.

(4) Through the reforms included in this act, the legislature intends to end the general assistance program and establish the disability lifeline program, and to implement multiple strategies designed to improve the employment and basic support outcomes of persons receiving disability lifeline benefits. The legislature further intends to focus services on persons who are homeless and have a mental illness or chemical dependency by providing housing vouchers as an alternative to a cash grant so that these persons can be in stable housing and thus have a greater opportunity to succeed in treatment." [2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 1.]

**Short title—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** "This act shall be known and cited as the security lifeline act." [2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 33.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** "Except for section 10 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 29, 2010]." [2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 34.]

**74.04.230 Medical care services benefits—Mental health services.** Persons eligible for medical care services benefits are eligible for mental health services to the extent that they meet the client definitions and priorities established by chapter 71.24 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 20; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 20; 1982 c 204 § 16.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

*Clients to be charged for mental health services:* RCW 71.24.215.

**74.04.265 Earnings—Deductions from grants.** The secretary may issue rules consistent with federal laws and with memorials of the legislature, as will recognize the income of any persons without the deduction in full thereof from the amount of their grants. [1979 c 141 § 303; 1965 ex.s. c 35 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.265. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 16.]

**74.04.266 Aged, blind, or disabled assistance—Medical care services—Earned income exemption to be established for unemployable persons.** In determining need for aged, blind, or disabled assistance, and medical care services, the department may by rule and regulation establish a monthly earned income exemption in an amount not to exceed the exemption allowable under disability programs authorized in Title XVI of the federal social security act. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 21; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 21; 1977 ex.s. c 215 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**74.04.280 Assistance nontransferable and exempt from process.** Assistance given under this title shall not be transferable or assignable at law or in equity and none of the moneys received by recipients under this title shall be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, or to the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law. [1959 c 26 § 74.04.280. Prior: 1939 c 216 § 25; RRS § 10007-125a.]

**74.04.290 Subpoena of witnesses, books, records, etc.**

In carrying out any of the provisions of this title, the secretary, the director, county administrators, hearing examiners, or other duly authorized officers of the department or authority shall have power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and compel the production of such papers, books, records and documents as they may deem relevant to the performance of their duties. Subpoenas issued under this power shall be under RCW 43.20A.605. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 68; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 22; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 2; 1979 c 141 § 305; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 2; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.290. Prior: 1939 c 216 § 26; RRS § 10007-126a.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.300 Recovery of payments improperly received—Lien—Recipient reporting requirements.**

If a recipient receives public assistance and/or food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically for which the recipient is not eligible, or receives public assistance and/or food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically in an amount greater than that for which the recipient is eligible, the portion of the payment to which the recipient is not entitled shall be a debt due the state recoverable under RCW 43.20B.030 and 43.20B.620 through 43.20B.645. It shall be the duty of recipients of cash benefits to notify the department of changes to earned income as defined in \*RCW 74.04.005(11). It shall be the duty of recipients of cash benefits to notify the department of changes to liquid resources as defined in \*RCW 74.04.005(10) that would result in ineligibility for cash benefits. It shall be the duty of recipients of food benefits to report changes in income that result in ineligibility for food benefits. All recipients shall report changes required in this section by the tenth of the month following the month in which the change occurs. The department shall make a determination of eligibility within ten days from the date it receives the reported change from the recipient. The department shall adopt rules consistent with federal law and regulations for additional reporting requirements. The department shall advise applicants for assistance that failure to report as required, failure to reveal resources or income, and false statements will result in recovery by the state of any overpayment and may result in criminal prosecution. [2003 c 208 § 1; 1998 c 79 § 7; 1987 c 75 § 32; 1982 c 201 § 16; 1980 c 84 § 2; 1979 c 141 § 306; 1973 1st ex.s. c 49 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 18; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.300. Prior: 1957 c 63 § 3; 1953 c 174 § 35; 1939 c 216 § 27; RRS § 10007-127a.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.04.005 was amended by 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 4, changing subsections (11) and (10) to subsections (12) and (11), respectively. RCW 74.04.005 was subsequently alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsections (12) and (11) to subsections (9) and (13), respectively.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.310 Authority to accept contributions.** In furthering the purposes of this title, the secretary or any county administrator may accept contributions or gifts in cash or otherwise from persons, associations or corporations, such contributions to be disbursed in the same manner as moneys appropriated for the purposes of this title: PROVIDED, That

the donor of such gifts may stipulate the manner in which such gifts shall be expended. [1979 c 141 § 309; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.310. Prior: 1939 c 216 § 28; RRS § 10007-128a.]

**74.04.330 Annual reports by assistance organizations—Penalty.** Every person, firm, corporation, association or organization receiving twenty-five percent or more of its income from contributions, gifts, dues, or other payments from persons receiving assistance, community work and training, federal-aid assistance, or any other form of public assistance from the state of Washington or any agency or subdivision thereof, and engaged in political or other activities in behalf of such persons receiving such public assistance, shall, within ninety days after the close of each calendar year, make a report to the secretary of social and health services for the preceding year, which report shall contain:

(1) A statement of the total amount of contributions, gifts, dues, or other payments received;

(2) The names of any and all persons, firms, corporations, associations or organizations contributing the sum of twenty-five dollars or more during such year, and the amounts contributed by such persons, firms, corporations, associations, or organizations;

(3) A full and complete statement of all disbursements made during such year, including the names of all persons, firms, corporations, associations, or organizations to whom any moneys were paid, and the amounts and purposes of such payments; and

(4) Every such report so filed shall constitute a public record.

(5) Any person, firm, or corporation, and any officer or agent of any firm, corporation, association or organization, violating this section by failing to file such report, or in any other manner, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1979 c 141 § 310; 1963 c 228 § 5; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.330. Prior: 1941 c 170 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10007-138.]

**74.04.340 Federal surplus commodities—Certification of persons eligible to receive commodities.**

The state department of social and health services is authorized to assist needy families and individuals to obtain federal surplus commodities for their use, by certifying, when such is the case, that they are eligible to receive such commodities. However, only those who are receiving or are eligible for public assistance or care and such others as may qualify in accordance with federal requirements and standards shall be certified as eligible to receive such commodities. [1979 c 141 § 311; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.340. Prior: 1957 c 187 § 2.]

*Purchase of federal property: Chapter 39.32 RCW.*

**74.04.350 Federal surplus commodities—Not to be construed as public assistance, eligibility not affected.**

Federal surplus commodities shall not be deemed or construed to be public assistance and care or a substitute, in whole or in part, therefor; and the receipt of such commodities by eligible families and individuals shall not subject them, their legally responsible relatives, their property or their estates to any demand, claim or liability on account thereof. A person's need or eligibility for public assistance or care shall not be affected by his receipt of federal surplus commodities. [1959 c 26 § 74.04.350. Prior: 1957 c 187 § 3.]

**74.04.360 Federal surplus commodities—Certification deemed administrative expense of department.** Expenditures made by the state department of social and health services for the purpose of certifying eligibility of needy families and individuals for federal surplus commodities shall be deemed to be expenditures for the administration of public assistance and care. [1979 c 141 § 312; 1959 c 26 § 74.04.360. Prior: 1957 c 187 § 4.]

**74.04.370 Federal surplus commodities—County program, expenses, handling of commodities.** See RCW 36.39.040.

**74.04.380 Federal and other surplus food commodities—Agreements—Personnel—Facilities—Cooperation with other agencies—Discontinuance of program.** The secretary of social and health services, from funds appropriated to the department for such purpose, shall, upon receipt of authorization from the governor, provide for the receiving, warehousing and distributing of federal and other surplus food commodities for the use and assistance of recipients of public assistance or other needy families and individuals certified as eligible to obtain such commodities. The secretary is authorized to enter into such agreements as may be necessary with the federal government or any state agency in order to participate in any program of distribution of surplus food commodities including but not limited to a food stamp or benefit program. The secretary shall hire personnel, establish distribution centers and acquire such facilities as may be required to carry out the intent of this section; and the secretary may carry out any such program as a sole operation of the department or in conjunction or cooperation with any similar program of distribution by private individuals or organizations, any department of the state or any political subdivision of the state.

The secretary shall discontinue such program, or any part thereof, whenever in the determination of the governor such program, or any part thereof, is no longer in the best interest of the state. [1998 c 79 § 8; 1979 c 141 § 313; 1963 c 219 § 1; 1961 c 112 § 1.]

**74.04.385 Unlawful practices relating to surplus commodities—Penalty.** It shall be unlawful for any recipient of federal or other surplus commodities received under RCW 74.04.380 to sell, transfer, barter or otherwise dispose of such commodities to any other person. It shall be unlawful for any person to receive, possess or use any surplus commodities received under RCW 74.04.380 unless he has been certified as eligible to receive, possess and use such commodities by the state department of social and health services.

Violation of the provisions of RCW 74.04.380 or this section shall constitute a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or both. [1979 c 141 § 314; 1963 c 219 § 2.]

**74.04.480 Educational leaves of absence for personnel.** The state department of social and health services is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations governing the granting to any employee of the department, other

than a provisional employee, a leave of absence for educational purposes to attend an institution of learning for the purpose of improving his skill, knowledge and technique in the administration of social welfare programs which will benefit the department.

Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the department, employees of the department who are engaged in the administration of public welfare programs may (1) attend courses of training provided by institutions of higher learning; (2) attend special courses of study or seminars of short duration conducted by experts on a temporary basis for the purpose; (3) accept fellowships or traineeships at institutions of higher learning with such stipends as are permitted by regulations of the federal government.

The department of social and health services is hereby authorized to accept any funds from the federal government or any other public or private agency made available for training purposes for public assistance personnel and to conform with such requirements as are necessary in order to receive such funds. [1979 c 141 § 321; 1963 c 228 § 15.]

**74.04.500 Food stamp program—Authorized.** The department is authorized to establish a food stamp or benefit program under the federal food stamp act of 1977, as amended. [1998 c 79 § 9; 1991 c 126 § 3; 1979 c 141 § 322; 1969 ex.s. c 172 § 4.]

*Overpayment, recovery:* RCW 74.04.300.

*Unlawful use of food stamps:* RCW 9.91.140.

**74.04.510 Food stamp program—Rules.** The department shall adopt rules conforming to federal laws, rules, and regulations required to be observed in maintaining the eligibility of the state to receive from the federal government and to issue or distribute to recipients, food stamps, coupons, or food stamp or coupon benefits transferred electronically under a food stamp or benefits plan. Such rules shall relate to and include, but shall not be limited to: (1) The classifications of and requirements of eligibility of households to receive food stamps, coupons, or food stamp or coupon benefits transferred electronically; and (2) the periods during which households shall be certified or recertified to be eligible to receive food stamps, coupons, or food stamp or coupon benefits transferred electronically under this plan. [1998 c 79 § 10; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 5; 1981 c 8 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 172 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.515 Food stamp program—Discrimination prohibited.** In administering the food stamp or benefits program, there shall be no discrimination against any applicant or recipient by reason of age, sex, handicap, religious creed, political beliefs, race, color, or national origin. [1998 c 79 § 11; 1991 c 126 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 172 § 7.]

**74.04.520 Food stamp program—Confidentiality.** The provisions of RCW 74.04.060 relating to disclosure of information regarding public assistance recipients shall apply to recipients of food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically. [1998 c 79 § 12; 1969 ex.s. c 172 § 8.]

**74.04.535 Food stamp employment and training program.** (1) The department, the employment security department, and the state board for community and technical colleges shall work in partnership to expand the food stamp employment and training program. Subject to federal approval, the program shall be expanded to three additional community colleges or other community-based locations in 2010 and shall expand capacity at participating colleges. To the greatest extent possible, expansion shall be geographically diverse. The agencies shall:

(a) Identify and seek out partnerships with community-based organizations that can provide support services and case management to participants through performance-based contracts in the food stamp employment and training program, and do not replace the positions or work of department employees;

(b) Identify eligible nonfederal matching funds to draw down the federal match for food stamp employment and training services. Matching funds may include: Local funds, foundation grants, employer-paid costs, and the state allocation to community and technical colleges.

(2) Employment and training funds may be allocated for: Educational programs to develop skills for employability, vocational education, English as a second language courses, adult basic education, GED courses, remedial programs, job readiness training, case management, intake, assessment, evaluation, and barrier removal and support services such as tuition, books, child care, transportation, housing, and counseling services.

(3) The department shall annually track and report outcomes including those achieved through performance-based contracts as follows: Federal funding received, the number of participants served, achievement points, the number of participants who enter employment during or after participation in the food stamp employment and training program, and the average wage of jobs attained. The report shall be submitted to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature on November 1st of each year, beginning in 2010.

(4) For purposes of this section, "food stamp employment and training program" refers to a program established and administered through the employment security department and the department of social and health services. [2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 3.]

**Implementation—2010 1st sp.s. c 8 §§ 1-10 and 29:** See note following RCW 74.04.225.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**74.04.600 Supplemental security income program—Purpose.** The purpose of RCW 74.04.600 through 74.04.650 is to recognize and accept that certain act of congress known as Public Law 92-603 and Public Law 93-66, and to enable the department of social and health services to take advantage of and implement the provisions of that act. The state shall provide assistance to those individuals who were eligible or would have been eligible for benefits under this state's old age assistance, disability assistance, and aid to the blind programs as they were in effect in December, 1973 but who will no longer be eligible for such program due to Title XVI of the Social Security Act. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 1.]

**74.04.610 Supplemental security income program—Termination of federal financial assistance payments—Supersession by supplemental security income program.** Effective January 1, 1974, the financial assistance payments under the federal aid categories of old age assistance, disability assistance, and blind assistance provided in chapters 74.08, \*74.10, and 74.16 RCW, respectively, and the corresponding provisions of RCW 74.04.005, shall be terminated and superseded by the national program to provide supplemental security income to individuals who have attained age sixty-five or are blind or disabled as established by Public Law 92-603 and Public Law 93-66: PROVIDED, That the agreements between the department of social and health services and the United States department of health, education and welfare receive such legislative authorization and/or ratification as required by \*\*RCW 74.04.630. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Chapter 74.10 RCW was repealed by 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 28, effective July 1, 1982; chapter 74.16 RCW was repealed by 1983 c 194 § 30, effective June 30, 1983.

\*\* (2) The legislative authorization and/or ratification requirements in RCW 74.04.630 were eliminated by 1986 c 158 § 22.

**74.04.620 State supplement to national program of supplemental security income—Authorized—Reimbursement of interim assistance, attorneys' fees.** (1) The department is authorized to establish a program of state supplementation to the national program of supplemental security income consistent with Public Law 92-603 and Public Law 93-66 to those persons who are in need thereof in accordance with eligibility requirements established by the department.

(2) The department is authorized to establish reasonable standards of assistance and resource and income exemptions specifically for such program of state supplementation which shall be consistent with the provisions of the Social Security Act.

(3) The department is authorized to make payments to applicants for supplemental security income, pursuant to agreements as provided in Public Law 93-368, who are otherwise eligible for aged, blind, or disabled assistance.

(4) Any agreement between the department and a supplemental security income applicant providing for the reimbursement of interim assistance to the department shall provide, if the applicant has been represented by an attorney, that twenty-five percent of the reimbursement received shall be withheld by the department and all or such portion thereof as has been approved as a fee by the United States department of health and human services shall be released directly to the applicant's attorney. The secretary may maintain such records as are deemed appropriate to measure the cost and effectiveness of such agreements and may make recommendations concerning the continued use of such agreements to the legislature. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 22; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 22; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 37; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 7; 1981 c 8 § 6; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.630 State supplementation to national program of supplemental security income—Contractual agreements with federal government.** The department may enter into contractual agreements with the United States department of health, education and welfare, consistent with the provisions of Public Laws 92-603 and 93-66, and to be effective January 1, 1974, for the purpose of enabling the secretary of the department of health, education and welfare to perform administrative functions of state supplementation to the national supplemental security income program and the determination of medicaid eligibility on behalf of the state. The department is authorized to transfer and make payments of state funds to the secretary of the department of health, education and welfare as required by Public Laws 92-603 and 93-66. These agreements shall be submitted for review and comment to the social and health services committees of the senate and house of representatives. The department of social and health services shall administer the state supplemental program as established in RCW 74.04.620. [2001 2nd sp.s. c 5 § 1; 1986 c 158 § 22; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 4.]

**74.04.635 State supplement to national program of supplemental security income—World War II Philippine veterans.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person receiving benefits under RCW 74.04.620 on December 14, 1999, and who meets the requirements of subsection (2) of this section is eligible to receive benefits under this section although he or she does not retain a residence in the state and returns to the Republic of the Philippines, if he or she maintains a permanent residence in the Republic of the Philippines without any lapse of his or her presence in the Republic of the Philippines.

(2) A person subject to subsection (1) of this section is eligible to receive benefits pursuant to this section if he or she was receiving benefits pursuant to RCW 74.04.620 on December 14, 1999, and meets both the following requirements:

- (a) He or she is a veteran of World War II; and
- (b)(i) He or she was a member of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines military forces who was in the service of the United States on July 26, 1941, or thereafter; or
- (ii) He or she was a Regular Philippine Scout who enlisted in Filipino-manned units of the United States army prior to October 6, 1945; or
- (iii) He or she was a member of the Special Philippine Scouts who enlisted in the United States Armed Forces between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947.

(3) Within funds appropriated for this purpose, the department is authorized to make a one-time lump sum payment of one thousand five hundred dollars to each person eligible for benefits under this section.

(a) Benefits paid under this section are in lieu of benefits paid under RCW 74.04.620 for the period for which the benefits are paid.

(b) Benefits are to be paid under this section for any period during which the recipient is receiving benefits under Title 8 of the federal social security act as a result of the application of federal Public Law 106-169, subject to any limitations imposed by this section.

(4) This section applies only to an individual who returns to the Republic of the Philippines for the period during which the individual establishes and maintains a residence in the Republic of the Philippines. [2001 c 111 § 2.]

**Findings—2001 c 111:** "The legislature finds and declares:

(1) That soldiers who were members of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines military forces who were in the service of the United States of America on July 31, 1941, including the organized guerrilla forces under commanders appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by the Commander in Chief of the Southwest Pacific Area or other competent authority in the Army of the United States, performed an invaluable function during World War II.

(2) It is in the public interest for the state of Washington to recognize those courageous soldiers who fought and defended American interests during World War II and who are currently receiving supplemental state benefits under RCW 74.04.620 as of December 14, 1999, by permitting them to return to their homeland to spend their last days without a complete forfeiture of benefits." [2001 c 111 § 1.]

**74.04.640 Acceptance of referrals for vocational rehabilitation—Reimbursement.** Referrals to the state department of social and health services for vocational rehabilitation made in accordance with section 1615 of Title XVI of the Social Security Act, as amended, shall be accepted by the state.

The department shall be reimbursed by the secretary of the department of health, education and welfare for the costs it incurs in providing such vocational rehabilitation services. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 5.]

**74.04.650 Individuals failing to comply with federal requirements.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of RCW 74.04.600 through 74.04.650, those individuals who have been receiving supplemental security income assistance and failed to comply with any federal requirements, including those relating to drug abuse and alcoholism treatment and rehabilitation, shall be ineligible for state assistance. [1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 8; 1981 c 8 § 7; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.655 Vocational rehabilitation—Assessment, referral.** (1) The economic services administration shall work jointly with the division of vocational rehabilitation to develop an assessment tool that must be used to determine whether the programs offered by the division of vocational rehabilitation could assist persons receiving benefits under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.220 in returning to the workforce. The assessment tool shall be completed no later than December 1, 2010. The economic services administration shall begin using the tool no later than January 1, 2011. No later than December 30, 2011, the department shall report on the use of the tool and to what extent the programs offered by the division of vocational rehabilitation have been successful in returning persons receiving aged, blind, or disabled benefits to the workforce.

(2) After January 1, 2011, all persons receiving benefits under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.230 shall be assessed to determine whether they would likely benefit from a program offered by the division of vocational rehabilitation. If the assessment indicates that the person might benefit, the economic services administration shall make a referral to the division of vocational rehabilitation. If the person is found eligible for a program with the division of vocational rehabil-

itation, he or she must participate in that program to remain eligible for the monthly stipend and housing voucher or a cash grant. If the person refuses to participate or does not complete the program, the department shall terminate the cash stipend and housing voucher or cash grant but may not terminate medical coverage and food benefits. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 24; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Implementation—2010 1st sp.s. c 8 §§ 1-10 and 29:** See note following RCW 74.04.225.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**74.04.657 Veterans' benefits—Assessment for eligibility.** During the application process for benefits under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.220, the department shall inquire of each applicant whether he or she has ever served in the United States military service. If the applicant answers in the affirmative, the department shall confer with a veterans benefit specialist with the Washington state department of veterans affairs or a contracted veterans service officer in the community to determine whether the applicant is eligible for any benefits or programs offered to veterans by either the state or the federal government. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 25; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Implementation—2010 1st sp.s. c 8 §§ 1-10 and 29:** See note following RCW 74.04.225.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**74.04.660 Family emergency assistance program—Extension of benefits during state of emergency.** The department shall establish a consolidated emergency assistance program for families with children. Assistance may be provided in accordance with this section.

(1) Benefits provided under this program shall be limited to one period of time, as determined by the department, within any consecutive twelve-month period.

(2) Benefits under this program shall be provided to alleviate emergent conditions resulting from insufficient income and resources to provide for: Food, shelter, clothing, medical care, or other necessary items, as defined by the department. Benefits may also be provided for family reconciliation services, family preservation services, home-based services, short-term substitute care in a licensed agency as defined in RCW 74.15.020, crisis nurseries, therapeutic child care, or other necessary services as defined by the department. Benefits shall be provided only in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of the specific need, subject to the limitations established in this section.

(3)(a) The department shall, by rule, establish assistance standards and eligibility criteria for this program in accordance with this section.

(b) Eligibility for benefits or services under this section does not automatically entitle a recipient to medical assistance.

(4) The department shall seek federal emergency assistance funds to supplement the state funds appropriated for the operation of this program as long as other departmental programs are not adversely affected by the receipt of federal funds.

(5) If state funds appropriated for the consolidated emergency assistance program are exhausted, the department may discontinue the program.

(6) During a state of emergency and pursuant to an order from the governor, benefits under this program may be extended to individuals and families without children. [2008 c 181 § 301; 1994 c 296 § 1; 1993 c 63 § 1; 1989 c 11 § 26; 1985 c 335 § 3; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.670 Long-term care services—Eligibility.** (1) For purposes of \*RCW 74.04.005(10)(a), an applicant or recipient is not eligible for long-term care services if the applicant or recipient's equity interest in the home exceeds an amount established by the department in rule, which shall not be less than five hundred thousand dollars. This requirement does not apply if any of the following persons related to the applicant or recipient are legally residing in the home:

(a) A spouse; or

(b) A dependent child under age twenty-one; or

(c) A dependent child with a disability; or

(d) A dependent child who is blind; and

(e) The dependent child in (c) and (d) of this subsection meets the federal supplemental security income program criteria for disabled and blind.

(2) The dollar amounts specified in this section shall be increased annually, beginning in 2011, from year to year based on the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers, all items, United States city average, rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars.

(3) This section applies to individuals who are determined eligible for medical assistance with respect to long-term care services based on an application filed on or after May 1, 2006. [2007 c 161 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.04.005 was amended by 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 4, changing subsection (10)(a) to subsection (11)(a). RCW 74.04.005 was subsequently alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (11)(a) to subsection (13)(a).

**74.04.750 Reporting requirements—Food stamp allotments and rent or housing subsidies, consideration as income.** (1) Applicants and recipients under this title must satisfy all reporting requirements imposed by the department.

(2) The secretary shall have the discretion to consider: (a) Food stamp allotments or food stamp benefits transferred electronically and/or (b) rent or housing subsidies as income in determining eligibility for and assistance to be provided by public assistance programs. If the department considers food stamp allotments or food stamp benefits transferred electronically as income in determining eligibility for assistance, applicants or recipients for any grant assistance program must apply for and take all reasonable actions necessary to establish and maintain eligibility for food stamps or food

stamp benefits transferred electronically. [1998 c 79 § 13; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 1.]

**74.04.760 Minimum amount of monthly assistance payments.** Payment of assistance shall not be made for any month if the payment prior to any adjustments would be less than ten dollars. However, if payment is denied solely by reason of this section, the individual with respect to whom such payment is denied is determined to be a recipient of assistance for purposes of eligibility for other programs of assistance except for a community work experience program. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 2.]

**74.04.770 Consolidated standards of need—Rateable reductions—Grant maximums.** The department shall establish consolidated standards of need each fiscal year which may vary by geographical areas, program, and family size, for temporary assistance for needy families, refugee assistance, supplemental security income, and benefits under RCW 74.62.030. Standards for temporary assistance for needy families, refugee assistance, and benefits under RCW 74.62.030 shall be based on studies of actual living costs and generally recognized inflation indices and shall include reasonable allowances for shelter, fuel, food, transportation, clothing, household maintenance and operations, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals. The standard of need may take into account the economies of joint living arrangements, but unless explicitly required by federal statute, there shall not be proration of any portion of assistance grants unless the amount of the grant standard is equal to the standard of need.

The department is authorized to establish rateable reductions and grant maximums consistent with federal law.

Payment level will be equal to need or a lesser amount if rateable reductions or grant maximums are imposed. In no case shall a recipient of supplemental security income receive a state supplement less than the minimum required by federal law.

The department may establish a separate standard for shelter provided at no cost. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 23; 1997 c 59 § 11; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 38; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.04.790 Supplementary program—Reimbursement for employees being victims of assault.** (1) For purposes of this section only, "assault" means an unauthorized touching of a child protective, child welfare, or adult protective services worker employed by the department of social and health services resulting in physical injury to the employee.

(2) In recognition of the hazardous nature of employment in child protective, child welfare, and adult protective services, the legislature hereby provides a supplementary program to reimburse employees of the department, for some of their costs attributable to their being the victims of assault

(2012 Ed.)

while in the course of discharging their assigned duties. This program shall be limited to the reimbursement provided in this section.

(3) An employee is only entitled to receive the reimbursement provided in this section if the secretary of social and health services, or the secretary's designee, finds that each of the following has occurred:

(a) A person has assaulted the employee while the employee was in the course of performing his or her official duties and, as a result thereof, the employee has sustained demonstrated physical injuries which have required the employee to miss days of work;

(b) The assault cannot be attributable to any extent to the employee's negligence, misconduct, or failure to comply with any rules or conditions of employment; and

(c) The department of labor and industries has approved the employee's workers' compensation application pursuant to chapter 51.32 RCW.

(4) The reimbursement authorized under this section shall be as follows:

(a) The employee's accumulated sick leave days shall not be reduced for the workdays missed;

(b) For each workday missed for which the employee is not eligible to receive compensation under chapter 51.32 RCW, the employee shall receive full pay; and

(c) In respect to workdays missed for which the employee will receive or has received compensation under chapter 51.32 RCW, the employee shall be reimbursed in an amount which, when added to that compensation, will result in the employee receiving full pay for the workdays missed.

(5) Reimbursement under this section may not last longer than three hundred sixty-five consecutive days after the date of the injury.

(6) The employee shall not be entitled to the reimbursement provided in subsection (4) of this section for any workday for which the secretary, or the secretary's designee, finds that the employee has not diligently pursued his or her compensation remedies under chapter 51.32 RCW.

(7) The reimbursement shall only be made for absences which the secretary, or the secretary's designee, believes are justified.

(8) While the employee is receiving reimbursement under this section, he or she shall continue to be classified as a state employee and the reimbursement amount shall be considered as salary or wages.

(9) All reimbursement payments required to be made to employees under this section shall be made by the department. The payments shall be considered as a salary or wage expense and shall be paid by the department in the same manner and from the same appropriations as other salary and wage expenses of the department.

(10) Should the legislature revoke the reimbursement authorized under this section or repeal this section, no affected employee is entitled thereafter to receive the reimbursement as a matter of contractual right. [2006 c 95 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 95:** "The legislature finds that employees of the department of social and health services who provide child protective, child welfare, and adult protective services are sometimes faced with highly volatile, hostile, and/or threatening situations during the course of performing their official duties. The legislature finds that the work group convened by the department of social and health services pursuant to chapter 389, Laws of 2005, has made various recommendations regarding policies and

protocols to address the safety of workers. The legislature intends to implement the work group's recommendations for statutory changes in recognition of the sometimes hazardous nature of employment in child protective, child welfare, and adult protective services." [2006 c 95 § 1.]

**74.04.800 Incarcerated parents—Policies to encourage family contact and engagement.** (1)(a) The secretary of social and health services shall review current department policies and assess the adequacy and availability of programs targeted at persons who receive services through the department who are the children and families of a person who is incarcerated in a department of corrections facility. Great attention shall be focused on programs and policies affecting foster youth who have a parent who is incarcerated.

(b) The secretary shall adopt policies that encourage familial contact and engagement between inmates of the department of corrections facilities and their children with the goal of facilitating normal child development, while reducing recidivism and intergenerational incarceration. Programs and policies should take into consideration the children's need to maintain contact with his or her parent, the inmate's ability to develop plans to financially support their children, assist in reunification when appropriate, and encourage the improvement of parenting skills where needed. The programs and policies should also meet the needs of the child while the parent is incarcerated.

(2) The secretary shall conduct the following activities to assist in implementing the requirements of subsection (1) of this section:

(a) Gather information and data on the recipients of public assistance, or children in the care of the state under chapter 13.34 RCW, who are the children and families of inmates incarcerated in department of corrections facilities; and

(b) Participate in the children of incarcerated parents advisory committee and report information obtained under this section to the advisory committee. [2007 c 384 § 3.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 384:** See note following RCW 72.09.495.

**74.04.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521. (Effective January 1, 2014.)** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 173.]

**Effective dates—2009 c 521 §§ 5-8, 79, 87-103, 107, 151, 165, 166, 173-175, and 190-192:** See note following RCW 2.10.900.

## Chapter 74.08 RCW ELIGIBILITY GENERALLY— STANDARDS OF ASSISTANCE

### Sections

74.08.025	Eligibility for public assistance—Temporary assistance for needy families—Limitations for new residents, drug or alcohol-dependent persons.
74.08.030	Old age assistance eligibility requirements.
74.08.043	Need for personal and special care—Authority to consider in determining living requirements.
74.08.044	Need for personal and special care—Licensing—Rules and regulations.
74.08.045	Need for personal and special care—Purchase of personal and special care by department.
74.08.046	Energy assistance allowance.
74.08.050	Applications for grants.
74.08.055	Verification of applications—Electronic applications—Penalty.
74.08.060	Action on applications—Ineligibility of inmates—Employment and training services.
74.08.080	Grievances—Departmental and judicial review.
74.08.090	Rule-making authority and enforcement.
74.08.100	Age and residency verification—Felony.
74.08.105	Out-of-state recipients.
74.08.210	Grants not assignable nor subject to execution.
74.08.260	Federal act to control in event of conflict.
74.08.278	Central operating fund established.
74.08.280	Payments to persons incapable of self-care—Protective payee services.
74.08.283	Services provided to attain self-care.
74.08.290	Suspension of payments—Need lapse—Imprisonment—Conviction under RCW 74.08.331.
74.08.331	Unlawful practices—Obtaining assistance—Disposal of realty—Penalties.
74.08.335	Transfers of property to qualify for assistance.
74.08.338	Real property transfers for inadequate consideration.
74.08.340	No vested rights conferred.
74.08.370	Old age assistance grants charged against general fund.
74.08.380	Acceptance of federal act.
74.08.390	Research, projects, to effect savings by restoring self-support—Waiver of public assistance requirements.
74.08.580	Electronic benefit cards—Prohibited uses—Violations.
74.08.582	Electronic benefit cards—Names of two or more persons.
74.08.900	Limited application.

*Public assistance eligibility—Payments exempt: RCW 43.185C.140.*

**74.08.025 Eligibility for public assistance—Temporary assistance for needy families—Limitations for new residents, drug or alcohol-dependent persons.** (1) Public assistance may be awarded to any applicant:

(a) Who is in need and otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of department assistance programs; and

(b) Who has not made a voluntary assignment of property or cash for the purpose of qualifying for an assistance grant; and

(c) Who is not an inmate of a public institution except as a patient in a medical institution or except as an inmate in a public institution who could qualify for federal aid assistance: PROVIDED, That the assistance paid by the department to recipients in nursing homes, or receiving nursing home care, may cover the cost of clothing and incidentals and general maintenance exclusive of medical care and health services. The department may pay a grant to cover the cost of clothing and personal incidentals in public or private medical institutions and institutions for tuberculosis. The department shall allow recipients in nursing homes to retain, in addition to the grant to cover the cost of clothing and incidentals, wages received for work as a part of a training or rehabilitative program designed to prepare the recipient for less restrictive placement to the extent permitted under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

(2) Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for needy families under this title who has resided in the state of Washington for fewer than twelve consecutive months immediately preceding application for assistance is limited to the benefit level in the state in which the person resided immediately before Washington, using the eligibility rules and other definitions established under this chapter, that was obtainable on the date of application in Washington state, if the benefit level of the prior state is lower than the level provided to similarly situated applicants in Washington state. The benefit level under this subsection shall be in effect for the first twelve months a recipient is on temporary assistance for needy families in Washington state.

(3) Any person otherwise qualified for temporary assistance for needy families who is assessed through the state alcohol and substance abuse program as drug or alcohol-dependent and requiring treatment to become employable shall be required by the department to participate in a drug or alcohol treatment program as a condition of benefit receipt.

(4) The department may implement a permanent disqualification for adults who have been terminated due to WorkFirst noncompliance sanction three or more times since March 1, 2007. A household that includes an adult who has been permanently disqualified from receiving temporary assistance for needy families shall be ineligible for further temporary assistance for needy families assistance.

(5) Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 862a(d)(1), the department shall exempt individuals from the eligibility restrictions of 21 U.S.C. 862a(a)(1) and (2) to ensure eligibility for temporary assistance for needy families benefits and federal food assistance. [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 7; 2005 c 174 § 2; 2004 c 54 § 5; 1997 c 58 § 101; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 9; 1981 c 8 § 8; 1980 c 79 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 169 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 31 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.025. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 19.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**Findings—2005 c 174:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Too many families with children in Washington are unable to afford shelter, clothing, and other necessities of life; basic necessities that are at the core of economic security and family stability.

(2) Parents who lack resources for shelter, clothing, and transportation are less likely to obtain employment or have the ability to adequately provide for their children's physical and emotional well-being and educational success.

(3) Washington's temporary assistance for needy families helps financially struggling families find jobs, keep their jobs, get better jobs, and build a better life for their children through the WorkFirst program.

(4) Participation in the WorkFirst program through temporary assistance for needy families is an important step towards self-sufficiency and decreased long-term reliance on governmental assistance.

(5) Removing this barrier to participation in temporary assistance for needy families and WorkFirst will serve to strengthen families and communities throughout the state.

(6) Preventing even one percent of these individuals from reoffending by extending economic and employment opportunities will result in law enforcement and correctional savings that substantially exceed the cost of temporary assistance for needy families and WorkFirst services." [2005 c 174 § 1.]

**Effective date—2005 c 174:** "This act takes effect September 1, 2005." [2005 c 174 § 3.]

**Findings—Conflict with federal requirements—2004 c 54:** See notes following RCW 28A.235.160.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**74.08.030 Old age assistance eligibility requirements.** In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements of RCW 74.08.025, an applicant for old age assistance must be an applicant who:

(1) Has attained the age of sixty-five: PROVIDED, That if an applicant for old age assistance is already on the assistance rolls in some other program or category of assistance, such applicant shall be considered eligible the first of the month immediately preceding the date on which such applicant will attain the age of sixty-five; and

(2) Is a resident of the state of Washington. [1971 ex.s. c 169 § 2; 1961 c 248 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.030. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 20; 1951 c 165 § 1; 1951 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 178, approved November 7, 1950); 1949 c 6 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-33d.]

**74.08.043 Need for personal and special care—Authority to consider in determining living requirements.**

In determining the living requirements of otherwise eligible applicants and recipients of supplemental security income and benefits under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.220, the department is authorized to consider the need for personal and special care and supervision due to physical and mental conditions. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 27; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 24; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 12; 1981 c 8 § 11; 1969 ex.s. c 172 § 10.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08.044 Need for personal and special care—Licensing—Rules and regulations.**

The department is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing eligibility for alternate living arrangements, and license the same, including minimum standards of care, based upon need for personal care and supervision beyond the level of board and room only, but less than the level of care required in a hospital or a nursing facility as defined in the federal social security act. [1991 sp.s. c 8 § 5; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 52 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 172 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08.045 Need for personal and special care—Purchase of personal and special care by department.**

The department may purchase such personal and special care at reasonable rates established by the department from substitute homes and intermediate care facilities providing [provided] this service is in compliance with standards of care established by the regulations of the department. [1969 ex.s. c 172 § 12.]

**74.08.046 Energy assistance allowance.** There is designated to be included in the public assistance payment level a monthly energy assistance allowance. The allowance shall be excluded from consideration as income for the purpose of determining eligibility and benefit levels of food stamp or benefits program recipients to the maximum extent exclusion is authorized by federal law. The allowance shall be calcu-

lated on a seasonal basis for the period of November 1st through April 30th. [1998 c 79 § 14; 1982 c 127 § 1.]

**Legislative intent—1982 c 127:** "It is the continuing intention of the legislature that first priority in the use of increased appropriations, expenditures, and payment levels for the 1981-83 biennium to income assistance recipients be for an energy allowance to offset the high and escalating costs of energy. Of the total amount appropriated or transferred for public assistance, an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000 is designated as energy assistance allowance to meet the high cost of energy. This designation is consistent with the legislative intent of section 11, chapter 6, Laws of 1981 1st ex. sess. to assist public assistance recipients in meeting the high costs of energy." [1982 c 127 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08.050 Applications for grants.** Application for a grant in any category of public assistance shall be made to the county office by the applicant or by another on his behalf, and shall be reduced to writing upon standard forms prescribed by the department, and a written acknowledgment of receipt of the application by the department shall be given to each applicant at the time of making application. [1971 ex.s. c 169 § 3; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.050. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 26; 1949 c 6 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-33f.]

**74.08.055 Verification of applications—Electronic applications—Penalty.** (1) Each applicant for or recipient of public assistance shall complete and sign a physical application or, if available, electronic application for assistance which shall contain or be verified by a written declaration that it is signed under the penalties of perjury. The department may make electronic applications available. The secretary, by rule and regulation, may require that any other forms filled out by applicants or recipients of public assistance shall contain or be verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury and such declaration shall be in lieu of any oath otherwise required, and each applicant shall be so informed at the time of the signing. The application and signature verification shall be in accordance with federal requirements for that program.

(2) Any applicant for or recipient of public assistance who willfully makes and signs any application, statement, other paper, or electronic record which contains or is verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury and which he or she does not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter is guilty of a class B felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Electronic record" means a record generated, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means for use in an information system or for transmission from one information system to another.

(b) "Electronic signature" means a signature in electronic form attached to or logically associated with an electronic record including, but not limited to, a digital signature. An electronic signature is a paperless way to sign a document using an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

(c) "Sign" includes signing by physical signature, if available, or electronic signature. An application must contain a signature in either physical or, if available, electronic

form. [2009 c 201 § 1; 2003 c 53 § 366; 1979 c 141 § 323; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.055. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 27.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**74.08.060 Action on applications—Ineligibility of inmates—Employment and training services.** The department shall approve or deny the application within forty-five days after filing, and shall immediately notify the applicant in writing of its decision. If the department is not able within forty-five days, despite due diligence, to secure all information necessary to establish eligibility, the department shall continue to secure such information. If such information, when established, makes the applicant eligible, the department shall pay the grant from the date of authorization or forty-five days after the date of application, whichever is earlier, except that the department shall not make payments for any period of time in which the applicant is ineligible for public assistance as an inmate of a public institution under RCW 74.08.025(1)(c).

The department may, in respect to work requirements, provide employment and training services, including job search, job placement, work orientation, and necessary support services to verify eligibility. [2009 c 198 § 1; 1985 c 335 § 4; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 13; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 6; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.060. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 28; 1949 c 6 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-33g.]

**Effective date—2009 c 198:** "This act takes effect November 1, 2009." [2009 c 198 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08.080 Grievances—Departmental and judicial review.** (1)(a) A public assistance applicant or recipient who is aggrieved by a decision of the department or an authorized agency of the department has the right to an adjudicative proceeding. A current or former recipient who is aggrieved by a department claim that he or she owes a debt for an overpayment of assistance or food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically, or both, has the right to an adjudicative proceeding.

(b) An applicant or recipient has no right to an adjudicative proceeding when the sole basis for the department's decision is a state or federal law that requires an assistance adjustment for a class of recipients.

(2) The adjudicative proceeding is governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and this subsection.

(a) The applicant or recipient must file the application for an adjudicative proceeding with the secretary within ninety days after receiving notice of the aggrieving decision.

(b) The hearing shall be conducted at the local community services office or other location in Washington convenient to the appellant.

(c) The appellant or his or her representative has the right to inspect his or her department file and, upon request, to receive copies of department documents relevant to the proceedings free of charge.

(d) The appellant has the right to a copy of the tape recording of the hearing free of charge.

(e) The department is limited to recovering an overpayment arising from assistance being continued pending the

adjudicative proceeding to the amount recoverable up to the sixtieth day after the secretary's receipt of the application for an adjudicative proceeding.

(f) If the final adjudicative order is made in favor of the appellant, assistance shall be paid from the date of denial of the application for assistance or thirty days following the date of application for temporary assistance for needy families or forty-five days after date of application for all other programs, whichever is sooner; or in the case of a recipient, from the effective date of the local community services office decision.

(g) This subsection applies only to an adjudicative proceeding in which the appellant is an applicant for or recipient of medical assistance or the limited casualty program for the medically needy and the issue is his or her eligibility or ineligibility due to the assignment or transfer of a resource. The burden is on the department to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the person knowingly and willingly assigned or transferred the resource at less than market value for the purpose of qualifying or continuing to qualify for medical assistance or the limited casualty program for the medically needy. If the prevailing party in the adjudicative proceeding is the applicant or recipient, he or she is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees.

(3) When a person files a petition for judicial review as provided in RCW 34.05.514 of an adjudicative order entered in a public assistance program, no filing fee shall be collected from the person and no bond shall be required on any appeal. In the event that the superior court, the court of appeals, or the supreme court renders a decision in favor of the appellant, said appellant shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. If a decision of the court is made in favor of the appellant, assistance shall be paid from date of the denial of the application for assistance or thirty days after the application for temporary assistance for needy families or forty-five days following the date of application, whichever is sooner; or in the case of a recipient, from the effective date of the local community services office decision. [1998 c 79 § 15; 1997 c 59 § 12; 1989 c 175 § 145; 1988 c 202 § 58; 1971 c 81 § 136; 1969 ex.s. c 172 § 2; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.080. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 31; 1949 c 6 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-33i.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08.090 Rule-making authority and enforcement.** The department is hereby authorized to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this title to the end that this title shall be administered uniformly throughout the state, and that the spirit and purpose of this title may be complied with. The department shall have the power to compel compliance with the rules and regulations established by it. Such rules and regulations shall be filed in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, as it is now or hereafter amended, and copies shall be available for public inspection in the office of the department and in each county office. [1969 ex.s. c 173 § 5; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.090. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 5; 1949 c 6 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-33j.]

**74.08.100 Age and residency verification—Felony.** Proof of age and length of residence in the state of any applicant may be established as provided by the rules and regulations of the department: PROVIDED, That if an applicant is

unable to establish proof of age or length of residence in the state by any other method he or she may make a statement under oath of his or her age on the date of application or the length of his or her residence in the state, before any judge of the superior court, any judge of the court of appeals, or any justice of the supreme court of the state of Washington, and such statement shall constitute sufficient proof of age of applicant or of length of residence in the state: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That any applicant who willfully makes a false statement as to his or her age or length of residence in the state under oath before a judge of the superior court, a judge of the court of appeals, or a justice of the supreme court, as provided above, shall be guilty of a class B felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW. [2003 c 53 § 367; 1971 c 81 § 137; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.100. Prior: 1949 c 6 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-33k.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**74.08.105 Out-of-state recipients.** No assistance payments shall be made to recipients living outside the state of Washington unless in the discretion of the secretary there is sound social reason for such out-of-state payments: PROVIDED, That the period for making such payments when authorized shall not exceed the length of time required to satisfy the residence requirements in the other state in order to be eligible for a grant in the same category of assistance as the recipient was eligible to receive in Washington. [1979 c 141 § 325; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.105. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 39.]

**74.08.210 Grants not assignable nor subject to execution.** Grants awarded under this title shall not be transferable or assignable, at law or in equity, and none of the money paid or payable under this title shall be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, or to the operation of bankruptcy or insolvency law. [1959 c 26 § 74.08.210. Prior: 1941 c 1 § 16; 1935 c 182 § 17; 1933 c 29 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9998-49.]

**74.08.260 Federal act to control in event of conflict.** If any plan of administration of this title submitted to the federal security agency shall be found to be not in conformity with the federal social security act by reason of any conflict of any section, portion, clause or part of this title and the federal social security act, such conflicting section, portion, clause or part of this title is hereby declared to be inoperative to the extent that it is so in conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the remainder of this title. [1959 c 26 § 74.08.260. Prior: 1949 c 6 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-33q.]

**74.08.278 Central operating fund established.** In order to comply with federal statutes and regulations pertaining to federal matching funds and to provide for the prompt payment of initial grants and adjusting payments of grants the secretary is authorized to make provisions for the cash payment of assistance by the secretary or county administrators by the establishment of a central operating fund. The secretary may establish such a fund with the approval of the state auditor from moneys appropriated to the department for the payment of benefits under RCW 74.62.030 in a sum not to

exceed one million dollars. Such funds shall be deposited as agreed upon by the secretary and the state auditor in accordance with the laws regulating the deposits of public funds. Such security shall be required of the depository in connection with the fund as the state treasurer may prescribe. Moneys remaining in the fund shall be returned to the general fund at the end of the biennium, or an accounting of proper expenditures from the fund shall be made to the state auditor. All expenditures from such central operating fund shall be reimbursed out of and charged to the proper program appropriated by the use of such forms and vouchers as are approved by the secretary of the department and the state auditor. Expenditures from such fund shall be audited by the director of financial management and the state auditor from time to time and a report shall be made by the state auditor and the secretary as are required by law. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 28; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 25; 1979 c 141 § 327; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.278. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 42; 1951 c 261 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**74.08.280 Payments to persons incapable of self-care—Protective payee services.** If any person receiving public assistance has demonstrated an inability to care for oneself or for money, the department may direct the payment of the installments of public assistance to any responsible person, social service agency, or corporation or to a legally appointed guardian for his benefit. The state may contract with persons, social service agencies, or corporations approved by the department to provide protective payee services for a fixed amount per recipient receiving protective payee services to cover administrative costs. The department may by rule specify a fee to cover administrative costs. Such fee shall not be withheld from a recipient's grant.

If the state requires the appointment of a guardian for this purpose, the department shall pay all costs and reasonable fees as fixed by the court. [1987 c 406 § 10; 1979 c 141 § 328; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.280. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 40; 1937 c 156 § 7; 1935 c 182 § 10; RRS § 9998-10.]

*Living situation presumption:* RCW 74.12.255, 74.04.0052.

**74.08.283 Services provided to attain self-care.** The department is authorized to provide such social and related services as are reasonably necessary to the end that applicants for or recipients of public assistance are helped to attain self-care. [1963 c 228 § 16; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.283. Prior: 1957 c 63 § 6.]

**74.08.290 Suspension of payments—Need lapse—Imprisonment—Conviction under RCW 74.08.331.** The department is hereby authorized to suspend temporarily the public assistance granted to any person for any period during which such person is not in need thereof.

If a recipient is convicted of any crime or offense, and punished by imprisonment, no payment shall be made during the period of imprisonment.

If a recipient is convicted of unlawful practices under RCW 74.08.331, no payment shall be made for a period to be

determined by the court, but in no event less than six months upon the first conviction and no less than twelve months for a second or subsequent violation. This suspension of public assistance shall apply regardless of whether the recipient is subject to complete or partial confinement upon conviction, or incurs some lesser penalty. [1995 c 379 § 2; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.290. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 38; 1935 c 182 § 12; RRS § 9998-12.]

**Finding—1995 c 379:** "The legislature finds that welfare fraud damages the state's ability to use its limited resources to help those in need who legitimately qualify for assistance. In addition, it affects the credibility and integrity of the system, promoting disdain for the law.

Persons convicted of committing such fraud should be barred, for a period of time, from receiving additional public assistance." [1995 c 379 § 1.]

**74.08.331 Unlawful practices—Obtaining assistance—Disposal of realty—Penalties.** (1) Any person who by means of a willfully false statement, or representation, or impersonation, or a willful failure to reveal any material fact, condition, or circumstance affecting eligibility or need for assistance, including medical care, surplus commodities, and food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically, as required by law, or a willful failure to promptly notify the county office in writing as required by law or any change in status in respect to resources, or income, or need, or family composition, money contribution and other support, from whatever source derived, including unemployment insurance, or any other change in circumstances affecting the person's eligibility or need for assistance, or other fraudulent device, obtains, or attempts to obtain, or aids or abets any person to obtain any public assistance to which the person is not entitled or greater public assistance than that to which he or she is justly entitled is guilty of theft in the first degree under RCW 9A.56.030 and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for not more than fifteen years.

(2) Any person who by means of a willfully false statement or representation or by impersonation or other fraudulent device aids or abets in buying, selling, or in any other way disposing of the real property of a recipient of public assistance without the consent of the secretary is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days in the county jail or a fine of not to exceed one thousand dollars or by both. [2011 c 96 § 53; 2003 c 53 § 368; 1998 c 79 § 16; 1997 c 58 § 303; 1992 c 7 § 59; 1979 c 141 § 329; 1965 ex.s. c 34 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08.335 Transfers of property to qualify for assistance.** Temporary assistance for needy families and benefits under RCW 74.62.030 and 43.185C.220 shall not be granted to any person who has made an assignment or transfer of property for the purpose of rendering himself or herself eligible for the assistance. There is a rebuttable presumption that a person who has transferred or transfers any real or personal property or any interest in property within two years of the date of application for the assistance without receiving ade-

quate monetary consideration therefor, did so for the purpose of rendering himself or herself eligible for the assistance. Any person who transfers property for the purpose of rendering himself or herself eligible for assistance, or any person who after becoming a recipient transfers any property or any interest in property without the consent of the secretary, shall be ineligible for assistance for a period of time during which the reasonable value of the property so transferred would have been adequate to meet the person's needs under normal conditions of living: PROVIDED, That the secretary is hereby authorized to allow exceptions in cases where undue hardship would result from a denial of assistance. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 29; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 26; 1997 c 59 § 13; 1980 c 79 § 2; 1979 c 141 § 330; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.335. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 33.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**74.08.338 Real property transfers for inadequate consideration.** When the consideration for a deed executed and delivered by a recipient is not paid, or when the consideration does not approximate the fair cash market value of the property, such deed shall be prima facie fraudulent as to the state and the department may proceed under RCW 43.20B.660. [1987 c 75 § 40; 1979 c 141 § 331; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.338. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 37.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08.340 No vested rights conferred.** All assistance granted under this title shall be deemed to be granted and to be held subject to the provisions of any amending or repealing act that may hereafter be enacted, and no recipient shall have any claim for compensation, or otherwise, by reason of his assistance being affected in any way by such amending or repealing act. There is no legal entitlement to public assistance. [1997 c 58 § 102; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.340. Prior: 1935 c 182 § 21; RRS § 9998-21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08.370 Old age assistance grants charged against general fund.** All old age assistance grants under this title shall be a charge against and payable out of the general fund of the state. Payment thereof shall be by warrant drawn upon vouchers duly prepared and verified by the secretary of the department of social and health services or his official representative. [1973 c 106 § 33; 1959 c 26 § 74.08.370. Prior: 1935 c 182 § 24; RRS § 9998-24. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1935 c 182 § 25; RRS § 9998-25, now codified as RCW 74.08.375.]

**74.08.380 Acceptance of federal act.** The state hereby accepts the provisions of that certain act of the congress of the United States entitled, An Act to provide for the general welfare by establishing a system of federal old age benefits, and by enabling the several states to make more adequate provisions for aged persons, blind persons, dependent and crippled children, maternal and child welfare, public health, and the administration of their unemployment compensation

(2012 Ed.)

laws; to establish a social security board; to raise revenue; and for other purposes, and such other act with like or similar objects as may be enacted. [1959 c 26 § 74.08.380. Prior: 1937 c 156 § 12; 1935 c 182 § 26; RRS § 9998-26.]

**74.08.390 Research, projects, to effect savings by restoring self-support—Waiver of public assistance requirements.** The department of social and health services may conduct research studies, pilot projects, demonstration projects, surveys and investigations for the purpose of determining methods to achieve savings in public assistance programs by means of restoring individuals to maximum self-support and personal independence and preventing social and physical disablement, and for the accomplishment of any of such purposes may employ consultants or enter into contracts with any agency of the federal, state or local governments, nonprofit corporations, universities or foundations.

Pursuant to this authority the department may waive the enforcement of specific statutory requirements, regulations, and standards in one or more counties or on a statewide basis by formal order of the secretary. The order establishing the waiver shall provide alternative methods and procedures of administration, shall not be in conflict with the basic purposes, coverage, or benefits provided by law, shall not be general in scope but shall apply only for the duration of such a project and shall not take effect unless the secretary of health, education and welfare of the United States has agreed, for the same project, to waive the public assistance plan requirements relative to statewide uniformity. [1979 c 141 § 332; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 7; 1963 c 228 § 17.]

**74.08.580 Electronic benefit cards—Prohibited uses—Violations.** (1) Any person receiving public assistance is prohibited from using electronic benefit cards or cash obtained with electronic benefit cards:

(a) For the purpose of participating in any of the activities authorized under chapter 9.46 RCW;

(b) For the purpose of parimutuel wagering authorized under chapter 67.16 RCW;

(c) To purchase lottery tickets or shares authorized under chapter 67.70 RCW;

(d) For the purpose of participating in or purchasing any activities located in a tattoo, body piercing, or body art shop licensed under chapter 18.300 RCW;

(e) To purchase cigarettes as defined in RCW 82.24.010 or tobacco products as defined in RCW 82.26.010;

(f) To purchase any items regulated under Title 66 RCW;

or

(g) For the purpose of purchasing or participating in any activities in any location listed in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) On or before January 1, 2012, the businesses listed in this subsection must disable the ability of ATM and point-of-sale machines located on their business premises to accept the electronic benefit card. The following businesses are required to comply with this mandate:

(a) Taverns licensed under RCW 66.24.330;

(b) Beer/wine specialty stores licensed under RCW 66.24.371;

(c) Nightclubs licensed under RCW 66.24.600;

(d) Contract liquor stores defined under RCW 66.04.010;

(e) Bail bond agencies regulated under chapter 18.185 RCW;

(f) Gambling establishments licensed under chapter 9.46 RCW;

(g) Tattoo, body piercing, or body art shops regulated under chapter 18.300 RCW;

(h) Adult entertainment venues with performances that contain erotic material where minors under the age of eighteen are prohibited under RCW 9.68A.150; and

(i) Any establishments where persons under the age of eighteen are not permitted.

(3) The department must notify the licensing authority of any business listed in subsection (2) of this section that such business has continued to allow the use of the electronic benefit card in violation of subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Only the recipient, an eligible member of the household, or the recipient's authorized representative may use an electronic benefit card or the benefit and such use shall only be for the respective benefit program purposes. Unless a recipient's family member is an eligible member of the household, the recipient's authorized representative, an alternative cardholder, or has been assigned as a protective payee, no family member may use the benefit card. The recipient shall not sell, or attempt to sell, exchange, or donate an electronic benefit card or any benefits to any other person or entity.

(5) The first violation of subsection (1) of this section by a recipient constitutes a class 4 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120. Second and subsequent violations of subsection (1) of this section constitute a class 3 civil infraction under RCW 7.80.120.

(a) The department shall notify, in writing, all recipients of electronic benefit cards that any violation of subsection (1) of this section could result in legal proceedings and forfeiture of all cash public assistance.

(b) Whenever the department receives notice that a person has violated subsection (1) of this section, the department shall notify the person in writing that the violation could result in legal proceedings and forfeiture of all cash public assistance.

(c) The department shall assign a protective payee to the person receiving public assistance who violates subsection (1) of this section two or more times.

(6) In assigning a personal identification number to an electronic benefit card, the department shall not routinely use any sequence of numbers that appear on the card except in circumstances resulting from in-state or national disasters. Personal identification numbers assigned to electronic benefit cards issued to support the distribution of benefits when there is a disaster may include a sequence of numbers that appears on the card. [2012 c 253 § 2; 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 14; 2002 c 252 § 1.]

**Finding—Purpose—2012 c 253:** "The legislature finds that fraud associated with public assistance programs is a significant problem in the state of Washington. Therefore, the legislature encourages the office of fraud and accountability within the department of social and health services to coordinate with the office of the state auditor and the department of early learning to improve the prevention, detection, and prosecution of fraudulent activity taking place in public assistance programs. It is the purpose of this

act to significantly reduce fraud and to ensure that public assistance dollars reach the intended populations in need." [2012 c 253 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**74.08.582 Electronic benefit cards—Names of two or more persons.** A person who has in his or her possession or under his or her control electronic benefit cards issued in the names of two or more persons and who is not authorized by those persons to have any of the cards in his or her possession is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2012 c 253 § 3.]

**Findings—Purpose—2012 c 253:** See note following RCW 74.08.580.

**74.08.900 Limited application.** Nothing in this chapter except RCW \*74.08.070 and 74.08.080 applies to chapter 74.50 RCW. [1989 c 3 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.08.070 was repealed by 1989 c 175 § 185, effective July 1, 1989.

## Chapter 74.08A RCW

### WASHINGTON WORKFIRST TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

#### Sections

74.08A.010	Time limits—Transitional food stamp assistance.
74.08A.020	Electronic benefit transfer.
74.08A.030	Provision of services by religiously affiliated organizations—Rules.
74.08A.039	Income eligibility—Federal supplemental security income.
74.08A.040	Indian tribes—Program access—Funding—Rules.
74.08A.050	Indian tribes—Tribal program—Fiscal year.
74.08A.060	Food stamp work requirements.
74.08A.100	Immigrants—Eligibility.
74.08A.110	Immigrants—Sponsor deeming.
74.08A.120	Immigrants—Food assistance.
74.08A.130	Immigrants—Naturalization facilitation.
74.08A.210	Diversion program—Emergency assistance.
74.08A.220	Individual development accounts—Microcredit and microenterprise approaches—Rules.
74.08A.230	Earnings disregards and earned income cutoffs.
74.08A.240	Noncustodial parents in work programs.
74.08A.250	"Work activity" defined.
74.08A.260	Work activity—Referral—Individual responsibility plan—Refusal to work.
74.08A.270	Good cause.
74.08A.275	Employability screening.
74.08A.280	Program goal—Collaboration to develop work programs—Contracts—Service areas—Regional plans.
74.08A.285	Job search instruction and assistance.
74.08A.290	Competitive performance-based contracting—Evaluation of contracting practices—Contracting strategies.
74.08A.300	Placement bonuses.
74.08A.310	Self-employment assistance—Training and placement programs.
74.08A.320	Wage subsidy program.
74.08A.330	Community service program.
74.08A.341	Program constrains—Expenditures.
74.08A.350	Questionnaires—Job opportunities for welfare recipients.
74.08A.380	Teen parents—Education requirements.
74.08A.400	Outcome measures—Intent.
74.08A.410	Outcome measures—Development—Benchmarks.
74.08A.411	Outcome measures—Data—Report to the legislature.
74.08A.420	Outcome measures—Evaluations—Awarding contracts—Bonuses.
74.08A.440	Recipients exempted from active work search—Benefits eligibility.
74.08A.900	Short title—1997 c 58.
74.08A.901	Part headings, captions, table of contents not law—1997 c 58.
74.08A.902	Exemptions and waivers from federal law—1997 c 58.
74.08A.903	Conflict with federal requirements—1997 c 58.
74.08A.904	Severability—1997 c 58.

74.08A.905 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Interagency task force on unintended pregnancy: RCW 43.41.905.*

**74.08A.010 Time limits—Transitional food stamp assistance.** (1) A family that includes an adult who has received temporary assistance for needy families for sixty months after July 27, 1997, shall be ineligible for further temporary assistance for needy families assistance.

(2) For the purposes of applying the rules of this section, the department shall count any month in which an adult family member received a temporary assistance for needy families cash assistance grant unless the assistance was provided when the adult family member was a minor child and not the head of the household or married to the head of the household.

(3) The department shall adopt regulations to apply the sixty-month time limit to households in which a parent is in the home and ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families. Any regulations shall be consistent with federal funding requirements.

(4) The department shall refer recipients who require specialized assistance to appropriate department programs, crime victims' programs through the department of commerce, or the crime victims' compensation program of the department of labor and industries.

(5) The department may exempt a recipient and the recipient's family from the application of subsection (1) of this section by reason of hardship or if the recipient meets the family violence options of section 402(A)(7) of Title IVA of the federal social security act as amended by P.L. 104-193. Policies related to circumstances under which a recipient will be exempted from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this section shall treat adults receiving benefits on their own behalf, and parents receiving benefits on behalf of their child similarly, unless required otherwise under federal law.

(6) The department shall not exempt a recipient and his or her family from the application of subsection (1) or (3) of this section until after the recipient has received fifty-two months of assistance under this chapter.

(7) Beginning on October 31, 2005, the department shall provide transitional food stamp assistance for a period of five months to a household that ceases to receive temporary assistance for needy families assistance and is not in sanction status. If necessary, the department shall extend the household's food stamp certification until the end of the transition period. [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 6; 2004 c 54 § 4; 1997 c 58 § 103.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 6:** "Section 6 of this act takes effect September 1, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 29.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**Findings—Conflict with federal requirements—2004 c 54:** See notes following RCW 28A.235.160.

**74.08A.020 Electronic benefit transfer.** By October 2002, the department shall develop and implement an electronic benefit transfer system to be used for the delivery of public assistance benefits, including without limitation, food assistance.

(2012 Ed.)

The department shall comply with P.L. 104-193, and shall cooperate with relevant federal agencies in the design and implementation of the electronic benefit transfer system. [1997 c 58 § 104.]

**74.08A.030 Provision of services by religiously affiliated organizations—Rules.** (1) The department shall allow religiously affiliated organizations to provide services to families receiving temporary assistance for needy families on the same basis as any other nongovernmental provider, without impairing the religious character of such organizations, and without diminishing the religious freedom of beneficiaries of assistance funded under chapter 74.12 RCW.

(2) The department shall adopt rules implementing this section, and the applicable sections of P.L. 104-193 related to services provided by charitable, religious, or private organizations. [1997 c 58 § 106.]

**74.08A.039 Income eligibility—Federal supplemental security income.** In determining the income eligibility of an applicant or recipient for temporary assistance for needy families or WorkFirst, the department shall not count the federal supplemental security income received by a household member. [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**74.08A.040 Indian tribes—Program access—Funding—Rules.** The department shall (1) provide eligible Indian tribes ongoing, meaningful opportunities to participate in the development, oversight, and operation of the state temporary assistance for needy families program; (2) certify annually that it is providing equitable access to the state temporary assistance for needy families program to Indian people whose tribe is not administering a tribal temporary assistance for needy families program; (3) coordinate and cooperate with eligible Indian tribes that elect to operate a tribal temporary assistance for needy families program as provided for in P.L. 104-193; (4) upon approval by the secretary of the federal department of health and human services of a tribal temporary assistance for needy families program, transfer a fair and equitable amount of the state maintenance of effort funds to the eligible Indian tribe; and (5) establish rules related to the operation of this section and RCW 74.08A.050, covering, at a minimum, appropriate uses of state maintenance of effort funds and annual reports on program operations. The legislature shall specify the amount of state maintenance of effort funds to be transferred in the biennial appropriations act. [1997 c 58 § 107.]

**Reviser's note:** 1997 c 58 directed that this section be added to chapter 74.12 RCW. This section has been codified in chapter 74.08A RCW, which relates more directly to the temporary assistance for needy families program.

**74.08A.050 Indian tribes—Tribal program—Fiscal year.** An eligible Indian tribe exercising its authority under P.L. 104-193 to operate a tribal temporary assistance for needy families program shall operate the program on a state fiscal year basis. If a tribe decides to cancel a tribal temporary assistance for needy families program, it shall notify the

[Title 74 RCW—page 23]

department no later than ninety days prior to the start of the state fiscal year. [1997 c 58 § 108.]

**Reviser's note:** 1997 c 58 directed that this section be added to chapter 74.12 RCW. This section has been codified in chapter 74.08A RCW, which relates more directly to the temporary assistance for needy families program.

**74.08A.060 Food stamp work requirements.** Single adults without dependents between eighteen and fifty years of age shall comply with federal food stamp work requirements as a condition of eligibility. The department may exempt any counties or subcounty areas from the federal food stamp work requirements in P.L. 104-193, unless the department receives written evidence of official action by a county or subcounty governing entity, taken after noticed consideration, that indicates that a county or subcounty area chooses not to use an exemption to the federal food stamp work requirements. [1997 c 58 § 110.]

**Reviser's note:** 1997 c 58 directed that this section be added to chapter 74.12 RCW. This section has been codified in chapter 74.08A RCW, which relates more directly to the temporary assistance for needy families program.

**74.08A.100 Immigrants—Eligibility.** The state shall exercise its option under P.L. 104-193 to continue services to legal immigrants under temporary assistance for needy families, medicaid to the extent allowed by federal law, the state's basic health plan as provided in chapter 70.47 RCW, and social services block grant programs. Eligibility for these benefits for legal immigrants arriving after August 21, 1996, is limited to those families where the parent, parents, or legal guardians have been in residence in Washington state for a period of twelve consecutive months before making their application for assistance. Legal immigrants who lose benefits under the supplemental security income program as a result of P.L. 104-193 are immediately eligible for benefits under the state's general assistance-unemployable program. The department shall redetermine income and resource eligibility at least annually, in accordance with existing state policy. [2002 c 366 § 1; 1997 c 57 § 1.]

**Effective date—2002 c 366:** "This act takes effect October 1, 2002." [2002 c 366 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08A.110 Immigrants—Sponsor deeming.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, qualified aliens and aliens permanently residing under color of law shall have their eligibility for assistance redetermined.

(2) In determining the eligibility and the amount of benefits of a qualified alien or an alien permanently residing under color of law for public assistance under this title, the income and resources of the alien shall be deemed to include the income and resources of any person and his or her spouse who executed an affidavit of support pursuant to section 213A of the federal immigration and naturalization act on behalf of the alien for a period of five years following the execution of that affidavit of support. The deeming provisions of this subsection shall be waived if the sponsor dies or is permanently incapacitated during the period the affidavit of support is valid.

(3) As used in this section, "qualified alien" has the meaning provided it in P.L. 104-183.

[Title 74 RCW—page 24]

(4)(a) Qualified aliens specified under sections 403, 412, and 552 (e) and (f), subtitle B, Title IV, of P.L. 104-193 and in P.L. 104-208, are exempt from this section.

(b) Qualified aliens who served in the armed forces of an allied country, or were employed by an agency of the federal government, during a military conflict between the United States of America and a military adversary are exempt from the provisions of this section.

(c) Qualified aliens who are victims of domestic violence and petition for legal status under the federal violence against women act are exempt from the provisions of this section. [1997 c 57 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08A.120 Immigrants—Food assistance.** (1) The department may establish a food assistance program for legal immigrants who are ineligible for the federal food stamp program.

(2) The rules for the state food assistance program shall follow exactly the rules of the federal food stamp program except for the provisions pertaining to immigrant status.

(3) The benefit under the state food assistance program shall be established by the legislature in the biennial operating budget.

(4) The department may enter into a contract with the United States department of agriculture to use the existing federal food stamp program coupon system for the purposes of administering the state food assistance program.

(5) In the event the department is unable to enter into a contract with the United States department of agriculture, the department may issue vouchers to eligible households for the purchase of eligible foods at participating retailers. [1999 c 120 § 4; 1997 c 57 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08A.130 Immigrants—Naturalization facilitation.** The department shall make an affirmative effort to identify and proactively contact legal immigrants receiving public assistance to facilitate their applications for naturalization. The department shall obtain a complete list of legal immigrants in Washington who are receiving correspondence regarding their eligibility from the social security administration. The department shall inform immigrants regarding how citizenship may be attained. In order to facilitate the citizenship process, the department shall coordinate and contract, to the extent necessary, with existing public and private resources and shall, within available funds, ensure that those immigrants who qualify to apply for naturalization are referred to or otherwise offered classes. The department shall assist eligible immigrants in obtaining appropriate test exemptions, and other exemptions in the naturalization process, to the extent permitted under federal law. [2009 c 518 § 6; 1997 c 58 § 204.]

**74.08A.210 Diversion program—Emergency assistance.** (1) In order to prevent some families from developing dependency on temporary assistance for needy families, the department shall make available to qualifying applicants a diversion program designed to provide brief, emergency assistance for families in crisis whose income and assets

(2012 Ed.)

would otherwise qualify them for temporary assistance for needy families.

(2) Diversion assistance may include cash or vouchers in payment for the following needs:

- (a) Child care;
- (b) Housing assistance;
- (c) Transportation-related expenses;
- (d) Food;
- (e) Medical costs for the recipient's immediate family;
- (f) Employment-related expenses which are necessary to keep or obtain paid unsubsidized employment.

(3) Diversion assistance is available once in each twelve-month period for each adult applicant. Recipients of diversion assistance are not included in the temporary assistance for needy families program.

(4) Diversion assistance may not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars for each instance.

(5) To be eligible for diversion assistance, a family must otherwise be eligible for temporary assistance for needy families.

(6) Families ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families or benefits under RCW 74.62.030 due to sanction, noncompliance, the lump sum income rule, or any other reason are not eligible for diversion assistance.

(7) Families must provide evidence showing that a bona fide need exists according to subsection (2) of this section in order to be eligible for diversion assistance.

An adult applicant may receive diversion assistance of any type no more than once per twelve-month period. If the recipient of diversion assistance is placed on the temporary assistance for needy families program within twelve months of receiving diversion assistance, the prorated dollar value of the assistance shall be treated as a loan from the state, and recovered by deduction from the recipient's cash grant. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 30; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 27; 1997 c 58 § 302.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**74.08A.220 Individual development accounts—Microcredit and microenterprise approaches—Rules.** The department shall carry out a program to fund individual development accounts established by recipients eligible for assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families program.

(1) An individual development account may be established by or on behalf of a recipient eligible for assistance provided under the temporary assistance for needy families program operated under this title for the purpose of enabling the recipient to accumulate funds for a qualified purpose described in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) A qualified purpose as described in this subsection is one or more of the following, as provided by the qualified entity providing assistance to the individual:

(a) Postsecondary expenses paid from an individual development account directly to an eligible educational institution;

(2012 Ed.)

(b) Qualified acquisition costs with respect to a qualified principal residence for a qualified first-time home buyer, if paid from an individual development account directly to the persons to whom the amounts are due;

(c) Amounts paid from an individual development account directly to a business capitalization account which is established in a federally insured financial institution and is restricted to use solely for qualified business capitalization expenses.

(3) A recipient may only contribute to an individual development account such amounts as are derived from earned income, as defined in section 911(d)(2) of the internal revenue code of 1986.

(4) The department shall establish rules to ensure funds held in an individual development account are only withdrawn for a qualified purpose as provided in this section.

(5) An individual development account established under this section shall be a trust created or organized in the United States and funded through periodic contributions by the establishing recipient and matched by or through a qualified entity for a qualified purpose as provided in this section.

(6) For the purpose of determining eligibility for any assistance provided under this title, all funds in an individual development account under this section shall be disregarded for such purpose with respect to any period during which such individual maintains or makes contributions into such an account.

(7) The department shall adopt rules authorizing the use of organizations using microcredit and microenterprise approaches to assisting low-income families to become financially self-sufficient.

(8) The department shall adopt rules implementing the use of individual development accounts by recipients of temporary assistance for needy families.

(9) For the purposes of this section, "eligible educational institution," "postsecondary educational expenses," "qualified acquisition costs," "qualified business," "qualified business capitalization expenses," "qualified expenditures," "qualified first-time home buyer," "date of acquisition," "qualified plan," and "qualified principal residence" include the meanings provided for them in P.L. 104-193. [1997 c 58 § 307.]

**74.08A.230 Earnings disregards and earned income cutoffs.** (1) In addition to their monthly benefit payment, a family may earn and keep one-half of its earnings during every month it is eligible to receive assistance under this section.

(2) In no event may a family be eligible for temporary assistance for needy families if its monthly gross earned income exceeds the maximum earned income level as set by the department. In calculating a household's gross earnings, the department shall disregard the earnings of a minor child who is:

- (a) A full-time student; or
- (b) A part-time student carrying at least half the normal school load and working fewer than thirty-five hours per week. [1997 c 58 § 308.]

**74.08A.240 Noncustodial parents in work programs.** The department may provide Washington WorkFirst activi-

ties or make cross-referrals to existing programs to qualifying noncustodial parents of children receiving temporary assistance for needy families who are unable to meet their child support obligations. Services authorized under this section shall be provided within available funds. [1997 c 58 § 310.]

**74.08A.250 "Work activity" defined.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this chapter, "work activity" means:

(1) Unsubsidized paid employment in the private or public sector;

(2) Subsidized paid employment in the private or public sector, including employment through the state or federal work-study program for a period not to exceed twenty-four months;

(3) Work experience, including:

(a) An internship or practicum, that is paid or unpaid and is required to complete a course of vocational training or to obtain a license or certificate in a high-demand occupation, as determined by the employment security department. No internship or practicum shall exceed twelve months; or

(b) Work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing, if sufficient paid employment is not available;

(4) On-the-job training;

(5) Job search and job readiness assistance;

(6) Community service programs, including a recipient's voluntary service at a child care or preschool facility licensed under chapter 43.215 RCW or an elementary school in which his or her child is enrolled;

(7) Vocational educational training, not to exceed twelve months with respect to any individual;

(8) Job skills training directly related to employment;

(9) Education directly related to employment, in the case of a recipient who has not received a high school diploma or a GED;

(10) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a GED, in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate;

(11) The provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program;

(12) Internships, that shall be paid or unpaid work experience performed by an intern in a business, industry, or government or nongovernmental agency setting;

(13) Practicums, which include any educational program in which a student is working under the close supervision of a professional in an agency, clinic, or other professional practice setting for purposes of advancing their skills and knowledge;

(14) Services required by the recipient under RCW 74.08.025(3) and 74.08A.010(4) to become employable;

(15) Financial literacy activities designed to be effective in assisting a recipient in becoming self-sufficient and financially stable; and

(16) Parent education services or programs that support development of appropriate parenting skills, life skills, and employment-related competencies. [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 8; 2009 c 353 § 6; 2006 c 107 § 2; 2000 c 10 § 1; 1997 c 58 § 311.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 107:** "The legislature finds that for a variety of reasons, many citizens may lack the basic financial knowledge necessary to spend their money wisely, save for the future, and manage money challenges, such as a job loss, financing a college education, or a catastrophic injury. The legislature also finds that financial literacy is an essential element in achieving financial stability and self-sufficiency. The legislature intends to encourage participation in financial literacy training by WorkFirst participants, in order to promote their ability to make financial decisions that will contribute to their long-term financial well-being." [2006 c 107 § 1.]

**Effective date—2006 c 107:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2007." [2006 c 107 § 4.]

**74.08A.260 Work activity—Referral—Individual responsibility plan—Refusal to work.** (1) Each recipient shall be assessed after determination of program eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments shall be based upon factors that are critical to obtaining employment, including but not limited to education, availability of child care, history of family violence, history of substance abuse, and other factors that affect the ability to obtain employment. Assessments may be performed by the department or by a contracted entity. The assessment shall be based on a uniform, consistent, transferable format that will be accepted by all agencies and organizations serving the recipient.

(2) Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan shall be prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan for maximizing the recipient's success at meeting the employment goal; (b) considers WorkFirst educational and training programs from which the recipient could benefit; (c) contains the obligation of the recipient to participate in the program by complying with the plan; (d) moves the recipient into full-time WorkFirst activities as quickly as possible; and (e) describes the services available to the recipient either during or after WorkFirst to enable the recipient to obtain and keep employment and to advance in the workplace and increase the recipient's wage earning potential over time.

(3) Recipients who are not engaged in work and work activities, and do not qualify for a good cause exemption under RCW 74.08A.270, shall engage in self-directed service as provided in RCW 74.08A.330.

(4) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work activities required by the department, the family's grant shall be reduced by the recipient's share, and may, if the department determines it appropriate, be terminated.

(5) The department may waive the penalties required under subsection (4) of this section, subject to a finding that the recipient refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW 74.08A.270.

(6) In consultation with the recipient, the department or contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is available in the local area where the recipient resides.

(7) Assessments conducted under this section shall include a consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging in financial literacy activities. The department shall consider the options for financial literacy activities available in the community, including information and resources available through the financial education public-private partnership created under RCW 28A.300.450. The department may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy

activities as a core activity or an optional activity under WorkFirst.

(8)(a) From July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012, subsections (2) through (6) of this section are suspended for a recipient who is a parent or other relative personally providing care for one child under the age of two years, or two or more children under the age of six years. This suspension applies to both one and two parent families. However, both parents in a two-parent family cannot use the suspension during the same month. Beginning July 1, 2012, the department shall phase in the work activity requirements that were suspended, beginning with those recipients closest to reaching the sixty-month limit of receiving temporary assistance for needy families under RCW 74.08A.010(1). The phase in shall be accomplished so that a fairly equal number of recipients required to participate in work activities are returned to those activities each month until the total number required to participate is participating by June 30, 2013. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent a recipient from participating in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis. Recipients who participate in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis shall be provided an option to participate in the program on a part-time basis, consisting of sixteen or fewer hours of activities per week. Recipients also may participate voluntarily on a full-time basis.

(b)(i) The period of suspension of work activities under this subsection provides an opportunity for the legislative and executive branches to oversee redesign of the WorkFirst program. To realize this opportunity, both during the period of suspension and following reinstatement of work activity requirements as redesign is being implemented, a legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task force is established, with members as provided in this subsection (8)(b).

(ii) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

(iii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives.

(iv) The governor shall appoint members representing the department of social and health services, the department of early learning, the department of commerce, the employment security department, the office of financial management, and the state board for community and technical colleges.

(v) The task force shall choose cochairst, one from among the legislative members and one from among the executive branch members. The legislative members shall convene the initial meeting of the task force.

(c) The task force shall:

(i) Oversee the partner agencies' implementation of the redesign of the WorkFirst program and operation of the temporary assistance for needy families program to ensure that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients;

(ii) Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of historically underrepresented populations, such as English language learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities;

(iii) Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-sufficiency;

(iv) Make recommendations to the governor and the legislature regarding:

(A) Policies to improve the effectiveness of the WorkFirst program over time;

(B) Early identification of those recipients most likely to experience long stays on the program and strategies to improve their ability to achieve progress toward self-sufficiency; and

(C) Necessary changes to the program, including taking into account federal changes to the temporary assistance for needy families program.

(d) The partner agencies must provide the task force with regular reports on:

(i) The partner agencies' progress toward meeting the outcome and performance measures established under (c) of this subsection;

(ii) Caseload trends and program expenditures, and the impact of those trends and expenditures on client services, including services to historically underrepresented populations; and

(iii) The characteristics of families who have been unsuccessful on the program and have lost their benefits either through sanction or the sixty-month time limit.

(e) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate committee services, the house of representatives office of program research, and the state agency members of the task force.

(f) The task force shall meet on a quarterly basis beginning September 2011, or as determined necessary by the task force cochairst.

(g) During its tenure, the state agency members of the task force shall respond in a timely manner to data requests from the cochairst. [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 2; 2009 c 85 § 2; 2006 c 107 § 3; 2003 c 383 § 1; 1997 c 58 § 313.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** "The legislature finds that stable and sustainable employment is the key goal of the WorkFirst and temporary assistance for needy families programs. Achieving stable and sustainable employment is a developmental process that takes time, effort, and engagement. In times of fiscal challenge, temporary assistance for needy families and WorkFirst resources must be invested in program elements that produce the best results for low-income families and the state of Washington.

The legislature further finds that the core tenets that are the foundation of Washington state's WorkFirst program are: (1) Achieving stable and successful employment; (2) recognizing the critical role that participants play in their children's development, healthy growth, and promotion of family stability; (3) developing strategies founded on the principle that WorkFirst is a transitional, not long-term, program to assist families on the pathway to self-sufficiency while holding them accountable; and (4) leveraging resources outside the funding for temporary assistance for needy families is crucial to achieving WorkFirst goals. It is the intent of the legislature, using evidence-based and research-based practices, to develop a road map to self-sufficiency for WorkFirst participants and temporary assistance for needy families recipients.

The legislature further finds that parents are responsible for the support of their children and that they have up to sixty months of receipt of temporary assistance for needy families benefits, absent any applicable hardship extension, to achieve stable and sustainable employment or find other means to support their family. It is the intent of the legislature to apply a sixty-month time limit to the temporary assistance for needy families program, including households in which a parent is in the home and ineligible for temporary assistance for needy families. The legislature intends that hardship extensions be applied to families subject to time limits." [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 1.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** "Except for section 6 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace,

health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 28.]

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2006 c 107:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.250.

**74.08A.270 Good cause.** (1) Good cause reasons for failure to participate in WorkFirst program components include: (a) Situations where the recipient is a parent or other relative personally providing care for a child under the age of six years, and formal or informal child care, or day care for an incapacitated individual living in the same home as a dependent child, is necessary for an individual to participate or continue participation in the program or accept employment, and such care is not available, and the department fails to provide such care; or (b) the recipient is a parent with a child under the age of one year.

(2) A parent claiming a good cause exemption from WorkFirst participation under subsection (1)(b) of this section may be required to participate in one or more of the following, up to a maximum total of twenty hours per week, if such treatment, services, or training is indicated by the comprehensive evaluation or other assessment:

- (a) Mental health treatment;
- (b) Alcohol or drug treatment;
- (c) Domestic violence services; or
- (d) Parenting education or parenting skills training, if available.

(3) The department shall: (a) Work with a parent claiming a good cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section to identify and access programs and services designed to improve parenting skills and promote child well-being, including but not limited to home visitation programs and services; and (b) provide information on the availability of home visitation services to temporary assistance for needy families caseworkers, who shall inform clients of the availability of the services. If desired by the client, the caseworker shall facilitate appropriate referrals to providers of home visitation services.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent a recipient from participating in the WorkFirst program on a voluntary basis.

(5) A parent is eligible for a good cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) of this section for a maximum total of twelve months over the parent's lifetime. [2007 c 289 § 1; 2002 c 89 § 1; 1997 c 58 § 314.]

**74.08A.275 Employability screening.** Each recipient approved to receive temporary assistance for needy families shall be subject to an employability screening under RCW 74.08A.260 after determination of program eligibility and before referral to job search. If the employability screening determines the recipient is not employable, or meets the criteria specified in RCW 74.08A.270 for a good cause exemption to work requirements, the department shall defer the job search requirement under RCW 74.08A.285. [2003 c 383 § 2; 1999 c 340 § 1.]

**74.08A.280 Program goal—Collaboration to develop work programs—Contracts—Service areas—Regional plans.** (1) The legislature finds that moving those eligible for assistance to self-sustaining employment is a goal of the

WorkFirst program. It is the intent of WorkFirst to aid a participant's progress to self-sufficiency by allowing flexibility within the statewide program to reflect community resources, the local characteristics of the labor market, and the composition of the caseload. Program success will be enhanced through effective coordination at regional and local levels, involving employers, labor representatives, educators, community leaders, local governments, and social service providers.

(2) The department, through its regional offices, shall collaborate with employers, recipients, frontline workers, educational institutions, labor, private industry councils, the workforce training and education coordinating board, community rehabilitation employment programs, employment and training agencies, local governments, the employment security department, and community action agencies to develop work programs that are effective and work in their communities. For planning purposes, the department shall collect and make accessible to regional offices successful work program models from around the United States, including the employment partnership program, apprenticeship programs, microcredit, microenterprise, self-employment, and W-2 Wisconsin works. Work programs shall incorporate local volunteer citizens in their planning and implementation phases to ensure community relevance and success.

(3) To reduce administrative costs and to ensure equal statewide access to services, the department may develop contracts for statewide welfare-to-work services. These statewide contracts shall support regional flexibility and ensure that resources follow local labor market opportunities and recipients' needs.

(4) The secretary shall establish WorkFirst service areas for purposes of planning WorkFirst programs and for distributing WorkFirst resources. Service areas shall reflect department regions.

(5) By July 31st of each odd-numbered year, a plan for the WorkFirst program shall be developed for each region. The plan shall be prepared in consultation with local and regional sources, adapting the statewide WorkFirst program to achieve maximum effect for the participants and the communities within which they reside. Local consultation shall include to the greatest extent possible input from local and regional planning bodies for social services and workforce development. The regional and local administrator shall consult with employers of various sizes, labor representatives, training and education providers, program participants, economic development organizations, community organizations, tribes, and local governments in the preparation of the service area plan.

(6) The secretary has final authority in plan approval or modification. Regional program implementation may deviate from the statewide program if specified in a service area plan, as approved by the secretary. [1997 c 58 § 315.]

**74.08A.285 Job search instruction and assistance.** The WorkFirst program operated by the department to meet the federal work requirements specified in P.L. 104-193 shall contain a job search component. The component shall consist of instruction on how to secure a job and assisted job search activities to locate and retain employment. Nonexempt recipients of temporary assistance for needy families

shall participate in an initial job search for no more than twelve consecutive weeks. Each recipient shall receive a work skills assessment upon referral to the job search program. The work skills assessment shall include but not be limited to education, employment history, employment strengths, and job skills. The recipient's ability to obtain employment will be reviewed periodically thereafter and, if it is clear at any time that further participation in a job search will not be productive, the department shall assess the recipient pursuant to RCW 74.08A.260. The department shall refer recipients unable to find employment through the initial job search period to work activities that will develop their skills or knowledge to make them more employable, including additional job search and job readiness assistance. [2003 c 383 § 3; 1998 c 89 § 1.]

**74.08A.290 Competitive performance-based contracting—Evaluation of contracting practices—Contracting strategies.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature that the department is authorized to engage in competitive contracting using performance-based contracts to provide all work activities authorized in chapter 58, Laws of 1997, including the job search component authorized in \*section 312 of this act.

(2) The department may use competitive performance-based contracting to select which vendors will participate in the WorkFirst program. Performance-based contracts shall be awarded based on factors that include but are not limited to the criteria listed in RCW 74.08A.410, past performance of the contractor, demonstrated ability to perform the contract effectively, financial strength of the contractor, and merits of the proposal for services submitted by the contractor. Contracts shall be made without regard to whether the contractor is a public or private entity.

(3) The department may contract for an evaluation of the competitive contracting practices and outcomes to be performed by an independent entity with expertise in government privatization and competitive strategies. The evaluation shall include quarterly progress reports to the fiscal committees of the legislature and to the governor, starting at the first quarter after the effective date of the first competitive contract and ending two years after the effective date of the first competitive contract.

(4) The department shall seek independent assistance in developing contracting strategies to implement this section. Assistance may include but is not limited to development of contract language, design of requests for proposal, developing full cost information on government services, evaluation of bids, and providing for equal competition between private and public entities. [1997 c 58 § 316.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 312 of this act was vetoed by the governor.

**74.08A.300 Placement bonuses.** In the case of service providers that are not public agencies, initial placement bonuses of no greater than five hundred dollars may be provided by the department for service entities responsible for placing recipients in an unsubsidized job for a minimum of twelve weeks, and the following additional bonuses shall also be provided:

(1) A percent of the initial bonus if the job pays double the minimum wage;

(2) A percent of the initial bonus if the job provides health care;

(3) A percent of the initial bonus if the job includes employer-provided child care needed by the recipient; and

(4) A percent of the initial bonus if the recipient is continuously employed for two years. [1997 c 58 § 317.]

**74.08A.310 Self-employment assistance—Training and placement programs.** The department shall:

(1) Notify recipients of temporary assistance for needy families that self-employment is one method of leaving state assistance. The department shall provide its regional offices, recipients of temporary assistance for needy families, and any contractors providing job search, training, or placement services notification of programs available in the state for entrepreneurial training, technical assistance, and loans available for start-up businesses;

(2) Provide recipients of temporary assistance for needy families and service providers assisting such recipients through training and placement programs with information it receives about the skills and training required by firms locating in the state;

(3) Encourage recipients of temporary assistance for needy families that are in need of basic skills to seek out programs that integrate basic skills training with occupational training and workplace experience. [1997 c 58 § 324.]

**74.08A.320 Wage subsidy program.** The department shall establish a wage subsidy program to be known as the community jobs program for recipients of temporary assistance for needy families who have barriers to employment, lack experience and attachment to the job force, or have been unsuccessful in securing employment leading to family self-sufficiency. The department shall give preference in job placements to private sector employers that have agreed to participate in the wage subsidy program. The department shall identify characteristics of employers who can meet the employment goals stated in RCW 74.08A.410. The department shall use these characteristics in identifying which employers may participate in the program. The department shall adopt rules for the participation of recipients of temporary assistance for needy families in the wage subsidy program. Participants in the program established under this section may not be employed if: (1) The employer has terminated the employment of any current employee or otherwise caused an involuntary reduction of its workforce in order to fill the vacancy so created with the participant; or (2) the participant displaces or partially displaces current employees. Employers providing positions created under this section shall meet the requirements of chapter 49.46 RCW. This section shall not diminish or result in the infringement of obligations or rights under chapters 41.06, 41.56, and 49.36 RCW and the national labor relations act, 29 U.S.C. Ch. 7. The department shall establish such local and statewide advisory boards, including business and labor representatives, as it deems appropriate to assist in the implementation of the wage subsidy program. Once the recipient is hired, the wage subsidy shall be authorized for up to nine months. [2010 c 273 § 5; 1997 c 58 § 325.]

**74.08A.330 Community service program.** The department shall establish the community service program to provide the experience of work for recipients of public assistance. The program is intended to promote a strong work ethic for participating public assistance recipients. Under this program, public assistance recipients are required to volunteer to work for charitable nonprofit organizations and public agencies, or engage in another activity designed to benefit the recipient, the recipient's family, or the recipient's community, as determined by the department on a case-by-case basis. Participants in a community service or work experience program established by this chapter are deemed employees for the purpose of chapter 49.17 RCW. The cost of premiums under Title 51 RCW shall be paid for by the department for participants in a community service or work experience program. Participants in a community service or work experience program may not be placed if: (1) An employer has terminated the employment of any current employee or otherwise caused an involuntary reduction of its workforce in order to fill the vacancy so created with the participant; or (2) the participant displaces or partially displaces current employees. [1997 c 58 § 326.]

**74.08A.341 Program constraints—Expenditures.** The department of social and health services shall operate the Washington WorkFirst program authorized under RCW 74.08A.210 through 74.08A.330, 43.330.145, 43.215.545, and 74.25.040, and chapter 74.12 RCW within the following constraints:

(1) The program shall be operated within amounts appropriated by the legislature and consistent with policy established by the legislature to achieve self-sufficiency through work and the following additional outcomes:

(a) Recipients' economic status is improving through wage progression, job retention, and educational advancement;

(b) Recipients' status regarding housing stability, medical and behavioral health, and job readiness is improving;

(c) The well-being of children whose caretaker is receiving benefits on their behalf is improving with respect to child welfare and educational achievement.

(2)(a) The department shall create a budget structure that allows for more transparent tracking of program spending. The budget structure shall outline spending for the following: Temporary assistance for needy family grants, working connections child care, WorkFirst activities and administration of the program.

(b) Each biennium, the department shall establish a biennial spending plan, using the budget structure created in (a) of this subsection, for this program and submit the plan to the legislative fiscal committees and the legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task force no later than July 1st of every odd-numbered year, beginning on July 1, 2013. The department shall update the legislative fiscal committees and the task force on the spending plan if modifications are made to the plan previously submitted to the legislature and the task force for that biennium.

(c) The department also shall provide expenditure reports to the fiscal committees of the legislature and the legislative-executive WorkFirst oversight task force beginning September 1, 2012, and on a quarterly basis thereafter. If the

department determines, based upon quarterly expenditure reports, that expenditures will exceed funding at the end of the fiscal year, the department shall take those actions necessary to ensure that services provided under this chapter are available only to the extent of and consistent with appropriations in the operating budget and policy established by the legislature following notification provided in (b) of this subsection.

(3) No more than fifteen percent of the temporary assistance for needy families block grant, the federal child care funds, and qualifying state expenditures may be spent for administrative purposes. For purposes of this subsection, "administrative purposes" does not include expenditures for information technology and computerization needed for tracking and monitoring required by P.L. 104-193.

(4) The department shall expend funds appropriated for work activities, as defined in RCW 74.08A.250, or for other services provided to WorkFirst recipients, as authorized under RCW 74.08A.290. [2012 c 217 § 1.]

**Effective date—2012 c 217:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2012." [2012 c 217 § 4.]

**74.08A.350 Questionnaires—Job opportunities for welfare recipients.** The department of social and health services shall create a questionnaire, asking businesses for information regarding available and upcoming job opportunities for welfare recipients. The department of revenue shall include the questionnaire in a regular quarterly mailing. The department of social and health services shall receive responses and use the information to develop work activities in the areas where jobs will be available. [1997 c 58 § 1007.]

**74.08A.380 Teen parents—Education requirements.** All applicants under the age of eighteen years who are approved for assistance and, within one hundred eighty days after the date of federal certification of the Washington temporary assistance for needy families program, all unmarried minor parents or pregnant minor applicants shall, as a condition of receiving benefits, actively progress toward the completion of a high school diploma or a GED. [1997 c 58 § 503.]

**74.08A.400 Outcome measures—Intent.** It is the intent of the legislature that the Washington WorkFirst program focus on work and on personal responsibility for recipients. The program shall be evaluated among other evaluations, through a limited number of outcome measures designed to hold each community service office and economic services region accountable for program success. [1997 c 58 § 701.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08A.410 Outcome measures—Development—Benchmarks.** (1) The WorkFirst program shall develop outcome measures for use in evaluating the WorkFirst program authorized in chapter 58, Laws of 1997, which may include but are not limited to:

- (a) Caseload reduction;
- (b) Recidivism to caseload after two years;
- (c) Job retention;
- (d) Earnings;

(e) Reduction in average grant through increased recipient earnings; and

(f) Placement of recipients into private sector, unsubsidized jobs.

(2) The department shall require that contractors for WorkFirst services collect outcome measure information and report outcome measures to the department regularly. The department shall develop benchmarks that compare outcome measure information from all contractors to provide a clear indication of the most effective contractors. Benchmark information shall be published quarterly and provided to the legislature, the governor, and all contractors for WorkFirst services. [1997 c 58 § 702.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08A.411 Outcome measures—Data—Report to the legislature.** The department shall continue to implement WorkFirst program improvements that are designed to achieve progress against outcome measures specified in RCW 74.08A.410. Outcome data regarding job retention and wage progression shall be reported quarterly to appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the legislature for families who leave assistance, measured after twelve months, twenty-four months, and thirty-six months. The department shall also report the percentage of families who have returned to temporary assistance for needy families after twelve months, twenty-four months, and thirty-six months. The department shall make every effort to maximize vocational training, as allowed by federal and state requirements. [2009 c 85 § 3.]

**74.08A.420 Outcome measures—Evaluations—Awarding contracts—Bonuses.** Every WorkFirst office, region, contract, employee, and contractor shall be evaluated using the criteria in RCW 74.08A.410. The department shall award contracts to the highest performing entities according to the criteria in RCW 74.08A.410. The department may provide for bonuses to offices, regions, and employees with the best outcomes according to measures in RCW 74.08A.410. [1997 c 58 § 703.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.08A.440 Recipients exempted from active work search—Benefits eligibility.** Recipients exempted from active work search activities due to incapacity or a disability shall receive services for which they are eligible, including aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits as they relate to the facilitation of enrollment in the federal supplemental security income program, referrals to essential needs and housing support benefits, access to chemical dependency treatment, referrals to vocational rehabilitation, and other services needed to assist the recipient in becoming employable. Aged, blind, or disabled assistance and essential needs and housing support benefits shall not supplant cash assistance and other services provided through the temporary assistance for needy families program. To the greatest extent possible, services shall be funded through the temporary assistance for needy families appropriations. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 31; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 32.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

(2012 Ed.)

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**74.08A.900 Short title—1997 c 58.** This act may be known and cited as the Washington WorkFirst temporary assistance for needy families act. [1997 c 58 § 2.]

**74.08A.901 Part headings, captions, table of contents not law—1997 c 58.** Part headings, captions, and the table of contents used in this act are not any part of the law. [1997 c 58 § 1008.]

**74.08A.902 Exemptions and waivers from federal law—1997 c 58.** The governor and the department of social and health services shall seek all necessary exemptions and waivers from and amendments to federal statutes, rules, and regulations and shall report to the appropriate committees in the house of representatives and senate quarterly on the efforts to secure the federal changes to permit full implementation of this act at the earliest possible date. [1997 c 58 § 1009.]

**74.08A.903 Conflict with federal requirements—1997 c 58.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. As used in this section, "allocation of federal funds to the state" means the allocation of federal funds that are appropriated by the legislature to the department of social and health services and on which the department depends for carrying out any provision of the operating budget applicable to it. [1997 c 58 § 1011.]

**74.08A.904 Severability—1997 c 58.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1997 c 58 § 1012.]

**74.08A.905 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521. (Effective January 1, 2014.)** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to

individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 174.]

**Effective dates—2009 c 521 §§ 5-8, 79, 87-103, 107, 151, 165, 166, 173-175, and 190-192:** See note following RCW 2.10.900.

### Chapter 74.09 RCW MEDICAL CARE

#### Sections

74.09.010 Definitions (*as amended by 2011 c 316*).  
 74.09.010 Definitions (*as amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15*).  
 74.09.015 Nurse hotline, when funded.  
 74.09.035 Medical care services—Eligibility, standards—Limits (*as amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15*).  
 74.09.035 Medical care services—Eligibility, standards—Limits (*as amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 36*).  
 74.09.037 Identification card—Social security number restriction.  
 74.09.050 Director's powers and duties—Personnel—Medical screeners—Medical director.  
 74.09.053 Annual reporting requirement (*as amended by 2009 c 479*).  
 74.09.053 Annual reporting requirement (*as amended by 2009 c 568*).  
 74.09.055 Copayment, deductible, coinsurance, other cost-sharing requirements authorized.  
 74.09.075 Employability and disability evaluation—Medical condition—Medical reports—Medical consultations and assistance.  
 74.09.080 Methods of performing administrative responsibilities.  
 74.09.120 Purchases of services, care, supplies—Nursing homes—Veterans' homes—Institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities—Institutions for mental diseases.  
 74.09.150 Personnel to be under existing merit system.  
 74.09.160 Presentment of charges by contractors.  
 74.09.180 Chapter does not apply if another party is liable—Exception—Subrogation—Lien—Reimbursement—Delegation of lien and subrogation rights.  
 74.09.185 Third party has legal liability to make payments—State acquires rights—Lien—Equitable subrogation does not apply.  
 74.09.190 Religious beliefs—Construction of chapter.  
 74.09.200 Audits and investigations—Legislative declaration—State authority.  
 74.09.210 Fraudulent practices—Penalties.  
 74.09.215 Medicaid fraud penalty account.  
 74.09.220 Liability for receipt of excess payments.  
 74.09.230 False statements, fraud—Penalties.  
 74.09.240 Bribes, kickbacks, rebates—Self-referrals—Penalties.  
 74.09.250 False statements regarding institutions, facilities—Penalties.  
 74.09.260 Excessive charges, payments—Penalties.  
 74.09.270 Failure to maintain trust funds in separate account—Penalties.  
 74.09.280 False verification of written statements—Penalties.  
 74.09.290 Audits and investigations of providers—Patient records—Penalties.  
 74.09.295 Disclosure of involuntary commitment information.  
 74.09.300 Department to report penalties to appropriate licensing agency or disciplinary board.  
 74.09.315 Whistleblowers—Workplace reprisal or retaliatory action.  
 74.09.402 Children's health care—Findings—Intent.  
 74.09.460 Children's affordable health coverage—Findings—Intent.  
 74.09.470 Children's affordable health coverage—Authority duties.  
 74.09.4701 Apple health for kids—Unemployment compensation.  
 74.09.480 Performance measures—Provider rate increases—Report.  
 74.09.490 Children's mental health—Improving medication management and care coordination.  
 74.09.500 Medical assistance—Established.  
 74.09.510 Medical assistance—Eligibility.  
 74.09.515 Medical assistance—Coverage for youth released from confinement.  
 74.09.520 Medical assistance—Care and services included—Funding limitations.  
 74.09.521 Medical assistance—Program standards for mental health services for children.  
 74.09.522 Medical assistance—Agreements with managed health care systems required for services to recipients of temporary assistance for needy families—Principles to be applied in purchasing managed health care—Expiration of subsections.  
 74.09.5222 Medical assistance—Section 1115 demonstration waiver request.  
 74.09.5225 Medical assistance—Payments for services provided by rural hospitals.

74.09.5229 Primary care health homes—Chronic care management—Findings—Intent.  
 74.09.523 PACE program—Definitions—Requirements.  
 74.09.530 Medical assistance—Powers and duties of authority.  
 74.09.540 Medical assistance—Working individuals with disabilities—Intent.  
 74.09.545 Medical assistance or limited casualty program—Eligibility—Agreements between spouses to transfer future income—Community income.  
 74.09.555 Medical assistance—Reinstatement upon release from confinement—Expedited eligibility determinations.  
 74.09.565 Medical assistance for institutionalized persons—Treatment of income between spouses.  
 74.09.575 Medical assistance for institutionalized persons—Treatment of resources.  
 74.09.585 Medical assistance for institutionalized persons—Period of ineligibility for transfer of resources.  
 74.09.595 Medical assistance for institutionalized persons—Due process procedures.  
 74.09.597 Medical assistance—Durable medical equipment and medical supplies—Providers.  
 74.09.600 Post audit examinations by state auditor.  
 74.09.650 Prescription drug assistance program.  
 74.09.653 Drug reimbursement policy recommendations.  
 74.09.655 Smoking cessation assistance.  
 74.09.657 Findings—Family planning services expansion.  
 74.09.658 Home health—Reimbursement—Telemedicine.  
 74.09.659 Family planning waiver program request.  
 74.09.660 Prescription drug education for seniors—Grant qualifications.  
 74.09.700 Medical care—Limited casualty program.  
 74.09.710 Chronic care management programs—Medical homes—Definitions.  
 74.09.715 Access to dental care.  
 74.09.720 Prevention of blindness program.  
 74.09.725 Prostate cancer screening.  
 74.09.730 Disproportionate share hospital adjustment.  
 74.09.741 Adjudicative proceedings.  
 74.09.756 Medicaid and state children's health insurance program demonstration project.

#### MATERNITY CARE ACCESS PROGRAM

74.09.760 Short title—1989 1st ex.s. c 10.  
 74.09.770 Maternity care access system established.  
 74.09.780 Reservation of legislative power.  
 74.09.790 Definitions.  
 74.09.800 Maternity care access program established.  
 74.09.810 Alternative maternity care service delivery system established—Remedial action report.  
 74.09.820 Maternity care provider's loan repayment program.  
 74.09.850 Conflict with federal requirements.  
 74.09.900 Other laws applicable.  
 74.09.910 Severability—1979 ex.s. c 152.  
 74.09.920 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**74.09.010 Definitions (*as amended by 2011 c 316*).** ((*As used in this chapter:*)) The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Children's health program" means the health care services program provided to children under eighteen years of age and in households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level as annually defined by the federal department of health and human services as adjusted for family size, and who are not otherwise eligible for medical assistance or the limited casualty program for the medically needy.

(2) ("Committee" means the children's health services committee created in section 3 of this act.

(3)) "Chronic care management" means the health care management within a health home of persons identified with, or at high risk for, one or more chronic conditions. Effective chronic care management:

(a) Actively assists patients to acquire self-care skills to improve functioning and health outcomes, and slow the progression of disease or disability;

(b) Employs evidence-based clinical practices;

(c) Coordinates care across health care settings and providers, including tracking referrals;

(d) Provides ready access to behavioral health services that are, to the extent possible, integrated with primary care; and

(e) Uses appropriate community resources to support individual patients and families in managing chronic conditions.

(3) "Chronic condition" means a prolonged condition and includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) A mental health condition;
- (b) A substance use disorder;
- (c) Asthma;
- (d) Diabetes;
- (e) Heart disease; and
- (f) Being overweight, as evidenced by a body mass index over twenty-five.

(4) "County" means the board of county commissioners, county council, county executive, or tribal jurisdiction, or its designee. A combination of two or more county authorities or tribal jurisdictions may enter into joint agreements ((to fulfill the requirements of RCW 74.09.415 through 74.09.435)).

((4)) (5) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

((5)) (6) "Department of health" means the Washington state department of health created pursuant to RCW 43.70.020.

((6)) (7) "Full benefit dual eligible beneficiary" means an individual who, for any month: Has coverage for the month under a medicare prescription drug plan or medicare advantage plan with part D coverage; and is determined eligible by the state for full medicaid benefits for the month under any eligibility category in the state's medicaid plan or a section 1115 demonstration waiver that provides pharmacy benefits.

((7)) (8) "Health home" or "primary care health home" means coordinated health care provided by a licensed primary care provider coordinating all medical care services, and a multidisciplinary health care team comprised of clinical and nonclinical staff. The term "coordinating all medical care services" shall not be construed to require prior authorization by a primary care provider in order for a patient to receive treatment for covered services by an optometrist licensed under chapter 18.53 RCW. Primary care health home services shall include those services defined as health home services in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396w-4 and, in addition, may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Comprehensive care management including, but not limited to, chronic care treatment and management;
- (b) Extended hours of service;
- (c) Multiple ways for patients to communicate with the team, including electronically and by phone;
- (d) Education of patients on self-care, prevention, and health promotion, including the use of patient decision aids;
- (e) Coordinating and assuring smooth transitions and follow-up from inpatient to other settings;
- (f) Individual and family support including authorized representatives;
- (g) The use of information technology to link services, track tests, generate patient registries, and provide clinical data; and
- (h) Ongoing performance reporting and quality improvement.

(9) "Internal management" means the administration of medical assistance, medical care services, the children's health program, and the limited casualty program.

((8)) (10) "Limited casualty program" means the medical care program provided to medically needy persons as defined under Title XIX of the federal social security act, and to medically indigent persons who are without income or resources sufficient to secure necessary medical services.

((9)) (11) "Medical assistance" means the federal aid medical care program provided to categorically needy persons as defined under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

((10)) (12) "Medical care services" means the limited scope of care financed by state funds and provided to \*disability lifeline benefits recipients, and recipients of alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW.

((11)) (13) "Multidisciplinary health care team" means an interdisciplinary team of health professionals which may include, but is not limited to, medical specialists, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists, dieticians, social workers, behavioral and mental health providers including substance use disorder prevention and treatment providers, doctors of chiropractic, physical therapists, licensed complementary and alternative medicine practitioners, home care and other long-term care providers, and physicians' assistants.

(14) "Nursing home" means nursing home as defined in RCW 18.51.010.

((12)) (15) "Poverty" means the federal poverty level determined annually by the United States department of health and human services, or successor agency.

((13)) (16) "Primary care provider" means a general practice physician, family practitioner, internist, pediatrician, osteopath, naturopath, physician assistant, osteopathic physician assistant, and advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under Title 18 RCW.

(17) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and health services. [2011 c 316 § 2. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 28; 2007 c 3 § 2; 1990 c 296 § 6; 1987 c 406 § 11; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 18; 1981 c 8 § 17; 1979 c 141 § 333; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.010; prior: 1955 c 273 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "disability lifeline program" was terminated and new benefit programs were created pursuant to 2011 1st sp.s. c 36.

**74.09.010 Definitions (as amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15).** ~~((As used in this chapter:))~~ The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.

(2) "Children's health program" means the health care services program provided to children under eighteen years of age and in households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level as annually defined by the federal department of health and human services as adjusted for family size, and who are not otherwise eligible for medical assistance or the limited casualty program for the medically needy.

~~((2)) "Committee" means the children's health services committee created in section 3 of this act.)~~

~~(3) "County" means the board of county commissioners, county council, county executive, or tribal jurisdiction, or its designee. ((A combination of two or more county authorities or tribal jurisdictions may enter into joint agreements to fulfill the requirements of RCW 74.09.415 through 74.09.435.))~~

(4) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(5) "Department of health" means the Washington state department of health created pursuant to RCW 43.70.020.

(6) "Director" means the director of the Washington state health care authority.

(7) "Full benefit dual eligible beneficiary" means an individual who, for any month: Has coverage for the month under a medicare prescription drug plan or medicare advantage plan with part D coverage; and is determined eligible by the state for full medicaid benefits for the month under any eligibility category in the state's medicaid plan or a section 1115 demonstration waiver that provides pharmacy benefits.

((7)) (8) "Internal management" means the administration of medical assistance, medical care services, the children's health program, and the limited casualty program.

((8)) (9) "Limited casualty program" means the medical care program provided to medically needy persons as defined under Title XIX of the federal social security act, and to medically indigent persons who are without income or resources sufficient to secure necessary medical services.

((9)) (10) "Medical assistance" means the federal aid medical care program provided to categorically needy persons as defined under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

((10)) (11) "Medical care services" means the limited scope of care financed by state funds and provided to \*disability lifeline benefits recipients, and recipients of alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW.

((11)) (12) "Nursing home" means nursing home as defined in RCW 18.51.010.

((12)) (13) "Poverty" means the federal poverty level determined annually by the United States department of health and human services, or successor agency.

((13)) (14) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and health services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 2. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 28; 2007 c 3 § 2; 1990 c 296 § 6; 1987 c 406 § 11; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 18; 1981 c 8 § 17; 1979 c 141 § 333; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.010; prior: 1955 c 273 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "disability lifeline program" was terminated and new benefit programs were created pursuant to 2011 1st sp.s. c 36.

(2) RCW 74.09.010 was amended twice during the 2011 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 130.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Washington state government must be organized to be efficient, cost-effective, and responsive to its residents;

(2) The cost of state-purchased health care continues to grow at an unsustainable rate, now representing nearly one-third of the state's budget and hindering our ability to invest in other essential services such as educa-

tion and public safety;

(3) Responsibility for state health care purchasing is currently spread over multiple agencies, but successful interagency collaboration on quality and cost initiatives has helped demonstrate the benefits to the state of centralized health care purchasing;

(4) Consolidating the majority of state health care purchasing into a single state agency will best position the state to work with others, including private sector purchasers, health insurance carriers, health care providers, and consumers to increase the quality and affordability of health care for all state residents;

(5) The development and implementation of uniform state policies for all state-purchased health care is among the purposes for which the health care authority was originally created; and

(6) The state will be best able to take advantage of the opportunities and meet its obligations under the federal affordable care act, including establishment of a health benefit exchange and medicaid expansion, if primary responsibility for doing so rests with a single state agency.

The legislature therefore intends, where appropriate, to consolidate state health care purchasing within the health care authority, positioning the state to use its full purchasing power to get the greatest value for its money, and allowing other agencies to focus even more intently on their core missions." [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 1.]

**Report—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** "(1) By December 10, 2011, the department of social and health services and the health care authority shall provide a preliminary report, and by December 1, 2012, provide a final implementation plan, to the governor and the legislature with recommendations regarding the role of the health care authority in the state's purchasing of mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and long-term care services, including services for those with developmental disabilities.

(2) The reports shall:

(a) Consider options for effectively coordinating the purchase and delivery of care for people who need long-term care, developmental disabilities, mental health, or chemical dependency services. Options considered may include, but are not limited to, transitioning purchase of these services from the department of social and health services to the health care authority, and strategies for the agencies to collaborate seamlessly while purchasing services separately; and

(b) Address the following components:

(i) Incentives to improve prevention efforts;

(ii) Service delivery approaches, including models for care management and care coordination and benefit design;

(iii) Rules to assure that those requiring long-term care services and supports receive that care in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs;

(iv) Systems to measure cost savings;

(v) Mechanisms to measure health outcomes and consumer satisfaction;

(vi) The designation of a single point of entry for financial and functional eligibility determinations for long-term care services; and

(vii) Process for collaboration with local governments.

(3) In developing these recommendations, the agencies shall:

(a) Consult with tribal governments and with interested stakeholders, including consumers, health care and other service providers, health insurance carriers, and local governments; and

(b) Cooperate with the joint select committee on health reform implementation established in House Concurrent Resolution No. 4404 and any of its advisory committees. The agencies shall strongly consider the guidance and input received from these forums in the development of its recommendations.

(4) The agencies shall submit a progress report to the governor and the legislature by November 15, 2013, that provides details on the agencies' progress on purchasing coordination to date." [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 116.]

**Agency transfer—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** "(1) All powers, duties, and functions of the department of social and health services pertaining to the medical assistance program and the medicaid purchasing administration are transferred to the health care authority to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this act. All references to the secretary or the department of social and health services in the Revised Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the director or the health care authority when referring to the functions transferred in this section.

(2)(a) All reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers, or written material in the possession of the department of social and health services pertaining to the powers, functions, and duties transferred shall be delivered to the custody of the health care authority. All cabinets, furniture, office equipment, motor vehicles, and other tangible property employed by

the department of social and health services in carrying out the powers, functions, and duties transferred shall be made available to the health care authority. All funds, credits, or other assets held in connection with the powers, functions, and duties transferred shall be assigned to the health care authority.

(b) Any appropriations made to the department of social and health services for carrying out the powers, functions, and duties transferred shall, on July 1, 2011, be transferred and credited to the health care authority.

(c) Whenever any question arises as to the transfer of any personnel, funds, books, documents, records, papers, files, equipment, or other tangible property used or held in the exercise of the powers and the performance of the duties and functions transferred, the director of financial management shall make a determination as to the proper allocation and certify the same to the state agencies concerned.

(3) All employees of the medicaid purchasing administration at the department of social and health services are transferred to the jurisdiction of the health care authority. All employees classified under chapter 41.06 RCW, the state civil service law, are assigned to the health care authority to perform their usual duties upon the same terms as formerly, without any loss of rights, subject to any action that may be appropriate thereafter in accordance with the laws and rules governing state civil service.

(4) All rules and all pending business before the department of social and health services pertaining to the powers, functions, and duties transferred shall be continued and acted upon by the health care authority. All existing contracts and obligations shall remain in full force and shall be performed by the health care authority.

(5) The transfer of the powers, duties, functions, and personnel of the department of social and health services shall not affect the validity of any act performed before July 1, 2011.

(6) If apportionments of budgeted funds are required because of the transfers directed by this section, the director of financial management shall certify the apportionments to the agencies affected, the state auditor, and the state treasurer. Each of these shall make the appropriate transfer and adjustments in funds and appropriation accounts and equipment records in accordance with the certification.

(7) A nonsupervisory medicaid purchasing unit bargaining unit is created at the health care authority. All nonsupervisory civil service employees of the medicaid purchasing administration at the department of social and health services assigned to the health care authority under this section whose positions are within the existing bargaining unit description at the department of social and health services shall become a part of the nonsupervisory medicaid purchasing unit bargaining unit at the health care authority under the provisions of chapter 41.80 RCW. The exclusive bargaining representative of the existing bargaining unit at the department of social and health services is certified as the exclusive bargaining representative of the nonsupervisory medicaid purchasing unit bargaining unit at the health care authority without the necessity of an election.

(8) A supervisory medicaid purchasing unit bargaining unit is created at the health care authority. All supervisory civil service employees of the medicaid purchasing administration at the department of social and health services assigned to the health care authority under this section whose positions are within the existing bargaining unit description at the department of social and health services shall become a part of the supervisory medicaid purchasing unit bargaining unit at the health care authority under the provisions of chapter 41.80 RCW. The exclusive bargaining representative of the existing bargaining unit at the department of social and health services is certified as the exclusive bargaining representative of the supervisory medicaid purchasing unit bargaining unit at the health care authority without the necessity of an election.

(9) The bargaining units of employees created under this section are appropriate units under the provisions of chapter 41.80 RCW. However, nothing contained in this section shall be construed to alter the authority of the public employment relations commission under the provisions of chapter 41.80 RCW to amend or modify the bargaining units.

(10) Positions from the department of social and health services central administration are transferred to the jurisdiction of the health care authority. Employees classified under chapter 41.06 RCW, the state civil service law, are assigned to the health care authority to perform their usual duties upon the same terms as formerly, without any loss of rights, subject to any action that may be appropriate thereafter in accordance with the laws and rules governing state civil service.

(11) All classified employees of the department of social and health services central administration assigned to the health care authority under subsection (10) of this section whose positions are within an existing bargaining unit description at the health care authority shall become a part of the existing bargaining unit at the health care authority and shall be considered

an appropriate inclusion or modification of the existing bargaining unit under the provisions of chapter 41.80 RCW." [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 124.]

**References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** "The code reviser shall note wherever "administrator" is used or referred to in the Revised Code of Washington as the head of the health care authority that the title of the agency head has been changed to "director." The code reviser shall prepare legislation for the 2012 regular session that changes all statutory references to "administrator" of the health care authority to "director" of the health care authority." [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 125.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.015 Nurse hotline, when funded.** To the extent that sufficient funding is provided specifically for this purpose, the authority shall provide all persons receiving services under this chapter with access to a twenty-four hour, seven day a week nurse hotline. The authority shall determine the most appropriate way to provide the nurse hotline under RCW 41.05.037 and this section, which may include use of the 211 system established in chapter 43.211 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 122; 2007 c 259 § 16.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**74.09.035 Medical care services—Eligibility, standards—Limits (as amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15).** (1) To the extent of available funds, medical care services may be provided to recipients of disability lifeline benefits, persons denied disability lifeline benefits under RCW \*74.04.005(5)(b) or \*\*74.04.655 who otherwise meet the requirements of \*RCW 74.04.005(5)(a), and recipients of alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW, in accordance with medical eligibility requirements established by the ((department)) authority. To the extent authorized in the operating budget, upon implementation of a federal medicare 1115 waiver providing federal matching funds for medical care services, these services also may be provided to persons who have been terminated from disability lifeline benefits under \*RCW 74.04.005(5)(h).

(2) Determination of the amount, scope, and duration of medical care services shall be limited to coverage as defined by the ((department)) authority, except that adult dental, and routine foot care shall not be included unless there is a specific appropriation for these services.

(3) The ((department)) authority shall enter into performance-based contracts with one or more managed health care systems for the provision of medical care services to recipients of disability lifeline benefits. The contract must provide for integrated delivery of medical and mental health services.

(4) The ((department)) authority shall establish standards of assistance and resource and income exemptions, which may include deductibles and co-insurance provisions. In addition, the ((department)) authority may include a prohibition against the voluntary assignment of property or cash for the purpose of qualifying for assistance.

(5) Residents of skilled nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, and intermediate care facilities for ((the mentally retarded)) persons with intellectual disabilities, as that term is described by federal law, who are eligible for medical care services shall be provided medical services to the same extent as provided to those persons eligible under the medical assistance program.

(6) Payments made by the ((department)) authority under this program shall be the limit of expenditures for medical care services solely from state funds.

(7) Eligibility for medical care services shall commence with the date of certification for disability lifeline benefits or the date of eligibility for alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 3. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 29; 2010 c 94 § 22; 1987 c 406 § 12; 1985 c 5 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 43 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 19 § 3; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 19.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.04.005 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 8, deleting subsection (5)(a), (b), and (h).

\*\*\*(2) RCW 74.04.655 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 24, removing the reference to "disability lifeline" benefits.

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.035 Medical care services—Eligibility, standards—Limits (as amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 36).** (1) To the extent of available funds, medical care services may be provided to ((recipients of disability lifeline benefits, persons denied disability lifeline benefits under RCW 74.04.005(5)(b) or 74.04.655 who otherwise meet the requirements of RCW 74.04.005(5)(a), and recipients of alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW, in accordance with medical eligibility requirements established by the department.));

(a) Persons who:

(i) Are incapacitated from gainful employment by reason of bodily or mental infirmity that will likely continue for a minimum of ninety days as determined by the department. The standard for incapacity in this subsection, as evidenced by the ninety-day duration standard, is not intended to be as stringent as federal supplemental security income disability standards;

(ii) Are citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise residing in the United States under color of law;

(iii) Have furnished the department their social security number. If the social security number cannot be furnished because it has not been issued or is not known, an application for a number shall be made prior to authorization of benefits, and the social security number shall be provided to the department upon receipt;

(iv) Have countable income as described in RCW 74.04.005 at or below four hundred twenty-eight dollars for a married couple or at or below three hundred thirty-nine dollars for a single individual; and

(v) Do not have countable resources in excess of those described in RCW 74.04.005.

(b) Persons eligible for the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program authorized in RCW 74.62.030 and who are not eligible for medicaid under RCW 74.09.510.

(c) Persons eligible for alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW, in accordance with medical eligibility requirements established by the department.

(d) The following persons are not eligible for medical care services:

(i) Persons who are unemployable due primarily to alcohol or drug addiction, except as provided in (c) of this subsection. These persons shall be referred to appropriate assessment, treatment, shelter, or supplemental security income referral services as authorized under chapter 74.50 RCW. Referrals shall be made at the time of application or at the time of eligibility review. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the department from granting medical care services benefits to alcoholics and drug addicts who are incapacitated due to other physical or mental conditions that meet the eligibility criteria for medical care services;

(ii) Persons who refuse or fail to cooperate in obtaining federal aid assistance, without good cause;

(iii) Persons who refuse or fail without good cause to participate in drug or alcohol treatment if an assessment by a certified chemical dependency counselor indicates a need for such treatment. Good cause must be found to exist when a person's physical or mental condition, as determined by the department, prevents the person from participating in drug or alcohol dependency treatment, when needed outpatient drug or alcohol treatment is not available to the person in the county of his or her residence or when needed inpatient treatment is not available in a location that is reasonably accessible for the person; and

(iv) Persons who are fleeing to avoid prosecution of, or to avoid custody or confinement for conviction of, a felony, or an attempt to commit a felony, under the laws of the state of Washington or the place from which the person flees; or who are violating a condition of probation, community supervision, or parole imposed under federal or state law for a felony or gross misdemeanor conviction.

(e) For purposes of determining whether a person is incapacitated from gainful employment under (a) of this subsection:

(i) The department shall adopt by rule medical criteria for incapacity determinations to ensure that eligibility decisions are consistent with statutory requirements and are based on clear, objective medical information; and

(ii) The process implementing the medical criteria shall involve consideration of opinions of the treating or consulting physicians or health care pro-

professionals regarding incapacity, and any eligibility decision which rejects uncontroverted medical opinion must set forth clear and convincing reasons for doing so.

(f) For purposes of reviewing a person's continuing eligibility and in order to remain eligible for the program, persons who have been found to have an incapacity from gainful employment must demonstrate that there has been no material improvement in their medical or mental health condition. The department may discontinue benefits when there was specific error in the prior determination that found the person eligible by reason of incapacitation.

(2) Enrollment in medical care services may not result in expenditures that exceed the amount that has been appropriated in the operating budget. If it appears that continued enrollment will result in expenditures exceeding the appropriated level for a particular fiscal year, the department may freeze new enrollment and establish a waiting list of ((eligible)) persons who may receive benefits only when sufficient funds are available. ((Upon implementation of a federal medicaid 1115 waiver providing federal matching funds for medical care services, persons subject to termination of disability lifetime benefits under RCW 74.04.005(5)(h) remain enrolled in medical care services and persons subject to denial of disability lifetime benefits under RCW 74.04.005(5)(h) remain eligible for medical care services.

((2)) (3) Determination of the amount, scope, and duration of medical care services shall be limited to coverage as defined by the department, except that adult dental, and routine foot care shall not be included unless there is a specific appropriation for these services.

((3)) (4) The department shall enter into performance-based contracts with one or more managed health care systems for the provision of medical care services ((to recipients of disability lifetime benefits)) under this section. The contract must provide for integrated delivery of medical and mental health services.

((4)) (5) The department shall establish standards of assistance and resource and income exemptions, which may include deductibles and co-insurance provisions. In addition, the department may include a prohibition against the voluntary assignment of property or cash for the purpose of qualifying for assistance.

((5)) (6) Residents of skilled nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, and intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities, as that term is described by federal law, who are eligible for medical care services shall be provided medical services to the same extent as provided to those persons eligible under the medical assistance program.

((6) Eligibility for medical care services shall commence with the date of certification for disability lifetime benefits or the date of eligibility for alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW.)

(7) Eligibility for medical care services shall commence with the date of certification for medical care services, date of eligibility for the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program provided under RCW 74.62.030, or the date or eligibility for alcohol and drug addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 6; 2011 c 284 § 3. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 29; 2010 c 94 § 22; 1987 c 406 § 12; 1985 c 5 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 43 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 19 § 3; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 19.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 74.09.035 was amended twice during the 2011 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 6:** "Section 6 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 22, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 39.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Implementation—2010 1st sp.s. c 8 §§ 1-10 and 29:** See note following RCW 74.04.225.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.037 Identification card—Social security number restriction.** Any card issued by the authority or a managed health care system to a person receiving services under this chapter, that must be presented to providers for purposes of claims processing, may not display an identification number that includes more than a four-digit portion of the per-

son's complete social security number. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 4; 2004 c 115 § 3.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.050 Director's powers and duties—Personnel—Medical screeners—Medical director.** (1) The director shall appoint such professional personnel and other assistants and employees, including professional medical screeners, as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The medical screeners shall be supervised by one or more physicians who shall be appointed by the director or his or her designee. The director shall appoint a medical director who is licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

(2) Whenever the director's authority is not specifically limited by law, he or she has complete charge and supervisory powers over the authority. The director is authorized to create such administrative structures as deemed appropriate, except as otherwise specified by law. The director has the power to employ such assistants and personnel as may be necessary for the general administration of the authority. Except as elsewhere specified, such employment must be in accordance with the rules of the state civil service law, chapter 41.06 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 5; 2000 c 5 § 15; 1979 c 141 § 335; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.050. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 6.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Intent—Purpose—2000 c 5:** See RCW 48.43.500.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.053 Annual reporting requirement (as amended by 2009 c 479).** (1) The department of social and health services, in coordination with the health care authority, shall by November 15th of each year report to the legislature:

(a) The number of medical assistance recipients who: (i) Upon enrollment or recertification had reported being employed, and beginning with the 2008 report, the month and year they reported being hired; or (ii) upon enrollment or recertification had reported being the dependent of someone who was employed, and beginning with the 2008 report, the month and year they reported the employed person was hired. For recipients identified under (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection, the department shall report the basis for their medical assistance eligibility, including but not limited to family medical coverage, transitional medical assistance, children's medical ((or aged or disabled)) coverage, aged coverage, or coverage for persons with disabilities; member months; and the total cost to the state for these recipients, expressed as general fund-state((-health services account)) and general fund-federal dollars. The information shall be reported by employer ((size)) size for employers having more than fifty employees as recipients or with dependents as recipients. This information shall be provided for the preceding January and June of that year.

(b) The following aggregated information: (i) The number of employees who are recipients or with dependents as recipients by private and governmental employers; (ii) the number of employees who are recipients or with dependents as recipients by employer size for employers with fifty or fewer employees, fifty-one to one hundred employees, one hundred one to one thousand employees, one thousand one to five thousand employees and more than five thousand employees; and (iii) the number of employees who are recipients or with dependents as recipients by industry type.

((2)) (2) For each aggregated classification, the report will include the number of hours worked, the number of department of social and health services covered lives, and the total cost to the state for these recipients. This information shall be for each quarter of the preceding year. [2009 c 479 § 62; 2006 c 264 § 2.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**74.09.053 Annual reporting requirement (as amended by 2009 c 568).** (1) Beginning in November 2012, the department of social and health services, in coordination with the health care authority, shall by November 15th of each year report to the legislature:

(a) The number of medical assistance recipients who: (i) Upon enrollment or recertification had reported being employed, and beginning with the 2008 report, the month and year they reported being hired; or (ii) upon enrollment or recertification had reported being the dependent of someone who was employed, and beginning with the 2008 report, the month and year they reported the employed person was hired. For recipients identified under (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection, the department shall report the basis for their medical assistance eligibility, including but not limited to family medical coverage, transitional medical assistance, children's medical or aged or ~~(disabled)~~ individuals with disabilities coverage; member months; and the total cost to the state for these recipients, expressed as general fund-state, health services account and general fund-federal dollars. The information shall be reported by employer ~~(size)~~ size for employers having more than fifty employees as recipients or with dependents as recipients. This information shall be provided for the preceding January and June of that year.

(b) The following aggregated information: (i) The number of employees who are recipients or with dependents as recipients by private and governmental employers; (ii) the number of employees who are recipients or with dependents as recipients by employer size for employers with fifty or fewer employees, fifty-one to one hundred employees, one hundred one to one thousand employees, one thousand one to five thousand employees and more than five thousand employees; and (iii) the number of employees who are recipients or with dependents as recipients by industry type.

~~(2)~~ (2) For each aggregated classification, the report will include the number of hours worked, the number of department of social and health services covered lives, and the total cost to the state for these recipients. This information shall be for each quarter of the preceding year. [2009 c 568 § 6; 2006 c 264 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 74.09.053 was amended twice during the 2009 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**74.09.055 Copayment, deductible, coinsurance, other cost-sharing requirements authorized.** The authority is authorized to establish copayment, deductible, or coinsurance, or other cost-sharing requirements for recipients of any medical programs defined in RCW 74.09.010, except that premiums shall not be imposed on children in households at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 6; 2006 c 24 § 1; 2003 1st sp.s. c 14 § 1; 1993 c 492 § 231; 1982 c 201 § 19.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 14:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003." [2003 1st sp.s. c 14 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.075 Employability and disability evaluation—Medical condition—Medical reports—Medical consultations and assistance.** The department or authority, as appropriate, shall provide (1) for evaluation of employability when a person is applying for public assistance representing a medical condition as a basis for need, and (2) for medical reports to be used in the evaluation of total and permanent disability. It shall further provide for medical consultation and assistance in determining the need for special diets, housekeeper and attendant services, and other requirements as found necessary because of the medical condition under the rules promulgated by the secretary or director. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 7; 1979 c 141 § 337; 1967 ex.s. c 30 § 2.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.080 Methods of performing administrative responsibilities.** In carrying out the administrative responsibility of this chapter, the department or authority, as appropriate:

(1) May contract with an individual or a group, may utilize existing local state public assistance offices, or establish separate welfare medical care offices on a county or multi-county unit basis as found necessary; and

(2) Shall determine both financial and functional eligibility for persons applying for long-term care services under chapter 74.39 or 74.39A RCW as a unified process in a single long-term care organizational unit. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 8; 1979 c 141 § 338; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.080. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 9.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.120 Purchases of services, care, supplies—Nursing homes—Veterans' homes—Institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities—Institutions for mental diseases.** (1) The department shall purchase nursing home care by contract and payment for the care shall be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 74.46 RCW and rules adopted by the department. No payment shall be made to a nursing home which does not permit inspection by the authority and the department of every part of its premises and an examination of all records, including financial records, methods of administration, general and special dietary programs, the disbursement of drugs and methods of supply, and any other records the authority or the department deems relevant to the regulation of nursing home operations, enforcement of standards for resident care, and payment for nursing home services.

(2) The department may purchase nursing home care by contract in veterans' homes operated by the state department of veterans affairs and payment for the care shall be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 74.46 RCW and rules adopted by the department under the authority of RCW 74.46.800.

(3) The department may purchase care in institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities, also known as intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities. The department shall establish rules for reasonable accounting and reimbursement systems for such care. Institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities include licensed nursing homes, public institutions, licensed assisted living facilities with fifteen beds or less, and hospital facilities certified as intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities under the federal medicaid program to provide health, habilitative, or rehabilitative services and twenty-four hour supervision for persons with intellectual disabilities or related conditions and includes in the program "active treatment" as federally defined.

(4) The department may purchase care in institutions for mental diseases by contract. The department shall establish rules for reasonable accounting and reimbursement systems for such care. Institutions for mental diseases are certified

under the federal medicaid program and primarily engaged in providing diagnosis, treatment, or care to persons with mental diseases, including medical attention, nursing care, and related services.

(5) Both the department and the authority may each purchase all other services provided under this chapter by contract or at rates established by the department or the authority respectively. [2012 c 10 § 60; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 9; 2010 c 94 § 23; 1998 c 322 § 45; 1993 sp.s. c 3 § 8; 1992 c 8 § 1; 1989 c 372 § 15; 1983 1st ex.s. c 67 § 44; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 11 § 6; 1981 1st ex.s. c 2 § 11; (1980 c 177 § 84 repealed by 1983 1st ex.s. c 67 § 48); 1975 1st ex.s. c 213 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 30 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.120. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 13.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**Findings—1993 sp.s. c 3:** See RCW 72.36.1601.

*Conflict with federal requirements and this section:* RCW 74.46.840.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.150 Personnel to be under existing merit system.** All personnel employed in the administration of the medical care program shall be covered by the existing merit system under the Washington personnel resources board. [1993 c 281 § 66; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.150. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.160 Presentment of charges by contractors.** Each vendor or group who has a contract and is rendering service to eligible persons as defined in this chapter shall submit such charges as agreed upon between the department or authority, as appropriate, and the individual or group no later than twelve months from the date of service. If the final charges are not presented within the twelve-month period, they shall not be a charge against the state. Said twelve-month period may also be extended by regulation, but only if required by applicable federal law or regulation, and to no more than the extension of time so required. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 10; 1991 c 103 § 1; 1980 c 32 § 11; 1979 ex.s. c 81 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 48 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.160. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 17.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.180 Chapter does not apply if another party is liable—Exception—Subrogation—Lien—Reimbursement—Delegation of lien and subrogation rights.** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to recipients whose personal injuries are occasioned by negligence or wrong of another: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the director may furnish assistance, under the provisions of this chapter, for the results of injuries to or illness of a recipient, and the authority shall thereby be subrogated to the recipient's rights against the recovery had from any tort feisor or the tort feisor's insurer, or both, and shall have a lien thereupon to the extent of the value of the assistance furnished by the authority. To secure reimbursement for assistance provided under

this section, the authority may pursue its remedies under RCW 41.05A.070.

(2) The rights and remedies provided to the authority in this section to secure reimbursement for assistance, including the authority's lien and subrogation rights, may be delegated to a managed health care system by contract entered into pursuant to RCW 74.09.522. A managed health care system may enforce all rights and remedies delegated to it by the authority to secure and recover assistance provided under a managed health care system consistent with its agreement with the authority. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 11; 1997 c 236 § 1; 1990 c 100 § 2; 1987 c 283 § 14; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 14; 1971 ex.s. c 306 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 8; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.180. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 19.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.185 Third party has legal liability to make payments—State acquires rights—Lien—Equitable subrogation does not apply.** To the extent that payment for covered expenses has been made under medical assistance for health care items or services furnished to an individual, in any case where a third party has a legal liability to make payments, the state is considered to have acquired the rights of the individual to payment by any other party for those health care items or services. Recovery pursuant to the subrogation rights, assignment, or enforcement of the lien granted to the authority by this section shall not be reduced, prorated, or applied to only a portion of a judgment, award, or settlement, except as provided in RCW 41.05A.060 and 41.05A.070. The doctrine of equitable subrogation shall not apply to defeat, reduce, or prorate recovery by the authority as to its assignment, lien, or subrogation rights. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 12; 1995 c 34 § 6.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.190 Religious beliefs—Construction of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as empowering the secretary or director to compel any recipient of public assistance and a medical indigent person to undergo any physical examination, surgical operation, or accept any form of medical treatment contrary to the wishes of said person who relies on or is treated by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the creed and tenets of any well recognized church or religious denomination. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 13; 1979 c 141 § 342; 1959 c 26 § 74.09.190. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 23.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.200 Audits and investigations—Legislative declaration—State authority.** The legislature finds and declares it to be in the public interest and for the protection of the health and welfare of the residents of the state of Washington that a proper regulatory and inspection program be instituted in connection with the providing of medical, dental, and other health services to recipients of public assistance and medically indigent persons. In order to effectively

accomplish such purpose and to assure that the recipient of such services receives such services as are paid for by the state of Washington, the acceptance by the recipient of such services, and by practitioners of reimbursement for performing such services, shall authorize the secretary or director, to inspect and audit all records in connection with the providing of such services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 14; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 1.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.210 Fraudulent practices—Penalties.** (1) No person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity, but not including an individual public assistance recipient of health care, shall, on behalf of himself or others, obtain or attempt to obtain benefits or payments under this chapter in a greater amount than that to which entitled by means of:

- (a) A willful false statement;
- (b) By willful misrepresentation, or by concealment of any material facts; or
- (c) By other fraudulent scheme or device, including, but not limited to:
  - (i) Billing for services, drugs, supplies, or equipment that were unfurnished, of lower quality, or a substitution or misrepresentation of items billed; or
  - (ii) Repeated billing for purportedly covered items, which were not in fact so covered.

(2) Any person or entity knowingly violating any of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall be liable for repayment of any excess benefits or payments received, plus interest at the rate and in the manner provided in RCW 43.20B.695. Such person or other entity shall further, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, be subject to civil penalties. The director or the attorney general may assess civil penalties in an amount not to exceed three times the amount of such excess benefits or payments: PROVIDED, That these civil penalties shall not apply to any acts or omissions occurring prior to September 1, 1979. RCW 43.20A.215 governs notice of a civil fine assessed by the director and provides the right to an adjudicative proceeding.

(3) A criminal action need not be brought against a person for that person to be civilly liable under this section.

(4) In all administrative proceedings under this section, service, adjudicative proceedings, and judicial review of such determinations shall be in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act.

(5) Civil penalties shall be deposited upon their receipt into the medicaid fraud penalty account established in RCW 74.09.215.

(6) The attorney general may contract with private attorneys and local governments in bringing actions under this section as necessary. [2012 c 241 § 102; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 15; 1989 c 175 § 146; 1987 c 283 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 2.]

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**74.09.215 Medicaid fraud penalty account.** The medicaid fraud penalty account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from civil penalties collected under RCW 74.09.210, all receipts received under judgments or settlements that originated under a filing under the federal false claims act, and all receipts received under judgments or settlements that originated under the state medicaid fraud false claims act, chapter 74.66 RCW must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation and must be used only for medicaid services, fraud detection and prevention activities, recovery of improper payments, and for other medicaid fraud enforcement activities. [2012 c 241 § 103.]

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.09.220 Liability for receipt of excess payments.** Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution or other legal entity, but not including an individual public assistance recipient of health care, that, without intent to violate this chapter, obtains benefits or payments under this code to which such person or entity is not entitled, or in a greater amount than that to which entitled, shall be liable for (1) any excess benefits or payments received, and (2) interest calculated at the rate and in the manner provided in RCW 43.20B.695. Whenever a penalty is due under RCW 74.09.210 or interest is due under RCW 43.20B.695, such penalty or interest shall not be reimbursable by the state as an allowable cost under any of the provisions of this chapter. [1987 c 283 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.230 False statements, fraud—Penalties.** Any person, including any corporation, that

(1) knowingly makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact in any application for any payment under any medical care program authorized under this chapter, or

(2) at any time knowingly makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact for use in determining rights to such payment, or knowingly falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact in connection with such application or payment, or

(3) having knowledge of the occurrence of any event affecting (a) the initial or continued right to any payment, or (b) the initial or continued right to any such payment of any other individual in whose behalf he has applied for or is receiving such payment, conceals or fails to disclose such event with an intent fraudulently to secure such payment either in a greater amount or quantity than is due or when no such payment is authorized,

shall be guilty of a class C felony: PROVIDED, That the fine, if imposed, shall not be in an amount more than twenty-five thousand dollars, except as authorized by RCW 9A.20.030. [1979 ex.s. c 152 § 4.]

**74.09.240 Bribes, kickbacks, rebates—Self-referrals—Penalties.** (1) Any person, including any corporation, that solicits or receives any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe, or rebate) directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind

(a) in return for referring an individual to a person for the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which payment may be made in whole or in part under this chapter, or

(b) in return for purchasing, leasing, ordering, or arranging for or recommending purchasing, leasing, or ordering any goods, facility, service, or item for which payment may be made in whole or in part under this chapter, shall be guilty of a class C felony; however, the fine, if imposed, shall not be in an amount more than twenty-five thousand dollars, except as authorized by RCW 9A.20.030.

(2) Any person, including any corporation, that offers or pays any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe, or rebate) directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind to any person to induce such person

(a) to refer an individual to a person for the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which payment may be made, in whole or in part, under this chapter, or

(b) to purchase, lease, order, or arrange for or recommend purchasing, leasing, or ordering any goods, facility, service, or item for which payment may be made in whole or in part under this chapter, shall be guilty of a class C felony; however, the fine, if imposed, shall not be in an amount more than twenty-five thousand dollars, except as authorized by RCW 9A.20.030.

(3)(a) Except as provided in 42 U.S.C. 1395 nn, physicians are prohibited from self-referring any client eligible under this chapter for the following designated health services to a facility in which the physician or an immediate family member has a financial relationship:

- (i) Clinical laboratory services;
- (ii) Physical therapy services;
- (iii) Occupational therapy services;
- (iv) Radiology including magnetic resonance imaging, computerized axial tomography, and ultrasound services;
- (v) Durable medical equipment and supplies;
- (vi) Parenteral and enteral nutrients equipment and supplies;
- (vii) Prosthetics, orthotics, and prosthetic devices;
- (viii) Home health services;
- (ix) Outpatient prescription drugs;
- (x) Inpatient and outpatient hospital services;
- (xi) Radiation therapy services and supplies.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, "financial relationship" means the relationship between a physician and an entity that includes either:

- (i) An ownership or investment interest; or
- (ii) A compensation arrangement.

For purposes of this subsection, "compensation arrangement" means an arrangement involving remuneration between a physician, or an immediate family member of a physician, and an entity.

(c) The department or authority, as appropriate, is authorized to adopt by rule amendments to 42 U.S.C. 1395 nn enacted after July 23, 1995.

(d) This section shall not apply in any case covered by a general exception specified in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395 nn.

(4) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall not apply to:

(a) A discount or other reduction in price obtained by a provider of services or other entity under this chapter if the reduction in price is properly disclosed and appropriately reflected in the costs claimed or charges made by the provider or entity under this chapter; and

(b) Any amount paid by an employer to an employee (who has a bona fide employment relationship with such employer) for employment in the provision of covered items or services.

(5) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section, if applicable to the conduct involved, shall supersede the criminal provisions of chapter 19.68 RCW, but shall not preclude administrative proceedings authorized by chapter 19.68 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 16; 1995 c 319 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 5.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.250 False statements regarding institutions, facilities—Penalties.** Any person, including any corporation, that knowingly makes or causes to be made, or induces or seeks to induce the making of, any false statement or representation of a material fact with respect to the conditions or operations of any institution or facility in order that such institution or facility may qualify (either upon initial certification or upon recertification) as a hospital, nursing facility, or home health agency, shall be guilty of a class C felony: PROVIDED, That the fine, if imposed, shall not be in an amount more than five thousand dollars. [1991 sp.s. c 8 § 6; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.260 Excessive charges, payments—Penalties.** Any person, including any corporation, that knowingly:

(1) Charges, for any service provided to a patient under any medical care plan authorized under this chapter, money or other consideration at a rate in excess of the rates established by the department or authority, as appropriate; or

(2) Charges, solicits, accepts, or receives, in addition to any amount otherwise required to be paid under such plan, any gift, money, donation, or other consideration (other than a charitable, religious, or philanthropic contribution from an organization or from a person unrelated to the patient):

(a) As a precondition of admitting a patient to a hospital or nursing facility; or

(b) As a requirement for the patient's continued stay in such facility,

when the cost of the services provided therein to the patient is paid for, in whole or in part, under such plan, shall be guilty of a class C felony: PROVIDED, That the fine, if imposed, shall not be in an amount more than twenty-five thousand dollars, except as authorized by RCW 9A.20.030. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 17; 1991 sp.s. c 8 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 7.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.270 Failure to maintain trust funds in separate account—Penalties.** (1) Any person having any patient trust funds in his or her possession, custody, or control, who,

knowing that he or she is violating any statute, regulation, or agreement, deliberately fails to deposit, transfer, or maintain said funds in a separate, designated, trust bank account as required by such statute, regulation, or agreement shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be punished by imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days in the county jail, or by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or as authorized by RCW 9A.20.030, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) "Patient trust funds" are funds received by any health care facility which belong to patients and are required by any state or federal statute, regulation, or by agreement to be kept in a separate trust bank account for the benefit of such patients.

(3) This section shall not be construed to prevent a prosecution for theft. [2011 c 96 § 54; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

#### **74.09.280 False verification of written statements—**

**Penalties.** The secretary or director may by rule require that any application, statement, or form filled out by suppliers of medical care under this chapter shall contain or be verified by a written statement that it is made under the penalties of perjury and such declaration shall be in lieu of any oath otherwise required, and each such paper shall in such event so state. The making or subscribing of any such papers or forms containing any false or misleading information may be prosecuted and punished under chapter 9A.72 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 18; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 9.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

#### **74.09.290 Audits and investigations of providers—**

**Patient records—Penalties.** The secretary or director shall have the authority to:

(1) Conduct audits and investigations of providers of medical and other services furnished pursuant to this chapter, except that the Washington state medical quality assurance commission shall generally serve in an advisory capacity to the secretary or director in the conduct of audits or investigations of physicians. Any overpayment discovered as a result of an audit of a provider under this authority shall be offset by any underpayments discovered in that same audit sample. In order to determine the provider's actual, usual, customary, or prevailing charges, the secretary or director may examine such random representative records as necessary to show accounts billed and accounts received except that in the conduct of such examinations, patient names, other than public assistance applicants or recipients, shall not be noted, copied, or otherwise made available to the department or authority. In order to verify costs incurred by the department or authority for treatment of public assistance applicants or recipients, the secretary or director may examine patient records or portions thereof in connection with services to such applicants or recipients rendered by a health care provider, notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 5.60.060, 18.53.200, 18.83.110, or any other statute which may make or purport to make such records privileged or confidential: PROVIDED, That no original patient records shall be removed from the premises of the health care provider, and that the disclosure of any

records or information by the department or the authority is prohibited and shall be punishable as a class C felony according to chapter 9A.20 RCW, unless such disclosure is directly connected to the official purpose for which the records or information were obtained: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the disclosure of patient information as required under this section shall not subject any physician or other health services provider to any liability for breach of any confidential relationship between the provider and the patient, but no evidence resulting from such disclosure may be used in any civil, administrative, or criminal proceeding against the patient unless a waiver of the applicable evidentiary privilege is obtained: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the secretary or director shall destroy all copies of patient medical records in their possession upon completion of the audit, investigation or proceedings;

(2) Approve or deny applications to participate as a provider of services furnished pursuant to this chapter;

(3) Terminate or suspend eligibility to participate as a provider of services furnished pursuant to this chapter; and

(4) Adopt, promulgate, amend, and repeal administrative rules, in accordance with the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, to carry out the policies and purposes of RCW 74.09.200 through 74.09.290. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 19; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 749; 1990 c 100 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 23; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 10.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **74.09.295 Disclosure of involuntary commitment**

**information.** It is permissible to provide to a correctional institution, as defined in RCW 9.94.049, with the fact, place, and date of an involuntary commitment and the fact and date of discharge or release of a person who has been involuntarily committed under chapter 71.05 or 71.34 RCW, without a person's consent, in the course of the implementation and use of the department's postinstitutional medical assistance system supporting the expedited medical determinations and medical suspensions as provided in RCW 74.09.555. Disclosure under this section is mandatory for the purposes of the health insurance portability and accountability act. [2011 c 305 § 2.]

**Findings—2011 c 305:** "The legislature finds that effective collaboration and communication between mental health and chemical dependency treatment providers and service delivery systems and law enforcement and criminal justice agencies is important to both the care of persons with mental disorders and chemical dependency and public safety. The legislature also finds that many state and local efforts in recent years have worked to address improved treatment of persons with mental disorders, chemical dependency disorders, or co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders who are confined in a correctional institution and to improve communication and collaboration among the agencies, institutions, and professionals who are responsible for the care or custody of those persons. While numerous laws have been enacted to clarify the appropriate sharing of information between those agencies, institutions, and professionals, the legislature finds further clarification will continue to aide [aid] and improve the care of those persons and augment public safety." [2011 c 305 § 1.]

**74.09.300 Department to report penalties to appropriate licensing agency or disciplinary board.** Whenever the secretary or director imposes a civil penalty under RCW 74.09.210, or terminates or suspends a provider's eligibility

under RCW 74.09.290, he or she shall, if the provider is licensed pursuant to Titles 18, 70, or 71 RCW, give written notice of such imposition, termination, or suspension to the appropriate licensing agency or disciplinary board. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 20; 1979 ex.s. c 152 § 11.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.315 Whistleblowers—Workplace reprisal or retaliatory action.** (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Employer" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity.

(b) "Whistleblower" means an employee of an employer that obtains or attempts to obtain benefits or payments under this chapter in violation of RCW 74.09.210, who in good faith reports a violation of RCW 74.09.210 to the authority.

(c) "Workplace reprisal or retaliatory action" includes, but is not limited to: Denial of adequate staff to fulfill duties; frequent staff changes; frequent and undesirable office changes; refusal to assign meaningful work; unwarranted and unsubstantiated report of misconduct under Title 18 RCW; unwarranted and unsubstantiated letters of reprimand or unsatisfactory performance evaluations; demotion; reduction in pay; denial of promotion; suspension; dismissal; denial of employment; or a supervisor or superior behaving in or encouraging coworkers to behave in a hostile manner toward the whistleblower; or a change in the physical location of the employee's workplace or a change in the basic nature of the employee's job, if either are in opposition to the employee's expressed wish.

(2) A whistleblower who has been subjected to workplace reprisal or retaliatory action has the remedies provided under chapter 49.60 RCW. RCW 4.24.500 through 4.24.520, providing certain protection to persons who communicate to government agencies, apply to complaints made under this section. The identity of a whistleblower who complains, in good faith, to the authority about a suspected violation of RCW 74.09.210 may remain confidential if requested. The identity of the whistleblower must subsequently remain confidential unless the authority determines that the complaint was not made in good faith.

(3) This section does not prohibit an employer from exercising its authority to terminate, suspend, or discipline an employee who engages in workplace reprisal or retaliatory action against a whistleblower. The protections provided to whistleblowers under this chapter do not prevent an employer from: (a) Terminating, suspending, or disciplining a whistleblower for other lawful purposes; or (b) reducing the hours of employment or terminating employment as a result of the demonstrated inability to meet payroll requirements. The authority shall determine if the employer cannot meet payroll in cases where a whistleblower has been terminated or had hours of employment reduced due to the inability of a facility to meet payroll.

(4) The authority shall adopt rules to implement procedures for filing, investigation, and resolution of whistleblower complaints that are integrated with complaint procedures under this chapter. The authority shall adopt rules

designed to discourage whistleblower complaints made in bad faith or for retaliatory purposes. [2012 c 241 § 104.]

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.09.402 Children's health care—Findings—Intent.**

(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Improving the health of children in Washington state is an investment in a productive and successful next generation. The health of children is critical to their success in school and throughout their lives;

(b) Healthy children are ready to learn. In order to provide students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens, to contribute to their own economic well-being and to that of their families and communities, and to enjoy productive and satisfying lives, the state recognizes the importance that access to appropriate health services and improved health brings to the children of Washington state. In addition, fully immunized children are themselves protected, and in turn protect others, from contracting communicable diseases;

(c) Children with health insurance coverage have better health outcomes than those who lack coverage. Children without health insurance coverage are more likely to be in poor health and more likely to delay receiving, or go without, needed health care services;

(d) Health care coverage for children in Washington state is the product of critical efforts in both the private and public sectors to help children succeed. Private health insurance coverage is complemented by public programs that meet needs of low-income children whose parents are not offered health insurance coverage through their employer or who cannot otherwise afford the costs of coverage. In 2006, thirty-five percent of children in Washington state had some form of public health coverage. Washington state is making progress in its efforts to increase the number of children with health care coverage. Yet, even with these efforts of both private and public sectors, many children in Washington state continue to lack health insurance coverage. In 2006, over seventy thousand children were uninsured. Almost two-thirds of these children are in families whose income is under two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level; and

(e) Improved health outcomes for the children of Washington state are the expected result of improved access to health care coverage. Linking children with a medical home that provides preventive and well child health services and referral to needed specialty services, linking children with needed behavioral health and dental services, more effectively managing childhood diseases, improving nutrition, and increasing physical activity are key to improving children's health. Care should be provided in appropriate settings by efficient providers, consistent with high quality care and at an appropriate stage, soon enough to avert the need for overly expensive treatment.

(2) It is therefore the intent of the legislature that:

(a) All children in the state of Washington have health care coverage by 2010. This should be accomplished by building upon and strengthening the successes of private health insurance coverage and publicly supported children's health insurance programs in Washington state. Access to coverage should be streamlined and efficient, with reductions in unnecessary administrative costs and mechanisms to expeditiously link children with a medical home;

(b) The state, in collaboration with parents, schools, communities, health plans, and providers, take steps to improve health outcomes for the children of Washington state by linking children with a medical home, identifying health improvement goals for children, and linking innovative purchasing strategies to those goals. [2007 c 5 § 1; 2005 c 279 § 1.]

**74.09.460 Children's affordable health coverage—**

**Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds that parents have a responsibility to:

- (a) Enroll their children in affordable health coverage;
- (b) Ensure that their children receive appropriate well-child preventive care;
- (c) Link their child with a medical home; and
- (d) Understand and act upon the health benefits of good nutrition and physical activity.

(2) The legislature intends that the programs and outreach and education efforts established in RCW 74.09.470(6), as well as partnerships with the public and private sectors, provide the support and information needed by parents to meet the responsibilities set forth in this section. [2007 c 5 § 3.]

**74.09.470 Children's affordable health coverage—**

**Authority duties.** (1) Consistent with the goals established in RCW 74.09.402, through the apple health for kids program authorized in this section, the authority shall provide affordable health care coverage to children under the age of nineteen who reside in Washington state and whose family income at the time of enrollment is not greater than two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services, and effective January 1, 2009, and only to the extent that funds are specifically appropriated therefor, to children whose family income is not greater than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level. In administering the program, the authority shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure the receipt of federal financial participation under the medical assistance program, as codified at Title XIX of the federal social security act, the state children's health insurance program, as codified at Title XXI of the federal social security act, and any other federal funding sources that are now available or may become available in the future. The authority and the caseload forecast council shall estimate the anticipated caseload and costs of the program established in this section.

(2) The authority shall accept applications for enrollment for children's health care coverage; establish appropriate minimum-enrollment periods, as may be necessary; and determine eligibility based on current family income. The authority shall make eligibility determinations within the time frames for establishing eligibility for children on medical assistance, as defined by RCW 74.09.510. The application and annual renewal processes shall be designed to minimize administrative barriers for applicants and enrolled clients, and to minimize gaps in eligibility for families who are eligible for coverage. If a change in family income results in a change in the source of funding for coverage, the authority shall transfer the family members to the appropriate source of funding and notify the family with respect to any change in

premium obligation, without a break in eligibility. The authority shall use the same eligibility redetermination and appeals procedures as those provided for children on medical assistance programs. The authority shall modify its eligibility renewal procedures to lower the percentage of children failing to annually renew. The authority shall manage its outreach, application, and renewal procedures with the goals of: (a) Achieving year by year improvements in enrollment, enrollment rates, renewals, and renewal rates; (b) maximizing the use of existing program databases to obtain information related to earned and unearned income for purposes of eligibility determination and renewals, including, but not limited to, the basic food program, the child care subsidy program, federal social security administration programs, and the employment security department wage database; (c) streamlining renewal processes to rely primarily upon data matches, online submissions, and telephone interviews; and (d) implementing any other eligibility determination and renewal processes to allow the state to receive an enhanced federal matching rate and additional federal outreach funding available through the federal children's health insurance program reauthorization act of 2009 by January 2010. The department shall advise the governor and the legislature regarding the status of these efforts by September 30, 2009. The information provided should include the status of the department's efforts, the anticipated impact of those efforts on enrollment, and the costs associated with that enrollment.

(3) To ensure continuity of care and ease of understanding for families and health care providers, and to maximize the efficiency of the program, the amount, scope, and duration of health care services provided to children under this section shall be the same as that provided to children under medical assistance, as defined in RCW 74.09.520.

(4) The primary mechanism for purchasing health care coverage under this section shall be through contracts with managed health care systems as defined in RCW 74.09.522, subject to conditions, limitations, and appropriations provided in the biennial appropriations act. However, the authority shall make every effort within available resources to purchase health care coverage for uninsured children whose families have access to dependent coverage through an employer-sponsored health plan or another source when it is cost-effective for the state to do so, and the purchase is consistent with requirements of Title XIX and Title XXI of the federal social security act. To the extent allowable under federal law, the authority shall require families to enroll in available employer-sponsored coverage, as a condition of participating in the program established under this section, when it is cost-effective for the state to do so. Families who enroll in available employer-sponsored coverage under this section shall be accounted for separately in the annual report required by RCW 74.09.053.

(5)(a) To reflect appropriate parental responsibility, the authority shall develop and implement a schedule of premiums for children's health care coverage due to the authority from families with income greater than two hundred percent of the federal poverty level. For families with income greater than two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level, the premiums shall be established in consultation with the senate majority and minority leaders and the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives. For children

eligible for coverage under the federally funded children's health insurance program, Title XXI of the federal social security act, premiums shall be set at a reasonable level that does not pose a barrier to enrollment. The amount of the premium shall be based upon family income and shall not exceed the premium limitations in Title XXI of the federal social security act. For children who are not eligible for coverage under the federally funded children's health insurance program, premiums shall be set every two years in an amount no greater than the average state-only share of the per capita cost of coverage in the state-funded children's health program.

(b) Premiums shall not be imposed on children in households at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level as articulated in RCW 74.09.055.

(c) Beginning no later than January 1, 2010, the authority shall offer families whose income is greater than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level the opportunity to purchase health care coverage for their children through the programs administered under this section without an explicit premium subsidy from the state. The design of the health benefit package offered to these children should provide a benefit package substantially similar to that offered in the apple health for kids program, and may differ with respect to cost-sharing, and other appropriate elements from that provided to children under subsection (3) of this section including, but not limited to, application of preexisting conditions, waiting periods, and other design changes needed to offer affordable coverage. The amount paid by the family shall be in an amount equal to the rate paid by the state to the managed health care system for coverage of the child, including any associated and administrative costs to the state of providing coverage for the child. Any pooling of the program enrollees that results in state fiscal impact must be identified and brought to the legislature for consideration.

(6) The authority shall undertake and continue a proactive, targeted outreach and education effort with the goal of enrolling children in health coverage and improving the health literacy of youth and parents. The authority shall collaborate with the department of social and health services, department of health, local public health jurisdictions, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department of early learning, health educators, health care providers, health carriers, community-based organizations, and parents in the design and development of this effort. The outreach and education effort shall include the following components:

(a) Broad dissemination of information about the availability of coverage, including media campaigns;

(b) Assistance with completing applications, and community-based outreach efforts to help people apply for coverage. Community-based outreach efforts should be targeted to the populations least likely to be covered;

(c) Use of existing systems, such as enrollment information from the free and reduced-price lunch program, the department of early learning child care subsidy program, the department of health's women, infants, and children program, and the early childhood education and assistance program, to identify children who may be eligible but not enrolled in coverage;

(d) Contracting with community-based organizations and government entities to support community-based outreach efforts to help families apply for coverage. These efforts should be targeted to the populations least likely to be covered. The authority shall provide informational materials for use by government entities and community-based organizations in their outreach activities, and should identify any available federal matching funds to support these efforts;

(e) Development and dissemination of materials to engage and inform parents and families statewide on issues such as: The benefits of health insurance coverage; the appropriate use of health services, including primary care provided by health care practitioners licensed under chapters 18.71, 18.57, 18.36A, and 18.79 RCW, and emergency services; the value of a medical home, well-child services and immunization, and other preventive health services with linkages to department of health child profile efforts; identifying and managing chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes; and the value of good nutrition and physical activity;

(f) An evaluation of the outreach and education efforts, based upon clear, cost-effective outcome measures that are included in contracts with entities that undertake components of the outreach and education effort;

(g) An implementation plan to develop online application capability that is integrated with the automated client eligibility system, and to develop data linkages with the office of the superintendent of public instruction for free and reduced-price lunch enrollment information and the department of early learning for child care subsidy program enrollment information.

(7) The authority shall take action to increase the number of primary care physicians providing dental disease preventive services including oral health screenings, risk assessment, family education, the application of fluoride varnish, and referral to a dentist as needed.

(8) The department shall monitor the rates of substitution between private-sector health care coverage and the coverage provided under this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 33 § 2; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 21; 2009 c 463 § 2; 2007 c 5 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** Chapter 33, Laws of 2011 1st sp.s. took effect April 1, 2011, but amended 2011 1st sp.s. c 15, which took effect July 1, 2011.

**Contingent effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 33:** "(1) Section 1 of this act takes effect if section 21, chapter 15, Laws of 2011 1st sp. sess. is not enacted into law.

(2) Section 2 of this act takes effect if section 21, chapter 15, Laws of 2011 1st sp. sess. is enacted into law." [2011 1st sp.s. c 33 § 3.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 33:** "Subject to section 3 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect April 1, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 33 § 4.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 463:** "The legislature finds that substantial progress has been made toward achieving the equally important goals set in 2007 that all children in Washington state have health care coverage by 2010 and that child health outcomes improve. The legislature also finds that continued steps are necessary to reach the goals that all children in Washington state shall have access to the health services they need to be healthy and ready to learn and that key measures of child health outcomes will show year by year improvement. The legislature further finds that reaching these goals is integral to the state's ability to weather the current economic crisis. The recent reauthorization of the federal children's health insurance program provides additional opportunities for the state to reach these goals. In view of these important objectives, the legislature intends that the apple health for

kids program be managed actively across administrations in the department of social and health services, and across state and local agencies, with clear accountability for achieving the intended program outcomes. The legislature further intends that the department continue the implementation of the apple health for kids program with a commitment to fully utilizing the new program identity with appropriate materials." [2009 c 463 § 1.]

**Short title—2009 c 463:** "This act may be known and cited as the apple health for kids act." [2009 c 463 § 5.]

**74.09.4701 Apple health for kids—Unemployment compensation.** For apple health for kids, the department shall not count the twenty-five dollar increase paid as part of an individual's weekly benefit amount as provided in RCW 50.20.1202 when determining family income, eligibility, and payment levels. [2011 c 4 § 19.]

**Effective date—2011 c 4 §§ 1-6 and 16-21:** See note following RCW 50.20.1202.

**Conflict with federal requirements—2011 c 4:** See note following RCW 50.20.1202.

**74.09.480 Performance measures—Provider rate increases—Report.** (1) The authority, in collaboration with the department of health, department of social and health services, health carriers, local public health jurisdictions, children's health care providers including pediatricians, family practitioners, and pediatric subspecialists, community and migrant health centers, parents, and other purchasers, shall establish a concise set of explicit performance measures that can indicate whether children enrolled in the program are receiving health care through an established and effective medical home, and whether the overall health of enrolled children is improving. Such indicators may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Childhood immunization rates;
- (b) Well child care utilization rates, including the use of behavioral and oral health screening, and validated, structured developmental screens using tools, that are consistent with nationally accepted pediatric guidelines and recommended administration schedule, once funding is specifically appropriated for this purpose;
- (c) Care management for children with chronic illnesses;
- (d) Emergency room utilization;
- (e) Visual acuity and eye health;
- (f) Preventive oral health service utilization; and
- (g) Children's mental health status. In defining these measures the authority shall be guided by the measures provided in RCW 71.36.025.

Performance measures and targets for each performance measure must be established and monitored each biennium, with a goal of achieving measurable, improved health outcomes for the children of Washington state each biennium.

(2) Beginning in calendar year 2009, targeted provider rate increases shall be linked to quality improvement measures established under this section. The authority, in conjunction with those groups identified in subsection (1) of this section, shall develop parameters for determining criteria for increased payment, alternative payment methodologies, or other incentives for those practices and health plans that incorporate evidence-based practice and improve and achieve sustained improvement with respect to the measures.

(3) The department shall provide a report to the governor and the legislature related to provider performance on these

(2012 Ed.)

measures, beginning in September 2010 for 2007 through 2009 and the authority shall provide the report biennially thereafter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 22; 2009 c 463 § 4; 2007 c 5 § 4.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2009 c 463:** See notes following RCW 74.09.470.

**74.09.490 Children's mental health—Improving medication management and care coordination.** (1) The authority, in consultation with the evidence-based practice institute established in RCW 71.24.061, shall develop and implement policies to improve prescribing practices for treatment of emotional or behavioral disturbances in children, improve the quality of children's mental health therapy through increased use of evidence-based and research-based practices and reduced variation in practice, improve communication and care coordination between primary care and mental health providers, and prioritize care in the family home or care which integrates the family where out-of-home placement is required.

(2) The authority shall identify those children with emotional or behavioral disturbances who may be at high risk due to off-label use of prescription medication, use of multiple medications, high medication dosage, or lack of coordination among multiple prescribing providers, and establish one or more mechanisms to evaluate the appropriateness of the medication these children are using, including but not limited to obtaining second opinions from experts in child psychiatry.

(3) The authority shall review the psychotropic medications of all children under five and establish one or more mechanisms to evaluate the appropriateness of the medication these children are using, including but not limited to obtaining second opinions from experts in child psychiatry.

(4) The authority shall track prescriptive practices with respect to psychotropic medications with the goal of reducing the use of medication.

(5) The authority shall encourage the use of cognitive behavioral therapies and other treatments which are empirically supported or evidence-based, in addition to or in the place of prescription medication where appropriate. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 23; 2007 c 359 § 5.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Captions not law—2007 c 359:** See note following RCW 71.36.005.

**74.09.500 Medical assistance—Established.** There is hereby established a new program of federal-aid assistance to be known as medical assistance to be administered by the authority. The authority is authorized to comply with the federal requirements for the medical assistance program provided in the social security act and particularly Title XIX of Public Law (89-97), as amended, in order to secure federal matching funds for such program. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 24; 1979 c 141 § 343; 1967 ex.s. c 30 § 3.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.510 Medical assistance—Eligibility.** Medical assistance may be provided in accordance with eligibility requirements established by the authority, as defined in the social security Title XIX state plan for mandatory categorically needy persons and:

(1) Individuals who would be eligible for cash assistance except for their institutional status;

(2) Individuals who are under twenty-one years of age, who would be eligible for medicaid, but do not qualify as dependent children and who are in (a) foster care, (b) subsidized adoption, (c) a nursing facility or an intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities, or (d) inpatient psychiatric facilities;

(3) Individuals who:

(a) Are under twenty-one years of age;

(b) On or after July 22, 2007, were in foster care under the legal responsibility of the department or a federally recognized tribe located within the state; and

(c) On their eighteenth birthday, were in foster care under the legal responsibility of the department or a federally recognized tribe located within the state;

(4) Persons who are aged, blind, or disabled who: (a) Receive only a state supplement, or (b) would not be eligible for cash assistance if they were not institutionalized;

(5) Categorically eligible individuals who meet the income and resource requirements of the cash assistance programs;

(6) Individuals who are enrolled in managed health care systems, who have otherwise lost eligibility for medical assistance, but who have not completed a current six-month enrollment in a managed health care system, and who are eligible for federal financial participation under Title XIX of the social security act;

(7) Children and pregnant women allowed by federal statute for whom funding is appropriated;

(8) Working individuals with disabilities authorized under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of the social security act for whom funding is appropriated;

(9) Other individuals eligible for medical services under RCW 74.09.035 based on age, blindness, or disability and income and resources standards for medical care services and RCW 74.09.700 for whom federal financial participation is available under Title XIX of the social security act;

(10) Persons allowed by section 1931 of the social security act for whom funding is appropriated; and

(11) Women who: (a) Are under sixty-five years of age; (b) have been screened for breast and cervical cancer under the national breast and cervical cancer early detection program administered by the department of health or tribal entity and have been identified as needing treatment for breast or cervical cancer; and (c) are not otherwise covered by health insurance. Medical assistance provided under this subsection is limited to the period during which the woman requires treatment for breast or cervical cancer, and is subject to any conditions or limitations specified in the omnibus appropriations act. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 9; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 25; 2010 c 94 § 24; 2007 c 315 § 1. Prior: 2001 2nd sp.s. c 15 § 3; 2001 1st sp.s. c 4 § 1; prior: 1997 c 59 § 14; 1997 c 58 § 201; 1991 sp.s. c 8 § 8; 1989 1st ex.s. c 10 § 8; 1989 c 87 § 2; 1985 c 5 § 2; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 5; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 20;

1981 c 8 § 19; 1971 ex.s. c 169 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 60 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 30 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 25 and by 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 9, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**Conflict with federal requirements—2007 c 315:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [2007 c 315 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2001 2nd sp.s. c 15:** See note following RCW 74.09.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.515 Medical assistance—Coverage for youth released from confinement.** (1) The authority shall adopt rules and policies providing that when youth who were enrolled in a medical assistance program immediately prior to confinement are released from confinement, their medical assistance coverage will be fully reinstated on the day of their release, subject to any expedited review of their continued eligibility for medical assistance coverage that is required under federal or state law.

(2) The authority, in collaboration with the department, county juvenile court administrators, and regional support networks, shall establish procedures for coordination between department field offices, juvenile rehabilitation administration institutions, and county juvenile courts that result in prompt reinstatement of eligibility and speedy eligibility determinations for youth who are likely to be eligible for medical assistance services upon release from confinement. Procedures developed under this subsection must address:

(a) Mechanisms for receiving medical assistance services' applications on behalf of confined youth in anticipation of their release from confinement;

(b) Expedited review of applications filed by or on behalf of confined youth and, to the extent practicable, completion of the review before the youth is released; and

(c) Mechanisms for providing medical assistance services' identity cards to youth eligible for medical assistance services immediately upon their release from confinement.

(3) For purposes of this section, "confined" or "confinement" means detained in a facility operated by or under contract with the department of social and health services, juvenile rehabilitation administration, or detained in a juvenile detention facility operated under chapter 13.04 RCW.

(4) The authority shall adopt standardized statewide screening and application practices and forms designed to facilitate the application of a confined youth who is likely to

be eligible for a medical assistance program. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 26; 2007 c 359 § 8.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Captions not law—2007 c 359:** See note following RCW 71.36.005.

**74.09.520 Medical assistance—Care and services included—Funding limitations.** (1) The term "medical assistance" may include the following care and services subject to rules adopted by the authority or department: (a) Inpatient hospital services; (b) outpatient hospital services; (c) other laboratory and X-ray services; (d) nursing facility services; (e) physicians' services, which shall include prescribed medication and instruction on birth control devices; (f) medical care, or any other type of remedial care as may be established by the secretary or director; (g) home health care services; (h) private duty nursing services; (i) dental services; (j) physical and occupational therapy and related services; (k) prescribed drugs, dentures, and prosthetic devices; and eyeglasses prescribed by a physician skilled in diseases of the eye or by an optometrist, whichever the individual may select; (l) personal care services, as provided in this section; (m) hospice services; (n) other diagnostic, screening, preventive, and rehabilitative services; and (o) like services when furnished to a child by a school district in a manner consistent with the requirements of this chapter. For the purposes of this section, neither the authority nor the department may cut off any prescription medications, oxygen supplies, respiratory services, or other life-sustaining medical services or supplies.

"Medical assistance," notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall not include routine foot care, or dental services delivered by any health care provider, that are not mandated by Title XIX of the social security act unless there is a specific appropriation for these services.

(2) The department shall adopt, amend, or rescind such administrative rules as are necessary to ensure that Title XIX personal care services are provided to eligible persons in conformance with federal regulations.

(a) These administrative rules shall include financial eligibility indexed according to the requirements of the social security act providing for medicaid eligibility.

(b) The rules shall require clients be assessed as having a medical condition requiring assistance with personal care tasks. Plans of care for clients requiring health-related consultation for assessment and service planning may be reviewed by a nurse.

(c) The department shall determine by rule which clients have a health-related assessment or service planning need requiring registered nurse consultation or review. This definition may include clients that meet indicators or protocols for review, consultation, or visit.

(3) The department shall design and implement a means to assess the level of functional disability of persons eligible for personal care services under this section. The personal care services benefit shall be provided to the extent funding is available according to the assessed level of functional disability. Any reductions in services made necessary for funding reasons should be accomplished in a manner that assures that priority for maintaining services is given to persons with

the greatest need as determined by the assessment of functional disability.

(4) Effective July 1, 1989, the authority shall offer hospice services in accordance with available funds.

(5) For Title XIX personal care services administered by aging and disability services administration of the department, the department shall contract with area agencies on aging:

(a) To provide case management services to individuals receiving Title XIX personal care services in their own home; and

(b) To reassess and reauthorize Title XIX personal care services or other home and community services as defined in RCW 74.39A.009 in home or in other settings for individuals consistent with the intent of this section:

(i) Who have been initially authorized by the department to receive Title XIX personal care services or other home and community services as defined in RCW 74.39A.009; and

(ii) Who, at the time of reassessment and reauthorization, are receiving such services in their own home.

(6) In the event that an area agency on aging is unwilling to enter into or satisfactorily fulfill a contract or an individual consumer's need for case management services will be met through an alternative delivery system, the department is authorized to:

(a) Obtain the services through competitive bid; and

(b) Provide the services directly until a qualified contractor can be found.

(7) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the authority may offer medicare part D prescription drug copayment coverage to full benefit dual eligible beneficiaries. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 27; 2007 c 3 § 1; 2004 c 141 § 2; 2003 c 279 § 1; 1998 c 245 § 145; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 39; 1994 c 21 § 4. Prior: 1993 c 149 § 10; 1993 c 57 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 8 § 9; prior: 1991 c 233 § 1; 1991 c 119 § 1; prior: 1990 c 33 § 594; 1990 c 25 § 1; prior: 1989 c 427 § 10; 1989 c 400 § 3; 1985 c 5 § 3; 1982 1st ex.s. c 19 § 4; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 21; 1981 c 8 § 20; 1979 c 141 § 344; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 11; 1967 ex.s. c 30 § 5.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

**Intent—1989 c 400:** See note following RCW 28A.150.390.

*Legislative confirmation of effect of 1994 c 21:* RCW 43.20B.090.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.521 Medical assistance—Program standards for mental health services for children.** (1) To the extent that funds are specifically appropriated for this purpose the authority shall revise its medicaid healthy options managed care and fee-for-service program standards under medicaid, Title XIX of the federal social security act to improve access to mental health services for children who do not meet the regional support network access to care standards. The program standards shall be revised to allow outpatient therapy services to be provided by licensed mental health professionals, as defined in RCW 71.34.020, or by a mental health professional regulated under Title 18 RCW who is under the direct supervision of a licensed mental health professional,

and up to twenty outpatient therapy hours per calendar year, including family therapy visits integral to a child's treatment. This section shall be administered in a manner consistent with federal early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment requirements related to the receipt of medically necessary services when a child's need for such services is identified through developmental screening.

(2) The authority and the children's mental health evidence-based practice institute established in RCW 71.24.061 shall collaborate to encourage and develop incentives for the use of prescribing practices and evidence-based and research-based treatment practices developed under RCW 74.09.490 by mental health professionals serving children under this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 28; 2009 c 388 § 1; 2007 c 359 § 11.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Captions not law—2007 c 359:** See note following RCW 71.36.005.

**74.09.522 Medical assistance—Agreements with managed health care systems required for services to recipients of temporary assistance for needy families—Principles to be applied in purchasing managed health care—Expiration of subsections.** (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Managed health care system" means any health care organization, including health care providers, insurers, health care service contractors, health maintenance organizations, health insuring organizations, or any combination thereof, that provides directly or by contract health care services covered under this chapter and rendered by licensed providers, on a prepaid capitated basis and that meets the requirements of section 1903(m)(1)(A) of Title XIX of the federal social security act or federal demonstration waivers granted under section 1115(a) of Title XI of the federal social security act;

(b) "Nonparticipating provider" means a person, health care provider, practitioner, facility, or entity, acting within their scope of practice, that does not have a written contract to participate in a managed health care system's provider network, but provides health care services to enrollees of programs authorized under this chapter whose health care services are provided by the managed health care system.

(2) The authority shall enter into agreements with managed health care systems to provide health care services to recipients of temporary assistance for needy families under the following conditions:

(a) Agreements shall be made for at least thirty thousand recipients statewide;

(b) Agreements in at least one county shall include enrollment of all recipients of temporary assistance for needy families;

(c) To the extent that this provision is consistent with section 1903(m) of Title XIX of the federal social security act or federal demonstration waivers granted under section 1115(a) of Title XI of the federal social security act, recipients shall have a choice of systems in which to enroll and shall have the right to terminate their enrollment in a system: PROVIDED, That the authority may limit recipient termination of enrollment without cause to the first month of a period of enrollment, which period shall not exceed twelve months:

AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the authority shall not restrict a recipient's right to terminate enrollment in a system for good cause as established by the authority by rule;

(d) To the extent that this provision is consistent with section 1903(m) of Title XIX of the federal social security act, participating managed health care systems shall not enroll a disproportionate number of medical assistance recipients within the total numbers of persons served by the managed health care systems, except as authorized by the authority under federal demonstration waivers granted under section 1115(a) of Title XI of the federal social security act;

(e)(i) In negotiating with managed health care systems the authority shall adopt a uniform procedure to enter into contractual arrangements, to be included in contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2012, including:

(A) Standards regarding the quality of services to be provided;

(B) The financial integrity of the responding system;

(C) Provider reimbursement methods that incentivize chronic care management within health homes;

(D) Provider reimbursement methods that reward health homes that, by using chronic care management, reduce emergency department and inpatient use; and

(E) Promoting provider participation in the program of training and technical assistance regarding care of people with chronic conditions described in RCW 43.70.533, including allocation of funds to support provider participation in the training, unless the managed care system is an integrated health delivery system that has programs in place for chronic care management.

(ii)(A) Health home services contracted for under this subsection may be prioritized to enrollees with complex, high cost, or multiple chronic conditions.

(B) Contracts that include the items in (e)(i)(C) through (E) of this subsection must not exceed the rates that would be paid in the absence of these provisions;

(f) The authority shall seek waivers from federal requirements as necessary to implement this chapter;

(g) The authority shall, wherever possible, enter into prepaid capitation contracts that include inpatient care. However, if this is not possible or feasible, the authority may enter into prepaid capitation contracts that do not include inpatient care;

(h) The authority shall define those circumstances under which a managed health care system is responsible for out-of-plan services and assure that recipients shall not be charged for such services;

(i) Nothing in this section prevents the authority from entering into similar agreements for other groups of people eligible to receive services under this chapter; and

(j) The \*department must consult with the federal center for medicare and medicaid innovation and seek funding opportunities to support health homes.

(3) The authority shall ensure that publicly supported community health centers and providers in rural areas, who show serious intent and apparent capability to participate as managed health care systems are seriously considered as contractors. The authority shall coordinate its managed care activities with activities under chapter 70.47 RCW.

(4) The authority shall work jointly with the state of Oregon and other states in this geographical region in order to

develop recommendations to be presented to the appropriate federal agencies and the United States congress for improving health care of the poor, while controlling related costs.

(5) The legislature finds that competition in the managed health care marketplace is enhanced, in the long term, by the existence of a large number of managed health care system options for medicaid clients. In a managed care delivery system, whose goal is to focus on prevention, primary care, and improved enrollee health status, continuity in care relationships is of substantial importance, and disruption to clients and health care providers should be minimized. To help ensure these goals are met, the following principles shall guide the authority in its healthy options managed health care purchasing efforts:

(a) All managed health care systems should have an opportunity to contract with the authority to the extent that minimum contracting requirements defined by the authority are met, at payment rates that enable the authority to operate as far below appropriated spending levels as possible, consistent with the principles established in this section.

(b) Managed health care systems should compete for the award of contracts and assignment of medicaid beneficiaries who do not voluntarily select a contracting system, based upon:

(i) Demonstrated commitment to or experience in serving low-income populations;

(ii) Quality of services provided to enrollees;

(iii) Accessibility, including appropriate utilization, of services offered to enrollees;

(iv) Demonstrated capability to perform contracted services, including ability to supply an adequate provider network;

(v) Payment rates; and

(vi) The ability to meet other specifically defined contract requirements established by the authority, including consideration of past and current performance and participation in other state or federal health programs as a contractor.

(c) Consideration should be given to using multiple year contracting periods.

(d) Quality, accessibility, and demonstrated commitment to serving low-income populations shall be given significant weight in the contracting, evaluation, and assignment process.

(e) All contractors that are regulated health carriers must meet state minimum net worth requirements as defined in applicable state laws. The authority shall adopt rules establishing the minimum net worth requirements for contractors that are not regulated health carriers. This subsection does not limit the authority of the Washington state health care authority to take action under a contract upon finding that a contractor's financial status seriously jeopardizes the contractor's ability to meet its contract obligations.

(f) Procedures for resolution of disputes between the authority and contract bidders or the authority and contracting carriers related to the award of, or failure to award, a managed care contract must be clearly set out in the procurement document.

(6) The authority may apply the principles set forth in subsection (5) of this section to its managed health care purchasing efforts on behalf of clients receiving supplemental security income benefits to the extent appropriate.

(7) A managed health care system shall pay a nonparticipating provider that provides a service covered under this chapter to the system's enrollee no more than the lowest amount paid for that service under the managed health care system's contracts with similar providers in the state.

(8) For services covered under this chapter to medical assistance or medical care services enrollees and provided on or after August 24, 2011, nonparticipating providers must accept as payment in full the amount paid by the managed health care system under subsection (7) of this section in addition to any deductible, coinsurance, or copayment that is due from the enrollee for the service provided. An enrollee is not liable to any nonparticipating provider for covered services, except for amounts due for any deductible, coinsurance, or copayment under the terms and conditions set forth in the managed health care system contract to provide services under this section.

(9) Pursuant to federal managed care access standards, 42 C.F.R. Sec. 438, managed health care systems must maintain a network of appropriate providers that is supported by written agreements sufficient to provide adequate access to all services covered under the contract with the \*department, including hospital-based physician services. The \*department will monitor and periodically report on the proportion of services provided by contracted providers and nonparticipating providers, by county, for each managed health care system to ensure that managed health care systems are meeting network adequacy requirements. No later than January 1st of each year, the \*department will review and report its findings to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature for the preceding state fiscal year.

(10) Subsections (7) through (9) of this section expire July 1, 2016. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 29; 2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 2; 2011 c 316 § 4. Prior: 1997 c 59 § 15; 1997 c 34 § 1; 1989 c 260 § 2; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 21; 1986 c 303 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 transferred all powers, duties, and functions of the department of social and health services pertaining to the medical assistance program and the medicaid purchasing administration to the health care authority.

(2) This section was amended by 2011 c 316 § 4, 2011 1st sp.s. c 9 § 2, and by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 29, each without reference to the other. All amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 9:** See note following RCW 70.47.020.

**Legislative findings—Intent—1986 c 303:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Good health care for indigent persons is of importance to the state;

(b) To ensure the availability of a good level of health care, efforts must be made to encourage cost consciousness on the part of providers and consumers, while maintaining medical assistance recipients within the mainstream of health care delivery;

(c) Managed health care systems have been found to be effective in controlling costs while providing good health care services;

(d) By enrolling medical assistance recipients within managed health care systems, the state's goal is to ensure that medical assistance recipients receive at least the same quality of care they currently receive.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to develop and implement new strategies that promote the use of managed health care systems for medical assistance recipients by establishing prepaid capitated programs for both inpatient and outpatient services." [1986 c 303 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.5222 Medical assistance—Section 1115 demonstration waiver request.** (1) The authority shall submit a section 1115 demonstration waiver request to the federal department of health and human services to expand and revise the medical assistance program as codified in Title XIX of the federal social security act. The waiver request should be designed to ensure the broadest federal financial participation under Title XIX and XXI of the federal social security act. To the extent permitted under federal law, the waiver request should include the following components:

(a) Establishment of a single eligibility standard for low-income persons, including expansion of categorical eligibility to include childless adults. The authority shall request that the single eligibility standard be phased in such that incremental steps are taken to cover additional low-income parents and individuals over time, with the goal of offering coverage to persons with household income at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level;

(b) Establishment of a single seamless application and eligibility determination system for all state low-income medical programs included in the waiver. Applications may be electronic and may include an electronic signature for verification and authentication. Eligibility determinations should maximize federal financing where possible;

(c) The delivery of all low-income coverage programs as a single program, with a common core benefit package that may be similar to the basic health benefit package or an alternative benefit package approved by the secretary of the federal department of health and human services, including the option of supplemental coverage for select categorical groups, such as children, and individuals who are aged, blind, and disabled;

(d) A program design to include creative and innovative approaches such as: Coverage for preventive services with incentives to use appropriate preventive care; enhanced medical home reimbursement and bundled payment methodologies; cost-sharing options; use of care management and care coordination programs to improve coordination of medical and behavioral health services; application of an innovative predictive risk model to better target care management services; and mandatory enrollment in managed care, as may be necessary;

(e) The ability to impose enrollment limits or benefit design changes for eligibility groups that were not eligible under the Title XIX state plan in effect on the date of submission of the waiver application;

(f) A premium assistance program whereby employers can participate in coverage options for employees and dependents of employees otherwise eligible under the waiver. The waiver should make every effort to maximize enrollment in employer-sponsored health insurance when it is cost-effective for the state to do so, and the purchase is consistent with the requirements of Titles XIX and XXI of the federal social security act. To the extent allowable under federal law, the authority shall require enrollment in available employer-sponsored coverage as a condition of eligibility for coverage under the waiver; and

(g) The ability to share savings that might accrue to the federal medicare program, Title XVIII of the federal social security act, from improved care management for persons who are eligible for both medicare and medicaid. Through

the waiver application process, the authority shall determine whether the state could serve, directly or by contract, as a medicare special needs plan for persons eligible for both medicare and medicaid.

(2) The authority shall hold ongoing stakeholder discussions as it is developing the waiver request, and provide opportunities for public review and comment as the request is being developed.

(3) The authority shall identify statutory changes that may be necessary to ensure successful and timely implementation of the waiver request as submitted to the federal department of health and human services as the apple health program for adults.

(4) The legislature must authorize implementation of any waiver approved by the federal department of health and human services under this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 30; 2009 c 545 § 4.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—2009 c 545:** See note following RCW 43.06.155.

**74.09.5225 Medical assistance—Payments for services provided by rural hospitals.** (1) Payments for recipients eligible for medical assistance programs under this chapter for services provided by hospitals, regardless of the beneficiary's managed care enrollment status, shall be made based on allowable costs incurred during the year, when services are provided by a rural hospital certified by the centers for medicare and medicaid services as a critical access hospital. Any additional payments made by the authority for the healthy options program shall be no more than the additional amounts per service paid under this section for other medical assistance programs.

(2) Beginning on July 24, 2005, a moratorium shall be placed on additional hospital participation in critical access hospital payments under this section. However, rural hospitals that applied for certification to the centers for medicare and medicaid services prior to January 1, 2005, but have not yet completed the process or have not yet been approved for certification, remain eligible for medical assistance payments under this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 31; 2005 c 383 § 1; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 2.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—2001 2nd sp.s. c 2:** "The legislature finds that promoting a financially viable health care system in all parts of the state is a paramount interest. The health care financing administration has recognized the crucial role that hospitals play in providing care in rural areas by creating the critical access hospital program to allow small, rural hospitals that qualify to receive reasonable cost-based reimbursement for medicare services. The legislature further finds that creating a similar reimbursement system for the state's medical assistance programs in small, rural hospitals that qualify will help assure the long-term financial viability of the rural health system in those communities." [2001 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 1.]

**74.09.5229 Primary care health homes—Chronic care management—Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Health care costs are growing rapidly, exceeding the consumer price index year after year. Consequently, state health programs are capturing a growing share of the state

budget, even as state revenues have declined. Sustaining these critical health programs will require actions to effectively contain health care cost increases in the future; and

(2) The primary care health home model has been demonstrated to successfully constrain costs, while improving quality of care. Chronic care management, occurring within a primary care health home, has been shown to be especially effective at reducing costs and improving quality. However, broad adoption of these models has been impeded by a fee-for-service system that reimburses volume of services and does not adequately support important primary care health home services, such as case management and patient outreach. Furthermore, successful implementation will require a broad adoption effort by private and public payers, in coordination with providers.

Therefore the legislature intends to promote the adoption of primary care health homes for children and adults and, within them, advance the practice of chronic care management to improve health outcomes and reduce unnecessary costs. To facilitate the best coordination and patient care, primary care health homes are encouraged to collaborate with other providers currently outside the medical insurance model. Successful chronic care management for persons receiving long-term care services in addition to medical care will require close coordination between primary care providers, long-term care workers, and other long-term care service providers, including area agencies on aging. Primary care providers also should consider oral health coordination through collaboration with dental providers and, when possible, delivery of oral health prevention services. The legislature also intends that the methods and approach of the primary care health home become part of basic primary care medical education. [2011 c 316 § 1.]

**74.09.523 PACE program—Definitions—Requirements.** (1) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "PACE" means the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly, a managed care medicare/medicaid program authorized under sections 1894, 1905(a), and 1934 of the social security act and administered by the department.

(b) "PACE program agreement" means an agreement between a PACE organization, the health care financing administration, and the department.

(2) A PACE program may operate in the state only in accordance with a PACE program agreement with the department.

(3) A PACE program shall at the time of entering into the initial PACE program agreement, and at each renewal thereof, demonstrate cash reserves to cover expenses in the event of insolvency.

(a) The cash reserves at a minimum shall equal the sum of:

- (i) One month's total capitation revenue; and
- (ii) One month's average payment to subcontractors.

(b) The program may demonstrate cash reserves to cover expenses of insolvency with one or more of the following: Reasonable and sufficient net worth, insolvency insurance, or parental guarantees.

(4) A PACE program must provide full disclosure regarding the terms of enrollment and the option to disenroll

(2012 Ed.)

at any time to all persons who seek to participate or who are participants in the program. [2001 c 191 § 2.]

**Finding—2001 c 191:** "The legislature finds that PACE programs provide essential care to the frail elderly in the state of Washington. PACE serves to enhance the quality of life and autonomy for frail, older adults, maximize the dignity of and respect for older adults, enable frail and older adults to live in their homes and their community as long as medically possible, and preserve and support the older adult's family unit." [2001 c 191 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.530 Medical assistance—Powers and duties of authority.** (1)(a) The authority is designated as the single state agency for purposes of Title XIX of the federal social security act.

(b) The amount and nature of medical assistance and the determination of eligibility of recipients for medical assistance shall be the responsibility of the authority.

(c) The authority shall establish reasonable standards of assistance and resource and income exemptions which shall be consistent with the provisions of the social security act and federal regulations for determining eligibility of individuals for medical assistance and the extent of such assistance to the extent that funds are available from the state and federal government. The authority shall not consider resources in determining continuing eligibility for recipients eligible under section 1931 of the social security act.

(d) The authority is authorized to collaborate with other state or local agencies and nonprofit organizations in carrying out its duties under this chapter and, to the extent appropriate, may enter into agreements with such other entities.

(2) Individuals eligible for medical assistance under RCW 74.09.510(3) shall be transitioned into coverage under that subsection immediately upon their termination from coverage under RCW 74.09.510(2)(a). The authority shall use income eligibility standards and eligibility determinations applicable to children placed in foster care. The authority shall provide information regarding basic health plan enrollment and shall offer assistance with the application and enrollment process to individuals covered under RCW 74.09.510(3) who are approaching their twenty-first birthday. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 32; 2007 c 315 § 2; 2000 c 218 § 2; 1979 c 141 § 345; 1967 ex.s. c 30 § 6.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—2007 c 315:** See note following RCW 74.09.510.

**74.09.540 Medical assistance—Working individuals with disabilities—Intent.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature to remove barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities by providing medical assistance to working individuals with disabilities through a buy-in program in accordance with section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) of the social security act and eligibility and cost-sharing requirements established by the authority.

(2) The authority shall establish income, resource, and cost-sharing requirements for the buy-in program in accordance with federal law and any conditions or limitations specified in the omnibus appropriations act. The authority shall establish and modify eligibility and cost-sharing requirements in order to administer the program within avail-

able funds. The authority shall make every effort to coordinate benefits with employer-sponsored coverage available to the working individuals with disabilities receiving benefits under this chapter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 33; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 15 § 2.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—Intent—2001 2nd sp.s. c 15:** "The legislature finds that individuals with disabilities face many barriers and disincentives to employment. Individuals with disabilities are often unable to obtain health insurance that provides the services and supports necessary to allow them to live independently and enter or rejoin the workforce. The legislature finds that there is a compelling public interest in eliminating barriers to work by continuing needed health care coverage for individuals with disabilities who enter and maintain employment.

The legislature intends to strengthen the state's policy of supporting individuals with disabilities in leading fully productive lives by supporting the implementation of the federal ticket to work and work incentives improvement act of 1999, Public Law 106-170. This shall include improving incentives to work by continuing coverage for health care and support services, by seeking federal funding for innovative programs, and by exploring options which provide individuals with disabilities a choice in receiving services needed to obtain and maintain employment." [2001 2nd sp.s. c 15 § 1.]

**74.09.545 Medical assistance or limited casualty program—Eligibility—Agreements between spouses to transfer future income—Community income.** (1) An agreement between spouses transferring or assigning rights to future income from one spouse to the other shall be invalid for purposes of determining eligibility for medical assistance or the limited casualty program for the medically needy, but this subsection does not affect agreements between spouses transferring or assigning resources, and income produced by transferred or assigned resources shall continue to be recognized as the separate income of the transferee; and

(2) In determining eligibility for medical assistance or the limited casualty program for the medically needy for a married person in need of institutional care, or care under home and community based waivers as defined in Title XIX of the Social Security Act, if the community income received in the name of the nonapplicant spouse exceeds the community income received in the name of the applicant spouse, the applicant's interest in that excess shall be considered unavailable to the applicant. [1986 c 220 § 1.]

**74.09.555 Medical assistance—Reinstatement upon release from confinement—Expedited eligibility determinations.** (1) The authority shall adopt rules and policies providing that when persons with a mental disorder, who were enrolled in medical assistance immediately prior to confinement, are released from confinement, their medical assistance coverage will be fully reinstated on the day of their release, subject to any expedited review of their continued eligibility for medical assistance coverage that is required under federal or state law.

(2) The authority, in collaboration with the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the department of corrections, and the regional support networks, shall establish procedures for coordination between the authority and department field offices, institutions for mental disease, and correctional institutions, as defined in RCW 9.94.049, that result in prompt reinstatement of eligibility and speedy eligi-

bility determinations for persons who are likely to be eligible for medical assistance services upon release from confinement. Procedures developed under this subsection must address:

(a) Mechanisms for receiving medical assistance services applications on behalf of confined persons in anticipation of their release from confinement;

(b) Expedited review of applications filed by or on behalf of confined persons and, to the extent practicable, completion of the review before the person is released;

(c) Mechanisms for providing medical assistance services identity cards to persons eligible for medical assistance services immediately upon their release from confinement; and

(d) Coordination with the federal social security administration, through interagency agreements or otherwise, to expedite processing of applications for federal supplemental security income or social security disability benefits, including federal acceptance of applications on behalf of confined persons.

(3) Where medical or psychiatric examinations during a person's confinement indicate that the person is disabled, the correctional institution or institution for mental diseases shall provide the authority with that information for purposes of making medical assistance eligibility and enrollment determinations prior to the person's release from confinement. The authority shall, to the maximum extent permitted by federal law, use the examination in making its determination whether the person is disabled and eligible for medical assistance.

(4) For purposes of this section, "confined" or "confinement" means incarcerated in a correctional institution, as defined in RCW 9.94.049, or admitted to an institute for mental disease, as defined in 42 C.F.R. part 435, Sec. 1009 on July 24, 2005.

(5) For purposes of this section, "likely to be eligible" means that a person:

(a) Was enrolled in medicaid or supplemental security income or the medical care services program immediately before he or she was confined and his or her enrollment was terminated during his or her confinement; or

(b) Was enrolled in medicaid or supplemental security income or the medical care services program at any time during the five years before his or her confinement, and medical or psychiatric examinations during the person's confinement indicate that the person continues to be disabled and the disability is likely to last at least twelve months following release.

(6) The economic services administration within the department shall adopt standardized statewide screening and application practices and forms designed to facilitate the application of a confined person who is likely to be eligible for medicaid. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 32; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 34; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 30; 2005 c 503 § 12.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 34 and by 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 32, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

**Correction of references—Savings—Severability—2005 c 503:** See notes following RCW 71.24.015.

**74.09.565 Medical assistance for institutionalized persons—Treatment of income between spouses.** (1) An agreement between spouses transferring or assigning rights to future income from one spouse to the other shall be invalid for purposes of determining eligibility for medical assistance or the limited casualty program for the medically needy, but this subsection does not affect agreements between spouses transferring or assigning resources, and income produced by transferred or assigned resources shall continue to be recognized as the separate income of the transferee.

(2) In determining eligibility for medical assistance or the limited casualty program for the medically needy for a married person in need of institutional care, or care under home and community-based waivers as defined in Title XIX of the social security act, if the community income received in the name of the nonapplicant spouse exceeds the community income received in the name of the applicant spouse, the applicant's interest in that excess shall be considered unavailable to the applicant.

(3) The department or authority, as appropriate, shall adopt rules consistent with the provisions of section 1924 of the social security act entitled "Treatment of Income and Resources for Certain Institutionalized Spouses," in determining the allocation of income between an institutionalized and community spouse.

(4) The department or authority, as appropriate, shall establish the monthly maintenance needs allowance for the community spouse up to the maximum amount allowed by state appropriation or within available funds and permitted in section 1924 of the social security act. The total monthly needs allowance shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars, subject to adjustment provided in section 1924 of the social security act. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 35; 1989 c 87 § 4.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.575 Medical assistance for institutionalized persons—Treatment of resources.** (1) The department or authority, as appropriate, shall promulgate rules consistent with the treatment of resources provisions of section 1924 of the social security act in determining the allocation of resources between the institutionalized and community spouse.

(2) In the interest of supporting the community spouse the department or authority, as appropriate, shall allow the maximum resource allowance amount permissible under the social security act for the community spouse for persons institutionalized before August 1, 2003.

(3) For persons institutionalized on or after August 1, 2003, the department or authority, as appropriate, in the interest of supporting the community spouse, shall allow up to a maximum of forty thousand dollars in resources for the com-

(2012 Ed.)

munity spouse. For the fiscal biennium beginning July 1, 2005, and each fiscal biennium thereafter, the maximum resource allowance amount for the community spouse shall be adjusted for economic trends and conditions by increasing the amount allowable by the consumer price index as published by the federal bureau of labor statistics. However, in no case shall the amount allowable exceed the maximum resource allowance permissible under the social security act. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 36; 2003 1st sp.s. c 28 § 1; 1989 c 87 § 5.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 28:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003." [2003 1st sp.s. c 28 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.585 Medical assistance for institutionalized persons—Period of ineligibility for transfer of resources.**

(1) The department or authority, as appropriate, shall establish standards consistent with section 1917 of the social security act in determining the period of ineligibility for medical assistance due to the transfer of resources.

(2) There shall be no penalty imposed for the transfer of assets that are excluded in a determination of the individual's eligibility for medicaid to the extent such assets are protected by the long-term care insurance policy or contract pursuant to chapter 48.85 RCW.

(3) The department or authority, as appropriate, may waive a period of ineligibility if the department or authority determines that denial of eligibility would work an undue hardship. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 37; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 81; 1989 c 87 § 7.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.595 Medical assistance for institutionalized persons—Due process procedures.**

The department or authority, as appropriate, shall in compliance with section 1924 of the social security act adopt procedures which provide due process for institutionalized or community spouses who request a fair hearing as to the valuation of resources, the amount of the community spouse resource allowance, or the monthly maintenance needs allowance. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 38; 1989 c 87 § 8.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.597 Medical assistance—Durable medical equipment and medical supplies—Providers.**

The following must be medicare providers in order to be paid under the medicaid program: Providers of durable medical equipment and related supplies and providers of medical supplies and related services. [2012 c 241 § 105.]

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.09.600 Post audit examinations by state auditor.** Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the state auditor from conducting post audit examinations of public funds pursuant to RCW 43.09.330 or other applicable law. [1977 ex.s. c 260 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.650 Prescription drug assistance program.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated specifically for this purpose, and subject to any conditions placed on appropriations made for this purpose, the department shall design a medicaid prescription drug assistance program. Neither the benefits of, nor eligibility for, the program is considered to be an entitlement.

(2) The department shall request any federal waiver necessary to implement this program. Consistent with federal waiver conditions, the department may charge enrollment fees, premiums, or point-of-service cost-sharing to program enrollees.

(3) Eligibility for this program is limited to persons:

(a) Who are eligible for medicare or age sixty-five and older;

(b) Whose family income does not exceed two hundred percent of the federal poverty level as adjusted for family size and determined annually by the federal department of health and human services;

(c) Who lack insurance that provides prescription drug coverage; and

(d) Who are not otherwise eligible under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

(4) The department shall use a cost-effective prescription drug benefit design. Consistent with federal waiver conditions, this benefit design may be different than the benefit design offered under the medical assistance program. The benefit design may include a deductible benefit that provides coverage when enrollees incur higher prescription drug costs as defined by the department. The department also may offer more than one benefit design.

(5) The department shall limit enrollment of persons who qualify for the program so as to prevent an overexpenditure of appropriations for this program or to assure necessary compliance with federal waiver budget neutrality requirements. The department may not reduce existing medical assistance program eligibility or benefits to assure compliance with federal waiver budget neutrality requirements.

(6) Premiums paid by medicaid enrollees not in the medicaid prescription drug assistance program may not be used to finance the medicaid prescription drug assistance program.

(7) This program will be terminated within twelve months after implementation of a prescription drug benefit under Title XVIII of the federal social security act.

(8) The department shall provide recommendations to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives by November 15, 2003, on financing options available to support the medicaid prescription drug assistance program. In recommending financing options, the department shall explore every opportunity to maximize federal funding to support the program. [2003 1st sp.s. c 29 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 1st sp.s. c 29:** "The legislature finds that prescription drugs are an effective and important part of efforts to maintain and improve the health of Washington state residents. However, their increased cost and utilization is straining the resources of many state health care pro-

grams, and is particularly hard on low-income elderly people who lack insurance coverage for such drugs. Furthermore, inappropriate use of prescription drugs can result in unnecessary expenditures and lead to serious health consequences. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to support the establishment by the state of an evidence-based prescription drug program that identifies preferred drugs, develop programs to provide prescription drugs at an affordable price to those in need, and increase public awareness regarding their safe and cost-effective use." [2003 1st sp.s. c 29 § 1.]

**Severability—2003 1st sp.s. c 29:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2003 1st sp.s. c 29 § 14.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—2003 1st sp.s. c 29:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [2003 1st sp.s. c 29 § 15.]

**Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 29:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [June 26, 2003]." [2003 1st sp.s. c 29 § 16.]

**74.09.653 Drug reimbursement policy recommendations.** A committee or council required by federal law, within the health care authority, that makes policy recommendations regarding reimbursement for drugs under the requirements of federal law or regulations is subject to chapters 42.30 and 42.32 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 60; 1997 c 430 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.20A.365.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.655 Smoking cessation assistance.** The authority shall provide coverage under this chapter for smoking cessation counseling services, as well as prescription and non-prescription agents when used to promote smoking cessation, so long as such agents otherwise meet the definition of "covered outpatient drug" in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396r-8(k). However, the authority may initiate an individualized inquiry and determine and implement by rule appropriate coverage limitations as may be required to encourage the use of effective, evidence-based services and prescription and nonprescription agents. The authority shall track per-capita expenditures for a cohort of clients that receive smoking cessation benefits, and submit a cost-benefit analysis to the legislature on or before January 1, 2012. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 39; 2008 c 245 § 1.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.657 Findings—Family planning services expansion.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Over half of all births in Washington state are covered by public programs;

(2) Research has demonstrated that children of unintended pregnancies receive less prenatal care and are at higher risk for premature birth, low birth weight, neurological disorders, and poor academic performance;

(3) In Washington state, over fifty percent of unintended pregnancies occur in women age twenty-five years and older;

(4) Washington state's take charge program has been successful in helping women avoid unintended pregnancies; however, when the caseload declined due to federally mandated changes, the rate of unintended pregnancies increased dramatically;

(5) Expanding family planning services to cover women to two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level would align that program's eligibility standard with income eligibility for publicly funded maternity care service; and

(6) Such an expansion would reduce unintended pregnancies and associated costs to the state. [2011 1st sp.s. c 41 § 1.]

**Funding reduction—2011 1st sp.s. c 41:** "Upon implementation of the expansion directed in RCW 74.09.659, the office of financial management shall reduce general fund—state allotments for the medical assistance program by one million five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2012 and by two million three hundred fifty thousand dollars for fiscal year 2013. The amounts reduced from allotments shall be placed in reserve status and remain unexpended." [2011 1st sp.s. c 41 § 3.]

**74.09.658 Home health—Reimbursement—Telemedicine.** (1) The home health program shall require registered nurse oversight and intervention, as appropriate. In-person contact between a home health care registered nurse and a patient is not required under the state's medical assistance program for home health services that are: (a) Delivered with the assistance of telemedicine and (b) otherwise eligible for reimbursement as a medically necessary skilled home health nursing visit under the program.

(2) The department or authority, as appropriate, in consultation with home health care service providers shall develop reimbursement rules and, in rule, define the requirements that must be met for a reimbursable skilled nursing visit when services are rendered without a face-to-face visit and are assisted by telemedicine.

(3)(a) The department or authority, as appropriate, shall establish the reimbursement rate for skilled home health nursing services delivered with the assistance of telemedicine that meet the requirements of a reimbursable visit as defined by the department or authority, as appropriate.

(b) Reimbursement is not provided for purchase or lease of telemedicine equipment.

(4) Any home health agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW and eligible for reimbursement under the medical programs authorized under this chapter may be reimbursed for services under this section if the service meets the requirements for a reimbursable skilled nursing visit.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the scope of practice of any home health care services provider or authorizes the delivery of home health care services in a setting or manner not otherwise authorized by law.

(6) The use of telemedicine is not intended to replace registered nurse health care visits when necessary.

(7) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" means the use of telemonitoring to enhance the delivery of certain home health medical services through:

(a) The provision of certain education related to health care services using audio, video, or data communication instead of a face-to-face visit; or

(b) The collection of clinical data and the transmission of such data between a patient at a distant location and the home health provider through electronic processing technologies.

(2012 Ed.)

Objective clinical data that may be transmitted includes, but is not limited to, weight, blood pressure, pulse, respirations, blood glucose, and pulse oximetry. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 40; 2009 c 326 § 1.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.659 Family planning waiver program request.**

(1) The authority shall continue to submit applications for the family planning waiver program.

(2) The authority shall submit a request to the federal department of health and human services to amend the current family planning waiver program as follows:

(a) Provide coverage for sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment;

(b) Return to the eligibility standards used in 2005 including, but not limited to, citizenship determination based on declaration or matching with federal social security databases, insurance eligibility standards comparable to 2005, and confidential service availability for minors and survivors of domestic and sexual violence; and

(c) By September 30, 2011, submit an application to increase income eligibility to two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level, to correspond with income eligibility for publicly funded maternity care services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 41 § 2; 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 41; 2009 c 545 § 5.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 41 and by 2011 1st sp.s. c 41 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Funding reduction—2011 1st sp.s. c 41:** See note following RCW 74.09.657.

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—2009 c 545:** See note following RCW 43.06.155.

**74.09.660 Prescription drug education for seniors—Grant qualifications.** Each of the state's area agencies on aging shall implement a program intended to inform and train persons sixty-five years of age and older in the safe and appropriate use of prescription and nonprescription medications. To further this purpose, the department shall award development grants averaging up to twenty-five thousand dollars to each of the agencies upon a showing that:

(1) The agency has the ability to effectively administer such a program, including an understanding of the relevant issues and appropriate outreach and follow-up;

(2) The agency can bring resources to the program in addition to those funded by the grant; and

(3) The program will be a collaborative effort between the agency and other health care programs and providers in the location to be served, including doctors, pharmacists, and long-term care providers. [2003 1st sp.s. c 29 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 74.09.650.

**74.09.700 Medical care—Limited casualty program.**

(1) To the extent of available funds and subject to any conditions placed on appropriations made for this purpose, medical

care may be provided under the limited casualty program to persons not eligible for medical assistance or medical care services who are medically needy as defined in the social security Title XIX state plan and medical indigents in accordance with eligibility requirements established by the authority. The eligibility requirements may include minimum levels of incurred medical expenses. This includes residents of nursing facilities, residents of intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities, and individuals who are otherwise eligible for section 1915(c) of the federal social security act home and community-based waiver services, administered by the department who are aged, blind, or disabled as defined in Title XVI of the federal social security act and whose income exceeds three hundred percent of the federal supplement security income benefit level.

(2) Determination of the amount, scope, and duration of medical coverage under the limited casualty program shall be the responsibility of the authority, subject to the following:

(a) Only the following services may be covered:

(i) For persons who are medically needy as defined in the social security Title XIX state plan: Inpatient and outpatient hospital services, and home and community-based waiver services;

(ii) For persons who are medically needy as defined in the social security Title XIX state plan, and for persons who are medical indigents under the eligibility requirements established by the authority: Rural health clinic services; physicians' and clinic services; prescribed drugs, dentures, prosthetic devices, and eyeglasses; nursing facility services; and intermediate care facility services for persons with intellectual disabilities; home health services; hospice services; other laboratory and X-ray services; rehabilitative services, including occupational therapy; medically necessary transportation; and other services for which funds are specifically provided in the omnibus appropriations act;

(b) Medical care services provided to the medically indigent and received no more than seven days prior to the date of application shall be retroactively certified and approved for payment on behalf of a person who was otherwise eligible at the time the medical services were furnished: PROVIDED, That eligible persons who fail to apply within the seven-day time period for medical reasons or other good cause may be retroactively certified and approved for payment.

(3) The authority shall establish standards of assistance and resource and income exemptions. All nonexempt income and resources of limited casualty program recipients shall be applied against the cost of their medical care services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 42; 2010 c 94 § 25; 2001 c 269 § 1; 1993 c 57 § 2. Prior: 1991 sp.s. c 9 § 7; 1991 sp.s. c 8 § 10; 1991 c 233 § 2; 1989 c 87 § 3; 1985 c 5 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 43 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 19 § 1; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 6; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 6; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 22.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.710 Chronic care management programs—Medical homes—Definitions.** (1) The authority, in collabora-

tion with the department of health and the department of social and health services, shall:

(a) Design and implement medical homes for its aged, blind, and disabled clients in conjunction with chronic care management programs to improve health outcomes, access, and cost-effectiveness. Programs must be evidence based, facilitating the use of information technology to improve quality of care, must acknowledge the role of primary care providers and include financial and other supports to enable these providers to effectively carry out their role in chronic care management, and must improve coordination of primary, acute, and long-term care for those clients with multiple chronic conditions. The authority shall consider expansion of existing medical home and chronic care management programs and build on the Washington state collaborative initiative. The authority shall use best practices in identifying those clients best served under a chronic care management model using predictive modeling through claims or other health risk information; and

(b) Evaluate the effectiveness of current chronic care management efforts in the authority and the department, comparison to best practices, and recommendations for future efforts and organizational structure to improve chronic care management.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Medical home" means a site of care that provides comprehensive preventive and coordinated care centered on the patient needs and assures high quality, accessible, and efficient care.

(b) "Chronic care management" means the authority's program that provides care management and coordination activities for medical assistance clients determined to be at risk for high medical costs. "Chronic care management" provides education and training and/or coordination that assist program participants in improving self-management skills to improve health outcomes and reduce medical costs by educating clients to better utilize services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 43; 2007 c 259 § 4.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Severability—Subheadings not law—2007 c 259:** See notes following RCW 41.05.033.

**74.09.715 Access to dental care.** Within funds appropriated for this purpose, the authority shall establish two dental access projects to serve seniors and other adults who are categorically needy blind or disabled. The projects shall provide:

(1) Enhanced reimbursement rates for certified dentists for specific procedures, to begin no sooner than July 1, 2009;

(2) Reimbursement for trained medical providers for preventive oral health services, to begin no sooner than July 1, 2009;

(3) Training, development, and implementation through a partnership with the University of Washington school of dentistry;

(4) Local program coordination including outreach and case management; and

(5) An evaluation that measures the change in utilization rates and cost savings. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 44; 2008 c 146 § 13.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2008 c 146:** See notes following RCW 74.41.040.

**74.09.720 Prevention of blindness program.** (1) A prevention of blindness program is hereby established in the authority to provide prompt, specialized medical eye care, including assistance with costs when necessary, for conditions in which sight is endangered or sight can be restored or significantly improved. The authority shall adopt rules concerning program eligibility, levels of assistance, and the scope of services.

(2) The authority shall employ on a part-time basis an ophthalmological and/or an optometrical consultant to provide liaison with participating eye physicians and to review medical recommendations made by an applicant's eye physician to determine whether the proposed services meet program standards.

(3) The authority and the department of services for the blind shall formulate a cooperative agreement concerning referral of clients between the two agencies and the coordination of policies and services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 45; 1983 c 194 § 26.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.725 Prostate cancer screening.** The authority shall provide coverage for prostate cancer screening under this chapter, provided that the screening is delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 46; 2006 c 367 § 8.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.730 Disproportionate share hospital adjustment.** In establishing Title XIX payments for inpatient hospital services:

(1) To the extent funds are appropriated specifically for this purpose, and subject to any conditions placed on appropriations made for this purpose, the authority shall provide a disproportionate share hospital adjustment considering the following components:

(a) A low-income care component based on a hospital's medicaid utilization rate, its low-income utilization rate, its provision of obstetric services, and other factors authorized by federal law;

(b) A medical indigency care component based on a hospital's services to persons who are medically indigent; and

(c) A state-only component, to be paid from available state funds to hospitals that do not qualify for federal payments under (b) of this subsection, based on a hospital's services to persons who are medically indigent;

(2012 Ed.)

(2) The payment methodology for disproportionate share hospitals shall be specified by the authority in regulation.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as a right or an entitlement by any hospital to any payment from the authority. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 47; 2009 c 538 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 9 § 8; 1989 c 260 § 1; 1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 20.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.741 Adjudicative proceedings.** (1) The following persons have the right to an adjudicative proceeding:

(a) Any applicant or recipient who is aggrieved by a decision of the authority or an authorized agency of the authority; or

(b) A current or former recipient who is aggrieved by the authority's claim that he or she owes a debt for overpayment of assistance.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Applicant" means any person who has made a request, or on behalf of whom a request has been made to the authority for any medical services program established under chapter 74.09 RCW.

(b) "Recipient" means a person who is receiving benefits from the authority for any medical services program established in this chapter.

(3) An applicant or recipient has no right to an adjudicative proceeding when the sole basis for the authority's decision is a federal or state law requiring an assistance adjustment for a class of applicants or recipients.

(4) An applicant or recipient may file an application for an adjudicative proceeding with either the authority or the department and must do so within ninety calendar days after receiving notice of the aggrieving decision. The authority shall determine which agency is responsible for representing the state of Washington in the hearing, in accordance with agreements entered pursuant to RCW 41.05.021.

(5)(a) The adjudicative proceeding is governed by the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and this subsection. The following requirements shall apply to adjudicative proceedings in which an appellant seeks review of decisions made by more than one agency. When an appellant files a single application for an adjudicative proceeding seeking review of decisions by more than one agency, this review shall be conducted initially in one adjudicative proceeding. The presiding officer may sever the proceeding into multiple proceedings on the motion of any of the parties, when:

(i) All parties consent to the severance; or

(ii) Either party requests severance without another party's consent, and the presiding officer finds there is good cause for severing the matter and that the proposed severance is not likely to prejudice the rights of an appellant who is a party to any of the severed proceedings.

(b) If there are multiple adjudicative proceedings involving common issues or parties where there is one appellant and both the authority and the department are parties, upon motion of any party or upon his or her own motion, the presiding officer may consolidate the proceedings if he or she finds that the consolidation is not likely to prejudice the rights

of the appellant who is a party to any of the consolidated proceedings.

(c) The adjudicative proceeding shall be conducted at the local community services office or other location in Washington convenient to the applicant or recipient and, upon agreement by the applicant or recipient, may be conducted telephonically.

(d) The applicant or recipient, or his or her representative, has the right to inspect his or her file from the authority and, upon request, to receive copies of authority documents relevant to the proceedings free of charge.

(e) The applicant or recipient has the right to a copy of the audio recording of the adjudicative proceeding free of charge.

(f) If a final adjudicative order is issued in favor of an applicant, medical services benefits must be provided from the date of earliest eligibility, the date of denial of the application for assistance, or forty-five days following the date of application, whichever is soonest. If a final adjudicative order is issued in favor of a recipient, medical services benefits must be provided from the effective date of the authority's decision.

(g) The authority is limited to recovering an overpayment arising from assistance being continued pending the adjudicative proceeding to the amount recoverable up to the sixtieth day after the director's receipt of the application for an adjudicative proceeding.

(6) If the director requires that a party seek administrative review of an initial order to an adjudicative proceeding governed by this section, in order for the party to exhaust administrative remedies pursuant to RCW 34.05.534, the director shall adopt and implement rules in accordance with this subsection.

(a) The director, in consultation with the secretary, shall adopt rules to create a process for parties to seek administrative review of initial orders issued pursuant to RCW 34.05.461 in adjudicative proceedings governed by this subsection when multiple agencies are parties.

(b) This process shall seek to minimize any procedural complexities imposed on appellants that result from multiple agencies being parties to the matter, without prejudicing the rights of parties who are public assistance applicants or recipients.

(c) Nothing in this subsection shall impose or modify any legal requirement that a party seek administrative review of initial orders in order to exhaust administrative remedies pursuant to RCW 34.05.534.

(7) This subsection only applies to an adjudicative proceeding in which the appellant is an applicant for or recipient of medical services programs established under this chapter and the issue is his or her eligibility or ineligibility due to the assignment or transfer of a resource. The burden is on the authority or its authorized agency to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the person knowingly and willingly assigned or transferred the resource at less than market value for the purpose of qualifying or continuing to qualify for medical services programs established under this chapter. If the prevailing party in the adjudicative proceeding is the applicant or recipient, he or she is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees.

(8) When an applicant or recipient files a petition for judicial review as provided in RCW 34.05.514 of an adjudicative order entered with respect to the medical services program, no filing fee may be collected from the person and no bond may be required on any appeal. In the event that the superior court, the court of appeals, or the supreme court renders a decision in favor of the applicant or recipient, the person is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. If a decision of the court is made in favor of an applicant, assistance shall be paid from the date of earliest eligibility, the date of the denial of the application for assistance, or forty-five days following the date of application, whichever is soonest. If a decision of the court is made in favor of a recipient, assistance shall be paid from the effective date of the authority's decision.

(9) The provisions of RCW 74.08.080 do not apply to adjudicative proceedings requested or conducted with respect to the medical services program pursuant to this section.

(10) The authority shall adopt any rules it deems necessary to implement this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 53.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.756 Medicaid and state children's health insurance program demonstration project.** (1) By October 1, 2011, the department shall submit a request to the centers for medicare and medicaid services' innovation center and, if necessary, a request under section 1115 of the social security act, to implement a medicaid and state children's health insurance program demonstration project. The demonstration project shall be designed to achieve the broadest federal financial participation and, to the extent permitted under federal law, shall authorize:

(a) Establishment of base-year, eligibility group per capita payments, with maximum flexibility provided to the state for managing the health care trend and provisions for shared savings if per capita expenditures are below the negotiated rates. The capped eligibility group per capita payments shall: (i) Be based on targeted per capita costs for the full duration of the demonstration period; (ii) include due consideration and flexibility for unforeseen events, changes in the delivery of health care, and changes in federal or state law; and (iii) take into account the effect of the federal patient protection and affordable care act on federal resources devoted to medicaid and state children's health insurance programs. Federal payments for each eligibility group shall be based on the product of the negotiated per capita payments for the eligibility group multiplied by the actual caseload for the eligibility group;

(b) Coverage of benefits determined to be essential health benefits under section 1302(b) of the federal patient protection and affordable care act, 42 U.S.C. 18022(b), with coverage of benefits in addition to the essential health benefits as appropriate for distinct categories of enrollees such as children, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, and elderly adults;

(c) Limited, reasonable, and enforceable cost sharing and premiums to encourage informed consumer behavior and appropriate utilization of health services, while ensuring that

access to evidence-based, preventative and primary care is not hindered;

(d) Streamlined eligibility determinations;

(e) Innovative reimbursement methods such as bundled, global, and risk-bearing payment arrangements, that promote effective purchasing, efficient use of health services, and support health homes, accountable care organizations, and other innovations intended to contain costs, improve health, and incent smart consumer decision making;

(f) Clients to voluntarily enroll in the insurance exchange, and broadened enrollment in employer-sponsored insurance when available and deemed cost-effective for the state, with authority to require clients to remain enrolled in their chosen plan for the calendar year;

(g) An expedited process of forty-five days or less in which the centers for medicare and medicaid services must respond to any state request for changes to the demonstration project once it is implemented to ensure that the state has the necessary flexibility to manage within its eligibility group per capita payment caps; and

(h) The development of an alternative payment methodology for federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics that enables capitated or global payment of enhanced payments.

(2) The department shall provide status reports to the joint legislative select committee on health reform implementation as requested by the committee.

(3) The department shall provide multiple opportunities for stakeholders and the general public to review and comment on the request as it developed.

(4) The department shall identify changes to state law necessary to ensure successful and timely implementation of the demonstration project. [2011 1st sp.s. c 1 § 2.]

**Findings—2011 1st sp.s. c 1:** "The legislature finds that mounting budget pressures combined with growth in enrollment and constraints in the medicaid program have forced open discussion throughout the country and in our state concerning complete withdrawal from the medicaid program. The legislature recognizes that a better and more sustainable way forward would involve new state flexibility for managing its medicaid program built on the success of the basic health plan and Washington's transitional bridge waiver, where elements of consumer participation and choice, benefit design flexibility, and payment flexibility have helped keep costs low. The legislature further finds that either a centers for medicare and medicaid services' innovation center project or a section 1115 demonstration project, or both, with capped eligibility group per capita payments would allow the state to operate as a laboratory of innovation for bending the cost curve, preserving the safety net, and improving the management of care for low-income populations." [2011 1st sp.s. c 1 § 1.]

#### MATERNITY CARE ACCESS PROGRAM

**74.09.760 Short title—1989 1st ex.s. c 10.** This act may be known and cited as the "maternity care access act of 1989." [1989 1st ex.s. c 10 § 1.]

#### **74.09.770 Maternity care access system established.**

(1) The legislature finds that Washington state and the nation as a whole have a high rate of infant illness and death compared with other industrialized nations. This is especially true for minority and low-income populations. Premature and low weight births have been directly linked to infant illness and death. The availability of adequate maternity care throughout the course of pregnancy has been identified as a major factor in reducing infant illness and death. Further, the

(2012 Ed.)

investment in preventive health care programs, such as maternity care, contributes to the growth of a healthy and productive society and is a sound approach to health care cost containment. The legislature further finds that access to maternity care for low-income women in the state of Washington has declined significantly in recent years and has reached a crisis level.

(2) It is the purpose of this subchapter to provide, consistent with appropriated funds, maternity care necessary to ensure healthy birth outcomes for low-income families. To this end, a maternity care access system is established based on the following principles:

(a) The family is the fundamental unit in our society and should be supported through public policy.

(b) Access to maternity care for eligible persons to ensure healthy birth outcomes should be made readily available in an expeditious manner through a single service entry point.

(c) Unnecessary barriers to maternity care for eligible persons should be removed.

(d) Access to preventive and other health care services should be available for low-income children.

(e) Each woman should be encouraged to and assisted in making her own informed decisions about her maternity care.

(f) Unnecessary barriers to the provision of maternity care by qualified health professionals should be removed.

(g) The system should be sensitive to cultural differences among eligible persons.

(h) To the extent possible, decisions about the scope, content, and delivery of services should be made at the local level involving a broad representation of community interests.

(i) The maternity care access system should be evaluated at appropriate intervals to determine effectiveness and need for modification.

(j) Maternity care services should be delivered in a cost-effective manner. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 48; 1989 1st ex.s. c 10 § 2.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.780 Reservation of legislative power.** The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal all or any part of this chapter [subchapter] at any time and there shall be no vested private right of any kind against such amendment or repeal. All rights, privileges, or immunities conferred by this chapter [subchapter] or any acts done pursuant thereto shall exist subject to the power of the legislature to amend or repeal this chapter [subchapter] at any time. [1989 1st ex.s. c 10 § 3.]

**74.09.790 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 74.09.760 through 74.09.820 and 74.09.510:

(1) "At-risk eligible person" means an eligible person determined by the authority to need special assistance in applying for and obtaining maternity care, including pregnant women who are substance abusers, pregnant and parenting adolescents, pregnant minority women, and other eligible

persons who need special assistance in gaining access to the maternity care system.

(2) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.

(3) "County authority" means the board of county commissioners, county council, or county executive having the authority to participate in the maternity care access program or its designee. Two or more county authorities may enter into joint agreements to fulfill the requirements of this chapter.

(4) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(5) "Eligible person" means a woman in need of maternity care or a child, who is eligible for medical assistance pursuant to this chapter or the prenatal care program administered by the authority.

(6) "Family planning services" means planning the number of one's children by use of contraceptive techniques.

(7) "Maternity care services" means inpatient and outpatient medical care, case management, and support services necessary during prenatal, delivery, and postpartum periods.

(8) "Support services" means, at least, public health nursing assessment and follow-up, health and childbirth education, psychological assessment and counseling, outreach services, nutritional assessment and counseling, needed vitamin and nonprescriptive drugs, transportation, family planning services, and child care. Support services may include alcohol and substance abuse treatment for pregnant women who are addicted or at risk of being addicted to alcohol or drugs to the extent funds are made available for that purpose. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 49; 1993 c 407 § 9; 1990 c 151 § 4; 1989 1st ex.s. c 10 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.800 Maternity care access program established.** The authority shall, consistent with the state budget act, develop a maternity care access program designed to ensure healthy birth outcomes as follows:

(1) Provide maternity care services to low-income pregnant women and health care services to children in poverty to the maximum extent allowable under the medical assistance program, Title XIX of the federal social security act;

(2) Provide maternity care services to low-income women who are not eligible to receive such services under the medical assistance program, Title XIX of the federal social security act;

(3) Have the following procedures in place to improve access to maternity care services and eligibility determinations for pregnant women applying for maternity care services under the medical assistance program, Title XIX of the federal social security act:

(a) Use of a shortened and simplified application form;

(b) Outstationing authority staff to make eligibility determinations;

(c) Establishing local plans at the county and regional level, coordinated by the authority; and

(d) Conducting an interview for the purpose of determining medical assistance eligibility within five working days of the date of an application by a pregnant woman and making an eligibility determination within fifteen working days of the date of application by a pregnant woman;

(4) Establish a maternity care case management system that shall assist at-risk eligible persons with obtaining medical assistance benefits and receiving maternity care services, including transportation and child care services;

(5) Within available resources, establish appropriate reimbursement levels for maternity care providers;

(6) Implement a broad-based public education program that stresses the importance of obtaining maternity care early during pregnancy;

(7) Refer persons eligible for maternity care services under the program established by this section to persons, agencies, or organizations with maternity care service practices that primarily emphasize healthy birth outcomes;

(8) Provide family planning services including information about the synthetic progestin capsule implant form of contraception, for twelve months immediately following a pregnancy to women who were eligible for medical assistance under the maternity care access program during that pregnancy or who were eligible only for emergency labor and delivery services during that pregnancy; and

(9) Within available resources, provide family planning services to women who meet the financial eligibility requirements for services under subsections (1) and (2) of this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 50; 1993 c 407 § 10; 1989 1st ex.s. c 10 § 5.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.810 Alternative maternity care service delivery system established—Remedial action report.** (1) The authority shall establish an alternative maternity care service delivery system, if it determines that a county or a group of counties is a maternity care distressed area. A maternity care distressed area shall be defined by the authority, in rule, as a county or a group of counties where eligible women are unable to obtain adequate maternity care. The authority shall include the following factors in its determination:

(a) Higher than average percentage of eligible persons in the distressed area who receive late or no prenatal care;

(b) Higher than average percentage of eligible persons in the distressed area who go out of the area to receive maternity care;

(c) Lower than average percentage of obstetrical care providers in the distressed area who provide care to eligible persons;

(d) Higher than average percentage of infants born to eligible persons per obstetrical care provider in the distressed area; and

(e) Higher than average percentage of infants that are of low birth weight, five and one-half pounds or two thousand five hundred grams, born to eligible persons in the distressed area.

(2) If the authority determines that a maternity care distressed area exists, it shall notify the relevant county authority. The county authority shall, within one hundred twenty

days, submit a brief report to the authority recommending remedial action. The report shall be prepared in consultation with the authority and with the department's local community service offices, the local public health officer, community health clinics, health care providers, hospitals, the business community, labor representatives, and low-income advocates in the distressed area. A county authority may contract with a local nonprofit entity to develop the report. If the county authority is unwilling or unable to develop the report, it shall notify the authority within thirty days, and the authority shall develop the report for the distressed area.

(3) The authority shall review the report and use it, to the extent possible, in developing strategies to improve maternity care access in the distressed area. The authority may contract with or directly employ qualified maternity care health providers to provide maternity care services, if access to such providers in the distressed area is not possible by other means. In such cases, the authority is authorized to pay that portion of the health care providers' malpractice liability insurance that represents the percentage of maternity care provided to eligible persons by that provider through increased medical assistance payments. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 51; 1989 1st ex.s. c 10 § 6.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**74.09.820 Maternity care provider's loan repayment program.** To the extent that federal matching funds are available, the authority or the department of health shall establish, in consultation with the health science programs of the state's colleges and universities, and community health clinics, a loan repayment program that will encourage maternity care providers to practice in medically underserved areas in exchange for repayment of part or all of their health education loans. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 52; 1989 1st ex.s. c 10 § 7.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

*Health professional scholarships: Chapter 28B.115 RCW.*

**74.09.850 Conflict with federal requirements.** If any part of this chapter is found to conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this chapter is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.09.900 Other laws applicable.** All the provisions of Title 74 RCW, not otherwise inconsistent herewith, shall apply to the provisions of this chapter. [1959 c 26 § 74.09.900. Prior: 1955 c 273 § 22.]

**74.09.910 Severability—1979 ex.s. c 152.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1979 ex.s. c 152 § 12.]

(2012 Ed.)

**74.09.920 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521. (Effective January 1, 2014.)** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 175.]

**Effective dates—2009 c 521 §§ 5-8, 79, 87-103, 107, 151, 165, 166, 173-175, and 190-192:** See note following RCW 2.10.900.

**Chapter 74.09A RCW  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE—  
COORDINATION OF BENEFITS—  
COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION TRANSFER**

Sections

- 74.09A.005 Findings.
- 74.09A.010 Definitions.
- 74.09A.020 Computerized information—Provision to health insurers.
- 74.09A.030 Duties of health insurers—Providing information—Payments—Claims—Costs and fees.
- 74.09A.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**74.09A.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Simplification in the administration of payment of health benefits is important for the state, providers, and health insurers;

(2) The state, providers, and health insurers should take advantage of all opportunities to streamline operations through automation and the use of common computer standards;

(3) It is in the best interests of the state, providers, and health insurers to identify all third parties that are obligated to cover the cost of health care coverage of joint beneficiaries; and

(4) Health insurers, as a condition of doing business in Washington, must increase their effort to share information with the authority and accept the authority's timely claims consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(25).

Therefore, the legislature declares that to improve the coordination of benefits between the health care authority and health insurers to ensure that medical insurance benefits are properly utilized, a transfer of information between the authority and health insurers should be instituted, and the process for submitting requests for information and claims should be simplified. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 117; 2007 c 179 § 1; 1993 c 10 § 1.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Effective date—2007 c 179:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state gov-

ernment and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 179 § 5.]

**74.09A.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.

(2) "Computerized" means online or batch processing with standardized format via magnetic tape output.

(3) "Health insurance coverage" includes any policy, contract, or agreement under which health care items or services are provided, arranged, reimbursed, or paid for by a health insurer.

(4) "Health insurer" means any party that is, by statute, policy, contract, or agreement, legally responsible for payment of a claim for a health care item or service, including, but not limited to, a commercial insurance company providing disability insurance under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, a health care service contractor providing health care coverage under chapter 48.44 RCW, a health maintenance organization providing comprehensive health care services under chapter 48.46 RCW, an employer or union self-insured plan, any private insurer, a group health plan, a service benefit plan, a managed care organization, a pharmacy benefit manager, and a third party administrator.

(5) "Joint beneficiary" is an individual who has health insurance coverage and is a recipient of public assistance benefits under chapter 74.09 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 118; 2007 c 179 § 2; 1993 c 10 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Effective date—2007 c 179:** See note following RCW 74.09A.005.

**74.09A.020 Computerized information—Provision to health insurers.** (1) The authority shall provide routine and periodic computerized information to health insurers regarding client eligibility and coverage information. Health insurers shall use this information to identify joint beneficiaries. Identification of joint beneficiaries shall be transmitted to the authority. The authority shall use this information to improve accuracy and currency of health insurance coverage and promote improved coordination of benefits.

(2) To the maximum extent possible, necessary data elements and a compatible database shall be developed by affected health insurers and the authority. The authority shall establish a representative group of health insurers and state agency representatives to develop necessary technical and file specifications to promote a standardized database. The database shall include elements essential to the authority and its population's health insurance coverage information.

(3) If the state and health insurers enter into other agreements regarding the use of common computer standards, the database identified in this section shall be replaced by the new common computer standards.

(4) The information provided will be of sufficient detail to promote reliable and accurate benefit coordination and identification of individuals who are also eligible for authority programs.

(5) The frequency of updates will be mutually agreed to by each health insurer and the authority based on frequency of change and operational limitations. In no event shall the computerized data be provided less than semiannually.

(6) The health insurers and the authority shall safeguard and properly use the information to protect records as provided by law, including but not limited to chapters 42.48, 74.09, 74.04, 70.02, and 42.56 RCW, and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396a and 42 C.F.R. Sec. 43 et seq. The purpose of this exchange of information is to improve coordination and administration of benefits and ensure that medical insurance benefits are properly utilized.

(7) The authority shall target implementation of this section to those health insurers with the highest probability of joint beneficiaries. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 119; 2007 c 179 § 3; 2005 c 274 § 350; 1993 c 10 § 3.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Effective date—2007 c 179:** See note following RCW 74.09A.005.

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

**74.09A.030 Duties of health insurers—Providing information—Payments—Claims—Costs and fees.** Health insurers, as a condition of doing business in Washington, must:

(1) Provide, with respect to individuals who are eligible for, or are provided, medical assistance under chapter 74.09 RCW, upon the request of the authority, information to determine during what period the individual or their spouses or their dependants may be, or may have been, covered by a health insurer and the nature of coverage that is or was provided by the health insurer, including the name, address, and identifying number of the plan, in a manner prescribed by the authority;

(2) Accept the authority's right to recovery and the assignment to the authority of any right of an individual or other entity to payment from the party for an item or service for which payment has been made under chapter 74.09 RCW;

(3) Respond to any inquiry by the authority regarding a claim for payment for any health care item or service that is submitted not later than three years after the date of the provision of such health care item or service;

(4) Agree not to deny a claim submitted by the authority solely on the basis of the date of submission of the claim, the type or format of the claim form, or a failure to present proper documentation at the point-of-sale that is the basis of the claim, if:

(a) The claim is submitted by the authority within the three-year period beginning on the date the item or service was furnished; and

(b) Any action by the authority to enforce its rights with respect to such claim is commenced within six years of the authority's submission of such claim; and

(5) Agree that the prevailing party in any legal action to enforce this section receives reasonable attorneys' fees as well as related collection fees and costs incurred in the enforcement of this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 120; 2007 c 179 § 4.]

**Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15:** See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

**Effective date—2007 c 179:** See note following RCW 74.09A.005.

**74.09A.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 176.]

**Chapter 74.12 RCW**

**TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**  
(Formerly: Aid to families with dependent children)

Sections

- 74.12.010 Definitions.
- 74.12.030 Eligibility.
- 74.12.035 Additional eligibility requirements—Students—Exceptions.
- 74.12.037 Income eligibility.
- 74.12.240 Services provided to help attain maximum self-support and independence of parents and relatives.
- 74.12.250 Payment of grant to another—Limited guardianship.
- 74.12.255 Teen applicants' living situation—Criteria—Presumption—Protective payee—Adoption referral.
- 74.12.260 Persons to whom grants shall be made—Proof of use for benefit of children.
- 74.12.280 Rules for coordination of services.
- 74.12.290 Suitability of home—Evaluation.
- 74.12.300 Grant during period required to eliminate undesirable conditions.
- 74.12.310 Placement of child with other relatives.
- 74.12.320 Placement of child pursuant to chapter 13.04 RCW.
- 74.12.330 Assistance not to be denied for want of relative or court order.
- 74.12.340 Day care.
- 74.12.350 Child's income set aside for future needs—Irrevocable trusts—Educational accounts.
- 74.12.361 Supplemental security income program—Enrollment of disabled persons.
- 74.12.400 Reduce reliance on aid—Work and job training—Family planning—Staff training.
- 74.12.410 Family planning information—Cooperation with the superintendent of public instruction.
- 74.12.450 Application for assistance—Report on suspected child abuse or neglect—Notice to parent about application, location of child, and family reconciliation act.
- 74.12.460 Notice to parent—Required within seven days of approval of application.
- 74.12.900 Welfare reform implementation—1994 c 299.
- 74.12.901 Federal waivers and legislation—1994 c 299.

*Agencies for care of children, expectant mothers, individuals with developmental disabilities: Chapter 74.15 RCW.*

*Children and youth services: Chapter 72.05 RCW.*

*Enforcement of support of dependent children: Chapters 74.20 and 74.20A RCW.*

*Sale or gift of tobacco to minor is gross misdemeanor: RCW 26.28.080.*

*State schools for blind and deaf: Chapter 72.40 RCW.*

**74.12.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of the administration of temporary assistance for needy families, the term (2012 Ed.)

"dependent child" means any child in need under the age of eighteen years who is living with a relative as specified under federal temporary assistance for needy families program requirements, in a place of residence maintained by one or more of such relatives as his or their homes. The term a "dependent child" shall, notwithstanding the foregoing, also include a child who would meet such requirements except for his removal from the home of a relative specified above as a result of a judicial determination that continuation therein would be contrary to the welfare of such child, for whose placement and care the state department of social and health services or the county office is responsible, and who has been placed in a licensed or approved child care institution or foster home as a result of such determination and who: (1) Was receiving an aid to families with dependent children grant for the month in which court proceedings leading to such determination were initiated; or (2) would have received aid to families with dependent children for such month if application had been made therefor; or (3) in the case of a child who had been living with a specified relative within six months prior to the month in which such proceedings were initiated, would have received aid to families with dependent children for such month if in such month he had been living with such a relative and application had been made therefor, as authorized by the Social Security Act.

"Temporary assistance for needy families" means money payments, services, and remedial care with respect to a dependent child or dependent children and the needy parent or relative with whom the child lives. [1999 c 120 § 1; 1997 c 59 § 16; 1992 c 136 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 40; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 23; 1981 c 8 § 21; 1979 c 141 § 350; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 31 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 13; 1965 ex.s. c 37 § 1; 1963 c 228 § 18; 1961 c 265 § 1; 1959 c 26 § 74.12.010. Prior: 1957 c 63 § 10; 1953 c 174 § 24; 1941 c 242 § 1; 1937 c 114 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9992-101.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12.030 Eligibility.** In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements of RCW 74.08.025, as now or hereafter amended, an applicant for temporary assistance for needy families must be a needy child who is a resident of the state of Washington. [1997 c 59 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 169 § 6; 1963 c 228 § 19; 1959 c 26 § 74.12.030. Prior: 1953 c 174 § 23; 1941 c 242 § 2; 1937 c 114 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9992-104.]

**74.12.035 Additional eligibility requirements—Students—Exceptions.** (1) Children over eighteen years of age and under nineteen years of age who are full-time students reasonably expected to complete a program of secondary school, or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training, before reaching nineteen years of age are eligible to receive temporary assistance for needy families: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That if such students do not successfully complete such program before reaching nineteen years of age, the assistance rendered under this subsection during such period shall not be a debt due the state.

(2) Children with disabilities who are eighteen years of age and under twenty-one years of age and who are full-time students whose education is being provided in accordance

with RCW 28A.155.020 are eligible to receive temporary assistance for needy families benefits.

(3) The department is authorized to grant exceptions to the eligibility restrictions for children eighteen years of age and under twenty-one years of age under subsections (1) and (2) of this section only when it determines by reasonable, objective criteria that such exceptions are likely to enable the children to complete their high school education, general equivalency diploma or vocational education. [1999 c 120 § 2; 1997 c 59 § 18; 1985 c 335 § 1; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 3.]

*State consolidated standards of need: RCW 74.04.770.*

**74.12.037 Income eligibility.** The department shall adopt rules, effective November 1, 2011, establishing income eligibility for temporary assistance for needy families benefits for a child, other than a foster child, who lives with a caregiver other than his or her parents. The department shall establish a sliding scale benefit standard for a child when the income of the child's caregiver is above two hundred percent but below three hundred percent of the federal poverty level based on family size. A caregiver with an income above three hundred percent of the federal poverty level shall not be eligible for temporary assistance for needy families benefits for a child, not a foster child, who is residing with that caregiver. [2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**74.12.240 Services provided to help attain maximum self-support and independence of parents and relatives.** The department is authorized to provide such social and related services as are reasonably necessary to encourage the care of dependent children in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, to help maintain and strengthen family life and to help such parents or relatives to attain maximum self-support and personal independence consistent with the maintenance of continuing parental care and protection. In the provision of such services, maximum utilization of other agencies providing similar or related services shall be effected. [1959 c 26 § 74.12.240. Prior: 1957 c 63 § 8.]

**74.12.250 Payment of grant to another—Limited guardianship.** If the department, after investigation, finds that any applicant for assistance under this chapter or any recipient of funds under this chapter would not use, or is not utilizing, the grant adequately for the needs of his or her child or children or would dissipate the grant or is dissipating such grant, or would be or is unable to manage adequately the funds paid on behalf of said child and that to provide or continue payments to the applicant or recipient would be contrary to the welfare of the child, the department may make such payments to another individual who is interested in or concerned with the welfare of such child and relative: PROVIDED, That the department shall provide such counseling and other services as are available and necessary to develop greater ability on the part of the relative to manage funds in such manner as to protect the welfare of the family. Periodic review of each case shall be made by the department to determine if said relative is able to resume management of the assistance grant. If after a reasonable period of time the pay-

ments to the relative cannot be resumed, the department may request the attorney general to file a petition in the superior court for the appointment of a guardian for the child or children. Such petition shall set forth the facts warranting such appointment. Notice of the hearing on such petition shall be served upon the recipient and the department not less than ten days before the date set for such hearing. Such petition may be filed with the clerk of superior court and all process issued and served without payment of costs. If upon the hearing of such petition the court is satisfied that it is for the best interest of the child or children, and all parties concerned, that a guardian be appointed, he shall order the appointment, and may require the guardian to render to the court a detailed itemized account of expenditures of such assistance payments at such time as the court may deem advisable.

It is the intention of this section that the guardianship herein provided for shall be a special and limited guardianship solely for the purpose of safeguarding the assistance grants made to dependent children. Such guardianship shall terminate upon the termination of such assistance grant, or sooner on order of the court, upon good cause shown. [1997 c 58 § 506; 1963 c 228 § 21; 1961 c 206 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12.255 Teen applicants' living situation—Criteria—Presumption—Protective payee—Adoption referral.** (1) The department shall determine, after consideration of all relevant factors and in consultation with the applicant, the most appropriate living situation for applicants under eighteen years of age, unmarried, and either pregnant or having a dependent child or children in the applicant's care. An appropriate living situation shall include a place of residence that is maintained by the applicant's parents, parent, legal guardian, or other adult relative as their or his or her own home and that the department finds would provide an appropriate supportive living arrangement. It also includes a living situation maintained by an agency that is licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW that the department finds would provide an appropriate supportive living arrangement. Grant assistance shall not be provided under this chapter if the applicant does not reside in the most appropriate living situation, as determined by the department.

(2) An unmarried minor parent or pregnant minor applicant residing in the most appropriate living situation, as provided under subsection (1) of this section, is presumed to be unable to manage adequately the funds paid to the minor or on behalf of the dependent child or children and, unless the minor provides sufficient evidence to rebut the presumption, shall be subject to the protective payee requirements provided for under RCW 74.12.250 and 74.08.280.

(3) The department shall consider any statements or opinions by either parent of the unmarried minor parent or pregnant minor applicant as to an appropriate living situation for the minor and his or her children, whether in the parental home or other situation. If the parents or a parent of the minor request, they or he or she shall be entitled to a hearing in juvenile court regarding designation of the parental home or other relative placement as the most appropriate living situation for the pregnant or parenting minor.

The department shall provide the parents or parent with the opportunity to make a showing that the parental home, or

home of the other relative placement, is the most appropriate living situation. It shall be presumed in any administrative or judicial proceeding conducted under this subsection that the parental home or other relative placement requested by the parents or parent is the most appropriate living situation. This presumption is rebuttable.

(4) In cases in which the minor is unmarried and unemployed, the department shall, as part of the determination of the appropriate living situation, make an affirmative effort to provide current and positive information about adoption including referral to community-based organizations for counseling and provide information about the manner in which adoption works, its benefits for unmarried, unemployed minor parents and their children, and the meaning and availability of open adoption.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "most appropriate living situation" shall not include a living situation including an adult male who fathered the qualifying child and is found to meet the elements of rape of a child as set forth in RCW 9A.44.079. [1997 c 58 § 501; 1994 c 299 § 33.]

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

*Benefits for pregnant minors: RCW 74.04.0052.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12.260 Persons to whom grants shall be made—Proof of use for benefit of children.** Temporary assistance for needy families grants shall be made to persons specified in RCW 74.12.010 as amended or such others as the federal department of health, education and welfare shall recognize for the sole purposes of giving benefits to the children whose needs are included in the grant paid to such persons. The recipient of each temporary assistance for needy families grant shall be and hereby is required to present reasonable proof to the department of social and health services as often as may be required by the department that all funds received in the form of a temporary assistance for needy families grant for the children represented in the grant are being spent for the benefit of the children. [1997 c 59 § 21; 1979 c 141 § 351; 1963 c 228 § 22.]

**74.12.280 Rules for coordination of services.** The department is hereby authorized to adopt rules that will provide for coordination between the services provided pursuant to chapter 74.13 RCW and the services provided under the temporary assistance for needy families program in order to provide welfare and related services which will best promote the welfare of such children and their families and conform with the provisions of Public Law 87-543 (HR 10606). [1997 c 59 § 22; 1983 c 3 § 191; 1963 c 228 § 24.]

**74.12.290 Suitability of home—Evaluation.** The department of social and health services shall, during the initial and any subsequent determination of eligibility, evaluate the suitability of the home in which the dependent child lives, consideration to be given to physical care and supervision provided in the home; social, educational, and the moral atmosphere of the home as compared with the standards of the community; the child's physical and mental health and emotional security, special needs occasioned by the child's physical handicaps or illnesses, if any; the extent to which

desirable factors outweigh the undesirable in the home; and the apparent possibility for improving undesirable conditions in the home. [1979 c 141 § 352; 1963 c 228 § 25.]

**74.12.300 Grant during period required to eliminate undesirable conditions.** If the home in which the child lives is found to be unsuitable, but there is reason to believe that elimination of the undesirable conditions can be effected, and the child is otherwise eligible for aid, a grant shall be initiated or continued for such time as the state department of social and health services and the family require to remedy the conditions. [1979 c 141 § 353; 1963 c 228 § 26.]

**74.12.310 Placement of child with other relatives.** When intensive efforts over a reasonable period have failed to improve the home conditions, the department shall determine if any other relatives specified by the social security act are maintaining a suitable home and are willing to take the care and custody of the child in their home. Upon an affirmative finding the department shall, if the parents or relatives with whom the child is living consent, take the necessary steps for placement of the child with such other relatives, but if the parents or relatives with whom the child lives refuse their consent to the placement then the department shall file a petition in the juvenile court for a decree adjudging the home unsuitable and placing the dependent child with such other relatives. [1963 c 228 § 27.]

**74.12.320 Placement of child pursuant to chapter 13.04 RCW.** If a diligent search reveals no other relatives as specified in the social security act maintaining a suitable home and willing to take custody of the child, then the department may file a petition in the appropriate juvenile court for placement of the child pursuant to the provisions of chapter 13.04 RCW. [1963 c 228 § 28.]

**74.12.330 Assistance not to be denied for want of relative or court order.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter a child otherwise eligible for aid shall not be denied such assistance where a relative as specified in the social security act is unavailable or refuses to accept custody and the juvenile court fails to enter an order removing the child from the custody of the parent, relative or guardian then having custody. [1963 c 228 § 29.]

**74.12.340 Day care.** (1) The department is authorized to adopt rules governing the provision of day care as a part of child welfare services when the secretary determines that a need exists for such day care and that it is in the best interests of the child, the parents, or the custodial parent and in determining the need for such day care priority shall be given to geographical areas having the greatest need for such care and to members of low income groups in the population: PROVIDED, That where the family is financially able to pay part or all of the costs of such care, fees shall be imposed and paid according to the financial ability of the family.

(2) This section does not affect the authority of the department of early learning to adopt rules governing child day care and early learning programs. [2006 c 265 § 208; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 111; 1963 c 228 § 30.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—Severability—2006 c 265:** See RCW 43.215.904 through 43.215.906.

*Child welfare services: Chapter 74.13 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12.350 Child's income set aside for future needs—Irrevocable trusts—Educational accounts.** The department of social and health services is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations in conformity with the provisions of Public Law 87-543 to allow all or any portion of a dependent child's earned or other income to be set aside for the identifiable future needs of the dependent child which will make possible the realization of the child's maximum potential as an independent and useful citizen.

The transfer into, or accumulation of, a child's income or resources in an irrevocable trust account is hereby allowed. The amount allowable is four thousand dollars. The department will provide income assistance recipients with clear and simple information on how to set up educational accounts, including how to assure that the accounts comply with federal law by being adequately earmarked for future educational use, and are irrevocable. [1994 c 299 § 31; 1979 c 141 § 354; 1963 c 226 § 1.]

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

**74.12.361 Supplemental security income program—Enrollment of disabled persons.** The department shall actively develop mechanisms for the income assistance program, the medical assistance program, and the community services administration to facilitate the enrollment in the federal supplemental security income program of disabled persons currently part of assistance units receiving temporary assistance for needy families benefits. [1997 c 59 § 23; 1994 c 299 § 35.]

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

**74.12.400 Reduce reliance on aid—Work and job training—Family planning—Staff training.** The department shall train financial services and social work staff who provide direct service to recipients of temporary assistance for needy families to:

- (1) Effectively communicate the transitional nature of temporary assistance for needy families and the expectation that recipients will enter employment;
- (2) Actively refer clients to the job opportunities and basic skills program;
- (3) Provide social services needed to overcome obstacles to employability; and
- (4) Provide family planning information and assistance, including alternatives to abortion, which shall be conducted in consultation with the department of health. [1997 c 59 § 24; 1994 c 299 § 2.]

**Intent—1994 c 299:** "The legislature finds that lengthy stays on welfare, lack of access to vocational education and training, the inadequate emphasis on employment by the social welfare system, and teen pregnancy are obstacles to achieving economic independence. Therefore, the legislature intends that:

- (1) Income and employment assistance programs emphasize the temporary nature of welfare and set goals of responsibility, work, and independence;
- (2) State institutions take an active role in preventing pregnancy in

young teens;

(3) Family planning assistance be readily available to welfare recipients;

(4) Support enforcement be more effective and the level of responsibility of noncustodial parents be significantly increased; and

(5) Job search, job skills training, and vocational education resources are to be used in the most cost-effective manner possible." [1994 c 299 § 1.]

**Finding—1994 c 299:** "The legislature finds that the reliable receipt of child support payments by custodial parents is essential to maintaining economic self-sufficiency. It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that child support payments received by custodial parents when such support is owed are retained by those parents regardless of future claims made against such payments." [1994 c 299 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12.410 Family planning information—Cooperation with the superintendent of public instruction.** (1) At the time of application or reassessment under this chapter the department shall offer or contract for family planning information and assistance, including alternatives to abortion, and any other available locally based unintended pregnancy prevention programs, to prospective and current recipients of temporary assistance for needy families.

(2) The department shall work in cooperation with the superintendent of public instruction to reduce the rate of abortions and unintended pregnancies in Washington state. [2009 c 303 § 2; 1997 c 58 § 601; 1994 c 299 § 3.]

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12.450 Application for assistance—Report on suspected child abuse or neglect—Notice to parent about application, location of child, and family reconciliation act.** (1) Whenever the department receives an application for assistance on behalf of a child under this chapter and an employee of the department has reason to believe that the child has suffered abuse or neglect, the employee shall cause a report to be made as provided under chapter 26.44 RCW.

(2) Whenever the department approves an application for assistance on behalf of a child under this chapter, the department shall make a reasonable effort to determine whether the child is living with a parent of the child. Whenever the child is living in the home of a relative other than a parent of the child, the department shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent with whom the child has most recently resided that an application for assistance on behalf of the child has been approved by the department and shall advise the parent of his or her rights under this section, RCW 74.12.460, and \*sections 4 and 5 of this act, unless good cause exists not to do so based on a substantiated claim that the parent has abused or neglected the child.

(3) Upon written request of the parent, the department shall notify the parent of the address and location of the child, unless there is a current investigation or pending case involving abuse or neglect by the parent under chapter 13.34 RCW.

(4) The department shall notify and advise the parent of the provisions of the family reconciliation act under chapter 13.32A RCW. [1995 c 401 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Sections 4 and 5 of this act were vetoed by the governor.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12.460 Notice to parent—Required within seven days of approval of application.** The department shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent under RCW 74.12.450(2) as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than seven days after approval of the application by the department. [1995 c 401 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12.900 Welfare reform implementation—1994 c 299.** The revisions to the temporary assistance for needy families program and job opportunities and basic skills training program shall be implemented by the department of social and health services on a statewide basis. [1997 c 59 § 28; 1994 c 299 § 12.]

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

**74.12.901 Federal waivers and legislation—1994 c 299.** By October 1, 1994, the department shall request the governor to seek congressional action on any federal legislation that may be necessary to implement any sections of chapter 299, Laws of 1994. By October 1, 1994, the department shall request the governor to seek federal agency action on any federal regulation that may require a federal waiver. [1994 c 299 § 39.]

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

**Chapter 74.12A RCW  
INCENTIVE TO WORK—  
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE**

Sections

- 74.12A.020 Job support services—Grants to community action agencies or nonprofit organizations.
- 74.12A.030 Federal waiver—Governor to seek.

**74.12A.020 Job support services—Grants to community action agencies or nonprofit organizations.** The department shall provide grants to community action agencies or other local nonprofit organizations to provide job opportunities and basic skills training program participants with transitional support services, one-to-one assistance, case management, and job retention services. [1997 c 58 § 327; 1993 c 312 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 312:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Public assistance is intended to be a temporary financial relief program, recognizing that families can be confronted with a financial crisis at any time in life. Successful public assistance programs depend on the availability of adequate resources to assist individuals deemed eligible for the benefits of such a program. In this way, eligible families are given sufficient assistance to reenter productive employment in a minimal time period.

(2) The current public assistance system requires a reduction in grant standards when income is received. In most cases, family income is limited to levels substantially below the standard of need. This is a strong disincentive to work. To remove this disincentive, the legislature intends to allow families to retain a greater percentage of income before it results in the reduction or termination of benefits;

(3) Employment, training, and education services provided to employable recipients of public assistance are effective tools in achieving economic self-sufficiency. Support services that are targeted to the specific needs of the individual offer the best hope of achieving economic self-sufficiency in a cost-effective manner;

(4) State welfare-to-work programs, which move individuals from dependence to economic independence, must be operated cooperatively and collaboratively between state agencies and programs. They also must include

public assistance recipients as active partners in self-sufficiency planning activities. Participants in economic independence programs and services will benefit from the concepts of personal empowerment, self-motivation, and self-esteem;

(5) Many barriers to economic independence are found in federal statutes and rules, and provide states with limited options for restructuring existing programs in order to create incentives for employment over continued dependence;

(6) The legislature finds that the personal and societal costs of teenage childbearing are substantial. Teen parents are less likely to finish high school and more likely to depend upon public assistance than women who delay childbearing until adulthood; and

(7) The legislature intends that an effort be made to ensure that each teenage parent who is a public assistance recipient live in a setting that increases the likelihood that the teen parent will complete high school and achieve economic independence." [1993 c 312 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.12A.030 Federal waiver—Governor to seek.** By October 1, 1993, the department shall request the governor to seek congressional and federal agency action on any federal legislation or federal regulation that may be necessary to implement chapter 74.12A RCW and \*sections 3 and 4, chapter 312, Laws of 1993, and any other section of chapter 312, Laws of 1993 that may require a federal waiver. [1993 c 312 § 12.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Sections 3 and 4, chapter 312, Laws of 1993 failed to become law due to lack of specific funding.

**Findings—Intent—Emergency—1993 c 312:** See notes following RCW 74.12A.020.

**Chapter 74.13 RCW  
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES**

Sections

- 74.13.010 Declaration of purpose.
- 74.13.013 Finding—Accreditation of children's services.
- 74.13.017 Accreditation—Completion date.
- 74.13.020 Definitions.
- 74.13.021 Developmentally disabled child—Defined.
- 74.13.025 Counties may administer and provide services under RCW 13.32A.197—Plan for at-risk youth required.
- 74.13.029 Dependency established—Social worker's duty to provide document containing information.
- 74.13.031 Duties of department—Child welfare services—Children's services advisory committee.
- 74.13.0311 Services provided under deferred prosecution order.
- 74.13.032 Crisis residential centers—Establishment—Staff—Duties—Semi-secure facilities—Secure facilities.
- 74.13.0321 Secure facilities—Limit on reimbursement or compensation.
- 74.13.033 Crisis residential centers—Removal from—Services available—Unauthorized leave.
- 74.13.034 Crisis residential centers—Removal to another center or secure facility—Placement in secure juvenile detention facility.
- 74.13.035 Crisis residential centers—Annual records, contents—Multiple licensing.
- 74.13.036 Implementation of chapters 13.32A and 13.34 RCW.
- 74.13.037 Transitional living programs for youth in the process of being emancipated—Rules.
- 74.13.039 Runaway hot line.
- 74.13.042 Petition for order compelling disclosure of record or information.
- 74.13.045 Complaint resolution process.
- 74.13.055 Foster care—Length of stay—Cooperation with supervising agencies.
- 74.13.060 Secretary as custodian of funds of person placed with department or its agent—Authority—Limitations—Termination.
- 74.13.062 Eligible relatives appointed as guardians—Receipt and expenditure of federal funds—Implementation of subsidy program—Department to adopt rules—Relative guardianship subsidy agreements.
- 74.13.065 Out-of-home care—Social study required.
- 74.13.070 Moneys in possession of secretary not subject to certain proceedings.

- 74.13.075 Sexually aggressive youth—Defined—Services—Expenditure of treatment funds—Tribal jurisdiction—Information sharing and confidentiality.
- 74.13.077 Sexually aggressive youth—Transfer of surplus funds for treatment.
- 74.13.080 Group care placement—Prerequisites for payment.
- 74.13.096 Representation of children of color—Advisory committee.
- 74.13.105 Program of education coordination for dependent youth—Public-private partnership—Selection—Report.
- 74.13.107 Child and family reinvestment account—Methodology for calculating savings resulting from reductions in foster care caseloads and per capita costs.
- 74.13.670 Care provider immunity for allegation of failure to supervise a sexually reactive, physically assaultive, or physically aggressive youth—Conditions.
- 74.13.680 Foster care to twenty-one program—Termination.
- 74.13.900 Severability—1965 c 30.
- 74.13.901 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.
- 74.13.902 Construction—Religious or nonprofit organizations.

*Consistency required in administration of statutes applicable to runaway youth, at-risk youth, and families in conflict: RCW 43.20A.770.*

*Education of children in short-term foster care: RCW 28A.300.800 and 28A.630.005.*

#### ADOPTION SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1971

- 74.13.170 Therapeutic family home program for youth in custody under chapter 13.34 RCW.
- 74.13.232 Services to homeless families.

#### FOSTER CARE

- 74.13.250 Preservice training—Foster parents.
- 74.13.260 On-site monitoring program.
- 74.13.270 Respite care.
- 74.13.280 Client information.
- 74.13.283 Washington state identicards—Foster youth.
- 74.13.285 Passports—Information to be provided to foster parents.
- 74.13.287 Intent—Infant, foster family health.
- 74.13.288 Blood-borne pathogens—Testing.
- 74.13.289 Blood-borne pathogens—Client information—Training.
- 74.13.290 Fewest possible placements for children—Preferred placements.
- 74.13.300 Notification of proposed placement changes.
- 74.13.310 Foster parent training.
- 74.13.315 Child care for foster parents attending meetings or training.
- 74.13.320 Printing informational materials—Department's duty.
- 74.13.325 Foster care and adoptive home recruitment program.
- 74.13.330 Responsibilities of foster parents.
- 74.13.332 Rights of foster parents.
- 74.13.333 Rights of foster parents—Complaints—Investigation—Notice of any personnel action—Report.
- 74.13.334 Department and supervising agency's procedures to respond to foster parents' complaints.
- 74.13.335 Foster care—Reimbursement—Property damage.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- 74.13.350 Children with developmental disabilities—Out-of-home placement—Voluntary placement agreement.
- 74.13.360 Performance-based contracts—Child welfare demonstration sites—Department duties—Contracts with tribes.
- 74.13.362 Performance-based contracts—Legislative mandate.
- 74.13.364 Performance-based contracts—State authority—Selection of demonstration sites.
- 74.13.366 Performance-based contracts—Preference for qualifying private nonprofit entities.
- 74.13.368 Performance-based contracts—Child welfare transformation design committee.
- 74.13.370 Performance-based contracts—Washington state institute for public policy report.
- 74.13.372 Performance-based contracts—Determination of expansion of delivery of child welfare services by contractors—Governor's duty.
- 74.13.500 Disclosure of child welfare records—Factors—Exception.
- 74.13.505 Disclosure of child welfare records—Information to be disclosed.
- 74.13.510 Disclosure of child welfare records—Consideration of effects.
- 74.13.515 Disclosure of child welfare records—Fatalities.
- 74.13.520 Disclosure of child welfare records—Information not to be disclosed.
- 74.13.525 Disclosure of child welfare records—Immunity from liability.
- 74.13.530 Child placement—Conflict of interest.
- 74.13.540 Independent living services.
- 74.13.550 Child placement—Policy of educational continuity.
- 74.13.560 Educational continuity—Protocol development.
- 74.13.570 Oversight committee—Duties.
- 74.13.580 Educational stability during shelter care hearing—Protocol development.
- 74.13.590 Tasks to be performed based on available resources.
- 74.13.600 Kinship caregivers—Definition—Placement of children with kin a priority—Strategies.
- 74.13.621 Kinship care oversight committee.
- 74.13.640 Child fatality reviews.
- 74.13.650 Foster parent critical support and retention program.
- 74.13.660 Foster parent critical support and retention program—Availability, assessment, training, referral.

**74.13.010 Declaration of purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to safeguard, protect, and contribute to the welfare of the children of the state, through a comprehensive and coordinated program of child welfare services provided by both the department and supervising agencies providing for: Social services and facilities for children who require guidance, care, control, protection, treatment, or rehabilitation; setting of standards for social services and facilities for children; cooperation with public and voluntary agencies, organizations, and citizen groups in the development and coordination of programs and activities in behalf of children; and promotion of community conditions and resources that help parents to discharge their responsibilities for the care, development, and well-being of their children. [2009 c 520 § 49; 1965 c 30 § 2.]

**74.13.013 Finding—Accreditation of children's services.** The legislature finds that accreditation of children's services by an independent entity can significantly improve the quality of services provided to children and families. Accreditation involves an ongoing commitment to meeting nationally recognized standards of practice in child welfare and holds organizations accountable for achieving improved outcomes for children.

Accreditation is a structured process designed to facilitate organizational change and improvement within individual local offices. Standards require improved case management, documentation, internal case management practices, and accountability. Accreditation requires the establishment of clear communication with biological parents, foster and adoptive parents, providers, the courts, and members of the community. [2001 c 265 § 1.]

**74.13.017 Accreditation—Completion date.** The department shall undertake the process of accreditation with the goal of completion by July 2006. [2003 c 207 § 8; 2001 c 265 § 2.]

**74.13.020 Definitions. (Effective until December 1, 2013.)** For purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Case management" means convening family meetings, developing, revising, and monitoring implementation of any case plan or individual service and safety plan, coordinating and monitoring services needed by the child and family, caseworker-child visits, family visits, and the assumption of court-related duties, excluding legal representation, including preparing court reports, attending judicial hearings and permanency hearings, and ensuring that the child is progressing toward permanency within state and federal mandates, including the Indian child welfare act.

(2) "Child" means:

(a) A person less than eighteen years of age; or

(b) A person age eighteen to twenty-one years who is eligible to receive the extended foster care services authorized under RCW 74.13.031.

(3) "Child protective services" has the same meaning as in RCW 26.44.020.

(4) "Child welfare services" means social services including voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for, parental care and supervision for the purpose of:

(a) Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may result in families in conflict, or the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or criminal behavior of children;

(b) Protecting and caring for dependent, abused, or neglected children;

(c) Assisting children who are in conflict with their parents, and assisting parents who are in conflict with their children, with services designed to resolve such conflicts;

(d) Protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including the strengthening of their own homes where possible, or, where needed;

(e) Providing adequate care of children away from their homes in foster family homes or day care or other child care agencies or facilities.

"Child welfare services" does not include child protection services.

(5) "Committee" means the child welfare transformation design committee.

(6) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(7) "Extended foster care services" means residential and other support services the department is authorized to provide to foster children. These services include, but are not limited to, placement in licensed, relative, or otherwise approved care, or supervised independent living settings; assistance in meeting basic needs; independent living services; medical assistance; and counseling or treatment.

(8) "Measurable effects" means a statistically significant change which occurs as a result of the service or services a supervising agency is assigned in a performance-based contract, in time periods established in the contract.

(9) "Out-of-home care services" means services provided after the shelter care hearing to or for children in out-of-home care, as that term is defined in RCW 13.34.030, and their families, including the recruitment, training, and management of foster parents, the recruitment of adoptive families, and the facilitation of the adoption process, family reunification, independent living, emergency shelter, residential group care, and foster care, including relative placement.

(10) "Performance-based contracting" means the structuring of all aspects of the procurement of services around the purpose of the work to be performed and the desired results with the contract requirements set forth in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable outcomes. Contracts shall also include provisions that link the performance of the contractor to the level and timing of reimbursement.

(11) "Permanency services" means long-term services provided to secure a child's safety, permanency, and well-being, including foster care services, family reunification ser-

vices, adoption services, and preparation for independent living services.

(12) "Primary prevention services" means services which are designed and delivered for the primary purpose of enhancing child and family well-being and are shown, by analysis of outcomes, to reduce the risk to the likelihood of the initial need for child welfare services.

(13) "Supervising agency" means an agency licensed by the state under RCW 74.15.090, or licensed by a federally recognized Indian tribe located in this state under RCW 74.15.190, that has entered into a performance-based contract with the department to provide case management for the delivery and documentation of child welfare services, as defined in this section. This definition is applicable on or after December 30, 2015. [2012 c 205 § 12. Prior: 2011 c 330 § 4; 2010 c 291 § 3; prior: 2009 c 520 § 2; 2009 c 235 § 3; 1999 c 267 § 7; 1979 c 155 § 76; 1977 ex.s. c 291 § 21; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 71 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 66; 1965 c 30 § 3.]

**Intent—2011 c 330:** See note following RCW 13.04.011.

**Findings—2010 c 291:** See note following RCW 74.13.368.

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 235:** See note following RCW 74.13.031.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **74.13.020 Definitions. (Effective December 1, 2013.)**

For purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Case management" means convening family meetings, developing, revising, and monitoring implementation of any case plan or individual service and safety plan, coordinating and monitoring services needed by the child and family, caseworker-child visits, family visits, and the assumption of court-related duties, excluding legal representation, including preparing court reports, attending judicial hearings and permanency hearings, and ensuring that the child is progressing toward permanency within state and federal mandates, including the Indian child welfare act.

(2) "Child" means:

(a) A person less than eighteen years of age; or

(b) A person age eighteen to twenty-one years who is eligible to receive the extended foster care services authorized under RCW 74.13.031.

(3) "Child protective services" has the same meaning as in RCW 26.44.020.

(4) "Child welfare services" means social services including voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for, parental care and supervision for the purpose of:

(a) Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may result in families in conflict, or the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or criminal behavior of children;

(b) Protecting and caring for dependent, abused, or neglected children;

(c) Assisting children who are in conflict with their parents, and assisting parents who are in conflict with their children, with services designed to resolve such conflicts;

(d) Protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including the strengthening of their own homes where possible, or, where needed;

(e) Providing adequate care of children away from their homes in foster family homes or day care or other child care agencies or facilities.

"Child welfare services" does not include child protection services.

(5) "Committee" means the child welfare transformation design committee.

(6) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(7) "Extended foster care services" means residential and other support services the department is authorized to provide to foster children. These services include, but are not limited to, placement in licensed, relative, or otherwise approved care, or supervised independent living settings; assistance in meeting basic needs; independent living services; medical assistance; and counseling or treatment.

(8) "Family assessment" means a comprehensive assessment of child safety, risk of subsequent child abuse or neglect, and family strengths and needs that is applied to a child abuse or neglect report. Family assessment does not include a determination as to whether child abuse or neglect occurred, but does determine the need for services to address the safety of the child and the risk of subsequent maltreatment.

(9) "Measurable effects" means a statistically significant change which occurs as a result of the service or services a supervising agency is assigned in a performance-based contract, in time periods established in the contract.

(10) "Out-of-home care services" means services provided after the shelter care hearing to or for children in out-of-home care, as that term is defined in RCW 13.34.030, and their families, including the recruitment, training, and management of foster parents, the recruitment of adoptive families, and the facilitation of the adoption process, family reunification, independent living, emergency shelter, residential group care, and foster care, including relative placement.

(11) "Performance-based contracting" means the structuring of all aspects of the procurement of services around the purpose of the work to be performed and the desired results with the contract requirements set forth in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable outcomes. Contracts shall also include provisions that link the performance of the contractor to the level and timing of reimbursement.

(12) "Permanency services" means long-term services provided to secure a child's safety, permanency, and well-being, including foster care services, family reunification services, adoption services, and preparation for independent living services.

(13) "Primary prevention services" means services which are designed and delivered for the primary purpose of enhancing child and family well-being and are shown, by analysis of outcomes, to reduce the risk to the likelihood of the initial need for child welfare services.

(14) "Supervising agency" means an agency licensed by the state under RCW 74.15.090, or licensed by a federally recognized Indian tribe located in this state under RCW 74.15.190, that has entered into a performance-based contract with the department to provide case management for the delivery and documentation of child welfare services, as defined in this section. This definition is applicable on or after December 30, 2015. [2012 c 259 § 7; 2012 c 205 § 12.

Prior: 2011 c 330 § 4; 2010 c 291 § 3; prior: 2009 c 520 § 2; 2009 c 235 § 3; 1999 c 267 § 7; 1979 c 155 § 76; 1977 ex.s. c 291 § 21; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 71 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 66; 1965 c 30 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2012 c 205 § 12 and by 2012 c 259 § 7, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2012 c 259 §§ 1 and 3-10:** See note following RCW 26.44.020.

**Family assessment response evaluation—Family assessment response survey—2012 c 259:** See notes following RCW 26.44.260.

**Intent—2011 c 330:** See note following RCW 13.04.011.

**Findings—2010 c 291:** See note following RCW 74.13.368.

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 235:** See note following RCW 74.13.031.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **74.13.021 Developmentally disabled child—Defined.**

As used in this chapter, "developmentally disabled child" is a child who has a developmental disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020 and whose parent, guardian, or legal custodian and with the department mutually agree that services appropriate to the child's needs can not be provided in the home. [1998 c 229 § 3; 1997 c 386 § 15.]

**74.13.025 Counties may administer and provide services under RCW 13.32A.197—Plan for at-risk youth required.** Any county or group of counties may make application to the department of social and health services in the manner and form prescribed by the department to administer and provide the services established under RCW 13.32A.197. Any such application must include a plan or plans for providing such services to at-risk youth. [1998 c 296 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1998 c 296:** "The legislature finds it is often necessary for parents to obtain mental health or chemical dependency treatment for their minor children prior to the time the child's condition presents a likelihood of serious harm or the child becomes gravely disabled. The legislature finds that treatment of such conditions is not the equivalent of incarceration or detention, but is a legitimate act of parental discretion, when supported by decisions of credentialed professionals. The legislature finds that, consistent with *Parham v. J.R.*, 442 U.S. 584 (1979), state action is not involved in the determination of a parent and professional person to admit a minor child to treatment and finds this act provides sufficient independent review by the department of social and health services, as a neutral fact finder, to protect the interests of all parties. The legislature intends and recognizes that children affected by the provisions of this act are not children whose mental or substance abuse problems are adequately addressed by chapters 70.96A and 71.34 RCW. Therefore, the legislature finds it is necessary to provide parents a statutory process, other than the petition process provided in chapters 70.96A and 71.34 RCW, to obtain treatment for their minor children without the consent of the children.

The legislature finds that differing standards of admission and review in parent-initiated mental health and chemical dependency treatment for their minor children are necessary and the admission standards and procedures under state involuntary treatment procedures are not adequate to provide safeguards for the safety and well-being of all children. The legislature finds the timeline for admission and reviews under existing law do not provide sufficient opportunities for assessment of the mental health and chemically dependent status of every minor child and that additional time and different standards will facilitate the likelihood of successful treatment of children who are in need of assistance but unwilling to obtain it voluntarily. The legislature finds there are children whose behavior presents a clear need of medical treatment but is not so extreme as to require immediate state intervention under the state involuntary treatment procedures." [1998 c 296 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.029 Dependency established—Social worker's duty to provide document containing information.** Once a dependency is established under chapter 13.34 RCW, the department employee assigned to the case shall provide the dependent child age twelve years and older with a document containing the information described in \*RCW 74.13.031(16). The department employee shall explain the contents of the document to the child and direct the child to the department's web site for further information. The department employee shall document, in the electronic data system, that this requirement was met. [2011 c 89 § 17; 2009 c 491 § 8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.031 was amended twice during the 2011 regular session and the two versions could not be merged. The reference is correct for the 2011 c 160 version, but subsection (16) was renumbered as subsection (15) in 2011 c 330 § 5. RCW 74.13.031 was subsequently amended by 2012 c 259 § 8, changing subsection (16) to subsection (17), effective December 1, 2013.

**Effective date—2011 c 89:** See note following RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—2011 c 89:** See RCW 18.320.005.

**74.13.031 Duties of department—Child welfare services—Children's services advisory committee. (Effective until December 1, 2013.)** (1) The department and supervising agencies shall develop, administer, supervise, and monitor a coordinated and comprehensive plan that establishes, aids, and strengthens services for the protection and care of runaway, dependent, or neglected children.

(2) Within available resources, the department and supervising agencies shall recruit an adequate number of prospective adoptive and foster homes, both regular and specialized, i.e. homes for children of ethnic minority, including Indian homes for Indian children, sibling groups, handicapped and emotionally disturbed, teens, pregnant and parenting teens, and the department shall annually report to the governor and the legislature concerning the department's and supervising agency's success in: (a) Meeting the need for adoptive and foster home placements; (b) reducing the foster parent turnover rate; (c) completing home studies for legally free children; and (d) implementing and operating the passport program required by RCW 74.13.285. The report shall include a section entitled "Foster Home Turn-Over, Causes and Recommendations."

(3) The department shall investigate complaints of any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, or sexual abuse or exploitation, or that presents an imminent risk of serious harm, and on the basis of the findings of such investigation, offer child welfare services in relation to the problem to such parents, legal custodians, or persons serving in loco parentis, and/or bring the situation to the attention of an appropriate court, or another community agency. An investigation is not required of nonaccidental injuries which are clearly not the result of a lack of care or supervision by the child's parents, legal custodians, or persons serving in loco parentis. If the investigation reveals that a crime against a child may have been committed, the department shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(4) The department or supervising agencies shall offer, on a voluntary basis, family reconciliation services to families who are in conflict.

(5) The department or supervising agencies shall monitor placements of children in out-of-home care and in-home dependencies to assure the safety, well-being, and quality of care being provided is within the scope of the intent of the legislature as defined in RCW 74.13.010 and 74.15.010. Under this section children in out-of-home care and in-home dependencies and their caregivers shall receive a private and individual face-to-face visit each month. The department and the supervising agencies shall randomly select no less than ten percent of the caregivers currently providing care to receive one unannounced face-to-face visit in the caregiver's home per year. No caregiver will receive an unannounced visit through the random selection process for two consecutive years. If the caseworker makes a good faith effort to conduct the unannounced visit to a caregiver and is unable to do so, that month's visit to that caregiver need not be unannounced. The department and supervising agencies are encouraged to group monthly visits to caregivers by geographic area so that in the event an unannounced visit cannot be completed, the caseworker may complete other required monthly visits. The department shall use a method of random selection that does not cause a fiscal impact to the department.

The department or supervising agencies shall conduct the monthly visits with children and caregivers to whom it is providing child welfare services.

(6) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority to accept custody of children from parents and to accept custody of children from juvenile courts, where authorized to do so under law, to provide child welfare services including placement for adoption, to provide for the routine and necessary medical, dental, and mental health care, or necessary emergency care of the children, and to provide for the physical care of such children and make payment of maintenance costs if needed. Except where required by Public Law 95-608 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915), no private adoption agency which receives children for adoption from the department shall discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or color when considering applications in their placement for adoption.

(7) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to provide temporary shelter to children who have run away from home and who are admitted to crisis residential centers.

(8) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to purchase care for children.

(9) The department shall establish a children's services advisory committee with sufficient members representing supervising agencies which shall assist the secretary in the development of a partnership plan for utilizing resources of the public and private sectors, and advise on all matters pertaining to child welfare, licensing of child care agencies, adoption, and services related thereto. At least one member shall represent the adoption community.

(10) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority to provide continued extended foster care services to youth ages eighteen to twenty-one years to participate in or complete a secondary education program or a secondary education equivalency program, or a postsecondary academic or postsecondary vocational education program. The department shall develop and implement rules regarding youth eligibility requirements.

(11) The department shall have authority to provide adoption support benefits, or relative guardianship subsidies on behalf of youth ages eighteen to twenty-one years who achieved permanency through adoption or a relative guardianship at age sixteen or older and who meet the criteria described in subsection (10) of this section.

(12) The department shall refer cases to the division of child support whenever state or federal funds are expended for the care and maintenance of a child, including a child with a developmental disability who is placed as a result of an action under chapter 13.34 RCW, unless the department finds that there is good cause not to pursue collection of child support against the parent or parents of the child. Cases involving individuals age eighteen through twenty shall not be referred to the division of child support unless required by federal law.

(13) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority within funds appropriated for foster care services to purchase care for Indian children who are in the custody of a federally recognized Indian tribe or tribally licensed child-placing agency pursuant to parental consent, tribal court order, or state juvenile court order; and the purchase of such care shall be subject to the same eligibility standards and rates of support applicable to other children for whom the department purchases care.

Notwithstanding any other provision of RCW 13.32A.170 through 13.32A.200 and 74.13.032 through 74.13.036, or of this section all services to be provided by the department under subsections (4), (6), and (7) of this section, subject to the limitations of these subsections, may be provided by any program offering such services funded pursuant to Titles II and III of the federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act of 1974.

(14) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the supervising agency or department shall provide preventive services to families with children that prevent or shorten the duration of an out-of-home placement.

(15) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority to provide independent living services to youths, including individuals who have attained eighteen years of age, and have not attained twenty-one years of age who are or have been in foster care.

(16) The department and supervising agencies shall consult at least quarterly with foster parents, including members of the foster parent association of Washington state, for the purpose of receiving information and comment regarding how the department and supervising agencies are performing the duties and meeting the obligations specified in this section and RCW 74.13.250 and 74.13.320 regarding the recruitment of foster homes, reducing foster parent turnover rates, providing effective training for foster parents, and administering a coordinated and comprehensive plan that strengthens services for the protection of children. Consultation shall occur at the regional and statewide levels.

(17)(a) The department shall, within current funding levels, place on its public web site a document listing the duties and responsibilities the department has to a child subject to a dependency petition including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) Reasonable efforts, including the provision of services, toward reunification of the child with his or her family;

(ii) Sibling visits subject to the restrictions in RCW 13.34.136(2)(b)(ii);

(iii) Parent-child visits;

(iv) Statutory preference for placement with a relative or other suitable person, if appropriate; and

(v) Statutory preference for an out-of-home placement that allows the child to remain in the same school or school district, if practical and in the child's best interests.

(b) The document must be prepared in conjunction with a community-based organization and must be updated as needed. [2012 c 52 § 2. Prior: 2011 c 330 § 5; 2011 c 160 § 2; prior: 2009 c 520 § 51; 2009 c 491 § 7; (2009 c 235 § 4 expired October 1, 2010); 2009 c 235 § 2; 2008 c 267 § 6; 2007 c 413 § 10; prior: 2006 c 266 § 1; 2006 c 221 § 3; 2004 c 183 § 3; 2001 c 192 § 1; 1999 c 267 § 8; 1998 c 314 § 10; prior: 1997 c 386 § 32; 1997 c 272 § 1; 1995 c 191 § 1; 1990 c 146 § 9; prior: 1987 c 505 § 69; 1987 c 170 § 10; 1983 c 246 § 4; 1982 c 118 § 3; 1981 c 298 § 16; 1979 ex.s. c 165 § 22; 1979 c 155 § 77; 1977 ex.s. c 291 § 22; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 71 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 101 § 2; 1967 c 172 § 17.]

**Intent—2012 c 52:** "Since 2006, under a program known as "foster care to 21," the Washington state legislature has provided services to young adults transitioning out of foster care in order for them to enroll in and complete their postsecondary educations. In 2008, the United States congress passed the fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008, which allows states to receive a federal match for state dollars expended in supporting youth transitioning out of foster care. In 2011, the Washington state legislature opted to create the "extended foster care program," in order to receive the federal match for youth completing high school. It is the intent of this act to enable the state to receive the federal match to offset costs expended on supporting youth seeking postsecondary education. This act would result in these youth being served under the extended foster care program, for which there is a federal match, instead of the foster care to 21 program, which relies solely on state dollars. It is the intent of the legislature to allow all youth currently enrolled in the foster care to 21 program for the purposes of postsecondary education to remain enrolled until they turn twenty-one, are no longer otherwise eligible, or choose to leave the program. Within three years of June 7, 2012, the "foster care to 21" program will cease to operate, and youth seeking a postsecondary education will be solely served by the extended foster care program." [2012 c 52 § 1.]

**Intent—2011 c 330:** See note following RCW 13.04.011.

**Findings—2011 c 160:** "The legislature finds that foster parents are a critical piece of the dependency system. The legislature further finds that the majority of foster parents provide excellent care to children in the dependency system, many of whom have suffered serious damage in their families of origin. It is the legislature's belief that through the selfless dedication of many foster parents that abused and neglected children are able to heal and go on to lead productive lives. The legislature also believes that some foster parents act in ways that are damaging to the children in their care and it is the department of social and health services' responsibility to make sure all children in care are safe. The legislature finds that unannounced visits to caregivers' homes is another method by which the department of social and health services can make sure the children in foster care are safe." [2011 c 160 § 1.]

**Effective date—2009 c 235 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act takes effect October 1, 2010." [2009 c 235 § 7.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 235 § 4:** "Section 4 of this act expires October 1, 2010." [2009 c 235 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 235:** "(1) The legislature finds that the federal fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008 provides important new opportunities for the state to use federal funding to promote permanency and positive outcomes for youth in foster care and for those who age out of the foster care system.

(2) The legislature also finds that research regarding former foster youth is generally sobering. Longitudinal research on the adult functioning of former foster youth indicates a disproportionate likelihood that youth aging out of foster care and those who spent several years in care will experience poor outcomes in a variety of areas, including limited human capital

upon which to build economic security; untreated mental or behavioral health problems; involvement in the criminal justice and corrections systems; and early parenthood combined with second-generation child welfare involvement. The legislature further finds that research also demonstrates that access to adequate and appropriate supports during the period of transition from foster care to independence can have significant positive impacts on adult functioning and can improve outcomes relating to educational attainment and postsecondary enrollment; employment and earnings; and reduced rates of teen pregnancies.

(3) The legislature intends to clarify existing authority for foster care services beyond age eighteen and to establish authority for future expansion of housing and other supports for youth aging out of foster care and youth who achieved permanency in later adolescence." [2009 c 235 § 1.]

**Effective date—2008 c 267 § 6:** "Section 6 of this act takes effect December 31, 2008." [2008 c 267 § 14.]

**Severability—2007 c 413:** See note following RCW 13.34.215.

**Construction—2006 c 266:** "Nothing in this act shall be construed to create:

(1) An entitlement to services;

(2) Judicial authority to extend the jurisdiction of juvenile court in a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW to a youth who has attained eighteen years of age or to order the provision of services to the youth; or

(3) A private right of action or claim on the part of any individual, entity, or agency against the department of social and health services or any contractor of the department." [2006 c 266 § 2.]

**Adoption of rules—2006 c 266:** "The department of social and health services is authorized to adopt rules establishing eligibility for independent living services and placement for youths under this act." [2006 c 266 § 3.]

**Study and report—2006 c 266:** "(1) Beginning in July 2008 and subject to the approval of its governing board, the Washington state institute for public policy shall conduct a study measuring the outcomes for foster youth who have received continued support pursuant to RCW 74.13.031(10). The study should include measurements of any savings to the state and local government. The institute shall issue a report containing its preliminary findings to the legislature by December 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009.

(2) The institute is authorized to accept nonstate funds to conduct the study required in subsection (1) of this section." [2006 c 266 § 4.]

**Finding—2006 c 221:** See note following RCW 13.34.315.

**Effective date—2004 c 183:** See note following RCW 13.34.160.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**Declaration of purpose—1967 c 172:** See RCW 74.15.010.

*Abuse of child: Chapter 26.44 RCW.*

*Licensing of agencies caring for or placing children, expectant mothers, and individuals with developmental disabilities: Chapter 74.15 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.031 Duties of department—Child welfare services—Children's services advisory committee. (Effective December 1, 2013.)** (1) The department and supervising agencies shall develop, administer, supervise, and monitor a coordinated and comprehensive plan that establishes, aids, and strengthens services for the protection and care of runaway, dependent, or neglected children.

(2) Within available resources, the department and supervising agencies shall recruit an adequate number of prospective adoptive and foster homes, both regular and specialized, i.e. homes for children of ethnic minority, including Indian homes for Indian children, sibling groups, handicapped and emotionally disturbed, teens, pregnant and parenting teens, and the department shall annually report to the governor and the legislature concerning the department's and supervising agency's success in: (a) Meeting the need for adoptive and foster home placements; (b) reducing the foster parent turnover rate; (c) completing home studies for legally free children; and (d) implementing and operating the

(2012 Ed.)

passport program required by RCW 74.13.285. The report shall include a section entitled "Foster Home Turn-Over, Causes and Recommendations."

(3) The department shall investigate complaints of any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, or sexual abuse or exploitation, or that presents an imminent risk of serious harm, and on the basis of the findings of such investigation, offer child welfare services in relation to the problem to such parents, legal custodians, or persons serving in loco parentis, and/or bring the situation to the attention of an appropriate court, or another community agency. An investigation is not required of nonaccidental injuries which are clearly not the result of a lack of care or supervision by the child's parents, legal custodians, or persons serving in loco parentis. If the investigation reveals that a crime against a child may have been committed, the department shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(4) As provided in RCW 26.44.030(11), the department may respond to a report of child abuse or neglect by using the family assessment response.

(5) The department or supervising agencies shall offer, on a voluntary basis, family reconciliation services to families who are in conflict.

(6) The department or supervising agencies shall monitor placements of children in out-of-home care and in-home dependencies to assure the safety, well-being, and quality of care being provided is within the scope of the intent of the legislature as defined in RCW 74.13.010 and 74.15.010. Under this section children in out-of-home care and in-home dependencies and their caregivers shall receive a private and individual face-to-face visit each month. The department and the supervising agencies shall randomly select no less than ten percent of the caregivers currently providing care to receive one unannounced face-to-face visit in the caregiver's home per year. No caregiver will receive an unannounced visit through the random selection process for two consecutive years. If the caseworker makes a good faith effort to conduct the unannounced visit to a caregiver and is unable to do so, that month's visit to that caregiver need not be unannounced. The department and supervising agencies are encouraged to group monthly visits to caregivers by geographic area so that in the event an unannounced visit cannot be completed, the caseworker may complete other required monthly visits. The department shall use a method of random selection that does not cause a fiscal impact to the department.

The department or supervising agencies shall conduct the monthly visits with children and caregivers to whom it is providing child welfare services.

(7) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority to accept custody of children from parents and to accept custody of children from juvenile courts, where authorized to do so under law, to provide child welfare services including placement for adoption, to provide for the routine and necessary medical, dental, and mental health care, or necessary emergency care of the children, and to provide for the physical care of such children and make payment of maintenance costs if needed. Except where required by Public Law 95-608 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915), no private adoption agency which receives children for adoption from the department

shall discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or color when considering applications in their placement for adoption.

(8) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to provide temporary shelter to children who have run away from home and who are admitted to crisis residential centers.

(9) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to purchase care for children.

(10) The department shall establish a children's services advisory committee with sufficient members representing supervising agencies which shall assist the secretary in the development of a partnership plan for utilizing resources of the public and private sectors, and advise on all matters pertaining to child welfare, licensing of child care agencies, adoption, and services related thereto. At least one member shall represent the adoption community.

(11) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority to provide continued extended foster care services to youth ages eighteen to twenty-one years to participate in or complete a secondary education program or a secondary education equivalency program, or a postsecondary academic or postsecondary vocational education program. The department shall develop and implement rules regarding youth eligibility requirements.

(12) The department shall have authority to provide adoption support benefits, or relative guardianship subsidies on behalf of youth ages eighteen to twenty-one years who achieved permanency through adoption or a relative guardianship at age sixteen or older and who meet the criteria described in subsection (11) of this section.

(13) The department shall refer cases to the division of child support whenever state or federal funds are expended for the care and maintenance of a child, including a child with a developmental disability who is placed as a result of an action under chapter 13.34 RCW, unless the department finds that there is good cause not to pursue collection of child support against the parent or parents of the child. Cases involving individuals age eighteen through twenty shall not be referred to the division of child support unless required by federal law.

(14) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority within funds appropriated for foster care services to purchase care for Indian children who are in the custody of a federally recognized Indian tribe or tribally licensed child-placing agency pursuant to parental consent, tribal court order, or state juvenile court order; and the purchase of such care shall be subject to the same eligibility standards and rates of support applicable to other children for whom the department purchases care.

Notwithstanding any other provision of RCW 13.32A.170 through 13.32A.200 and 74.13.032 through 74.13.036, or of this section all services to be provided by the department under subsections (4), (7), and (8) of this section, subject to the limitations of these subsections, may be provided by any program offering such services funded pursuant to Titles II and III of the federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act of 1974.

(15) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the supervising agency or department shall provide preventive services to families with children that prevent or shorten the duration of an out-of-home placement.

(16) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority to provide independent living services to youths, including individuals who have attained eighteen years of age, and have not attained twenty-one years of age who are or have been in foster care.

(17) The department and supervising agencies shall consult at least quarterly with foster parents, including members of the foster parent association of Washington state, for the purpose of receiving information and comment regarding how the department and supervising agencies are performing the duties and meeting the obligations specified in this section and RCW 74.13.250 and 74.13.320 regarding the recruitment of foster homes, reducing foster parent turnover rates, providing effective training for foster parents, and administering a coordinated and comprehensive plan that strengthens services for the protection of children. Consultation shall occur at the regional and statewide levels.

(18)(a) The department shall, within current funding levels, place on its public web site a document listing the duties and responsibilities the department has to a child subject to a dependency petition including, but not limited to, the following:

- (i) Reasonable efforts, including the provision of services, toward reunification of the child with his or her family;
- (ii) Sibling visits subject to the restrictions in RCW 13.34.136(2)(b)(ii);
- (iii) Parent-child visits;
- (iv) Statutory preference for placement with a relative or other suitable person, if appropriate; and
- (v) Statutory preference for an out-of-home placement that allows the child to remain in the same school or school district, if practical and in the child's best interests.

(b) The document must be prepared in conjunction with a community-based organization and must be updated as needed. [2012 c 259 § 8; 2012 c 52 § 2. Prior: 2011 c 330 § 5; 2011 c 160 § 2; prior: 2009 c 520 § 51; 2009 c 491 § 7; (2009 c 235 § 4 expired October 1, 2010); 2009 c 235 § 2; 2008 c 267 § 6; 2007 c 413 § 10; prior: 2006 c 266 § 1; 2006 c 221 § 3; 2004 c 183 § 3; 2001 c 192 § 1; 1999 c 267 § 8; 1998 c 314 § 10; prior: 1997 c 386 § 32; 1997 c 272 § 1; 1995 c 191 § 1; 1990 c 146 § 9; prior: 1987 c 505 § 69; 1987 c 170 § 10; 1983 c 246 § 4; 1982 c 118 § 3; 1981 c 298 § 16; 1979 ex.s. c 165 § 22; 1979 c 155 § 77; 1977 ex.s. c 291 § 22; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 71 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 101 § 2; 1967 c 172 § 17.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2012 c 52 § 2 and by 2012 c 259 § 8, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2012 c 259 §§ 1 and 3-10:** See note following RCW 26.44.020.

**Family assessment response evaluation—Family assessment response survey—2012 c 259:** See notes following RCW 26.44.260.

**Intent—2012 c 52:** "Since 2006, under a program known as "foster care to 21," the Washington state legislature has provided services to young adults transitioning out of foster care in order for them to enroll in and complete their postsecondary educations. In 2008, the United States congress passed the fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008, which allows states to receive a federal match for state dollars expended in supporting youth transitioning out of foster care. In 2011, the Washington state legislature opted to create the "extended foster care program," in order to receive the federal match for youth completing high school. It is the intent of this act to enable the state to receive the federal

match to offset costs expended on supporting youth seeking postsecondary education. This act would result in these youth being served under the extended foster care program, for which there is a federal match, instead of the foster care to 21 program, which relies solely on state dollars. It is the intent of the legislature to allow all youth currently enrolled in the foster care to 21 program for the purposes of postsecondary education to remain enrolled until they turn twenty-one, are no longer otherwise eligible, or choose to leave the program. Within three years of June 7, 2012, the "foster care to 21" program will cease to operate, and youth seeking a postsecondary education will be solely served by the extended foster care program." [2012 c 52 § 1.]

**Intent—2011 c 330:** See note following RCW 13.04.011.

**Findings—2011 c 160:** "The legislature finds that foster parents are a critical piece of the dependency system. The legislature further finds that the majority of foster parents provide excellent care to children in the dependency system, many of whom have suffered serious damage in their families of origin. It is the legislature's belief that through the selfless dedication of many foster parents that abused and neglected children are able to heal and go on to lead productive lives. The legislature also believes that some foster parents act in ways that are damaging to the children in their care and it is the department of social and health services' responsibility to make sure all children in care are safe. The legislature finds that unannounced visits to caregivers' homes is another method by which the department of social and health services can make sure the children in foster care are safe." [2011 c 160 § 1.]

**Effective date—2009 c 235 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act takes effect October 1, 2010." [2009 c 235 § 7.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 235 § 4:** "Section 4 of this act expires October 1, 2010." [2009 c 235 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 235:** "(1) The legislature finds that the federal fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008 provides important new opportunities for the state to use federal funding to promote permanency and positive outcomes for youth in foster care and for those who age out of the foster care system.

(2) The legislature also finds that research regarding former foster youth is generally sobering. Longitudinal research on the adult functioning of former foster youth indicates a disproportionate likelihood that youth aging out of foster care and those who spent several years in care will experience poor outcomes in a variety of areas, including limited human capital upon which to build economic security; untreated mental or behavioral health problems; involvement in the criminal justice and corrections systems; and early parenthood combined with second-generation child welfare involvement. The legislature further finds that research also demonstrates that access to adequate and appropriate supports during the period of transition from foster care to independence can have significant positive impacts on adult functioning and can improve outcomes relating to educational attainment and postsecondary enrollment; employment and earnings; and reduced rates of teen pregnancies.

(3) The legislature intends to clarify existing authority for foster care services beyond age eighteen and to establish authority for future expansion of housing and other supports for youth aging out of foster care and youth who achieved permanency in later adolescence." [2009 c 235 § 1.]

**Effective date—2008 c 267 § 6:** "Section 6 of this act takes effect December 31, 2008." [2008 c 267 § 14.]

**Severability—2007 c 413:** See note following RCW 13.34.215.

**Construction—2006 c 266:** "Nothing in this act shall be construed to create:

(1) An entitlement to services;

(2) Judicial authority to extend the jurisdiction of juvenile court in a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW to a youth who has attained eighteen years of age or to order the provision of services to the youth; or

(3) A private right of action or claim on the part of any individual, entity, or agency against the department of social and health services or any contractor of the department." [2006 c 266 § 2.]

**Adoption of rules—2006 c 266:** "The department of social and health services is authorized to adopt rules establishing eligibility for independent living services and placement for youths under this act." [2006 c 266 § 3.]

**Study and report—2006 c 266:** "(1) Beginning in July 2008 and subject to the approval of its governing board, the Washington state institute for public policy shall conduct a study measuring the outcomes for foster youth who have received continued support pursuant to RCW 74.13.031(10). The study should include measurements of any savings to the state and local government. The institute shall issue a report containing its preliminary findings

(2012 Ed.)

to the legislature by December 1, 2008, and a final report by December 1, 2009.

(2) The institute is authorized to accept nonstate funds to conduct the study required in subsection (1) of this section." [2006 c 266 § 4.]

**Finding—2006 c 221:** See note following RCW 13.34.315.

**Effective date—2004 c 183:** See note following RCW 13.34.160.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**Declaration of purpose—1967 c 172:** See RCW 74.15.010.

*Abuse of child: Chapter 26.44 RCW.*

*Licensing of agencies caring for or placing children, expectant mothers, and individuals with developmental disabilities: Chapter 74.15 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.0311 Services provided under deferred prosecution order.** The department or supervising agencies may provide child welfare services pursuant to a deferred prosecution plan ordered under chapter 10.05 RCW. Child welfare services provided under this chapter pursuant to a deferred prosecution order may not be construed to prohibit the department or supervising agencies from providing services or undertaking proceedings pursuant to chapter 13.34 or 26.44 RCW. [2009 c 520 § 52; 2002 c 219 § 13.]

**Intent—Finding—2002 c 219:** See note following RCW 9A.42.037.

**74.13.032 Crisis residential centers—Establishment—Staff—Duties—Semi-secure facilities—Secure facilities.** (1) The department shall establish, through performance-based contracts with private or public vendors, regional crisis residential centers with semi-secure facilities. These facilities shall be structured group care facilities licensed under rules adopted by the department and shall have an average of at least four adult staff members and in no event less than three adult staff members to every eight children.

(2) Within available funds appropriated for this purpose, the department shall establish, through performance-based contracts with private or public vendors, regional crisis residential centers with secure facilities. These facilities shall be facilities licensed under rules adopted by the department. These centers may also include semi-secure facilities and to such extent shall be subject to subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The department shall, in addition to the facilities established under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, establish additional crisis residential centers pursuant to performance-based contracts with licensed private group care facilities.

(4) The department is authorized to allow contracting entities to include a combination of secure or semi-secure crisis residential centers as defined in RCW 13.32A.030 and/or HOPE centers pursuant to RCW 74.15.220 in the same building or structure. The department shall permit the colocation of these centers only if the entity operating the facility agrees to designate a particular number of beds to each type of center that is located within the building or structure.

(5) The staff at the facilities established under this section shall be trained so that they may effectively counsel juveniles admitted to the centers, provide treatment, supervision, and structure to the juveniles that recognize the need for support and the varying circumstances that cause children to leave their families, and carry out the responsibilities stated

in RCW 13.32A.090. The responsibilities stated in RCW 13.32A.090 may, in any of the centers, be carried out by the department.

(6) The secure facilities located within crisis residential centers shall be operated to conform with the definition in RCW 13.32A.030. The facilities shall have an average of no less than one adult staff member to every ten children. The staffing ratio shall continue to ensure the safety of the children.

(7) If a secure crisis residential center is located in or adjacent to a secure juvenile detention facility, the center shall be operated in a manner that prevents in-person contact between the residents of the center and the persons held in such facility. [2011 c 240 § 1; 2009 c 520 § 53; 1998 c 296 § 4; 1995 c 312 § 60; 1979 c 155 § 78.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296:** See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.0321 Secure facilities—Limit on reimbursement or compensation.** No contract may provide reimbursement or compensation to:

(1) A secure facility located in a juvenile detention center for any service delivered or provided to a resident child after five consecutive days of residence; or

(2) A secure facility not located in a juvenile detention center or a semi-secure crisis residential center facility for any service delivered or provided to a resident child after fifteen consecutive days of residence. [2009 c 569 § 2; 1995 c 312 § 61.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.033 Crisis residential centers—Removal from—Services available—Unauthorized leave.** (1) If a resident of a crisis residential center becomes by his or her behavior disruptive to the facility's program, such resident may be immediately removed to a separate area within the facility and counseled on an individual basis until such time as the child regains his or her composure. The department may set rules and regulations establishing additional procedures for dealing with severely disruptive children on the premises.

(2) When the juvenile resides in this facility, all services deemed necessary to the juvenile's reentry to normal family life shall be made available to the juvenile as required by chapter 13.32A RCW. In assessing the child and providing these services, the facility staff shall:

(a) Interview the juvenile as soon as possible;

(b) Contact the juvenile's parents and arrange for a counseling interview with the juvenile and his or her parents as soon as possible;

(c) Conduct counseling interviews with the juvenile and his or her parents, to the end that resolution of the child/parent conflict is attained and the child is returned home as soon as possible;

(d) Provide additional crisis counseling as needed, to the end that placement of the child in the crisis residential center will be required for the shortest time possible, but not to exceed fifteen consecutive days; and

(e) Convene, when appropriate, a multidisciplinary team.

(3) Based on the assessments done under subsection (2) of this section the center staff may refer any child who, as the result of a mental or emotional disorder, or intoxication by alcohol or other drugs, is suicidal, seriously assaultive, or seriously destructive toward others, or otherwise similarly evidences an immediate need for emergency medical evaluation and possible care, for evaluation pursuant to chapter 71.34 RCW, to a mental health professional pursuant to chapter 71.05 RCW, or to a chemical dependency specialist pursuant to chapter 70.96A RCW whenever such action is deemed appropriate and consistent with law.

(4) A juvenile taking unauthorized leave from a facility shall be apprehended and returned to it by law enforcement officers or other persons designated as having this authority as provided in RCW 13.32A.050. If returned to the facility after having taken unauthorized leave for a period of more than twenty-four hours a juvenile shall be supervised by such a facility for a period, pursuant to this chapter, which, unless where otherwise provided, may not exceed fifteen consecutive days. Costs of housing juveniles admitted to crisis residential centers shall be assumed by the department for a period not to exceed fifteen consecutive days. [2009 c 569 § 3; 2000 c 162 § 16; 2000 c 162 § 7; 1995 c 312 § 62; 1992 c 205 § 213; 1979 c 155 § 79.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.034 Crisis residential centers—Removal to another center or secure facility—Placement in secure juvenile detention facility.** (1) A child taken into custody and taken to a crisis residential center established pursuant to RCW 74.13.032 may, if the center is unable to provide appropriate treatment, supervision, and structure to the child, be taken at department expense to another crisis residential center, the nearest regional secure crisis residential center, or a secure facility with which it is collocated under RCW 74.13.032. Placement in both locations shall not exceed fifteen consecutive days from the point of intake as provided in RCW 13.32A.130.

(2) A child taken into custody and taken to a crisis residential center established by this chapter may be placed physically by the department or the department's designee and, at departmental expense and approval, in a secure juvenile detention facility operated by the county in which the center is located for a maximum of forty-eight hours, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, if the child has taken unauthorized leave from the center and the person in charge of the center determines that the center cannot provide supervision and structure adequate to ensure that the child will not again take unauthorized leave. Juveniles placed in such a facility pursuant to this section may not, to the extent possible, come in contact with alleged or convicted juvenile or adult offenders.

(3) Any child placed in secure detention pursuant to this section shall, during the period of confinement, be provided with appropriate treatment by the department or the department's designee, which shall include the services defined in RCW 74.13.033(2). If the child placed in secure detention is not returned home or if an alternative living arrangement agreeable to the parent and the child is not made within twenty-four hours after the child's admission, the child shall be taken at the department's expense to a crisis residential

center. Placement in the crisis residential center or centers plus placement in juvenile detention shall not exceed five consecutive days from the point of intake as provided in RCW 13.32A.130.

(4) Juvenile detention facilities used pursuant to this section shall first be certified by the department to ensure that juveniles placed in the facility pursuant to this section are provided with living conditions suitable to the well-being of the child. Where space is available, juvenile courts, when certified by the department to do so, shall provide secure placement for juveniles pursuant to this section, at department expense. [2009 c 569 § 4; 2000 c 162 § 17; 2000 c 162 § 8; 1995 c 312 § 63; 1992 c 205 § 214; 1991 c 364 § 5; 1981 c 298 § 17; 1979 ex.s. c 165 § 21; 1979 c 155 § 80.]

*Child admitted to secure facility—Maximum hours of custody—Reconciliation effort—Information to parent and child—Written statement of services and rights: RCW 13.32A.130.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.035 Crisis residential centers—Annual records, contents—Multiple licensing.** Crisis residential centers shall compile yearly records which shall be transmitted to the department and which shall contain information regarding population profiles of the children admitted to the centers during each past calendar year. Such information shall include but shall not be limited to the following:

- (1) The number, age, and sex of children admitted to custody;
- (2) Who brought the children to the center;
- (3) Services provided to children admitted to the center;
- (4) The circumstances which necessitated the children being brought to the center;
- (5) The ultimate disposition of cases;
- (6) The number of children admitted to custody who ran away from the center and their ultimate disposition, if any;
- (7) Length of stay.

The department may require the provision of additional information and may require each center to provide all such necessary information in a uniform manner.

A center may, in addition to being licensed as such, also be licensed as a family foster home or group care facility and may house on the premises juveniles assigned for foster or group care. [1979 c 155 § 81.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.036 Implementation of chapters 13.32A and 13.34 RCW.** (1) The department shall oversee implementation of chapter 13.34 RCW and chapter 13.32A RCW. The oversight shall be comprised of working with affected parts of the criminal justice and child care systems as well as with local government, legislative, and executive authorities to effectively carry out these chapters. The department shall work with all such entities to ensure that chapters 13.32A and 13.34 RCW are implemented in a uniform manner throughout the state.

(2) The department shall develop a plan and procedures, in cooperation with the statewide advisory committee, to insure the full implementation of the provisions of chapter 13.32A RCW. Such plan and procedures shall include but are not limited to:

(a) Procedures defining and delineating the role of the department and juvenile court with regard to the execution of the child in need of services placement process;

(b) Procedures for designating department or supervising agency staff responsible for family reconciliation services;

(c) Procedures assuring enforcement of contempt proceedings in accordance with RCW 13.32A.170 and 13.32A.250; and

(d) Procedures for the continued education of all individuals in the criminal juvenile justice and child care systems who are affected by chapter 13.32A RCW, as well as members of the legislative and executive branches of government.

There shall be uniform application of the procedures developed by the department and juvenile court personnel, to the extent practicable. Local and regional differences shall be taken into consideration in the development of procedures required under this subsection.

(3) In addition to its other oversight duties, the department shall:

(a) Identify and evaluate resource needs in each region of the state;

(b) Disseminate information collected as part of the oversight process to affected groups and the general public;

(c) Educate affected entities within the juvenile justice and child care systems, local government, and the legislative branch regarding the implementation of chapters 13.32A and 13.34 RCW;

(d) Review complaints concerning the services, policies, and procedures of those entities charged with implementing chapters 13.32A and 13.34 RCW; and

(e) Report any violations and misunderstandings regarding the implementation of chapters 13.32A and 13.34 RCW. [2009 c 520 § 54; 2009 c 518 § 5; 2003 c 207 § 2; 1996 c 133 § 37; 1995 c 312 § 65; 1989 c 175 § 147; 1987 c 505 § 70; 1985 c 257 § 11; 1981 c 298 § 18; 1979 c 155 § 82.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 518 § 5 and by 2009 c 520 § 54, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Short title—Intent—Construction—1996 c 133:** See notes following RCW 13.32A.197.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.037 Transitional living programs for youth in the process of being emancipated—Rules.** Within available funds appropriated for this purpose, the department shall establish, through performance-based contracts with private vendors, transitional living programs for youth who are being assisted by the department in being emancipated as part of their permanency plan under chapter 13.34 RCW. These programs shall be licensed under rules adopted by the department. [2009 c 520 § 55; 1997 c 146 § 9; 1996 c 133 § 39.]

**Findings—Short title—Intent—Construction—1996 c 133:** See notes following RCW 13.32A.197.

**74.13.039 Runaway hot line.** The department of social and health services shall maintain a toll-free hot line to assist parents of runaway children. The hot line shall provide parents with a complete description of their rights when dealing with their runaway child. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 501.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**74.13.042 Petition for order compelling disclosure of record or information.** If the department or supervising agency is denied lawful access to records or information, or requested records or information is not provided in a timely manner, the department or supervising agency may petition the court for an order compelling disclosure.

(1) The petition shall be filed in the juvenile court for the county in which the record or information is located or the county in which the person who is the subject of the record or information resides. If the person who is the subject of the record or information is a party to or the subject of a pending proceeding under chapter 13.32A or 13.34 RCW, the petition shall be filed in such proceeding.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the persons from whom and about whom the record or information is sought shall be served with a summons and a petition at least seven calendar days prior to a hearing on the petition. The court may order disclosure upon ex parte application of the department or supervising agency, without prior notice to any person, if the court finds there is reason to believe access to the record or information is necessary to determine whether the child is in imminent danger and in need of immediate protection.

(3) The court shall grant the petition upon a showing that there is reason to believe that the record or information sought is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the child who is currently receiving child welfare services. [2009 c 520 § 56; 1995 c 311 § 14.]

**74.13.045 Complaint resolution process.** The department shall develop and implement an informal, nonadversarial complaint resolution process to be used by clients of the department or supervising agency, foster parents, and other affected individuals who have complaints regarding a department policy or procedure, the application of such a policy or procedure, or the performance of an entity that has entered into a performance-based contract with the department, related to programs administered under this chapter. The process shall not apply in circumstances where the complainant has the right under Title 13, 26, or 74 RCW to seek resolution of the complaint through judicial review or through an adjudicative proceeding.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to create substantive or procedural rights in any person. Participation in the complaint resolution process shall not entitle any person to an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW or to superior court review. Participation in the process shall not affect the right of any person to seek other statutorily or constitutionally permitted remedies.

The department shall develop procedures to assure that clients and foster parents are informed of the availability of the complaint resolution process and how to access it. The department shall incorporate information regarding the complaint resolution process into the training for foster parents and department and supervising agency caseworkers.

The department shall compile complaint resolution data including the nature of the complaint and the outcome of the process. [2009 c 520 § 57; 1998 c 245 § 146; 1991 c 340 § 2.]

**Intent—1991 c 340:** "It is the intent of the legislature to provide timely, thorough, and fair procedures for resolution of grievances of clients, foster parents, and the community resulting from decisions made by the department of social and health services related to programs administered pursuant to

this chapter. Grievances should be resolved at the lowest level possible. However, all levels of the department should be accountable and responsible to individuals who are experiencing difficulties with agency services or decisions. It is the intent of the legislature that grievance procedures be made available to individuals who do not have other remedies available through judicial review or adjudicative proceedings." [1991 c 340 § 1.]

**74.13.055 Foster care—Length of stay—Cooperation with supervising agencies.** The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW which establish goals as to the maximum number of children who will remain in foster care for a period of longer than twenty-four months. The department shall also work cooperatively with supervising agencies to assure that a partnership plan for utilizing the resources of the public and private sector in all matters pertaining to child welfare is developed and implemented. [2009 c 520 § 58; 1998 c 245 § 147; 1982 c 118 § 1.]

**74.13.060 Secretary as custodian of funds of person placed with department or its agent—Authority—Limitations—Termination.** (1) The secretary or his or her designees or delegates shall be the custodian without compensation of such moneys and other funds of any person which may come into the possession of the secretary during the period such person is placed with the department or an entity with which it has entered into a performance-based contract pursuant to chapter 74.13 RCW. As such custodian, the secretary shall have authority to disburse moneys from the person's funds for the following purposes only and subject to the following limitations:

(a) For such personal needs of such person as the secretary may deem proper and necessary.

(b) Against the amount of public assistance otherwise payable to such person. This includes applying, as reimbursement, any benefits, payments, funds, or accrual paid to or on behalf of said person from any source against the amount of public assistance expended on behalf of said person during the period for which the benefits, payments, funds or accruals were paid.

(2) All funds held by the secretary as custodian may be deposited in a single fund, the receipts and expenditures therefrom to be accurately accounted for by him or her on an individual basis. Whenever, the funds belonging to any one person exceed the sum of five hundred dollars, the secretary may deposit said funds in a savings and loan association account on behalf of that particular person.

(3) When the conditions of placement no longer exist and public assistance is no longer being provided for such person, upon a showing of legal competency and proper authority, the secretary shall deliver to such person, or the parent, person, or agency legally responsible for such person, all funds belonging to the person remaining in his or her possession as custodian, together with a full and final accounting of all receipts and expenditures made therefrom.

(4) The appointment of a guardian for the estate of such person shall terminate the secretary's authority as custodian of said funds upon receipt by the secretary of a certified copy of letters of guardianship. Upon the guardian's request, the secretary shall immediately forward to such guardian any funds of such person remaining in the secretary's possession together with full and final accounting of all receipts and

expenditures made therefrom. [2009 c 520 § 59; 1971 ex.s. c 169 § 7.]

**74.13.062 Eligible relatives appointed as guardians—Receipt and expenditure of federal funds—Implementation of subsidy program—Department to adopt rules—Relative guardianship subsidy agreements.** (1) The department shall adopt rules consistent with federal regulations for the receipt and expenditure of federal funds and implement a subsidy program for eligible relatives appointed by the court as a guardian under RCW 13.36.050.

(2) For the purpose of licensing a relative seeking to be appointed as a guardian and eligible for a guardianship subsidy under this section, the department shall, on a case-by-case basis, and when determined to be in the best interests of the child:

(a) Waive nonsafety licensing standards; and  
 (b) Apply the list of disqualifying crimes in the adoption and safe families act, rather than the secretary's list of disqualifying crimes, unless doing so would compromise the child's safety, or would adversely affect the state's ability to continue to obtain federal funding for child welfare related functions.

(3) Relative guardianship subsidy agreements shall be designed to promote long-term permanency for the child, and may include provisions for periodic review of the subsidy amount and the needs of the child. [2010 c 272 § 12.]

**74.13.065 Out-of-home care—Social study required.**

(1) The department or supervising agency shall conduct a social study whenever a child is placed in out-of-home care under the supervision of the department or supervising agency. The study shall be conducted prior to placement, or, if it is not feasible to conduct the study prior to placement due to the circumstances of the case, the study shall be conducted as soon as possible following placement.

(2) The social study shall include, but not be limited to, an assessment of the following factors:

- (a) The physical and emotional strengths and needs of the child;
- (b) Emotional bonds with siblings and the need to maintain regular sibling contacts;
- (c) The proximity of the child's placement to the child's family to aid reunification;
- (d) The possibility of placement with the child's relatives or extended family;
- (e) The racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious background of the child;
- (f) The least-restrictive, most family-like placement reasonably available and capable of meeting the child's needs; and
- (g) Compliance with RCW 13.34.260 regarding parental preferences for placement of their children. [2009 c 520 § 60; 2002 c 52 § 8; 1995 c 311 § 26.]

**Intent—2002 c 52:** See note following RCW 13.34.025.

**74.13.070 Moneys in possession of secretary not subject to certain proceedings.** None of the moneys or other funds which come into the possession of the secretary under chapter 169, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. shall be subject to execution, levy, attachment, garnishment or other legal process or

(2012 Ed.)

other operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law. [1971 ex.s. c 169 § 8.]

**74.13.075 Sexually aggressive youth—Defined—Services—Expenditure of treatment funds—Tribal jurisdiction—Information sharing and confidentiality.** (1) For the purposes of funds appropriated for the treatment of sexually aggressive youth, the term "sexually aggressive youth" means those juveniles who:

(a) Have been abused and have committed a sexually aggressive act or other violent act that is sexual in nature; and  
 (i) Are in the care and custody of the state or a federally recognized Indian tribe located within the state; or

(ii) Are the subject of a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW or a child welfare proceeding held before a tribal court located within the state; or

(b) Cannot be detained under the juvenile justice system due to being under age twelve and incompetent to stand trial for acts that could be prosecuted as sex offenses as defined by RCW 9.94A.030 if the juvenile was over twelve years of age, or competent to stand trial if under twelve years of age.

(2) The department may offer appropriate available services and treatment to a sexually aggressive youth and his or her parents or legal guardians as provided in this section and may refer the child and his or her parents to appropriate treatment and services available within the community, regardless of whether the child is the subject of a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW.

(3) In expending these funds, the department shall establish in each region a case review committee to review all cases for which the funds are used. In determining whether to use these funds in a particular case, the committee shall consider:

- (a) The age of the juvenile;
- (b) The extent and type of abuse to which the juvenile has been subjected;
- (c) The juvenile's past conduct;
- (d) The benefits that can be expected from the treatment;
- (e) The cost of the treatment; and
- (f) The ability of the juvenile's parent or guardian to pay for the treatment.

(4) The department may provide funds, under this section, for youth in the care and custody of a tribe or through a tribal court, for the treatment of sexually aggressive youth only if: (a) The tribe uses the same or equivalent definitions and standards for determining which youth are sexually aggressive; and (b) the department seeks to recover any federal funds available for the treatment of youth.

(5) A juvenile's status as a sexually aggressive youth, and any protective plan, services, and treatment plans and progress reports provided with these funds are confidential and not subject to public disclosure by the department. This information shall be shared with relevant juvenile care agencies, law enforcement agencies, and schools, but remains confidential and not subject to public disclosure by those agencies. [2009 c 520 § 61; 2009 c 250 § 2; 1994 c 169 § 1. Prior: 1993 c 402 § 3; 1993 c 146 § 1; 1990 c 3 § 305.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 250 § 2 and by 2009 c 520 § 61, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—2009 c 250:** "The legislature finds that children who commit sexually aggressive acts are at risk of repeating such behavior if they and their families do not receive treatment and counseling. This is especially true of children under the age of twelve who are referred to the department of social and health services by a prosecuting attorney pursuant to RCW 26.44.160. To reduce the number of future victims of sexual abuse and to reduce recidivism of children who commit sexually aggressive acts the legislature finds that all such children and their families, including children who are referred by prosecutors pursuant to RCW 26.44.160, be eligible for treatment regardless of whether they are the subject of a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW." [2009 c 250 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.077 Sexually aggressive youth—Transfer of surplus funds for treatment.** The secretary is authorized to transfer surplus, unused treatment funds from the civil commitment center operated under chapter 71.09 RCW to the division of children and family services to provide treatment services for sexually aggressive youth. [2009 c 520 § 62; 1993 c 402 § 4.]

**74.13.080 Group care placement—Prerequisites for payment.** The department shall not make payment for any child in group care placement unless the group home is licensed and the department has the custody of the child and the authority to remove the child in a cooperative manner after at least seventy-two hours notice to the child care provider; such notice may be waived in emergency situations. However, this requirement shall not be construed to prohibit the department from making or mandate the department to make payment for Indian children placed in facilities licensed by federally recognized Indian tribes pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW. [1987 c 170 § 11; 1982 c 118 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.096 Representation of children of color—Advisory committee. (Expires June 30, 2014.)** (1) The secretary shall convene an advisory committee to analyze and make recommendations on the disproportionate representation of children of color in Washington's child welfare system. The department shall collaborate with the Washington institute for public policy and private sector entities to develop a methodology for the advisory committee to follow in conducting a baseline analysis of data from the child welfare system to determine whether racial disproportionality and racial disparity exist in this system. The Washington institute for public policy shall serve as technical staff for the advisory committee. In determining whether racial disproportionality or racial disparity exists, the committee shall utilize existing research and evaluations conducted within Washington state, nationally, and in other states and localities that have similarly analyzed the prevalence of racial disproportionality and disparity in child welfare.

(2) At a minimum, the advisory committee shall examine and analyze: (a) The level of involvement of children of color at each stage in the state's child welfare system, including the points of entry and exit, and each point at which a treatment decision is made; (b) the number of children of color in low-income or single-parent families involved in the state's child welfare system; (c) the family structures of families involved in the state's child welfare system; and (d) the outcomes for children in the existing child welfare system.

This analysis shall be disaggregated by racial and ethnic group, and by geographic region.

(3) The committee of not more than fifteen individuals shall consist of experts in social work, law, child welfare, psychology, or related fields, at least two tribal representatives, a representative of the governor's juvenile justice advisory committee, a representative of a community-based organization involved with child welfare issues, a representative of the department, a current or former foster care youth, a current or former foster care parent, and a parent previously involved with Washington's child welfare system. Committee members shall be selected as follows: (a) Five members selected by the senate majority leader; (b) five members selected by the speaker of the house of representatives; and (c) five members selected by the secretary of the department. The secretary, the senate majority leader, and the speaker of the house of representatives shall coordinate appointments to ensure the representation specified in this subsection is achieved. After the advisory committee appointments are finalized, the committee shall select two individuals to serve as cochairs of the committee, one of whom shall be a representative from a nongovernmental entity.

(4) The secretary shall make reasonable efforts to seek public and private funding for the advisory committee.

(5) Not later than June 1, 2008, the advisory committee created in subsection (1) of this section shall report to the secretary of the department on the results of the analysis. If the results of the analysis indicate disproportionality or disparity exists for any racial or ethnic group in any region of the state, the committee, in conjunction with the secretary of the department, shall develop a plan for remedying the disproportionality or disparity. The remediation plan shall include: (a) Recommendations for administrative and legislative actions related to appropriate programs and services to reduce and eliminate disparities in the system and improve the long-term outcomes for children of color who are served by the system; and (b) performance measures for implementing the remediation plan. To the extent possible and appropriate, the remediation plan shall be developed to integrate the recommendations required in this subsection with the department's existing compliance plans, training efforts, and other practice improvement and reform initiatives in progress. The advisory committee shall be responsible for ongoing evaluation of current and prospective policies and procedures for their contribution to or effect on racial disproportionality and disparity.

(6) Not later than December 1, 2008, the secretary shall report the results of the analysis conducted under subsection (2) of this section and shall describe the remediation plan required under subsection (5) of this section to the appropriate committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over policy and fiscal matters relating to children, families, and human services. Beginning January 1, 2010, the secretary shall report annually to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the implementation of the remediation plan, including any measurable progress made in reducing and eliminating racial disproportionality and disparity in the state's child welfare system. [2009 c 520 § 63; 2007 c 465 § 2.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 520 § 63:** "Section 63 of this act expires June 30, 2014." [2009 c 520 § 96.]

**Findings—2007 c 465:** "The legislature finds that one in five of Washington's one and one-half million children are children of color. Broken out by racial groups, approximately six percent of children are Asian/Pacific Islander, six percent are multiracial, four and one-half percent are African American, and two percent are Native American. Thirteen percent of Washington children are of Hispanic origin, but representation of this group increases in the lower age ranges. For example, seventeen percent of children birth to four years of age are Hispanic.

The legislature also finds that in counties such as Adams, Franklin, Yakima, and Grant, more than half of the births are of Hispanic origin. Three-quarters of the state's African American children and two-thirds of Asian/Pacific Islander children live in King and Pierce counties. The legislature finds further that despite some progress closing the achievement gap in recent years, children of color continue to lag behind their classmates on the Washington assessment of student learning. In 2005 children of color trailed in every category of the fourth-grade reading, writing, and math assessments. On the reading test alone, sixty-nine percent of African American students, sixty-four percent of Native American students, and sixty-one percent of Hispanic students met the standards, compared with eighty-five percent of caucasian students. And, since 1993, the number of Washington students for which English is not their first language has doubled to more than seven percent of students statewide.

The legislature finds further that according to national research, African American children enter the child welfare system at far higher rates than caucasian children, despite no greater incidence of maltreatment in African American families compared to caucasian families. This trend holds true for Washington state, where African American children represent approximately nine and one-half percent of the children in out-of-home care even though they represent slightly more than four percent of the state's total child population. Native American children represent slightly over ten percent of the children in out-of-home care although they represent only two percent of the children in the state. In King county, African American and Native American children are over represented at nearly every decision point in the child welfare system. Although these two groups of children represent only eight percent of the child population in King county, they account for one-third of all children removed from their homes and one-half of children in foster care for more than four years.

The legislature finds also that children of immigrants are the fastest growing component of the United States' child population. While immigrants are eleven percent of the nation's total population, the children of immigrants make up twenty-two percent of the nation's children under six years of age. These immigrant children are twice as likely as native-born children to be poor." [2007 c 465 § 1.]

**Expiration date—2007 c 465:** "This act expires June 30, 2014." [2007 c 465 § 3.]

**74.13.105 Program of education coordination for dependent youth—Public-private partnership—Selection—Report.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the department must contract with at least one nongovernmental entity to administer a program of education coordination for youth who are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW, birth through twelfth grade in Washington state. The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must engage in a public-private partnership with the department and are responsible for raising a portion of the funds needed for service delivery, administration, and evaluation.

(2) The nongovernmental entity or entities selected by the department must have demonstrated success in working with foster care youth and assisting foster care youth in receiving appropriate educational services, including enrollment, accessing school-based services, reducing out-of-school discipline interventions, and attaining high school graduation.

(3) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must provide services to support individual youth upon a referral by a social worker with the department or a nongovernmental agency with responsibility for education support services. The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must be colo-

(2012 Ed.)

cated in the offices of the department to provide timely consultation and in-service training. These entities must have access to all paper and electronic case information pertinent to the educational planning and services of youth referred and are subject to RCW 13.50.010 and 13.50.100.

(4) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must report outcomes biannually to the department. [2012 c 163 § 6.]

**Legislative recommendation—2012 c 163:** "The legislature strongly recommends that the entities with which the department of social and health services contracts or collaborates to provide educational support services and educational outcomes for students who are dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW and the private agency under contract with the \*higher education coordinating board or its successor to perform outreach for the passport to college promise program under chapter 28B.117 RCW and the college bound scholarship program under chapter 28B.118 RCW explore models for harnessing technology to keep in constant touch with the students they serve and keep these students engaged." [2012 c 163 § 12.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The higher education coordinating board was abolished by 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 § 301, effective July 1, 2012.

**Findings—Effective date—2012 c 163:** See notes following RCW 28B.117.010.

**Short title—2012 c 163:** See RCW 28B.117.902.

#### **74.13.107 Child and family reinvestment account—Methodology for calculating savings resulting from reductions in foster care caseloads and per capita costs.**

(1) The child and family reinvestment account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Moneys in the account may be expended solely for improving outcomes related to: (a) Safely reducing entry into the foster care system and preventing reentry; (b) safely increasing reunifications; (c) achieving permanency for children unable to be reunified; and (d) improving outcomes for youth who will age out of the foster care system. Moneys may be expended for shared savings under performance-based contracts.

(2) Revenues to the child and family reinvestment account consist of: (a) Savings to the state general fund resulting from reductions in foster care caseloads and per capita costs, as calculated and transferred into the account under this section; and (b) any other public or private funds appropriated to or deposited in the account.

(3)(a) The department of social and health services, in collaboration with the office of financial management and the caseload forecast council, shall develop a methodology for calculating the savings under this section. The methodology must be used for the 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, and for each biennium thereafter. The methodology must establish a baseline for calculating savings. In developing the methodology, the department of social and health services shall incorporate the relevant requirements of any demonstration waiver granted to the state under P.L. 112-34. The savings must be based on actual caseload and per capita expenditures. By December 1, 2012, the department of social and health services shall submit the proposed methodology to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature. The methodology is deemed approved unless the legislature enacts legislation to modify or reject the methodology.

(b) The department of social and health services shall use the methodology established in (a) of this subsection to calculate savings to the state general fund for transfer into the child and family reinvestment account in fiscal year 2014 and

each fiscal year thereafter. Savings calculated by the department under this section are not subject to RCW 43.79.460. The department shall report the amount of the state general fund savings achieved to the office of financial management and the fiscal committees of the legislature at the end of each fiscal year. The office of financial management shall provide notice to the state treasurer of the amount of state general fund savings, as calculated by the department of social and health services, for transfer into the child and family reinvestment account.

(c) Nothing in this section prohibits (i) the caseload forecast council from forecasting the foster care caseload under RCW 43.88C.010 or (ii) the department from including maintenance funding in its budget submittal for caseload costs that exceed the baseline established in (a) of this subsection. [2012 c 204 § 2.]

**Reviser's note—Sunset Act application:** The child and family reinvestment account and methodology for calculating savings is subject to review, termination, and possible extension under chapter 43.131 RCW, the Sunset Act. See RCW 43.131.415. RCW 74.13.107 is scheduled for future repeal under RCW 43.131.416.

**Findings—Intent—2012 c 204:** "(1) The legislature finds that the federal child and family services improvement and innovation act provides an important new opportunity for Washington state to flexibly use federal funding, traditionally limited to foster care, to achieve the following outcomes: Increase permanency for all infants, children, and youth by reducing the time spent in foster care placements when possible and promoting a successful transition to adulthood for older youth; increase the positive outcomes for infants, children, youth, and families in their homes and communities, including tribal communities; improve the safety and well-being of infants, children, and youth; and prevent child abuse and neglect and the reentry of infants, children, and youth into foster care.

(2) The legislature finds that the licensed out-of-home foster care caseload has declined by eighteen percent from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2011. The legislature further finds that under the current system, as caseloads decline, fewer state and federal funds are available in the child welfare budget for prevention and reunification services to continue improving outcomes.

(3) The legislature recognizes the need to reinvest savings related to foster care caseload reductions into effective efforts that improve outcomes. The legislature intends to maximize limited resources by continuing to focus on efforts to improve child safety, child permanency, and child well-being in Washington state." [2012 c 204 § 1.]

#### ADOPTION SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1971

**74.13.170 Therapeutic family home program for youth in custody under chapter 13.34 RCW.** The department may, through performance-based contracts with supervising agencies, implement a therapeutic family home program for up to fifteen youth in the custody of the department under chapter 13.34 RCW. The program shall strive to develop and maintain a mutually reinforcing relationship between the youth and the therapeutic staff associated with the program. [2009 c 520 § 70; 1991 c 326 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.232 Services to homeless families.** The department's duty to provide services to homeless families with children is set forth in RCW 43.20A.790 and in appropriations provided by the legislature for implementation of the comprehensive plan for homeless families with children. [2009 c 520 § 50.]

#### FOSTER CARE

**74.13.250 Preservice training—Foster parents.** (1) Preservice training is recognized as a valuable tool to reduce placement disruptions, the length of time children are in care, and foster parent turnover rates. Preservice training also assists potential foster parents in making their final decisions about foster parenting and assists social service agencies in obtaining information about whether to approve potential foster parents.

(2) Foster parent preservice training shall include information about the potential impact of placement on foster children; social service agency administrative processes; the requirements, responsibilities, expectations, and skills needed to be a foster parent; attachment, separation, and loss issues faced by birth parents, foster children, and foster parents; child management and discipline; birth family relationships; information on the limits of the adoption support program as provided in \*RCW 74.13.109(4); and helping children leave foster care. Preservice training shall assist applicants in making informed decisions about whether they want to be foster parents. Preservice training shall be designed to enable the agency to assess the ability, readiness, and appropriateness of families to be foster parents. As a decision tool, effective preservice training provides potential foster parents with enough information to make an appropriate decision, affords potential foster parents an opportunity to discuss their decision with others and consider its implications for their family, clarifies foster family expectations, presents a realistic picture of what foster parenting involves, and allows potential foster parents to consider and explore the different types of children they might serve.

(3) Foster parents shall complete preservice training before the issuance of a foster care license, except that the department may, on a case by case basis, issue a written waiver that allows the foster parent to complete the training after licensure, so long as the training is completed within ninety days following licensure. [2009 c 520 § 71; 2009 c 491 § 10; 1990 c 284 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.13.109 was recodified as RCW 74.13A.020 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

(2) This section was amended by 2009 c 491 § 10 and by 2009 c 520 § 71, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—1990 c 284:** "The legislature finds that the foster care system plays an important role in preserving families and giving consistent and nurturing care to children placed in its care. The legislature further finds that foster parents play an integral and important role in the system and particularly in the child's chances for the earliest possible reunification with his or her family." [1990 c 284 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.260 On-site monitoring program.** Regular on-site monitoring of foster homes to assure quality care improves care provided to children in family foster care. An on-site monitoring program shall be established by the department to assure quality care and regularly identify problem areas. Monitoring shall be done by the department on a random sample basis of no less than ten percent of the total licensed family foster homes licensed by the department on July 1 of each year. [1998 c 245 § 148; 1990 c 284 § 4.]

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.

**74.13.270 Respite care.** The legislature recognizes the need for temporary short-term relief for foster parents who care for children with emotional, mental, or physical handicaps. For purposes of this section, respite care means appropriate, temporary, short-term care for these foster children placed with licensed foster parents. The purpose of this care is to give the foster parents temporary relief from the stresses associated with the care of these foster children. The department shall design a program of respite care that will minimize disruptions to the child and will serve foster parents within these priorities, based on input from foster parents, foster parent associations, and reliable research if available. [1990 c 284 § 8.]

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.

**74.13.280 Client information.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 70.24.105, whenever a child is placed in out-of-home care by the department or a supervising agency, the department or agency shall share information known to the department or agency about the child and the child's family with the care provider and shall consult with the care provider regarding the child's case plan. If the child is dependent pursuant to a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW, the department or supervising agency shall keep the care provider informed regarding the dates and location of dependency review and permanency planning hearings pertaining to the child.

(2) Information about the child and the child's family shall include information known to the department or agency as to whether the child is a sexually reactive child, has exhibited high-risk behaviors, or is physically assaultive or physically aggressive, as defined in this section.

(3) Information about the child shall also include information known to the department or agency that the child:

(a) Has received a medical diagnosis of fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effect;

(b) Has been diagnosed by a qualified mental health professional as having a mental health disorder;

(c) Has witnessed a death or substantial physical violence in the past or recent past; or

(d) Was a victim of sexual or severe physical abuse in the recent past.

(4) Any person who receives information about a child or a child's family pursuant to this section shall keep the information confidential and shall not further disclose or disseminate the information except as authorized by law. Care providers shall agree in writing to keep the information that they receive confidential and shall affirm that the information will not be further disclosed or disseminated, except as authorized by law.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the department or supervising agencies to disclose client information or to maintain client confidentiality as provided by law.

(6) As used in this section:

(a) "Sexually reactive child" means a child who exhibits sexual behavior problems including, but not limited to, sex-

ual behaviors that are developmentally inappropriate for their age or are harmful to the child or others.

(b) "High-risk behavior" means an observed or reported and documented history of one or more of the following:

(i) Suicide attempts or suicidal behavior or ideation;

(ii) Self-mutilation or similar self-destructive behavior;

(iii) Fire-setting or a developmentally inappropriate fascination with fire;

(iv) Animal torture;

(v) Property destruction; or

(vi) Substance or alcohol abuse.

(c) "Physically assaultive or physically aggressive" means a child who exhibits one or more of the following behaviors that are developmentally inappropriate and harmful to the child or to others:

(i) Observed assaultive behavior;

(ii) Reported and documented history of the child willfully assaulting or inflicting bodily harm; or

(iii) Attempting to assault or inflict bodily harm on other children or adults under circumstances where the child has the apparent ability or capability to carry out the attempted assaults including threats to use a weapon. [2009 c 520 § 72. Prior: 2007 c 409 § 6; 2007 c 220 § 4; 2001 c 318 § 3; 1997 c 272 § 7; 1995 c 311 § 21; 1991 c 340 § 4; 1990 c 284 § 10.]

**Effective date—2007 c 409:** See note following RCW 13.34.096.

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.283 Washington state identicards—Foster youth.** (1) For the purpose of assisting foster youth in obtaining a Washington state identicard, submission of the information and materials listed in this subsection from the department or supervising agency to the department of licensing is sufficient proof of identity and residency and shall serve as the necessary authorization for the youth to apply for and obtain a Washington state identicard:

(a) A written signed statement prepared on department or supervising agency letterhead, verifying the following:

(i) The youth is a minor who resides in Washington;

(ii) Pursuant to a court order, the youth is dependent and the department or supervising agency is the legal custodian of the youth under chapter 13.34 RCW or under the interstate compact on the placement of children;

(iii) The youth's full name and date of birth;

(iv) The youth's social security number, if available;

(v) A brief physical description of the youth;

(vi) The appropriate address to be listed on the youth's identicard; and

(vii) Contact information for the appropriate person with the department or supervising agency.

(b) A photograph of the youth, which may be digitized and integrated into the statement.

(2) The department or supervising agency may provide the statement and the photograph via any of the following methods, whichever is most efficient or convenient:

(a) Delivered via first-class mail or electronically to the headquarters office of the department of licensing; or

(b) Hand-delivered to a local office of the department of licensing by a department or supervising agency case worker.

(3) A copy of the statement shall be provided to the youth who shall provide the copy to the department of licensing when making an in-person application for a Washington state identicard.

(4) To the extent other identifying information is readily available, the department or supervising agency shall include the additional information with the submission of information required under subsection (1) of this section. [2009 c 520 § 73; 2008 c 267 § 7.]

**74.13.285 Passports—Information to be provided to foster parents.** (1) Within available resources, the department or supervising agency shall prepare a passport containing all known and available information concerning the mental, physical, health, and educational status of the child for any child who has been in a foster home for ninety consecutive days or more. The passport shall contain education records obtained pursuant to RCW 28A.150.510. The passport shall be provided to a foster parent at any placement of a child covered by this section. The department or supervising agency shall update the passport during the regularly scheduled court reviews required under chapter 13.34 RCW.

New placements shall have first priority in the preparation of passports.

(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, the department or supervising agency shall, within available resources, notify a foster parent before placement of a child of any known health conditions that pose a serious threat to the child and any known behavioral history that presents a serious risk of harm to the child or others.

(3) The department shall hold harmless the provider including supervising agencies for any unauthorized disclosures caused by the department.

(4) Any foster parent who receives information about a child or a child's family pursuant to this section shall keep the information confidential and shall not further disclose or disseminate the information, except as authorized by law. Such individuals shall agree in writing to keep the information that they receive confidential and shall affirm that the information will not be further disclosed or disseminated, except as authorized by law. [2009 c 520 § 74; 2007 c 409 § 7; 2000 c 88 § 2; 1997 c 272 § 5.]

**Effective date—2007 c 409:** See note following RCW 13.34.096.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.287 Intent—Infant, foster family health.** The legislature intends to establish a policy with the goal of ensuring that the health and well-being of both infants in foster care and the families providing for their care are protected. [2004 c 40 § 1.]

**74.13.288 Blood-borne pathogens—Testing.** The department of health shall develop recommendations concerning evidence-based practices for testing for blood-borne pathogens of children under one year of age who have been placed in out-of-home care and shall identify the specific pathogens for which testing is recommended. [2009 c 520 § 75; 2004 c 40 § 2.]

**74.13.289 Blood-borne pathogens—Client information—Training.** (1) Upon any placement, the department or

supervising agency shall inform each out-of-home care provider if the child to be placed in that provider's care is infected with a blood-borne pathogen, and shall identify the specific blood-borne pathogen for which the child was tested if known by the department or supervising agency.

(2) All out-of-home care providers licensed by the department shall receive training related to blood-borne pathogens, including prevention, transmission, infection control, treatment, testing, and confidentiality.

(3) Any disclosure of information related to HIV must be in accordance with RCW 70.24.105.

(4) The department of health shall identify by rule the term "blood-borne pathogen" as used in this section. [2009 c 520 § 76; 2004 c 40 § 3.]

**74.13.290 Fewest possible placements for children—Preferred placements.** (1) To provide stability to children in out-of-home care, placement selection shall be made with a view toward the fewest possible placements for each child. If possible, the initial placement shall be viewed as the only placement for the child. Pursuant to RCW 13.34.060 and 13.34.130, placement of the child with a relative or other suitable person is the preferred option. The use of short-term interim placements of thirty days or less to protect the child's health or safety while the placement of choice is being arranged is not a violation of this principle.

(2) If a child has been previously placed in out-of-home care and is subsequently returned to out-of-home care, and the department cannot locate an appropriate and available relative or other suitable person, the preferred placement for the child is in a foster family home where the child previously was placed, if the following conditions are met:

(a) The foster family home is available and willing to care for the child;

(b) The foster family is appropriate and able to meet the child's needs; and

(c) The placement is in the best interest of the child. [2009 c 482 § 1; 1990 c 284 § 11.]

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.

**74.13.300 Notification of proposed placement changes.** (1) Whenever a child has been placed in a foster family home by the department or supervising agency and the child has thereafter resided in the home for at least ninety consecutive days, the department or supervising agency shall notify the foster family at least five days prior to moving the child to another placement, unless:

(a) A court order has been entered requiring an immediate change in placement;

(b) The child is being returned home;

(c) The child's safety is in jeopardy; or

(d) The child is residing in a receiving home or a group home.

(2) If the child has resided in a foster family home for less than ninety days or if, due to one or more of the circumstances in subsection (1) of this section, it is not possible to give five days' notification, the department or supervising agency shall notify the foster family of proposed placement changes as soon as reasonably possible.

(3) This section is intended solely to assist in minimizing disruption to the child in changing foster care placements. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that a court hearing be held prior to changing a child's foster care placement nor to create any substantive custody rights in the foster parents. [2009 c 520 § 77; 1990 c 284 § 12.]

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.

**74.13.310 Foster parent training.** Adequate foster parent training has been identified as directly associated with increasing the length of time foster parents are willing to provide foster care and reducing the number of placement disruptions for children. Placement disruptions can be harmful to children by denying them consistent and nurturing support. Foster parents have expressed the desire to receive training in addition to the foster parent training currently offered. Foster parents who care for more demanding children, such as children with severe emotional, mental, or physical handicaps, would especially benefit from additional training. The department and supervising agency shall develop additional training for foster parents that focuses on skills to assist foster parents in caring for emotionally, mentally, or physically handicapped children. [2009 c 520 § 78; 1990 c 284 § 13.]

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.

**74.13.315 Child care for foster parents attending meetings or training.** The department or supervising agency may provide child care for all foster parents who are required to attend department-sponsored or supervising agency-sponsored meetings or training sessions. If the department or supervising agency does not provide such child care, the department or supervising agency, where feasible, shall conduct the activities covered by this section in the foster parent's home or other location acceptable to the foster parent. [2009 c 520 § 79; 1997 c 272 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.320 Printing informational materials—Department's duty.** The department shall assist supervising agencies by providing printing services for informational brochures and other necessary recruitment materials. No more than fifty thousand dollars of the funds provided for this section may be expended annually for recruitment materials. [2009 c 520 § 80; 1990 c 284 § 15.]

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.

**74.13.325 Foster care and adoptive home recruitment program.** Within available resources, the department and supervising agencies shall increase the number of adoptive and foster families available to accept children through an intensive recruitment and retention program. The department shall enter into performance-based contracts with supervising agencies, under which the agencies will coordinate all foster care and adoptive home recruitment activities. [2009 c 520 § 81; 1997 c 272 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.330 Responsibilities of foster parents.** Foster parents are responsible for the protection, care, supervision, and nurturing of the child in placement. As an integral part of the foster care team, foster parents shall, if appropriate and they desire to: Participate in the development of the service plan for the child and the child's family; assist in family visitation, including monitoring; model effective parenting behavior for the natural family; and be available to help with the child's transition back to the natural family. [2007 c 410 § 7; 1990 c 284 § 23.]

**Short title—2007 c 410:** See note following RCW 13.34.138.

**Finding—Effective date—1990 c 284:** See notes following RCW 74.13.250.

**74.13.332 Rights of foster parents.** Foster parents have the right to be free of coercion, discrimination, and reprisal in serving foster children, including the right to voice grievances about treatment furnished or not furnished to the foster child. [2001 c 318 § 1.]

**74.13.333 Rights of foster parents—Complaints—Investigation—Notice of any personnel action—Report.**

(1) A foster parent who believes that a department or supervising agency employee has retaliated against the foster parent or in any other manner discriminated against the foster parent because:

(a) The foster parent made a complaint with the office of the family and children's ombudsman, the attorney general, law enforcement agencies, the department, or the supervising agency, provided information, or otherwise cooperated with the investigation of such a complaint;

(b) The foster parent has caused to be instituted any proceedings under or related to Title 13 RCW;

(c) The foster parent has testified or is about to testify in any proceedings under or related to Title 13 RCW;

(d) The foster parent has advocated for services on behalf of the foster child;

(e) The foster parent has sought to adopt a foster child in the foster parent's care; or

(f) The foster parent has discussed or consulted with anyone concerning the foster parent's rights under this chapter or chapter 74.15 or 13.34 RCW, may file a complaint with the office of the family and children's ombudsman.

(2) The ombudsman may investigate the allegations of retaliation. The ombudsman shall have access to all relevant information and resources held by or within the department by which to conduct the investigation. Upon the conclusion of its investigation, the ombudsman shall provide its findings in written form to the department.

(3) The department shall notify the office of the family and children's ombudsman in writing, within thirty days of receiving the ombudsman's findings, of any personnel action taken or to be taken with regard to the department employee.

(4) The office of the family and children's ombudsman shall also include its recommendations regarding complaints filed under this section in its annual report pursuant to RCW 43.06A.030. The office of the family and children's ombudsman shall identify trends which may indicate a need to improve relations between the department or supervising agency and foster parents. [2009 c 520 § 82; 2009 c 491 § 11; 2004 c 181 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 491 § 11 and by 2009 c 520 § 82, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**74.13.334 Department and supervising agency's procedures to respond to foster parents' complaints.** The department and supervising agency shall develop procedures for responding to recommendations of the office of the family and children's ombudsman as a result of any and all complaints filed by foster parents under RCW 74.13.333. [2009 c 520 § 83; 2004 c 181 § 2.]

**74.13.335 Foster care—Reimbursement—Property damage.** Within available funds and subject to such conditions and limitations as may be established by the department or by the legislature in the omnibus appropriations act, the department of social and health services shall reimburse foster parents for property damaged or destroyed by foster children placed in their care. The department shall establish by rule a maximum amount that may be reimbursed for each occurrence. The department shall reimburse the foster parent for the replacement value of any property covered by this section. If the damaged or destroyed property is covered and reimbursed under an insurance policy, the department shall reimburse foster parents for the amount of the deductible associated with the insurance claim, up to the limit per occurrence as established by the department. [1999 c 338 § 2.]

**Intent—1999 c 338:** "The legislature recognizes that Washington state is experiencing a significant shortage of quality foster homes and that the majority of children entering the system are difficult to place due to their complex needs. The legislature intends to provide additional assistance to those families willing to serve as foster parents." [1999 c 338 § 1.]

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**74.13.350 Children with developmental disabilities—Out-of-home placement—Voluntary placement agreement.** It is the intent of the legislature that parents are responsible for the care and support of children with developmental disabilities. The legislature recognizes that, because of the intense support required to care for a child with developmental disabilities, the help of an out-of-home placement may be needed. It is the intent of the legislature that, when the sole reason for the out-of-home placement is the child's developmental disability, such services be offered by the department to these children and their families through a voluntary placement agreement. In these cases, the parents shall retain legal custody of the child.

As used in this section, "voluntary placement agreement" means a written agreement between the department and a child's parent or legal guardian authorizing the department to place the child in a licensed facility. Under the terms of this agreement, the parent or legal guardian shall retain legal custody and the department shall be responsible for the child's placement and care. The agreement shall at a minimum specify the legal status of the child and the rights and obligations of the parent or legal guardian, the child, and the department while the child is in placement. The agreement must be signed by the child's parent or legal guardian and the department to be in effect, except that an agreement regarding an Indian child shall not be valid unless executed in

accordance with RCW 13.38.150. Any party to a voluntary placement agreement may terminate the agreement at any time. Upon termination of the agreement, the child shall be returned to the care of the child's parent or legal guardian unless the child has been taken into custody pursuant to RCW 13.34.050 or 26.44.050, placed in shelter care pursuant to RCW 13.34.060, or placed in foster care pursuant to RCW 13.34.130.

As used in this section, "out-of-home placement" and "out-of-home care" mean the placement of a child in a foster family home or group care facility licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW.

Whenever the department places a child in out-of-home care under a voluntary placement pursuant to this section, the department shall have the responsibility for the child's placement and care. The department shall develop a permanency plan of care for the child no later than sixty days from the date that the department assumes responsibility for the child's placement and care. Within the first one hundred eighty days of the placement, the department shall obtain a judicial determination pursuant to RCW 13.04.030(1)(j) and 13.34.270 that the placement is in the best interests of the child. If the child's out-of-home placement ends before one hundred eighty days have elapsed, no judicial determination under RCW 13.04.030(1)(b) is required. The permanency planning hearings shall review whether the child's best interests are served by continued out-of-home placement and determine the future legal status of the child.

The department shall provide for periodic administrative reviews as required by federal law. A review may be called at any time by either the department, the parent, or the legal guardian.

Nothing in this section shall prevent the department from filing a dependency petition if there is reason to believe that the child is a dependent child as defined in RCW 13.34.030.

The department shall adopt rules providing for the implementation of chapter 386, Laws of 1997 and the transfer of responsibility for out-of-home placements from the dependency process under chapter 13.34 RCW to the process under this chapter.

It is the intent of the legislature that the department undertake voluntary out-of-home placement in cases where the child's developmental disability is such that the parent, guardian, or legal custodian is unable to provide the necessary care for the child, and the parent, guardian, or legal custodian has determined that the child would benefit from placement outside of the home. If the department does not accept a voluntary placement agreement signed by the parent, a petition may be filed and an action pursued under chapter 13.34 RCW. The department shall inform the parent, guardian, or legal custodian in writing of their right to civil action under chapter 13.34 RCW.

Nothing in this section prohibits the department from seeking support from parents of a child, including a child with a developmental disability if the child has been placed into care as a result of an action under chapter 13.34 RCW, when state or federal funds are expended for the care and maintenance of that child or when the department receives an application for services from the physical custodian of the child, unless the department finds that there is good cause not to pursue collection of child support against the parent or par-

ents. [2011 c 309 § 34; 2004 c 183 § 4; 1998 c 229 § 1; 1997 c 386 § 16.]

**Effective date—2004 c 183:** See note following RCW 13.34.160.

**74.13.360 Performance-based contracts—Child welfare demonstration sites—Department duties—Contracts with tribes.** (1) No later than December 30, 2015:

(a) In the demonstration sites selected under RCW 74.13.368(4)(a), child welfare services shall be provided by supervising agencies with whom the department has entered into performance-based contracts. Supervising agencies may enter into subcontracts with other licensed agencies; and

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, and notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the department may not directly provide child welfare services to families and children provided child welfare services by supervising agencies in the demonstration sites selected under RCW 74.13.368(4)(a).

(2) No later than December 30, 2015, for families and children provided child welfare services by supervising agencies in the demonstration sites selected under RCW 74.13.368(4)(a), the department is responsible for only the following:

(a) Monitoring the quality of services for which the department contracts under this chapter;

(b) Ensuring that the services are provided in accordance with federal law and the laws of this state, including the Indian child welfare act;

(c) Providing child protection functions and services, including intake and investigation of allegations of child abuse or neglect, emergency shelter care functions under RCW 13.34.050, and referrals to appropriate providers; and

(d) Issuing licenses pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW.

(3) No later than December 30, 2015, for families and children provided child welfare services by supervising agencies in the demonstration sites selected under RCW 74.13.368(4)(a), the department may provide child welfare services only:

(a) For the limited purpose of establishing a control or comparison group as deemed necessary by the child welfare transformation design committee, with input from the Washington state institute for public policy, to implement the demonstration sites selected and defined pursuant to RCW 74.13.368(4)(a) in which the performance in achieving measurable outcomes will be compared and evaluated pursuant to RCW 74.13.370; or

(b) In an emergency or as a provider of last resort. The department shall adopt rules describing the circumstances under which the department may provide those services. For purposes of this section, "provider of last resort" means the department is unable to contract with a private agency to provide child welfare services in a particular geographic area or, after entering into a contract with a private agency, either the contractor or the department terminates the contract.

(4) For purposes of this chapter, on and after September 1, 2010, performance-based contracts shall be structured to hold the supervising agencies accountable for achieving the following goals in order of importance: Child safety; child permanency, including reunification; and child well-being.

(5) A federally recognized tribe located in this state may enter into a performance-based contract with the department

(2012 Ed.)

to provide child welfare services to Indian children whether or not they reside on a reservation. Nothing in this section prohibits a federally recognized Indian tribe located in this state from providing child welfare services to its members or other Indian children pursuant to existing tribal law, regulation, or custom, or from directly entering into agreements for the provision of such services with the department, if the department continues to otherwise provide such services, or with federal agencies. [2012 c 205 § 8; 2010 c 291 § 4; 2009 c 520 § 3.]

**Findings—2010 c 291:** See note following RCW 74.13.368.

**74.13.362 Performance-based contracts—Legislative mandate.** Pursuant to RCW 41.06.142(3), performance-based contracting under RCW 74.13.360 is expressly mandated by the legislature and is not subject to the processes set forth in RCW 41.06.142 (1), (4), and (5).

A continuation or expansion of delivery of child welfare services under the provisions of RCW 74.13.372 shall be considered expressly mandated by the legislature and not subject to the provisions of RCW 41.06.142 (1), (4), and (5). [2009 c 520 § 4.]

**74.13.364 Performance-based contracts—State authority—Selection of demonstration sites.** Children whose cases are managed by a supervising agency as defined in RCW 74.13.020 remain under the care and placement authority of the state. The child welfare transformation design committee, in selecting demonstration sites for the provision of child welfare services under RCW 74.13.368(4), shall maintain the placement and care authority of the state over children receiving child welfare services at a level that does not adversely affect the state's ability to continue to obtain federal funding for child welfare related functions currently performed by the state and with consideration of options to further maximize federal funding opportunities and increase flexibility in the use of such funds, including use for preventive and in-home child welfare services. [2010 c 291 § 5; 2009 c 520 § 5.]

**Findings—2010 c 291:** See note following RCW 74.13.368.

**74.13.366 Performance-based contracts—Preference for qualifying private nonprofit entities.** For the purposes of the provision of child welfare services by supervising agencies under chapter 291, Laws of 2010, the department shall give primary preference for performance-based contracts to private nonprofit entities, including federally recognized Indian tribes located in this state, who otherwise meet the definition of supervising agency under RCW 74.13.020. In any continuation or expansion of delivery of child welfare services purchased through the use of performance-based contracts under the provisions of RCW 74.13.372, when all other elements of the bids are equal, private nonprofit entities, federally recognized Indian tribes located in this state, and state employees shall receive primary preference over private for-profit entities. [2010 c 291 § 6; 2009 c 520 § 6.]

**Findings—2010 c 291:** See note following RCW 74.13.368.

**74.13.368 Performance-based contracts—Child welfare transformation design committee. (Expires July 1, 2016.)** (1)(a) The child welfare transformation design com-

mittee is established, with members as provided in this subsection.

- (i) The governor or the governor's designee;
  - (ii) Four private agencies that, as of May 18, 2009, provide child welfare services to children and families referred to them by the department. Two agencies must be headquartered in western Washington and two must be headquartered in eastern Washington. Two agencies must have an annual budget of at least one million state-contracted dollars and two must have an annual budget of less than one million state-contracted dollars;
  - (iii) The assistant secretary of the children's administration in the department;
  - (iv) Two regional administrators in the children's administration selected by the assistant secretary, one from one of the department's administrative regions one or two, and one from one of the department's administrative regions three, four, five, or six;
  - (v) The administrator for the division of licensed resources in the children's administration;
  - (vi) Two nationally recognized experts in performance-based contracts;
  - (vii) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;
  - (viii) A representative of the collective bargaining unit that represents the largest number of employees in the children's administration;
  - (ix) A representative from the office of the family and children's ombudsman;
  - (x) Four representatives from the Indian policy advisory committee convened by the department's office of Indian policy and support services;
  - (xi) Two currently elected or former superior court judges with significant experience in dependency matters, selected by the superior court judges' association;
  - (xii) One representative from partners for our children affiliated with the University of Washington school of social work;
  - (xiii) A member of the Washington state racial disproportionality advisory committee;
  - (xiv) A foster parent;
  - (xv) A youth currently in or a recent alumnus of the Washington state foster care system, to be designated by the cochairs of the committee; and
  - (xvi) A parent representative who has had personal experience with the dependency system.
- (b) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall jointly appoint the members under (a)(ii), (xiv), and (xvi) of this subsection.
- (c) The representative from partners for our children shall convene the initial meeting of the committee no later than June 15, 2009.
- (d) The cochairs of the committee shall be the assistant secretary for the children's administration and another member selected by a majority vote of those members present at the initial meeting.

(2) The committee shall establish a transition plan containing recommendations to the legislature and the governor consistent with this section for the provision of child welfare services by supervising agencies pursuant to RCW 74.13.360.

- (3) The plan shall include the following:
  - (a) A model or framework for performance-based contracts to be used by the department that clearly defines:
    - (i) The target population;
    - (ii) The referral and exit criteria for the services;
    - (iii) The child welfare services including the use of evidence-based services and practices to be provided by contractors;
    - (iv) The roles and responsibilities of public and private agency workers in key case decisions;
    - (v) Contract performance and outcomes, including those related to eliminating racial disparities in child outcomes;
    - (vi) That supervising agencies will provide culturally competent service;
    - (vii) How to measure whether each contractor has met the goals listed in RCW 74.13.360(4); and
    - (viii) Incentives to meet performance outcomes;
  - (b) A method or methods by which clients will access community-based services, how private supervising agencies will engage other services or form local service networks, develop subcontracts, and share information and supervision of children;
  - (c) Methods to address the effects of racial disproportionality, as identified in the 2008 Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report published by the Washington state institute for public policy in June 2008;
  - (d) Methods for inclusion of the principles and requirements of the centennial accord executed in November 2001, executed between the state of Washington and federally recognized tribes in Washington state;
  - (e) Methods for assuring performance-based contracts adhere to the letter and intent of the federal Indian child welfare act;
  - (f) Contract monitoring and evaluation procedures that will ensure that children and families are receiving timely and quality services and that contract terms are being implemented;
  - (g) A method or methods by which to ensure that the children's administration has sufficiently trained and experienced staff to monitor and manage performance-based contracts;
  - (h) A process by which to expand the capacity of supervising and other private agencies to meet the service needs of children and families in a performance-based contractual arrangement;
  - (i) A method or methods by which supervising and other private agencies can expand services in underserved areas of the state;
  - (j) The appropriate amounts and procedures for the reimbursement of supervising agencies given the proposed services restructuring;
  - (k) A method by which to access and enhance existing data systems to include contract performance information;
  - (l) A financing arrangement for the contracts that examines:
    - (i) The use of case rates or performance-based fee-for-service contracts that include incentive payments or payment schedules that link reimbursement to outcomes; and
    - (ii) Ways to reduce a contractor's financial risk that could jeopardize the solvency of the contractor, including consideration of the use of a risk-reward corridor that limits

risk of loss and potential profits or the establishment of a statewide risk pool;

(m) A description of how the transition will impact the state's ability to obtain federal funding and examine options to further maximize federal funding opportunities and increased flexibility;

(n) A review of whether current administrative staffing levels in the regions should be continued when the majority of child welfare services are being provided by supervising agencies;

(o) A description of the costs of the transition, the initial start-up costs and the mechanisms to periodically assess the overall adequacy of funds and the fiscal impact of the changes, and the feasibility of the plan and the impact of the plan on department employees during the transition; and

(p) Identification of any statutory and regulatory revisions necessary to accomplish the transition.

(4)(a) The committee, with the assistance of the department, shall select two demonstration sites within which to implement chapter 520, Laws of 2009. One site must be located on the eastern side of the state. The other site must be located on the western side of the state. Neither site must be wholly located in any of the department's administrative regions.

(b) The committee shall develop two sets of performance outcomes to be included in the performance-based contracts the department enters into with supervising agencies. The first set of outcomes shall be used for those cases transferred to a supervising agency over time. The second set of outcomes shall be used for new entrants to the child welfare system.

(c) The committee shall also identify methods for ensuring that comparison of performance between supervising agencies and the existing service delivery system takes into account the variation in the characteristics of the populations being served as well as historical trends in outcomes for those populations.

(5) The committee shall determine the appropriate size of the child and family populations to be provided services under performance-based contracts with supervising agencies. The committee shall also identify the time frame within which cases will be transferred to supervising agencies. The performance-based contracts entered into with supervising agencies shall encompass the provision of child welfare services to enough children and families in each demonstration site to allow for the assessment of whether there are meaningful differences, to be defined by the committee, between the outcomes achieved in the demonstration sites and the comparison sites or populations. To ensure adequate statistical power to assess these differences, the populations served shall be large enough to provide a probability greater than seventy percent that meaningful difference will be detected and a ninety-five percent probability that observed differences are not due to chance alone.

(6) The committee shall also prepare as part of the plan a recommendation as to how to implement chapter 520, Laws of 2009 so that full implementation of chapter 520, Laws of 2009 is achieved no later than December 30, 2015.

(7) The committee shall prepare the plan to manage the delivery of child welfare services in a manner that achieves

(2012 Ed.)

coordination of the services and programs that deliver primary prevention services.

(8) Beginning June 30, 2009, the committee shall report quarterly to the governor and the legislative children's oversight committee established in RCW 44.04.220. From June 30, 2012, until December 30, 2015, the committee need only report twice a year. The committee shall report on its progress in meeting its duties under subsections (2) and (3) of this section and on any other matters the committee or the legislative children's oversight committee or the governor deems appropriate. The portion of the plan required in subsection (6) of this section shall be due to the legislative children's oversight committee on or before June 1, 2010. The reports shall be in written form.

(9) The committee, by majority vote, may establish advisory committees as it deems necessary.

(10) All state executive branch agencies and the agencies with whom the department contracts for child welfare services shall cooperate with the committee and provide timely information as the chair or cochairs may request. Cooperation by the children's administration must include developing and scheduling training for supervising agencies to access data and information necessary to implement and monitor the contracts.

(11) It is expected that the administrative costs for the committee will be supported through private funds.

(12) The committee is subject to chapters 42.30 (open public meetings act) and 42.52 (ethics in public service) RCW.

(13) This section expires July 1, 2016. [2012 c 205 § 10; 2010 c 291 § 2; 2009 c 520 § 8.]

**Findings—2010 c 291:** "The legislature finds that, based upon the work of the child welfare transformation design committee established pursuant to 2SHB 2106 during the 2009 legislative session, several narrowly based amendments to that legislation need to be made, mainly for clarifying purposes. The legislature further finds that two deadlines need to be extended by six months, the first to allow the department of social and health services additional time to complete the conversion of its contracts to performance-based contracts and the second to allow the department additional time to gradually transfer existing cases to supervising agencies in the demonstration sites. The legislature finds that the addition of a foster youth on the child welfare transformation design committee will greatly assist the committee in its work.

The legislature recognizes that clarifying language regarding Indian tribes should be added regarding the government-to-government relationship the tribes have with the state. The legislature further recognizes that language is needed regarding the department's ability to receive federal funding based upon the recommendations made by the child welfare transformation design committee." [2010 c 291 § 1.]

**Effective date—2009 c 520 § 8:** "Section 8 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 18, 2009]." [2009 c 520 § 98.]

**74.13.370 Performance-based contracts—Washington state institute for public policy report.** (1) Based upon the recommendations of the child welfare transformation design committee, including the two sets of outcomes developed by the committee under RCW 74.13.368(4)(b), the Washington state institute for public policy is to conduct a review of measurable effects achieved by the supervising agencies and compare those measurable effects with the existing services offered by the state. The report on the measurable effects shall be provided to the governor and the legislature no later than April 1, 2018.

(2) No later than December 1, 2014, the Washington state institute for public policy shall provide the legislature and the governor an initial report on the department's conversion to the use of performance-based contracts as provided in RCW 74.13B.020 and 74.13B.030. No later than June 30, 2016, the Washington state institute for public policy shall provide the governor and the legislature with a second report on the extent to which the use of performance-based contracting has resulted in:

(a) Increased use of evidence-based, research-based, and promising practices; and

(b) Improvements in outcomes for children, including child safety, child permanency, including reunification, and child well-being.

(3) The department and network administrators shall respond to the Washington institute for public policy's request for data and other information with which to complete these reports in a timely manner.

(4) The Washington state institute for public policy must consult with a university-based child welfare research entity to evaluate performance-based contracting. [2012 c 205 § 9; 2009 c 520 § 9.]

**74.13.372 Performance-based contracts—Determination of expansion of delivery of child welfare services by contractors—Governor's duty.** Not later than June 1, 2018, the governor shall, based on the report by the Washington state institute for public policy, determine whether to expand chapter 520, Laws of 2009 to the remainder of the state or terminate chapter 520, Laws of 2009. The governor shall inform the legislature of his or her decision within seven days of the decision. The department shall, regardless of the decision of the governor regarding the delivery of child welfare services, continue to purchase services through the use of performance-based contracts. [2012 c 205 § 11; 2009 c 520 § 10.]

**74.13.500 Disclosure of child welfare records—Factors—Exception.** (1) Consistent with the provisions of chapter 42.56 RCW and applicable federal law, the secretary, or the secretary's designee, shall disclose information regarding the abuse or neglect of a child, the investigation of the abuse, neglect, or near fatality of a child, and any services related to the abuse or neglect of a child if any one of the following factors is present:

(a) The subject of the report has been charged in an accusatory instrument with committing a crime related to a report maintained by the department in its case and management information system;

(b) The investigation of the abuse or neglect of the child by the department or the provision of services by the department or a supervising agency has been publicly disclosed in a report required to be disclosed in the course of their official duties, by a law enforcement agency or official, a prosecuting attorney, any other state or local investigative agency or official, or by a judge of the superior court;

(c) There has been a prior knowing, voluntary public disclosure by an individual concerning a report of child abuse or neglect in which such individual is named as the subject of the report; or

(d) The child named in the report has died and the child's death resulted from abuse or neglect or the child was in the care of, or receiving services from the department or a supervising agency at the time of death or within twelve months before death.

(2) The secretary is not required to disclose information if the factors in subsection (1) of this section are present if he or she specifically determines the disclosure is contrary to the best interests of the child, the child's siblings, or other children in the household.

(3) Except for cases in subsection (1)(d) of this section, requests for information under this section shall specifically identify the case about which information is sought and the facts that support a determination that one of the factors specified in subsection (1) of this section is present.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "near fatality" means an act that, as certified by a physician, places the child in serious or critical condition. The secretary is under no obligation to have an act certified by a physician in order to comply with this section. [2009 c 520 § 84; 2005 c 274 § 351; 1999 c 339 § 1; 1997 c 305 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.505 Disclosure of child welfare records—Information to be disclosed.** For purposes of RCW 74.13.500, the following information shall be disclosable:

(1) The name of the abused or neglected child;

(2) The determination made by the department of the referrals, if any, for abuse or neglect;

(3) Identification of child protective or other services provided or actions, if any, taken regarding the child named in the report and his or her family as a result of any such report or reports. These records include but are not limited to administrative reports of fatality, fatality review reports, case files, inspection reports, and reports relating to social work practice issues; and

(4) Any actions taken by the department in response to reports of abuse or neglect of the child. [1997 c 305 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.510 Disclosure of child welfare records—Consideration of effects.** In determining under RCW 74.13.500 whether disclosure will be contrary to the best interests of the child, the secretary, or the secretary's designee, must consider the effects which disclosure may have on efforts to reunite and provide services to the family. [1997 c 305 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.515 Disclosure of child welfare records—Fatalities.** For purposes of RCW 74.13.500(1)(d), the secretary must make the fullest possible disclosure consistent with chapter 42.56 RCW and applicable federal law in cases of all fatalities of children who were in the care of, or receiving services from, the department or a supervising agency at the time of their death or within the twelve months previous to their death.

If the secretary specifically determines that disclosure of the name of the deceased child is contrary to the best interests

of the child's siblings or other children in the household, the secretary may remove personally identifying information.

For the purposes of this section, "personally identifying information" means the name, street address, social security number, and day of birth of the child who died and of private persons who are relatives of the child named in child welfare records. "Personally identifying information" shall not include the month or year of birth of the child who has died. Once this personally identifying information is removed, the remainder of the records pertaining to a child who has died must be released regardless of whether the remaining facts in the records are embarrassing to the unidentifiable other private parties or to identifiable public workers who handled the case. [2009 c 520 § 85; 2005 c 274 § 352; 1997 c 305 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.520 Disclosure of child welfare records—Information not to be disclosed.** Except as it applies directly to the cause of the abuse or neglect of the child and any actions taken by the department in response to reports of abuse or neglect of the child, nothing in RCW 74.13.500 through 74.13.515 is deemed to authorize the release or disclosure of the substance or content of any psychological, psychiatric, therapeutic, clinical, or medical reports, evaluations, or like materials, or information pertaining to the child or the child's family. [1997 c 305 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.525 Disclosure of child welfare records—Immunity from liability.** The department or supervising agency, when acting in good faith, is immune from any criminal or civil liability, except as provided under RCW 42.56.550, for any action taken under RCW 74.13.500 through 74.13.520. [2009 c 520 § 86; 2005 c 274 § 353; 1997 c 305 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13.530 Child placement—Conflict of interest.** (1) No child may be placed or remain in a specific out-of-home placement under this chapter or chapter 13.34 RCW when there is a conflict of interest on the part of any adult residing in the home in which the child is to be or has been placed. A conflict of interest exists when:

(a) There is an adult in the home who, as a result of: (i) His or her employment; and (ii) an allegation of abuse or neglect of the child, conducts or has conducted an investigation of the allegation; or

(b) The child has been, is, or is likely to be a witness in any pending cause of action against any adult in the home when the cause includes: (i) An allegation of abuse or neglect against the child or any sibling of the child; or (ii) a claim of damages resulting from wrongful interference with the parent-child relationship of the child and his or her biological or adoptive parent.

(2) For purposes of this section, "investigation" means the exercise of professional judgment in the review of allegations of abuse or neglect by: (a) Law enforcement personnel;

(2012 Ed.)

(b) persons employed by, or under contract with, the state; (c) persons licensed to practice law and their employees; and (d) mental health professionals as defined in chapter 71.05 RCW.

(3) The prohibition set forth in subsection (1) of this section may not be waived or deferred by the department or a supervising agency under any circumstance or at the request of any person, regardless of who has made the request or the length of time of the requested placement. [2009 c 520 § 87; 2001 c 318 § 4.]

**74.13.540 Independent living services.** Independent living services include assistance in achieving basic educational requirements such as a GED, enrollment in vocational and technical training programs offered at the community and vocational colleges, and obtaining and maintaining employment; and accomplishing basic life skills such as money management, nutrition, preparing meals, and cleaning house. A baseline skill level in ability to function productively and independently shall be determined at entry. Performance shall be measured and must demonstrate improvement from involvement in the program. Each recipient shall have a plan for achieving independent living skills by the time the recipient reaches age twenty-one. The plan shall be written within the first thirty days of placement and reviewed every ninety days. A recipient who fails to consistently adhere to the elements of the plan shall be subject to reassessment by the professional staff of the program and may be declared ineligible to receive services. [2001 c 192 § 2.]

**74.13.550 Child placement—Policy of educational continuity.** It is the policy of the state of Washington that, whenever practical and in the best interest of the child, children placed into foster care shall remain enrolled in the schools they were attending at the time they entered foster care. [2003 c 112 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 112:** "The legislature finds that the educational attainment of children in foster care is significantly lower than that of children not in foster care. The legislature finds that many factors influence educational outcomes for children in foster care, including the disruption of the educational process because of repeatedly changing schools.

The legislature recognizes the importance of educational stability for foster children, and encourages the ongoing efforts of the department of social and health services and the office of the superintendent of public instruction to improve educational attainment of children in foster care. It is the intent of the legislature that efforts continue such as the recruitment of foster homes in school districts with high rates of foster care placements, the development and dissemination of informational materials regarding the challenges faced by children in foster care, and the expansion to other school districts of best practices identified in pilot projects." [2003 c 112 § 1.]

**74.13.560 Educational continuity—Protocol development.** The administrative regions of the department and the supervising agencies shall develop protocols with the respective school districts in their regions specifying specific strategies for communication, coordination, and collaboration regarding the status and progress of foster children placed in the region, in order to maximize the educational continuity and achievement for foster children. The protocols shall include methods to assure effective sharing of information consistent with RCW 28A.225.330. [2009 c 520 § 88; 2003 c 112 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 112:** See note following RCW 74.13.550.

**74.13.570 Oversight committee—Duties.** (1) The department shall establish an oversight committee composed of staff from the children's administration of the department, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the student achievement council, foster youth, former foster youth, foster parents, and advocacy agencies to develop strategies for maintaining foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they entered foster care and to promote opportunities for foster youth to participate in postsecondary education or training.

(2) The duties of the oversight committee shall include, but are not limited to:

(a) Developing strategies for school-based recruitment of foster homes;

(b) Monitoring the progress of current pilot projects that assist foster children to continue attending the schools they were attending at the time they entered foster care;

(c) Overseeing the expansion of the number of pilot projects;

(d) Promoting the use of best practices, throughout the state, demonstrated by the pilot projects and other programs relating to maintaining foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they entered foster care;

(e) Informing the legislature of the status of efforts to maintain foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they entered foster care;

(f) Assessing the scope and nature of statewide need among current and former foster youth for assistance to pursue and participate in postsecondary education or training opportunities;

(g) Identifying available sources of funding available in the state for services to former foster youth to pursue and participate in postsecondary education or training opportunities;

(h) Reviewing the effectiveness of activities in the state to support former foster youth to pursue and participate in postsecondary education or training opportunities;

(i) Identifying new activities, or existing activities that should be modified or expanded, to best meet statewide needs; and

(j) Reviewing on an ongoing basis the progress toward improving educational and vocational outcomes for foster youth. [2012 c 229 § 594; 2005 c 93 § 2; 2003 c 112 § 4.]

**Effective date—2012 c 229 §§ 101, 117, 401, 402, 501 through 594, 601 through 609, 701 through 708, 801 through 821, 902, and 904:** See note following RCW 28B.77.005.

**Findings—Intent—2005 c 93:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) The majority of foster youth fail to thrive in our educational system and, relative to nonfoster youth, disproportionately few enroll in college or other postsecondary training programs. As a result, former foster youth generally have poor employment and life satisfaction outcomes; and

(b) Low expectations, lack of information, fragmented support services, and financial hardship are the most frequently cited reasons for failure of foster youth to pursue postsecondary education or training. Initiatives have been undertaken at both the state and community levels in Washington to improve outcomes for foster youth in transition to independence; however, these initiatives are often not coordinated to complement one another.

(2) The legislature intends to encourage and support foster youth to pursue postsecondary education or training opportunities. A coordination committee that provides statewide planning and oversight of related efforts will improve the effectiveness of both current and future initiatives to improve postsecondary educational outcomes for foster youth. In addition, the state can provide financial support to former foster youth pursuing higher education or training by setting aside portions of the state need grant and the state work-study programs specifically for foster youth." [2005 c 93 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 112:** See note following RCW 74.13.550.

**74.13.580 Educational stability during shelter care hearing—Protocol development.** The department shall work with the administrative office of the courts to develop protocols to ensure that educational stability is addressed during the shelter care hearing. [2003 c 112 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 112:** See note following RCW 74.13.550.

**74.13.590 Tasks to be performed based on available resources.** The department and supervising agencies shall perform the tasks provided in RCW 74.13.550 through 74.13.580 based on available resources. [2009 c 520 § 89; 2003 c 112 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 112:** See note following RCW 74.13.550.

**74.13.600 Kinship caregivers—Definition—Placement of children with kin a priority—Strategies.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "kin" means persons eighteen years of age or older to whom the child is related by blood, adoption, or marriage, including marriages that have been dissolved, and means: (a) Any person denoted by the prefix "grand" or "great"; (b) sibling, whether full, half, or step; (c) uncle or aunt; (d) nephew or niece; or (e) first cousin.

(2) The department and supervising agencies shall plan, design, and implement strategies to prioritize the placement of children with willing and able kin when out-of-home placement is required.

These strategies must include at least the following:

(a) Development of standardized, statewide procedures to be used by supervising agencies when searching for kin of children prior to out-of-home placement. The procedures must include a requirement that documentation be maintained in the child's case record that identifies kin, and documentation that identifies the assessment criteria and procedures that were followed during all kin searches. The procedures must be used when a child is placed in out-of-home care under authority of chapter 13.34 RCW, when a petition is filed under RCW 13.32A.140, or when a child is placed under a voluntary placement agreement. To assist with implementation of the procedures, the department or supervising agencies shall request that the juvenile court require parents to disclose to the agencies all contact information for available and appropriate kin within two weeks of an entered order. For placements under signed voluntary agreements, the department and supervising agencies shall encourage the parents to disclose to the department and agencies all contact information for available and appropriate kin within two weeks of the date the parent signs the voluntary placement agreement.

(b) Development of procedures for conducting active outreach efforts to identify and locate kin during all searches. The procedures must include at least the following elements:

(i) Reasonable efforts to interview known kin, friends, teachers, and other identified community members who may have knowledge of the child's kin, within sixty days of the child entering out-of-home care;

(ii) Increased use of those procedures determined by research to be the most effective methods of promoting reunification efforts, permanency planning, and placement decisions;

(iii) Contacts with kin identified through outreach efforts and interviews under this subsection as part of permanency planning activities and change of placement discussions;

(iv) Establishment of a process for ongoing contact with kin who express interest in being considered as a placement resource for the child; and

(v) A requirement that when the decision is made to not place the child with any kin, the department or supervising agency provides documentation as part of the child's individual service and safety plan that clearly identifies the rationale for the decision and corrective action or actions the kin must take to be considered as a viable placement option.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create an entitlement to services or to create judicial authority to order the provision of services to any person or family if the services are unavailable or unsuitable or the child or family is not eligible for such services. [2009 c 520 § 90; 2003 c 284 § 1.]

**74.13.621 Kinship care oversight committee. (Expires June 30, 2013.)** (1) Within existing resources, the department shall establish an oversight committee to monitor, guide, and report on kinship care recommendations and implementation activities. The committee shall:

(a) Draft a kinship care definition that is restricted to persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, including marriages that have been dissolved, or for a minor defined as an "Indian child" under the federal Indian child welfare act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.), the definition of "extended family member" under the federal Indian child welfare act, and a set of principles. If the committee concludes that one or more programs or services would be more efficiently and effectively delivered under a different definition of kin, it shall state what definition is needed, and identify the program or service in the report. It shall also provide evidence of how the program or service will be more efficiently and effectively delivered under the different definition. The department shall not adopt rules or policies changing the definition of kin without authorizing legislation;

(b) Monitor and provide consultation on the implementation of recommendations contained in the 2002 kinship care report, including but not limited to the recommendations relating to legal and respite care services and resources;

(c) Partner with nonprofit organizations and private sector businesses to guide a public education awareness campaign; and

(d) Assist with developing future recommendations on kinship care issues.

(2) The department shall consult with the oversight committee on its efforts to better collaborate and coordinate services to benefit kinship care families.

(3) The oversight committee must consist of a minimum of thirty percent kinship caregivers, who shall represent a diversity of kinship families. Statewide representation with geographic, ethnic, and gender diversity is required. Other members shall include representatives of the department, representatives of relevant state agencies, representatives of the private nonprofit and business sectors, child advocates, representatives of Washington state Indian tribes as defined under the federal Indian welfare act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.), and representatives of the legal or judicial field. Birth par-

(2012 Ed.)

ents, foster parents, and others who have an interest in these issues may also be included.

(4) To the extent funding is available, the department may reimburse nondepartmental members of the oversight committee for costs incurred in participating in the meetings of the oversight committee.

(5) The kinship care oversight committee shall update the legislature and governor annually on committee activities, with the first update due by January 1, 2006.

(6) This section expires June 30, 2013. [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 965; 2009 c 564 § 954; 2005 c 439 § 1.]

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**74.13.640 Child fatality reviews.** (1)(a) The department shall conduct a child fatality review in the event of a fatality suspected to be caused by child abuse or neglect of any minor who is in the care of the department or a supervising agency or receiving services described in this chapter or who has been in the care of the department or a supervising agency or received services described in this chapter within one year preceding the minor's death.

(b) The department shall consult with the office of the family and children's ombudsman to determine if a child fatality review should be conducted in any case in which it cannot be determined whether the child's death is the result of suspected child abuse or neglect.

(c) The department shall ensure that the fatality review team is made up of individuals who had no previous involvement in the case, including individuals whose professional expertise is pertinent to the dynamics of the case.

(d) Upon conclusion of a child fatality review required pursuant to this section, the department shall within one hundred eighty days following the fatality issue a report on the results of the review, unless an extension has been granted by the governor. Reports must be distributed to the appropriate committees of the legislature, and the department shall create a public web site where all child fatality review reports required under this section must be posted and maintained. A child fatality review report completed pursuant to this section is subject to public disclosure and must be posted on the public web site, except that confidential information may be redacted by the department consistent with the requirements of RCW 13.50.100, 68.50.105, 74.13.500 through 74.13.525, chapter 42.56 RCW, and other applicable state and federal laws.

(e) The department shall develop and implement procedures to carry out the requirements of this section.

(2) In the event of a near fatality of a child who is in the care of or receiving services described in this chapter from the department or a supervising agency or who has been in the care of or received services described in this chapter from the department or a supervising agency within one year preceding the near fatality, the department shall promptly notify the office of the family and children's ombudsman. The department may conduct a review of the near fatality at its discretion or at the request of the office of the family and children's ombudsman.

(3) In any review of a child fatality or near fatality in which the child was placed with or received services from a

supervising agency pursuant to a contract with the department, the department and the fatality review team shall have access to all records and files regarding the child or otherwise relevant to the review that have been produced or retained by the supervising agency.

(4)(a) A child fatality or near fatality review completed pursuant to this section is subject to discovery in a civil or administrative proceeding, but may not be admitted into evidence or otherwise used in a civil or administrative proceeding except pursuant to this section.

(b) A department employee responsible for conducting a child fatality or near fatality review, or member of a child fatality or near fatality review team, may not be examined in a civil or administrative proceeding regarding (i) the work of the child fatality or near fatality review team, (ii) the incident under review, (iii) his or her statements, deliberations, thoughts, analyses, or impressions relating to the work of the child fatality or near fatality review team or the incident under review, or (iv) the statements, deliberations, thoughts, analyses, or impressions of any other member of the child fatality or near fatality review team, or any person who provided information to the child fatality or near fatality review team, relating to the work of the child fatality or near fatality review team or the incident under review.

(c) Documents prepared by or for a child fatality or near fatality review team are inadmissible and may not be used in a civil or administrative proceeding, except that any document that exists before its use or consideration in a child fatality or near fatality review, or that is created independently of such review, does not become inadmissible merely because it is reviewed or used by a child fatality or near fatality review team. A person is not unavailable as a witness merely because the person has been interviewed by or has provided a statement for a child fatality or near fatality review, but if called as a witness, a person may not be examined regarding the person's interactions with the child fatality or near fatality review including, without limitation, whether the person was interviewed during such review, the questions that were asked during such review, and the answers that the person provided during such review. This section may not be construed as restricting the person from testifying fully in any proceeding regarding his or her knowledge of the incident under review.

(d) The restrictions set forth in this section do not apply in a licensing or disciplinary proceeding arising from an agency's effort to revoke or suspend the license of any licensed professional based in whole or in part upon allegations of wrongdoing in connection with a minor's death or near fatality reviewed by a child fatality or near fatality review team. [2011 c 61 § 2; 2009 c 520 § 91; 2008 c 211 § 1; 2004 c 36 § 1.]

**74.13.650 Foster parent critical support and retention program.** A foster parent critical support and retention program is established to retain foster parents who care for sexually reactive children, physically assaultive children, or children with other high-risk behaviors, as defined in RCW 74.13.280. Services shall consist of short-term therapeutic and educational interventions to support the stability of the placement. The department shall enter into performance-

based contracts with supervising agencies to provide this program. [2009 c 520 § 92; 2007 c 220 § 7; 2006 c 353 § 2.]

**Findings—2006 c 353:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Foster parents are able to successfully maintain placements of sexually reactive children, physically assaultive children, or children with other high-risk behaviors when they are provided with proper training and support. Lack of support contributes to placement disruptions and multiple moves between foster homes.

(2) Young children who have experienced repeated early abuse and trauma are at high risk for behavior later in life that is sexually deviant, if left untreated. Placement with a well-trained, prepared, and supported foster family can break this cycle." [2006 c 353 § 1.]

**74.13.660 Foster parent critical support and retention program—Availability, assessment, training, referral.** Under the foster parent critical support and retention program, foster parents who care for sexually reactive children, physically assaultive children, or children with other high-risk behaviors, as defined in RCW 74.13.280, shall receive:

(1) Availability at any time of the day or night to address specific concerns related to the identified child;

(2) Assessment of risk and development of a safety and supervision plan;

(3) Home-based foster parent training utilizing evidence-based models; and

(4) Referral to relevant community services and training provided by the local children's administration office or community agencies. [2007 c 220 § 8; 2006 c 353 § 3.]

**Findings—2006 c 353:** See note following RCW 74.13.650.

**74.13.670 Care provider immunity for allegation of failure to supervise a sexually reactive, physically assaultive, or physically aggressive youth—Conditions.** (1) A care provider may not be found to have abused or neglected a child under chapter 26.44 RCW or be denied a license pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 for any allegations of failure to supervise in which:

(a) The allegations arise from the child's conduct that is substantially similar to prior behavior of the child, and:

(i) The child is a sexually reactive youth, exhibits high-risk behaviors, or is physically assaultive or physically aggressive as defined in RCW 74.13.280, and this information and the child's prior behavior was not disclosed to the care provider as required by RCW 74.13.280; and

(ii) The care provider did not know or have reason to know that the child needed supervision as a sexually reactive or physically assaultive or physically aggressive youth, or because of a documented history of high-risk behaviors, as a result of the care provider's involvement with or independent knowledge of the child or training and experience; or

(b) The child was not within the reasonable control of the care provider at the time of the incident that is the subject of the allegation, and the care provider was acting in good faith and did not know or have reason to know that reasonable control or supervision of the child was necessary to prevent harm or risk of harm to the child or other persons.

(2) Allegations of child abuse or neglect that meet the provisions of this section shall be designated as "unfounded" as defined in RCW 26.44.020. [2009 c 520 § 93; 2007 c 220 § 5.]

**74.13.680 Foster care to twenty-one program—Termination.** (1) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department shall continue to operate the state-funded foster care to twenty-one program for three years after June 7, 2012, at which point the program shall cease to operate.

(2) The department shall not have the authority to enroll any new youth under this program after June 7, 2012, and shall only serve eligible youth enrolled prior to that date.

(3) The purpose of the foster care to twenty-one program is to serve youth ages eighteen to twenty-one who are enrolled and participating in a postsecondary academic or postsecondary vocational program.

(4) A youth participating in this program may, within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, continue to receive placement services until the youth reaches his or her twenty-first birthday or is no longer enrolled in and participating in a postsecondary program, whichever is earlier. [2012 c 52 § 3; 2011 c 330 § 8.]

**Intent—2012 c 52:** See note following RCW 74.13.031.

**Intent—2011 c 330:** See note following RCW 13.04.011.

**74.13.900 Severability—1965 c 30.** If any provision of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1965 c 30 § 6.]

**74.13.901 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. Nothing in chapter 521, Laws of 2009 shall be construed as creating or requiring the creation of any medical assistance program, as that term is defined in RCW 74.09.010, for state registered domestic partners that is analogous to federal medical assistance programs extended to married persons. [2009 c 521 § 177.]

**74.13.902 Construction—Religious or nonprofit organizations.** (*Effective if Referendum 74 is approved at the November 2012 general election.*) Nothing contained in chapter 3, Laws of 2012 shall be construed to alter or affect existing law regarding the manner in which a religious or nonprofit organization may be licensed to and provide adoption, foster care, or other child-placing services under this chapter or chapter 74.15 or 26.33 RCW. [2012 c 3 § 15.]

**Notice—2012 c 3:** See note following RCW 26.04.010.

(2012 Ed.)

## Chapter 74.13A RCW ADOPTION SUPPORT

### Sections

- 74.13A.005 Adoption support—State policy enunciated.
- 74.13A.007 Adoption support expenditures—Findings—Intent.
- 74.13A.010 Prospective adoptive parent's fee for cost of adoption services.
- 74.13A.015 Adoption services—Disposition of fees—Use—Federal funds—Gifts and grants.
- 74.13A.020 Adoption support program administration—Rules and regulations—Disbursements from general fund, criteria—Limits.
- 74.13A.025 Factors determining payments or adjustment in standards.
- 74.13A.030 Both continuing payments and lump sum payments authorized.
- 74.13A.035 Application—1996 c 130.
- 74.13A.040 Review of support payments.
- 74.13A.045 Adoptive parent's financial information.
- 74.13A.047 Adoption assistance payments—Expenditure limits.
- 74.13A.050 Agreements as contracts within state and federal Constitutions—State's continuing obligation.
- 74.13A.055 Voluntary amendments to agreements—Procedure when adoptive parties disagree.
- 74.13A.060 Nonrecurring adoption expenses.
- 74.13A.065 Records—Confidentiality.
- 74.13A.070 Recommendations for support of the adoption of certain children.
- 74.13A.075 "Secretary" and "department" defined.
- 74.13A.080 Short title—1971 act.
- 74.13A.085 Adoption support reconsideration program.
- 74.13A.090 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Findings.
- 74.13A.095 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Purpose.
- 74.13A.100 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Definitions.
- 74.13A.105 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Authorization.
- 74.13A.110 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Required provisions.
- 74.13A.115 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Additional provisions.
- 74.13A.120 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Medical assistance for children residing in this state—Penalty for fraudulent claims.
- 74.13A.125 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Adoption assistance and medical assistance in state plan.

**74.13A.005 Adoption support—State policy enunciated.** It is the policy of this state to enable the secretary to charge fees for certain services to adoptive parents who are able to pay for such services.

It is, however, also the policy of this state that the secretary of the department of social and health services shall be liberal in waiving, reducing, or deferring payment of any such fee to the end that adoptions shall be encouraged in cases where prospective adoptive parents lack means.

It is the policy of this state to encourage, within the limits of available funds, the adoption of certain hard to place children in order to make it possible for children living in, or likely to be placed in, foster homes or institutions to benefit from the stability and security of permanent homes in which such children can receive continuous parental care, guidance, protection, and love and to reduce the number of such children who must be placed or remain in foster homes or institutions until they become adults.

It is also the policy of this state to try, by means of the program of adoption support authorized in RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145, to reduce the total cost to the state of foster home and institutional care. [1985 c 7 § 133; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 1. Formerly RCW 74.13.100.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.007 Adoption support expenditures—Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that the current state adoption support policy to encourage, within available funds, the adoption of certain hard to place children, has expedited permanency for children who are unable to reunify with their family and has resulted in savings otherwise spent on foster care.

The legislature also finds that current economic conditions have reduced state funds available for many critical programs. The legislature further finds that adoption support expenditures continue to increase. Given these realities, the legislature finds there is a need to control adoption support costs without adversely impacting permanency for state dependent children.

The legislature acknowledges that the best way to reduce adoption support and foster care expenditures is to safely prevent children from entering the foster care system. However, the legislature also finds that the recent prospective reduction to adoption support payments set forth in chapter 50, Laws of 2011 1st sp. sess. has not, to date, adversely impacted permanency for foster children in need of adoptive homes.

Therefore, the legislature intends to continue the adoption assistance rate reduction beyond the period set forth in the operating budget, while focusing on sustainable long-term efforts to prevent children from entering the foster care system, such as pursuing a potential federal Title IV-E waiver, which if granted, would allow Washington to reinvest dollars otherwise spent on foster care in prevention programs.

The legislature also finds that many adoptive parents spend adoption support payments on additional mental health services for adoptive children that are not currently covered by existing public programs. The legislature intends to offset adoption support payment expenditures by facilitating efforts to improve the access and quality of existing mental health services for adoptive families in the long term. [2012 c 147 § 1.]

**74.13A.010 Prospective adoptive parent's fee for cost of adoption services.** When a child proposed for adoption is placed with a prospective adoptive parent the department may charge such parent a fee in payment or part payment of such adoptive parent's part of the cost of the adoption services rendered and to be rendered by the department.

In charging such fees the department shall treat a husband and wife as a single prospective adoptive parent.

Each such fee shall be fixed according to a sliding scale based on the ability to pay of the prospective adoptive parent or parents.

Such fee scale shall be annually fixed by the secretary after considering the recommendations of the committee designated by the secretary to advise him or her on child welfare and pursuant to the regulations to be issued by the secretary in accordance with the provisions of Title 34 RCW.

The secretary may waive, defer, or provide for payment in installments without interest of, any such fee whenever in his or her judgment payment or immediate payment would cause economic hardship to such adoptive parent or parents.

Nothing in this section shall require the payment of a fee to the state of Washington in a case in which an adoption results from independent placement or placement by a

licensed child-placing or supervising agency. [2009 c 520 § 64; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 2. Formerly RCW 74.13.103.]

**74.13A.015 Adoption services—Disposition of fees—Use—Federal funds—Gifts and grants.** All fees paid for adoption services pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 shall be credited to the general fund. Expenses incurred in connection with supporting the adoption of hard to place children shall be paid by warrants drawn against such appropriations as may be available. The secretary may for such purposes, contract with any public agency or supervising agency and/or adoptive parent and is authorized to accept funds from other sources including federal, private, and other public funding sources to carry out such purposes.

The secretary shall actively seek, where consistent with the policies and programs of the department, and shall make maximum use of, such federal funds as are or may be made available to the department for the purpose of supporting the adoption of hard to place children. The secretary may, if permitted by federal law, deposit federal funds for adoption support, aid to adoptions, or subsidized adoption in the general fund and may use such funds, subject to such limitations as may be imposed by federal or state law, to carry out the program of adoption support authorized by RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080. [2009 c 520 § 65; 1985 c 7 § 134; 1979 ex.s. c 67 § 7; 1975 c 53 § 1; 1973 c 61 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 3. Formerly RCW 74.13.106.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13A.020 Adoption support program administration—Rules and regulations—Disbursements from general fund, criteria—Limits.** (1) The secretary shall issue rules and regulations to assist in the administration of the program of adoption support authorized by RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080.

(2) Disbursements from the appropriations available from the general fund shall be made pursuant to such rules and regulations and pursuant to agreements conforming thereto to be made by the secretary with parents for the purpose of supporting the adoption of children in, or likely to be placed in, foster homes or child caring institutions who are found by the secretary to be difficult to place in adoption because of physical or other reasons; including, but not limited to, physical or mental handicap, emotional disturbance, ethnic background, language, race, color, age, or sibling grouping.

(3) Such agreements shall meet the following criteria:

(a) The child whose adoption is to be supported pursuant to such agreement shall be or have been a child hard to place in adoption.

(b) Such agreement must relate to a child who was or is residing in a foster home or child-caring institution or a child who, in the judgment of the secretary, is both eligible for, and likely to be placed in, either a foster home or a child-caring institution.

(c) Such agreement shall provide that adoption support shall not continue beyond the time that the adopted child reaches eighteen years of age, becomes emancipated, dies, or otherwise ceases to need support. If the secretary finds that continuing dependency of such child after such child reaches

eighteen years of age warrants the continuation of support pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 the secretary may do so, subject to all the provisions of RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080, including annual review of the amount of such support.

(d) Any prospective parent who is to be a party to such agreement shall be a person who has the character, judgment, sense of responsibility, and disposition which make him or her suitable as an adoptive parent of such child.

(4) At least six months before an adoption is finalized under chapter 26.33 RCW and \*RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145, the department must provide to the prospective adoptive parent, in writing, information describing the limits of the adoption support program including the following information:

(a) The limits on monthly cash payments to adoptive families;

(b) The limits on the availability of children's mental health services and the funds with which to pay for these services;

(c) The process for accessing mental health services for children receiving adoption support services;

(d) The limits on the one-time cash payments to adoptive families for expenses related to their adopted children; and

(e) That payment for residential or group care is not available for adopted children under the adoption support program. [2009 c 520 § 66; 2009 c 491 § 9; 1990 c 285 § 7; 1985 c 7 § 135; 1982 c 118 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 67 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 4. Formerly RCW 74.13.109.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

(2) This section was amended by 2009 c 491 § 9 and by 2009 c 520 § 66, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—1990 c 285:** See notes following RCW 74.04.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13A.025 Factors determining payments or adjustment in standards.** The factors to be considered by the secretary in setting the amount of any payment or payments to be made pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 and in adjusting standards hereunder shall include: The size of the family including the adoptive child, the usual living expenses of the family, the special needs of any family member including education needs, the family income, the family resources and plan for savings, the medical and hospitalization needs of the family, the family's means of purchasing or otherwise receiving such care, and any other expenses likely to be needed by the child to be adopted. In setting the amount of any initial payment made pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145, the secretary is authorized to establish maximum payment amounts that are reasonable and allow permanency planning goals related to adoption of children under RCW 13.34.145 to be achieved at the earliest possible date.

The amounts paid for the support of a child pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 may vary from family to family and from year to year. Due to changes

in economic circumstances or the needs of the child such payments may be discontinued and later resumed.

Payments under RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 may be continued by the secretary subject to review as provided for herein, if such parent or parents having such child in their custody establish their residence in another state or a foreign jurisdiction.

In fixing the standards to govern the amount and character of payments to be made for the support of adopted children pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 and before issuing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145, the secretary shall consider the comments and recommendations of the committee designated by the secretary to advise him with respect to child welfare. [1996 c 130 § 1; 1985 c 7 § 136; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 5. Formerly RCW 74.13.112.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.030 Both continuing payments and lump sum payments authorized.** To carry out the program authorized by RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145, the secretary may make continuing payments or lump sum payments of adoption support. In lieu of continuing payments, or in addition to them, the secretary may make one or more specific lump sum payments for or on behalf of a hard to place child either to the adoptive parents or directly to other persons to assist in correcting any condition causing such child to be hard to place for adoption.

Consistent with a particular child's needs, continuing adoption support payments shall include, if necessary to facilitate or support the adoption of a special needs child, an amount sufficient to remove any reasonable financial barrier to adoption as determined by the secretary under \*\*RCW 74.13.112.

After determination by the secretary of the amount of a payment or the initial amount of continuing payments, the prospective parent or parents who desire such support shall sign an agreement with the secretary providing for the payment, in the manner and at the time or times prescribed in regulations to be issued by the secretary subject to the provisions of RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145, of the amount or amounts of support so determined.

Payments shall be subject to review as provided in RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145. [1996 c 130 § 2; 1985 c 7 § 137; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 6. Formerly RCW 74.13.115.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 74.13.112 was recodified as RCW 74.13A.025 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.035 Application—1996 c 130.** Chapter 130, Laws of 1996 applies to adoption support payments for eligible children whose eligibility is determined on or after July 1, 1996. Chapter 130, Laws of 1996 does not apply retroactively to current recipients of adoption support payments. [1996 c 130 § 3. Formerly RCW 74.13.116.]

**74.13A.040 Review of support payments.** (1) Any parent who is a party to an agreement under \*RCW 74.13.100

through 74.13.145 may at any time, in writing, request, for reasons set forth in such request, a review of the amount of any payment or the level of continuing payments. The review shall begin not later than thirty days from the receipt of such request. Any adjustment may be made retroactive to the date such request was received by the secretary. If such request is not acted on within thirty days after it has been received by the secretary, such parent may invoke his rights under the hearing provisions set forth in \*\*RCW 74.13.127.

(2) The secretary may make adjustments in payments at the time of the review, or at other times, if the secretary finds that circumstances have changed and warrant an adjustment in payments. Changes in circumstances may include, but are not limited to, variations in medical opinions, prognosis, and costs. Appropriate adjustments in payments shall be made based upon changes in the needs of the child and/or changes in the adoptive parents' income, resources, and expenses for the care of such child or other members of the family, including medical and/or hospitalization expense not otherwise covered by or subject to reimbursement from insurance or other sources of financial assistance. [2009 c 527 § 1; 1995 c 270 § 2; 1985 c 7 § 138; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 7. Formerly RCW 74.13.118.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 74.13.127 was recodified as RCW 74.13A.055 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**Finding—1995 c 270:** "The legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the people of the state of Washington to support the adoption process in a variety of ways, including easing administrative burdens on adoptive parents receiving financial support, providing finality for adoptive placements and stable homes for children, and not delaying adoptions." [1995 c 270 § 1.]

#### **74.13A.045 Adoptive parent's financial information.**

So long as any adoptive parent is receiving support pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 he or she shall, upon request, file with the secretary a copy of his or her federal income tax return. Such return and any information thereon shall be marked by the secretary "confidential", shall be used by the secretary solely for the purposes of RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145, and shall not be revealed to any other person, institution or agency, public or private, including agencies of the United States government, other than a superior court, judge or commissioner before whom a petition for adoption of a child being supported or to be supported pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 is then pending.

In carrying on the review process authorized by RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 the secretary may require the adoptive parent or parents to disclose such additional financial information, not privileged, as may enable him or her to make determinations and adjustments in support to the end that the purposes and policies of this state expressed in \*RCW 74.13.100 may be carried out, provided that no adoptive parent or parents shall be obliged, by virtue of this section, to sign any agreement or other writing waiving any constitutional right or privilege nor to admit to his or her home any agent, employee, or official of any department of this state, or of the United States government.

Such information shall be marked "confidential" by the secretary, shall be used by him or her solely for the purposes of RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145, and

shall not be revealed to any other person, institution, or agency, public or private, including agencies of the United States government other than a superior court judge or commission before whom a petition for adoption of a child being supported or to be supported pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 is then pending. [1995 c 270 § 3; 1985 c 7 § 139; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 8. Formerly RCW 74.13.121.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**Finding—1995 c 270:** See note following RCW 74.13A.040.

**74.13A.047 Adoption assistance payments—Expenditure limits.** (1) To ensure expenditures continue to remain within available funds as required by RCW 74.13A.005 and 74.13A.020, the secretary shall not set the amount of any adoption assistance payment or payments, made pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080, to more than eighty percent of the foster care maintenance payment for that child had he or she remained in a foster family home during the same period. This subsection applies prospectively to adoption assistance agreements established on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) The department must establish a central unit of adoption support negotiators to help ensure consistent negotiation of adoption support agreements that will balance the needs of adoptive families with the state's need to remain fiscally responsible.

(3) The department must request, in writing, that adoptive families with existing adoption support contracts renegotiate their contracts to establish lower adoption assistance payments if it is fiscally feasible for the family to do so. The department shall explain that adoption support contracts may be renegotiated as needs arise. [2012 c 147 § 2.]

**74.13A.050 Agreements as contracts within state and federal Constitutions—State's continuing obligation.** An agreement for adoption support made before January 1, 1985, or pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080, although subject to review and adjustment as provided for herein, shall, as to the standard used by the secretary in making such review or reviews and any such adjustment, constitute a contract within the meaning of section 10, Article I of the United States Constitution and section 23, Article I of the state Constitution. For that reason once such an agreement has been made any review of and adjustment under such agreement shall as to the standards used by the secretary, be made only subject to the provisions of RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 and such rules and regulations relating thereto as they exist on the date of the initial determination in connection with such agreement or such more generous standard or parts of such standard as may hereafter be provided for by law or regulation. Once made such an agreement shall constitute a solemn undertaking by the state of Washington with such adoptive parent or parents. The termination of the effective period of RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 or a decision by the state or federal government to discontinue or reduce general appropriations made available for the purposes to be served by RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080, shall not affect the state's specific con-

tinuing obligations to support such adoptions, subject to such annual review and adjustment for all such agreements as have theretofore been entered into by the state.

The purpose of this section is to assure any such parent that, upon his or her consenting to assume the burdens of adopting a hard to place child, the state will not in future so act by way of general reduction of appropriations for the program authorized by RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 or ratable reductions, to impair the trust and confidence necessarily reposed by such parent in the state as a condition of such parent taking upon himself or herself the obligations of parenthood of a difficult to place child.

Should the secretary and any such adoptive parent differ as to whether any standard or part of a standard adopted by the secretary after the date of an initial agreement, which standard or part is used by the secretary in making any review and adjustment, is more generous than the standard in effect as of the date of the initial determination with respect to such agreement such adoptive parent may invoke his or her rights, including all rights of appeal under the fair hearing provisions, available to him or her under RCW 74.13A.055. [2009 c 520 § 67; 1985 c 7 § 140; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 9. Formerly RCW 74.13.124.]

**74.13A.055 Voluntary amendments to agreements—Procedure when adoptive parties disagree.** Voluntary amendments of any support agreement entered into pursuant to RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 may be made at any time. In proposing any such amending action which relates to the amount or level of a payment or payments, the secretary shall, as provided in \*\*RCW 74.13.124, use either the standard which existed as of the date of the initial determination with respect to such agreement or any subsequent standard or parts of such standard which both parties to such agreement agree is more generous than those in effect as of the date of such initial agreement. If the parties do not agree to the level of support, the secretary shall set the level. The secretary shall give the adoptive parent or parents written notice of the determination. The adoptive parent or parents aggrieved by the secretary's determination have the right to an adjudicative proceeding. The proceeding is governed by RCW 74.08.080 and chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act. [1989 c 175 § 148; 1985 c 7 § 141; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 10. Formerly RCW 74.13.127.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

\*\* (2) RCW 74.13.124 was recodified as RCW 74.13A.050 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13A.060 Nonrecurring adoption expenses.** The secretary may authorize the payment, from the appropriations available from the general fund, of all or part of the nonrecurring adoption expenses incurred by a prospective parent. "Nonrecurring adoption expenses" means those expenses incurred by a prospective parent in connection with the adoption of a difficult to place child including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees, court costs, and agency fees. Payment shall be made in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

This section shall have retroactive application to January 1, 1987. For purposes of retroactive application, the secretary

(2012 Ed.)

may provide reimbursement to any parent who adopted a difficult to place child between January 1, 1987, and one year following June 7, 1990, regardless of whether the parent had previously entered into an adoption support agreement with the department. [1990 c 285 § 8; 1985 c 7 § 142; 1979 ex.s. c 67 § 9; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 11. Formerly RCW 74.13.130.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—1990 c 285:** See notes following RCW 74.04.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.13A.065 Records—Confidentiality.** The secretary shall keep such general records as are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the program of adoption support authorized by RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 in encouraging and effectuating the adoption of hard to place children. In so doing the secretary shall, however, maintain the confidentiality required by law with respect to particular adoptions. [1985 c 7 § 143; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 13. Formerly RCW 74.13.133.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.070 Recommendations for support of the adoption of certain children.** Any supervising agency or person having a child in foster care or institutional care and wishing to recommend to the secretary support of the adoption of such child as provided for in RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 may do so, and may include in its or his or her recommendation advice as to the appropriate level of support and any other information likely to assist the secretary in carrying out the functions vested in the secretary by RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080. Such agency may, but is not required to, be retained by the secretary to make the required preplacement study of the prospective adoptive parent or parents. [2009 c 520 § 68; 1985 c 7 § 144; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 14. Formerly RCW 74.13.136.]

**74.13A.075 "Secretary" and "department" defined.** As used in RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and health services or his designee.

(2) "Department" means the department of social and health services. [1985 c 7 § 145; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 15. Formerly RCW 74.13.139.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.080 Short title—1971 act.** RCW 26.33.320 and \*74.13.100 through 74.13.145 may be known and cited as the "Adoption Support Demonstration Act of 1971". [1985 c 7 § 146; 1971 ex.s. c 63 § 17. Formerly RCW 74.13.145.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.085 Adoption support reconsideration program.** (1) The department of social and health services shall establish, within funds appropriated for the purpose, a reconsideration program to provide medical and counseling ser-

vices through the adoption support program for children of families who apply for services after the adoption is final. Families requesting services through the program shall provide any information requested by the department for the purpose of processing the family's application for services.

(2) A child meeting the eligibility criteria for registration with the program is one who:

(a) Was residing in a preadoptive placement funded by the department or in foster care funded by the department immediately prior to the adoptive placement;

(b) Had a physical or mental handicap or emotional disturbance that existed and was documented prior to the adoption or was at high risk of future physical or mental handicap or emotional disturbance as a result of conditions exposed to prior to the adoption; and

(c) Resides in the state of Washington with an adoptive parent who lacks the necessary financial means to care for the child's special need.

(3) If a family is accepted for registration and meets the criteria in subsection (2) of this section, the department may enter into an agreement for services. Prior to entering into an agreement for services through the program, the medical needs of the child must be reviewed and approved by the department.

(4) Any services provided pursuant to an agreement between a family and the department shall be met from the department's medical program. Such services shall be limited to:

(a) Services provided after finalization of an agreement between a family and the department pursuant to this section;

(b) Services not covered by the family's insurance or other available assistance; and

(c) Services related to the eligible child's identified physical or mental handicap or emotional disturbance that existed prior to the adoption.

(5) Any payment by the department for services provided pursuant to an agreement shall be made directly to the physician or provider of services according to the department's established procedures.

(6) The total costs payable by the department for services provided pursuant to an agreement shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars per child. [1997 c 131 § 1; 1990 c 285 § 5. Formerly RCW 74.13.150.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—1990 c 285:** See notes following RCW 74.04.005.

**74.13A.090 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Finding adoptive families for children for whom state assistance under \*RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 is desirable and assuring the protection of the interest of the children affected during the entire assistance period require special measures when the adoptive parents move to other states or are residents of another state.

(2) Provision of medical and other necessary services for children, with state assistance, encounters special difficulties when the provision of services takes place in other states. [1997 c 31 § 1. Formerly RCW 74.13.152.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.005 through 74.13A.080 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.095 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Purpose.** The purposes of \*RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 are to:

(1) Authorize the department to enter into interstate agreements with agencies of other states for the protection of children on behalf of whom adoption assistance is being provided by the department; and

(2) Provide procedures for interstate children's adoption assistance payments, including medical payments. [1997 c 31 § 2. Formerly RCW 74.13.153.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.090 through 74.13A.125 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.100 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout \*RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Adoption assistance state" means the state that is signatory to an adoption assistance agreement in a particular case.

(2) "Residence state" means the state where the child is living.

(3) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or a territory or possession of or administered by the United States. [1997 c 31 § 3. Formerly RCW 74.13.154.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.090 through 74.13A.125 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.105 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Authorization.** The department is authorized to develop, participate in the development of, negotiate, and enter into one or more interstate compacts on behalf of this state with other states to implement one or more of the purposes set forth in \*RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159. When entered into, and for so long as it remains in force, such a compact has the force and effect of law. [1997 c 31 § 4. Formerly RCW 74.13.155.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.090 through 74.13A.125 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.110 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Required provisions.** A compact entered into pursuant to the authority conferred by \*RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 must have the following content:

(1) A provision making it available for joinder by all states;

(2) A provision for withdrawal from the compact upon written notice to the parties, but with a period of one year between the date of the notice and the effective date of the withdrawal;

(3) A requirement that the protections afforded by or pursuant to the compact continue in force for the duration of the adoption assistance and be applicable to all children and their adoptive parents who, on the effective date of the withdrawal, are receiving adoption assistance from a party state other than the one in which they are resident and have their principal place of abode;

(4) A requirement that each instance of adoption assistance to which the compact applies be covered by an adoption

assistance agreement that is (a) in writing between the adoptive parents and the state child welfare agency of the state that undertakes to provide the adoption assistance, and (b) expressly for the benefit of the adopted child and enforceable by the adoptive parents and the state agency providing the adoption assistance; and

(5) Such other provisions as are appropriate to implement the proper administration of the compact. [1997 c 31 § 5. Formerly RCW 74.13.156.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.090 through 74.13A.125 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.115 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Additional provisions.** A compact entered into pursuant to the authority conferred by \*RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 may contain provisions in addition to those required under \*\*RCW 74.13.156, as follows:

(1) Provisions establishing procedures and entitlement to medical and other necessary social services for the child in accordance with applicable laws, even though the child and the adoptive parents are in a state other than the one responsible for or providing the services or the funds to defray part or all of the costs of the services; and

(2) Such other provisions as are appropriate or incidental to the proper administration of the compact. [1997 c 31 § 6. Formerly RCW 74.13.157.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.159 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.090 through 74.13A.125 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 74.13.156 was recodified as RCW 74.13A.110 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

**74.13A.120 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Medical assistance for children residing in this state—Penalty for fraudulent claims.**

(1) A child with special needs who resides in this state and is the subject of an adoption assistance agreement with another state is entitled to receive a medical assistance identification card from this state upon the filing with the department of a certified copy of the adoption assistance agreement obtained from the adoption assistance state. In accordance with regulations of the medical assistance administration, the adoptive parents are required at least annually to show that the agreement is still in force or has been renewed.

(2) The medical assistance administration shall consider the holder of a medical assistance identification under this section as any other holder of a medical assistance identification under the laws of this state and shall process and make payment on claims in the same manner and under the same conditions and procedures as for other recipients of medical assistance.

(3) The medical assistance administration shall provide coverage and benefits for a child who is in another state and is covered by an adoption assistance agreement made by the department for the coverage or benefits, if any, not provided by the residence state. Adoptive parents acting for the child may submit evidence of payment for services or benefit amounts not payable in the residence state for reimbursement. No reimbursement may be made for services or benefit amounts covered under any insurance or other third party medical contract or arrangement held by the child or the

adoptive parents. The department shall adopt rules implementing this subsection. The additional coverage and benefit amounts provided under this subsection must be for services to the cost of which there is no federal contribution, or which, if federally aided, are not provided by the residence state. The rules must include procedures to be followed in obtaining prior approval for services if required for the assistance.

(4) The submission of any claim for payment or reimbursement for services or benefits under this section or the making of any statement that the person knows or should know to be false, misleading, or fraudulent is punishable as perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW.

(5) This section applies only to medical assistance for children under adoption assistance agreements from states that have entered into a compact with this state under which the other state provided medical assistance to children with special needs under adoption assistance agreements made by this state. All other children entitled to medical assistance under an adoption assistance agreement entered into by this state are eligible to receive assistance in accordance with the applicable laws and procedures. [1997 c 31 § 7. Formerly RCW 74.13.158.]

**74.13A.125 Interstate agreements for adoption of children with special needs—Adoption assistance and medical assistance in state plan.**

Consistent with federal law, the department, in connection with the administration of \*RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.158 and any pursuant compact shall include in any state plan made pursuant to the adoption assistance and child welfare act of 1980 (P.L. 96-272), Titles IV(e) and XIX of the social security act, and any other applicable federal laws, the provision of adoption assistance and medical assistance for which the federal government pays some or all of the cost. The department shall apply for and administer all relevant federal aid in accordance with law. [1997 c 31 § 8. Formerly RCW 74.13.159.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.13.152 through 74.13.158 were recodified as RCW 74.13A.090 through 74.13A.120 pursuant to 2009 c 520 § 95.

## Chapter 74.13B RCW CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM— CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES

### Sections

74.13B.005	Findings—Intent.
74.13B.010	Definitions.
74.13B.020	Family support and related services—Child welfare services—Performance-based contracting.
74.13B.030	Selection of service providers.
74.13B.040	Performance-based contracting—Review.
74.13B.050	Express mandate.
74.13B.060	Preferred service providers.

**74.13B.005 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) The state of Washington and several Indian tribes in the state of Washington assume legal responsibility for abused or neglected children when their parents or caregivers are unable or unwilling to adequately provide for their safety, health, and welfare;

(b) Washington state has a strong history of partnership between the department of social and health services and contracted service providers who currently serve children and

families in the child welfare system. The department and its contracted service providers have responsibility for providing services to address parenting deficiencies resulting in child maltreatment, and the needs of children impacted by maltreatment;

(c) Department caseworkers and contracted service providers each play a critical and complementary role in the child welfare system;

(d) The current system of contracting for services needed by children and families in the child welfare system is fragmented, inflexible, and lacks incentives for improving outcomes for children and families.

(2) The legislature intends:

(a) To reform the delivery of certain services to children and families in the child welfare system by creating a flexible, accountable community-based system of care that utilizes performance-based contracting, maximizes the use of evidence-based, research-based, and promising practices, and expands the capacity of community-based agencies to leverage local funding and other resources to benefit children and families served by the department;

(b) To achieve improved child safety, child permanency, including reunification, and child well-being outcomes through the collaborative efforts of the department and contracted service providers and the prioritization of these goals in performance-based contracting; and

(c) To implement performance-based contracting under chapter 205, Laws of 2012 in a manner that supports and complies with the federal and Washington state Indian child welfare act. [2012 c 205 § 1.]

**74.13B.010 Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Case management" means convening family meetings, developing, revising, and monitoring implementation of any case plan or individual service and safety plan, coordinating and monitoring services needed by the child and family, caseworker-child visits, family visits, and the assumption of court-related duties, excluding legal representation, including preparing court reports, attending judicial hearings and permanency hearings, and ensuring that the child is progressing toward permanency within state and federal mandates, including the Indian child welfare act.

(2) "Child" means:

(a) A person less than eighteen years of age; or

(b) A person age eighteen to twenty-one years who is eligible to receive the extended foster care services authorized under RCW 74.13.031.

(3) "Child-placing agency" has the same meaning as in RCW 74.15.020.

(4) "Child welfare services" means social services including voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for, parental care and supervision for the purpose of:

(a) Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may result in families in conflict, or the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or criminal behavior of children;

(b) Protecting and caring for dependent, abused, or neglected children;

(c) Assisting children who are in conflict with their parents, and assisting parents who are in conflict with their children, with services designed to resolve such conflicts;

(d) Protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including the strengthening of their own homes where possible, or, where needed;

(e) Providing adequate care of children away from their homes in foster family homes or day care or other child care agencies or facilities.

(5) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(6) "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that is cost-effective and includes at least two randomized or statistically controlled evaluations that have demonstrated improved outcomes for its intended population.

(7) "Network administrator" means an entity that contracts with the department to provide defined services to children and families in the child welfare system through its provider network, as provided in RCW 74.13B.020.

(8) "Performance-based contracting" means structuring all aspects of the procurement of services around the purpose of the work to be performed and the desired results with the contract requirements set forth in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable outcomes and linking payment for services to contractor performance.

(9) "Promising practice" means a practice that presents, based upon preliminary information, potential for becoming a research-based or consensus-based practice.

(10) "Provider network" means those service providers who contract with a network administrator to provide services to children and families in the geographic area served by the network administrator.

(11) "Research-based" means a program or practice that has some research demonstrating effectiveness, but that does not yet meet the standard of evidence-based practices. [2012 c 205 § 2.]

**74.13B.020 Family support and related services—Child welfare services—Performance-based contracting.**

(1) No later than December 1, 2013, the department shall enter into performance-based contracts for the provision of family support and related services. The department may enter into performance-based contracts for additional services, other than case management.

(2) Beginning December 1, 2013, the department may not renew its current contracts with individuals or entities for the provision of the child welfare services included in performance-based contracts under this section for services in geographic areas served by network administrators under such contracts, except as mutually agreed upon between the department and the network administrator to allow for the successful transition of services that meet the needs of children and families.

(3) The department shall conduct a procurement process to enter into performance-based contracts with one or more network administrators for family support and related services. As part of the procurement process, the department shall consult with department caseworkers, the exclusive bargaining representative for employees of the department, tribal representatives, parents who were formerly involved in the child welfare system, youth currently or previously in fos-

ter care, child welfare services researchers, and the Washington state institute for public policy to assist in identifying the categories of family support and related services that will be included in the procurement. The categories of family support and related services shall be defined no later than July 15, 2012. In identifying services, the department must review current data and research related to the effectiveness of family support and related services that mitigate child safety concerns and promote permanency, including reunification, and child well-being. Expenditures for family support and related services purchased under this section must remain within the levels appropriated in the operating budget.

(4)(a) Network administrators shall, directly or through subcontracts with service providers:

(i) Assist caseworkers in meeting their responsibility for implementation of case plans and individual service and safety plans; and

(ii) Provide the family support and related services within the categories of contracted services that are included in a child or family's case plan or individual service and safety plan within funds available under contract.

(b) While the department caseworker retains responsibility for case management, nothing in chapter 205, Laws of 2012 limits the ability of the department to continue to contract for the provision of case management services by child-placing agencies, behavioral rehabilitation services agencies, or other entities that provided case management under contract with the department prior to July 1, 2005.

(5) In conducting the procurement, the department shall actively consult with other state agencies with relevant expertise, such as the health care authority, and with philanthropic entities with expertise in performance-based contracting for child welfare services. The director of the office of financial management must approve the request for proposal prior to its issuance.

(6) The procurement process must be developed and implemented in a manner that complies with applicable provisions of intergovernmental agreements between the state of Washington and tribal governments and must provide an opportunity for tribal governments to contract for service delivery through network administrators.

(7) The procurement and resulting contracts must include, but are not limited to, the following standards and requirements:

(a) The use of family engagement approaches to successfully motivate families to engage in services and training of the network's contracted providers to apply such approaches;

(b) The use of parents and youth who are successful veterans of the child welfare system to act as mentors through activities that include, but are not limited to, helping families navigate the system, facilitating parent engagement, and minimizing distrust of the child welfare system;

(c) The establishment of qualifications for service providers participating in provider networks, such as appropriate licensure or certification, education, and accreditation by professional accrediting entities;

(d) Adequate provider capacity to meet the anticipated service needs in the network administrator's contracted service area. The network administrator must be able to demonstrate that its provider network is culturally competent and has adequate capacity to address disproportionality, includ-

ing utilization of tribal and other ethnic providers capable of serving children and families of color or who need language-appropriate services;

(e) Fiscal solvency of network administrators and providers participating in the network;

(f) The use of evidence-based, research-based, and promising practices, where appropriate, including fidelity and quality assurance provisions;

(g) Network administrator quality assurance activities, including monitoring of the performance of providers in their provider network, with respect to meeting measurable service outcomes;

(h) Network administrator data reporting, including data on contracted provider performance and service outcomes; and

(i) Network administrator compliance with applicable provisions of intergovernmental agreements between the state of Washington and tribal governments and the federal and Washington state Indian child welfare act.

(8) As part of the procurement process under this section, the department shall issue the request for proposals no later than December 31, 2012. The department shall notify the apparently successful bidders no later than June 30, 2013.

(9) Performance-based payment methodologies must be used in network administrator contracting. Performance measures should relate to successful engagement by a child or parent in services included in their case plan, and resulting improvement in identified problem behaviors and interactions. For the initial three-year period of implementation of performance-based contracting, the department may transfer financial risk for the provision of services to network administrators only to the limited extent necessary to implement a performance-based payment methodology, such as phased payment for services. However, the department may develop a shared savings methodology through which the network administrator will receive a defined share of any savings that result from improved performance. If the department receives a Title IV-E waiver, the shared savings methodology must be consistent with the terms of the waiver. If a shared savings methodology is adopted, the network administrator shall reinvest the savings in enhanced services to better meet the needs of the families and children they serve.

(10) The department must actively monitor network administrator compliance with the terms of contracts executed under this section.

(11) The use of performance-based contracts under this section must be done in a manner that does not adversely affect the state's ability to continue to obtain federal funding for child welfare-related functions currently performed by the state and with consideration of options to further maximize federal funding opportunities and increase flexibility in the use of such funds, including use for preventive and in-home child welfare services. [2012 c 205 § 3.]

**74.13B.030 Selection of service providers.** (1) For those services included in contracts under RCW 74.13B.020, the service providers must be chosen by the department caseworker from among those in the network administrator's provider network. The criteria for provider selection must include the geographic proximity of the provider to the child or family, and the performance of the provider based upon

data collected and provided by the network administrator. If a reasonably qualified provider is not available through the network administrator's provider network, at the request of a department caseworker, a provider who is not currently under contract with the network administrator may be offered a provisional contract by the network administrator, pending that provider demonstrating that he or she meets applicable provider qualifications to participate in the administrator's provider network.

(2) The department shall develop a dispute resolution process to be used when the network administrator disagrees with the department caseworker's choice of a service provider due to factors such as the service provider's performance history or ability to serve culturally diverse families. The mediator or decision maker must be a neutral employee of the department who has not been previously involved in the case. The dispute resolution process must not result in a delay of more than two business days in the receipt of needed services by the child or family.

(3) The department and network administrator shall collaborate to identify and respond to patterns or trends in service utilization that may indicate overutilization or underutilization of family support and related services, or may indicate a need to enhance service capacity. [2012 c 205 § 4.]

#### **74.13B.040 Performance-based contracting—**

**Review.** (1) On an annual basis, beginning in the 2015-2017 biennium, the department and contracted network administrators shall:

(a) Review and update the services offered through performance-based contracts in response to service outcome data for currently contracted services and any research that has identified new evidence-based or research-based services not included in a previous procurement; and

(b) Review service utilization and outcome data to determine whether changes are needed in procurement policies or performance-based contracts to better meet the goals established in RCW 74.13B.005.

(2) In conducting the review under subsection (1) of this section, the department must consult with department caseworkers, the exclusive bargaining representative for employees of the department, tribal representatives, parents who were formerly involved in the child welfare system, youth currently or previously in foster care, child welfare services researchers, representatives of child welfare service providers, and the Washington state institute for public policy. [2012 c 205 § 5.]

**74.13B.050 Express mandate.** (1) To achieve the service delivery improvements and efficiencies intended in RCW 74.13B.005, 74.13B.020, 74.13B.030, and 74.13B.060 and in RCW 74.13.370, and pursuant to RCW 41.06.142(3), contracting with network administrators to provide services needed by children and families in the child welfare system, pursuant to RCW 74.13B.020 and 74.13B.030, and execution and monitoring of individual provider contracts, pursuant to RCW 74.13B.020, are expressly mandated by the legislature and are not subject to the processes set forth in RCW 41.06.142 (1), (4), and (5).

(2) The express mandate in subsection (1) of this section is limited to those services and activities provided in RCW

74.13B.020 and 74.13B.030. If the department includes services customarily and historically performed by department employees in the classified service in a procurement for network administrators that exceeds the scope of services or activities provided in RCW 74.13B.020 and 74.13B.030, such contracting is not specifically mandated and will be subject to all applicable contractual and legal obligations. [2012 c 205 § 6.]

**74.13B.060 Preferred service providers.** For the purposes of the provision of child welfare services by provider networks, when all other elements of the responses to any procurement under RCW 74.13B.020 are equal, private non-profit entities and federally recognized Indian tribes located in this state must receive primary preference over private for-profit entities. [2012 c 205 § 7.]

### **Chapter 74.14A RCW**

#### **CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

##### Sections

74.14A.010	Legislative declaration.
74.14A.020	Services for emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children, potentially dependent children, and families-in-conflict.
74.14A.025	Services for emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children, potentially dependent children, and families-in-conflict—Policy updated.
74.14A.030	Treatment of juvenile offenders—Nonresidential community-based programs.
74.14A.040	Treatment of juvenile offenders—Involvement of family unit.
74.14A.050	Identification of children in a state-assisted support system—Program development for long-term care—Foster care caseload—Emancipation of minors study.
74.14A.060	Blended funding projects—Department to make annual reports.
74.14A.900	Short title—1983 c 192.
74.14A.901	Severability—1983 c 192.

**74.14A.010 Legislative declaration.** The legislature reaffirms its declarations under RCW 13.34.020 that the family unit is the fundamental resource of American life which should be nurtured and that the family unit should remain intact in the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary. The legislature declares that the goal of serving emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children, potentially dependent children, and families-in-conflict in their own homes to avoid out-of-home placement of the child, when that form of care is premature, unnecessary, or inappropriate, is a high priority of this state. [1983 c 192 § 1.]

**74.14A.020 Services for emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children, potentially dependent children, and families-in-conflict.** State efforts shall address the needs of children and their families, including emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children, potentially dependent children, and families-in-conflict by:

(1) Serving children and families as a unit in the least restrictive setting available and in close proximity to the family home, consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child;

(2) Ensuring that appropriate social and health services are provided to the family unit both prior to and during the removal of a child from the home and after family reunification;

(3) Ensuring that the safety and best interests of the child are the paramount considerations when making placement and service delivery decisions;

(4) Recognizing the interdependent and changing nature of families and communities, building upon their inherent strengths, maintaining their dignity and respect, and tailoring programs to their specific circumstances;

(5) Developing and implementing comprehensive, preventive, and early intervention social and health services which have demonstrated the ability to delay or reduce the need for out-of-home placements and ameliorate problems before they become chronic or severe;

(6) Authorizing and facilitating blended funding for children who require services and residential treatment from multiple services systems; including child welfare services, mental health, alcohol and drug, and juvenile rehabilitation;

(7) Being sensitive to the family and community culture, norms, values, and expectations, ensuring that all services are provided in a culturally appropriate and relevant manner, and ensuring participation of racial and ethnic minorities at all levels of planning, delivery, and evaluation efforts;

(8)(a) Developing coordinated social and health services which:

(i) Identify problems experienced by children and their families early and provide services which are adequate in availability, appropriate to the situation, and effective;

(ii) Seek to bring about meaningful change before family situations become irreversibly destructive and before disturbed psychological behavioral patterns and health problems become severe or permanent;

(iii) Serve children and families in their own homes thus preventing unnecessary out-of-home placement or institutionalization;

(iv) Focus resources on social and health problems as they begin to manifest themselves rather than waiting for chronic and severe patterns of illness, criminality, and dependency to develop which require long-term treatment, maintenance, or custody;

(v) Reduce duplication of and gaps in service delivery;

(vi) Improve planning, budgeting, and communication among all units of the department and among all agencies that serve children and families; and

(vii) Utilize outcome standards for measuring the effectiveness of social and health services for children and families.

(b) In developing services under this subsection, local communities must be involved in planning and developing community networks that are tailored to their unique needs. [2000 c 219 § 1; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 102; 1983 c 192 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14A.025 Services for emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children, potentially dependent children, and families-in-conflict—Policy updated.** To update, specify, and expand the policy stated in RCW 74.14A.020, the following is declared:

It is the policy of the state of Washington to promote:

(1) Family-oriented services and supports that:

(a) Respond to the changing nature of families; and

(b) Respond to what individuals and families say they need, and meet those needs in a way that maintains their dignity and respects their choices;

(2) Culturally relevant services and supports that:

(a) Explicitly recognize the culture and beliefs of each family and use these as resources on behalf of the family;

(b) Provide equal access to culturally unique communities in planning and programs, and day-to-day work, and actively address instances where clearly disproportionate needs exist; and

(c) Enhance every culture's ability to achieve self-sufficiency and contribute in a productive way to the larger community;

(3) Coordinated services that:

(a) Develop strategies and skills for collaborative planning, problem solving, and service delivery;

(b) Encourage coordination and innovation by providing both formal and informal ways for people to communicate and collaborate in planning and programs;

(c) Allow clients, vendors, community people, and other agencies to creatively provide the most effective, responsive, and flexible services; and

(d) Commit to an open exchange of skills and information; and expect people throughout the system to treat each other with respect, dignity, and understanding;

(4) Locally planned services and supports that:

(a) Operate on the belief that each community has special characteristics, needs, and strengths;

(b) Include a cross-section of local community partners from the public and private sectors, in the planning and delivery of services and supports; and

(c) Support these partners in addressing the needs of their communities through both short-range and long-range planning and in establishing priorities within state and federal standards;

(5) Community-based prevention that encourages and supports state residents to create positive conditions in their communities to promote the well-being of families and reduce crises and the need for future services;

(6) Outcome-based services and supports that:

(a) Include a fair and realistic system for measuring both short-range and long-range progress and determining whether efforts make a difference;

(b) Use outcomes and indicators that reflect the goals that communities establish for themselves and their children;

(c) Work towards these goals and outcomes at all staff levels and in every agency; and

(d) Provide a mechanism for informing the development of program policies;

(7) Customer service that:

(a) Provides a climate that empowers staff to deliver quality programs and services;

(b) Is provided by courteous, sensitive, and competent professionals; and

(c) Upholds the dignity and respect of individuals and families by providing appropriate staff recognition, information, training, skills, and support;

(8) Creativity that:

(a) Increases the flexibility of funding and programs to promote innovation in planning, development, and provision of quality services; and

(b) Simplifies and reduces or eliminates rules that are barriers to coordination and quality services. [1992 c 198 § 2.]

*Family policy council: Chapter 70.190 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14A.030 Treatment of juvenile offenders—Non-residential community-based programs.** The department shall address the needs of juvenile offenders whose standard range sentences do not include commitment by developing nonresidential community-based programs designed to reduce the incidence of manifest injustice commitments when consistent with public safety. [1983 c 192 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14A.040 Treatment of juvenile offenders—Involvement of family unit.** The department shall involve a juvenile offender's family as a unit in the treatment process. The department need not involve the family as a unit in cases when family ties have by necessity been irrevocably broken. When the natural parents have been or will be replaced by a foster family or guardian, the new family will be involved in the treatment process. [1983 c 192 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14A.050 Identification of children in a state-assisted support system—Program development for long-term care—Foster care caseload—Emancipation of minors study.** The secretary shall:

(1)(a) Consult with relevant qualified professionals to develop a set of minimum guidelines to be used for identifying all children who are in a state-assisted support system, whether at-home or out-of-home, who are likely to need long-term care or assistance, because they face physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other long-term challenges;

(b) The guidelines must, at a minimum, consider the following criteria for identifying children in need of long-term care or assistance:

(i) Placement within the foster care system for two years or more;

(ii) Multiple foster care placements;

(iii) Repeated unsuccessful efforts to be placed with a permanent adoptive family;

(iv) Chronic behavioral or educational problems;

(v) Repetitive criminal acts or offenses;

(vi) Failure to comply with court-ordered disciplinary actions and other imposed guidelines of behavior, including drug and alcohol rehabilitation; and

(vii) Chronic physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other similar conditions necessitating long-term care or assistance;

(2) Develop programs that are necessary for the long-term care of children and youth that are identified for the purposes of this section. Programs must: (a) Effectively address the educational, physical, emotional, mental, and medical needs of children and youth; and (b) incorporate an array of family support options, to individual needs and choices of the child and family. The programs must be ready for implementation by January 1, 1995;

(3) Conduct an evaluation of all children currently within the foster care agency caseload to identify those children who

meet the criteria set forth in this section. All children entering the foster care system must be evaluated for identification of long-term needs within thirty days of placement;

(4) As a result of the passage of chapter 232, Laws of 2000, the department is conducting a pilot project to do a comparative analysis of a variety of assessment instruments to determine the most effective tools and methods for evaluation of children. The pilot project may extend through August 31, 2001. The department shall report to the appropriate committees in the senate and house of representatives by September 30, 2001, on the results of the pilot project. The department shall select an assessment instrument that can be implemented within available resources. The department shall complete statewide implementation by December 31, 2001. The department shall report to the appropriate committees in the senate and house of representatives on how the use of the selected assessment instrument has affected department policies, by no later than December 31, 2002, December 31, 2004, and December 31, 2006;

(5) Use the assessment tool developed pursuant to subsection (4) of this section in making out-of-home placement decisions for children;

(6) Each region of the department shall make the appropriate number of referrals to the foster care assessment program to ensure that the services offered by the program are used to the extent funded pursuant to the department's contract with the program. The department shall report to the legislature by November 30, 2000, on the number of referrals, by region, to the foster care assessment program. If the regions are not referring an adequate number of cases to the program, the department shall include in its report an explanation of what action it is or has taken to ensure that the referrals are adequate;

(7) The department shall report to the legislature by December 15, 2000, on how it will use the foster care assessment program model to assess children as they enter out-of-home care;

(8) The department is to accomplish the tasks listed in subsections (4) through (7) of this section within existing resources;

(9) Study and develop a comprehensive plan for the evaluation and identification of all children and youth in need of long-term care or assistance, including, but not limited to, the mentally ill, developmentally disabled, medically fragile, seriously emotionally or behaviorally disabled, and physically impaired;

(10) Study and develop a plan for the children and youth in need of long-term care or assistance to ensure the coordination of services between the department's divisions and between other state agencies who are involved with the child or youth;

(11) Study and develop guidelines for transitional services, between long-term care programs, based on the person's age or mental, physical, emotional, or medical condition; and

(12) Study and develop a statutory proposal for the emancipation of minors. [2003 c 207 § 9; 2001 c 255 § 1; 2000 c 232 § 1; 1998 c 245 § 149; 1993 c 508 § 7; 1993 c 505 § 5.]

*Emancipation of minors: Chapter 13.64 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14A.060 Blended funding projects—Department to make annual reports.** Within available funds, the secretary of the department of social and health services shall support blended funding projects for youth. To be eligible for blended funding a child must be eligible for services designed to address a behavioral, mental, emotional, or substance abuse issue from the department of social and health services and require services from more than one categorical service delivery system. Before any blended funding project is established by the secretary, any entity or person proposing the project shall seek input from the public health and safety network or networks established in the catchment area of the project. The network or networks shall submit recommendations on the blended funding project to the private-public initiative described in RCW 70.305.020. The private-public initiative shall advise the secretary whether to approve the proposed blended funding project. The network shall review the proposed blended funding project pursuant to its authority to examine the decategorization of program funds under \*RCW 70.190.110, within the current appropriation level. The department shall document the number of children who participate in blended funding projects, the total blended funding amounts per child, the amount charged to each appropriation by program, and services provided to each child through each blended funding project and report this information to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1st of each year, beginning in December 1, 2000. [2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 10; 2000 c 219 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.190.110 was repealed by 2011 1st sp.s. c 32 § 13, effective June 30, 2012.

**Transition plan—Report to the legislature—2011 1st sp.s. c 32:** See note following RCW 70.305.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14A.900 Short title—1983 c 192.** This act may be known and cited as the "children and family services act." [1983 c 192 § 6.]

**74.14A.901 Severability—1983 c 192.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1983 c 192 § 7.]

## Chapter 74.14B RCW CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### Sections

74.14B.010	Children's services workers—Hiring and training.
74.14B.020	Foster parent training.
74.14B.030	Child abuse and neglect—Multidisciplinary teams.
74.14B.040	Child abuse and neglect—Therapeutic day care and treatment.
74.14B.050	Child abuse and neglect—Counseling referrals.
74.14B.070	Child victims of sexual assault or sexual abuse—Early identification, treatment.
74.14B.080	Liability insurance for foster parents.
74.14B.900	Captions.
74.14B.901	Severability—1987 c 503.
74.14B.902	Effective date—1987 c 503.

**74.14B.010 Children's services workers—Hiring and training.** (1) Caseworkers employed in children services shall meet minimum standards established by the department of social and health services. Comprehensive training for

caseworkers shall be completed before such caseworkers are assigned to case-carrying responsibilities without direct supervision. Intermittent, part-time, and standby workers shall be subject to the same minimum standards and training.

(2) On-going specialized training shall be provided for persons responsible for investigating child sexual abuse. Training participants shall have the opportunity to practice interview skills and receive feedback from instructors.

(3) The department, the criminal justice training commission, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, and the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys shall design and implement statewide training that contains consistent elements for persons engaged in the interviewing of children, including law enforcement, prosecution, and child protective services.

(4) The training shall: (a) Be based on research-based practices and standards; (b) minimize the trauma of all persons who are interviewed during abuse investigations; (c) provide methods of reducing the number of investigative interviews necessary whenever possible; (d) assure, to the extent possible, that investigative interviews are thorough, objective, and complete; (e) recognize needs of special populations, such as persons with developmental disabilities; (f) recognize the nature and consequences of victimization; (g) require investigative interviews to be conducted in a manner most likely to permit the interviewed persons the maximum emotional comfort under the circumstances; (h) address record retention and retrieval; and (i) documentation of investigative interviews. [1999 c 389 § 5; 1987 c 503 § 8.]

**74.14B.020 Foster parent training.** The department shall, within funds appropriated for this purpose, provide foster parent training as an ongoing part of the foster care program. The department shall contract for a variety of support services to foster parents to reduce isolation and stress, and to increase skills and confidence. [1987 c 503 § 11.]

**74.14B.030 Child abuse and neglect—Multidisciplinary teams.** The department shall establish and maintain one or more multidisciplinary teams in each state region of the division of children and family services. The team shall consist of at least four persons, selected by the department, from professions which provide services to abused and neglected children and/or the parents of such children. The teams shall be available for consultation on all cases where a risk exists of serious harm to the child and where there is dispute over whether out-of-home placement is appropriate. [1987 c 503 § 12.]

**74.14B.040 Child abuse and neglect—Therapeutic day care and treatment.** The department shall, within funds appropriated for this purpose, provide therapeutic day care and day treatment to children who have been abused or neglected and meet program eligibility criteria. [1987 c 503 § 13.]

**74.14B.050 Child abuse and neglect—Counseling referrals.** The department of social and health services shall inform victims of child abuse and neglect and their families of the availability of state-supported counseling through the crime victims' compensation program, community mental

health centers, domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and other related programs. The department shall assist victims with referrals to these services. [1987 c 503 § 14.]

**74.14B.070 Child victims of sexual assault or sexual abuse—Early identification, treatment.** The department of social and health services through its division of children and family services shall, subject to available funds, establish a system of early identification and referral to treatment of child victims of sexual assault or sexual abuse. The system shall include schools, physicians, sexual assault centers, domestic violence centers, child protective services, and foster parents. A mechanism shall be developed to identify communities that have experienced success in this area and share their expertise and methodology with other communities statewide. [1990 c 3 § 1403.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14B.080 Liability insurance for foster parents.** (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, the secretary of social and health services shall provide liability insurance to foster parents licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW. The coverage shall be for personal injury and property damage caused by foster parents or foster children that occurred while the children were in foster care. Such insurance shall cover acts of ordinary negligence but shall not cover illegal conduct or bad faith acts taken by foster parents in providing foster care. Moneys paid from liability insurance for any claim are limited to the amount by which the claim exceeds the amount available to the claimant from any valid and collectible liability insurance.

(2) The secretary of social and health services may purchase the insurance required in subsection (1) of this section or may choose a self-insurance method. The total moneys expended pursuant to this authorization shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars per biennium. If the secretary elects a method of self-insurance, the expenditure shall include all administrative and staff costs. If the secretary elects a method of self-insurance, he or she may, by rule, place a limit on the maximum amount to be paid on each claim.

(3) Nothing in this section or RCW 4.24.590 is intended to modify the foster parent reimbursement plan in place on July 1, 1991.

(4) The liability insurance program shall be available by July 1, 1991. [1991 c 283 § 2.]

**Findings—1991 c 283:** "The legislature recognizes the unique legal risks that foster parents face in taking children into their care. Third parties have filed claims against foster parents for losses and damage caused by foster children. Additionally, foster children and their parents have sued foster parents for actions occurring while the children were in foster care. The legislature finds that some potential foster parents are unwilling to subject themselves to potential liability without insurance protection. The legislature further finds that to encourage those people to serve as foster parents, it is necessary to assure that such insurance is available to them." [1991 c 283 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14B.900 Captions.** Section headings as used in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law. [1987 c 503 § 19.]

**74.14B.901 Severability—1987 c 503.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1987 c 503 § 21.]

**74.14B.902 Effective date—1987 c 503.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1987. [1987 c 503 § 22.]

## Chapter 74.14C RCW FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES

### Sections

74.14C.005	Findings and intent.
74.14C.010	Definitions.
74.14C.020	Preservation services.
74.14C.030	Department duties.
74.14C.032	Preservation services contracts.
74.14C.040	Intensive family preservation services—Eligibility criteria.
74.14C.042	Family preservation services—Eligibility criteria.
74.14C.060	Funds, volunteer services.
74.14C.065	Federal funds.
74.14C.070	Appropriations—Transfer of funds from foster care services to family preservation services—Annual report.
74.14C.090	Reports on referrals and services.
74.14C.100	Training and consultation for department personnel—Training for judges and service providers.
74.14C.900	Severability—1992 c 214.

**74.14C.005 Findings and intent.** (1) The legislature believes that protecting the health and safety of children is paramount. The legislature recognizes that the number of children entering out-of-home care is increasing and that a number of children receive long-term foster care protection. Reasonable efforts by the department to shorten out-of-home placement or avoid it altogether should be a major focus of the child welfare system. It is intended that providing up-front services decrease the number of children entering out-of-home care and have the effect of eventually lowering foster care expenditures and strengthening the family unit.

Within available funds, the legislature directs the department to focus child welfare services on protecting the child, strengthening families and, to the extent possible, providing necessary services in the family setting, while drawing upon the strengths of the family. The legislature intends services be locally based and offered as early as possible to avoid disruption to the family, out-of-home placement of the child, and entry into the dependency system. The legislature also intends that these services be used for those families whose children are returning to the home from out-of-home care. These services are known as family preservation services and intensive family preservation services and are characterized by the following values, beliefs, and goals:

- Safety of the child is always the first concern;
- Children need their families and should be raised by their own families whenever possible;
- Interventions should focus on family strengths and be responsive to the individual family's cultural values and needs;
- Participation should be voluntary; and
- Improvement of family functioning is essential in order to promote the child's health, safety, and welfare and

thereby allow the family to remain intact and allow children to remain at home.

(2) Subject to the availability of funds for such purposes, the legislature intends for these services to be made available to all eligible families on a statewide basis through a phased-in process. Except as otherwise specified by statute, the department of social and health services shall have the authority and discretion to implement and expand these services as provided in this chapter. The department shall consult with the community public health and safety networks when assessing a community's resources and need for services.

(3) It is the legislature's intent that, within available funds, the department develop services in accordance with this chapter.

(4) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to create an entitlement to services nor to create judicial authority to order the provision of preservation services to any person or family if the services are unavailable or unsuitable or that the child or family are not eligible for such services. [1995 c 311 § 1; 1992 c 214 § 1.]

**74.14C.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(2) "Community support systems" means the support that may be organized through extended family members, friends, neighbors, religious organizations, community programs, cultural and ethnic organizations, or other support groups or organizations.

(3) "Family preservation services" means in-home or community-based services drawing on the strengths of the family and its individual members while addressing family needs to strengthen and keep the family together where possible and may include:

(a) Respite care of children to provide temporary relief for parents and other caregivers;

(b) Services designed to improve parenting skills with respect to such matters as child development, family budgeting, coping with stress, health, safety, and nutrition; and

(c) Services designed to promote the well-being of children and families, increase the strength and stability of families, increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities, promote a safe, stable, and supportive family environment for children, and otherwise enhance children's development.

Family preservation services shall have the characteristics delineated in RCW 74.14C.020 (2) and (3).

(4) "Imminent" means a decision has been made by the department that, without intensive family preservation services, a petition requesting the removal of a child from the family home will be immediately filed under chapter 13.32A or 13.34 RCW, or that a voluntary placement agreement will be immediately initiated.

(5) "Intensive family preservation services" means community-based services that are delivered primarily in the home, that follow intensive service models with demonstrated effectiveness in reducing or avoiding the need for unnecessary imminent out-of-home placement, and that have

all of the characteristics delineated in RCW 74.14C.020 (1) and (3).

(6) "Out-of-home placement" means a placement in a foster family home or group care facility licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW or placement in a home, other than that of the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian, not required to be licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW.

(7) "Paraprofessional worker" means any individual who is trained and qualified to provide assistance and community support systems development to families and who acts under the supervision of a preservation services therapist. The paraprofessional worker is not intended to replace the role and responsibilities of the preservation services therapist.

(8) "Preservation services" means family preservation services and intensive family preservation services that consider the individual family's cultural values and needs. [1996 c 240 § 2; 1995 c 311 § 2; 1992 c 214 § 2.]

**74.14C.020 Preservation services.** (1) Intensive family preservation services shall have all of the following characteristics:

(a) Services are provided by specially trained service providers who have received at least forty hours of training from recognized intensive in-home services experts. Service providers deliver the services in the family's home, and other environments of the family, such as their neighborhood or schools;

(b) Caseload size averages two families per service provider unless paraprofessional services are utilized, in which case a provider may, but is not required to, handle an average caseload of five families;

(c) The services to the family are provided by a single service provider who may be assisted by paraprofessional workers, with backup providers identified to provide assistance as necessary;

(d) Services are available to the family within twenty-four hours following receipt of a referral to the program; and

(e) Duration of service is limited to a maximum of forty days, unless paraprofessional workers are used, in which case the duration of services is limited to a maximum of ninety days. The department may authorize an additional provision of service through an exception to policy when the department and provider agree that additional services are needed.

(2) Family preservation services shall have all of the following characteristics:

(a) Services are delivered primarily in the family home or community;

(b) Services are committed to reinforcing the strengths of the family and its members and empowering the family to solve problems and become self-sufficient;

(c) Services are committed to providing support to families through community organizations including but not limited to school, church, cultural, ethnic, neighborhood, and business;

(d) Services are available to the family within forty-eight hours of referral unless an exception is noted in the file;

(e) Duration of service is limited to a maximum of six months, unless the department requires additional follow-up on an individual case basis; and

(f) Caseload size no more than ten families per service provider, which can be adjusted when paraprofessional workers are used or required by the department.

(3) Preservation services shall include the following characteristics:

(a) Services protect the child and strengthen the family;

(b) Service providers have the authority and discretion to spend funds, up to a maximum amount specified by the department, to help families obtain necessary food, shelter, or clothing, or to purchase other goods or services that will enhance the effectiveness of intervention;

(c) Services are available to the family twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week;

(d) Services enhance parenting skills, family and personal self-sufficiency, functioning of the family, and reduce stress on families; and

(e) Services help families locate and use additional assistance including, but not limited to, the development and maintenance of community support systems, counseling and treatment services, housing, child care, education, job training, emergency cash grants, state and federally funded public assistance, and other basic support services. [1996 c 240 § 3; 1995 c 311 § 3; 1992 c 214 § 3.]

**74.14C.030 Department duties.** (1) The department shall be the lead administrative agency for preservation services and may receive funding from any source for the implementation or expansion of such services. The department shall:

(a) Provide coordination and planning with the advice of the community networks for the implementation and expansion of preservation services; and

(b) Monitor and evaluate such services to determine whether the programs meet measurable standards specified by this chapter and the department.

(2) The department may: (a) Allow its contractors for preservation services to use paraprofessional workers when the department and provider determine the use appropriate. The department may also use paraprofessional workers, as appropriate, when the department provides preservation services; and (b) allow follow-up to be provided, on an individual case basis, when the department and provider determine the use appropriate.

(3) In carrying out the requirements of this section, the department shall consult with qualified agencies that have demonstrated expertise and experience in preservation services.

(4) The department may provide preservation services directly and shall, within available funds, enter into outcome-based, competitive contracts with social service agencies to provide preservation services, provided that such agencies meet measurable standards specified by this chapter and by the department. The standards shall include, but not be limited to, satisfactory performance in the following areas:

(a) The number of families appropriately connected to community resources;

(b) Avoidance of new referrals accepted by the department for child protective services or family reconciliation services within one year of the most recent case closure by the department;

(c) Consumer satisfaction;

(d) For reunification cases, reduction in the length of stay in out-of-home placement; and

(e) Reduction in the level of risk factors specified by the department.

(5)(a) The department shall not provide intensive family preservation services unless it is demonstrated that provision of such services prevent out-of-home placement in at least seventy percent of the cases served for a period of at least six months following termination of services. The department's caseworkers may only provide preservation services if there is no other qualified entity willing or able to do so.

(b) Contractors shall demonstrate that provision of intensive family preservation services prevent out-of-home placement in at least seventy percent of the cases served for a period of no less than six months following termination of services. The department may increase the period of time based on additional research and data. If the contractor fails to meet the seventy percent requirement the department may: (i) Review the conditions that may have contributed to the failure to meet the standard and renew the contract if the department determines: (A) The contractor is making progress to meet the standard; or (B) conditions unrelated to the provision of services, including case mix and severity of cases, contributed to the failure; or (ii) reopen the contract for other bids.

(c) The department shall cooperate with any person who has a contract under this section in providing data necessary to determine the amount of reduction in foster care. For the purposes of this subsection "prevent out-of-home placement" means that a child who has been a recipient of intensive family preservation services has not been placed outside of the home, other than for a single, temporary period of time not exceeding fourteen days.

(6) The department shall adopt rules to implement this chapter. [1996 c 240 § 4; 1995 c 311 § 4; 1992 c 214 § 4.]

**74.14C.032 Preservation services contracts.** The initial contracts under \*RCW 74.14C.030(3) shall be executed not later than July 1996 and shall expire June 30, 1997. Subsequent contracts shall be for periods not to exceed twenty-four months. [1995 c 311 § 13.]

*\*Reviser's note:* RCW 74.14C.030 was amended by 1996 c 240 § 4, changing subsection (3) to subsection (4).

**74.14C.040 Intensive family preservation services—Eligibility criteria.** (1) Intensive family preservation services may be provided to children and their families only when the department has determined that:

(a) The child has been placed out-of-home or is at imminent risk of an out-of-home placement due to:

(i) Child abuse or neglect;

(ii) A serious threat of substantial harm to the child's health, safety, or welfare; or

(iii) Family conflict; and

(b) There are no other reasonably available services including family preservation services that will prevent out-of-home placement of the child or make it possible to immediately return the child home.

(2) The department shall refer eligible families to intensive family preservation services on a twenty-four hour intake basis. The department need not refer otherwise eligible

families, and intensive family preservation services need not be provided, if:

- (a) The services are not available in the community in which the family resides;
- (b) The services cannot be provided because the program is filled to capacity and there are no current service openings;
- (c) The family refuses the services;
- (d) The department, or the agency that is supervising the foster care placement, has developed a case plan that does not include reunification of the child and family; or
- (e) The department or the service provider determines that the safety of a child, a family member, or persons providing the service would be unduly threatened.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent provision of intensive family preservation services to nonfamily members when the department or the service provider deems it necessary or appropriate to do so in order to assist the family or child. [1995 c 311 § 6; 1992 c 214 § 5.]

**74.14C.042 Family preservation services—Eligibility criteria.** (1) Family preservation services may be provided to children and their families only when the department has determined that without intervention, the child faces a substantial likelihood of out-of-home placement due to:

- (a) Child abuse or neglect;
  - (b) A serious threat of substantial harm to the child's health, safety, or welfare; or
  - (c) Family conflict.
- (2) The department need not refer otherwise eligible families and family preservation services need not be provided, if:

- (a) The services are not available in the community in which the family resides;
- (b) The services cannot be provided because the program is filled to capacity;
- (c) The family refuses the services; or
- (d) The department or the service provider determines that the safety of a child, a family member, or persons providing the services would be unduly threatened.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent provision of family preservation services to nonfamily members when the department or the service provider deems it necessary or appropriate to do so in order to assist the family or the child. [1995 c 311 § 7.]

**74.14C.060 Funds, volunteer services.** For the purpose of providing preservation services the department may:

- (1) Solicit and use any available federal or private resources, which may include funds, in-kind resources, or volunteer services; and
- (2) Use any available state resources, which may include in-kind resources or volunteer services. [1995 c 311 § 10; 1992 c 214 § 7.]

**74.14C.065 Federal funds.** Any federal funds made available under RCW 74.14C.060 shall be used to supplement and shall not supplant state funds to carry out the purposes of this chapter. However, during the 1995-97 fiscal biennium, federal funds made available under RCW 74.14C.060 may be used to supplant state funds to carry out

(2012 Ed.)

the purposes of this chapter. [1995 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 922; 1992 c 214 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.14C.070 Appropriations—Transfer of funds from foster care services to family preservation services—Annual report.** The secretary of social and health services, or the secretary's regional designee, may transfer funds appropriated for foster care services to purchase preservation services and other preventive services for children at imminent risk of out-of-home placement or who face a substantial likelihood of out-of-home placement. This transfer may be made in those regions that lower foster care expenditures through efficient use of preservation services and permanency planning efforts. The transfer shall be equivalent to the amount of reduced foster care expenditures and shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and with the approval of the office of financial management. The department shall present an annual report to the legislature regarding any transfers under this section only if transfers occur. The department shall include caseload, expenditure, cost avoidance, identified improvements to the out-of-home care system, and outcome data related to the transfer in the report. The department shall also include in the report information regarding:

- (1) The percent of cases where a child is placed in out-of-home care after the provision of intensive family preservation services or family preservation services;
- (2) The average length of time before the child is placed out-of-home;
- (3) The average length of time the child is placed out-of-home; and
- (4) The number of families that refused the offer of either family preservation services or intensive family preservation services. [2003 c 207 § 3; 1995 c 311 § 11; 1994 c 288 § 3; 1992 c 214 § 9.]

**Funds transfer review:** "The juvenile issues task force established under chapter 234, Laws of 1991, shall review the advisability of transferring appropriated funds from foster care to purchase family preservation services for children at imminent risk of foster care placement and include findings and recommendations on the transfer of funds to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives by December 15, 1992. The task force shall identify ways to improve the foster care system and expand family preservation services with the savings generated by avoiding the placement of children at imminent risk of foster care placement through the provision of family preservation services." [1992 c 214 § 10.]

**74.14C.090 Reports on referrals and services.** Each department caseworker who refers a client for preservation services shall file a report with his or her direct supervisor stating the reasons for which the client was referred. The caseworker's supervisor shall verify in writing his or her belief that the family who is the subject of a referral for preservation services meets the eligibility criteria for services as provided in this chapter. The direct supervisor shall report monthly to the regional administrator on the provision of these services. The regional administrator shall report to the assistant secretary quarterly on the provision of these services for the entire region. The assistant secretary shall make a semiannual report to the secretary on the provision of these services on a statewide basis. [1995 c 311 § 8.]

**74.14C.100 Training and consultation for department personnel—Training for judges and service providers.** (1) The department shall, within available funds, provide for ongoing training and consultation to department personnel to carry out their responsibilities effectively. Such training may:

(a) Include the family unit as the primary focus of service; identifying family member strengths; empowering families; child, adult, and family development; stress management; and may include parent training and family therapy techniques;

(b) Address intake and referral, assessment of risk, case assessment, matching clients to services, and service planning issues in the context of the home-delivered service model, including strategies for engaging family members, defusing violent situations, and communication and conflict resolution skills;

(c) Cover methods of helping families acquire the skills they need, including home management skills, life skills, parenting, child development, and the use of community resources;

(d) Address crisis intervention and other strategies for the management of depression, and suicidal, assaultive, and other high-risk behavior; and

(e) Address skills in collaborating with other disciplines and services in promoting the safety of children and other family members and promoting the preservation of the family.

(2) The department and the administrative office of the courts shall, within available funds, collaborate in providing training to judges, and others involved in the provision of services pursuant to this title, including service providers, on the function and use of preservation services. [2005 c 282 § 48; 1995 c 311 § 12.]

**74.14C.900 Severability—1992 c 214.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1992 c 214 § 13.]

### Chapter 74.15 RCW

#### CARE OF CHILDREN, EXPECTANT MOTHERS, DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

##### Sections

74.15.010	Declaration of purpose.
74.15.020	Definitions.
74.15.030	Powers and duties of secretary.
74.15.040	Licenses for foster-family homes required—Inspections.
74.15.050	Fire protection—Powers and duties of chief of the Washington state patrol.
74.15.060	Health protection—Powers and duties of secretary of health.
74.15.070	Articles of incorporation and amendments—Copies to be furnished to department.
74.15.080	Access to agencies, records.
74.15.090	Licenses required for agencies.
74.15.100	License application, issuance, duration—Reclassification—Location changes.
74.15.110	Renewal of licenses.
74.15.120	Initial licenses.
74.15.125	Probationary licenses.
74.15.130	Licenses—Denial, suspension, revocation, modification—Procedures—Adjudicative proceedings—Penalties.
74.15.132	Adjudicative proceedings—Training for administrative law judges.

74.15.134	License or certificate suspension—Noncompliance with support order—Reissuance.
74.15.140	Action against licensed or unlicensed agencies authorized.
74.15.150	Penalty for operating without license.
74.15.160	Continuation of existing licensing rules.
74.15.170	Agencies, homes conducted by religious organizations—Application of chapter.
74.15.180	Designating home or facility as semi-secure facility.
74.15.190	Authority of Indian tribes to license agencies within reservations—Placement of children.
74.15.200	Child abuse and neglect prevention training to parents and day care providers.
74.15.210	Community facility—Service provider must report juvenile infractions or violations—Violations by service provider—Secretary's duties—Rules.
74.15.220	HOPE centers—Establishment—Requirements.
74.15.225	HOPE centers—Eligibility—Minors.
74.15.230	Responsible living skills programs—Established—Requirements.
74.15.240	Responsible living skills program—Eligibility.
74.15.250	HOPE centers—Responsible living skills programs—Licensing authority—Rules.
74.15.255	Secure or semi-secure crisis residential centers and HOPE centers—Collaboration—Colocation—Requirement for licensing.
74.15.260	HOPE centers—Responsible living skills programs—Grant proposals—Technical assistance.
74.15.270	HOPE centers—Responsible living skills programs—Awarding of contracts.
74.15.280	Emergency respite centers—Licensing—Rules.
74.15.300	Enforcement action—Definition.
74.15.900	Short title—Purpose—Entitlement not granted—1999 c 267 §§ 10-26.
74.15.901	Federal waivers—1999 c 267 §§ 10-26.
74.15.902	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.
74.15.903	Construction—Religious or nonprofit organizations.

*Adoption: Chapter 26.33 RCW.*

*Age of majority: Chapter 26.28 RCW.*

*Birthing centers: Chapter 18.46 RCW.*

*Child abuse: Chapter 26.44 RCW.*

*Immunization program, applicability to day care centers: RCW 28A.210.060 through 28A.210.170.*

*Liability insurance for foster parents: RCW 74.14B.080.*

*Liability of foster parents: RCW 4.24.590.*

*Out-of-home placement—Court action upon filing of child in need of services petition—Child placement: RCW 13.32A.160.*

*Uniform Parentage Act: Chapter 26.26 RCW.*

**74.15.010 Declaration of purpose.** The purpose of chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 is:

(1) To safeguard the health, safety, and well-being of children, expectant mothers and developmentally disabled persons receiving care away from their own homes, which is paramount over the right of any person to provide care;

(2) To strengthen and encourage family unity and to sustain parental rights and responsibilities to the end that foster care is provided only when a child's family, through the use of all available resources, is unable to provide necessary care;

(3) To promote the development of a sufficient number and variety of adequate foster family homes and maternity-care facilities, both public and private, through the cooperative efforts of public and supervising agencies and related groups;

(4) To provide consultation to agencies caring for children, expectant mothers or developmentally disabled persons in order to help them to improve their methods of and facilities for care;

(5) To license agencies as defined in RCW 74.15.020 and to assure the users of such agencies, their parents, the community at large and the agencies themselves that ade-

quate minimum standards are maintained by all agencies caring for children, expectant mothers and developmentally disabled persons. [2009 c 520 § 12; 1995 c 302 § 2; 1983 c 3 § 192; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 70; 1967 c 172 § 1.]

**Intent—1995 c 302:** "The legislature declares that the state of Washington has a compelling interest in protecting and promoting the health, welfare, and safety of children, including those who receive care away from their own homes. The legislature further declares that no person or agency has a right to be licensed under this chapter to provide care for children. The health, safety, and well-being of children must be the paramount concern in determining whether to issue a license to an applicant, whether to suspend or revoke a license, and whether to take other licensing action. The legislature intends, through the provisions of this act, to provide the department of social and health services with additional enforcement authority to carry out the purpose and provisions of this act. Furthermore, administrative law judges should receive specialized training so that they have the specialized expertise required to appropriately review licensing decisions of the department.

Children placed in foster care are particularly vulnerable and have a special need for placement in an environment that is stable, safe, and nurturing. For this reason, foster homes should be held to a high standard of care, and department decisions regarding denial, suspension, or revocation of foster care licenses should be upheld on review if there are reasonable grounds for such action." [1995 c 302 § 1.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter and RCW 74.13.031 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agency" means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or facility which receives children, expectant mothers, or persons with developmental disabilities for control, care, or maintenance outside their own homes, or which places, arranges the placement of, or assists in the placement of children, expectant mothers, or persons with developmental disabilities for foster care or placement of children for adoption, and shall include the following irrespective of whether there is compensation to the agency or to the children, expectant mothers or persons with developmental disabilities for services rendered:

(a) "Child-placing agency" means an agency which places a child or children for temporary care, continued care, or for adoption;

(b) "Community facility" means a group care facility operated for the care of juveniles committed to the department under RCW 13.40.185. A county detention facility that houses juveniles committed to the department under RCW 13.40.185 pursuant to a contract with the department is not a community facility;

(c) "Crisis residential center" means an agency which is a temporary protective residential facility operated to perform the duties specified in chapter 13.32A RCW, in the manner provided in RCW 74.13.032 through 74.13.036;

(d) "Emergency respite center" is an agency that may be commonly known as a crisis nursery, that provides emergency and crisis care for up to seventy-two hours to children who have been admitted by their parents or guardians to prevent abuse or neglect. Emergency respite centers may operate for up to twenty-four hours a day, and for up to seven days a week. Emergency respite centers may provide care for children ages birth through seventeen, and for persons eighteen through twenty with developmental disabilities who are admitted with a sibling or siblings through age seventeen.

Emergency respite centers may not substitute for crisis residential centers or HOPE centers, or any other services defined under this section, and may not substitute for services which are required under chapter 13.32A or 13.34 RCW;

(e) "Foster-family home" means an agency which regularly provides care on a twenty-four hour basis to one or more children, expectant mothers, or persons with developmental disabilities in the family abode of the person or persons under whose direct care and supervision the child, expectant mother, or person with a developmental disability is placed;

(f) "Group-care facility" means an agency, other than a foster-family home, which is maintained and operated for the care of a group of children on a twenty-four hour basis;

(g) "HOPE center" means an agency licensed by the secretary to provide temporary residential placement and other services to street youth. A street youth may remain in a HOPE center for thirty days while services are arranged and permanent placement is coordinated. No street youth may stay longer than thirty days unless approved by the department and any additional days approved by the department must be based on the unavailability of a long-term placement option. A street youth whose parent wants him or her returned to home may remain in a HOPE center until his or her parent arranges return of the youth, not longer. All other street youth must have court approval under chapter 13.34 or 13.32A RCW to remain in a HOPE center up to thirty days;

(h) "Maternity service" means an agency which provides or arranges for care or services to expectant mothers, before or during confinement, or which provides care as needed to mothers and their infants after confinement;

(i) "Responsible living skills program" means an agency licensed by the secretary that provides residential and transitional living services to persons ages sixteen to eighteen who are dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW and who have been unable to live in his or her legally authorized residence and, as a result, the minor lived outdoors or in another unsafe location not intended for occupancy by the minor. Dependent minors ages fourteen and fifteen may be eligible if no other placement alternative is available and the department approves the placement;

(j) "Service provider" means the entity that operates a community facility.

(2) "Agency" shall not include the following:

(a) Persons related to the child, expectant mother, or person with developmental disability in the following ways:

(i) Any blood relative, including those of half-blood, and including first cousins, second cousins, nephews or nieces, and persons of preceding generations as denoted by prefixes of grand, great, or great-great;

(ii) Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, and stepsister;

(iii) A person who legally adopts a child or the child's parent as well as the natural and other legally adopted children of such persons, and other relatives of the adoptive parents in accordance with state law;

(iv) Spouses of any persons named in (i), (ii), or (iii) of this subsection (2)(a), even after the marriage is terminated;

(v) Relatives, as named in (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of this subsection (2)(a), of any half sibling of the child; or

(vi) Extended family members, as defined by the law or custom of the Indian child's tribe or, in the absence of such law or custom, a person who has reached the age of eighteen

and who is the Indian child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or stepparent who provides care in the family abode on a twenty-four-hour basis to an Indian child as defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903(4);

(b) Persons who are legal guardians of the child, expectant mother, or persons with developmental disabilities;

(c) Persons who care for a neighbor's or friend's child or children, with or without compensation, where the parent and person providing care on a twenty-four-hour basis have agreed to the placement in writing and the state is not providing any payment for the care;

(d) A person, partnership, corporation, or other entity that provides placement or similar services to exchange students or international student exchange visitors or persons who have the care of an exchange student in their home;

(e) A person, partnership, corporation, or other entity that provides placement or similar services to international children who have entered the country by obtaining visas that meet the criteria for medical care as established by the United States citizenship and immigration services, or persons who have the care of such an international child in their home;

(f) Schools, including boarding schools, which are engaged primarily in education, operate on a definite school year schedule, follow a stated academic curriculum, accept only school-age children and do not accept custody of children;

(g) Hospitals licensed pursuant to chapter 70.41 RCW when performing functions defined in chapter 70.41 RCW, nursing homes licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW and assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW;

(h) Licensed physicians or lawyers;

(i) Facilities approved and certified under chapter 71A.22 RCW;

(j) Any agency having been in operation in this state ten years prior to June 8, 1967, and not seeking or accepting moneys or assistance from any state or federal agency, and is supported in part by an endowment or trust fund;

(k) Persons who have a child in their home for purposes of adoption, if the child was placed in such home by a licensed child-placing agency, an authorized public or tribal agency or court or if a replacement report has been filed under chapter 26.33 RCW and the placement has been approved by the court;

(l) An agency operated by any unit of local, state, or federal government or an agency licensed by an Indian tribe pursuant to RCW 74.15.190;

(m) A maximum or medium security program for juvenile offenders operated by or under contract with the department;

(n) An agency located on a federal military reservation, except where the military authorities request that such agency be subject to the licensing requirements of this chapter.

(3) "Department" means the state department of social and health services.

(4) "Juvenile" means a person under the age of twenty-one who has been sentenced to a term of confinement under the supervision of the department under RCW 13.40.185.

(5) "Performance-based contracts" or "contracting" means the structuring of all aspects of the procurement of services around the purpose of the work to be performed and the

desired results with the contract requirements set forth in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable outcomes. Contracts may also include provisions that link the performance of the contractor to the level and timing of the reimbursement.

(6) "Probationary license" means a license issued as a disciplinary measure to an agency that has previously been issued a full license but is out of compliance with licensing standards.

(7) "Requirement" means any rule, regulation, or standard of care to be maintained by an agency.

(8) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and health services.

(9) "Street youth" means a person under the age of eighteen who lives outdoors or in another unsafe location not intended for occupancy by the minor and who is not residing with his or her parent or at his or her legally authorized residence.

(10) "Supervising agency" means an agency licensed by the state under RCW 74.15.090 or an Indian tribe under RCW 74.15.190 that has entered into a performance-based contract with the department to provide child welfare services.

(11) "Transitional living services" means at a minimum, to the extent funds are available, the following:

(a) Educational services, including basic literacy and computational skills training, either in local alternative or public high schools or in a high school equivalency program that leads to obtaining a high school equivalency degree;

(b) Assistance and counseling related to obtaining vocational training or higher education, job readiness, job search assistance, and placement programs;

(c) Counseling and instruction in life skills such as money management, home management, consumer skills, parenting, health care, access to community resources, and transportation and housing options;

(d) Individual and group counseling; and

(e) Establishing networks with federal agencies and state and local organizations such as the United States department of labor, employment and training administration programs including the workforce investment act which administers private industry councils and the job corps; vocational rehabilitation; and volunteer programs. [2012 c 10 § 61; 2009 c 520 § 13; 2007 c 412 § 1. Prior: 2006 c 265 § 401; 2006 c 90 § 1; 2006 c 54 § 7; prior: 2001 c 230 § 1; 2001 c 144 § 1; 2001 c 137 § 3; 1999 c 267 § 11; 1998 c 269 § 3; 1997 c 245 § 7; prior: 1995 c 311 § 18; 1995 c 302 § 3; 1994 c 273 § 21; 1991 c 128 § 14; 1988 c 176 § 912; 1987 c 170 § 12; 1982 c 118 § 5; 1979 c 155 § 83; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 71; 1967 c 172 § 2.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Part headings not law—Effective date—Severability—2006 c 265:** See RCW 43.215.904 through 43.215.906.

**Part headings not law—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Short title—2006 c 54:** See RCW 41.56.911 through 41.56.914.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—1998 c 269:** See notes following RCW 72.05.020.

**Intent—1995 c 302:** See note following RCW 74.15.010.

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.030 Powers and duties of secretary.** The secretary shall have the power and it shall be the secretary's duty:

(1) In consultation with the children's services advisory committee, and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to designate categories of facilities for which separate or different requirements shall be developed as may be appropriate whether because of variations in the ages, sex and other characteristics of persons served, variations in the purposes and services offered or size or structure of the agencies to be licensed hereunder, or because of any other factor relevant thereto;

(2) In consultation with the children's services advisory committee, and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to adopt and publish minimum requirements for licensing applicable to each of the various categories of agencies to be licensed.

The minimum requirements shall be limited to:

(a) The size and suitability of a facility and the plan of operation for carrying out the purpose for which an applicant seeks a license;

(b) Obtaining background information and any out-of-state equivalent, to determine whether the applicant or service provider is disqualified and to determine the character, competence, and suitability of an agency, the agency's employees, volunteers, and other persons associated with an agency;

(c) Conducting background checks for those who will or may have unsupervised access to children, expectant mothers, or individuals with a developmental disability;

(d) Obtaining child protective services information or records maintained in the department case management information system. No unfounded allegation of child abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020 may be disclosed to a child-placing agency, private adoption agency, or any other provider licensed under this chapter;

(e) Submitting a fingerprint-based background check through the Washington state patrol under chapter 10.97 RCW and through the federal bureau of investigation for:

(i) Agencies and their staff, volunteers, students, and interns when the agency is seeking license or relicense;

(ii) Foster care and adoption placements; and

(iii) Any adult living in a home where a child may be placed;

(f) If any adult living in the home has not resided in the state of Washington for the preceding five years, the department shall review any child abuse and neglect registries maintained by any state where the adult has resided over the preceding five years;

(g) The cost of fingerprint background check fees will be paid as required in RCW 43.43.837;

(h) National and state background information must be used solely for the purpose of determining eligibility for a license and for determining the character, suitability, and competence of those persons or agencies, excluding parents,

not required to be licensed who are authorized to care for children or expectant mothers;

(i) The number of qualified persons required to render the type of care and treatment for which an agency seeks a license;

(j) The safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises to provide for the comfort, care and well-being of children, expectant mothers or developmentally disabled persons;

(k) The provision of necessary care, including food, clothing, supervision and discipline; physical, mental and social well-being; and educational, recreational and spiritual opportunities for those served;

(l) The financial ability of an agency to comply with minimum requirements established pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031; and

(m) The maintenance of records pertaining to the admission, progress, health and discharge of persons served;

(3) To investigate any person, including relatives by blood or marriage except for parents, for character, suitability, and competence in the care and treatment of children, expectant mothers, and developmentally disabled persons prior to authorizing that person to care for children, expectant mothers, and developmentally disabled persons. However, if a child is placed with a relative under RCW 13.34.065 or 13.34.130, and if such relative appears otherwise suitable and competent to provide care and treatment the criminal history background check required by this section need not be completed before placement, but shall be completed as soon as possible after placement;

(4) On reports of alleged child abuse and neglect, to investigate agencies in accordance with chapter 26.44 RCW, including child day-care centers and family day-care homes, to determine whether the alleged abuse or neglect has occurred, and whether child protective services or referral to a law enforcement agency is appropriate;

(5) To issue, revoke, or deny licenses to agencies pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031. Licenses shall specify the category of care which an agency is authorized to render and the ages, sex and number of persons to be served;

(6) To prescribe the procedures and the form and contents of reports necessary for the administration of chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and to require regular reports from each licensee;

(7) To inspect agencies periodically to determine whether or not there is compliance with chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and the requirements adopted hereunder;

(8) To review requirements adopted hereunder at least every two years and to adopt appropriate changes after consultation with affected groups for child day-care requirements and with the children's services advisory committee for requirements for other agencies; and

(9) To consult with public and private agencies in order to help them improve their methods and facilities for the care of children, expectant mothers and developmentally disabled persons. [2007 c 387 § 5; 2007 c 17 § 14. Prior: 2006 c 265 § 402; 2006 c 54 § 8; 2005 c 490 § 11; prior: 2000 c 162 § 20; 2000 c 122 § 40; 1997 c 386 § 33; 1995 c 302 § 4; 1988 c 189 § 3; prior: 1987 c 524 § 13; 1987 c 486 § 14; 1984 c 188

§ 5; 1982 c 118 § 6; 1980 c 125 § 1; 1979 c 141 § 355; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 72; 1967 c 172 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2007 c 17 § 14 and by 2007 c 387 § 5, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Part headings not law—Effective date—Severability—2006 c 265:** See RCW 43.215.904 through 43.215.906.

**Part headings not law—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Short title—2006 c 54:** See RCW 41.56.911 through 41.56.914.

**Effective date—2005 c 490:** See note following RCW 43.215.540.

**Intent—1995 c 302:** See note following RCW 74.15.010.

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.040 Licenses for foster-family homes required—Inspections.** An agency seeking to accept and serve children, developmentally disabled persons, or expectant mothers as a foster-family home shall make application for license in such form and substance as required by the department. The department shall maintain a list of applicants through which placement may be undertaken. However, agencies and the department shall not place a child, developmentally disabled person, or expectant mother in a home until the home is licensed. The department shall inquire whether an applicant has previously resided in any other state or foreign country and shall check databases available to it through the Washington state patrol and federal bureau of investigation to ascertain whether the applicant has ever been the subject of a conviction or civil finding outside of the state of Washington that bears upon the fitness of the applicant to serve as a foster-family home. Foster-family homes shall be inspected prior to licensure, except that inspection by the department is not required if the foster-family home is under the supervision of a licensed agency upon certification to the department by the licensed agency that such homes meet the requirements for foster homes as adopted pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031. [2008 c 232 § 3; 1982 c 118 § 7; 1979 c 141 § 356; 1967 c 172 § 4.]

**Finding—2008 c 232:** See note following RCW 26.44.240.

**74.15.050 Fire protection—Powers and duties of chief of the Washington state patrol.** The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall have the power and it shall be his or her duty:

(1) In consultation with the children's services advisory committee and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to adopt recognized minimum standard requirements pertaining to each category of agency established pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031, except foster-family homes and child-placing agencies, necessary to protect all persons residing therein from fire hazards;

(2) To make or cause to be made such inspections and investigations of agencies, other than foster-family homes or child-placing agencies, as he or she deems necessary;

(3) To make a periodic review of requirements under RCW 74.15.030(7) and to adopt necessary changes after consultation as required in subsection (1) of this section;

[Title 74 RCW—page 116]

(4) To issue to applicants for licenses hereunder, other than foster-family homes or child-placing agencies, who comply with the requirements, a certificate of compliance, a copy of which shall be presented to the department before a license shall be issued, except that an initial license may be issued as provided in RCW 74.15.120. [2009 c 520 § 15; 1995 c 369 § 62; 1986 c 266 § 123; 1982 c 118 § 8; 1979 c 141 § 357; 1967 c 172 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.060 Health protection—Powers and duties of secretary of health.** The secretary of health shall have the power and it shall be his or her duty:

In consultation with the children's services advisory committee and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to develop minimum requirements pertaining to each category of agency established pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031, necessary to promote the health of all persons residing therein.

The secretary of health or the city, county, or district health department designated by the secretary shall have the power and the duty:

(1) To make or cause to be made such inspections and investigations of agencies as may be deemed necessary; and

(2) To issue to applicants for licenses hereunder who comply with the requirements adopted hereunder, a certificate of compliance, a copy of which shall be presented to the department of social and health services before a license shall be issued, except that a \*provisional license may be issued as provided in RCW 74.15.120. [1991 c 3 § 376; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 265; 1987 c 524 § 14; 1982 c 118 § 9; 1970 ex.s. c 18 § 14; 1967 c 172 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "Provisional license" redesignated "initial license" by 1995 c 311 § 22.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.070 Articles of incorporation and amendments—Copies to be furnished to department.** A copy of the articles of incorporation of any agency or amendments to the articles of existing corporation agencies shall be sent by the secretary of state to the department of social and health services at the time such articles or amendments are filed. [1979 c 141 § 358; 1967 c 172 § 7.]

**74.15.080 Access to agencies, records.** All agencies subject to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 shall accord the department of social and health services, the secretary of health, the chief of the Washington state patrol, and the director of fire protection, or their designees, the right of entrance and the privilege of access to and inspection of records for the purpose of determining whether or not there is compliance with the provisions of chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and the requirements adopted thereunder. [1995 c 369 § 63; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 266; 1986 c 266 § 124; 1979 c 141 § 359; 1967 c 172 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.090 Licenses required for agencies.** Except as provided in RCW 74.15.190, it shall hereafter be unlawful for any agency to receive children, expectant mothers or devel-

mentally disabled persons for supervision or care, or arrange for the placement of such persons, unless such agency is licensed as provided in chapter 74.15 RCW. [1987 c 170 § 14; 1982 c 118 § 10; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 73; 1967 c 172 § 9.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.100 License application, issuance, duration—Reclassification—Location changes.** Each agency or supervising agency shall make application for a license or renewal of license to the department on forms prescribed by the department. A licensed agency having foster-family homes under its supervision may make application for a license on behalf of any such foster-family home. Such a foster home license shall cease to be valid when the home is no longer under the supervision of that agency. Upon receipt of such application, the department shall either grant or deny a license within ninety days unless the application is for licensure as a foster-family home, in which case RCW 74.15.040 shall govern. A license shall be granted if the agency meets the minimum requirements set forth in chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and the departmental requirements consistent herewith, except that an initial license may be issued as provided in RCW 74.15.120. Licenses provided for in chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 shall be issued for a period of three years. The licensee, however, shall advise the secretary of any material change in circumstances which might constitute grounds for reclassification of license as to category. The license issued under this chapter is not transferable and applies only to the licensee. The license shall be limited to a particular location which shall be stated on the license. For licensed foster-family homes having an acceptable history of child care, the license may remain in effect for thirty days after a move, except that this will apply only if the family remains intact. Licensees must notify their licensor before moving to a new location and may request a continuation of the license at the new location. At the request of the licensee, the department shall, within thirty days following a foster-family home licensee's move to a new location, amend the license to reflect the new location, provided the new location and the licensee meet minimum licensing standards. [2009 c 520 § 16; 2009 c 206 § 1; 2006 c 265 § 403; 1995 c 302 § 8; 1982 c 118 § 11; 1979 c 141 § 360; 1967 c 172 § 10.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 206 § 1 and by 2009 c 520 § 16, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Part headings not law—Effective date—Severability—2006 c 265:** See RCW 43.215.904 through 43.215.906.

**Intent—1995 c 302:** See note following RCW 74.15.010.

**74.15.110 Renewal of licenses.** If a licensee desires to apply for a renewal of its license, a request for a renewal shall be filed ninety days prior to the expiration date of the license except that a request for renewal of a foster family home license shall be filed prior to the expiration of the license. If the department has failed to act at the time of the expiration date of the license, the license shall continue in effect until

(2012 Ed.)

such time as the department shall act. [1991 c 14 § 1; 1967 c 172 § 11.]

**74.15.120 Initial licenses.** The secretary of social and health services may, at his or her discretion, issue an initial license instead of a full license, to an agency or facility for a period not to exceed six months, renewable for a period not to exceed two years, to allow such agency or facility reasonable time to become eligible for full license. An initial license shall not be granted to any foster-family home except as specified in this section. An initial license may be granted to a foster-family home only if the following three conditions are met: (1) The license is limited so that the licensee is authorized to provide care only to a specific child or specific children; (2) the department has determined that the licensee has a relationship with the child, and the child is comfortable with the licensee, or that it would otherwise be in the child's best interest to remain or be placed in the licensee's home; and (3) the initial license is issued for a period not to exceed ninety days. [1995 c 311 § 22; 1979 c 141 § 361; 1967 c 172 § 12.]

**74.15.125 Probationary licenses.** (1) The department may issue a probationary license to a licensee who has had a license but is temporarily unable to comply with a rule or has been the subject of multiple complaints or concerns about noncompliance if:

(a) The noncompliance does not present an immediate threat to the health and well-being of the children but would be likely to do so if allowed to continue; and

(b) The licensee has a plan approved by the department to correct the area of noncompliance within the probationary period.

(2) A probationary license may be issued for up to six months, and at the discretion of the department it may be extended for an additional six months. The department shall immediately terminate the probationary license, if at any time the noncompliance for which the probationary license was issued presents an immediate threat to the health or well-being of the children.

(3) The department may, at any time, issue a probationary license for due cause that states the conditions of probation.

(4) An existing license is invalidated when a probationary license is issued.

(5) At the expiration of the probationary license, the department shall reinstate the original license for the remainder of its term, issue a new license, or revoke the original license.

(6) A right to an adjudicative proceeding shall not accrue to the licensee whose license has been placed on probationary status unless the licensee does not agree with the placement on probationary status and the department then suspends, revokes, or modifies the license. [1995 c 302 § 7.]

**Intent—1995 c 302:** See note following RCW 74.15.010.

**74.15.130 Licenses—Denial, suspension, revocation, modification—Procedures—Adjudicative proceedings—Penalties.** (1) An agency may be denied a license, or any license issued pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 may be suspended, revoked, modified, or not

renewed by the secretary upon proof (a) that the agency has failed or refused to comply with the provisions of chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 or the requirements promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031; or (b) that the conditions required for the issuance of a license under chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 have ceased to exist with respect to such licenses. RCW 43.20A.205 governs notice of a license denial, revocation, suspension, or modification and provides the right to an adjudicative proceeding.

(2) In any adjudicative proceeding regarding the denial, modification, suspension, or revocation of a foster family home license, the department's decision shall be upheld if there is reasonable cause to believe that:

(a) The applicant or licensee lacks the character, suitability, or competence to care for children placed in out-of-home care, however, no unfounded, inconclusive, or screened-out report of child abuse or neglect may be used to deny employment or a license;

(b) The applicant or licensee has failed or refused to comply with any provision of chapter 74.15 RCW, RCW 74.13.031, or the requirements adopted pursuant to such provisions; or

(c) The conditions required for issuance of a license under chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 have ceased to exist with respect to such licenses.

(3) In any adjudicative proceeding regarding the denial, modification, suspension, or revocation of any license under this chapter, other than a foster family home license, the department's decision shall be upheld if it is supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

(4) The department may assess civil monetary penalties upon proof that an agency has failed or refused to comply with the rules adopted under the provisions of this chapter and RCW 74.13.031 or that an agency subject to licensing under this chapter and RCW 74.13.031 is operating without a license except that civil monetary penalties shall not be levied against a licensed foster home. Monetary penalties levied against unlicensed agencies that submit an application for licensure within thirty days of notification and subsequently become licensed will be forgiven. These penalties may be assessed in addition to or in lieu of other disciplinary actions. Civil monetary penalties, if imposed, may be assessed and collected, with interest, for each day an agency is or was out of compliance. Civil monetary penalties shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars per violation for group homes and child-placing agencies. Each day upon which the same or substantially similar action occurs is a separate violation subject to the assessment of a separate penalty. The department shall provide a notification period before a monetary penalty is effective and may forgive the penalty levied if the agency comes into compliance during this period. The department may suspend, revoke, or not renew a license for failure to pay a civil monetary penalty it has assessed pursuant to this chapter within ten days after such assessment becomes final. Chapter 43.20A RCW governs notice of a civil monetary penalty and provides the right of an adjudicative proceeding. The preponderance of evidence standard shall apply in adjudicative proceedings related to assessment of civil monetary penalties. [2007 c 220 § 6; 2006 c 265 § 404; 2005 c 473 § 6;

1998 c 314 § 6; 1995 c 302 § 5; 1989 c 175 § 149; 1982 c 118 § 12; 1979 c 141 § 362; 1967 c 172 § 13.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—Severability—2006 c 265:** See RCW 43.215.904 through 43.215.906.

**Purpose—2005 c 473:** See note following RCW 74.15.300.

**Intent—1995 c 302:** See note following RCW 74.15.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.132 Adjudicative proceedings—Training for administrative law judges.** (1) The office of administrative hearings shall not assign nor allow an administrative law judge to preside over an adjudicative hearing regarding denial, modification, suspension, or revocation of any license to provide child care, including foster care, under this chapter, unless such judge has received training related to state and federal laws and department policies and procedures regarding:

- (a) Child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment;
- (b) Child protective services investigations and standards;
- (c) Licensing activities and standards;
- (d) Child development; and
- (e) Parenting skills.

(2) The office of administrative hearings shall develop and implement a training program that carries out the requirements of this section. The office of administrative hearings shall consult and coordinate with the department in developing the training program. The department may assist the office of administrative hearings in developing and providing training to administrative law judges. [1995 c 302 § 6.]

**Intent—1995 c 302:** See note following RCW 74.15.010.

**74.15.134 License or certificate suspension—Non-compliance with support order—Reissuance.** The secretary shall immediately suspend the license or certificate of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order or a \*residential or visitation order. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for reinstatement during the suspension, reissuance of the license or certificate shall be automatic upon the secretary's receipt of a release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the licensee is in compliance with the order. [1997 c 58 § 858.]

**\*Reviser's note:** 1997 c 58 § 886 requiring a court to order certification of noncompliance with residential provisions of a court-ordered parenting plan was vetoed. Provisions ordering the department of social and health services to certify a responsible parent based on a court order to certify for non-compliance with residential provisions of a parenting plan were vetoed. See RCW 74.20A.320.

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.140 Action against licensed or unlicensed agencies authorized.** Notwithstanding the existence or pursuit of any other remedy, the secretary may, in the manner provided by law, upon the advice of the attorney general, who shall represent the department in the proceeding, maintain an action in the name of the state for injunction or such other relief as he may deem advisable against any agency subject to licensing under the provisions of chapter 74.15 RCW and

RCW 74.13.031 or against any such agency not having a license as heretofore provided in chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031. [1979 c 141 § 363; 1967 c 172 § 14.]

**74.15.150 Penalty for operating without license.** Any agency operating without a license shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. This section shall not be enforceable against an agency until sixty days after the effective date of new rules, applicable to such agency, have been adopted under chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031. [1982 c 118 § 13; 1967 c 172 § 15.]

**74.15.160 Continuation of existing licensing rules.** Existing rules for licensing adopted pursuant to \*chapter 74.14 RCW, sections 74.14.010 through 74.14.150, chapter 26, Laws of 1959, shall remain in force and effect until new rules are adopted under chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031, but not thereafter. [1982 c 118 § 14; 1967 c 172 § 16.]

\*Reviser's note: Chapter 74.14 RCW was repealed by 1967 c 172 § 23.

**74.15.170 Agencies, homes conducted by religious organizations—Application of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto shall be construed as authorizing the supervision, regulation, or control of the remedial care or treatment of residents of any agency, children's institution, child placing agency, maternity home, day or hourly nursery, foster home or other related institution conducted for or by members of a recognized religious sect, denomination or organization which in accordance with its creed, tenets, or principles depends for healing upon prayer in the practice of religion, nor shall the existence of any of the above conditions militate against the licensing of such a home or institution. [1967 c 172 § 21.]

**74.15.180 Designating home or facility as semi-secure facility.** The department, pursuant to rules, may enable any licensed foster family home or group care facility to be designated as a semi-secure facility, as defined by RCW 13.32A.030. [1979 c 155 § 84.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.190 Authority of Indian tribes to license agencies within reservations—Placement of children.** (1)(a) The state of Washington recognizes the authority of Indian tribes within the state to license agencies, located within the boundaries of a federally recognized Indian reservation, to receive children for control, care, and maintenance outside their own homes, or to place, receive, arrange the placement of, or assist in the placement of children for foster care or adoption.

(b) The state of Washington recognizes the ability of the Indian tribes within the state to enter into agreements with the state to license agencies located on or near the federally recognized Indian reservation or, for those federally recognized tribes that do not have a reservation, then on or near the federally designated service delivery area, to receive children for control, care, and maintenance outside their own homes, or to place, receive, arrange the placement of, or assist in the placement of children for foster care.

(2012 Ed.)

(c) The department and state licensed child-placing agencies may place children in tribally licensed facilities if the requirements of \*RCW 74.15.030 (2)(b) and (3) and supporting rules are satisfied before placing the children in such facilities by the department or any state licensed child-placing agency.

(2) The department may enter into written agreements with Indian tribes within the state to define the terms under which the tribe may license agencies pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. The agreements shall include a definition of what are the geographic boundaries of the tribe for the purposes of licensing and may include locations on or near the federally recognized Indian reservation or, for those federally recognized tribes that do not have a reservation, then on or near the federally designated service delivery area.

(3) The department and its employees are immune from civil liability for damages arising from the conduct of agencies licensed by a tribe. [2006 c 90 § 2; 1987 c 170 § 13.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 74.15.030(2)(b) was amended by 2007 c 387 § 5, changing the scope of the subsection.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.200 Child abuse and neglect prevention training to parents and day care providers.** The department of social and health services shall have primary responsibility for providing child abuse and neglect prevention training to parents and licensed child day care providers of preschool age children participating in day care programs meeting the requirements of chapter 74.15 RCW. The department may limit training under this section to trainers' workshops and curriculum development using existing resources. [1987 c 489 § 5.]

Intent—1987 c 489: See note following RCW 28A.300.150.

**74.15.210 Community facility—Service provider must report juvenile infractions or violations—Violations by service provider—Secretary's duties—Rules.** (1) Whenever the secretary contracts with a service provider to operate a community facility, the contract shall include a requirement that each service provider must report to the department any known infraction or violation of conditions committed by any juvenile under its supervision. The report must be made immediately upon learning of serious infractions or violations and within twenty-four hours for other infractions or violations.

(2) The secretary shall adopt rules to implement and enforce the provisions of this section. The rules shall contain a schedule of monetary penalties not to exceed the total compensation set forth in the contract, and include provisions that allow the secretary to terminate all contracts with a service provider that has violations of this section and the rules adopted under this section.

(3) The secretary shall document in writing all violations of this section and the rules adopted under this section, penalties, actions by the department to remove juveniles from a community facility, and contract terminations. The department shall give great weight to a service provider's record of violations, penalties, actions by the department to remove juveniles from a community facility, and contract terminations in determining to execute, renew, or renegotiate a contract with a service provider. [1998 c 269 § 7.]

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—1998 c 269:** See notes following RCW 72.05.020.

**74.15.220 HOPE centers—Establishment—Requirements.** The secretary shall establish HOPE centers that provide no more than seventy-five beds across the state and may establish HOPE centers by contract, within funds appropriated by the legislature specifically for this purpose. HOPE centers shall be operated in a manner to reasonably assure that street youth placed there will not run away. Street youth may leave a HOPE center during the course of the day to attend school or other necessary appointments, but the street youth must be accompanied by an administrator or an administrator's designee. The street youth must provide the administration with specific information regarding his or her destination and expected time of return to the HOPE center. Any street youth who runs away from a HOPE center shall not be readmitted unless specifically authorized by the street youth's placement and liaison specialist, and the placement and liaison specialist shall document with specific factual findings an appropriate basis for readmitting any street youth to a HOPE center. HOPE centers are required to have the following:

- (1) A license issued by the secretary;
- (2) A professional with a master's degree in counseling, social work, or related field and at least one year of experience working with street youth or a bachelor of arts degree in social work or a related field and five years of experience working with street youth. This professional staff person may be contractual or a part-time employee, but must be available to work with street youth in a HOPE center at a ratio of one to every fifteen youth staying in a HOPE center. This professional shall be known as a placement and liaison specialist. Preference shall be given to those professionals cross-credentialed in mental health and chemical dependency. The placement and liaison specialist shall:
  - (a) Conduct an assessment of the street youth that includes a determination of the street youth's legal status regarding residential placement;
  - (b) Facilitate the street youth's return to his or her legally authorized residence at the earliest possible date or initiate processes to arrange legally authorized appropriate placement. Any street youth who may meet the definition of dependent child under RCW 13.34.030 must be referred to the department. The department shall determine whether a dependency petition should be filed under chapter 13.34 RCW. A shelter care hearing must be held within seventy-two hours to authorize out-of-home placement for any youth the department determines is appropriate for out-of-home placement under chapter 13.34 RCW. All of the provisions of chapter 13.32A RCW must be followed for children in need of services or at-risk youth;
  - (c) Interface with other relevant resources and system representatives to secure long-term residential placement and other needed services for the street youth;
  - (d) Be assigned immediately to each youth and meet with the youth within eight hours of the youth receiving HOPE center services;
  - (e) Facilitate a physical examination of any street youth who has not seen a physician within one year prior to residence at a HOPE center and facilitate evaluation by a county-

designated mental health professional, a chemical dependency specialist, or both if appropriate; and

(f) Arrange an educational assessment to measure the street youth's competency level in reading, writing, and basic mathematics, and that will measure learning disabilities or special needs;

(3) Staff trained in development needs of street youth as determined by the secretary, including an administrator who is a professional with a master's degree in counseling, social work, or a related field and at least one year of experience working with street youth, or a bachelor of arts degree in social work or a related field and five years of experience working with street youth, who must work with the placement and liaison specialist to provide appropriate services on site;

(4) A data collection system that measures outcomes for the population served, and enables research and evaluation that can be used for future program development and service delivery. Data collection systems must have confidentiality rules and protocols developed by the secretary;

(5) Notification requirements that meet the notification requirements of chapter 13.32A RCW. The youth's arrival date and time must be logged at intake by HOPE center staff. The staff must immediately notify law enforcement and dependency caseworkers if a street youth runs away from a HOPE center. A child may be transferred to a secure facility as defined in RCW 13.32A.030 whenever the staff reasonably believes that a street youth is likely to leave the HOPE center and not return after full consideration of the factors set forth in RCW 13.32A.130(2)(a) (i) and (ii). The street youth's temporary placement in the HOPE center must be authorized by the court or the secretary if the youth is a dependent of the state under chapter 13.34 RCW or the department is responsible for the youth under chapter 13.32A RCW, or by the youth's parent or legal custodian, until such time as the parent can retrieve the youth who is returning to home;

(6) HOPE centers must identify to the department any street youth it serves who is not returning promptly to home. The department then must contact the missing children's clearinghouse identified in chapter 13.60 RCW and either report the youth's location or report that the youth is the subject of a dependency action and the parent should receive notice from the department;

(7) Services that provide counseling and education to the street youth; and

(8) The department shall award contracts for the operation of HOPE center beds and responsible living skills programs with the goal of facilitating the coordination of services provided for youth by such programs and those services provided by secure and semi-secure crisis residential centers. [2011 c 240 § 2; 1999 c 267 § 12.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.225 HOPE centers—Eligibility—Minors.** To be eligible for placement in a HOPE center, a minor must be either a street youth, as that term is defined in this chapter, or a youth who, without placement in a HOPE center, will continue to participate in increasingly risky behavior. Youth

may also self-refer to a HOPE center. Payment for a HOPE center bed is not contingent upon prior approval by the department. [2008 c 267 § 10.]

**74.15.230 Responsible living skills programs—Established—Requirements.** The secretary shall establish responsible living skills programs that provide no more than seventy-five beds across the state and may establish responsible living skills programs by contract, within funds appropriated by the legislature specifically for this purpose. Responsible living skills programs shall have the following:

- (1) A license issued by the secretary;
- (2) A professional with a master's degree in counseling, social work, or related field and at least one year of experience working with street youth available to serve residents or a bachelor of arts degree in social work or a related field and five years of experience working with street youth. The professional shall provide counseling services and interface with other relevant resources and systems to prepare the minor for adult living. Preference shall be given to those professionals cross-credentialed in mental health and chemical dependency;
- (3) Staff trained in development needs of older adolescents eligible to participate in responsible living skills programs as determined by the secretary;
- (4) Transitional living services and a therapeutic model of service delivery that provides necessary program supervision of residents and at the same time includes a philosophy, program structure, and treatment planning that emphasizes achievement of competency in independent living skills. Independent living skills include achieving basic educational requirements such as a GED, enrollment in vocational and technical training programs offered at the community and vocational colleges, obtaining and maintaining employment; accomplishing basic life skills such as money management, nutrition, preparing meals, and cleaning house. A baseline skill level in ability to function productively and independently shall be determined at entry. Performance shall be measured and must demonstrate improvement from involvement in the program. Each resident shall have a plan for achieving independent living skills by the time the resident leaves the placement. The plan shall be written within the first thirty days of placement and reviewed every ninety days. A resident who fails to consistently adhere to the elements of the plan shall be subject to reassessment by the professional staff of the program and may be placed outside the program; and

(5) A data collection system that measures outcomes for the population served, and enables research and evaluation that can be used for future program development and service delivery. Data collection systems must have confidentiality rules and protocols developed by the secretary.

(6) The department shall not award contracts for the operation of responsible living skills programs until HOPE center beds are operational. [1999 c 267 § 13.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.15.240 Responsible living skills program—Eligibility.** To be eligible for placement in a responsible living

(2012 Ed.)

skills program, the minor must be dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW and must have lived in a HOPE center or in a secure crisis residential center. However, if the minor's case-worker determines that placement in a responsible living skills program would be the most appropriate placement given the minor's current circumstances, prior residence in a HOPE center or secure crisis residential center before placement in a responsible living program is not required. Responsible living skills centers are intended as a placement alternative for dependent youth that the department chooses for the youth because no other services or alternative placements have been successful. Responsible living skills centers are not for dependent youth whose permanency plan includes return to home or family reunification. [2008 c 267 § 11; 1999 c 267 § 14.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**74.15.250 HOPE centers—Responsible living skills programs—Licensing authority—Rules.** The secretary is authorized to license HOPE centers and responsible living skills programs that meet statutory and rule requirements created by the secretary. The secretary is authorized to develop rules necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 10 through 26, chapter 267, Laws of 1999. The secretary may rely upon existing licensing provisions in development of licensing requirements for HOPE centers and responsible living skills programs, as are appropriate to carry out the intent of sections 10 through 26, chapter 267, Laws of 1999. HOPE centers and responsible living skills programs shall be required to adhere to departmental regulations prohibiting the use of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, violence, and sexual activity between residents. [1999 c 267 § 15.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**74.15.255 Secure or semi-secure crisis residential centers and HOPE centers—Collaboration—Colocation—Requirement for licensing.** (1)(a) Within available funds appropriated for this purpose, the department shall contract for a continuum of short-term stabilization services pursuant to RCW 13.32A.030 and 74.15.220. The department shall collaborate with service providers in a manner that allows secure and semi-secure crisis residential centers and HOPE centers to be located in a geographically representative manner and to facilitate the coordination of services provided for youth by such programs. To achieve efficiencies and increase utilization, the department shall allow the colocation of these centers in the same building or structure, except that a youth may not be placed in a secure facility or the secure portion of a colocated facility except as specifically authorized by chapter 13.32A RCW. The department shall allow the colocation of these centers only if the entity operating the facility agrees to designate a particular number of beds to each type of center that is located within the building or structure. The beds so designated must be used only to serve the eligible youth in the program or center for which they are designated.

(b) The department shall adopt rules to allow the licensing of colocated facilities that include any combination of secure or semi-secure crisis residential centers as defined in

RCW 13.32A.030, or HOPE centers as defined in RCW 74.15.020. Such rules may provide for flexible payment structures, center specific licensing waivers, or other appropriate methods to increase utilization and provide flexibility, while continuing to meet the statutory goals of the programs. The rules shall provide that a condition of being licensed as a colocated facility is that the contracting entity must designate a particular number of beds in the colocated facility to each type of center that is located within the building or structure. The beds so designated must be used only to serve the eligible youth in the program or center for which they are designated.

(2) The department shall require that to be licensed or continue to be licensed as a secure or semi-secure crisis residential center or HOPE center that the center has on staff, or otherwise has access to, a person who has been trained to work with the needs of sexually exploited children. For purposes of this subsection, "sexually exploited child" means that person as defined in RCW 13.32A.030(17). [2011 c 240 § 3; 2010 c 289 § 10.]

**74.15.260 HOPE centers—Responsible living skills programs—Grant proposals—Technical assistance.** The department shall provide technical assistance in preparation of grant proposals for HOPE centers and responsible living skills programs to nonprofit organizations unfamiliar with and inexperienced in submission of requests for proposals to the department. [1999 c 267 § 21.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**74.15.270 HOPE centers—Responsible living skills programs—Awarding of contracts.** The department shall consider prioritizing, on an ongoing basis, the awarding of contracts for HOPE centers and responsible living skills programs to providers who have not traditionally been awarded contracts with the department. [1999 c 267 § 22.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**74.15.280 Emergency respite centers—Licensing—Rules.** The secretary is authorized to license emergency respite centers. The department may adopt rules to specify licensing requirements for emergency respite centers. [2001 c 230 § 2.]

**74.15.300 Enforcement action—Definition.** For the purposes of chapter 473, Laws of 2005, "enforcement action" means denial, suspension, revocation, modification, or non-renewal of a license pursuant to RCW 74.15.130(1) or assessment of civil monetary penalties pursuant to RCW 74.15.130(4). [2005 c 473 § 2.]

**Purpose—2005 c 473:** "The legislature recognizes that child care providers provide valuable services for the families of Washington state and are an important part of ensuring the healthy growth and development of young children. It also recognizes the importance of ensuring that operators of child day-care centers and family day-care providers are providing safe and quality care and operating in compliance with minimal standards.

The legislature further recognizes that parents, as consumers, have an interest in obtaining access to information that is relevant to making informed decisions about the persons with whom they entrust the care of their children. The purpose of this act is to establish a system, consistent throughout the state, through which parents, guardians, and other persons

acting in loco parentis can obtain certain information about child care providers." [2005 c 473 § 1.]

**74.15.900 Short title—Purpose—Entitlement not granted—1999 c 267 §§ 10-26.** Sections 10 through 26, chapter 267, Laws of 1999 may be referred to as the homeless youth prevention, protection, and education act, or the HOPE act. Every day many youth in this state seek shelter out on the street. A nurturing nuclear family does not exist for them, and state-sponsored alternatives such as foster homes do not meet the demand and isolate youth, who feel like outsiders in families not their own. The legislature recognizes the need to develop placement alternatives for dependent youth ages sixteen to eighteen, who are living on the street. The HOPE act is an effort to engage youth and provide them access to services through development of life skills in a setting that supports them. Nothing in sections 10 through 26, chapter 267, Laws of 1999 shall constitute an entitlement. [1999 c 267 § 10.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**74.15.901 Federal waivers—1999 c 267 §§ 10-26.** The department of social and health services shall seek any necessary federal waivers for federal funding of the programs created under sections 10 through 26, chapter 267, Laws of 1999. The department shall pursue federal funding sources for the programs created under sections 10 through 26, chapter 267, Laws of 1999, and report to the legislature any statutory barriers to federal funding. [1999 c 267 § 23.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—1999 c 267:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.790.

**74.15.902 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. Nothing in chapter 521, Laws of 2009 shall be construed as creating or requiring the creation of any medical assistance program, as that term is defined in RCW 74.09.010, for state registered domestic partners that is analogous to federal medical assistance programs extended to married persons. [2009 c 521 § 178.]

**74.15.903 Construction—Religious or nonprofit organizations. (Effective if Referendum 74 is approved at the November 2012 general election.)** Nothing contained in chapter 3, Laws of 2012 shall be construed to alter or affect existing law regarding the manner in which a religious or nonprofit organization may be licensed to and provide adop-

tion, foster care, or other child-placing services under this chapter or chapter 74.13 or 26.33 RCW. [2012 c 3 § 16.]

**Notice—2012 c 3:** See note following RCW 26.04.010.

### Chapter 74.18 RCW

#### DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

##### Sections

74.18.010	Intent.
74.18.020	Definitions.
74.18.030	Department created.
74.18.040	Director—Appointment—Salary.
74.18.045	Telephonic reading service.
74.18.050	Appointment of personnel.
74.18.060	Department—Powers and duties.
74.18.070	Rehabilitation council for the blind—Membership.
74.18.080	Rehabilitation council for the blind—Meetings—Travel expenses.
74.18.090	Rehabilitation council for the blind—Powers.
74.18.100	Rehabilitation council for the blind—Director to consult.
74.18.110	Receipt of gifts, grants, and bequests.
74.18.120	Administrative hearing—Appeal—Rules.
74.18.123	Background checks—Individuals having unsupervised access to persons with significant disabilities—Rules.
74.18.127	Confidentiality of personal information, records—Rules.
74.18.130	Vocational rehabilitation—Eligibility.
74.18.140	Vocational rehabilitation—Services.
74.18.150	Vocational rehabilitation—Grants of equipment and material.
74.18.170	Rehabilitation or habilitation facilities authorized.
74.18.180	Services for independent living.
74.18.190	Services to blind children and their families.
74.18.200	Business enterprises program—Definitions.
74.18.210	Business enterprises program—Purposes.
74.18.220	Business enterprises program—Vending facilities in public buildings.
74.18.230	Business enterprises revolving account.
74.18.901	Conflict with federal requirements.
74.18.902	Severability—1983 c 194.
74.18.903	Effective dates—1983 c 194.

**74.18.010 Intent.** The purposes of this chapter are to promote employment and independence of blind persons in the state of Washington through their complete integration into society on the basis of equality, and to encourage public acceptance of the abilities of blind persons. [2003 c 409 § 2; 1983 c 194 § 1.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** "The legislature finds and declares the following:

- (1) Thousands of citizens in the state have disabilities, including blindness or visual impairment, that prevent them from using conventional print material.
- (2) Governmental and nonprofit organizations provide access to reading material by specialized means, including books and magazines prepared in braille, audio, and large-type formats.
- (3) Access to time-sensitive or local or regional publications, or both, is not feasible to produce through these traditional means and formats.
- (4) Lack of direct and prompt access to information included in newspapers, magazines, newsletters, schedules, announcements, and other time-sensitive materials limits educational opportunities, literacy, and full participation in society by people with print disabilities.
- (5) Creation and storage of information by computer results in electronic files used for publishing and distribution.
- (6) The use of high-speed computer and telecommunications technology combined with customized software provides a practical and cost-effective means to convert electronic text-based information, including daily newspapers, into synthetic speech suitable for statewide distribution by telephone.
- (7) Telephonic distribution of time-sensitive information, including daily newspapers, will enhance the state's current efforts to meet the needs of blind and disabled citizens for access to information which is otherwise available in print, thereby reducing isolation and supporting full integration and equal access for such individuals." [2003 c 409 § 1.]

(2012 Ed.)

**74.18.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means an agency of state government called the department of services for the blind.

(2) "Director" means the director of the department of services for the blind. The director is appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate.

(3) "Rehabilitation council for the blind" means the body of members appointed by the governor in accordance with the provisions of RCW 74.18.070 to advise the state agency.

(4) "Blind person" means a person who: (a) Has no vision or whose vision with corrective lenses is so limited that the individual requires alternative methods or skills to do efficiently those things that are ordinarily done with sight by individuals with normal vision; (b) has an eye condition of a progressive nature which may lead to blindness; or (c) is blind for purposes of the business enterprise program as set forth in RCW 74.18.200 through 74.18.230 in accordance with requirements of the Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936.

(5) "Telephonic reading service" means audio information provided by telephone, including the acquisition and distribution of daily newspapers and other information of local, state, or national interest. [2003 c 409 § 3; 1983 c 194 § 2.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.030 Department created.** There is hereby created an agency of state government to be known as the department of services for the blind. The department shall deliver services to blind persons to the extent that appropriations are made available, provided that applicants meet the eligibility criteria for services authorized by this chapter. [1983 c 194 § 3.]

**74.18.040 Director—Appointment—Salary.** The executive head of the department shall be the director of the department of services for the blind. The director shall be appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate, and hold office at the pleasure of the governor. The director's salary shall be fixed by the governor in accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.03.040. [1983 c 194 § 4.]

**74.18.045 Telephonic reading service.** (1)(a) The director shall provide access to a telephonic reading service for blind and disabled persons.

(b) The director shall establish criteria for eligibility for blind and disabled persons who may receive the telephonic reading services. The criteria may be based upon the eligibility criteria for persons who receive services established by the national library service for the blind and physically handicapped of the library of congress.

(2) The director may enter into contracts or other agreements that he or she determines to be appropriate to provide telephonic reading services pursuant to this section.

(3) The director may expand the type and scope of materials available on the telephonic reading service in order to meet the local, regional, or foreign language needs of blind or visually impaired residents of this state. The director may also expand the scope of services and availability of telephonic reading services by current methods and technologies that may be developed. The director may inform current and

potential patrons of the availability of telephonic reading services through appropriate means, including, but not limited to, direct mailings, direct telephonic contact, and public service announcements.

(4) The director may expend moneys from the business enterprises revolving account accrued from vending machine sales in state and local government buildings, as well as donations and grants, for the purpose of supporting the cost of activities described in this section. [2003 c 409 § 4.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.050 Appointment of personnel.** The director may appoint such personnel as necessary, none of whom shall be members of the rehabilitation council for the blind. The director and other personnel who are assigned substantial responsibility for formulating agency policy or directing and controlling a major administrative division, together with their confidential secretaries, up to a maximum of six persons, shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 41.06 RCW. [2003 c 409 § 5; 1983 c 194 § 5.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.060 Department—Powers and duties.** The department shall:

(1) Serve as the sole agency of the state for contracting for and disbursing all federal and state funds appropriated for programs established by and within the jurisdiction of this chapter, and make reports and render accounting as may be required;

(2) Adopt rules, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(3) Negotiate agreements with other state agencies to provide services so that individuals of any age who are blind or are both blind and otherwise disabled receive the most beneficial services. [2003 c 409 § 6; 1983 c 194 § 6.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.070 Rehabilitation council for the blind—Membership.** (1) There is hereby created the rehabilitation council for the blind. The rehabilitation council shall consist of the minimum number of voting members to meet the requirements of the rehabilitation council required under the federal rehabilitation act of 1973 as now or hereafter amended. A majority of the voting members shall be blind persons. Rehabilitation councilmembers shall be residents of the state of Washington, and shall be appointed in accordance with the categories of membership specified in the federal rehabilitation act of 1973 as now or hereafter amended. The director of the department shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member.

(2) The governor shall appoint members of the rehabilitation council for terms of three years, except that the initial appointments shall be as follows: (a) Three members for terms of three years; (b) two members for terms of two years; and (c) other members for terms of one year. Vacancies in the membership of the rehabilitation council shall be filled by the governor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(3) The governor may remove members of the rehabilitation council for cause. [2003 c 409 § 7; 2000 c 57 § 1; 1983 c 194 § 7.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.080 Rehabilitation council for the blind—Meetings—Travel expenses.** (1) The rehabilitation council for the blind shall meet officially with the director of the department quarterly to perform the duties enumerated in RCW 74.18.090. Additional meetings of the rehabilitation council may be convened at the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members. The rehabilitation council shall elect a chairperson from among its members for a term of one year or until a successor has been elected.

(2) Rehabilitation councilmembers shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [2000 c 57 § 2; 1983 c 194 § 8.]

**74.18.090 Rehabilitation council for the blind—Powers.** The rehabilitation council for the blind may:

(1) Provide counsel to the director in developing, reviewing, making recommendations, and agreeing on the department's state plan for vocational rehabilitation, budget requests, permanent rules concerning services to blind persons, and other major policies which impact the quality or quantity of services for blind persons;

(2) Undertake annual reviews with the director of the needs of blind persons, the effectiveness of the services and priorities of the department to meet those needs, and the measures that could be taken to improve the department's services;

(3) Annually make recommendations to the governor and the legislature on issues related to the department, other state agencies, or state laws which have a significant effect on the opportunities, services, or rights of blind persons;

(4) Advise and make recommendations to the governor on the criteria and qualifications pertinent to the selection of the director;

(5) Perform additional functions as required by the federal rehabilitation act of 1973 as now or hereafter amended. [2003 c 409 § 8; 2000 c 57 § 3; 1983 c 194 § 9.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.100 Rehabilitation council for the blind—Director to consult.** It shall be the duty of the director to consult in a timely manner with the rehabilitation council for the blind on the matters enumerated in RCW 74.18.090. The director shall provide appropriate departmental resources for the use of the rehabilitation council in conducting its official business. [2000 c 57 § 4; 1983 c 194 § 10.]

**74.18.110 Receipt of gifts, grants, and bequests.** The department may receive, accept, and disburse gifts, grants, conveyances, devises, and bequests from public or private sources, in trust or otherwise, if the terms and conditions thereof will provide services for blind persons in a manner consistent with the purposes of this chapter and with other provisions of law. Any money so received shall be deposited in the state treasury for investment or expenditure in accordance with the conditions of its receipt. [2003 c 409 § 9; 1983 c 194 § 11.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.120 Administrative hearing—Appeal—Rules.** (1) An applicant or eligible person who is dissatisfied with a

decision, action, or inaction made by the department or its agents regarding that person's eligibility or department services provided to that person is entitled to an administrative hearing. Such administrative hearings shall be conducted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW by an administrative law judge.

(2) The applicant or eligible individual may appeal final decisions issued following administrative hearings under RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598.

(3) The department shall develop rules governing other processes for dispute resolution as required under the federal rehabilitation act of 1973. [2003 c 409 § 10; 1989 c 175 § 150; 1983 c 194 § 12.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.18.123 Background checks—Individuals having unsupervised access to persons with significant disabilities—Rules.** (1) The department shall investigate the conviction records, pending charges, and disciplinary board final decisions of individuals acting on behalf of the department who will or may have unsupervised access to persons with significant disabilities as defined by the federal rehabilitation act of 1973. This includes:

- (a) Current employees of the department;
- (b) Applicants seeking or being considered for any position with the department; and
- (c) Any service provider, contractor, student intern, volunteer, or other individual acting on behalf of the department.

(2) The investigation shall consist of a background check as allowed through the Washington state criminal records privacy act under RCW 10.97.050, the Washington state patrol criminal identification system under RCW 43.43.832 through 43.43.834, and the federal bureau of investigation. The background check shall include a fingerprint check using a complete Washington state criminal identification fingerprint card. If the applicant or service provider has had a background check within the previous two years, the department may waive the requirement.

(3) When necessary, applicants may be employed and service providers may be engaged on a conditional basis pending completion of the background check.

(4) The department shall use the information solely to determine the character, suitability, and competence of employees, applicants, service providers, contractors, student interns, volunteers, and other individuals in accordance with RCW 41.06.475.

(5) The department shall adopt rules addressing procedures for undertaking background checks which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) The manner in which the individual will be provided access to and review of information obtained based on the background check required;
- (b) Assurance that access to background check information shall be limited to only those individuals processing the information at the department;
- (c) Action that shall be taken against a current employee, service provider, contractor, student intern, or volunteer who is disqualified from a position because of a background check not previously performed.

(2012 Ed.)

(6) The department shall determine who will pay costs associated with the background check. [2003 c 409 § 11.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.127 Confidentiality of personal information, records—Rules.** (1) Personal information and records obtained and retained by the department concerning applicants and eligible individuals are confidential, are not subject to public disclosure, and may be released only in accordance with law or with this provision.

(2) The department shall adopt rules and develop contract language to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names. Rules and contract language shall ensure that:

(a) Specific safeguards are established to protect all current and future stored personal information;

(b) Specific safeguards and procedures are established for the release of personal health information in accordance with the health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996, 45 C.F.R. 160 through 45 C.F.R. 164;

(c) All applicants and eligible individuals and, as appropriate, those individuals' representatives, service providers, cooperating agencies, and interested persons are informed upon initial intake of the confidentiality of personal information and the conditions for accessing and releasing this information;

(d) All applicants or their representatives are informed about the department's need to collect personal information and the policies governing its use, including: (i) identification of the authority under which information is collected; (ii) explanation of the principal purposes for which the department intends to use or release the information; (iii) explanation of whether providing requested information to the department is mandatory or voluntary and the effects of not providing requested information; (iv) identification of those situations in which the department requires or does not require informed written consent of the individual before information may be released; and (v) identification of other agencies to which information is routinely released; and

(e) An explanation of department policies and procedures affecting personal information will be provided at intake or on request to each individual in that individual's native language and in an appropriate format including but not limited to braille, audio recording, electronic media, or large print. [2003 c 409 § 12.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.130 Vocational rehabilitation—Eligibility.** The department shall provide a program of vocational rehabilitation to assist blind persons to overcome barriers to employment and to develop skills necessary for employment and independence. Applicants eligible for vocational rehabilitation services shall be blind persons who also meet eligibility requirements as specified in the federal rehabilitation act of 1973. [2003 c 409 § 13; 1983 c 194 § 13.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.140 Vocational rehabilitation—Services.** The department shall ensure that vocational rehabilitation services in accordance with requirements under the federal rehabilitation act of 1973 are available to meet the identified

requirements of each eligible individual in preparing for, securing, retaining, or regaining an employment outcome that is consistent with the individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice. [2003 c 409 § 14; 1983 c 194 § 14.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.150 Vocational rehabilitation—Grants of equipment and material.** The department may grant to eligible participants in the vocational rehabilitation program equipment and materials in accordance with the provisions related to transfer of capital assets as set forth by the office of financial management in the state administrative and accounting manual, provided that the equipment or materials are required by the individual's plan for employment and are used in a manner consistent therewith. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. [2003 c 409 § 15; 1996 c 7 § 1; 1983 c 194 § 15.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.170 Rehabilitation or habilitation facilities authorized.** The department may establish, construct, and/or operate rehabilitation or habilitation facilities to provide instruction in alternative skills necessary to adjust to blindness or substantial vision loss, to assist blind persons to develop increased confidence and independence, or to provide other services consistent with the purposes of this chapter. The department shall adopt rules concerning selection criteria for participation, services, and other matters necessary for efficient and effective operation of such facilities. [2003 c 409 § 16; 1983 c 194 § 16.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.180 Services for independent living.** (1) The department may provide a program of independent living services for blind persons who are not seeking vocational rehabilitation services.

(2) Independent living services may include, but are not limited to, instruction in adaptive skills of blindness, counseling regarding adjustment to vision loss, and provision of adaptive devices that enable service recipients to participate in the community and maintain or increase their independence. [2003 c 409 § 17; 1983 c 194 § 18.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.190 Services to blind children and their families.** (1) The department may offer services to assist blind children and their families to learn skills and locate resources which increase the child's ability for personal development and participation in society.

(2) Services provided under this section may include:

(a) Direct consultation with blind children and their families to provide needs assessment, counseling, developmental training, adaptive skills, and information regarding other available resources;

(b) Consultation and technical assistance in all sectors of society, at the request of a blind child, his or her family, or a service provider working with the child or family, to assure the blind child's rights to participate fully in educational, vocational, and social opportunities. The department is encouraged to establish working agreements and arrange-

ments with community organizations and other state agencies which provide services to blind children.

(3) To facilitate the coordination of services to blind children and their families, the office of superintendent of public instruction and the department of services for the blind shall negotiate an interagency agreement providing for coordinated service delivery and the sharing of information between the two agencies, including an annual register of blind students in the state of Washington. [1983 c 194 § 19.]

**74.18.200 Business enterprises program—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply in RCW 74.18.200 through 74.18.230.

(1) "Business enterprises program" means a program operated by the department under the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 107 et seq., and under this chapter in support of blind persons operating vending businesses in public buildings.

(2) "Vending facility" means any stand, snack bar, cafeteria, or business at which food, tobacco, sundries, or other retail merchandise or service is sold or provided.

(3) "Vending machine" means any coin-operated machine that sells or provides food, tobacco, sundries, or other retail merchandise or service.

(4) "Blind person" means a person whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or whose visual acuity, if better than 20/200, is accompanied by a limit to the field of vision in the better eye to such a degree that its widest diameter subtends an angle of no greater than twenty degrees. In determining whether an individual is blind, there shall be an examination by a physician skilled in diseases of the eye, or by an optometrist, whichever the individual selects.

(5) "Licensee" means a blind person licensed by the state of Washington under the Randolph-Sheppard Act, this chapter, and the rules issued hereunder.

(6) "Public building" means any building and immediately adjacent outdoor space associated therewith, such as a patio or entryway, which is: (a) Owned by the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof or any space leased by the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof in any privately-owned building; and (b) dedicated to the administrative functions of the state or any political subdivision. However, this term shall not include property under the jurisdiction and control of a local board of education without the consent of such board.

(7) "Priority" means the department has first and primary right to operate the food service and vending facilities, including vending machines, on federal, state, county, municipal, and other local government property except those otherwise exempted by statute. Such right may, at the sole discretion of the department, be waived in the event that the department is temporarily unable to assert the priority. [2003 c 409 § 18; 1985 c 97 § 1; 1983 c 194 § 20.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.210 Business enterprises program—Purposes.** The department shall maintain or cause to be maintained a business enterprises program for blind persons to operate vending facilities in public buildings. The purposes of the

business enterprises program are to implement the Randolph-Sheppard Act and thereby give priority to qualified blind persons in operating vending facilities on federal property, to make similar provisions for vending facilities in public buildings in the state of Washington and thereby increase employment opportunities for blind persons, and to encourage blind persons to become successful, independent business persons. [2003 c 409 § 19; 1983 c 194 § 21.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

**74.18.220 Business enterprises program—Vending facilities in public buildings.** (1) The department is authorized to license blind persons to operate vending facilities and vending machines on federal property and in public buildings.

(2) The state, political subdivisions thereof, and agencies of the state, or political subdivisions thereof shall give priority to licensees in the operation of vending facilities and vending machines in public buildings. [1983 c 194 § 22.]

**74.18.230 Business enterprises revolving account.** (1) There is established in the state treasury an account known as the business enterprises revolving account.

(2) The net proceeds from any vending machine operation in a public building, other than an operation managed by a licensee, shall be made payable to the business enterprises program, which will pay only the blind vendors' portion, at the subscriber's rate, for the purpose of funding a plan of health insurance for blind vendors, as provided in RCW 41.05.225. Net proceeds, for purposes of this section, means gross sales less state sales tax and a fair minimum return to the vending machine owner or service provider, which return shall be a reasonable amount to be determined by the department.

(3) All federal moneys in the business enterprises revolving account shall be expended only for development and expansion of locations, equipment, management services, and payments to licensees in the business enterprises program.

(4) The business enterprises program shall be supported by the business enterprises revolving account and by income which may accrue to the department pursuant to the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act. [2003 c 409 § 20; 2002 c 71 § 2; 1993 c 369 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 13 §§ 19, 116. Prior: 1985 c 97 § 2; 1985 c 57 § 72; 1983 c 194 § 23.]

**Findings—2003 c 409:** See note following RCW 74.18.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.18.901 Conflict with federal requirements.** If any part of this chapter is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a condition precedent to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this chapter is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and the findings or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter. [1983 c 194 § 25.]

**74.18.902 Severability—1983 c 194.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the

provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1983 c 194 § 31.]

**74.18.903 Effective dates—1983 c 194.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions. Section 27 of this act which transfers functions from the commission for the blind to the department of social and health services and section 26 of this act shall take effect immediately. All other sections of this act shall take effect June 30, 1983. [1983 c 194 § 33.]

## Chapter 74.20 RCW

### SUPPORT OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN

#### Sections

74.20.010	Purpose—Legislative intent—Chapter to be liberally construed.
74.20.021	Definitions.
74.20.040	Duty of department to enforce child support—Requests for support enforcement services—Schedule of fees—Waiver—Rules.
74.20.045	Employment status—Self-employed individuals—Enforcement.
74.20.055	Designated agency under federal law—Role of prosecuting attorneys.
74.20.057	Adjudicative proceedings—Role of department.
74.20.060	Cooperation by person having custody of child—Penalty.
74.20.065	Wrongful deprivation of custody—Legal custodian excused from support payments.
74.20.101	Payment of support moneys to state support registry—Notice—Effects of noncompliance.
74.20.160	Department may disclose information to internal revenue department.
74.20.210	Attorney general may act under Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act pursuant to agreement with prosecuting attorney.
74.20.220	Powers of department through the attorney general or prosecuting attorney.
74.20.225	Subpoena authority—Enforcement.
74.20.230	Petition for support order by married parent with minor children who are receiving public assistance.
74.20.240	Petition for support order by married parent with minor children who are receiving public assistance—Order—Powers of court.
74.20.250	Petition for support order by married parent with minor children who are receiving public assistance—Waiver of filing fees.
74.20.260	Financial statements by parent whose absence is basis of application for public assistance.
74.20.280	Central unit for information and administration—Cooperation enjoined—Availability of records.
74.20.300	Department exempt from fees relating to paternity or support.
74.20.310	Guardian ad litem in actions brought to determine parent and child relationship—Notice.
74.20.320	Custodian to remit support moneys when department has support obligation—Noncompliance.
74.20.330	Payment of public assistance as assignment of rights to support.
74.20.340	Employees' case workload standards.
74.20.350	Costs and attorneys' fees.
74.20.360	Orders for genetic testing.
74.20.901	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Child support registry:* Chapter 26.23 RCW.

*Temporary assistance for needy families:* Chapter 74.12 RCW.

**74.20.010 Purpose—Legislative intent—Chapter to be liberally construed.** It is the responsibility of the state of Washington through the state department of social and health services to conserve the expenditure of public assistance funds, whenever possible, in order that such funds shall not be expended if there are private funds available or which can

be made available by judicial process or otherwise to partially or completely meet the financial needs of the children of this state. The failure of parents to provide adequate financial support and care for their children is a major cause of financial dependency and a contributing cause of social delinquency.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide the state of Washington, through the department of social and health services, a more effective and efficient way to effect the support of dependent children by the person or persons who, under the law, are primarily responsible for such support and to lighten the heavy burden of the taxpayer, who in many instances is paying toward the support of dependent children while those persons primarily responsible are avoiding their obligations. It is the intention of the legislature that the powers delegated to the said department in this chapter be liberally construed to the end that persons legally responsible for the care and support of children within the state be required to assume their legal obligations in order to reduce the financial cost to the state of Washington in providing public assistance funds for the care of children. It is the intention of the legislature that the department provide sufficient staff to carry out the purposes of this chapter, chapter 74.20A RCW, the abandonment and nonsupport statutes, and any applicable federal support enforcement statute administered by the department. It is also the intent of the legislature that the staff responsible for support enforcement be encouraged to conduct their support enforcement duties with fairness, courtesy, and the highest professional standards. [1979 ex.s. c 171 § 24; 1979 c 141 § 364; 1963 c 206 § 1; 1959 c 322 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.021 Definitions.** See RCW 74.20A.020.

**74.20.040 Duty of department to enforce child support—Requests for support enforcement services—Schedule of fees—Waiver—Rules.** (1) Whenever the department receives an application for public assistance on behalf of a child, the department shall take appropriate action under the provisions of this chapter, chapter 74.20A RCW, or other appropriate statutes of this state to establish or enforce support obligations against the parent or other persons owing a duty to pay support moneys.

(2) The secretary may accept a request for support enforcement services on behalf of persons who are not recipients of public assistance and may take appropriate action to establish or enforce support obligations against the parent or other persons owing a duty to pay moneys. Requests accepted under this subsection may be conditioned upon the payment of a fee as required by subsection (6) of this section or through regulation issued by the secretary. The secretary may establish by regulation, reasonable standards and qualifications for support enforcement services under this subsection.

(3) The secretary may accept requests for support enforcement services from child support enforcement agencies in other states operating child support programs under Title IV-D of the social security act or from foreign countries, and may take appropriate action to establish and enforce support obligations, or to enforce subpoenas, information requests, orders for genetic testing, and collection actions

issued by the other agency against the parent or other person owing a duty to pay support moneys, the parent or other person's employer, or any other person or entity properly subject to child support collection or information-gathering processes. The request shall contain and be accompanied by such information and documentation as the secretary may by rule require, and be signed by an authorized representative of the agency. The secretary may adopt rules setting forth the duration and nature of services provided under this subsection.

(4) The department may take action to establish, enforce, and collect a support obligation, including performing related services, under this chapter and chapter 74.20A RCW, or through the attorney general or prosecuting attorney for action under chapter 26.09, 26.18, 26.20, 26.21A, or 26.26 RCW or other appropriate statutes or the common law of this state.

(5) Whenever a support order is filed with the Washington state support registry under chapter 26.23 RCW, the department may take appropriate action under the provisions of this chapter, chapter 26.23 or 74.20A RCW, or other appropriate law of this state to establish or enforce the support obligations contained in that order against the responsible parent or other persons owing a duty to pay support moneys.

(6) The secretary, in the case of an individual who has never received assistance under a state program funded under part A and for whom the state has collected at least five hundred dollars of support, shall impose an annual fee of twenty-five dollars for each case in which services are furnished, which shall be retained by the state from support collected on behalf of the individual, but not from the first five hundred dollars of support. The secretary may, on showing of necessity, waive or defer any such fee or cost.

(7) Fees, due and owing, may be retained from support payments directly or collected as delinquent support moneys utilizing any of the remedies in chapter 74.20 RCW, chapter 74.20A RCW, chapter 26.21A RCW, or any other remedy at law or equity available to the department or any agencies with whom it has a cooperative or contractual arrangement to establish, enforce, or collect support moneys or support obligations.

(8) The secretary may waive the fee, or any portion thereof, as a part of a compromise of disputed claims or may grant partial or total charge off of said fee if the secretary finds there are no available, practical, or lawful means by which said fee may be collected or to facilitate payment of the amount of delinquent support moneys or fees owed.

(9) The secretary shall adopt rules conforming to federal laws, including but not limited to complying with section 7310 of the federal deficit reduction act of 2005, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 654, and rules and regulations required to be observed in maintaining the state child support enforcement program required under Title IV-D of the federal social security act. The adoption of these rules shall be calculated to promote the cost-effective use of the agency's resources and not otherwise cause the agency to divert its resources from its essential functions. [2012 1st sp.s. c 4 § 1; 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 9; 2007 c 143 § 5; 1997 c 58 § 891; 1989 c 360 § 12; 1985 c 276 § 1; 1984 c 260 § 29; 1982 c 201 § 20; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 213 § 1; 1963 c 206 § 3; 1959 c 322 § 5.]

**Effective date—2012 1st sp.s. c 4:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect June 7, 2012." [2012 1st sp.s. c 4 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**Severability—2007 c 143:** See note following RCW 26.18.170.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.045 Employment status—Self-employed individuals—Enforcement.** The office of support enforcement shall, as a matter of policy, use all available remedies for the enforcement of support obligations where the obligor is a self-employed individual. The office of support enforcement shall not discriminate in favor of certain obligors based upon employment status. [1994 c 299 § 16.]

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

**74.20.055 Designated agency under federal law—Role of prosecuting attorneys.** The department of social and health services office of support enforcement is the designated agency in Washington state to administer the child support program under Title IV-D of the federal social security act and is responsible for providing necessary and mandated support enforcement services and ensuring that such services are available statewide. It is the intent of the legislature to enhance the total child support program in this state by granting the office of support enforcement administrative powers and flexibility. If the exercise of this authority is used to supplant or replace the role of the prosecuting attorneys for reasons other than economy or federal compliance, the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys shall report to the committees on judiciary of the senate and house of representatives. [1985 c 276 § 17.]

**74.20.057 Adjudicative proceedings—Role of department.** When the department appears or participates in an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 26.23 or 74.20A RCW it shall:

- (1) Act in furtherance of the state's financial interest in the matter;
- (2) Act in the best interests of the children of the state;
- (3) Facilitate the resolution of the controversy; and
- (4) Make independent recommendations to ensure the integrity and proper application of the law and process.

In the proceedings the department does not act on behalf or as an agent or representative of an individual. [1994 c 230 § 18.]

**74.20.060 Cooperation by person having custody of child—Penalty.** Any person having the care, custody or control of any dependent child or children who shall fail or refuse to cooperate with the department of social and health services, any prosecuting attorney or the attorney general in the course of administration of provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1979 c 141 § 365; 1959 c 322 § 7.]

**74.20.065 Wrongful deprivation of custody—Legal custodian excused from support payments.** If the legal

(2012 Ed.)

custodian has been wrongfully deprived of physical custody, the department is authorized to excuse the custodian from support payments for a child or children receiving or on whose behalf public assistance was provided under chapter 74.12 RCW, or for a child or children on behalf of whom the department is providing nonassistance support enforcement services. [2002 c 199 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 31.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.101 Payment of support moneys to state support registry—Notice—Effects of noncompliance.** (1) A responsible parent shall make all support payments through the office of support enforcement or the Washington state support registry if:

(a) The parent's support order contains a provision directing the parent to make support payments through the office of support enforcement or the Washington state support registry; or

(b) If the parent has received written notice from the office of support enforcement under RCW 26.23.110, 74.20A.040, or 74.20A.055 that all future support payments must be made through the office of support enforcement or the Washington state support registry.

(2) A responsible parent who has been ordered or notified to make support payments to the office of support enforcement or the Washington state support registry shall not receive credit for payments which are not paid to the office of support enforcement or the Washington state support registry unless:

(a) The department determines that the granting of credit would not prejudice the rights of the residential parent or other person or agency entitled to receive the support payments and circumstances of an equitable nature exist; or

(b) A court, after a hearing at which all interested parties were given an opportunity to be heard, on equitable principles, orders that credit be given.

(3) The rights of the payee under an order for support shall not be prejudiced if the department grants credit under subsection (2)(a) of this section. If the department determines that credit should be granted pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the department shall mail notice of its decision to the last known address of the payee, together with information about the procedure to contest the determination. [1989 c 360 § 7; 1987 c 435 § 30; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 13; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.160 Department may disclose information to internal revenue department.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 74.04.060, upon approval of the department of health, education and welfare of the federal government, the department of social and health services may disclose to and keep the internal revenue department of the treasury of the United States advised of the names of all persons who are under legal obligation to support any dependent child or children and who are not doing so, to the end that the internal revenue department may have available to it the names of such persons for review in connection with income tax returns and claims of dependencies made by persons filing income tax returns. [1979 c 141 § 366; 1963 c 206 § 5; 1959 c 322 § 17.]

**74.20.210 Attorney general may act under Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act pursuant to agreement with prosecuting attorney.** The prosecuting attorney of any county except a county with a population of one million or more may enter into an agreement with the attorney general whereby the duty to initiate petitions for support authorized under the provisions of \*chapter 26.21 RCW as it is now or hereafter amended (\*\*Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act) in cases where the petitioner has applied for or is receiving public assistance on behalf of a dependent child or children shall become the duty of the attorney general. Any such agreement may also provide that the attorney general has the duty to represent the petitioner in intercounty proceedings within the state initiated by the attorney general which involve a petition received from another county. Upon the execution of such agreement, the attorney general shall be empowered to exercise any and all powers of the prosecuting attorney in connection with said petitions. [1991 c 363 § 150; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 14; 1963 c 206 § 6.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Chapter 26.21 RCW was repealed by 2002 c 198 § 901, effective January 1, 2007. Later enactment, see chapter 26.21A RCW.

\*\* (2) The "Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act" was redesignated the "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act" by 1993 c 318.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**74.20.220 Powers of department through the attorney general or prosecuting attorney.** In order to carry out its responsibilities imposed under this chapter and as required by federal law, the state department of social and health services, through the attorney general or prosecuting attorney, is hereby authorized to:

(1) Initiate an action in superior court to obtain a support order or obtain other relief related to support for a dependent child on whose behalf the department is providing public assistance or support enforcement services under RCW 74.20.040, or to enforce a superior court order.

(2) Appear as a party in dissolution, child support, parentage, maintenance suits, or other proceedings, for the purpose of representing the financial interest and actions of the state of Washington therein.

(3) Petition the court for modification of a superior court order when the office of support enforcement is providing support enforcement services under RCW 74.20.040.

(4) When the attorney general or prosecuting attorney appears in, defends, or initiates actions to establish, modify, or enforce child support obligations he or she represents the state, the best interests of the child relating to parentage, and the best interests of the children of the state, but does not represent the interests of any other individual.

(5) If public assistance has been applied for or granted on behalf of a child of parents who are divorced or legally separated, the attorney general or prosecuting attorney may apply to the superior court in such action for an order directing either parent or both to show cause:

(a) Why an order of support for the child should not be entered, or

(b) Why the amount of support previously ordered should not be increased, or

(c) Why the parent should not be held in contempt for his or her failure to comply with any order of support previously entered.

(6) Initiate any civil proceedings deemed necessary by the department to secure reimbursement from the parent or parents of minor dependent children for all moneys expended by the state in providing assistance or services to said children.

(7) Nothing in this section limits the authority of the attorney general or prosecuting attorney to use any and all civil and criminal remedies to enforce, establish, or modify child support obligations whether or not the custodial parent receives public assistance. [1991 c 367 § 44; 1979 c 141 § 367; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 112; 1969 ex.s. c 173 § 15; 1963 c 206 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.225 Subpoena authority—Enforcement.** In carrying out the provisions of this chapter or chapters 26.18, 26.23, 26.26, and 74.20A RCW, the secretary and other duly authorized officers of the department may subpoena witnesses, take testimony, and compel the production of such papers, books, records, and documents as they may deem relevant to the performance of their duties. The division of child support may enforce subpoenas issued under this power according to RCW 74.20A.350. [1997 c 58 § 898.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.230 Petition for support order by married parent with minor children who are receiving public assistance.** Any married parent with minor children, natural or legally adopted children who is receiving public assistance may apply to the superior court of the county in which such parent resides or in which the spouse may be found for an order upon such spouse, if such spouse is the natural or adoptive mother or father of such children, to provide for such spouse's support and the support of such spouse's minor children by filing in such county a petition setting forth the facts and circumstances upon which such spouse relies for such order. If it appears to the satisfaction of the court that such parent is without funds to employ counsel, the state department of social and health services through the attorney general may file such petition on behalf of such parent. If satisfied that a just cause exists, the court shall direct that a citation issue to the other spouse requiring such spouse to appear at a time set by the court to show cause why an order of support should not be entered in the matter. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 113; 1963 c 206 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.240 Petition for support order by married parent with minor children who are receiving public assistance—Order—Powers of court.** (1) After the hearing of the petition for an order of support the court shall make an order granting or denying it and fixing, if allowed, the terms and amount of the support. (2) The court has the same power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of testimony as in actions and suits, to make such decree or orders as are equitable in view of the circumstances of both parties and to punish violations thereof as other contempts are punished. [1963 c 206 § 9.]

**74.20.250 Petition for support order by married parent with minor children who are receiving public assistance—Waiver of filing fees.** The court may, upon satisfactory showing that the petitioner is without funds to pay the filing fee, order that the petition and other papers be filed without payment of the fee. [1963 c 206 § 10.]

**74.20.260 Financial statements by parent whose absence is basis of application for public assistance.** Any parent in the state whose absence is the basis upon which an application is filed for public assistance on behalf of a child shall be required to complete a statement, under oath, of his current monthly income, his total income over the past twelve months, the number of dependents for whom he is providing support, the amount he is contributing regularly toward the support of all children for whom application for such assistance is made, his current monthly living expenses and such other information as is pertinent to determining his ability to support his children. Such statement shall be provided upon demand made by the state department of social and health services or attorney general, and if assistance based upon such application is granted on behalf of such child, additional statements shall be filed annually thereafter with the state department of social and health services until such time as the child is no longer receiving such assistance. Failure to comply with this section shall constitute a misdemeanor. [1979 c 141 § 368; 1963 c 206 § 11.]

**74.20.280 Central unit for information and administration—Cooperation enjoined—Availability of records.** The department is authorized and directed to establish a central unit to serve as a registry for the receipt of information, for answering interstate inquiries concerning the parents of dependent children, to coordinate and supervise departmental activities in relation to such parents, to assure effective cooperation with law enforcement agencies, and to perform other functions authorized by state and federal support enforcement and child custody statutes and regulations.

To effectuate the purposes of this section, the secretary may request from state, county and local agencies all information and assistance as authorized by this chapter. Upon the request of the department of social and health services, all state, county and city agencies, officers and employees shall cooperate in the location of the parents of a dependent child and shall supply the department with all information relative to the location, income and property of such parents, notwithstanding any provision of law making such information confidential.

Any records established pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be available only to the attorney general, prosecuting attorneys, courts having jurisdiction in support and/or abandonment proceedings or actions, or other authorized agencies or persons for use consistent with the intent of state and federal support enforcement and child custody statutes and regulations. [1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 15; 1979 c 141 § 370; 1963 c 206 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.300 Department exempt from fees relating to paternity or support.** No filing or recording fees, court fees, or fees for making copies of documents shall be required

(2012 Ed.)

from the state department of social and health services by any county clerk, county auditor, or other county officer for the filing of any actions or documents necessary to establish paternity or enforce or collect support moneys.

Filing fees shall also not be required of any prosecuting attorney or the attorney general for action to establish paternity or enforce or collect support moneys. [1979 ex.s. c 171 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 3; 1963 c 206 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.310 Guardian ad litem in actions brought to determine parent and child relationship—Notice.** (1) The provisions of RCW 26.26.555 requiring appointment of a guardian ad litem to represent the child in an action brought to determine the parent and child relationship do not apply to actions brought under chapter 26.26 RCW if:

(a) The action is brought by the attorney general on behalf of the department of social and health services and the child; or

(b) The action is brought by any prosecuting attorney on behalf of the state and the child when referral has been made to the prosecuting attorney by the department of social and health services requesting such action.

(2) On the issue of parentage, the attorney general or prosecuting attorney functions as the child's guardian ad litem provided the interests of the state and the child are not in conflict.

(3) The court, on its own motion or on motion of a party, may appoint a guardian ad litem when necessary.

(4) The summons shall contain a notice to the parents that pursuant to RCW 26.26.555 the parents have a right to move the court for a guardian ad litem for the child other than the prosecuting attorney or the attorney general subject to subsection (2) of this section. [2002 c 302 § 705; 1991 c 367 § 45; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 15.]

**Application—Construction—Short title—Severability—2002 c 302:** See RCW 26.26.903, 26.26.911, and 26.26.912.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.320 Custodian to remit support moneys when department has support obligation—Noncompliance.** Whenever a custodian of children, or other person, receives support moneys paid to them which moneys are paid in whole or in part in satisfaction of a support obligation which has been assigned to the department pursuant to Title IV-A of the federal social security act as amended by the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act of 1996 or RCW 74.20.330 or to which the department is owed a debt pursuant to RCW 74.20A.030, the moneys shall be remitted to the department within eight days of receipt by the custodian or other person. If not so remitted the custodian or other person shall be indebted to the department as a support debt in an amount equal to the amount of the support money received and not remitted.

By not paying over the moneys to the department, a custodial parent or other person is deemed, without the necessity of signing any document, to have made an irrevocable assignment to the department of any support delinquency owed which is not already assigned to the department or to any support delinquency which may accrue in the future in an amount equal to the amount of support money retained. The

department may utilize the collection procedures in chapter 74.20A RCW to collect the assigned delinquency to effect recoupment and satisfaction of the debt incurred by reason of the failure of the custodial parent or other person to remit. The department is also authorized to make a set-off to effect satisfaction of the debt by deduction from support moneys in its possession or in the possession of any clerk of the court or other forwarding agent which are paid to the custodial parent or other person for the satisfaction of any support delinquency. Nothing in this section authorizes the department to make set-off as to current support paid during the month for which the payment is due and owing. [1997 c 58 § 935; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.330 Payment of public assistance as assignment of rights to support.** (1) Whenever public assistance is paid under a state program funded under Title IV-A of the federal social security act as amended by the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act of 1996, and the federal deficit reduction act of 2005, each applicant or recipient is deemed to have made assignment to the department of any rights to a support obligation from any other person the applicant or recipient may have in his or her own behalf or in behalf of any other family member for whom the applicant or recipient is applying for or receiving public assistance, including any unpaid support obligation or support debt which has accrued at the time the assignment is made.

(2) Payment of public assistance under a state-funded program, or a program funded under Title IV-A, IV-E, or XIX of the federal social security act as amended by the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act of 1996 shall:

- (a) Operate as an assignment by operation of law; and
- (b) Constitute an authorization to the department to provide the assistance recipient with support enforcement services.

(3) Effective October 1, 2008, whenever public assistance is paid under a state program funded under Title IV-A of the federal social security act as amended by the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act of 1996, and the federal deficit reduction act of 2005, a member of the family is deemed to have made an assignment to the state any right the family member may have, or on behalf of the family member receiving such assistance, to support from any other person, not exceeding the total amount of assistance paid to the family, which accrues during the period that the family receives assistance under the program. [2012 1st sp.s. c 4 § 2; 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 § 10; 2007 c 143 § 6; 2000 c 86 § 6; 1997 c 58 § 936; 1989 c 360 § 13; 1988 c 275 § 19; 1985 c 276 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 22.]

**Effective date—2012 1st sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 74.20.040.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 74.08A.260.

**Finding—2011 1st sp.s. c 42:** See note following RCW 74.04.004.

**Severability—2007 c 143:** See note following RCW 26.18.170.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.340 Employees' case workload standards.** The department shall develop workload standards for each employee classification involved in support enforcement activities for each category of support enforcement cases. [1998 c 245 § 150; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 25.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.350 Costs and attorneys' fees.** In order to facilitate and ensure compliance with Title IV-D of the federal social security act, now existing or hereafter amended, wherein the state is required to undertake to establish paternity of such children as are born out of wedlock, the secretary of social and health services may pay the reasonable and proper fees of attorneys admitted to practice before the courts of this state, who are engaged in private practice for the purpose of maintaining actions under chapter 26.26 RCW on behalf of such children, to the end that parent and child relationships be determined and financial support obligations be established by superior court order. The secretary or the secretary's designee shall make the determination in each case as to which cases shall be referred for representation by such private attorneys. The secretary may advance, pay, or reimburse for payment of, such reasonable costs as may be attendant to an action under chapter 26.26 RCW. The representation by a private attorney shall be only on behalf of the subject child, the custodial natural parent, and the child's personal representative or guardian ad litem, and shall not in any manner be, or be construed to be, in representation of the department of social and health services or the state of Washington, such representation being restricted to that provided pursuant to chapters 43.10 and 36.27 RCW. [1979 ex.s. c 171 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.360 Orders for genetic testing.** (1) The division of child support may issue an order for genetic testing when providing services under this chapter and Title IV-D of the federal social security act if genetic testing:

- (a) Is appropriate in an action under chapter 26.26 RCW, the uniform parentage act;
- (b) Is appropriate in an action to establish support under RCW 74.20A.056; or
- (c) Would assist the parties or the division of child support in determining whether it is appropriate to proceed with an action to establish or disestablish paternity.

(2) The order for genetic testing shall be served on the alleged parent or parents and the legal parent by personal service or by any form of mail requiring a return receipt.

(3) Within twenty days of the date of service of an order for genetic testing, any party required to appear for genetic testing, the child, or a guardian on the child's behalf, may petition in superior court under chapter 26.26 RCW to bar or postpone genetic testing.

(4) The order for genetic testing shall contain:

(a) An explanation of the right to proceed in superior court under subsection (3) of this section;

(b) Notice that if no one proceeds under subsection (3) of this section, the agency issuing the order will schedule genetic testing and will notify the parties of the time and place of testing by regular mail;

(c) Notice that the parties must keep the agency issuing the order for genetic testing informed of their residence address and that mailing a notice of time and place for genetic testing to the last known address of the parties by regular mail constitutes valid service of the notice of time and place;

(d) Notice that the order for genetic testing may be enforced through:

(i) Public assistance grant reduction for noncooperation, pursuant to agency rule, if the child and custodian are receiving public assistance;

(ii) Termination of support enforcement services under Title IV-D of the federal social security act if the child and custodian are not receiving public assistance;

(iii) A referral to superior court for an appropriate action under chapter 26.26 RCW; or

(iv) A referral to superior court for remedial sanctions under RCW 7.21.060.

(5) The department may advance the costs of genetic testing under this section.

(6) If an action is pending under chapter 26.26 RCW, a judgment for reimbursement of the cost of genetic testing may be awarded under RCW 26.26.570.

(7) If no action is pending in superior court, the department may impose an obligation to reimburse costs of genetic testing according to rules adopted by the department to implement RCW 74.20A.056. [2002 c 302 § 706; 1997 c 58 § 901.]

**Application—Construction—Short title—Severability—2002 c 302:** See RCW 26.26.903, 26.26.911, and 26.26.912.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20.901 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 179.]

### Chapter 74.20A RCW

#### SUPPORT OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN— ALTERNATIVE METHOD—1971 ACT

##### Sections

74.20A.010	Purpose—Remedies additional.
74.20A.020	Definitions.
74.20A.030	Department subrogated to rights for support—Enforcement actions—Certain parents exempt.
74.20A.035	Augmentation of paternity establishment services.
74.20A.040	Notice of support debt—Service or mailing—Contents—Action on, when.
74.20A.055	Notice and finding of financial responsibility of responsible parent—Service—Hearing—Decisions—Rules.

(2012 Ed.)

74.20A.056	Notice and finding of financial responsibility pursuant to an affidavit of paternity—Procedure for contesting—Rules.
74.20A.057	Jurisdiction over responsible parent.
74.20A.059	Modification of administrative orders establishing child support—Petition—Grounds—Procedure.
74.20A.060	Assertion of lien—Effect.
74.20A.070	Service of lien.
74.20A.080	Order to withhold and deliver—Issuance and service—Contents—Effect—Duties of person served—Processing fee.
74.20A.090	Certain amount of earnings exempt from lien or order—"Earnings" and "disposable earnings" defined.
74.20A.095	Support enforcement services—Action against earnings within state—Notice.
74.20A.100	Civil liability upon failure to comply with order or lien—Collection.
74.20A.110	Release of excess to debtor.
74.20A.120	Banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions—Service on main office or branch, effect—Collection actions against community bank account, right to adjudicative proceeding.
74.20A.130	Distrain, seizure and sale of property subject to liens under RCW 74.20A.060—Procedure.
74.20A.140	Action for foreclosure of support lien—Satisfaction.
74.20A.150	Satisfaction of lien after foreclosure proceedings instituted—Redemption.
74.20A.160	Secretary may set debt payment schedule, release funds in certain hardship cases.
74.20A.170	Secretary may release lien or order or return seized property—Effect.
74.20A.180	Secretary may make demand, file and serve liens, when payments appear in jeopardy.
74.20A.188	Request for assistance on automated enforcement of interstate case—Certification required.
74.20A.200	Judicial relief after administrative remedies exhausted.
74.20A.220	Charging off child support debts as uncollectible—Compromise—Waiver of any bar to collection.
74.20A.230	Employee debtor rights protected—Remedies.
74.20A.240	Assignment of earnings to be honored—Effect—Processing fee.
74.20A.250	Secretary empowered to act as attorney, endorse drafts.
74.20A.260	Industrial insurance disability payments subject to collection by office of support enforcement.
74.20A.270	Department claim for support moneys—Notice—Answer—Adjudicative proceeding—Judicial review—Moneys not subject to claim.
74.20A.275	Support payments in possession of third parties—Collection.
74.20A.280	Department to respect privacy of recipients.
74.20A.290	Applicant for adjudicative proceeding must advise department of current address.
74.20A.300	Medical support—Health insurance coverage required.
74.20A.310	Federal and state cooperation—Rules—Construction.
74.20A.320	License suspension—Notice of noncompliance with a child support order—License renewal and reinstatement.
74.20A.322	License suspension—Adjudicative proceeding.
74.20A.324	License suspension—Certification of noncompliance.
74.20A.326	License suspension—Payment schedule arrangements.
74.20A.328	License suspension—Rules.
74.20A.330	License suspension—Agreements between department and licensing entities—Identification of responsible parents.
74.20A.350	Noncompliance—Notice—Fines—License suspension—Hearings—Rules.
74.20A.360	Records access—Confidentiality—Nonliability—Penalty for noncompliance.
74.20A.370	Financial institution data matches.
74.20A.900	Severability—Alternative when method of notification held invalid.
74.20A.910	Savings clause.
74.20A.920	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Birth certificate—Establishing paternity:* RCW 70.58.080.

*Child support enforcement:* Chapter 26.18 RCW.

*Child support registry:* Chapter 26.23 RCW.

**74.20A.010 Purpose—Remedies additional.** Common law and statutory procedures governing the remedies for enforcement of support for financially dependent minor children by responsible parents have not proven sufficiently effective or efficient to cope with the increasing incidence of financial dependency. The increasing workload of courts, prosecuting attorneys, and the attorney general has made

such remedies uncertain, slow and inadequate, thereby resulting in a growing burden on the financial resources of the state, which is constrained to provide public assistance grants for basic maintenance requirements when parents fail to meet their primary obligations. The state of Washington, therefore, exercising its police and sovereign power, declares that the common law and statutory remedies pertaining to family desertion and nonsupport of minor dependent children shall be augmented by additional remedies directed to the real and personal property resources of the responsible parents. In order to render resources more immediately available to meet the needs of minor children, it is the legislative intent that the remedies herein provided are in addition to, and not in lieu of, existing law. It is declared to be the public policy of this state that this chapter be construed and administered to the end that children shall be maintained from the resources of responsible parents, thereby relieving, at least in part, the burden presently borne by the general citizenry through welfare programs. [1971 ex.s. c 164 § 1.]

**74.20A.020 Definitions.** Unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, the following words and phrases as hereinafter used in this chapter and chapter 74.20 RCW shall have the following meanings:

- (1) "Department" means the state department of social and health services.
- (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and health services, the secretary's designee or authorized representative.
- (3) "Dependent child" means any person:
  - (a) Under the age of eighteen who is not self-supporting, married, or a member of the armed forces of the United States; or
  - (b) Over the age of eighteen for whom a court order for support exists.
- (4) "Support obligation" means the obligation to provide for the necessary care, support, and maintenance, including medical expenses, of a dependent child or other person as required by statutes and the common law of this or another state.
- (5) "Superior court order" means any judgment, decree, or order of the superior court of the state of Washington, or a court of comparable jurisdiction of another state, establishing the existence of a support obligation and ordering payment of a set or determinable amount of support moneys to satisfy the support obligation. For purposes of RCW 74.20A.055, orders for support which were entered under the uniform reciprocal enforcement of support act by a state where the responsible parent no longer resides shall not preclude the department from establishing an amount to be paid as current and future support.
- (6) "Administrative order" means any determination, finding, decree, or order for support pursuant to RCW 74.20A.055, or by an agency of another state pursuant to a substantially similar administrative process, establishing the existence of a support obligation and ordering the payment of a set or determinable amount of support moneys to satisfy the support obligation.
- (7) "Responsible parent" means a natural parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent of a dependent child or a person

who has signed an affidavit acknowledging paternity which has been filed with the state office of vital statistics.

(8) "Stepparent" means the present spouse of the person who is either the mother, father, or adoptive parent of a dependent child, and such status shall exist until terminated as provided for in RCW 26.16.205.

(9) "Support moneys" means any moneys or in-kind providings paid to satisfy a support obligation whether denominated as child support, spouse support, alimony, maintenance, or any other such moneys intended to satisfy an obligation for support of any person or satisfaction in whole or in part of arrears or delinquency on such an obligation.

(10) "Support debt" means any delinquent amount of support moneys which is due, owing, and unpaid under a superior court order or an administrative order, a debt for the payment of expenses for the reasonable or necessary care, support, and maintenance, including medical expenses, of a dependent child or other person for whom a support obligation is owed; or a debt under RCW 74.20A.100 or 74.20A.270. Support debt also includes any accrued interest, fees, or penalties charged on a support debt, and attorneys fees and other costs of litigation awarded in an action to establish and enforce a support obligation or debt.

(11) "State" means any state or political subdivision, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(12) "Account" means a demand deposit account, checking or negotiable withdrawal order account, savings account, time deposit account, or money-market mutual fund account.

(13) "Child support order" means a superior court order or an administrative order.

(14) "Financial institution" means:

- (a) A depository institution, as defined in section 3(c) of the federal deposit insurance act;
- (b) An institution-affiliated party, as defined in section 3(u) of the federal deposit insurance act;
- (c) Any federal or state credit union, as defined in section 101 of the federal credit union act, including an institution-affiliated party of such credit union, as defined in section 206(r) of the federal deposit insurance act; or
- (d) Any benefit association, insurance company, safe deposit company, money-market mutual fund, or similar entity.

(15) "License" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, approval, or other similar document issued by a licensing entity to a licensee evidencing admission to or granting authority to engage in a profession, occupation, business, industry, recreational pursuit, or the operation of a motor vehicle. "License" does not mean the tax registration or certification issued under Title 82 RCW by the department of revenue.

(16) "Licensee" means any individual holding a license, certificate, registration, permit, approval, or other similar document issued by a licensing entity evidencing admission to or granting authority to engage in a profession, occupation, business, industry, recreational pursuit, or the operation of a motor vehicle.

(17) "Licensing entity" includes any department, board, commission, or other organization authorized to issue, renew, suspend, or revoke a license authorizing an individual to engage in a business, occupation, profession, industry, recre-

ational pursuit, or the operation of a motor vehicle, and includes the Washington state supreme court, to the extent that a rule has been adopted by the court to implement suspension of licenses related to the practice of law.

(18) "Noncompliance with a child support order" for the purposes of the license suspension program authorized under RCW 74.20A.320 means a responsible parent has:

(a) Accumulated arrears totaling more than six months of child support payments;

(b) Failed to make payments pursuant to a written agreement with the department towards a support arrearage in an amount that exceeds six months of payments; or

(c) Failed to make payments required by a superior court order or administrative order towards a support arrearage in an amount that exceeds six months of payments.

(19) "Noncompliance with a residential or visitation order" means that a court has found the parent in contempt of court under RCW 26.09.160(3) for failure to comply with a residential provision of a court-ordered parenting plan. [1997 c 58 § 805; 1990 1st ex.s. c 2 § 15. Prior: 1989 c 175 § 151; 1989 c 55 § 1; 1985 c 276 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 2.]

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

*Birth certificate—Establishing paternity:* RCW 70.58.080.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **74.20A.030 Department subrogated to rights for support—Enforcement actions—Certain parents exempt.**

(1) The department shall be subrogated to the right of any dependent child or children or person having the care, custody, and control of said child or children, if public assistance money is paid to or for the benefit of the child, or for the care and maintenance of a child, including a child with a developmental disability if the child has been placed into care as a result of an action under chapter 13.34 RCW, under a state-funded program, or a program funded under Title IV-A or IV-E of the federal social security act as amended by the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation act of 1996, and the federal deficit reduction act of 2005, to prosecute or maintain any support action or execute any administrative remedy existing under the laws of the state of Washington to obtain reimbursement of moneys expended, based on the support obligation of the responsible parent established by a child support order. Distribution of any support moneys shall be made in accordance with RCW 26.23.035.

(2) The department may initiate, continue, maintain, or execute an action to establish, enforce, and collect a support obligation, including establishing paternity and performing related services, under this chapter and chapter 74.20 RCW, or through the attorney general or prosecuting attorney under chapter 26.09, 26.18, 26.20, 26.21A, 26.23, or 26.26 RCW or other appropriate statutes or the common law of this state, for so long as and under such conditions as the department may establish by regulation.

(3) Public assistance moneys shall be exempt from collection action under this chapter except as provided in RCW 74.20A.270.

(4) No collection action shall be taken against parents of children eligible for admission to, or children who have been discharged from, a residential habilitation center as defined

by \*RCW 71A.10.020(8) unless the child with a developmental disability is placed as a result of an action under chapter 13.34 RCW. The child support obligation shall be calculated pursuant to chapter 26.19 RCW. [2007 c 143 § 7; 2004 c 183 § 5; 2000 c 86 § 7; 1997 c 58 § 934; 1993 sp.s. c 24 § 926; 1989 c 360 § 14. Prior: 1988 c 275 § 20; 1988 c 176 § 913; 1987 c 435 § 31; 1985 c 276 § 5; 1984 c 260 § 40; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 4; 1979 c 141 § 371; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 3.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 71A.10.020 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 30 § 3, changing subsection (8) to subsection (9).

**Severability—2007 c 143:** See note following RCW 26.18.170.

**Effective date—2004 c 183:** See note following RCW 13.34.160.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.035 Augmentation of paternity establishment services.** The department of social and health services shall augment its present paternity establishment services through the hiring of additional assistant attorneys general, or contracting with prosecutors or private attorneys licensed in the state of Washington in those judicial districts experiencing delay or an accumulation of unserved paternity cases. The employment of private attorneys shall be limited in scope to renewable six-month periods in judicial districts where the prosecutor or the attorney general cannot provide adequate, cost-effective service. The department of social and health services shall provide a written report of the circumstances requiring employment of private attorneys to the judiciary committees of the senate and house of representatives and provide copies of such reports to the office of the attorney general and to the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys. [1987 c 441 § 3.]

**Legislative findings—1987 c 441:** "The state of Washington through the department of social and health services is required by state and federal statutes to provide paternity establishment services. These statutes require that reasonable efforts to establish paternity be made, if paternity of the child is in question, in all public assistance cases and whenever such services are requested in nonassistance cases.

The increasing number of children being born out of wedlock together with improved awareness of the benefits to the child and society of having paternity established have resulted in a greater demand on the existing judicial paternity establishment system." [1987 c 441 § 1.]

#### **74.20A.040 Notice of support debt—Service or mailing—Contents—Action on, when.**

(1) The secretary may issue a notice of a support debt accrued and/or accruing based upon RCW 74.20A.030, assignment of a support debt or a request for support enforcement services under RCW 74.20.040 (2) or (3), to enforce and collect a support debt created by a superior court order or administrative order. The payee under the order shall be informed when a notice of support debt is issued under this section.

(2) The notice may be served upon the debtor in the manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a civil action or be mailed to the debtor at his last known address by certified mail, return receipt requested, demanding payment within twenty days of the date of receipt.

(3) The notice of debt shall include:

(a) A statement of the support debt accrued and/or accruing, computable on the amount required to be paid under any superior court order to which the department is subrogated or is authorized to enforce and collect under RCW 74.20A.030,

has an assigned interest, or has been authorized to enforce pursuant to RCW 74.20.040 (2) or (3);

(b) A statement that the property of the debtor is subject to collection action;

(c) A statement that the property is subject to lien and foreclosure, distraint, seizure and sale, or order to withhold and deliver; and

(d) A statement that the net proceeds will be applied to the satisfaction of the support debt.

(4) Action to collect a support debt by lien and foreclosure, or distraint, seizure and sale, or order to withhold and deliver shall be lawful after twenty days from the date of service upon the debtor or twenty days from the receipt or refusal by the debtor of said notice of debt.

(5) The secretary shall not be required to issue or serve such notice of support debt prior to taking collection action under this chapter when a responsible parent's support order:

(a) Contains language directing the parent to make support payments to the Washington state support registry; and

(b) Includes a statement that income-withholding action under this chapter may be taken without further notice to the responsible parent, as provided in RCW 26.23.050(1). [1989 c 360 § 8; 1985 c 276 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 4.]

**74.20A.055 Notice and finding of financial responsibility of responsible parent—Service—Hearing—Decisions—Rules.** (1) The secretary may, if there is no order that establishes the responsible parent's support obligation or specifically relieves the responsible parent of a support obligation or pursuant to an establishment of paternity under chapter 26.26 RCW, serve on the responsible parent or parents and custodial parent a notice and finding of financial responsibility requiring the parents to appear and show cause in an adjudicative proceeding why the finding of responsibility and/or the amount thereof is incorrect, should not be finally ordered, but should be rescinded or modified. This notice and finding shall relate to the support debt accrued and/or accruing under this chapter and/or RCW 26.16.205, including periodic payments to be made in the future. The hearing shall be held pursuant to this section, chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the rules of the department. A custodian who has physical custody of a child has the same rights that a custodial parent has under this section.

(2) The notice and finding of financial responsibility shall be served in the same manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a civil action or may be served on the responsible parent by certified mail, return receipt requested. The receipt shall be prima facie evidence of service. The notice shall be served upon the debtor within sixty days from the date the state assumes responsibility for the support of the dependent child or children on whose behalf support is sought. If the notice is not served within sixty days from such date, the department shall lose the right to reimbursement of payments made after the sixty-day period and before the date of notification: PROVIDED, That if the department exercises reasonable efforts to locate the debtor and is unable to do so the entire sixty-day period is tolled until such time as the debtor can be located. The notice may be served upon the custodial parent who is the nonassistance applicant or public assistance recipient by first-class mail to the last known

address. If the custodial parent is not the nonassistance applicant or public assistance recipient, service shall be in the same manner as for the responsible parent.

(3) The notice and finding of financial responsibility shall set forth the amount the department has determined the responsible parent owes, the support debt accrued and/or accruing, and periodic payments to be made in the future. The notice and finding shall also include:

(a) A statement of the name of the custodial parent and the name of the child or children for whom support is sought;

(b) A statement of the amount of periodic future support payments as to which financial responsibility is alleged;

(c) A statement that the responsible parent or custodial parent may object to all or any part of the notice and finding, and file an application for an adjudicative proceeding to show cause why the terms set forth in the notice should not be ordered;

(d) A statement that, if neither the responsible parent nor the custodial parent files in a timely fashion an application for an adjudicative proceeding, the support debt and payments stated in the notice and finding, including periodic support payments in the future, shall be assessed and determined and ordered by the department and that this debt and amounts due under the notice shall be subject to collection action;

(e) A statement that the property of the debtor, without further advance notice or hearing, will be subject to lien and foreclosure, distraint, seizure and sale, order to withhold and deliver, notice of payroll deduction or other collection action to satisfy the debt and enforce the support obligation established under the notice;

(f) A statement that either or both parents are responsible for providing health insurance for his or her child if coverage that can be extended to cover the child either through private health insurance which is accessible to the child or through coverage that is or becomes available to the parent through employment or is union-related, or for paying a monthly payment toward the premium if no such coverage is available, as provided under RCW 26.09.105.

(4) A responsible parent or custodial parent who objects to the notice and finding of financial responsibility may file an application for an adjudicative proceeding within twenty days of the date of service of the notice or thereafter as provided under this subsection.

(a) If the responsible parent or custodial parent files the application within twenty days, the office of administrative hearings shall schedule an adjudicative proceeding to hear the parent's or parents' objection and determine the support obligation for the entire period covered by the notice and finding of financial responsibility. The filing of the application stays collection action pending the entry of a final administrative order;

(b) If both the responsible parent and the custodial parent fail to file an application within twenty days, the notice and finding shall become a final administrative order. The amounts for current and future support and the support debt stated in the notice are final and subject to collection, except as provided under (c) and (d) of this subsection;

(c) If the responsible parent or custodial parent files the application more than twenty days after, but within one year of the date of service, the office of administrative hearings shall schedule an adjudicative proceeding to hear the parent's

or parents' objection and determine the support obligation for the entire period covered by the notice and finding of financial responsibility. The filing of the application does not stay further collection action, pending the entry of a final administrative order, and does not affect any prior collection action;

(d) If the responsible parent or custodial parent files the application more than one year after the date of service, the office of administrative hearings shall schedule an adjudicative proceeding at which the parent who requested the late hearing must show good cause for failure to file a timely application. The filing of the application does not stay future collection action and does not affect prior collection action:

(i) If the presiding officer finds that good cause exists, the presiding officer shall proceed to hear the parent's objection to the notice and determine the support obligation;

(ii) If the presiding officer finds that good cause does not exist, the presiding officer shall treat the application as a petition for prospective modification of the amount for current and future support established under the notice and finding. In the modification proceeding, the presiding officer shall set current and future support under chapter 26.19 RCW. The petitioning parent need show neither good cause nor a substantial change of circumstances to justify modification of current and future support;

(e) If the responsible parent's support obligation was based upon imputed median net income, the grant standard, or the family need standard, the division of child support may file an application for adjudicative proceeding more than twenty days after the date of service of the notice. The office of administrative hearings shall schedule an adjudicative proceeding and provide notice of the hearing to the responsible parent and the custodial parent. The presiding officer shall determine the support obligation for the entire period covered by the notice, based upon credible evidence presented by the division of child support, the responsible parent, or the custodial parent, or may determine that the support obligation set forth in the notice is correct. The division of child support demonstrates good cause by showing that the responsible parent's support obligation was based upon imputed median net income, the grant standard, or the family need standard. The filing of the application by the division of child support does not stay further collection action, pending the entry of a final administrative order, and does not affect any prior collection action.

(f) The department shall retain and/or shall not refund support money collected more than twenty days after the date of service of the notice. Money withheld as the result of collection action shall be delivered to the department. The department shall distribute such money, as provided in published rules.

(5) If an application for an adjudicative proceeding is filed, the presiding or reviewing officer shall determine the past liability and responsibility, if any, of the alleged responsible parent and shall also determine the amount of periodic payments to be made in the future, which amount is not limited by the amount of any public assistance payment made to or for the benefit of the child. If deviating from the child support schedule in making these determinations, the presiding or reviewing officer shall apply the standards contained in the child support schedule and enter written findings of fact supporting the deviation.

(2012 Ed.)

(6) If either the responsible parent or the custodial parent fails to attend or participate in the hearing or other stage of an adjudicative proceeding, upon a showing of valid service, the presiding officer shall enter an order of default against each party who did not appear and may enter an administrative order declaring the support debt and payment provisions stated in the notice and finding of financial responsibility to be assessed and determined and subject to collection action. The parties who appear may enter an agreed settlement or consent order, which may be different than the terms of the department's notice. Any party who appears may choose to proceed to the hearing, after the conclusion of which the presiding officer or reviewing officer may enter an order that is different than the terms stated in the notice, if the obligation is supported by credible evidence presented by any party at the hearing.

(7) The final administrative order establishing liability and/or future periodic support payments shall be superseded upon entry of a superior court order for support to the extent the superior court order is inconsistent with the administrative order.

(8) Debts determined pursuant to this section, accrued and not paid, are subject to collection action under this chapter without further necessity of action by a presiding or reviewing officer.

(9) The department has rule-making authority to enact rules consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 652(f) and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 666(a)(19) as amended by section 7307 of the deficit reduction act of 2005. Additionally, the department has rule-making authority to implement regulations required under 45 C.F.R. Parts 302, 303, 304, 305, and 308. [2009 c 476 § 7; 2007 c 143 § 8; 2002 c 199 § 5; 1997 c 58 § 940; 1996 c 21 § 1; 1991 c 367 § 46; 1990 1st ex.s. c 2 § 21; 1989 c 175 § 152; 1988 c 275 § 10; 1982 c 189 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 12; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 25.]

**Effective date—2009 c 476:** See note following RCW 26.09.105.

**Severability—2007 c 143:** See note following RCW 26.18.170.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.056 Notice and finding of financial responsibility pursuant to an affidavit of paternity—Procedure for contesting—Rules.**

(1) If an alleged father has signed an affidavit acknowledging paternity which has been filed with the state registrar of vital statistics before July 1, 1997, the division of child support may serve a notice and finding of parental responsibility on him and the custodial parent. Procedures for and responsibility resulting from acknowledgments filed after July 1, 1997, are in subsections (8) and (9) of this section. Service of the notice shall be in the same manner as a summons in a civil action or by certified mail, return receipt requested, on the alleged father. The custodial parent shall be served by first-class mail to the last known address. If the custodial parent is not the nonassistance applicant or public assistance recipient, service shall be in the same manner as for the responsible parent. The notice shall have attached to it a copy of the affidavit or certification of birth record information advising of the existence of a filed affidavit, provided by the state registrar of vital statistics, and shall state that:

(a) Either or both parents are responsible for providing health insurance for their child either through private health

insurance which is accessible to the child or through coverage that if coverage that can be extended to cover the child is or becomes available to the parent through employment or is union-related, or for paying a monthly payment toward the premium if no such coverage is available, as provided under RCW 26.09.105;

(b) The alleged father or custodial parent may file an application for an adjudicative proceeding at which they both will be required to appear and show cause why the amount stated in the notice as to support is incorrect and should not be ordered;

(c) An alleged father or mother, if she is also the custodial parent, may request that a blood or genetic test be administered to determine whether such test would exclude him from being a natural parent and, if not excluded, may subsequently request that the division of child support initiate an action in superior court to determine the existence of the parent-child relationship; and

(d) If neither the alleged father nor the custodial parent requests that a blood or genetic test be administered or files an application for an adjudicative proceeding, the amount of support stated in the notice and finding of parental responsibility shall become final, subject only to a subsequent determination under RCW 26.26.500 through 26.26.630 that the parent-child relationship does not exist.

(2) An alleged father or custodial parent who objects to the amount of support requested in the notice may file an application for an adjudicative proceeding up to twenty days after the date the notice was served. An application for an adjudicative proceeding may be filed within one year of service of the notice and finding of parental responsibility without the necessity for a showing of good cause or upon a showing of good cause thereafter. An adjudicative proceeding under this section shall be pursuant to RCW 74.20A.055. The only issues shall be the amount of the accrued debt, the amount of the current and future support obligation, and the reimbursement of the costs of blood or genetic tests if advanced by the department. A custodian who is not the parent of a child and who has physical custody of a child has the same notice and hearing rights that a custodial parent has under this section.

(3) If the application for an adjudicative proceeding is filed within twenty days of service of the notice, collection action shall be stayed pending a final decision by the department. If no application is filed within twenty days:

(a) The amounts in the notice shall become final and the debt created therein shall be subject to collection action; and

(b) Any amounts so collected shall neither be refunded nor returned if the alleged father is later found not to be a responsible parent.

(4) An alleged father or the mother, if she is also the custodial parent, may request that a blood or genetic test be administered at any time. The request for testing shall be in writing, or as the department may specify by rule, and served on the division of child support. If a request for testing is made, the department shall arrange for the test and, pursuant to rules adopted by the department, may advance the cost of such testing. The department shall mail a copy of the test results by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the alleged father's and mother's, if she is also the custodial parent, last known address.

(5) If the test excludes the alleged father from being a natural parent, the division of child support shall file a copy of the results with the state registrar of vital statistics and shall dismiss any pending administrative collection proceedings based upon the affidavit in issue. The state registrar of vital statistics shall remove the alleged father's name from the birth certificate and change the child's surname to be the same as the mother's maiden name as stated on the birth certificate, or any other name which the mother may select.

(6) The alleged father or mother, if she is also the custodial parent, may, within twenty days after the date of receipt of the test results, request the division of child support to initiate an action under RCW 26.26.500 through 26.26.630 to determine the existence of the parent-child relationship. If the division of child support initiates a superior court action at the request of the alleged father or mother and the decision of the court is that the alleged father is a natural parent, the parent who requested the test shall be liable for court costs incurred.

(7) If the alleged father or mother, if she is also the custodial parent, does not request the division of child support to initiate a superior court action, or fails to appear and cooperate with blood or genetic testing, the notice of parental responsibility shall become final for all intents and purposes and may be overturned only by a subsequent superior court order entered under RCW 26.26.500 through 26.26.630.

(8)(a) Subsections (1) through (7) of this section do not apply to acknowledgments of paternity filed with the state registrar of vital statistics after July 1, 1997.

(b) If an acknowledged father has signed an acknowledgment of paternity that has been filed with the state registrar of vital statistics after July 1, 1997:

(i) The division of child support may serve a notice and finding of financial responsibility under RCW 74.20A.055 based on the acknowledgment. The division of child support shall attach a copy of the acknowledgment or certification of the birth record information advising of the existence of a filed acknowledgment of paternity to the notice;

(ii) The notice shall include a statement that the acknowledged father or any other signatory may commence a proceeding in court to rescind or challenge the acknowledgment or denial of paternity under RCW 26.26.330 and 26.26.335;

(iii) A statement that either or both parents are responsible for providing health insurance for his or her child if coverage that can be extended to cover the child is or becomes available to the parent through employment or is union-related as provided under RCW 26.09.105; and

(iv) The party commencing the action to rescind or challenge the acknowledgment or denial must serve notice on the division of child support and the office of the prosecuting attorney in the county in which the proceeding is commenced. Commencement of a proceeding to rescind or challenge the acknowledgment or denial stays the establishment of the notice and finding of financial responsibility, if the notice has not yet become a final order.

(c) If neither the acknowledged father nor the other party to the notice files an application for an adjudicative proceeding or the signatories to the acknowledgment or denial do not commence a proceeding to rescind or challenge the acknowledgment of paternity, the amount of support stated in the

notice and finding of financial responsibility becomes final, subject only to a subsequent determination under RCW 26.26.500 through 26.26.630 that the parent-child relationship does not exist. The division of child support does not refund nor return any amounts collected under a notice that becomes final under this section or RCW 74.20A.055, even if a court later determines that the acknowledgment is void.

(d) An acknowledged father or other party to the notice who objects to the amount of support requested in the notice may file an application for an adjudicative proceeding up to twenty days after the date the notice was served. An application for an adjudicative proceeding may be filed within one year of service of the notice and finding of parental responsibility without the necessity for a showing of good cause or upon a showing of good cause thereafter. An adjudicative proceeding under this section shall be pursuant to RCW 74.20A.055. The only issues shall be the amount of the accrued debt and the amount of the current and future support obligation.

(i) If the application for an adjudicative proceeding is filed within twenty days of service of the notice, collection action shall be stayed pending a final decision by the department.

(ii) If the application for an adjudicative proceeding is not filed within twenty days of the service of the notice, any amounts collected under the notice shall be neither refunded nor returned if the alleged father is later found not to be a responsible parent.

(e) If neither the acknowledged father nor the custodial parent requests an adjudicative proceeding, or if no timely action is brought to rescind or challenge the acknowledgment or denial after service of the notice, the notice of financial responsibility becomes final for all intents and purposes and may be overturned only by a subsequent superior court order entered under RCW 26.26.500 through 26.26.630.

(9) Acknowledgments of paternity that are filed after July 1, 1997, are subject to requirements of chapters 26.26, the uniform parentage act, and 70.58 RCW.

(10) The department and the department of health may adopt rules to implement the requirements under this section.

(11) The department has rule-making authority to enact rules consistent with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 652(f) and 42 U.S.C. Sec. 666(a)(19) as amended by section 7307 of the deficit reduction act of 2005. Additionally, the department has rule-making authority to implement regulations required under 45 C.F.R. Parts 302, 303, 304, 305, and 308. [2009 c 476 § 8; 2007 c 143 § 9. Prior: 2002 c 302 § 707; 2002 c 199 § 6; 1997 c 58 § 941; prior: 1994 c 230 § 19; 1994 c 146 § 5; 1989 c 55 § 3.]

**Effective date—2009 c 476:** See note following RCW 26.09.105.

**Severability—2007 c 143:** See note following RCW 26.18.170.

**Application—Construction—Short title—Severability—2002 c 302:** See RCW 26.26.903, 26.26.911, and 26.26.912.

*Birth certificate—Establishing paternity:* RCW 70.58.080.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.057 Jurisdiction over responsible parent.** A support obligation arising under the statutes or common law of this state binds the responsible parent, present in this state, regardless of the presence or residence of the custodian or children. The obligor is presumed to have been present in the

state of Washington during the period for which support is sought until otherwise shown. The department may establish an administrative order pursuant to RCW 74.20A.055 that is based upon any support obligation imposed or impossible under the statutes or common law of any state in which the obligor was present during the period for which support is sought. [1985 c 276 § 15.]

**74.20A.059 Modification of administrative orders establishing child support—Petition—Grounds—Procedure.** (1) The department, the physical custodian, or the responsible parent may petition for a prospective modification of a final administrative order if:

(a) The administrative order has not been superseded by a superior court order; and

(b) There has been a substantial change of circumstances, except as provided under RCW 74.20A.055(4)(d).

(2) An order of child support may be modified one year or more after it has been entered without showing a substantial change of circumstances:

(a) If the order in practice works a severe economic hardship on either party or the child; or

(b) If a party requests an adjustment in an order for child support that was based on guidelines which determined the amount of support according to the child's age, and the child is no longer in the age category on which the current support amount was based; or

(c) If a child is a full-time student and reasonably expected to complete secondary school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training before the child becomes nineteen years of age upon a finding that there is a need to extend support beyond the eighteenth birthday.

(3) An order may be modified without showing a substantial change of circumstances if the requested modification is to:

(a) Require medical support under RCW 26.09.105 for a child covered by the order; or

(b) Modify an existing order for health insurance coverage.

(4) Support orders may be adjusted once every twenty-four months based upon changes in the income of the parents without a showing of substantially changed circumstances.

(5)(a) All administrative orders entered on, before, or after September 1, 1991, may be modified based upon changes in the child support schedule established in chapter 26.19 RCW without a substantial change of circumstances. The petition may be filed based on changes in the child support schedule after twelve months has expired from the entry of the administrative order or the most recent modification order setting child support, whichever is later. However, if a party is granted relief under this provision, twenty-four months must pass before another petition for modification may be filed pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

(b) If, pursuant to subsection (4) of this section or (a) of this subsection, the order modifies a child support obligation by more than thirty percent and the change would cause significant hardship, the change may be implemented in two equal increments, one at the time of the entry of the order and the second six months from the entry of the order. Twenty-four months must pass following the second change before a

petition for modification under subsection (4) of this section may be filed.

(6) An increase in the wage or salary of the parent or custodian who is receiving the support transfer payments is not a substantial change in circumstances for purposes of modification under subsection (1)(b) of this section. An obligor's voluntary unemployment or voluntary underemployment, by itself, is not a substantial change of circumstances.

(7) The department shall file the petition and a supporting affidavit with the secretary or the secretary's designee when the department petitions for modification.

(8) The responsible parent or the physical custodian shall follow the procedures in this chapter for filing an application for an adjudicative proceeding to petition for modification.

(9) Upon the filing of a proper petition or application, the secretary or the secretary's designee shall issue an order directing each party to appear and show cause why the order should not be modified.

(10) If the presiding or reviewing officer finds a modification is appropriate, the officer shall modify the order and set current and future support under chapter 26.19 RCW. [2009 c 476 § 9; 1991 c 367 § 47.]

**Effective date—2009 c 476:** See note following RCW 26.09.105.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.060 Assertion of lien—Effect.** (1) The secretary may assert a lien upon the real or personal property of a responsible parent:

(a) When a support payment is past due, if the parent's support order contains notice that liens may be enforced against real and personal property, or notice that action may be taken under this chapter;

(b) Twenty-one days after service of a notice of support debt under RCW 74.20A.040;

(c) Twenty-one days after service of a notice and finding of financial responsibility under RCW 74.20A.055;

(d) Twenty-one days after service of a notice and finding of parental responsibility;

(e) Twenty-one days after service of a notice of support owed under RCW 26.23.110; or

(f) When appropriate under RCW 74.20A.270.

(2) The division of child support may use uniform interstate lien forms adopted by the United States department of health and human services to assert liens on a responsible parent's real and personal property located in another state.

(3) The claim of the department for a support debt, not paid when due, shall be a lien against all property of the debtor with priority of a secured creditor. This lien shall be separate and apart from, and in addition to, any other lien created by, or provided for, in this title. The lien shall attach to all real and personal property of the debtor on the date of filing of such statement with the county auditor of the county in which such property is located.

(4) Whenever a support lien has been filed and there is in the possession of any person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision or department of the state having notice of said lien any property which may be subject to the support lien, such property shall not be paid over, released, sold, transferred, encumbered or conveyed, except as provided for by the exemptions contained in RCW 74.20A.090 and 74.20A.130, unless:

(a) A written release or waiver signed by the secretary has been delivered to said person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision or department of the state; or

(b) A determination has been made in an adjudicative proceeding pursuant to RCW 74.20A.055 or by a superior court ordering release of said support lien on the basis that no debt exists or that the debt has been satisfied. [1997 c 58 § 906. Prior: 1989 c 360 § 9; 1989 c 175 § 153; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.070 Service of lien.** (1) The secretary may at any time after filing of a support lien serve a copy of the lien upon any person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, or department of the state in possession of earnings, or deposits or balances held in any bank account of any nature which are due, owing, or belonging to said debtor.

(2) The support lien shall be served upon the person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, or department of the state:

(a) In the manner prescribed for the service of summons in a civil action;

(b) By certified mail, return receipt requested; or

(c) By electronic means if there is an agreement between the secretary and the person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, or department of the state to accept service by electronic means.

(3) No lien filed under RCW 74.20A.060 shall have any effect against earnings or bank deposits or balances unless it states the amount of the support debt accrued and unless service upon the person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, or department of the state in possession of earnings or bank accounts, deposits or balances is accomplished pursuant to this section. [1997 c 130 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 7.]

*Civil procedure—Commencement of actions: Chapter 4.28 RCW.*

**74.20A.080 Order to withhold and deliver—Issuance and service—Contents—Effect—Duties of person served—Processing fee.** (1) The secretary may issue to any person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States, an order to withhold and deliver property of any kind, including but not restricted to earnings which are or might become due, owing, or belonging to the debtor, when the secretary has reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States property which is or might become due, owing, or belonging to said debtor. Such order to withhold and deliver may be issued:

(a) At any time, if a responsible parent's support order:

(i) Contains notice that withholding action may be taken against earnings, wages, or assets without further notice to the parent; or

(ii) Includes a statement that other income-withholding action under this chapter may be taken without further notice to the responsible parent;

(b) Twenty-one days after service of a notice of support debt under RCW 74.20A.040;

(c) Twenty-one days after service of a notice and finding of parental responsibility under RCW 74.20A.056;

(d) Twenty-one days after service of a notice of support owed under RCW 26.23.110;

(e) Twenty-one days after service of a notice and finding of financial responsibility under RCW 74.20A.055; or

(f) When appropriate under RCW 74.20A.270.

(2) The order to withhold and deliver shall:

(a) State the amount to be withheld on a periodic basis if the order to withhold and deliver is being served to secure payment of monthly current support;

(b) State the amount of the support debt accrued;

(c) State in summary the terms of RCW 74.20A.090 and 74.20A.100;

(d) Be served:

(i) In the manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a civil action;

(ii) By certified mail, return receipt requested;

(iii) By electronic means if there is an agreement between the secretary and the person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States to accept service by electronic means;

(iv) By regular mail to a responsible parent's employer unless the division of child support reasonably believes that service of process in the manner prescribed in (d)(i) or (ii) of this subsection is required for initiating an action to ensure employer compliance with the withholding requirement; or

(v) By regular mail to an address if designated by the financial institution as a central levy or garnishment address, and if the notice is clearly identified as a levy or garnishment order. Before the division of child support may initiate an action for noncompliance with a withholding action against a financial institution, the division of child support must serve the order to withhold and deliver on the financial institution in the manner described in (d)(i) or (ii) of this subsection.

(3) The division of child support may use uniform interstate withholding forms adopted by the United States department of health and human services to take withholding actions under this section when the responsible parent is owed money or property that is located in this state or in another state.

(4) Any person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States upon whom service has been made is hereby required to:

(a) Answer said order to withhold and deliver within twenty days, exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired of therein; and

(b) Provide further and additional answers when requested by the secretary.

(5) The returned answer or a payment remitted to the division of child support by the employer constitutes proof of service of the order to withhold and deliver in the case where the order was served by regular mail.

(6) Any such person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States in possession of any property which may be subject to the claim of the department shall:

(a)(i) Immediately withhold such property upon receipt of the order to withhold and deliver; and

(ii) Within seven working days deliver the property to the secretary;

(iii) Continue to withhold earnings payable to the debtor at each succeeding disbursement interval as provided for in RCW 74.20A.090, and deliver amounts withheld from earnings to the secretary within seven working days of the date earnings are payable to the debtor;

(iv) Deliver amounts withheld from periodic payments to the secretary within seven working days of the date the payments are payable to the debtor;

(v) Inform the secretary of the date the amounts were withheld as requested under this section; or

(b) Furnish to the secretary a good and sufficient bond, satisfactory to the secretary, conditioned upon final determination of liability.

(7) An order to withhold and deliver served under this section shall not expire until:

(a) Released in writing by the division of child support;

(b) Terminated by court order;

(c) A person or entity, other than an employer as defined in Title 50 RCW, who has received the order to withhold and deliver does not possess property of or owe money to the debtor; or

(d) An employer who has received the order to withhold and deliver no longer employs, contracts, or owes money to the debtor under a contract of employment, express or implied.

(8) Where money is due and owing under any contract of employment, express or implied, or is held by any person, firm, corporation, or association, political subdivision, or department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States subject to withdrawal by the debtor, such money shall be delivered by remittance payable to the order of the secretary.

(9) Delivery to the secretary of the money or other property held or claimed shall satisfy the requirement and serve as full acquittance of the order to withhold and deliver.

(10) A person, firm, corporation, or association, political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States that complies with the order to withhold and deliver under this chapter is not civilly liable to the debtor for complying with the order to withhold and deliver under this chapter.

(11) The secretary may hold the money or property delivered under this section in trust for application on the indebtedness involved or for return, without interest, in accordance with final determination of liability or nonliability.

(12) Exemptions contained in RCW 74.20A.090 apply to orders to withhold and deliver issued under this section.

(13) The secretary shall also, on or before the date of service of the order to withhold and deliver, mail or cause to be mailed a copy of the order to withhold and deliver to the debtor at the debtor's last known post office address, or, in the alternative, a copy of the order to withhold and deliver shall be served on the debtor in the same manner as a summons in a civil action on or before the date of service of the order or within two days thereafter. The copy of the order shall be mailed or served together with a concise explanation

of the right to petition for judicial review. This requirement is not jurisdictional, but, if the copy is not mailed or served as in this section provided, or if any irregularity appears with respect to the mailing or service, the superior court, in its discretion on motion of the debtor promptly made and supported by affidavit showing that the debtor has suffered substantial injury due to the failure to mail the copy, may set aside the order to withhold and deliver and award to the debtor an amount equal to the damages resulting from the secretary's failure to serve on or mail to the debtor the copy.

(14) An order to withhold and deliver issued in accordance with this section has priority over any other wage assignment, garnishment, attachment, or other legal process.

(15) The division of child support shall notify any person, firm, corporation, association, or political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States required to withhold and deliver the earnings of a debtor under this action that they may deduct a processing fee from the remainder of the debtor's earnings, even if the remainder would otherwise be exempt under RCW 74.20A.090. The processing fee shall not exceed ten dollars for the first disbursement to the department and one dollar for each subsequent disbursement under the order to withhold and deliver. [2002 c 199 § 7; 2000 c 86 § 8; 1998 c 160 § 1. Prior: 1997 c 130 § 7; 1997 c 58 § 907; 1994 c 230 § 20; prior: 1989 c 360 § 10; 1989 c 175 § 154; 1985 c 276 § 6; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 9; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.090 Certain amount of earnings exempt from lien or order—"Earnings" and "disposable earnings" defined.** Whenever a support lien or order to withhold and deliver is served upon any person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, or department of the state asserting a support debt against earnings and there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, or department of the state, any such earnings, RCW 6.27.150 shall not apply, but fifty percent of the disposable earnings shall be exempt and may be disbursed to the debtor whether such earnings are paid, or to be paid weekly, monthly, or at other intervals and whether there be due the debtor earnings for one week or for a longer period. The lien or order to withhold and deliver shall continue to operate and require said person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, or department of the state to withhold the nonexempt portion of earnings at each succeeding earnings disbursement interval until the entire amount of the support debt stated in the lien or order to withhold and deliver has been withheld. As used in this chapter, the term "earnings" means compensation paid or payable for personal services, whether denominated as wages, salary, commission, bonus, or otherwise, and, notwithstanding any other provision of law making such payments exempt from garnishment, attachment, or other process to satisfy support obligation, specifically includes periodic payments pursuant to pension or retirement programs, or insurance policies of any type, but does not include payments made under Title 50 RCW, except as provided in RCW 50.40.020 and 50.40.050 or Title 74 RCW. Earnings shall specifically include all gain derived from capital, from labor, or from both combined, not including profit

gained through sale or conversion of capital assets. The term "disposable earnings" means that part of the earnings of any individual remaining after the deduction from those earnings of any amount required by law to be withheld. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 12. Prior: 1982 c 201 § 21; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 10; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 10; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.095 Support enforcement services—Action against earnings within state—Notice.** When providing support enforcement services, the office of support enforcement may take action, under this chapter and chapter 26.23 RCW, against a responsible parent's earnings or assets, located in, or subject to the jurisdiction of, the state of Washington regardless of the presence or residence of the responsible parent. If the responsible parent resides in another state or country, the office of support enforcement shall, unless otherwise authorized by state or federal law, serve a notice under RCW 74.20A.040 more than sixty days before taking collection action. [2000 c 86 § 9; 1991 c 367 § 48.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.100 Civil liability upon failure to comply with order or lien—Collection.** (1) Any person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, or department of the state shall be liable to the department, or to the agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another state, under Title IV-D of the federal social security act and issuing a notice, garnishment, or wage assignment attaching wages or earnings in satisfaction of a support obligation, in the amount that should have been withheld, together with costs, interest, and reasonable attorney fees if that person or entity:

(a) Fails to answer an order to withhold and deliver, or substantially similar action issued by the agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another state, under Title IV-D of the federal social security act, within the time prescribed herein;

(b) Fails or refuses to deliver property pursuant to said order;

(c) After actual notice of filing of a support lien, pays over, releases, sells, transfers, or conveys real or personal property subject to a support lien to or for the benefit of the debtor or any other person;

(d) Fails or refuses to surrender property distrained under RCW 74.20A.130 upon demand; or

(e) Fails or refuses to honor an assignment of earnings presented by the secretary.

(2) The secretary is authorized to issue a notice of non-compliance under RCW 74.20A.350 or to proceed in superior court to obtain a judgment for noncompliance under this section. [1997 c 296 § 15; 1997 c 58 § 895; 1989 c 360 § 5; 1985 c 276 § 7; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 11; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 10.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1997 c 58 § 895 and by 1997 c 296 § 15, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.110 Release of excess to debtor.** Whenever any person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision or department of the state has in its possession earnings,

deposits, accounts, or balances in excess of the amount of the debt claimed by the department, such person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision or department of the state may, without liability under this chapter, release said excess to the debtor. [1979 ex.s. c 171 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.120 Banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions—Service on main office or branch, effect—Collection actions against community bank account, right to adjudicative proceeding.** A lien, order to withhold and deliver, or any other notice or document authorized by this chapter or chapter 26.23 RCW may be served on the main office of a bank, savings and loan association, or credit union or on a branch office of such financial institution. Service on the main office shall be effective to attach the deposits of a responsible parent in the financial institution and compensation payable for personal services due the responsible parent from the financial institution. Service on a branch office shall be effective to attach the deposits, accounts, credits, or other personal property of the responsible parent, excluding compensation payable for personal services, in the possession or control of the particular branch served.

If the department initiates collection action under this chapter against a community bank account, the debtor or the debtor's spouse, upon service on the department of a timely application, has a right to an adjudicative proceeding governed by chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act, to establish that the funds in the account, or a portion of those funds, were the earnings of the nonobligated spouse, and are exempt from the satisfaction of the child support obligation of the debtor pursuant to RCW 26.16.200. [1989 c 360 § 30; 1989 c 175 § 155; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 12.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1989 c 175 § 155 and by 1989 c 360 § 30, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.130 Distraint, seizure and sale of property subject to liens under RCW 74.20A.060—Procedure.** Whenever a support lien has been filed pursuant to RCW 74.20A.060, the secretary may collect the support debt stated in said lien by the distraint, seizure, and sale of the property subject to said lien. Not less than ten days prior to the date of sale, the secretary shall cause a copy of the notice of sale to be transmitted by regular mail and by any form of mailing requiring a return receipt to the debtor and any person known to have or claim an interest in the property. Said notice shall contain a general description of the property to be sold and the time, date, and place of the sale. The notice of sale shall be posted in at least two public places in the county wherein the distraint has been made. The time of sale shall not be less than ten nor more than twenty days from the date of posting of such notices. Said sale shall be conducted by the secretary, who shall proceed to sell such property by parcel or by lot at a public auction, and who may set a minimum reasonable price to include the expenses of making a levy and of advertising the sale, and if the amount bid for such property at the

(2012 Ed.)

sale is not equal to the price so fixed, the secretary may declare such property to be purchased by the department for such price, or may conduct another sale of such property pursuant to the provisions of this section. In the event of sale, the debtor's account shall be credited with the amount for which the property has been sold. Property acquired by the department as herein prescribed may be sold by the secretary at public or private sale, and the amount realized shall be placed in the state general fund to the credit of the department of social and health services. In all cases of sale, as aforesaid, the secretary shall issue a bill of sale or a deed to the purchaser and said bill of sale or deed shall be prima facie evidence of the right of the secretary to make such sale and conclusive evidence of the regularity of his proceeding in making the sale, and shall transfer to the purchaser all right, title, and interest of the debtor in said property. The proceeds of any such sale, except in those cases wherein the property has been acquired by the department, shall be first applied by the secretary to reimbursement of the costs of distraint and sale, and thereafter in satisfaction of the delinquent account. Any excess which shall thereafter remain in the hands of the secretary shall be refunded to the debtor. Sums so refundable to a debtor may be subject to seizure or distraint by any taxing authority of the state or its political subdivisions or by the secretary for new sums due and owing subsequent to the subject proceeding. Except as specifically provided in this chapter, there shall be exempt from distraint, seizure, and sale under this chapter such property as is exempt therefrom under the laws of this state. [1987 c 435 § 32; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.140 Action for foreclosure of support lien—Satisfaction.** Whenever a support lien has been filed, an action in foreclosure of lien upon real or personal property may be brought in the superior court of the county where real or personal property is or was located and the lien was filed and judgment shall be rendered in favor of the department for the amount due, with costs, and the court shall allow, as part of the costs, the moneys paid for making and filing the claim of lien, and a reasonable attorney's fee, and the court shall order any property upon which any lien provided for by this chapter is established, to be sold by the sheriff of the proper county to satisfy the lien and costs. The payment of the lien debt, costs and reasonable attorney fees, at any time before sale, shall satisfy the judgment of foreclosure. Where the net proceeds of sale upon application to the debt claimed do not satisfy the debt in full, the department shall have judgment over for any deficiency remaining unsatisfied and further levy and sales upon other property of the judgment debtor may be made under the same execution. In all sales contemplated under this section, advertising of notice shall only be necessary for two weeks in a newspaper published in the county where said property is located, and if there be no newspaper therein, then in the most convenient newspaper having a circulation in such county. Remedies provided for herein are alternatives to remedies provided for in other sections of this chapter. [1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 13; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 14.]

[Title 74 RCW—page 143]

**74.20A.150 Satisfaction of lien after foreclosure proceedings instituted—Redemption.** Any person owning real property, or any interest in real property, against which a support lien has been filed and foreclosure instituted, shall have the right to pay the amount due, together with expenses of the proceedings and reasonable attorney fees to the secretary and upon such payment the secretary shall restore said property to him and all further proceedings in the said foreclosure action shall cease. Said person shall also have the right within two hundred forty days after sale of property foreclosed under RCW 74.20A.140 to redeem said property by making payment to the purchaser in the amount paid by the purchaser plus interest thereon at the rate of six percent per annum. [1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 14; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 15.]

**74.20A.160 Secretary may set debt payment schedule, release funds in certain hardship cases.** With respect to any arrearages on a support debt assessed under this chapter, the secretary may at any time consistent with the income, earning capacity and resources of the debtor, set or reset a level and schedule of payments to be paid upon a support debt. The secretary may, upon petition of the debtor providing sufficient evidence of hardship, after consideration of the child support schedule adopted under \*RCW 26.19.040, release or refund moneys taken pursuant to RCW 74.20A.080 to provide for the reasonable necessities of the responsible parent or parents and minor children in the home of the responsible parent. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the secretary to take any action which would require collection of less than the obligation for current support required under a superior court order or an administrative order or to take any action which would result in a bar of collection of arrearages from the debtor by reason of the statute of limitations. [1988 c 275 § 11; 1985 c 276 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 16.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 26.19.040 was repealed by 1991 sp.s. c 28 § 8, effective September 1, 1991.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.170 Secretary may release lien or order or return seized property—Effect.** The secretary may at any time release a support lien, or order to withhold and deliver, on all or part of the property of the debtor, or return seized property without liability, if assurance of payment is deemed adequate by the secretary, or if said action will facilitate the collection of the debt, but said release or return shall not operate to prevent future action to collect from the same or other property. [1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 15; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 17.]

**74.20A.180 Secretary may make demand, file and serve liens, when payments appear in jeopardy.** If the secretary finds that the collection of any support debt, accrued under a support order, based upon subrogation or an authorization to enforce and collect under RCW 74.20A.030, or assignment of, or a request for support enforcement services to enforce and collect the amount of support ordered by any support order is in jeopardy, the secretary may make a written demand under RCW 74.20A.040 for immediate payment of the support debt and, upon failure or refusal immediately to pay said support debt, may file and serve liens pursuant to RCW 74.20A.060 and 74.20A.070, without regard to the

twenty day period provided for in RCW 74.20A.040: PROVIDED, That no further action under RCW 74.20A.080, 74.20A.130, and 74.20A.140 may be taken until the notice requirements of RCW 74.20A.040 are met. [2000 c 86 § 10; 1985 c 276 § 9; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 16; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 18.]

**74.20A.188 Request for assistance on automated enforcement of interstate case—Certification required.** (1) Before the state may assist another state or jurisdiction with a high-volume automated administrative enforcement of an interstate case, the requesting state must certify that:

(a) The requesting state has met all due process requirements for the establishment of the support order;

(b) The requesting state has met all due process requirements for the enforcement of the support order, including that the obligor has been notified that another state may take action against the obligor's wages, earnings, assets, or benefits, and may enforce against the obligor's real and personal property under the child support statutes of this state or any other state without further notice; and

(c) The amount of arrears transmitted by the requesting state is due under the support order.

(2) Receipt of a request for assistance on automated enforcement of an interstate case by the state constitutes certification under this section. [2000 c 86 § 11.]

**74.20A.200 Judicial relief after administrative remedies exhausted.** Any person against whose property a support lien has been filed or an order to withhold and deliver has been served pursuant to this chapter may apply for relief to the superior court of the county wherein the property is located. It is the intent of this chapter that jurisdictional and constitutional issues, if any, shall be subject to review, but that administrative remedies be exhausted prior to judicial review. [1985 c 276 § 10; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 9; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 18; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.220 Charging off child support debts as uncollectible—Compromise—Waiver of any bar to collection.** Any support debt due the department from a responsible parent may be written off and cease to be accounted as an asset if the secretary finds there are no cost-effective means of collecting the debt.

The department may accept offers of compromise of disputed claims or may grant partial or total charge-off of support arrears owed to the department up to the total amount of public assistance paid to or for the benefit of the persons for whom the support obligation was incurred. The department shall adopt rules as to the considerations to be made in the granting or denial of partial or total charge-off and offers of compromise of disputed claims of debt for support arrears. The rights of the payee under an order for support shall not be prejudiced if the department accepts an offer of compromise, or grants a partial or total charge-off under this section.

The responsible parent owing a support debt may execute a written extension or waiver of any statute which may bar or impair the collection of the debt and the extension or waiver shall be effective according to its terms. [1989 c 360

§ 4; 1989 c 78 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 16; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 20; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 22.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1989 c 78 § 2 and by 1989 c 360 § 4, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **74.20A.230 Employee debtor rights protected—**

**Remedies.** No employer shall discharge or discipline an employee or refuse to hire a person for reason that an assignment of earnings has been presented in settlement of a support debt or that a support lien or order to withhold and deliver has been served against said employee's earnings. If an employer discharges or disciplines an employee or refuses to hire a person in violation of this section, the employee or person shall have a cause of action against the employer. The employer shall be liable for double the amount of lost wages and any other damages suffered as a result of the violation and for costs and reasonable attorney fees, and shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars for each violation. The employer may also be ordered to hire, rehire, or reinstate the aggrieved individual. [1985 c 276 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 21; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 23.]

#### **74.20A.240 Assignment of earnings to be honored—**

**Effect—Processing fee.** Any person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States employing a person owing a support debt or obligation, shall honor, according to its terms, a duly executed assignment of earnings presented by the secretary as a plan to satisfy or retire a support debt or obligation. This requirement to honor the assignment of earnings and the assignment of earnings itself shall be applicable whether said earnings are to be paid presently or in the future and shall continue in force and effect until released in writing by the secretary. Payment of moneys pursuant to an assignment of earnings presented by the secretary shall serve as full acquittance under any contract of employment. A person, firm, corporation, association, political subdivision, department of the state, or agency, subdivision, or instrumentality of the United States that complies with the assignment of earnings under this chapter is not civilly liable to the debtor for complying with the assignment of earnings under this chapter. The secretary shall be released from liability for improper receipt of moneys under an assignment of earnings upon return of any moneys so received.

An assignment of earnings presented by the secretary in accordance with this section has priority over any other wage assignment, garnishment, attachment, or other legal process except for another wage assignment, garnishment, attachment, or other legal process for support moneys.

The employer may deduct a processing fee from the remainder of the debtor's earnings, even if the remainder would be exempt under RCW 74.20A.090. The processing fee shall not exceed fifteen dollars from the first disbursement to the department and one dollar for each subsequent disbursement under the assignment of earnings. [1997 c 296

(2012 Ed.)

§ 16; 1994 c 230 § 21; 1985 c 276 § 12; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 22; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 24.]

**74.20A.250 Secretary empowered to act as attorney, endorse drafts.** Whenever the secretary has been authorized under RCW 74.20.040 to take action to establish, enforce, and collect support moneys, the custodial parent and the child or children are deemed, without the necessity of signing any document, to have appointed the secretary as his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact to act in his or her name, place, and stead to perform the specific act of endorsing any and all drafts, checks, money orders or other negotiable instruments representing support payments which are received on behalf of said child or children to effect proper and lawful distribution of the support moneys in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Sec. 657. [1985 c 276 § 13; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 20; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 23; 1971 ex.s. c 164 § 25.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.260 Industrial insurance disability payments subject to collection by office of support enforcement.** Disability payments made pursuant to Title 51 RCW shall be classified as earnings and shall be subject to collection action by the office for support enforcement under this chapter and all other applicable state statutes. [1987 c 435 § 34; 1973 1st ex.s. c 183 § 24.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.270 Department claim for support moneys—Notice—Answer—Adjudicative proceeding—Judicial review—Moneys not subject to claim.** (1) The secretary may issue a notice of retained support or notice to recover a support payment to any person:

(a) Who is in possession of support moneys, or who has had support moneys in his or her possession at some time in the past, which support moneys were or are claimed by the department as the property of the department by assignment, subrogation, or by operation of law or legal process under chapter 74.20A RCW;

(b) Who has received a support payment erroneously directed to the wrong payee, or issued by the department in error; or

(c) Who is in possession of a support payment obtained through the internal revenue service tax refund offset process, which payment was later reclaimed from the department by the internal revenue service as a result of an amended tax return filed by the obligor or the obligor's spouse.

(2) The notice shall state the legal basis for the claim and shall provide sufficient detail to enable the person to identify the support moneys in issue.

(3) The department shall serve the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in the manner of a summons in a civil action.

(4) The amounts claimed in the notice shall become assessed, determined, and subject to collection twenty days from the date of service of the notice unless within those twenty days the person in possession of the support moneys:

(a) Acknowledges the department's right to the moneys and executes an agreed settlement providing for repayment of the moneys; or

(b) Requests an adjudicative proceeding to determine the rights to ownership of the support moneys in issue. The hearing shall be held pursuant to this section, chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act, and the rules of the department. The burden of proof to establish ownership of the support moneys claimed is on the department.

(5) After the twenty-day period, a person served with a notice under this section may, at any time within one year from the date of service of the notice of support debt, petition the secretary or the secretary's designee for an adjudicative proceeding upon a showing of any of the grounds enumerated in RCW 4.72.010 or superior court civil rule 60. A copy of the petition shall also be served on the department. The filing of the petition shall not stay any collection action being taken, but the debtor may petition the secretary or the secretary's designee for an order staying collection action pending the final administrative order. Any such moneys held and/or taken by collection action after the date of any such stay shall be held by the department pending the final order, to be disbursed in accordance with the final order.

(6) If the debtor fails to attend or participate in the hearing or other stage of an adjudicative proceeding, the presiding officer shall, upon showing of valid service, enter an order declaring the amount of support moneys, as claimed in the notice, to be assessed and determined and subject to collection action.

(7) The department may take action to collect an obligation established under this section using any remedy available under this chapter or chapter 26.09, 26.18, 26.23, or 74.20 RCW for the collection of child support.

(8) If, at any time, the superior court enters judgment for an amount of debt at variance with the amount determined by the final order in an adjudicative proceeding, the judgment shall supersede the final administrative order. The department may take action pursuant to chapter 74.20 or 74.20A RCW to obtain such a judgment or to collect moneys determined by such a judgment to be due and owing.

(9) If a person owing a debt established under this section is receiving public assistance, the department may collect the debt by offsetting up to ten percent of the grant payment received by the person. No collection action may be taken against the earnings of a person receiving cash public assistance to collect a debt assessed under this section.

(10) Payments not credited against the department's debt pursuant to RCW 74.20.101 may not be assessed or collected under this section. [1997 c 58 § 896. Prior: 1989 c 360 § 35; 1989 c 175 § 156; 1985 c 276 § 14; 1984 c 260 § 41; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.275 Support payments in possession of third parties—Collection.** (1) If a person or entity not entitled to child support payments wrongfully or negligently retains child support payments owed to another or to the Washington state support registry, those payments retain their character as child support payments and may be collected by the division of child support using any remedy available to the division of child support under Washington law for the collection of child support.

(2) Child support moneys subject to collection under this section may be collected for the duration of the statute of lim-

itations as it applies to the support order governing the support obligations, and any legislative or judicial extensions thereto.

(3) This section applies to the following:

(a) Cases in which an employer or other entity obligated to withhold child support payments from the parent's pay, bank, or escrow account, or from any other asset or distribution of money to the parent, has withheld those payments and failed to remit them to the payee;

(b) Cases in which child support moneys have been paid to the wrong person or entity in error;

(c) Cases in which child support recipients have retained child support payments in violation of a child support assignment executed or arising by operation of law in exchange for the receipt of public assistance; and

(d) Any other case in which child support payments are retained by a party not entitled to them.

(4) This section does not apply to fines levied under RCW 74.20A.350(3)(b). [1997 c 58 § 892.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.280 Department to respect privacy of recipients.** While discharging its responsibilities to enforce the support obligations of responsible parents, the department shall respect the right of privacy of recipients of public assistance and of other persons. Any inquiry about sexual activity shall be limited to that necessary to identify and locate possible fathers and to gather facts needed in the adjudication of parentage. [1987 c 441 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.290 Applicant for adjudicative proceeding must advise department of current address.** Whenever any person files an application for an adjudicative proceeding under RCW 74.20A.055 or 74.20A.270, after the department has notified the person of the requirements of this section, it shall be the responsibility of the person to notify the department of the person's mailing address at the time the application for an adjudicative proceeding is made and also to notify the department of any subsequent change of mailing address during the pendency of the administrative proceeding and any judicial review. Whenever the person has a duty under this section to advise the department of the person's mailing address, mailing by the department by certified mail to the person's last known address constitutes service as required by chapters 74.20A and 34.05 RCW. [1989 c 175 § 157; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.300 Medical support—Health insurance coverage required.** (1) Whenever a support order is entered or modified under this chapter, the department shall require either or both parents to provide medical support for any dependent child, in the nature of health insurance coverage or a monthly payment toward the premium, as provided under RCW 26.09.105.

(2) "Health insurance coverage" as used in this section does not include medical assistance provided under chapter 74.09 RCW.

(3) A parent ordered to provide health insurance coverage shall provide proof of such coverage or proof that such

coverage is unavailable to the department within twenty days of the entry of the order.

(4) A parent required to provide health insurance coverage must notify the department and the other parent when coverage terminates.

(5) Every order requiring a parent to provide health insurance coverage shall be entered in compliance with \*RCW 26.23.050 and be subject to direct enforcement as provided under chapter 26.18 RCW. [2009 c 476 § 6; 1994 c 230 § 22; 1989 c 416 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 26.23.050 appears to refer to the amendments made by 1989 c 416 § 8 that were subsequently vetoed by the governor.

**Effective date—2009 c 476:** See note following RCW 26.09.105.

**74.20A.310 Federal and state cooperation—Rules—Construction.** In furtherance of the policy of the state to cooperate with the federal government in the administration of the child support enforcement program, the department may adopt such rules and regulations as may become necessary to entitle the state to participate in federal funds, unless such rules would be expressly prohibited by law. Any section or provision of law dealing with the child support program which may be susceptible to more than one construction shall be interpreted in favor of the construction most likely to comply with federal laws entitling the state to receive federal funds. If any law dealing with the child support enforcement program is ruled to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition of the allocation of federal funds, such conflicting law is declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict. [1989 c 416 § 7.]

**74.20A.320 License suspension—Notice of noncompliance with a child support order—License renewal and reinstatement.** (1) The department may serve upon a responsible parent a notice informing the responsible parent of the department's intent to submit the parent's name to the department of licensing and any appropriate licensing entity as a licensee who is not in compliance with a child support order. The department shall attach a copy of the responsible parent's child support order to the notice. Service of the notice must be by certified mail, return receipt requested. If service by certified mail is not successful, service shall be by personal service.

(2) The notice of noncompliance must include the following information:

(a) The address and telephone number of the department's division of child support office that issued the notice;

(b) That in order to prevent the department from certifying the parent's name to the department of licensing or any other licensing entity, the parent has twenty days from receipt of the notice to contact the department and:

(i) Pay the overdue support amount in full;

(ii) Request an adjudicative proceeding as provided in RCW 74.20A.322;

(iii) Agree to a payment schedule with the department as provided in RCW 74.20A.326; or

(iv) File an action to modify the child support order with the appropriate court or administrative forum, in which case the department will stay the certification process up to six months;

(2012 Ed.)

(c) That failure to contact the department within twenty days of receipt of the notice will result in certification of the responsible parent's name to the department of licensing and any other appropriate licensing entity for noncompliance with a child support order. Upon receipt of the notice:

(i) The licensing entity will suspend or not renew the parent's license and the department of licensing will suspend or not renew any driver's license that the parent holds until the parent provides the department of licensing and the licensing entity with a release from the department stating that the responsible parent is in compliance with the child support order;

(ii) The department of fish and wildlife will suspend a fishing license, hunting license, occupational licenses, such as a commercial fishing license, or any other license issued under chapter 77.32 RCW that the responsible parent may possess, and suspension of a license by the department of fish and wildlife may also affect the parent's ability to obtain permits, such as special hunting permits, issued by the department. Notice from the department of licensing that a responsible parent's driver's license has been suspended shall serve as notice of the suspension of a license issued under chapter 77.32 RCW;

(d) That suspension of a license will affect insurability if the responsible parent's insurance policy excludes coverage for acts occurring after the suspension of a license;

(e) If the responsible parent subsequently comes into compliance with the child support order, the department will promptly provide the parent and the appropriate licensing entities with a release stating that the parent is in compliance with the order.

(3) When a responsible parent who is served notice under subsection (1) of this section subsequently complies with the child support order, a copy of a release stating that the responsible parent is in compliance with the order shall be transmitted by the department to the appropriate licensing entities.

(4) The department of licensing and a licensing entity may renew, reinstate, or otherwise extend a license in accordance with the licensing entity's or the department of licensing's rules after the licensing entity or the department of licensing receives a copy of the release specified in subsection (3) of this section. The department of licensing and a licensing entity may waive any applicable requirement for reissuance, renewal, or other extension if it determines that the imposition of that requirement places an undue burden on the person and that waiver of the requirement is consistent with the public interest. [2009 c 408 § 1; 1997 c 58 § 802.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Subsection (1) of this section was vetoed by the governor. The vetoed language is as follows:

"(1) Sections 1, 2, 101 through 110, 201 through 207, 301 through 329, 401 through 404, 501 through 506, 601, 705, 706, 888, 891 through 943, 945 through 948, and 1002 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately."

**Intent—1997 c 58:** "It is the intent of the legislature to provide a strong incentive for persons owing child support to make timely payments, and to cooperate with the department of social and health services to establish an appropriate schedule for the payment of any arrears. To further ensure that child support obligations are met, sections 801 through 890 of this act establish a program by which certain licenses may be suspended or not renewed if a person is one hundred eighty days or more in arrears on child support payments."

In the implementation and management of this program, it is the legislature's intent that the objective of the department of social and health services be to obtain payment in full of arrears, or where that is not possible, to enter into agreements with delinquent obligors to make timely support payments and make reasonable payments towards the arrears. The legislature intends that if the obligor refuses to cooperate in establishing a fair and reasonable payment schedule for arrears or refuses to make timely support payments, the department shall proceed with certification to a licensing entity or the department of licensing that the person is not in compliance with a child support order." [1997 c 58 § 801.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.322 License suspension—Adjudicative proceeding.** (1) A responsible parent may request an adjudicative proceeding upon service of the notice described in RCW 74.20A.320. The request for an adjudicative proceeding must be received by the department within twenty days of service. The request must be in writing and indicate the current mailing address and daytime phone number, if available, of the responsible parent.

(2) If a responsible parent timely requests an adjudicative proceeding, the department may not certify the name of the parent to the department of licensing or a licensing entity for noncompliance with a child support order unless the adjudicative proceeding results in a finding that the responsible parent is not in compliance with the order and has not made a good faith effort to comply.

(3) The issues that may be considered at the adjudicative proceeding are limited to whether:

(a) The person named as the responsible parent is the responsible parent;

(b) The responsible parent is required to pay child support under a child support order;

(c) The responsible parent is in compliance with the order; and

(d) The responsible parent has made a good faith effort to comply with the order.

(4) If the administrative law judge finds that the parent is not in compliance with the support order, but has made a good faith effort to comply, the administrative law judge shall formulate a payment schedule as provided in RCW 74.20A.326.

(5) The decision resulting from the adjudicative proceeding must be in writing and inform the responsible parent of his or her rights to review. The parent's copy of the decision may be sent by regular mail to the parent's most recent address of record.

(6) The proceedings under this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act.

(7) The procedures of this section constitute the exclusive administrative remedy for contesting the establishment of noncompliance with a child support order and suspension of a license under this section, and satisfy the requirements of RCW 34.05.422.

(8) For the purposes of this section, "good faith effort to comply" is a factual determination to be made by the administrative law judge based on the responsible parent's payment history, ability to pay, and efforts to find and maintain gainful employment. [2009 c 408 § 2.]

**74.20A.324 License suspension—Certification of noncompliance.** (1) The department may certify to the

department of licensing and any appropriate licensing entity the name of a responsible parent who is not in compliance with a child support order if:

(a) Within twenty-one days after service of a notice issued under RCW 74.20A.320, the responsible parent does not request an adjudicative proceeding or file a motion with the appropriate court or administrative forum to modify the child support obligation;

(b) An adjudicative proceeding results in a decision that the responsible parent is not in compliance with a child support order and has not made a good faith effort to comply;

(c) The court enters a judgment on a petition for judicial review that finds the responsible parent is not in compliance with a child support order and has not made a good faith effort to comply; or

(d) The responsible parent fails to comply with a payment schedule established pursuant to RCW 74.20A.326.

(2) The department shall send by regular mail a copy of any certification of noncompliance filed with the department of licensing or a licensing entity to the responsible parent at the responsible parent's most recent address of record along with information as to how the parent may get his or her license reinstated.

(3) The department of licensing and a licensing entity shall, without undue delay, notify a responsible parent certified by the department under subsection (1) of this section that the parent's driver's license or other license has been suspended because the parent's name has been certified by the department as a responsible parent who is not in compliance with a child support order. [2009 c 408 § 3.]

**74.20A.326 License suspension—Payment schedule arrangements.** (1) If a responsible parent contacts the department's division of child support office indicated on the notice of noncompliance within twenty days of service of the notice provided in RCW 74.20A.320 and requests arrangement of a payment schedule, the department shall stay the certification of noncompliance during negotiation of the schedule for payment of arrears up to thirty days from the date of contact by the responsible parent.

(2) In proposing or approving a written payment schedule, the department or the administrative law judge shall take into consideration the amount of the arrearages, the amount of the current support order, the earnings of the responsible parent, and the needs of all children who rely on the responsible parent for support. The department or administrative law judge shall consider the individual financial circumstances of each responsible parent in evaluating the parent's ability to pay any proposed payment schedule and shall propose a fair and reasonable payment schedule tailored to the individual financial circumstances of the responsible parent. A payment schedule may include a graduated payment plan and may require a responsible parent to engage in employment-enhancing activities to attain a satisfactory payment level.

(3) A payment schedule may be for the payment of less than current monthly support for a reasonable time and is not required to include a lump sum payment for the amount of arrears. [2009 c 408 § 4.]

**74.20A.328 License suspension—Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement and enforce the requirements of RCW 74.20A.320 and 74.20A.322 through 74.20A.326. [2009 c 408 § 5.]

**74.20A.330 License suspension—Agreements between department and licensing entities—Identification of responsible parents.** (1) The department and all of the various licensing entities subject to RCW 74.20A.320 shall enter into such agreements as are necessary to carry out the requirements of the license suspension program established in RCW 74.20A.320.

(2) The department and all licensing entities subject to RCW 74.20A.320 shall compare data to identify responsible parents who may be subject to the provisions of chapter 58, Laws of 1997. The comparison may be conducted electronically, or by any other means that is jointly agreeable between the department and the particular licensing entity. The data shared shall be limited to those items necessary to [for] implementation of chapter 58, Laws of 1997. The purpose of the comparison shall be to identify current licensees who are not in compliance with a child support order, and to provide to the department the following information regarding those licensees:

- (a) Name;
- (b) Date of birth;
- (c) Address of record;
- (d) Federal employer identification number and social security number;
- (e) Type of license;
- (f) Effective date of license or renewal;
- (g) Expiration date of license; and
- (h) Active or inactive status. [1997 c 58 § 803.]

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.350 Noncompliance—Notice—Fines—License suspension—Hearings—Rules.** (1) The division of child support may issue a notice of noncompliance to any person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government that the division believes is not complying with:

- (a) A notice of payroll deduction issued under chapter 26.23 RCW;
- (b) A lien, order to withhold and deliver, or assignment of earnings issued under this chapter;
- (c) Any other wage assignment, garnishment, attachment, or withholding instrument properly served by the agency or firm providing child support enforcement services for another state, under Title IV-D of the federal social security act;
- (d) A subpoena issued by the division of child support, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another state, under Title IV-D of the federal social security act;
- (e) An information request issued by the division of child support, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another state under Title IV-D of the federal social security act, to an employer or entity required to respond to such requests under RCW 74.20A.360; or

(f) The duty to report newly hired employees imposed by RCW 26.23.040.

(2) Liability for noncompliance with a wage withholding, garnishment, order to withhold and deliver, or any other lien or attachment issued to secure payment of child support is governed by RCW 26.23.090 and 74.20A.100, except that liability for noncompliance with remittance time frames is governed by subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The division of child support may impose fines of up to one hundred dollars per occurrence for:

(a) Noncompliance with a subpoena or an information request issued by the division of child support, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement services for another state under Title IV-D of the federal social security act;

(b) Noncompliance with the required time frames for remitting withheld support moneys to the Washington state support registry, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement services for another state, except that no liability shall be established for failure to make timely remittance unless the division of child support has provided the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government with written warning:

(i) Explaining the duty to remit withheld payments promptly;

(ii) Explaining the potential for fines for delayed submission; and

(iii) Providing a contact person within the division of child support with whom the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government may seek assistance with child support withholding issues.

(4) The division of child support may assess fines according to RCW 26.23.040 for failure to comply with employer reporting requirements.

(5) The division of child support may suspend licenses for failure to comply with a subpoena issued under RCW 74.20.225.

(6) The division of child support may serve a notice of noncompliance by personal service or by any method of mailing requiring a return receipt.

(7) The liability asserted by the division of child support in the notice of noncompliance becomes final and collectible on the twenty-first day after the date of service, unless within that time the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government:

(a) Initiates an action in superior court to contest the notice of noncompliance;

(b) Requests a hearing by delivering a hearing request to the division of child support in accordance with rules adopted by the secretary under this section; or

(c) Contacts the division of child support and negotiates an alternate resolution to the asserted noncompliance or demonstrates that the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government has complied with the child support processes.

(8) The notice of noncompliance shall contain:

(a) A full and fair disclosure of the rights and obligations created by this section; and

(b) Identification of the:

(i) Child support process with respect to which the division of child support is alleging noncompliance; and

(ii) State child support enforcement agency issuing the original child support process.

(9) In an administrative hearing convened under subsection (7)(b) of this section, the presiding officer shall determine whether or not, and to what extent, liability for noncompliance exists under this section, and shall enter an order containing these findings. If liability does exist, the presiding officer shall include language in the order advising the parties to the proceeding that the liability may be collected by any means available to the division of child support under subsection (12) of this section without further notice to the liable party.

(10) Hearings under this section are governed by the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

(11) After the twenty days following service of the notice, the person, firm, entity, or agency of state or federal government may petition for a late hearing. A petition for a late hearing does not stay any collection action to recover the debt. A late hearing is available upon a showing of any of the grounds stated in civil rule 60 for the vacation of orders.

(12) The division of child support may collect any obligation established under this section using any of the remedies available under chapter 26.09, 26.18, \*26.21, 26.23, 74.20, or 74.20A RCW for the collection of child support.

(13) The division of child support may enter agreements for the repayment of obligations under this section. Agreements may:

(a) Suspend the obligation imposed by this section conditioned on future compliance with child support processes. Such suspension shall end automatically upon any failure to comply with a child support process. Amounts suspended become fully collectible without further notice automatically upon failure to comply with a child support process;

(b) Resolve amounts due under this section and provide for repayment.

(14) The secretary may adopt rules to implement this section. [1997 c 58 § 893.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 26.21 RCW was repealed by 2002 c 198 § 901, effective January 1, 2007. Later enactment, see chapter 26.21A RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.360 Records access—Confidentiality—Nonliability—Penalty for noncompliance.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of Washington law, the division of child support, the Washington state support registry, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement services for another state under Title IV-D of the federal social security act may access records of the following nature, in the possession of any agency or entity listed in this section:

(a) Records of state and local agencies, including but not limited to:

(i) The state registrar, including but not limited to records of birth, marriage, and death;

(ii) Tax and revenue records, including, but not limited to, information on residence addresses, employers, and assets;

(iii) Records concerning real and titled personal property;

(iv) Records of occupational, professional, and recreational licenses and records concerning the ownership and

control of corporations, partnerships, and other business entities;

(v) Employment security records;

(vi) Records of agencies administering public assistance programs; and

(vii) Records of the department of corrections, and of county and municipal correction or confinement facilities;

(b) Records of public utilities and cable television companies relating to persons who owe or are owed support, or against whom a support obligation is sought, including names and addresses of the individuals, and employers' names and addresses pursuant to RCW 74.20.225 and RCW 74.20A.120; and

(c) Records held by financial institutions, pursuant to RCW 74.20A.370.

(2) Upon the request of the division of child support, the Washington state support registry, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement services for another state under Title IV-D of the social security act, any employer shall provide information as to the employment, earnings, benefits, and residential address and phone number of any employee.

(3) Entities in possession of records described in subsection (1)(a) and (c) of this section must provide information and records upon the request of the division of child support, the Washington state support registry, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement services for another state under Title IV-D of the federal social security act. The division of child support may enter into agreements providing for electronic access to these records.

(4) Public utilities and cable television companies must provide the information in response to a judicial or administrative subpoena issued by the division of child support, the Washington state support registry, or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement services for another state under Title IV-D of the federal social security act.

(5) Entities responding to information requests and subpoenas under this section are not liable for disclosing information pursuant to the request or subpoena.

(6) The division of child support shall maintain all information gathered under this section confidential and shall only disclose this information as provided under RCW 26.23.120.

(7) The division of child support may impose fines for noncompliance with this section using the notice of noncompliance under RCW 74.20A.350. [1997 c 58 § 897.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.370 Financial institution data matches.** (1) Each calendar quarter financial institutions doing business in the state of Washington shall report to the department the name, record address, social security number or other taxpayer identification number, and other information determined necessary by the department for each individual who maintains an account at such institution and is identified by the department as owing a support debt.

(2) The department and financial institutions shall enter into agreements to develop and operate a data match system, using automated data exchanges to the extent feasible, to minimize the cost of providing information required under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The department may pay a reasonable fee to a financial institution for conducting the data match not to exceed the actual costs incurred.

(4) A financial institution is not liable for any disclosure of information to the department under this section.

(5) The division of child support shall maintain all information gathered under this section confidential and shall only disclose this information as provided under RCW 26.23.120. [1997 c 58 § 899.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.900 Severability—Alternative when method of notification held invalid.** If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable.

If any method of notification provided for in this chapter is held invalid, service as provided for by the laws of the state of Washington for service of process in a civil action shall be substituted for the method held invalid. [1971 ex.s. c 164 § 27.]

*Civil procedure—Commencement of actions: Chapter 4.28 RCW.*

**74.20A.910 Savings clause.** The repeal of RCW 74.20A.050 and the amendment of RCW 74.20A.030 and 74.20A.250 by this 1979 act is not intended to affect any existing or accrued right, any action or proceeding already taken or instituted, any administrative action already taken, or any rule, regulation, or order already promulgated. The repeal and amendments are not intended to revive any law heretofore repealed. [1979 ex.s. c 171 § 27.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.20A.920 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 180.]

**Chapter 74.25 RCW  
JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND BASIC SKILLS  
TRAINING PROGRAM**

Sections

74.25.040 Volunteer work—Child care or other work—Training.

**74.25.040 Volunteer work—Child care or other work—Training.** (1) Recipients of temporary assistance for (2012 Ed.)

needy families who are employed or participating in a work activity under \*section 312 of this act may volunteer or work in a licensed child care facility. Licensed child care facilities participating in this effort shall provide care for the recipient’s children and provide for the development of positive child care skills.

(2) The department shall train two hundred fifty recipients of temporary assistance for needy families to become family child care providers or child care center teachers. The department shall offer the training in rural and urban communities. The department shall adopt rules to implement the child care training program in this section.

(3) Recipients trained under this section shall provide child care services to clients of the department for two years following the completion of their child care training. [1997 c 59 § 30; 1997 c 58 § 405; 1994 c 299 § 8.]

**Reviser’s note:** \*(1) Section 312 of this act was vetoed by the governor.

(2) This section was amended by 1997 c 58 § 405 and by 1997 c 59 § 30, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—1997 c 58:** See note following RCW 43.215.545.

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299:** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**Chapter 74.25A RCW  
EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

Sections

- 74.25A.005 Legislative findings.
- 74.25A.010 Employment partnership program—Created—Goals.
- 74.25A.020 Pilot projects—Grants to be used as wage subsidies—Criteria.
- 74.25A.030 Employer eligibility—Conditions.
- 74.25A.040 Diversion of grants to worker-owned businesses.
- 74.25A.045 Local employment partnership council.
- 74.25A.050 Program participants—Eligibility for assistance programs.
- 74.25A.060 Program participants—Benefits and salary not to be diminished.
- 74.25A.070 Program participants—Classification under federal job training law.
- 74.25A.080 Department of social and health services to seek federal funds.
- 74.25A.900 Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299.

**74.25A.005 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that the restructuring in the Washington economy has created rising public assistance caseloads and declining real wages for Washington workers. There is a profound need to develop partnership programs between the private and public sectors to create new jobs with adequate salaries and promotional opportunities for chronically unemployed and underemployed citizens of the state. Most public assistance recipients want to become financially independent through paid employment. A voluntary program which utilizes public wage subsidies and employer matching salaries has provided a beneficial financial incentive allowing public assistance recipients transition to permanent full-time employment. [1994 c 299 § 19; 1986 c 172 § 1. Formerly RCW 50.63.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.25A.010 Employment partnership program—Created—Goals.** The employment partnership program is created to develop a series of geographically distributed model projects to provide permanent full-time employment

for low-income and unemployed persons. The program shall be administered by the department of social and health services. The department shall contract for the program through local public or private nonprofit organizations. The goals of the program are as follows:

- (1) To reduce inefficiencies in administration and provide model coordination of agencies with responsibilities for employment and human service delivery to unemployed persons;
- (2) To create voluntary financial incentives to simultaneously reduce unemployment and welfare caseloads;
- (3) To provide other state and federal support services to the client population to enable economic independence;
- (4) To improve partnerships between the public and private sectors designed to move recipients of public assistance into productive employment; and
- (5) To provide employers with information on federal targeted jobs tax credit and other state and federal tax incentives for participation in the program. [1994 c 299 § 20; 1986 c 172 § 2. Formerly RCW 50.63.020.]

**74.25A.020 Pilot projects—Grants to be used as wage subsidies—Criteria.** The secretary of the department of social and health services shall establish pilot projects that enable grants to be used as a wage subsidy. The department of social and health services shall comply with applicable federal statutes and regulations, and shall seek any waivers from the federal government necessary to operate the employment partnership program. The projects shall be available on an individual case-by-case basis or subject to the limitations outlined in RCW 74.25A.040 for the start-up or reopening of a plant under worker ownership. The projects shall be subject to the following criteria:

- (1) It shall be a voluntary program and no person may have any sanction applied for failure to participate.
- (2) Employment positions established by this chapter shall not be created as the result of, nor result in, any of the following:
  - (a) Displacement of current employees, including overtime currently worked by these employees;
  - (b) The filling of positions that would otherwise be promotional opportunities for current employees;
  - (c) The filling of a position, before compliance with applicable personnel procedures or provisions of collective bargaining agreements;
  - (d) The filling of a position created by termination, layoff, or reduction in workforce;
  - (e) The filling of a work assignment customarily performed by a worker in a job classification within a recognized collective bargaining unit in that specific work site, or the filling of a work assignment in any bargaining unit in which funded positions are vacant or in which regular employees are on layoff;
  - (f) A strike, lockout, or other bona fide labor dispute, or violation of any existing collective bargaining agreement between employees and employers;
  - (g) Decertification of any collective bargaining unit.
- (3) Wages shall be paid at the usual and customary rate of comparable jobs and may include a training wage if permitted by applicable federal statutes and regulations;

- (4) A recoupment process shall recover state supplemented wages from an employer when a job does not last six months following the subsidization period for reasons other than the employee voluntarily quitting or being fired for good cause as determined by the local employment partnership council under rules prescribed by the secretary;

- (5) Job placements shall have promotional opportunities or reasonable opportunities for wage increases;

- (6) Other necessary support services such as training, day care, medical insurance, and transportation shall be provided to the extent possible;

- (7) Employers shall provide monetary matching funds of at least fifty percent of total wages;

- (8) Wages paid to participants shall be a minimum of five dollars an hour; and

- (9) The projects shall target the populations in the priority and for the purposes set forth in \*RCW 74.25.020, to the extent that necessary support services are available. [1994 c 299 § 21; 1986 c 172 § 3. Formerly RCW 50.63.030.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The 1994 c 299 amendments to RCW 74.25.020 were vetoed by the governor. RCW 74.25.020 was subsequently repealed by 1997 c 58 § 322.

**74.25A.030 Employer eligibility—Conditions.** An employer, before becoming eligible to fill a position under the employment partnership program, shall certify to the local employment partnership council that the employment, offer of employment, or work activity complies with the following conditions:

- (1) The conditions of work are reasonable and not in violation of applicable federal, state, or local safety and health standards;

- (2) The assignments are not in any way related to political, electoral, or partisan activities;

- (3) The employer shall provide industrial insurance coverage as required by Title 51 RCW;

- (4) The employer shall provide unemployment compensation coverage as required by Title 50 RCW;

- (5) The employment partnership program participants hired following the completion of the program shall be provided benefits equal to those provided to other employees including social security coverage, sick leave, the opportunity to join a collective bargaining unit, and medical benefits. [1994 c 299 § 22; 1986 c 172 § 4. Formerly RCW 50.63.040.]

**74.25A.040 Diversion of grants to worker-owned businesses.** Grants may be diverted for the start-up or retention of worker-owned businesses if:

- (1) A feasibility study or business plan is completed on the proposed business; and

- (2) The project is approved by the loan committee of the \*Washington state development loan fund as created by RCW 43.168.110. [1986 c 172 § 5. Formerly RCW 50.63.050.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The "Washington state development loan fund" was renamed the "rural Washington loan fund" pursuant to 1999 c 164 § 504.

**74.25A.045 Local employment partnership council.** A local employment partnership council shall be established in each pilot project area to assist the department of social and health services in the administration of this chapter and to

allow local flexibility in dealing with the particular needs of each pilot project area. Each council shall be primarily responsible for recruiting and encouraging participation of employment providers in the project site. Each council shall be composed of nine members who shall be appointed by the county legislative authority of the county in which the pilot project operates. Councilmembers shall be residents of or employers in the pilot project area in which they are appointed and shall serve three-year terms. The council shall have two members who are current or former recipients of the aid to families with dependent children or temporary assistance for needy families programs or food stamp or benefits program, two members who represent labor, and five members who represent the local business community. In addition, one person representing the local community service office of the department of social and health services, one person representing a community action agency or other non-profit service provider, and one person from a local city or county government shall serve as nonvoting members. [1998 c 79 § 17; 1997 c 59 § 31; 1994 c 299 § 23.]

**74.25A.050 Program participants—Eligibility for assistance programs.** Participants shall be considered recipients of temporary assistance for needy families and remain eligible for medicaid benefits even if the participant does not receive a residual grant. Work supplementation participants shall be eligible for (1) the thirty-dollar plus one-third of earned income exclusion from income, (2) the work related expense disregard, and (3) any applicable child care expense disregard deemed available to recipient of aid in computing his or her grant under this chapter, unless prohibited by federal law. [1997 c 59 § 32; 1994 c 299 § 24; 1986 c 172 § 6. Formerly RCW 50.63.060.]

**74.25A.060 Program participants—Benefits and salary not to be diminished.** An applicant or recipient of aid under this chapter who participates in the employment partnership program shall be guaranteed that the value of the benefits available to him or her before entry into the program shall not be diminished. In addition, a participant employed under this chapter shall be treated in the same manner as are regular employees, and the participant's salary shall be the amount that he or she would have received if employed in that position and not participating under this chapter. [1986 c 172 § 7. Formerly RCW 50.63.070.]

**74.25A.070 Program participants—Classification under federal job training law.** Applicants for and recipients of aid under this chapter are "individuals in special need" of training as described in section 2 of the federal job training partnership act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1501 et seq., "individuals who require special assistance" as provided in section 123 of that act, and "most in need" of employment and training opportunities as described in section 141 of that act. [1986 c 172 § 8. Formerly RCW 50.63.080.]

**74.25A.080 Department of social and health services to seek federal funds.** The department of social and health services shall seek any federal funds available for implementation of this chapter, including, but not limited to, funds available under Title IV of the federal social security act (42

U.S.C. Sec. 601 et seq.) for the job opportunities and basic skills program. [1994 c 299 § 25; 1986 c 172 § 9. Formerly RCW 50.63.090.]

**74.25A.900 Intent—Finding—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 299.** See notes following RCW 74.12.400.

## Chapter 74.26 RCW SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH MULTIPLE HANDICAPS

### Sections

74.26.010	Legislative intent.
74.26.020	Eligibility criteria.
74.26.030	Program plan for services—Local agency support.
74.26.040	Administrative responsibility—Regulations.
74.26.050	Contracts for services—Supervision.
74.26.060	Program costs—Liability of insurers.

**74.26.010 Legislative intent.** In recognition of the fact that there is a small population of children with multiple disabilities and specific and continuing medical needs now being served in high-daily-cost hospitals that could be more appropriately and cost-efficiently served in alternative residential alternatives, it is the intent of the legislature to establish a controlled program to develop and review an alternative service delivery system for certain multiply handicapped children who have continuing intensive medical needs but who are not required to continue in residence in a hospital setting. [1980 c 106 § 1.]

**74.26.020 Eligibility criteria.** (1) To be eligible for services under this alternative program, a person must meet all the following criteria:

(a) The individual must be under twenty-two years of age;

(b) The individual must be under the care of a physician and such physician must diagnose the child's condition as sufficiently serious to warrant eligibility;

(c) The individual must be presently residing in, or in immediate jeopardy of residing in, a hospital or other residential medical facility for the purpose of receiving intensive support medical services; and

(d) The individual must fall within one of the four functional/medical definitional categories listed in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Functional/medical definitional categories:

(a) Respiratory impaired; with an acquired or congenital defect of the oropharynx, trachea, bronchial tree, or lung requiring continuing dependency on a respiratory assistive device in order to allow the disease process to heal or the individual to grow to a sufficient size to live as a normal person;

(b) Respiratory with multiple physical impairments; with acquired or congenital defects of the central nervous system or multiple organ systems requiring continued dependency on a respiratory assistive device and/or other medical, surgical, and physical therapy treatments in order to allow the disease process to heal or the individual to gain sufficient size to permit surgical correction of the defect or the individual to grow large and strong enough and acquire sufficient skills in

self-care to allow survival in a nonmedical/therapy intensive environment;

(c) Multiply physically impaired; with congenital or acquired defects of multiple systems and at least some central nervous system impairment that causes loss of urine and stool sphincter control as well as paralysis or loss or reduction of two or more extremities, forcing the individual to be dependent on a wheelchair or other total body mobility device, also requiring medical, surgical, and physical therapy intervention in order to allow the individual to grow to a size that permits surgical correction of the defects or allows the individual to grow large and strong enough and acquire sufficient skills in self-care to allow survival in a nonmedical/therapy intensive environment;

(d) Static encephalopathies; with severe brain insults of acquired or congenital origin causing the individual to be medically diagnosed as totally dependent for all bodily and social functions except cardiorespiratory so that the individual requires continuous long-term daily medical/nursing care. [1980 c 106 § 2.]

**74.26.030 Program plan for services—Local agency support.** (1) A written individual program plan shall be developed for each child served under this controlled program by the division of developmental disabilities in cooperation with the child's parents or if available, legal guardians, and under the supervision of the child's primary health care provider.

(2) The plan shall provide for the systematic provision of all required services. The services to be available as required by the child's individual needs shall include: (a) Nursing care, including registered and licensed practical nurses, and properly trained nurse's aides; (b) physicians, including surgeons, general and family practitioners, and specialists in the child's particular diagnosis on either a referral, consultive, or on-going treatment basis; (c) respiratory therapists and devices; (d) dental care of both routine and emergent nature; (e) on-going nutritional consultation from a trained professional; (f) communication disorder therapy; (g) physical and occupational habilitation and rehabilitation therapy and devices; (h) special and regular education; (i) recreation therapy; (j) psychological counseling; and (k) transportation.

(3) A portion of these required services can be provided from state and local agencies having primary responsibility for such services, but the ultimate responsibility for ensuring and coordinating the delivery of all necessary services shall rest with the division of developmental disabilities. [1980 c 106 § 3.]

**74.26.040 Administrative responsibility—Regulations.** The department of social and health services, division of developmental disabilities, shall bear all administrative responsibility for the effective and rapid implementation of this controlled program. The division shall promulgate regulations within sixty days after June 12, 1980, to provide minimum standards and qualifications for the following program elements:

- (1) Residential services;
- (2) Medical services;
- (3) Day program;

- (4) Facility requirements and accessibility for all buildings in which the program is to be conducted;
- (5) Staff qualifications;
- (6) Staff training;
- (7) Program evaluation; and
- (8) Protection of client's rights, confidentiality, and informed consent. [1980 c 106 § 4.]

**74.26.050 Contracts for services—Supervision.** The division of developmental disabilities shall implement this controlled program through a "request-for-proposal" method and subsequent contracts for services with any local, county, or state agency demonstrating a probable ability to meet the program's goals. The proposals must demonstrate an ability to provide or insure the provision of all services set forth in RCW 74.26.030 if necessary for the children covered by the proposals.

The division of developmental disabilities shall thoroughly supervise, review, and audit fiscal and program performance for the individuals served under this control program. A comparison of all costs incurred by all public agencies for each individual prior to the implementation of this program and all costs incurred after one year under this program shall be made and reported back to the legislature in the 1982 session. [1980 c 106 § 5.]

**74.26.060 Program costs—Liability of insurers.** This program or any components necessary to the child shall be available to eligible children at no cost to their parents provided that any medical insurance benefits available to the child for his/her medical condition shall remain liable for payment for his/her cost of care. [1980 c 106 § 6.]

## Chapter 74.29 RCW

### REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

(Formerly: Vocational rehabilitation and services for handicapped persons)

#### Sections

74.29.005	Purpose.
74.29.010	Definitions.
74.29.020	Powers and duties of state agency.
74.29.037	Cooperative agreements with state and local agencies.
74.29.050	Acceptance of federal aid—Generally.
74.29.055	Acceptance of federal aid—Construction of chapter when part thereof in conflict with federal requirements which are condition precedent to allocation of federal funds.
74.29.080	Rehabilitation and job support services—Procedure—Register of eligible individuals and organizations.

*Department of social and health services (including division of vocational rehabilitation): Chapter 43.20A RCW.*

*Investment of accident, medical aid, reserve, industrial insurance rainy day supplemental pension funds: RCW 51.44.100.*

**74.29.005 Purpose.** The purposes of this chapter are (1) to rehabilitate individuals with disabilities who have a barrier to employment so that they may prepare for and engage in a gainful occupation; (2) to provide persons with physical, mental, or sensory disabilities with a program of services which will result in greater opportunities for them to enter more fully into life in the community; (3) to promote activities which will assist individuals with disabilities to become self-sufficient and self-supporting; and (4) to encourage and develop community rehabilitation programs, job support ser-

vices, and other resources needed by individuals with disabilities. [1993 c 213 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.10.005. Prior: 1967 c 118 § 1. Formerly RCW 28A.10.005, 28.10.005.]

**74.29.010 Definitions.** (1) "Independence" means a reasonable degree of restoration from dependency upon others to self-direction and greater control over circumstances of one's life for personal needs and care and includes but is not limited to the ability to live in one's home.

(2) "Individual with disabilities" means an individual:

(a) Who has a physical, mental, or sensory disability, which requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, enter into, engage in, retain, or engage in and retain gainful employment consistent with his or her capacities and abilities; or

(b) Who has a physical, mental, or sensory impairment whose ability to function independently in the family or community or whose ability to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment is substantially limited and for whom the delivery of vocational rehabilitation or independent living services will improve the ability to function, continue functioning, or move towards functioning independently in the family or community or to continue in employment.

(3) "Individual with severe disabilities" means an individual with disabilities:

(a) Who has a physical, mental, or sensory impairment that seriously limits one or more functional capacities, such as mobility, communication, self-care, self-direction, interpersonal skills, work tolerance, or work skills, in terms of employment outcome, and/or independence and participation in family or community life;

(b) Whose rehabilitation can be expected to require multiple rehabilitation services over an extended period of time; and

(c) Who has one or more physical, mental, or sensory disabilities resulting from amputation, arthritis, autism, blindness, burn injury, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, deafness, head injury, heart disease, hemiplegia, hemophilia, respiratory or pulmonary dysfunction, intellectual disability, mental illness, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, musculoskeletal disorders, neurological disorders (including stroke and epilepsy), paraplegia, quadriplegia, other spinal cord conditions, sickle cell anemia, specific learning disability, end-stage renal disease, or another disability or combination of disabilities determined on the basis of an assessment for determining eligibility and rehabilitation needs to cause comparable substantial functional limitation.

(4) "Job support services" means ongoing goods and services provided after vocational rehabilitation, subject to available funds, that support an individual with severe disabilities in employment. Such services include, but are not limited to, extraordinary supervision or job coaching.

(5) "Physical, mental, or sensory disability" means a physical, mental, or sensory condition which materially limits, contributes to limiting or, if not corrected or accommodated, will probably result in limiting an individual's activities or functioning.

(6) "Rehabilitation services" means goods or services provided to: (a) Determine eligibility and rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities, and/or (b) enable individuals with disabilities to attain or retain employment and/or

independence, and/or (c) contribute substantially to the rehabilitation of a group of individuals with disabilities. To the extent federal funds are available, goods and services may include, but are not limited to, the establishment, construction, development, operation and maintenance of community rehabilitation programs and independent living centers, as well as special demonstration projects.

(7) "State agency" means the department of social and health services. [2010 c 94 § 26; 1993 c 213 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 18 § 52; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.10.010. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 8 § 41; 1967 c 118 § 2; 1957 c 223 § 1; 1933 c 176 § 2; RRS § 4925-2. Formerly RCW 28A.10.010, 28.10.010.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.29.020 Powers and duties of state agency.** Subject to available funds, and consistent with federal law and regulations the state agency shall:

(1) Develop statewide rehabilitation programs;

(2) Provide vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services, and/or job support services to individuals with disabilities or severe disabilities;

(3) Disburse all funds provided by law and may receive, accept and disburse such gifts, grants, conveyances, devises and bequests of real and personal property from public or private sources, as may be made from time to time, in trust or otherwise, whenever the terms and conditions thereof will aid in carrying out rehabilitation services as specified by law and the regulations of the state agency; and may sell, lease or exchange real or personal property according to the terms and conditions thereof. Any money so received shall be deposited in the state treasury for investment, reinvestment or expenditure in accordance with the conditions of its receipt and RCW 43.88.180;

(4) Appoint and fix the compensation and prescribe the duties, of the personnel necessary for the administration of this chapter, unless otherwise provided by law;

(5) Make exploratory studies, do reviews, and research relative to rehabilitation;

(6) Coordinate with the state rehabilitation advisory council and the state independent living advisory council on the administration of the programs;

(7) Report to the governor and to the legislature on the administration of this chapter, as requested; and

(8) Adopt rules, in accord with chapter 34.05 RCW, necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1993 c 213 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.10.020. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 8 § 42; 1967 c 118 § 6; 1963 c 135 § 1; 1957 c 223 § 3; 1933 c 176 § 3; RRS § 4925-3. Formerly RCW 28A.10.020, 28.10.030.]

**74.29.037 Cooperative agreements with state and local agencies.** The state agency may establish cooperative agreements with other state and local agencies. [1993 c 213 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.10.037. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 8 § 45; 1967 c 118 § 7. Formerly RCW 28A.10.037, 28.10.037.]

**74.29.050 Acceptance of federal aid—Generally.** The state of Washington does hereby:

(1) Accept the provisions and maximum possible benefits resulting from any acts of congress which provide benefits for the purposes of this chapter;

(2) Designate the state treasurer as custodian of all moneys received by the state from appropriations made by the congress of the United States for purposes of this chapter, and authorize the state treasurer to make disbursements therefrom upon the order of the state agency; and

(3) Empower and direct the state agency to cooperate with the federal government in carrying out the provisions of this chapter or of any federal law or regulation pertaining to vocational rehabilitation, and to comply with such conditions as may be necessary to assure the maximum possible benefits resulting from any such federal law or regulation. [1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.10.050. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 8 § 43; 1967 c 118 § 9; 1957 c 223 § 5; 1955 c 371 § 1; 1933 c 176 § 5; RRS § 4925-5. Formerly RCW 28A.10.050, 28.10.050.]

**74.29.055 Acceptance of federal aid—Construction of chapter when part thereof in conflict with federal requirements which are condition precedent to allocation of federal funds.** If any part of this chapter shall be found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a condition precedent to the allocation of federal funds to the state, such conflicting part of this chapter is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of such conflict, and such findings or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter. [1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.10.055. Prior: 1967 c 118 § 10. Formerly RCW 28A.10.055, 28.10.055.]

**74.29.080 Rehabilitation and job support services—Procedure—Register of eligible individuals and organizations.** (1) Determination of eligibility and need for rehabilitation services and determination of eligibility for job support services shall be made by the state agency for each individual according to its established rules, policies, procedures, and standards.

(2) The state agency may purchase, from any source, rehabilitation services and job support services for individuals with disabilities, subject to the individual's income or other resources that are available to contribute to the cost of such services.

(3) The state agency shall maintain registers of individuals and organizations which meet required standards and qualify to provide rehabilitation services and job support services to individuals with disabilities. Eligibility of such individuals and organizations shall be based upon standards and criteria promulgated by the state agency. [1993 c 213 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 41 § 16; 1979 c 151 § 11; 1972 ex.s. c 15 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 18 § 53; 1970 ex.s. c 15 § 23; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.10.080. Prior: 1969 c 105 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 8 § 46; 1967 c 118 § 8. Formerly RCW 28A.10.080, 28.10.080.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 74.31 RCW

### TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

#### Sections

74.31.005 Findings—Intent.  
74.31.010 Definitions.

74.31.020 Washington traumatic brain injury strategic partnership advisory council—Members—Expenses—Appointment—Duties.  
74.31.030 Staff support—Department powers and duties—Comprehensive plan.  
74.31.040 Public awareness campaign.  
74.31.050 Support group programs—Funding—Recommendations.  
74.31.060 Traumatic brain injury account.

**74.31.005 Findings—Intent.** The center for disease control estimates that at least five million three hundred thousand Americans, approximately two percent of the United States population, currently have a long-term or lifelong need for help to perform activities of daily living as a result of a traumatic brain injury. Each year approximately one million four hundred thousand people in this country, including children, sustain traumatic brain injuries as a result of a variety of causes including falls, motor vehicle injuries, being struck by an object, or as a result of an assault and other violent crimes, including domestic violence. Additionally, there are significant numbers of veterans who sustain traumatic brain injuries as a result of their service in the military.

Prevention and the provision of appropriate supports and services in response to traumatic brain injury are consistent with the governor's executive order No. 10-01, "Implementing Health Reform the Washington Way," which recognizes protection of public health and the improvement of health status as essential responsibilities of the public health system.

Traumatic brain injury can cause a wide range of functional changes affecting thinking, sensation, language, or emotions. It can also cause epilepsy and increase the risk for conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other brain disorders that become more prevalent with age. The impact of a traumatic brain injury on the individual and family can be devastating.

The legislature recognizes that current programs and services are not funded or designed to address the diverse needs of this population. It is the intent of the legislature to develop a comprehensive plan to help individuals with traumatic brain injuries meet their needs. The legislature also recognizes the efforts of many in the private sector who are providing services and assistance to individuals with traumatic brain injuries. The legislature intends to bring together those in both the public and private sectors with expertise in this area to address the needs of this growing population. [2011 c 143 § 1; 2007 c 356 § 1.]

**Short title—2007 c 356:** "This act may be known and cited as the Tommy Manning act." [2007 c 356 § 11.]

**74.31.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(2) "Department of health" means the Washington state department of health created pursuant to RCW 43.70.020.

(3) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and health services.

(4) "Traumatic brain injury" means injury to the brain caused by physical trauma resulting from, but not limited to, incidents involving motor vehicles, sporting events, falls, and physical assaults. Documentation of traumatic brain injury shall be based on adequate medical history, neurological

examination, mental status testing, or neuropsychological evaluation. A traumatic brain injury shall be of sufficient severity to result in impairments in one or more of the following areas: Cognition; language memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; or information processing. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

(5) "Traumatic brain injury account" means the account established under RCW 74.31.060.

(6) "Council" means the Washington traumatic brain injury strategic partnership advisory council created under RCW 74.31.020. [2007 c 356 § 2.]

**Short title—2007 c 356:** See note following RCW 74.31.005.

**74.31.020 Washington traumatic brain injury strategic partnership advisory council—Members—Expenses—Appointment—Duties.** (1) The Washington traumatic brain injury strategic partnership advisory council is established as an advisory council to the governor, the legislature, and the secretary of the department of social and health services.

(2) The council shall be composed of:

(a) The following members who shall be appointed by the governor:

(i) A representative from a Native American tribe located in Washington state;

(ii) A representative from a nonprofit organization serving individuals with traumatic brain injury;

(iii) An individual with expertise in working with children with traumatic brain injuries;

(iv) A physician who has experience working with individuals with traumatic brain injuries;

(v) A neuropsychologist who has experience working with persons with traumatic brain injuries;

(vi) A social worker or clinical psychologist who has experience in working with persons who have sustained traumatic brain injuries;

(vii) A rehabilitation specialist, such as a speech pathologist, vocational rehabilitation counselor, occupational therapist, or physical therapist who has experience working with persons with traumatic brain injuries;

(viii) Two persons who are individuals with a traumatic brain injury;

(ix) Two persons who are family members of individuals with traumatic brain injuries; and

(x) Two members of the public who have experience with issues related to the causes of traumatic brain injuries; and

(b) The following agency members:

(i) The secretary or the secretary's designee, and representatives from the following: The children's administration, the division of behavioral health and recovery services, the aging and disability services administration, and the division of vocational rehabilitation;

(ii) The secretary of health or the secretary's designee;

(iii) The secretary of corrections or the secretary's designee;

(iv) A representative of the department of commerce with expertise in housing;

(v) A representative from the Washington state department of veterans affairs;

(vi) A representative from the national guard;

(vii) The executive director of the Washington protection and advocacy system or the executive director's designee; and

(viii) The executive director of the state brain injury association or the executive director's designee.

In the event that any of the state agencies designated in (b) of this subsection is renamed, reorganized, or eliminated, the director or secretary of the department that assumes the responsibilities of each renamed, reorganized, or eliminated agency shall designate a substitute representative.

(3) Councilmembers shall not be compensated for serving on the council, but may be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses related to costs incurred in participating in meetings for the council.

(4) No member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

(5) The appointed members of the council shall, to the extent possible, represent rural and urban areas of the state.

(6) A chairperson shall be elected every two years by majority vote from among the councilmembers. The chairperson shall act as the presiding officer of the council.

(7) The duties of the council include:

(a) Collaborating with the department to develop and revise as needed a comprehensive statewide plan to address the needs of individuals with traumatic brain injuries;

(b) Providing recommendations to the department on criteria to be used to select programs facilitating support groups for individuals with traumatic brain injuries and their families under RCW 74.31.050;

(c) By January 15, 2013, and every two years thereafter, developing a report in collaboration with the department and submitting it to the legislature and the governor on the following:

(i) Identifying the activities of the council in the implementation of the comprehensive statewide plan;

(ii) Recommendations for the revisions to the comprehensive statewide plan;

(iii) Recommendations for using the traumatic brain injury account established under RCW 74.31.060 to form strategic partnerships and to foster the development of services and supports for individuals impacted by traumatic brain injuries; and

(iv) Recommendations for a council staffing plan for council support under RCW 74.31.030.

(8) The council may utilize the advice or services of a nationally recognized expert, or other individuals as the council deems appropriate, to assist the council in carrying out its duties under this section. [2011 c 143 § 2; 2007 c 356 § 3.]

**Short title—2007 c 356:** See note following RCW 74.31.005.

**74.31.030 Staff support—Department powers and duties—Comprehensive plan.** (1) In response to council recommendations developed pursuant to RCW 74.31.020, the department shall include in the comprehensive statewide plan a staffing plan for providing adequate support for council activities for positions funded by the traumatic brain injury account established in RCW 74.31.060 and designate

at least one staff person who shall be responsible for the following:

(a) Coordinating policies, programs, and services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries; and

(b) Providing staff support to the council created in RCW 74.31.020.

(2) The department shall provide data and information to the council established under RCW 74.31.020 that is requested by the council and is in the possession or control of the department.

(3) The department shall implement, within funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the comprehensive statewide plan to address the needs of individuals impacted by traumatic brain injuries, including the use of public-private partnerships and a public awareness campaign. The comprehensive plan should be created in collaboration with the council and should consider the following:

(a) Building provider capacity and provider training;

(b) Improving the coordination of services;

(c) The feasibility of establishing agreements with private sector agencies or tribal governments to develop services for individuals with traumatic brain injuries; and

(d) Other areas the council deems appropriate.

(4) The department shall:

(a) Assure that information and referral services are provided to individuals with traumatic brain injuries. The referral services may be funded from the traumatic brain injury account established under RCW 74.31.060;

(b) Encourage and facilitate the following:

(i) Collaboration among state agencies that provide services to individuals with traumatic brain injuries;

(ii) Collaboration among organizations and entities that provide services to individuals with traumatic brain injuries; and

(iii) Community participation in program implementation; and

(c) Have the authority to accept, expend, or retain any gifts, bequests, contributions, or grants from private persons or private and public agencies to carry out the purpose of this chapter. [2011 c 143 § 3; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 943; 2007 c 356 § 4.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Short title—2007 c 356:** See note following RCW 74.31.005.

**74.31.040 Public awareness campaign.** In collaboration with the council, the department shall conduct a public awareness campaign that utilizes funding from the traumatic brain injury account to leverage a private advertising campaign to persuade Washington residents to be aware and concerned about the issues facing individuals with traumatic brain injuries through all forms of media including television, radio, and print. [2011 c 143 § 4; 2007 c 356 § 5.]

**Short title—2007 c 356:** See note following RCW 74.31.005.

**74.31.050 Support group programs—Funding—Recommendations.** (1) The department shall provide funding from the traumatic brain injury account established by RCW 74.31.060 to programs that facilitate support groups to individuals with traumatic brain injuries and their families.

(2) The department shall use a request for proposal process to select the programs to receive funding. The council shall provide recommendations to the department on the criteria to be used in selecting the programs. [2011 c 143 § 5; 2007 c 356 § 6.]

**Short title—2007 c 356:** See note following RCW 74.31.005.

**74.31.060 Traumatic brain injury account.** The traumatic brain injury account is created in the state treasury. Two dollars of the fee imposed under RCW 46.63.110(7)(c) must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation, and may be used only to support the activities in the statewide traumatic brain injury comprehensive plan, to provide a public awareness campaign and services relating to traumatic brain injury under RCW 74.31.040 and 74.31.050, for information and referral services, and for costs of required department staff who are providing support for the council under RCW 74.31.020 and 74.31.030. The secretary of the department of social and health services has the authority to administer the funds. [2011 c 143 § 6; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 944; 2007 c 356 § 7.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Short title—2007 c 356:** See note following RCW 74.31.005.

## Chapter 74.34 RCW ABUSE OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

### Sections

74.34.005	Findings.
74.34.020	Definitions.
74.34.025	Limitation on recovery for protective services and benefits.
74.34.035	Reports—Mandated and permissive—Contents—Confidentiality.
74.34.040	Reports—Contents—Identity confidential.
74.34.050	Immunity from liability.
74.34.053	Failure to report—False reports—Penalties.
74.34.063	Response to reports—Timing—Reports to law enforcement agencies—Notification to licensing authority.
74.34.067	Investigations—Interviews—Ongoing case planning—Agreements with tribes—Conclusion of investigation.
74.34.068	Investigation results—Report—Rules.
74.34.070	Cooperative agreements for services.
74.34.080	Injunctions.
74.34.090	Data collection system—Confidentiality.
74.34.095	Confidential information—Disclosure.
74.34.110	Protection of vulnerable adults—Petition for protective order.
74.34.115	Protection of vulnerable adults—Administrative office of the courts—Standard petition—Order for protection—Standard notice—Court staff handbook.
74.34.120	Protection of vulnerable adults—Hearing.
74.34.130	Protection of vulnerable adults—Judicial relief.
74.34.135	Protection of vulnerable adults—Filings by others—Dismissal of petition or order—Testimony or evidence—Additional evidentiary hearings—Temporary order.
74.34.140	Protection of vulnerable adults—Execution of protective order.
74.34.145	Protection of vulnerable adults—Notice of criminal penalties for violation—Enforcement under RCW 26.50.110.
74.34.150	Protection of vulnerable adults—Department may seek relief.
74.34.160	Protection of vulnerable adults—Proceedings are supplemental.
74.34.163	Application to modify or vacate order.
74.34.165	Rules.
74.34.170	Services of department discretionary—Funding.
74.34.180	Retaliation against whistleblowers and residents—Remedies—Rules.
74.34.200	Abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult—Cause of action for damages—Legislative intent.
74.34.205	Abandonment, abuse, or neglect—Exceptions.

74.34.210	Order for protection or action for damages—Standing—Jurisdiction.
74.34.215	Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.
74.34.220	Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults—Training—Reporting.
74.34.300	Vulnerable adult fatality reviews.
74.34.305	Statement to vulnerable adults.
74.34.310	Service of process or filing fees prohibited—Certified copies.
74.34.900	Severability—1984 c 97.
74.34.901	Severability—1986 c 187.
74.34.902	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Domestic violence prevention, authority of department of social and health services to seek relief on behalf of vulnerable adults: RCW 26.50.021.*

*Patients in nursing homes and hospitals, abuse: Chapter 70.124 RCW.*

**74.34.005 Findings.** The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) Some adults are vulnerable and may be subjected to abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or abandonment by a family member, care provider, or other person who has a relationship with the vulnerable adult;

(2) A vulnerable adult may be home bound or otherwise unable to represent himself or herself in court or to retain legal counsel in order to obtain the relief available under this chapter or other protections offered through the courts;

(3) A vulnerable adult may lack the ability to perform or obtain those services necessary to maintain his or her well-being because he or she lacks the capacity for consent;

(4) A vulnerable adult may have health problems that place him or her in a dependent position;

(5) The department and appropriate agencies must be prepared to receive reports of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of vulnerable adults;

(6) The department must provide protective services in the least restrictive environment appropriate and available to the vulnerable adult. [1999 c 176 § 2.]

**Findings—Purpose—1999 c 176:** "The legislature finds that the provisions for the protection of vulnerable adults found in chapters 26.44, 70.124, and 74.34 RCW contain different definitions for abandonment, abuse, exploitation, and neglect. The legislature finds that combining the sections of these chapters that pertain to the protection of vulnerable adults would better serve this state's population of vulnerable adults. The purpose of chapter 74.34 RCW is to provide the department and law enforcement agencies with the authority to investigate complaints of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of vulnerable adults and to provide protective services and legal remedies to protect these vulnerable adults." [1999 c 176 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.34.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Abandonment" means action or inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care for a vulnerable adult that leaves the vulnerable person without the means or ability to obtain necessary food, clothing, shelter, or health care.

(2) "Abuse" means the willful action or inaction that inflicts injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment on a vulnerable adult. In instances of abuse of a vulnerable adult who is unable to express or demonstrate physical harm, pain, or mental anguish, the abuse is presumed to cause physical harm, pain, or mental anguish. Abuse includes sexual abuse, mental abuse, physical abuse, and exploitation of a vulnerable adult, which have the following meanings:

(a) "Sexual abuse" means any form of nonconsensual sexual contact, including but not limited to unwanted or inappropriate touching, rape, sodomy, sexual coercion, sexually explicit photographing, and sexual harassment. Sexual abuse includes any sexual contact between a staff person, who is not also a resident or client, of a facility or a staff person of a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW, and a vulnerable adult living in that facility or receiving service from a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW, whether or not it is consensual.

(b) "Physical abuse" means the willful action of inflicting bodily injury or physical mistreatment. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to, striking with or without an object, slapping, pinching, choking, kicking, shoving, prodding, or the use of chemical restraints or physical restraints unless the restraints are consistent with licensing requirements, and includes restraints that are otherwise being used inappropriately.

(c) "Mental abuse" means any willful action or inaction of mental or verbal abuse. Mental abuse includes, but is not limited to, coercion, harassment, inappropriately isolating a vulnerable adult from family, friends, or regular activity, and verbal assault that includes ridiculing, intimidating, yelling, or swearing.

(d) "Exploitation" means an act of forcing, compelling, or exerting undue influence over a vulnerable adult causing the vulnerable adult to act in a way that is inconsistent with relevant past behavior, or causing the vulnerable adult to perform services for the benefit of another.

(3) "Consent" means express written consent granted after the vulnerable adult or his or her legal representative has been fully informed of the nature of the services to be offered and that the receipt of services is voluntary.

(4) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(5) "Facility" means a residence licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, assisted living facilities; chapter 18.51 RCW, nursing homes; chapter 70.128 RCW, adult family homes; chapter 72.36 RCW, soldiers' homes; or chapter 71A.20 RCW, residential habilitation centers; or any other facility licensed or certified by the department.

(6) "Financial exploitation" means the illegal or improper use, control over, or withholding of the property, income, resources, or trust funds of the vulnerable adult by any person or entity for any person's or entity's profit or advantage other than for the vulnerable adult's profit or advantage. "Financial exploitation" includes, but is not limited to:

(a) The use of deception, intimidation, or undue influence by a person or entity in a position of trust and confidence with a vulnerable adult to obtain or use the property, income, resources, or trust funds of the vulnerable adult for the benefit of a person or entity other than the vulnerable adult;

(b) The breach of a fiduciary duty, including, but not limited to, the misuse of a power of attorney, trust, or a guardianship appointment, that results in the unauthorized appropriation, sale, or transfer of the property, income, resources, or trust funds of the vulnerable adult for the benefit of a person or entity other than the vulnerable adult; or

(c) Obtaining or using a vulnerable adult's property, income, resources, or trust funds without lawful authority, by a person or entity who knows or clearly should know that the vulnerable adult lacks the capacity to consent to the release or use of his or her property, income, resources, or trust funds.

(7) "Financial institution" has the same meaning as in RCW 30.22.040 and 30.22.041. For purposes of this chapter only, "financial institution" also means a "broker-dealer" or "investment adviser" as defined in RCW 21.20.005.

(8) "Incapacitated person" means a person who is at a significant risk of personal or financial harm under RCW 11.88.010(1) (a), (b), (c), or (d).

(9) "Individual provider" means a person under contract with the department to provide services in the home under chapter 74.09 or 74.39A RCW.

(10) "Interested person" means a person who demonstrates to the court's satisfaction that the person is interested in the welfare of the vulnerable adult, that the person has a good faith belief that the court's intervention is necessary, and that the vulnerable adult is unable, due to incapacity, undue influence, or duress at the time the petition is filed, to protect his or her own interests.

(11) "Mandated reporter" is an employee of the department; law enforcement officer; social worker; professional school personnel; individual provider; an employee of a facility; an operator of a facility; an employee of a social service, welfare, mental health, adult day health, adult day care, home health, home care, or hospice agency; county coroner or medical examiner; Christian Science practitioner; or health care provider subject to chapter 18.130 RCW.

(12) "Neglect" means (a) a pattern of conduct or inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care that fails to provide the goods and services that maintain physical or mental health of a vulnerable adult, or that fails to avoid or prevent physical or mental harm or pain to a vulnerable adult; or (b) an act or omission that demonstrates a serious disregard of consequences of such a magnitude as to constitute a clear and present danger to the vulnerable adult's health, welfare, or safety, including but not limited to conduct prohibited under RCW 9A.42.100.

(13) "Permissive reporter" means any person, including, but not limited to, an employee of a financial institution, attorney, or volunteer in a facility or program providing services for vulnerable adults.

(14) "Protective services" means any services provided by the department to a vulnerable adult with the consent of the vulnerable adult, or the legal representative of the vulnerable adult, who has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited, neglected, or in a state of self-neglect. These services may include, but are not limited to case management, social casework, home care, placement, arranging for medical evaluations, psychological evaluations, day care, or referral for legal assistance.

(15) "Self-neglect" means the failure of a vulnerable adult, not living in a facility, to provide for himself or herself the goods and services necessary for the vulnerable adult's physical or mental health, and the absence of which impairs or threatens the vulnerable adult's well-being. This definition may include a vulnerable adult who is receiving services through home health, hospice, or a home care agency, or an

individual provider when the neglect is not a result of inaction by that agency or individual provider.

(16) "Social worker" means:

(a) A social worker as defined in RCW 18.320.010(2); or

(b) Anyone engaged in a professional capacity during the regular course of employment in encouraging or promoting the health, welfare, support, or education of vulnerable adults, or providing social services to vulnerable adults, whether in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

(17) "Vulnerable adult" includes a person:

(a) Sixty years of age or older who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for himself or herself; or

(b) Found incapacitated under chapter 11.88 RCW; or

(c) Who has a developmental disability as defined under RCW 71A.10.020; or

(d) Admitted to any facility; or

(e) Receiving services from home health, hospice, or home care agencies licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW; or

(f) Receiving services from an individual provider; or

(g) Who self-directs his or her own care and receives services from a personal aide under chapter 74.39 RCW. [2012 c 10 § 62. Prior: 2011 c 170 § 1; 2011 c 89 § 18; 2010 c 133 § 2; 2007 c 312 § 1; 2006 c 339 § 109; 2003 c 230 § 1; 1999 c 176 § 3; 1997 c 392 § 523; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 84; 1984 c 97 § 8.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 89:** See note following RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—2011 c 89:** See RCW 18.320.005.

**Intent—Part headings not law—2006 c 339:** See notes following RCW 70.96A.325.

**Effective date—2003 c 230:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 12, 2003]." [2003 c 230 § 3.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.34.025 Limitation on recovery for protective services and benefits.** The cost of benefits and services provided to a vulnerable adult under this chapter with state funds only does not constitute an obligation or lien and is not recoverable from the recipient of the services or from the recipient's estate, whether by lien, adjustment, or any other means of recovery. [1999 c 176 § 4; 1997 c 392 § 304.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**74.34.035 Reports—Mandated and permissive—Contents—Confidentiality.** (1) When there is reasonable cause to believe that abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult has occurred, mandated reporters shall immediately report to the department.

(2) When there is reason to suspect that sexual assault has occurred, mandated reporters shall immediately report to the appropriate law enforcement agency and to the department.

(3) When there is reason to suspect that physical assault has occurred or there is reasonable cause to believe that an act has caused fear of imminent harm:

(a) Mandated reporters shall immediately report to the department; and

(b) Mandated reporters shall immediately report to the appropriate law enforcement agency, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) A mandated reporter is not required to report to a law enforcement agency, unless requested by the injured vulnerable adult or his or her legal representative or family member, an incident of physical assault between vulnerable adults that causes minor bodily injury and does not require more than basic first aid, unless:

(a) The injury appears on the back, face, head, neck, chest, breasts, groin, inner thigh, buttock, genital, or anal area;

(b) There is a fracture;

(c) There is a pattern of physical assault between the same vulnerable adults or involving the same vulnerable adults; or

(d) There is an attempt to choke a vulnerable adult.

(5) When there is reason to suspect that the death of a vulnerable adult was caused by abuse, neglect, or abandonment by another person, mandated reporters shall, pursuant to RCW 68.50.020, report the death to the medical examiner or coroner having jurisdiction, as well as the department and local law enforcement, in the most expeditious manner possible. A mandated reporter is not relieved from the reporting requirement provisions of this subsection by the existence of a previously signed death certificate. If abuse, neglect, or abandonment caused or contributed to the death of a vulnerable adult, the death is a death caused by unnatural or unlawful means, and the body shall be the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner pursuant to RCW 68.50.010.

(6) Permissive reporters may report to the department or a law enforcement agency when there is reasonable cause to believe that a vulnerable adult is being or has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected.

(7) No facility, as defined by this chapter, agency licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, or facility or agency under contract with the department to provide care for vulnerable adults may develop policies or procedures that interfere with the reporting requirements of this chapter.

(8) Each report, oral or written, must contain as much as possible of the following information:

(a) The name and address of the person making the report;

(b) The name and address of the vulnerable adult and the name of the facility or agency providing care for the vulnerable adult;

(c) The name and address of the legal guardian or alternate decision maker;

(d) The nature and extent of the abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect;

(e) Any history of previous abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect;

(f) The identity of the alleged perpetrator, if known; and

(g) Other information that may be helpful in establishing the extent of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or the cause of death of the deceased vulnerable adult.

(9) Unless there is a judicial proceeding or the person consents, the identity of the person making the report under this section is confidential. [2010 c 133 § 4; 2003 c 230 § 2; 1999 c 176 § 5.]

**Effective date—2003 c 230:** See note following RCW 74.34.020.

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

#### **74.34.040 Reports—Contents—Identity confidential.**

The reports made under \*RCW 74.34.030 shall contain the following information if known:

(1) Identification of the vulnerable adult;

(2) The nature and extent of the suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment;

(3) Evidence of previous abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment;

(4) The name and address of the person making the report; and

(5) Any other helpful information.

Unless there is a judicial proceeding or the person consents, the identity of the person making the report is confidential. [1986 c 187 § 2; 1984 c 97 § 10.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.34.030 was repealed by 1999 c 176 § 35.

**74.34.050 Immunity from liability.** (1) A person participating in good faith in making a report under this chapter or testifying about alleged abuse, neglect, abandonment, financial exploitation, or self-neglect of a vulnerable adult in a judicial or administrative proceeding under this chapter is immune from liability resulting from the report or testimony. The making of permissive reports as allowed in this chapter does not create any duty to report and no civil liability shall attach for any failure to make a permissive report as allowed under this chapter.

(2) Conduct conforming with the reporting and testifying provisions of this chapter shall not be deemed a violation of any confidential communication privilege. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as superseding or abridging remedies provided in chapter 4.92 RCW. [1999 c 176 § 6; 1997 c 386 § 34; 1986 c 187 § 3; 1984 c 97 § 11.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.34.053 Failure to report—False reports—Penalties.** (1) A person who is required to make a report under this chapter and who knowingly fails to make the report is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) A person who intentionally, maliciously, or in bad faith makes a false report of alleged abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult is guilty of a misdemeanor. [1999 c 176 § 7.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**74.34.063 Response to reports—Timing—Reports to law enforcement agencies—Notification to licensing authority.** (1) The department shall initiate a response to a report, no later than twenty-four hours after knowledge of the report, of suspected abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect of a vulnerable adult.

(2) When the initial report or investigation by the department indicates that the alleged abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect may be criminal, the department shall make an immediate report to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The department and law enforcement will coordinate in investigating reports made under this chapter. The department may provide protective services and other remedies as specified in this chapter.

(3) The law enforcement agency or the department shall report the incident in writing to the proper county prosecutor or city attorney for appropriate action whenever the investigation reveals that a crime may have been committed.

(4) The department and law enforcement may share information contained in reports and findings of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, and neglect of vulnerable adults, consistent with RCW 74.04.060, chapter 42.56 RCW, and other applicable confidentiality laws.

(5) The department shall notify the proper licensing authority concerning any report received under this chapter that alleges that a person who is professionally licensed, certified, or registered under Title 18 RCW has abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected a vulnerable adult. [2005 c 274 § 354; 1999 c 176 § 8.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**74.34.067 Investigations—Interviews—Ongoing case planning—Agreements with tribes—Conclusion of investigation.** (1) Where appropriate, an investigation by the department may include a private interview with the vulnerable adult regarding the alleged abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect.

(2) In conducting the investigation, the department shall interview the complainant, unless anonymous, and shall use its best efforts to interview the vulnerable adult or adults harmed, and, consistent with the protection of the vulnerable adult shall interview facility staff, any available independent sources of relevant information, including if appropriate the family members of the vulnerable adult.

(3) The department may conduct ongoing case planning and consultation with: (a) Those persons or agencies required to report under this chapter or submit a report under this chapter; (b) consultants designated by the department; and (c) designated representatives of Washington Indian tribes if client information exchanged is pertinent to cases under investigation or the provision of protective services. Information considered privileged by statute and not directly related to reports required by this chapter must not be divulged without a valid written waiver of the privilege.

(4) The department shall prepare and keep on file a report of each investigation conducted by the department for a period of time in accordance with policies established by the department.

(5) If the department has reason to believe that the vulnerable adult has suffered from abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect, and lacks the ability or capacity to consent, and needs the protection of a guardian, the department may bring a guardianship action under chapter 11.88 RCW.

(6) When the investigation is completed and the department determines that an incident of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect has occurred, the department shall inform the vulnerable adult of their right to refuse protective services, and ensure that, if necessary, appropriate protective services are provided to the vulnerable adult, with the consent of the vulnerable adult. The vulnerable adult has the right to withdraw or refuse protective services.

(7) The department's adult protective services division may enter into agreements with federally recognized tribes to investigate reports of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or self-neglect of vulnerable adults on property over which a federally recognized tribe has exclusive jurisdiction. If the department has information that abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect is criminal or is placing a vulnerable adult on tribal property at potential risk of personal or financial harm, the department may notify tribal law enforcement or another tribal representative specified by the tribe. Upon receipt of the notification, the tribe may assume jurisdiction of the matter. Neither the department nor its employees may participate in the investigation after the tribe assumes jurisdiction. The department, its officers, and its employees are not liable for any action or inaction of the tribe or for any harm to the alleged victim, the person against whom the allegations were made, or other parties that occurs after the tribe assumes jurisdiction. Nothing in this section limits the department's jurisdiction and authority over facilities or entities that the department licenses or certifies under federal or state law.

(8) The department may photograph a vulnerable adult or their environment for the purpose of providing documentary evidence of the physical condition of the vulnerable adult or his or her environment. When photographing the vulnerable adult, the department shall obtain permission from the vulnerable adult or his or her legal representative unless immediate photographing is necessary to preserve evidence. However, if the legal representative is alleged to have abused, neglected, abandoned, or exploited the vulnerable adult, consent from the legal representative is not necessary. No such consent is necessary when photographing the physical environment.

(9) When the investigation is complete and the department determines that the incident of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect has occurred, the department shall inform the facility in which the incident occurred, consistent with confidentiality requirements concerning the vulnerable adult, witnesses, and complainants. [2011 c 170 § 2; 2007 c 312 § 2; 1999 c 176 § 9.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**74.34.068 Investigation results—Report—Rules.** (1) After the investigation is complete, the department may provide a written report of the outcome of the investigation to an

agency or program described in this subsection when the department determines from its investigation that an incident of abuse, abandonment, financial exploitation, or neglect occurred. Agencies or programs that may be provided this report are home health, hospice, or home care agencies, or after January 1, 2002, any in-home services agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW, an adult day care or day health program, regional support networks authorized under chapter 71.24 RCW, or other agencies. The report may contain the name of the vulnerable adult and the alleged perpetrator. The report shall not disclose the identity of the person who made the report or any witness without the written permission of the reporter or witness. The department shall notify the alleged perpetrator regarding the outcome of the investigation. The name of the vulnerable adult must not be disclosed during this notification.

(2) The department may also refer a report or outcome of an investigation to appropriate state or local governmental authorities responsible for licensing or certification of the agencies or programs listed in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section. [2001 c 233 § 2.]

**Finding—2001 c 233:** "The legislature recognizes that vulnerable adults, while living in their own homes, may be abused, neglected, financially exploited, or abandoned by individuals entrusted to provide care for them. The individuals who abuse, neglect, financially exploit, or abandon vulnerable adults may be employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for an agency or program providing care for vulnerable adults. The legislature has given the department of social and health services the responsibility to investigate complaints of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of vulnerable adults and to provide protective services and other legal remedies to protect these vulnerable adults. The legislature finds that in order to continue to protect vulnerable adults, the department of social and health services be given the authority to release report information and to release the results of an investigation to the agency or program with which the individual investigated is employed, contracted, or engaged as a volunteer." [2001 c 233 § 1.]

**74.34.070 Cooperative agreements for services.** The department may develop cooperative agreements with community-based agencies providing services for vulnerable adults. The agreements shall cover: (1) The appropriate roles and responsibilities of the department and community-based agencies in identifying and responding to reports of alleged abuse; (2) the provision of case-management services; (3) standardized data collection procedures; and (4) related coordination activities. [1999 c 176 § 10; 1997 c 386 § 35; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 87; 1984 c 97 § 13.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.34.080 Injunctions.** If access is denied to an employee of the department seeking to investigate an allegation of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult by an individual, the department may seek an injunction to prevent interference with the investigation. The court shall issue the injunction if the department shows that:

(1) There is reasonable cause to believe that the person is a vulnerable adult and is or has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected; and

(2) The employee of the department seeking to investigate the report has been denied access. [1999 c 176 § 11; 1984 c 97 § 14.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**74.34.090 Data collection system—Confidentiality.** The department shall maintain a system for statistical data collection, accessible for bona fide research only as the department by rule prescribes. The identity of any person is strictly confidential. [1984 c 97 § 15.]

**74.34.095 Confidential information—Disclosure.** (1) The following information is confidential and not subject to disclosure, except as provided in this section:

(a) A report of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect made under this chapter;

(b) The identity of the person making the report; and

(c) All files, reports, records, communications, and working papers used or developed in the investigation or provision of protective services.

(2) Information considered confidential may be disclosed only for a purpose consistent with this chapter or as authorized by chapter 18.20, 18.51, or 74.39A RCW, or as authorized by the long-term care ombudsman programs under federal law or state law, chapter 43.190 RCW.

(3) A court or presiding officer in an administrative proceeding may order disclosure of confidential information only if the court, or presiding officer in an administrative proceeding, determines that disclosure is essential to the administration of justice and will not endanger the life or safety of the vulnerable adult or individual who made the report. The court or presiding officer in an administrative hearing may place restrictions on such disclosure as the court or presiding officer deems proper. [2000 c 87 § 4; 1999 c 176 § 17.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**74.34.110 Protection of vulnerable adults—Petition for protective order.** An action known as a petition for an order for protection of a vulnerable adult in cases of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect is created.

(1) A vulnerable adult, or interested person on behalf of the vulnerable adult, may seek relief from abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect, or the threat thereof, by filing a petition for an order for protection in superior court.

(2) A petition shall allege that the petitioner, or person on whose behalf the petition is brought, is a vulnerable adult and that the petitioner, or person on whose behalf the petition is brought, has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected, or is threatened with abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect by respondent.

(3) A petition shall be accompanied by affidavit made under oath, or a declaration signed under penalty of perjury, stating the specific facts and circumstances which demonstrate the need for the relief sought. If the petition is filed by an interested person, the affidavit or declaration must also include a statement of why the petitioner qualifies as an interested person.

(4) A petition for an order may be made whether or not there is a pending lawsuit, complaint, petition, or other action pending that relates to the issues presented in the petition for an order for protection.

(5) Within ninety days of receipt of the master copy from the administrative office of the courts, all court clerk's offices shall make available the standardized forms and instructions required by RCW 74.34.115.

(6) Any assistance or information provided by any person, including, but not limited to, court clerks, employees of the department, and other court facilitators, to another to complete the forms provided by the court in subsection (5) of this section does not constitute the practice of law.

(7) A petitioner is not required to post bond to obtain relief in any proceeding under this section.

(8) An action under this section shall be filed in the county where the vulnerable adult resides; except that if the vulnerable adult has left or been removed from the residence as a result of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect, or in order to avoid abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect, the petitioner may bring an action in the county of either the vulnerable adult's previous or new residence.

(9) No filing fee may be charged to the petitioner for proceedings under this section. Standard forms and written instructions shall be provided free of charge. [2007 c 312 § 3; 1999 c 176 § 12; 1986 c 187 § 5.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**74.34.115 Protection of vulnerable adults—Administrative office of the courts—Standard petition—Order for protection—Standard notice—Court staff handbook.**

(1) The administrative office of the courts shall develop and prepare standard petition, temporary order for protection, and permanent order for protection forms, a standard notice form to provide notice to the vulnerable adult if the vulnerable adult is not the petitioner, instructions, and a court staff handbook on the protection order process. The standard petition and order for protection forms must be used after October 1, 2007, for all petitions filed and orders issued under this chapter. The administrative office of the courts, in preparing the instructions, forms, notice, and handbook, may consult with attorneys from the elder law section of the Washington state bar association, judges, the department, the Washington protection and advocacy system, and law enforcement personnel.

(a) The instructions shall be designed to assist petitioners in completing the petition, and shall include a sample of the standard petition and order for protection forms.

(b) The order for protection form shall include, in a conspicuous location, notice of criminal penalties resulting from violation of the order.

(c) The standard notice form shall be designed to explain to the vulnerable adult in clear, plain language the purpose and nature of the petition and that the vulnerable adult has the right to participate in the hearing and to either support or object to the petition.

(2) The administrative office of the courts shall distribute a master copy of the standard forms, instructions, and court staff handbook to all court clerks and shall distribute a master

copy of the standard forms to all superior, district, and municipal courts.

(3) The administrative office of the courts shall determine the significant non-English-speaking or limited-English-speaking populations in the state. The administrator shall then arrange for translation of the instructions required by this section, which shall contain a sample of the standard forms, into the languages spoken by those significant non-English-speaking populations, and shall distribute a master copy of the translated instructions to all court clerks by December 31, 2007.

(4) The administrative office of the courts shall update the instructions, standard forms, and court staff handbook when changes in the law make an update necessary. The updates may be made in consultation with the persons and entities specified in subsection (1) of this section.

(5) For purposes of this section, "court clerks" means court administrators in courts of limited jurisdiction and elected court clerks. [2007 c 312 § 4.]

**74.34.120 Protection of vulnerable adults—Hearing.**

(1) The court shall order a hearing on a petition under RCW 74.34.110 not later than fourteen days from the date of filing the petition.

(2) Personal service shall be made upon the respondent not less than six court days before the hearing. When good faith attempts to personally serve the respondent have been unsuccessful, the court shall permit service by mail or by publication.

(3) When a petition under RCW 74.34.110 is filed by someone other than the vulnerable adult, notice of the petition and hearing must be personally served upon the vulnerable adult not less than six court days before the hearing. In addition to copies of all pleadings filed by the petitioner, the petitioner shall provide a written notice to the vulnerable adult using the standard notice form developed under RCW 74.34.115. When good faith attempts to personally serve the vulnerable adult have been unsuccessful, the court shall permit service by mail, or by publication if the court determines that personal service and service by mail cannot be obtained.

(4) If timely service under subsections (2) and (3) of this section cannot be made, the court shall continue the hearing date until the substitute service approved by the court has been satisfied.

(5)(a) A petitioner may move for temporary relief under chapter 7.40 RCW. The court may continue any temporary order for protection granted under chapter 7.40 RCW until the hearing on a petition under RCW 74.34.110 is held.

(b) Written notice of the request for temporary relief must be provided to the respondent, and to the vulnerable adult if someone other than the vulnerable adult filed the petition. A temporary protection order may be granted without written notice to the respondent and vulnerable adult if it clearly appears from specific facts shown by affidavit or declaration that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage would result to the vulnerable adult before the respondent and vulnerable adult can be served and heard, or that show the respondent and vulnerable adult cannot be served with notice, the efforts made to serve them, and the reasons why prior notice should not be required. [2007 c 312 § 5; 1986 c 187 § 6.]

**74.34.130 Protection of vulnerable adults—Judicial relief.** The court may order relief as it deems necessary for the protection of the vulnerable adult, including, but not limited to the following:

(1) Restraining respondent from committing acts of abandonment, abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation against the vulnerable adult;

(2) Excluding the respondent from the vulnerable adult's residence for a specified period or until further order of the court;

(3) Prohibiting contact with the vulnerable adult by respondent for a specified period or until further order of the court;

(4) Prohibiting the respondent from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance from a specified location;

(5) Requiring an accounting by respondent of the disposition of the vulnerable adult's income or other resources;

(6) Restraining the transfer of the respondent's and/or vulnerable adult's property for a specified period not exceeding ninety days; and

(7) Requiring the respondent to pay a filing fee and court costs, including service fees, and to reimburse the petitioner for costs incurred in bringing the action, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

Any relief granted by an order for protection, other than a judgment for costs, shall be for a fixed period not to exceed five years. The clerk of the court shall enter any order for protection issued under this section into the judicial information system. [2007 c 312 § 6. Prior: 2000 c 119 § 27; 2000 c 51 § 2; 1999 c 176 § 13; 1986 c 187 § 7.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.34.135 Protection of vulnerable adults—Filings by others—Dismissal of petition or order—Testimony or evidence—Additional evidentiary hearings—Temporary order.** (1) When a petition for protection under RCW 74.34.110 is filed by someone other than the vulnerable adult or the vulnerable adult's full guardian over either the person or the estate, or both, and the vulnerable adult for whom protection is sought advises the court at the hearing that he or she does not want all or part of the protection sought in the petition, then the court may dismiss the petition or the provisions that the vulnerable adult objects to and any protection order issued under RCW 74.34.120 or 74.34.130, or the court may take additional testimony or evidence, or order additional evidentiary hearings to determine whether the vulnerable adult is unable, due to incapacity, undue influence, or duress, to protect his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition or order. If an additional evidentiary hearing is ordered and the court determines that there is reason to believe that there is a genuine issue about whether the vulnerable adult is unable to protect his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition or order, the court may issue a temporary order for protection of the vulnerable adult pending a decision after the evidentiary hearing.

(2) An evidentiary hearing on the issue of whether the vulnerable adult is unable, due to incapacity, undue influ-

(2012 Ed.)

ence, or duress, to protect his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition or order, shall be held within fourteen days of entry of the temporary order for protection under subsection (1) of this section. If the court did not enter a temporary order for protection, the evidentiary hearing shall be held within fourteen days of the prior hearing on the petition. Notice of the time and place of the evidentiary hearing shall be personally served upon the vulnerable adult and the respondent not less than six court days before the hearing. When good faith attempts to personally serve the vulnerable adult and the respondent have been unsuccessful, the court shall permit service by mail, or by publication if the court determines that personal service and service by mail cannot be obtained. If timely service cannot be made, the court may set a new hearing date. A hearing under this subsection is not necessary if the vulnerable adult has been determined to be fully incapacitated over either the person or the estate, or both, under the guardianship laws, chapter 11.88 RCW. If a hearing is scheduled under this subsection, the protection order shall remain in effect pending the court's decision at the subsequent hearing.

(3) At the hearing scheduled by the court, the court shall give the vulnerable adult, the respondent, the petitioner, and in the court's discretion other interested persons, the opportunity to testify and submit relevant evidence.

(4) If the court determines that the vulnerable adult is capable of protecting his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition, and the individual continues to object to the protection order, the court shall dismiss the order or may modify the order if agreed to by the vulnerable adult. If the court determines that the vulnerable adult is not capable of protecting his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition or order, and that the individual continues to need protection, the court shall order relief consistent with RCW 74.34.130 as it deems necessary for the protection of the vulnerable adult. In the entry of any order that is inconsistent with the expressed wishes of the vulnerable adult, the court's order shall be governed by the legislative findings contained in RCW 74.34.005. [2007 c 312 § 9.]

**74.34.140 Protection of vulnerable adults—Execution of protective order.** When an order for protection under RCW 74.34.130 is issued upon request of the petitioner, the court may order a peace officer to assist in the execution of the order of protection. A public agency may not charge a fee for service of process to petitioners seeking relief under this chapter. Petitioners must be provided the necessary number of certified copies at no cost. [2012 c 156 § 2; 1986 c 187 § 8.]

**74.34.145 Protection of vulnerable adults—Notice of criminal penalties for violation—Enforcement under RCW 26.50.110.** (1) An order for protection of a vulnerable adult issued under this chapter which restrains the respondent or another person from committing acts of abuse, prohibits contact with the vulnerable adult, excludes the person from any specified location, or prohibits the person from coming within a specified distance from a location, shall prominently bear on the front page of the order the legend: VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER WITH ACTUAL NOTICE OF ITS

TERMS IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER CHAPTER 26.50 RCW AND WILL SUBJECT A VIOLATOR TO ARREST.

(2) Whenever an order for protection of a vulnerable adult is issued under this chapter, and the respondent or person to be restrained knows of the order, a violation of a provision restraining the person from committing acts of abuse, prohibiting contact with the vulnerable adult, excluding the person from any specified location, or prohibiting the person from coming within a specified distance of a location, shall be punishable under RCW 26.50.110, regardless of whether the person is a family or household member as defined in RCW 26.50.010. [2007 c 312 § 7; 2000 c 119 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.34.150 Protection of vulnerable adults—Department may seek relief.** The department of social and health services, in its discretion, may seek relief under RCW 74.34.110 through 74.34.140 on behalf of and with the consent of any vulnerable adult. When the department has reason to believe a vulnerable adult lacks the ability or capacity to consent, the department, in its discretion, may seek relief under RCW 74.34.110 through 74.34.140 on behalf of the vulnerable adult. Neither the department of social and health services nor the state of Washington shall be liable for seeking or failing to seek relief on behalf of any persons under this section. [2007 c 312 § 8; 1986 c 187 § 9.]

**74.34.160 Protection of vulnerable adults—Proceedings are supplemental.** Any proceeding under RCW 74.34.110 through 74.34.150 is in addition to any other civil or criminal remedies. [1986 c 187 § 11.]

**74.34.163 Application to modify or vacate order.** Any vulnerable adult who has not been adjudicated fully incapacitated under chapter 11.88 RCW, or the vulnerable adult's guardian, at any time subsequent to entry of a permanent protection order under this chapter, may apply to the court for an order to modify or vacate the order. In a hearing on an application to dismiss or modify the protection order, the court shall grant such relief consistent with RCW 74.34.110 as it deems necessary for the protection of the vulnerable adult, including dismissal or modification of the protection order. [2007 c 312 § 10.]

**74.34.165 Rules.** The department may adopt rules relating to the reporting, investigation, and provision of protective services in in-home settings, consistent with the objectives of this chapter. [1999 c 176 § 18.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**74.34.170 Services of department discretionary—Funding.** The provision of services under RCW \*74.34.030, 74.34.040, 74.34.050, and \*\*74.34.100 through 74.34.160 are discretionary and the department shall not be required to expend additional funds beyond those appropriated. [1986 c 187 § 10.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.34.030 was repealed by 1999 c 176 § 35.

\*\* (2) RCW 74.34.100 was recodified as RCW 74.34.015 pursuant to 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 89, effective July 1, 1995. RCW 74.34.015 was subsequently repealed by 1999 c 176 § 35.

**74.34.180 Retaliation against whistleblowers and residents—Remedies—Rules.** (1) An employee or contractor who is a whistleblower and who as a result of being a whistleblower has been subjected to workplace reprisal or retaliatory action, has the remedies provided under chapter 49.60 RCW. RCW 4.24.500 through 4.24.520, providing certain protection to persons who communicate to government agencies, apply to complaints made under this section. The identity of a whistleblower who complains, in good faith, to the department or the department of health about suspected abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect by any person in a facility, licensed or required to be licensed, or care provided in a facility or in a home setting, by any person associated with a hospice, home care, or home health agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW or other in-home provider, may remain confidential if requested. The identity of the whistleblower shall subsequently remain confidential unless the department determines that the complaint was not made in good faith.

(2)(a) An attempt to expel a resident from a facility, or any type of discriminatory treatment of a resident who is a consumer of hospice, home health, home care services, or other in-home services by whom, or upon whose behalf, a complaint substantiated by the department or the department of health has been submitted to the department or the department of health or any proceeding instituted under or related to this chapter within one year of the filing of the complaint or the institution of the action, raises a rebuttable presumption that the action was in retaliation for the filing of the complaint.

(b) The presumption is rebutted by credible evidence establishing the alleged retaliatory action was initiated prior to the complaint.

(c) The presumption is rebutted by a review conducted by the department that shows that the resident or consumer's needs cannot be met by the reasonable accommodations of the facility due to the increased needs of the resident.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Whistleblower" means a resident or a person with a mandatory duty to report under this chapter, or any person licensed under Title 18 RCW, who in good faith reports alleged abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect to the department, or the department of health, or to a law enforcement agency;

(b) "Workplace reprisal or retaliatory action" means, but is not limited to: Denial of adequate staff to perform duties; frequent staff changes; frequent and undesirable office changes; refusal to assign meaningful work; unwarranted and unsubstantiated report of misconduct under Title 18 RCW; letters of reprimand or unsatisfactory performance evaluations; demotion; denial of employment; or a supervisor or superior encouraging coworkers to behave in a hostile manner toward the whistleblower. The protections provided to whistleblowers under this chapter shall not prevent a facility or an agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW from: (i) Terminating, suspending, or disciplining a whistleblower for other lawful purposes; or (ii) for facilities licensed under chapter 70.128 RCW, reducing the hours of employment or terminating employment as a result of the demonstrated inability to meet payroll requirements. The department shall determine if the facility cannot meet payroll in cases in which

a whistleblower has been terminated or had hours of employment reduced because of the inability of a facility to meet payroll; and

(c) "Reasonable accommodation" by a facility to the needs of a prospective or current resident has the meaning given to this term under the federal Americans with disabilities act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. and other applicable federal or state antidiscrimination laws and regulations.

(4) This section does not prohibit a facility or an agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW from exercising its authority to terminate, suspend, or discipline any employee who engages in workplace reprisal or retaliatory action against a whistleblower.

(5) The department shall adopt rules to implement procedures for filing, investigation, and resolution of whistleblower complaints that are integrated with complaint procedures under this chapter.

(6)(a) Any vulnerable adult who relies upon and is being provided spiritual treatment in lieu of medical treatment in accordance with the tenets and practices of a well-recognized religious denomination may not for that reason alone be considered abandoned, abused, or neglected.

(b) Any vulnerable adult may not be considered abandoned, abused, or neglected under this chapter by any health care provider, facility, facility employee, agency, agency employee, or individual provider who participates in good faith in the withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining treatment from a vulnerable adult under chapter 70.122 RCW, or who acts in accordance with chapter 7.70 RCW or other state laws to withhold or withdraw treatment, goods, or services.

(7) The department, and the department of health for facilities, agencies, or individuals it regulates, shall adopt rules designed to discourage whistleblower complaints made in bad faith or for retaliatory purposes. [1999 c 176 § 14; 1997 c 392 § 202.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**74.34.200 Abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult—Cause of action for damages—Legislative intent.** (1) In addition to other remedies available under the law, a vulnerable adult who has been subjected to abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect either while residing in a facility or in the case of a person residing at home who receives care from a home health, hospice, or home care agency, or an individual provider, shall have a cause of action for damages on account of his or her injuries, pain and suffering, and loss of property sustained thereby. This action shall be available where the defendant is or was a corporation, trust, unincorporated association, partnership, administrator, employee, agent, officer, partner, or director of a facility, or of a home health, hospice, or home care agency licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, as now or subsequently designated, or an individual provider.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature, however, that where there is a dispute about the care or treatment of a vulnerable

(2012 Ed.)

adult, the parties should use the least formal means available to try to resolve the dispute. Where feasible, parties are encouraged but not mandated to employ direct discussion with the health care provider, use of the long-term care ombudsman or other intermediaries, and, when necessary, recourse through licensing or other regulatory authorities.

(3) In an action brought under this section, a prevailing plaintiff shall be awarded his or her actual damages, together with the costs of the suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee. The term "costs" includes, but is not limited to, the reasonable fees for a guardian, guardian ad litem, and experts, if any, that may be necessary to the litigation of a claim brought under this section. [1999 c 176 § 15; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 85.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.34.205 Abandonment, abuse, or neglect—Exceptions.** (1) Any vulnerable adult who relies upon and is being provided spiritual treatment in lieu of medical treatment in accordance with the tenets and practices of a well-recognized religious denomination may not for that reason alone be considered abandoned, abused, or neglected.

(2) Any vulnerable adult may not be considered abandoned, abused, or neglected under this chapter by any health care provider, facility, facility employee, agency, agency employee, or individual provider who participates in good faith in the withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining treatment from a vulnerable adult under chapter 70.122 RCW, or who acts in accordance with chapter 7.70 RCW or other state laws to withhold or withdraw treatment, goods, or services. [1999 c 176 § 16.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**74.34.210 Order for protection or action for damages—Standing—Jurisdiction.** A petition for an order for protection may be brought by the vulnerable adult, the vulnerable adult's guardian or legal fiduciary, the department, or any interested person as defined in RCW 74.34.020. An action for damages under this chapter may be brought by the vulnerable adult, or where necessary, by his or her family members and/or guardian or legal fiduciary. The death of the vulnerable adult shall not deprive the court of jurisdiction over a petition or claim brought under this chapter. Upon petition, after the death of the vulnerable adult, the right to initiate or maintain the action shall be transferred to the executor or administrator of the deceased, for recovery of all damages for the benefit of the deceased person's beneficiaries set forth in chapter 4.20 RCW or if there are no beneficiaries, then for recovery of all economic losses sustained by the deceased person's estate. [2007 c 312 § 11; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 86.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.34.215 Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.** (1) Pending an investigation by the financial institution, the department, or law enforcement, if a financial institution reasonably believes that financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted, the financial institution may, but is not

required to, refuse a transaction requiring disbursement of funds contained in the account:

- (a) Of the vulnerable adult;
- (b) On which the vulnerable adult is a beneficiary, including a trust or guardianship account; or
- (c) Of a person suspected of perpetrating financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

(2) A financial institution may also refuse to disburse funds under this section if the department, law enforcement, or the prosecuting attorney's office provides information to the financial institution demonstrating that it is reasonable to believe that financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted.

(3) A financial institution is not required to refuse to disburse funds when provided with information alleging that financial exploitation may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted, but may use its discretion to determine whether or not to refuse to disburse funds based on the information available to the financial institution.

(4) A financial institution that refuses to disburse funds based on a reasonable belief that financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted shall:

(a) Make a reasonable effort to notify all parties authorized to transact business on the account orally or in writing; and

(b) Report the incident to the adult protective services division of the department and local law enforcement.

(5) Any refusal to disburse funds as authorized by this section based on the reasonable belief of a financial institution that financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted will expire upon the sooner of:

(a) Ten business days after the date on which the financial institution first refused to disburse the funds if the transaction involved the sale of a security or offer to sell a security, as defined in RCW 21.20.005, unless sooner terminated by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

(b) Five business days after the date on which the financial institution first refused to disburse the funds if the transaction did not involve the sale of a security or offer to sell a security, as defined in RCW 21.20.005, unless sooner terminated by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(c) The time when the financial institution is satisfied that the disbursement will not result in financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

(6) A court of competent jurisdiction may enter an order extending the refusal by the financial institution to disburse funds based on a reasonable belief that financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted. A court of competent jurisdiction may also order other protective relief as authorized by RCW 7.40.010 and 74.34.130.

(7) A financial institution or an employee of a financial institution is immune from criminal, civil, and administrative liability for refusing to disburse funds or disbursing funds under this section and for actions taken in furtherance of that determination if the determination of whether or not to disburse funds was made in good faith. [2010 c 133 § 3.]

**74.34.220 Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults—Training—Reporting.** (1) A financial institution shall provide training concerning the financial exploitation of vulnerable adults to the employees specified in subsection (2) of this section within one year of June 10, 2010, and shall thereafter provide such training to the new employees specified in subsection (2) of this section within the first three months of their employment.

(2) A financial institution that is a broker-dealer or investment adviser as defined in RCW 21.20.005 shall provide training concerning the financial exploitation of vulnerable adults to employees who are required to be registered in the state of Washington as salespersons or investment adviser representatives under RCW 21.20.040 and who have contact with customers and access to account information on a regular basis and as part of their job. All other financial institutions shall provide training concerning the financial exploitation of vulnerable adults to employees who have contact with customers and access to account information on a regular basis and as part of their job.

(3) The training must include recognition of indicators of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult, the manner in which employees may report suspected financial exploitation to the department and law enforcement as permissive reporters, and steps employees may take to prevent suspected financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult as authorized by law or agreements between the financial institution and customers of the financial institution. The office of the attorney general and the department shall develop a standardized training that financial institutions may offer, or the financial institution may develop its own training.

(4) A financial institution may provide access to or copies of records that are relevant to suspected financial exploitation or attempted financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult to the department, law enforcement, or the prosecuting attorney's office, either as part of a referral to the department, law enforcement, or the prosecuting attorney's office, or upon request of the department, law enforcement, or the prosecuting attorney's office pursuant to an investigation. The records may include historical records as well as records relating to the most recent transaction or transactions that may comprise financial exploitation.

(5) A financial institution or employee of a financial institution participating in good faith in making a report or providing documentation or access to information to the department, law enforcement, or the prosecuting attorney's office under this chapter shall be immune from criminal, civil, or administrative liability. [2010 c 133 § 5.]

**74.34.300 Vulnerable adult fatality reviews.** (1) The department may conduct a vulnerable adult fatality review in the event of a death of a vulnerable adult when the department has reason to believe that the death of the vulnerable adult may be related to the abuse, abandonment, exploitation, or neglect of the vulnerable adult, or may be related to the vulnerable adult's self-neglect, and the vulnerable adult was:

(a) Receiving home and community-based services in his or her own home, described under chapters 74.39 and 74.39A RCW, within sixty days preceding his or her death; or

(b) Living in his or her own home and was the subject of a report under this chapter received by the department within twelve months preceding his or her death.

(2) When conducting a vulnerable adult fatality review of a person who had been receiving hospice care services before the person's death, the review shall provide particular consideration to the similarities between the signs and symptoms of abuse and those of many patients receiving hospice care services.

(3) All files, reports, records, communications, and working papers used or developed for purposes of a fatality review are confidential and not subject to disclosure pursuant to RCW 74.34.095.

(4) The department may adopt rules to implement this section. [2008 c 146 § 10.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2008 c 146:** See notes following RCW 74.41.040.

**74.34.305 Statement to vulnerable adults.** (1) When the department opens an investigation of a report of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult, the department shall, at the time of the interview of the vulnerable adult who is an alleged victim, provide a written statement of the rights afforded under this chapter and other applicable law to alleged victims or legal guardians. This statement must include the department's name, address, and telephone number and may include other appropriate referrals. The statement must be substantially in the following form:

"You are entitled to be free from abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, and neglect. If there is a reason to believe that you have experienced abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect, you have the right to:

(a) Make a report to the department of social and health services and law enforcement and share any information you believe could be relevant to the investigation, and identify any persons you believe could have relevant information.

(b) Be free from retaliation for reporting or causing a report of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect.

(c) Be treated with dignity and addressed with respectful language.

(d) Reasonable accommodation for your disability when reporting, and during investigations and administrative proceedings.

(e) Request an order that prohibits anyone who has abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected you from remaining in your home, having contact with you, or accessing your money or property.

(f) Receive from the department of social and health services information and appropriate referrals to other agencies that can advocate, investigate, or take action.

(g) Be informed of the status of investigations, proceedings, court actions, and outcomes by the agency that is handling any case in which you are a victim.

(h) Request referrals for advocacy or legal assistance to help with safety planning, investigations, and hearings.

(i) Complain to the department of social and health services, formally or informally, about investigations or proceedings, and receive a prompt response."

(2012 Ed.)

(2) This section shall not be construed to create any new cause of action or limit any existing remedy. [2011 c 170 § 3.]

**74.34.310 Service of process or filing fees prohibited—Certified copies.** A public agency may not charge a fee for filing or service of process to petitioners seeking relief under this chapter. Petitioners must be provided the necessary number of certified copies at no cost. [2012 c 156 § 1.]

**74.34.900 Severability—1984 c 97.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1984 c 97 § 18.]

**74.34.901 Severability—1986 c 187.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1986 c 187 § 12.]

**74.34.902 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 181.]

## Chapter 74.36 RCW

### FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR THE AGING

Sections	
74.36.100	Department to participate in and administer Federal Older Americans Act of 1965.
74.36.110	Community programs and projects for the aging—Allotments for—Purpose.
74.36.120	Community programs and projects for the aging—Standards for eligibility and approval—Informal hearing on denial of approval.
74.36.130	Community programs and projects for the aging—State funding, limitations—Payments, type.

*State council on aging: RCW 43.20A.680.*

**74.36.100 Department to participate in and administer Federal Older Americans Act of 1965.** The department of social and health services is authorized to take advantage of and participate in the Federal Older Americans Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-73, 89th Congress, 79 Stat. 220) and to accept, administer and disburse any federal funds that may be available under said act. [1970 ex.s. c 18 § 27; 1967 ex.s. c 33 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.36.110 Community programs and projects for the aging—Allotments for—Purpose.** The secretary of the department of social and health services or his designee is authorized to allot for such purposes all or a portion of whatever state funds the legislature appropriates or are otherwise made available for the purpose of matching local funds dedicated to community programs and projects for the aging. The purpose of RCW 74.36.110 through 74.36.130 is to stimulate and assist local communities to obtain federal funds made available under the Federal Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended. [1971 ex.s. c 169 § 10.]

*Moneys in possession of secretary not subject to certain proceedings: RCW 74.13.070.*

**74.36.120 Community programs and projects for the aging—Standards for eligibility and approval—Informal hearing on denial of approval.** (1) The secretary or his designee shall adopt and set forth standards for determining the eligibility and approval of community projects and priorities therefor, and shall have final authority to approve or deny such projects and funding requested under RCW 74.36.110 through 74.36.130.

(2) Only community project proposals submitted by local public agencies, by private nonprofit agencies or organizations, or by public or other nonprofit institutions of higher education, shall be eligible for approval.

(3) Any community project applicant whose application for approval is denied will be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing before the secretary or his designee, but the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, shall not apply. [1971 ex.s. c 169 § 11.]

**74.36.130 Community programs and projects for the aging—State funding, limitations—Payments, type.** (1) State funds made available under RCW 74.36.110 through 74.36.130 for any project shall not exceed fifty per centum of the nonfederal share of the costs. To the extent that federal law permits, and the secretary or his designee deems appropriate, the local community share and/or the state share may be in the form of cash or in-kind resources.

(2) Payments made under RCW 74.36.110 through 74.36.130 may be made in advance or by way of reimbursement, and in such installments and on such conditions as the secretary or his designee may determine, including provisions for adequate accounting systems, reasonable record retention periods and financial audits. [1971 ex.s. c 169 § 12.]

*Moneys in possession of secretary not subject to certain proceedings: RCW 74.13.070.*

## Chapter 74.38 RCW SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICES ACT

### Sections

74.38.010	Legislative recognition—Public policy.
74.38.020	Definitions.
74.38.030	Administration of community-based services program—Area plans—Annual state plan—Determination of low-income eligible persons.
74.38.040	Scope and extent of community based services program.

74.38.050	Availability of services for persons other than those of low income—Utilization of volunteers and public assistance recipients—Private agencies—Well-adult clinics—Fee schedule, exceptions.
74.38.060	Expansion of federal programs authorized.
74.38.061	Expansion of federal programs authorized.
74.38.070	Reduced utility rates for low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens.
74.38.900	Short title.
74.38.905	Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131.

### 74.38.010 Legislative recognition—Public policy.

The legislature recognizes the need for the development and expansion of alternative services and forms of care for senior citizens. Such services should be designed to restore individuals to, or maintain them at, the level of independent living they are capable of attaining. These alternative services and forms of care should be designed to both complement the present forms of institutional care and create a system whereby appropriate services can be rendered according to the care needs of an individual. The provision of service should continue until the client is able to function independently, moves to an institution, moves from the state, dies, or withdraws from the program.

Therefore, it shall be the policy of this state to develop, expand, or maintain those programs which provide an alternative to institutional care when that form of care is premature, unnecessary, or inappropriate. [1977 ex.s. c 321 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131 § 1.]

**74.38.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the following meaning unless the content clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Area agency" means an agency, other than a state agency, designated by the department to carry out programs or services approved by the department in a designated geographical area of the state.

(2) "Area plan" means the document submitted annually by an area agency to the department for approval which sets forth (a) goals and measurable objectives, (b) review of past expenditures and accounting of revenue for the previous year, (c) estimated revenue and expenditures for the ensuing year, and (d) the planning, coordination, administration, social services, and evaluation activities to be undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3024 et seq.), as now or hereafter amended.

(3) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(4) "Office" shall mean the office on aging which is the organizational unit within the department responsible for coordinating and administering aging problems.

(5) "Eligible persons" means senior citizens who are:

(a) Sixty-five years of age or more; or

(b) Sixty years of age or more and are either (i) nonemployed, or (ii) employed for twenty hours per week or less; and

(c) In need of services to enable them to remain in their customary homes because of physical, mental, or other debilitating impairments.

(6) "Low income" means initial resources or subsequent income at or below forty percent of the state median income as promulgated by the secretary of the United States department of health, education and welfare for Title XX of the

Social Security Act, or, in the alternative, a level determined by the department and approved by the legislature.

(7) "Income" shall have the same meaning as in chapter 74.04 RCW, as now or hereafter amended; except, that money received from RCW 74.38.060 shall be excluded from this definition.

(8) "Resource" shall have the same meaning as in chapter 74.04 RCW, as now or hereafter amended.

(9) "Need" shall have the same meaning as in chapter 74.04 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 817; 1977 ex.s. c 321 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.38.030 Administration of community-based services program—Area plans—Annual state plan—Determination of low-income eligible persons.** (1) The program of community-based services authorized under this chapter shall be administered by the department. Such services may be provided by the department or through purchase of service contracts, vendor payments or direct client grants.

The department shall, under stipend or grant programs provided under RCW 74.38.060, utilize, to the maximum staffing level possible, eligible persons in its administration, supervision, and operation.

(2) The department shall be responsible for planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of services provided under this chapter but shall avoid duplication of services.

(3) The department may designate area agencies in cities of not less than twenty thousand population or in regional areas within the state. These agencies shall submit area plans, as required by the department. For area plans prepared for submission in 2009, and thereafter, the area agencies may include the findings and recommendations of area-wide planning initiatives that they may undertake with appropriate local and regional partners regarding the changing age demographics of their area and the implications of this demographic change for public policies and public services. They shall also submit, in the manner prescribed by the department, such other program or fiscal data as may be required.

(4) The department shall develop an annual state plan pursuant to the Older Americans Act of 1965, as now or hereafter amended. This plan shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Area agencies' programs and services approved by the department;

(b) Other programs and services authorized by the department; and

(c) Coordination of all programs and services.

(5) The department shall establish rules and regulations for the determination of low-income eligible persons. Such determination shall be related to need based on the initial resources and subsequent income of the person entering into a program or service. This determination shall not prevent the eligible person from utilizing a program or service provided by the department or area agency. However, if the determination is that such eligible person is nonlow income, the provision of RCW 74.38.050 shall be applied as of the date of such determination. [2008 c 146 § 5; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2008 c 146:** See notes following RCW 74.41.040.

(2012 Ed.)

**74.38.040 Scope and extent of community based services program.** The community based services for low-income eligible persons provided by the department or the respective area agencies may include:

(1) Access services designed to provide identification of eligible persons, assessment of individual needs, reference to the appropriate service, and follow-up service where required. These services shall include information and referral, outreach, transportation and counseling;

(2) Day care offered on a regular, recurrent basis. General nursing, rehabilitation, personal care, nutritional services, social casework, mental health as provided pursuant to chapter 71.24 RCW and/or limited transportation services may be made available within this program;

(3) In-home care for persons, including basic health care; performance of various household tasks and other necessary chores, or, a combination of these services;

(4) Counseling on death for the terminally ill and care and attendance at the time of death; except, that this is not to include reimbursement for the use of life-sustaining mechanisms;

(5) Health services which will identify health needs and which are designed to avoid institutionalization; assist in securing admission to medical institutions or other health related facilities when required; and, assist in obtaining health services from public or private agencies or providers of health services. These services shall include health screening and evaluation, in-home services, health education, and such health appliances which will further the independence and well-being of the person;

(6) The provision of low cost, nutritionally sound meals in central locations or in the person's home in the instance of incapacity. Also, supportive services may be provided in nutritional education, shopping assistance, diet counseling and other services to sustain the nutritional well-being of these persons;

(7) The provisions of services to maintain a person's home in a state of adequate repair, insofar as is possible, for their safety and comfort. These services shall be limited, but may include housing counseling, minor repair and maintenance, and moving assistance when such repair will not attain standards of health and safety, as determined by the department;

(8) Civil legal services, as limited by RCW 2.50.100, for counseling and representation in the areas of housing, consumer protection, public entitlements, property, and related fields of law;

(9) Long-term care ombudsman programs for residents of all long-term care facilities. [1983 c 290 § 14; 1977 ex.s. c 321 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.38.050 Availability of services for persons other than those of low income—Utilization of volunteers and public assistance recipients—Private agencies—Well-adult clinics—Fee schedule, exceptions.** The services provided in RCW 74.38.040 may be provided to nonlow income eligible persons: PROVIDED, That the department and the area agencies on aging shall utilize volunteer workers and public assistant recipients to the maximum extent possible to provide the services provided in RCW 74.38.040: PRO-

VIDED, FURTHER, That the department and the area agencies shall utilize the bid procedure pursuant to chapter 43.19 RCW for providing such services to low income and nonlow income persons whenever the services to be provided are available through private agencies at a cost savings to the department. The department shall establish a fee schedule based on the ability to pay and graduated to full recovery of the cost of the service provided; except, that nutritional services, health screening, services under the long-term care ombudsman program under chapter 43.190 RCW and access services provided in RCW 74.38.040 shall not be based on need and no fee shall be charged; except further, notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, that well adult clinic services may be provided in lieu of health screening services if such clinics use the fee schedule established by this section. [1983 c 290 § 15; 1979 ex.s. c 147 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 321 § 4; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.38.060 Expansion of federal programs authorized.** The department may expand the foster grandparent, senior companion and retired senior volunteer programs funded under the Federal Volunteer Agency (ACTION) (P.L. 93-113 Title II), or its successor agency, which provide senior citizens with volunteer stipends, out-of-pocket expenses, or wages to perform services in the community. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131 § 6.]

*RSVP funding: RCW 43.63A.275.*

**74.38.061 Expansion of federal programs authorized.** The department may expand the foster grandparent, senior companion, and retired senior volunteer programs funded under the Federal Volunteer Agency (ACTION) (P.L. 93-113 Title II), or its successor agency, which provide senior citizens with volunteer stipends, out-of-pocket expenses, or wages to perform services in the community. [1977 ex.s. c 321 § 5.]

**74.38.070 Reduced utility rates for low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any county, city, town, public utility district or other municipal corporation, or quasi municipal corporation providing utility services may provide such services at reduced rates for low-income senior citizens or other low-income citizens: PROVIDED, That, for the purposes of this section, "low-income senior citizen" or "other low-income citizen" shall be defined by appropriate ordinance or resolution adopted by the governing body of the county, city, town, public utility district or other municipal corporation, or quasi municipal corporation providing the utility services. Any reduction in rates granted in whatever manner to low-income senior citizens or other low-income citizens in one part of a service area shall be uniformly extended to low-income senior citizens or other low-income citizens in all other parts of the service area. [2002 c 270 § 1; 1998 c 300 § 8; 1990 c 164 § 1; 1988 c 44 § 1; 1980 c 160 § 1; 1979 c 116 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1998 c 300:** See RCW 19.29A.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.38.900 Short title.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the "Senior Citizens Services Act". [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131 § 7.]

**74.38.905 Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 131 § 10.]

## Chapter 74.39 RCW

### LONG-TERM CARE SERVICE OPTIONS

#### Sections

74.39.001	Finding.
74.39.005	Purpose.
74.39.007	Definitions.
74.39.010	Option—Flexibility—Title XIX of the federal social security act.
74.39.020	Opportunities—Increase of federal funds—Title XIX of the federal social security act.
74.39.030	Community options program entry system—Waiver—Respite services.
74.39.041	Community residential options—Nursing facility eligible clients.
74.39.050	Individuals with functional disabilities—Self-directed care.
74.39.060	Personal aide providers—Registration.
74.39.070	Personal aide—Qualification exemptions.
74.39.900	Severability—1989 c 427.

**74.39.001 Finding.** The legislature finds that:

Washington's chronically functionally disabled population is growing at a rapid pace. This growth, along with economic and social changes and the coming age wave, presents opportunities for the development of long-term care community services networks and enhanced volunteer participation in those networks, and creates a need for different approaches to currently fragmented long-term care programs. The legislature further recognizes that persons with functional disabilities should receive long-term care services that encourage individual dignity, autonomy, and development of their fullest human potential. [1989 c 427 § 1.]

**74.39.005 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to:

- (1) Establish a balanced range of health, social, and supportive services that deliver long-term care services to chronically, functionally disabled persons of all ages;
- (2) Ensure that functional ability shall be the determining factor in defining long-term care service needs and that these needs will be determined by a uniform system for comprehensively assessing functional disability;
- (3) Ensure that services are provided in the most independent living situation consistent with individual needs;
- (4) Ensure that long-term care service options shall be developed and made available that enable functionally disabled persons to continue to live in their homes or other community residential facilities while in the care of their families or other volunteer support persons;
- (5) Ensure that long-term care services are coordinated in a way that minimizes administrative cost, eliminates unnecessarily complex organization, minimizes program and service duplication, and maximizes the use of financial resources in directly meeting the needs of persons with functional limitations;

(6) Develop a systematic plan for the coordination, planning, budgeting, and administration of long-term care services now fragmented between the division of developmental disabilities, division of mental health, aging and adult services administration, division of children and family services, division of vocational rehabilitation, office on AIDS, division of health, and bureau of alcohol and substance abuse;

(7) Encourage the development of a statewide long-term care case management system that effectively coordinates the plan of care and services provided to eligible clients;

(8) Ensure that individuals and organizations affected by or interested in long-term care programs have an opportunity to participate in identification of needs and priorities, policy development, planning, and development, implementation, and monitoring of state supported long-term care programs;

(9) Support educational institutions in Washington state to assist in the procurement of federal support for expanded research and training in long-term care; and

(10) Facilitate the development of a coordinated system of long-term care education that is clearly articulated between all levels of higher education and reflective of both in-home care needs and institutional care needs of functionally disabled persons. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 10; 1989 c 427 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39.007 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 74.39.007, 74.39.050, 74.39.060, 74.39.070, 43.190.060, and section 1, chapter 336, Laws of 1999 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Self-directed care" means the process in which an adult person, who is prevented by a functional disability from performing a manual function related to health care that an individual would otherwise perform for himself or herself, chooses to direct and supervise a paid personal aide to perform those tasks.

(2) "Personal aide" means an individual, working privately or as an individual provider under contract or agreement with the department of social and health services, who acts at the direction of an adult person with a functional disability living in his or her own home and provides that person with health care services that a person without a functional disability can perform. [1999 c 336 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 336:** "(1) The legislature finds that certain aspects of health licensure laws have the unintended consequence of limiting the right of persons with functional disabilities to care for themselves in their own home, and of securing assistance from other persons in performing routine health-related tasks that persons without these disabilities customarily perform.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to clarify the right of adults with functional disabilities to choose to self-direct their own health-related tasks through personal aides, and to describe the circumstances under which self-directed care may take place in the home setting. The legislature declares that it is in the public interest to preserve the autonomy and dignity of persons with functional disabilities to care for themselves in their own homes, among the continuum of options for health care services where the judgment and control over the care rests with the individual." [1999 c 336 § 1.]

**74.39.010 Option—Flexibility—Title XIX of the federal social security act.** A valuable option available to Washington state to achieve the goals of RCW 74.39.001 and 74.39.005 is the flexibility in personal care and other long-term care services encouraged by the federal government

(2012 Ed.)

under Title XIX of the federal social security act. These services include options to expand community-based long-term care services, such as adult family homes, congregate care facilities, respite, chore services, hospice, and case management. [1989 c 427 § 3.]

**74.39.020 Opportunities—Increase of federal funds—Title XIX of the federal social security act.** Title XIX of the federal social security act offers valuable opportunities to increase federal funds available to provide community-based long-term care services to functionally disabled persons in their homes, and in noninstitutional residential facilities, such as adult family homes and congregate care facilities. [1989 c 427 § 9.]

**74.39.030 Community options program entry system—Waiver—Respite services.** The department shall request an amendment to its community options program entry system waiver under section 1905(c) of the federal social security act to include respite services as a service available under the waiver. [1989 c 427 § 11.]

**74.39.041 Community residential options—Nursing facility eligible clients.** (1) To the extent of available funds and subject to any conditions placed on appropriations for this purpose, the department may provide one or more home and community-based waiver programs in accordance with section 1915(c) of the federal social security act for Washington residents who have a gross income in excess of three hundred percent of the federal supplemental security income benefit level. The waiver services provided in accordance with this section may differ from, and shall operate with a separate limit or limits on total enrollment than, those provided for persons who are categorically needy as defined in Title XIX of the federal social security act. The department shall adopt rules to establish eligibility criteria, applicable income standards, and the specific waiver services to be provided. Total annual enrollment levels and the services to be provided shall be as specified in the waiver agreement or agreements with the federal government, subject to any conditions on appropriations for this purpose.

(2) If a nursing facility resident becomes eligible for home and community-based waiver service alternatives to nursing facility care, but chooses to continue to reside in a nursing facility, the department must allow that choice. However, if the resident is a medicaid recipient, the resident must require a nursing facility level of care.

(3) If a recipient of home and community-based waiver services may continue to receive home and community-based waiver services, despite an otherwise disqualifying level of income, but chooses to seek admission to a nursing facility, the department must allow that choice. However, if the resident is a medicaid recipient, the resident must require a nursing facility level of care.

(4) The department will fully disclose to all individuals eligible for waiver services under this section the services available in different long-term care settings. [2001 c 269 § 2.]

**74.39.050 Individuals with functional disabilities—Self-directed care.** (1) An adult person with a functional

disability living in his or her own home may direct and supervise a paid personal aide in the performance of a health care task.

(2) The following requirements shall guide the provision of self-directed care under chapter 336, Laws of 1999:

(a) Health care tasks are those medical, nursing, or home health services that enable the person to maintain independence, personal hygiene, and safety in his or her own home, and that are services that a person without a functional disability would customarily and personally perform without the assistance of a licensed health care provider.

(b) The individual who chooses to self-direct a health care task is responsible for initiating self-direction by informing the health care professional who has ordered the treatment which involves that task of the individual's intent to perform that task through self-direction.

(c) When state funds are used to pay for self-directed tasks, a description of those tasks will be included in the client's comprehensive assessment, and subject to review with each annual reassessment.

(d) When a licensed health care provider orders treatment involving a health care task to be performed through self-directed care, the responsibility to ascertain that the patient understands the treatment and will be able to follow through on the self-directed care task is the same as it would be for a patient who performs the health care task for himself or herself, and the licensed health care provider incurs no additional liability when ordering a health care task which is to be performed through self-directed care.

(e) The role of the personal aide in self-directed care is limited to performing the physical aspect of health care tasks under the direction of the person for whom the tasks are being done. This shall not affect the ability of a personal aide to provide other home care services, such as personal care or homemaker services, which enable the client to remain at home.

(f) The responsibility to initiate self-directed health care tasks, to possess the necessary knowledge and training for those tasks, and to exercise judgment regarding the manner of their performance rests and remains with the person who has chosen to self-direct those tasks, including the decision to employ and dismiss a personal aide. [1999 c 336 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 336:** See note following RCW 74.39.007.

#### **74.39.060 Personal aide providers—Registration.**

Any individual who, for compensation, serves as a personal aide provider under contract or agreement with the department of social and health services, to a person who self-directs his or her own care in his or her own home, shall register with the department of social and health services. [1999 c 336 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 336:** See note following RCW 74.39.007.

#### **74.39.070 Personal aide—Qualification exemptions.**

A personal aide, in the performance of a health care task, who is directed and supervised by a person with a functional disability in his or her own home, is exempt from any legal requirement to qualify and be credentialed by the department of health as a health care provider under Title 18 RCW to the extent of the responsibilities provided and health care tasks

performed under chapter 336, Laws of 1999. [1999 c 336 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 336:** See note following RCW 74.39.007.

**74.39.900 Severability—1989 c 427.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1989 c 427 § 43.]

## **Chapter 74.39A RCW LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES OPTIONS—EXPANSION**

### Sections

- 74.39A.005 Findings.
- 74.39A.007 Purpose and intent.
- 74.39A.009 Definitions.
- 74.39A.010 Assisted living services and enhanced adult residential care—Contracts—Rules.
- 74.39A.020 Adult residential care—Contracts—Rules.
- 74.39A.030 Expansion of home and community services—Payment rates.
- 74.39A.040 Department assessment of and assistance to hospital patients in need of long-term care.
- 74.39A.051 Quality improvement principles.
- 74.39A.056 Criminal history checks on long-term care workers.
- 74.39A.060 Toll-free telephone number for complaints—Investigation and referral—Rules—Discrimination or retaliation prohibited.
- 74.39A.070 Rules for qualifications and training requirements—Requirement that contractors comply with federal and state regulations.
- 74.39A.074 Training requirements for long-term care workers.
- 74.39A.076 Training requirements for individual providers caring for family members.
- 74.39A.080 Department authority to take actions in response to noncompliance or violations.
- 74.39A.086 Enforcement actions against persons not certified as home care aides and their employers.
- 74.39A.090 Discharge planning—Contracts for case management services and reassessment and reauthorization—Assessment of case management roles and quality of in-home care services—Plan of care model language.
- 74.39A.095 Case management services—Agency on aging oversight—Plan of care—Termination of contract—Rejection of individual provider.
- 74.39A.100 Chore services—Legislative finding, intent.
- 74.39A.110 Chore services—Legislative policy and intent regarding available funds—Levels of service.
- 74.39A.120 Chore services—Expenditure limitation—Priorities—Rule on patient resource limit.
- 74.39A.130 Chore services—Department to develop program.
- 74.39A.140 Chore services—Employment of public assistance recipients.
- 74.39A.150 Chore services for persons with disabilities—Eligibility.
- 74.39A.155 Support for persons at risk of institutional placement.
- 74.39A.160 Transfer of assets—Penalties.
- 74.39A.170 Recovery of payments—Transfer of assets rules for eligibility—Disclosure of estate recovery costs, terms, and conditions.
- 74.39A.180 Authority to pay for probate actions and collection of bad debts.
- 74.39A.200 Training curricula, materials—In public domain—Exceptions.
- 74.39A.210 Disclosure of employee information—Employer immunity—Rebuttable presumption.
- 74.39A.220 Findings.
- 74.39A.240 Definitions.
- 74.39A.250 Department duties.
- 74.39A.261 Department duties—Criminal background checks on individual providers.
- 74.39A.270 Collective bargaining—Circumstances in which individual providers are considered public employees—Exceptions.
- 74.39A.300 Funding.
- 74.39A.310 Contract for individual home care services providers—Cost of increase in wages and benefits funded—Formula.
- 74.39A.320 Establishment of capital add-on rate—Determination of Medicaid occupancy percentage.
- 74.39A.325 In-home personal care or respite services—Electronic time-keeping.

- 74.39A.326 In-home personal care or respite services to family members—Department not authorized to pay—Exceptions—Enforcement—Rules.
- 74.39A.331 Peer mentoring.
- 74.39A.341 Continuing education requirements for long-term care workers.
- 74.39A.351 Advanced training.
- 74.39A.360 Training partnership.
- 74.39A.370 Addressing long-term care complaint workload.
- 74.39A.380 Internal quality review and accountability program for residential care services—Quality assurance panel—Report.
- 74.39A.800 Changes to agreements—Performance of duties.
- 74.39A.900 Section captions—1993 c 508.
- 74.39A.901 Conflict with federal requirements.
- 74.39A.902 Severability—1993 c 508.
- 74.39A.903 Effective date—1993 c 508.

**74.39A.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that the aging of the population and advanced medical technology have resulted in a growing number of persons who require assistance. The primary resource for long-term care continues to be family and friends. However, these traditional caregivers are increasingly employed outside the home. There is a growing demand for improvement and expansion of home and community-based long-term care services to support and complement the services provided by these informal caregivers.

The legislature further finds that the public interest would best be served by a broad array of long-term care services that support persons who need such services at home or in the community whenever practicable and that promote individual autonomy, dignity, and choice.

The legislature finds that as other long-term care options become more available, the relative need for nursing home beds is likely to decline. The legislature recognizes, however, that nursing home care will continue to be a critical part of the state's long-term care options, and that such services should promote individual dignity, autonomy, and a homelike environment.

The legislature finds that many recipients of in-home services are vulnerable and their health and well-being are dependent on their caregivers. The quality, skills, and knowledge of their caregivers are often the key to good care. The legislature finds that the need for well-trained caregivers is growing as the state's population ages and clients' needs increase. The legislature intends that current training standards be enhanced. [2000 c 121 § 9; 1993 c 508 § 1.]

**74.39A.007 Purpose and intent.** It is the legislature's intent that:

- (1) Long-term care services administered by the department of social and health services include a balanced array of health, social, and supportive services that promote individual choice, dignity, and the highest practicable level of independence;
- (2) Home and community-based services be developed, expanded, or maintained in order to meet the needs of consumers and to maximize effective use of limited resources;
- (3) Long-term care services be responsive and appropriate to individual need and also cost-effective for the state;
- (4) Nursing home care is provided in such a manner and in such an environment as will promote maintenance or enhancement of the quality of life of each resident and timely discharge to a less restrictive care setting when appropriate; and

(5) State health planning for nursing home bed supply take into account increased availability of other home and community-based service options. [1993 c 508 § 2.]

**74.39A.009 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Adult family home" means a home licensed under chapter 70.128 RCW.

(2) "Adult residential care" means services provided by an assisted living facility that is licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW and that has a contract with the department under RCW 74.39A.020 to provide personal care services.

(3) "Assisted living facility" means a facility licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW.

(4) "Assisted living services" means services provided by an assisted living facility that has a contract with the department under RCW 74.39A.010 to provide personal care services, intermittent nursing services, and medication administration services, and the resident is housed in a private apartment-like unit.

(5) "Community residential service business" means a business that:

(a) Is certified by the department of social and health services to provide to individuals who have a developmental disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(4):

- (i) Group home services;
- (ii) Group training home services;
- (iii) Supported living services; or
- (iv) Voluntary placement services provided in a licensed staff residential facility for children;

(b) Has a contract with the division of developmental disabilities to provide the services identified in (a) of this subsection; and

(c) All of the business's long-term care workers are subject to statutory or regulatory training requirements that are required to provide the services identified in (a) of this subsection.

(6) "Core competencies" means basic training topics, including but not limited to, communication skills, worker self-care, problem solving, maintaining dignity, consumer directed care, cultural sensitivity, body mechanics, fall prevention, skin and body care, long-term care worker roles and boundaries, supporting activities of daily living, and food preparation and handling.

(7) "Cost-effective care" means care provided in a setting of an individual's choice that is necessary to promote the most appropriate level of physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being consistent with client choice, in an environment that is appropriate to the care and safety needs of the individual, and such care cannot be provided at a lower cost in any other setting. But this in no way precludes an individual from choosing a different residential setting to achieve his or her desired quality of life.

(8) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(9) "Developmental disability" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 71A.10.020.

(10) "Direct care worker" means a paid caregiver who provides direct, hands-on personal care services to persons with disabilities or the elderly requiring long-term care.

(11) "Enhanced adult residential care" means services provided by an assisted living facility that is licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW and that has a contract with the department under RCW 74.39A.010 to provide personal care services, intermittent nursing services, and medication administration services.

(12) "Functionally disabled person" or "person who is functionally disabled" is synonymous with chronic functionally disabled and means a person who because of a recognized chronic physical or mental condition or disease, or developmental disability, including chemical dependency, is impaired to the extent of being dependent upon others for direct care, support, supervision, or monitoring to perform activities of daily living. "Activities of daily living", in this context, means self-care abilities related to personal care such as bathing, eating, using the toilet, dressing, and transfer. Instrumental activities of daily living may also be used to assess a person's functional abilities as they are related to the mental capacity to perform activities in the home and the community such as cooking, shopping, house cleaning, doing laundry, working, and managing personal finances.

(13) "Home and community-based services" means adult family homes, in-home services, and other services administered or provided by contract by the department directly or through contract with area agencies on aging or similar services provided by facilities and agencies licensed by the department.

(14) "Home care aide" means a long-term care worker who has obtained certification as a home care aide by the department of health.

(15) "Individual provider" is defined according to RCW 74.39A.240.

(16) "Long-term care" is synonymous with chronic care and means care and supports delivered indefinitely, intermittently, or over a sustained time to persons of any age disabled by chronic mental or physical illness, disease, chemical dependency, or a medical condition that is permanent, not reversible or curable, or is long-lasting and severely limits their mental or physical capacity for self-care. The use of this definition is not intended to expand the scope of services, care, or assistance by any individuals, groups, residential care settings, or professions unless otherwise expressed by law.

(17)(a) "Long-term care workers" include all persons who provide paid, hands-on personal care services for the elderly or persons with disabilities, including but not limited to individual providers of home care services, direct care workers employed by home care agencies, providers of home care services to persons with developmental disabilities under Title 71A RCW, all direct care workers in state-licensed assisted living facilities, and adult family homes, respite care providers, direct care workers employed by community residential service businesses, and any other direct care worker providing home or community-based services to the elderly or persons with functional disabilities or developmental disabilities.

(b) "Long-term care workers" do not include: (i) Persons employed by the following facilities or agencies: Nursing homes subject to chapter 18.51 RCW, hospitals or other acute care settings, residential habilitation centers under chapter 71A.20 RCW, facilities certified under 42 C.F.R., Part 483, hospice agencies subject to chapter 70.127 RCW, adult day

care centers, and adult day health care centers; or (ii) persons who are not paid by the state or by a private agency or facility licensed by the state to provide personal care services.

(18) "Nursing home" means a facility licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW.

(19) "Personal care services" means physical or verbal assistance with activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living provided because of a person's functional disability.

(20) "Population specific competencies" means basic training topics unique to the care needs of the population the long-term care worker is serving, including but not limited to, mental health, dementia, developmental disabilities, young adults with physical disabilities, and older adults.

(21) "Qualified instructor" means a registered nurse or other person with specific knowledge, training, and work experience in the provision of direct, hands-on personal care and other assistance services to the elderly or persons with disabilities requiring long-term care.

(22) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and health services.

(23) "Secretary of health" means the secretary of health or the secretary's designee.

(24) "Training partnership" means a joint partnership or trust that includes the office of the governor and the exclusive bargaining representative of individual providers under RCW 74.39A.270 with the capacity to provide training, peer mentoring, and workforce development, or other services to individual providers.

(25) "Tribally licensed assisted living facility" means an assisted living facility licensed by a federally recognized Indian tribe in which a facility provides services similar to assisted living facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW. [2012 c 164 § 202; 2012 c 10 § 63; 2009 c 580 § 1; 2009 c 2 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1029, approved November 4, 2008); 2007 c 361 § 2; 2004 c 142 § 14; 1997 c 392 § 103.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

(2) This section was amended by 2012 c 10 § 63 and by 2012 c 164 § 202, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Intent—Findings—Construction—Short title—2009 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1029):** See notes following RCW 18.88B.050.

**Construction—2007 c 361:** "The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act." [2007 c 361 § 11.]

**Severability—2007 c 361:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2007 c 361 § 12.]

**Captions not law—2007 c 361:** "Captions used in this act are not any part of the law." [2007 c 361 § 15.]

**Short title—2007 c 361:** "This act may be known and cited as the establishing quality in long-term care services act." [2007 c 361 § 16.]

**Effective dates—2004 c 142:** See note following RCW 18.20.020.

**Findings—1997 c 392:** "The legislature finds and declares that the state's current fragmented categorical system for administering services to persons with disabilities and the elderly is not client and family-centered and has created significant organizational barriers to providing high quality, safe, and effective care and support. The present fragmented system results in

uncoordinated enforcement of regulations designed to protect the health and safety of disabled persons, lacks accountability due to the absence of management information systems' client tracking data, and perpetuates difficulty in matching client needs and services to multiple categorical funding sources.

The legislature further finds that Washington's chronically functionally disabled population of all ages is growing at a rapid pace due to a population of the very old and increased incidence of disability due in large measure to technological improvements in acute care causing people to live longer. Further, to meet the significant and growing long-term care needs into the near future, rapid, fundamental changes must take place in the way we finance, organize, and provide long-term care services to the chronically functionally disabled.

The legislature further finds that the public demands that long-term care services be safe, client and family-centered, and designed to encourage individual dignity, autonomy, and development of the fullest human potential at home or in other residential settings, whenever practicable." [1997 c 392 § 102.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.010 Assisted living services and enhanced adult residential care—Contracts—Rules.** (1) To the extent of available funding, the department of social and health services may contract with licensed assisted living facilities under chapter 18.20 RCW and tribally licensed assisted living facilities for assisted living services and enhanced adult residential care. The department shall develop rules for facilities that contract with the department for assisted living services or enhanced adult residential care to establish:

(a) Facility service standards consistent with the principles in RCW 74.39A.051 and consistent with chapter 70.129 RCW;

(b) Standards for resident living areas consistent with RCW 74.39A.030;

(c) Training requirements for providers and their staff.

(2) The department's rules shall provide that services in assisted living and enhanced adult residential care:

(a) Recognize individual needs, privacy, and autonomy;

(b) Include, but not be limited to, personal care, nursing services, medication administration, and supportive services that promote independence and self-sufficiency;

(c) Are of sufficient scope to assure that each resident who chooses to remain in the assisted living or enhanced adult residential care may do so, to the extent that the care provided continues to be cost-effective and safe and promote the most appropriate level of physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being consistent with client choice;

(d) Are directed first to those persons most likely, in the absence of enhanced adult residential care or assisted living services, to need hospital, nursing facility, or other out-of-home placement; and

(e) Are provided in compliance with applicable facility and professional licensing laws and rules.

(3) When a facility contracts with the department for assisted living services or enhanced adult residential care, only services and facility standards that are provided to or in behalf of the assisted living services or enhanced adult residential care client shall be subject to the department's rules. [2012 c 164 § 706; 2012 c 10 § 64; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 14; 1993 c 508 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2012 c 10 § 64 and by 2012 c 164 § 706, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

(2012 Ed.)

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.020 Adult residential care—Contracts—Rules.** (1) To the extent of available funding, the department of social and health services may contract for adult residential care.

(2) The department shall, by rule, develop terms and conditions for facilities that contract with the department for adult residential care to establish:

(a) Facility service standards consistent with the principles in RCW 74.39A.051 and consistent with chapter 70.129 RCW; and

(b) Training requirements for providers and their staff.

(3) The department shall, by rule, provide that services in adult residential care facilities:

(a) Recognize individual needs, privacy, and autonomy;

(b) Include personal care and other services that promote independence and self-sufficiency and aging in place;

(c) Are directed first to those persons most likely, in the absence of adult residential care services, to need hospital, nursing facility, or other out-of-home placement; and

(d) Are provided in compliance with applicable facility and professional licensing laws and rules.

(4) When a facility contracts with the department for adult residential care, only services and facility standards that are provided to or in behalf of the adult residential care client shall be subject to the adult residential care rules.

(5) To the extent of available funding, the department may also contract under this section with a tribally licensed assisted living facility for the provision of services of the same nature as the services provided by adult residential care facilities. The provisions of subsections (2)(a) and (b) and (3)(a) through (d) of this section apply to such a contract. [2012 c 164 § 707; 2012 c 10 § 65; 2004 c 142 § 15; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 15.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2012 c 10 § 65 and by 2012 c 164 § 707, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective dates—2004 c 142:** See note following RCW 18.20.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.030 Expansion of home and community services—Payment rates.** (1) To the extent of available funding, the department shall expand cost-effective options for home and community services for consumers for whom the state participates in the cost of their care.

(2) In expanding home and community services, the department shall: (a) Take full advantage of federal funding available under Title XVIII and Title XIX of the federal social security act, including home health, adult day care, waiver options, and state plan services; and (b) be authorized to use funds available under its community options program entry system waiver granted under section 1915(c) of the federal social security act to expand the availability of in-home,

adult residential care, adult family homes, enhanced adult residential care, and assisted living services. By June 30, 1997, the department shall undertake to reduce the nursing home medicaid census by at least one thousand six hundred by assisting individuals who would otherwise require nursing facility services to obtain services of their choice, including assisted living services, enhanced adult residential care, and other home and community services. If a resident, or his or her legal representative, objects to a discharge decision initiated by the department, the resident shall not be discharged if the resident has been assessed and determined to require nursing facility services. In contracting with nursing homes and assisted living facilities for enhanced adult residential care placements, the department shall not require, by contract or through other means, structural modifications to existing building construction.

(3)(a) The department shall by rule establish payment rates for home and community services that support the provision of cost-effective care. In the event of any conflict between any such rule and a collective bargaining agreement entered into under RCW 74.39A.270 and 74.39A.300, the collective bargaining agreement prevails.

(b) The department may authorize an enhanced adult residential care rate for nursing homes that temporarily or permanently convert their bed use for the purpose of providing enhanced adult residential care under chapter 70.38 RCW, when the department determines that payment of an enhanced rate is cost-effective and necessary to foster expansion of contracted enhanced adult residential care services. As an incentive for nursing homes to permanently convert a portion of its nursing home bed capacity for the purpose of providing enhanced adult residential care, the department may authorize a supplemental add-on to the enhanced adult residential care rate.

(c) The department may authorize a supplemental assisted living services rate for up to four years for facilities that convert from nursing home use and do not retain rights to the converted nursing home beds under chapter 70.38 RCW, if the department determines that payment of a supplemental rate is cost-effective and necessary to foster expansion of contracted assisted living services. [2012 c 10 § 66; 2002 c 3 § 10 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001); 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 2.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Findings—Captions not law—Severability—2002 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775):** See RCW 74.39A.220 and notes following.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.040 Department assessment of and assistance to hospital patients in need of long-term care.** The department shall work in partnership with hospitals in assisting patients and their families to find long-term care services of their choice. The department shall not delay hospital discharges but shall assist and support the activities of hospital discharge planners. The department also shall coordinate with home health and hospice agencies whenever appropriate. The role of the department is to assist the hospital and to assist patients and their families in making informed choices by providing information regarding home and community options to individuals who are hospitalized and likely to need long-term care.

(1) To the extent of available funds, the department shall assess individuals who:

(a) Are medicaid clients, medicaid applicants, or eligible for both medicare and medicaid; and

(b) Apply or are likely to apply for admission to a nursing facility.

(2) For individuals who are reasonably expected to become medicaid recipients within one hundred eighty days of admission to a nursing facility, the department shall, to the extent of available funds, offer an assessment and information regarding appropriate in-home and community services.

(3) When the department finds, based on assessment, that the individual prefers and could live appropriately and cost-effectively at home or in some other community-based setting, the department shall:

(a) Advise the individual that an in-home or other community service is appropriate;

(b) Develop, with the individual or the individual's representative, a comprehensive community service plan;

(c) Inform the individual regarding the availability of services that could meet the applicant's needs as set forth in the community service plan and explain the cost to the applicant of the available in-home and community services relative to nursing facility care; and

(d) Discuss and evaluate the need for on-going involvement with the individual or the individual's representative.

(4) When the department finds, based on assessment, that the individual prefers and needs nursing facility care, the department shall:

(a) Advise the individual that nursing facility care is appropriate and inform the individual of the available nursing facility vacancies;

(b) If appropriate, advise the individual that the stay in the nursing facility may be short term; and

(c) Describe the role of the department in providing nursing facility case management. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.051 Quality improvement principles.** The department's system of quality improvement for long-term care services shall use the following principles, consistent with applicable federal laws and regulations:

(1) The system shall be client-centered and promote privacy, independence, dignity, choice, and a home or home-like environment for consumers consistent with chapter 392, Laws of 1997.

(2) The goal of the system is continuous quality improvement with the focus on consumer satisfaction and outcomes for consumers. This includes that when conducting licensing or contract inspections, the department shall interview an appropriate percentage of residents, family members, resident case managers, and advocates in addition to interviewing providers and staff.

(3) Providers should be supported in their efforts to improve quality and address identified problems initially through training, consultation, technical assistance, and case management.

(4) The emphasis should be on problem prevention both in monitoring and in screening potential providers of service.

(5) Monitoring should be outcome based and responsive to consumer complaints and based on a clear set of health,

quality of care, and safety standards that are easily understandable and have been made available to providers, residents, and other interested parties.

(6) Prompt and specific enforcement remedies shall also be implemented without delay, pursuant to RCW 74.39A.080 or 70.128.160, or chapter 18.51 or 74.42 RCW, for providers found to have delivered care or failed to deliver care resulting in problems that are serious, recurring, or uncorrected, or that create a hazard that is causing or likely to cause death or serious harm to one or more residents. These enforcement remedies may also include, when appropriate, reasonable conditions on a contract or license. In the selection of remedies, the safety, health, and well-being of residents shall be of paramount importance.

(7) Background checks of long-term care workers must be conducted as provided in RCW 74.39A.056.

(8) Except as provided in RCW 74.39A.074 and 74.39A.076, individual providers and home care agency providers must satisfactorily complete department-approved orientation, basic training, and continuing education within the time period specified by the department in rule. The department shall adopt rules for the implementation of this section. The department shall deny payment to an individual provider or a home care provider who does not complete the training requirements within the time limit specified by the department by rule.

(9) Under existing funds the department shall establish internally a quality improvement standards committee to monitor the development of standards and to suggest modifications. [2012 c 164 § 701; 2012 c 1 § 106 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 106, was identical to RCW 74.39A.050 as amended by 2009 c 580 § 7, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 701.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Continuing effective dates—Application—Construction—Effective date—Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.056 Criminal history checks on long-term care workers.** (1)(a) All long-term care workers shall be screened through state and federal background checks in a uniform and timely manner to verify that they do not have a criminal history that would disqualify them from working with vulnerable persons. The department must perform criminal background checks for individual providers and prospective individual providers and make the information available as provided by law.

(b)(i) Except as provided in (b)(ii) of this subsection, for long-term care workers hired after January 7, 2012, the background checks required under this section shall include checking against the federal bureau of investigation fingerprint identification records system and against the national sex offenders registry or their successor programs. The department shall require these long-term care workers to submit fingerprints for the purpose of investigating conviction records through both the Washington state patrol and the federal bureau of investigation. The department shall not pass

(2012 Ed.)

on the cost of these criminal background checks to the workers or their employers.

(ii) This subsection does not apply to long-term care workers employed by community residential service businesses until January 1, 2016.

(c) The department shall share state and federal background check results with the department of health in accordance with RCW 18.88B.080.

(2) No provider, or its staff, or long-term care worker, or prospective provider or long-term care worker, with a stipulated finding of fact, conclusion of law, an agreed order, or finding of fact, conclusion of law, or final order issued by a disciplining authority or a court of law or entered into a state registry with a final substantiated finding of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of a minor or a vulnerable adult as defined in chapter 74.34 RCW shall be employed in the care of and have unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

(3) The department shall establish, by rule, a state registry which contains identifying information about long-term care workers identified under this chapter who have final substantiated findings of abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or abandonment of a vulnerable adult as defined in RCW 74.34.020. The rule must include disclosure, disposition of findings, notification, findings of fact, appeal rights, and fair hearing requirements. The department shall disclose, upon request, final substantiated findings of abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or abandonment to any person so requesting this information. This information must also be shared with the department of health to advance the purposes of chapter 18.88B RCW.

(4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. [2012 c 164 § 503; 2012 c 1 § 101 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** (1) The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 101, was identical to RCW 74.39A.055 as amended by 2009 c 580 § 2, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 503.

(2) The code reviser was directed to codify the sections listed in 2012 c 1 § 302 with the same codification numbers as repealed sections. Following standard practices and pursuant to RCW 1.08.015, sections 101 through 109 and 111 through 113, chapter 1, Laws of 2012 were given unique numbers to effectuate the orderly and logical arrangement of the code.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** "It is the intent of the people through this initiative to protect vulnerable elderly and people with disabilities by reinstating the requirement that all long-term care workers obtain criminal background checks and adequate training. The people of the state of Washington find as follows:

(1) The state legislature proposes to eliminate the requirement that long-term care workers obtain criminal background checks and adequate training, which would jeopardize the safety and quality care of vulnerable elderly and persons with disabilities. Should the legislature take this action, this initiative will reinstate these critical protections for vulnerable elderly and persons with disabilities; and

(2) Taxpayers' investment will be protected by requiring regular program audits, including fraud investigations, and capping administrative expenses." [2012 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Performance audits—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** "The state auditor shall conduct performance audits of the long-term in-home care program. The first audit must be completed within twelve months after January 7, 2012, and must be completed on a biennial basis thereafter. As part of this auditing process, the state shall hire five additional fraud investigators to ensure that clients receiving services at taxpayers' expense are medically and financially qualified to receive the services and are actually receiving the

services." [2012 c 164 § 709; 2012 c 1 § 201 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Spending limits—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** "The people hereby establish limits on the percentage of tax revenues that can be used for administrative expenses in the long-term in-home care program. Within one hundred eighty days of January 7, 2012, the state shall prepare a plan to cap administrative expenses so that at least ninety percent of taxpayer spending must be devoted to direct care. This limitation must be achieved within two years from January 7, 2012." [2012 c 1 § 202 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Contingent effective dates—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** "(1) Sections 101 and 115(6) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.055 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(2) Sections 102 and 115(10) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.260 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(3) Sections 103 and 115(1) of this act only take effect if RCW 18.88B.020 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(4) Sections 104 and 115(2) of this act only take effect if RCW 18.88B.030 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(5) Sections 105 and 115(3) of this act only take effect if RCW 18.88B.040 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(6) Sections 106 and 115(5) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.050 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(7) Sections 107 and 115(7) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.073 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(8) Sections 108 and 115(8) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.075 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(9) Sections 109 and 115(9) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.085 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(10) Sections 110 and 115(11) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.310 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(11) Sections 111 and 115(12) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.330 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(12) Sections 112 and 115(13) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.340 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(13) Sections 113 and 115(14) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.350 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(14) Sections 114 and 115(4) of this act only take effect if RCW 74.39A.009 is amended or repealed by the legislature in 2011.

(15) Section 303 of this act takes effect only if one or more other sections of this act take effect pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (14) of this section." [2012 c 1 § 301 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Application—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** "Notwithstanding any action of the legislature during 2011, all long-term care workers as defined under RCW 74.39A.009(16), as it existed on April 1, 2011, are covered by sections 101 through 113 of this act or by the corresponding original versions of the statutes, as referenced in section 302 (1) through (13) on the schedules set forth in those sections, as amended by chapter 164, Laws of 2012, except that long-term care workers employed by community residential service businesses are exempt to the extent provided in RCW 18.88B.041, 74.39A.056, 74.39A.074, 74.39A.331, 74.39A.341, and 74.39A.351." [2012 c 164 § 710; 2012 c 1 § 303 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Construction—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** "The provisions of this act are to be liberally construed to effectuate the intent, policies, and purposes of this act." [2012 c 1 § 305 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Effective date—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** "This act takes effect sixty days from its enactment by the people [January 7, 2012]." [2012 c 1 § 307 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**\*Reviser's note:** Initiative Measure No. 1163 was approved by a vote of the people November 8, 2011. The secretary of state has determined that the effective date of Initiative Measure No. 1163 is January 7, 2012.

**Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** "This act may be known and cited as the restoring quality home care initiative." [2012 c 1 § 308 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**74.39A.060 Toll-free telephone number for complaints—Investigation and referral—Rules—Discrimination or retaliation prohibited.** (1) The aging and adult services administration of the department shall establish and

maintain a toll-free telephone number for receiving complaints regarding a facility that the administration licenses or with which it contracts for long-term care services.

(2) All facilities that are licensed by, or that contract with the aging and adult services administration to provide chronic long-term care services shall post in a place and manner clearly visible to residents and visitors the department's toll-free complaint telephone number and the toll-free number and program description of the long-term care ombudsman as provided by RCW 43.190.050.

(3) The aging and adult services administration shall investigate complaints if the subject of the complaint is within its authority unless the department determines that: (a) The complaint is intended to willfully harass a licensee or employee of the licensee; or (b) there is no reasonable basis for investigation; or (c) corrective action has been taken as determined by the ombudsman or the department.

(4) The aging and adult services administration shall refer complaints to appropriate state agencies, law enforcement agencies, the attorney general, the long-term care ombudsman, or other entities if the department lacks authority to investigate or if its investigation reveals that a follow-up referral to one or more of these entities is appropriate.

(5) The department shall adopt rules that include the following complaint investigation protocols:

(a) Upon receipt of a complaint, the department shall make a preliminary review of the complaint, assess the severity of the complaint, and assign an appropriate response time. Complaints involving imminent danger to the health, safety, or well-being of a resident must be responded to within two days. When appropriate, the department shall make an on-site investigation within a reasonable time after receipt of the complaint or otherwise ensure that complaints are responded to.

(b) The complainant must be: Promptly contacted by the department, unless anonymous or unavailable despite several attempts by the department, and informed of the right to discuss the alleged violations with the inspector and to provide other information the complainant believes will assist the inspector; informed of the department's course of action; and informed of the right to receive a written copy of the investigation report.

(c) In conducting the investigation, the department shall interview the complainant, unless anonymous, and shall use its best efforts to interview the vulnerable adult or adults allegedly harmed, and, consistent with the protection of the vulnerable adult shall interview facility staff, any available independent sources of relevant information, including if appropriate the family members of the vulnerable adult.

(d) Substantiated complaints involving harm to a resident, if an applicable law or rule has been violated, shall be subject to one or more of the actions provided in RCW 74.39A.080 or 70.128.160. Whenever appropriate, the department shall also give consultation and technical assistance to the provider.

(e) After a department finding of a violation for which a stop placement has been imposed, the department shall make an on-site revisit of the provider within fifteen working days from the request for revisit, to ensure correction of the violation. For violations that are serious or recurring or uncorrected following a previous citation, and create actual or

threatened harm to one or more residents' well-being, including violations of residents' rights, the department shall make an on-site revisit as soon as appropriate to ensure correction of the violation. Verification of correction of all other violations may be made by either a department on-site revisit or by written or photographic documentation found by the department to be credible. This subsection does not prevent the department from enforcing license or contract suspensions or revocations. Nothing in this subsection shall interfere with or diminish the department's authority and duty to ensure that the provider adequately cares for residents, including to make departmental on-site revisits as needed to ensure that the provider protects residents and to enforce compliance with this chapter.

(f) Substantiated complaints of neglect, abuse, exploitation, or abandonment of residents, or suspected criminal violations, shall also be referred by the department to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, the attorney general, and appropriate professional disciplining authority.

(6) The department may provide the substance of the complaint to the licensee or contractor before the completion of the investigation by the department unless such disclosure would reveal the identity of a complainant, witness, or resident who chooses to remain anonymous. Neither the substance of the complaint provided to the licensee or contractor nor any copy of the complaint or related report published, released, or made otherwise available shall disclose, or reasonably lead to the disclosure of, the name, title, or identity of any complainant, or other person mentioned in the complaint, except that the name of the provider and the name or names of any officer, employee, or agent of the department conducting the investigation shall be disclosed after the investigation has been closed and the complaint has been substantiated. The department may disclose the identity of the complainant if such disclosure is requested in writing by the complainant. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to interfere with the obligation of the long-term care ombudsman program or department staff to monitor the department's licensing, contract, and complaint investigation files for long-term care facilities.

(7) The resident has the right to be free of interference, coercion, discrimination, and reprisal from a facility in exercising his or her rights, including the right to voice grievances about treatment furnished or not furnished. A facility that provides long-term care services shall not discriminate or retaliate in any manner against a resident, employee, or any other person on the basis or for the reason that such resident or any other person made a complaint to the department, the attorney general, law enforcement agencies, or the long-term care ombudsman, provided information, or otherwise cooperated with the investigation of such a complaint. Any attempt to discharge a resident against the resident's wishes, or any type of retaliatory treatment of a resident by whom or upon whose behalf a complaint substantiated by the department has been made to the department, the attorney general, law enforcement agencies, or the long-term care ombudsman, within one year of the filing of the complaint, raises a rebuttable presumption that such action was in retaliation for the filing of the complaint. "Retaliatory treatment" means, but is not limited to, monitoring a resident's phone, mail, or visits; involuntary seclusion or isolation; transferring a resident to a

different room unless requested or based upon legitimate management reasons; withholding or threatening to withhold food or treatment unless authorized by a terminally ill resident or his or her representative pursuant to law; or persistently delaying responses to a resident's request for service or assistance. A facility that provides long-term care services shall not willfully interfere with the performance of official duties by a long-term care ombudsman. The department shall sanction and may impose a civil penalty of not more than three thousand dollars for a violation of this subsection. [2001 c 193 § 1; 1999 c 176 § 34; 1997 c 392 § 210; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 13.]

**Findings—Purpose—Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1999 c 176:** See notes following RCW 74.34.005.

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.070 Rules for qualifications and training requirements—Requirement that contractors comply with federal and state regulations.** (1) The department shall, by rule, establish reasonable minimum qualifications and training requirements to assure that assisted living service, enhanced adult residential care service, and adult residential care providers with whom the department contracts are capable of providing services consistent with this chapter. The rules shall apply only to residential capacity for which the state contracts.

(2) The department shall not contract for assisted living, enhanced adult residential care, or adult residential care services with a provider if the department finds that the provider or any partner, officer, director, managerial employee, or owner of five percent or more of the provider has a history of significant noncompliance with federal or state regulations, rules, or laws in providing care or services to vulnerable adults or to children. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.074 Training requirements for long-term care workers.** (1)(a) Beginning January 7, 2012, except for long-term care workers exempt from certification under RCW 18.88B.041(1)(a) and, until January 1, 2016, those exempt under RCW 18.88B.041(1)(b), all persons hired as long-term care workers must meet the minimum training requirements in this section within one hundred twenty calendar days after the date of being hired or within one hundred twenty calendar days after March 29, 2012, whichever is later. In computing the time periods in this subsection, the first day is the date of hire or March 29, 2012, whichever is applicable.

(b) Except as provided in RCW 74.39A.076, the minimum training requirement is seventy-five hours of entry-level training approved by the department. A long-term care worker must successfully complete five of these seventy-five hours before being eligible to provide care.

(c) Training required by (d) of this subsection applies toward the training required under RCW 18.20.270 or 70.128.230 or any statutory or regulatory training requirements for long-term care workers employed by community residential service businesses.

(d) The seventy-five hours of entry-level training required shall be as follows:

(i) Before a long-term care worker is eligible to provide care, he or she must complete:

(A) Two hours of orientation training regarding his or her role as caregiver and the applicable terms of employment; and

(B) Three hours of safety training, including basic safety precautions, emergency procedures, and infection control; and

(ii) Seventy hours of long-term care basic training, including training related to core competencies and population specific competencies.

(2) Only training curriculum approved by the department may be used to fulfill the training requirements specified in this section. The department shall only approve training curriculum that:

(a) Has been developed with input from consumer and worker representatives; and

(b) Requires comprehensive instruction by qualified instructors on the competencies and training topics in this section.

(3) Individual providers under RCW 74.39A.270 shall be compensated for training time required by this section.

(4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. [2012 c 164 § 401; 2012 c 1 § 107 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 107, was identical to RCW 74.39A.073 as amended by 2009 c 580 § 10, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 401.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Contingent effective dates—Application—Construction—Effective date—Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.076 Training requirements for individual providers caring for family members.** (1) Beginning January 7, 2012, except for long-term care workers exempt from certification under RCW 18.88B.041(1)(a):

(a) A biological, step, or adoptive parent who is the individual provider only for his or her developmentally disabled son or daughter must receive twelve hours of training relevant to the needs of adults with developmental disabilities within the first one hundred twenty days after becoming an individual provider or within one hundred twenty calendar days after March 29, 2012, whichever is later.

(b) Individual providers identified in (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection must complete thirty-five hours of training within the first one hundred twenty days after becoming an individual provider or within one hundred twenty calendar days after March 29, 2012, whichever is later. Five of the thirty-five hours must be completed before becoming eligible to provide care. Two of these five hours shall be devoted to an orientation training regarding an individual provider's role as caregiver and the applicable terms of employment, and three hours shall be devoted to safety training, including basic safety precautions, emergency procedures, and infection control. Individual providers subject to this requirement include:

(i) An individual provider caring only for his or her biological, step, or adoptive child or parent unless covered by (a) of this subsection; and

(ii) Until January 1, 2014, a person hired as an individual provider who provides twenty hours or less of care for one person in any calendar month.

(2) In computing the time periods in this section, the first day is the date of hire or March 29, 2012, whichever is applicable.

(3) Only training curriculum approved by the department may be used to fulfill the training requirements specified in this section. The department shall only approve training curriculum that:

(a) Has been developed with input from consumer and worker representatives; and

(b) Requires comprehensive instruction by qualified instructors.

(4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. [2012 c 164 § 402; 2012 c 1 § 108 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 108, was identical to RCW 74.39A.075 as amended by 2009 c 580 § 11, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 402.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Contingent effective dates—Application—Construction—Effective date—Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.080 Department authority to take actions in response to noncompliance or violations.** (1) The department is authorized to take one or more of the actions listed in subsection (2) of this section in any case in which the department finds that a provider of assisted living services, adult residential care services, or enhanced adult residential care services has:

(a) Failed or refused to comply with the requirements of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter;

(b) Operated without a license or under a revoked license;

(c) Knowingly, or with reason to know, made a false statement of material fact on his or her application for license or any data attached thereto, or in any matter under investigation by the department; or

(d) Willfully prevented or interfered with any inspection or investigation by the department.

(2) When authorized by subsection (1) of this section, the department may take one or more of the following actions:

(a) Refuse to issue a contract;

(b) Impose reasonable conditions on a contract, such as correction within a specified time, training, and limits on the type of clients the provider may admit or serve;

(c) Impose civil penalties of not more than one hundred dollars per day per violation;

(d) Suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a contract; or

(e) Suspend admissions to the facility by imposing stop placement on contracted services.

(3) When the department orders stop placement, the facility shall not admit any person admitted by contract until the stop placement order is terminated. The department may

approve readmission of a resident to the facility from a hospital or nursing home during the stop placement. The department shall terminate the stop placement when: (a) The violations necessitating the stop placement have been corrected; and (b) the provider exhibits the capacity to maintain correction of the violations previously found deficient. However, if upon the revisit the department finds new violations that the department reasonably believes will result in a new stop placement, the previous stop placement shall remain in effect until the new stop placement is imposed.

After a department finding of a violation for which a stop placement has been imposed, the department shall make an on-site revisit of the provider within fifteen working days from the request for revisit, to ensure correction of the violation. For violations that are serious or recurring or uncorrected following a previous citation, and create actual or threatened harm to one or more residents' well-being, including violations of residents' rights, the department shall make an on-site revisit as soon as appropriate to ensure correction of the violation. Verification of correction of all other violations may be made by either a department on-site revisit or by written or photographic documentation found by the department to be credible. This subsection does not prevent the department from enforcing license suspensions or revocations. Nothing in this subsection shall interfere with or diminish the department's authority and duty to ensure that the provider adequately cares for residents, including to make departmental on-site revisits as needed to ensure that the provider protects residents, and to enforce compliance with this chapter.

(4) Chapter 34.05 RCW applies to department actions under this section, except that orders of the department imposing contracts suspension, stop placement, or conditions for continuation of a contract are effective immediately upon notice and shall continue pending any hearing. [2001 c 193 § 3; 1996 c 193 § 1; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.086 Enforcement actions against persons not certified as home care aides and their employers.** (1) The department:

(a) Shall deny payment to any individual provider of home care services who has not been certified as a home care aide as required under chapter 18.88B RCW or whose certification is revoked or, if exempted from certification under RCW 18.88B.041, who has not completed his or her required training pursuant to RCW 74.39A.074.

(b) May terminate the contract of any individual provider of home care services, or take any other enforcement measure deemed appropriate by the department if the individual provider has not been certified or the individual provider's certification is revoked under chapter 18.88B RCW or, if exempted from certification by RCW 18.88B.041, the individual provider has not completed his or her required training pursuant to RCW 74.39A.074.

(2) The department shall take appropriate enforcement action related to the contract of a private agency or facility licensed by the state to provide personal care services, other than an individual provider, who knowingly employs a long-term care worker who is not a certified home care aide as required under chapter 18.88B RCW or whose certification is

(2012 Ed.)

revoked or, if exempted from certification under RCW 18.88B.041, who has not completed his or her required training pursuant to RCW 74.39A.074.

(3) Chapter 34.05 RCW shall govern actions by the department under this section.

(4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. [2012 c 164 § 602; 2012 c 1 § 109 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 109, was identical to RCW 74.39A.085 as amended by 2009 c 580 § 14, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 602.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Contingent effective dates—Application—Construction—Effective date—Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.090 Discharge planning—Contracts for case management services and reassessment and reauthorization—Assessment of case management roles and quality of in-home care services—Plan of care model language.**

(1) The legislature intends that any staff reassigned by the department as a result of shifting of the reauthorization responsibilities by contract outlined in this section shall be dedicated for discharge planning and assisting with discharge planning and information on existing discharge planning cases. Discharge planning, as directed in this section, is intended for residents and patients identified for discharge to long-term care pursuant to RCW 70.41.320, 74.39A.040, and 74.42.058. The purpose of discharge planning is to protect residents and patients from the financial incentives inherent in keeping residents or patients in a more expensive higher level of care and shall focus on care options that are in the best interest of the patient or resident.

(2) The department shall contract with area agencies on aging:

(a) To provide case management services to consumers receiving home and community services in their own home; and

(b) To reassess and reauthorize home and community services in home or in other settings for consumers consistent with the intent of this section:

(i) Who have been initially authorized by the department to receive home and community services; and

(ii) Who, at the time of reassessment and reauthorization, are receiving home and community services in their own home.

(3) In the event that an area agency on aging is unwilling to enter into or satisfactorily fulfill a contract or an individual consumer's need for case management services will be met through an alternative delivery system, the department is authorized to:

(a) Obtain the services through competitive bid; and

(b) Provide the services directly until a qualified contractor can be found.

(4) The department shall include, in its oversight and monitoring of area agency on aging performance, assessment of case management roles undertaken by area agencies on aging in this section. The scope of oversight and monitoring includes, but is not limited to, assessing the degree and qual-

ity of the case management performed by area agency on aging staff for elderly and disabled persons in the community.

(5) Area agencies on aging shall assess the quality of the in-home care services provided to consumers who are receiving services under the medicaid personal care, community options programs entry system or chore services program through an individual provider or home care agency. Quality indicators may include, but are not limited to, home care consumers satisfaction surveys, how quickly home care consumers are linked with home care workers, and whether the plan of care under RCW 74.39A.095 has been honored by the agency or the individual provider.

(6) The department shall develop model language for the plan of care established in RCW 74.39A.095. The plan of care shall be in clear language, and written at a reading level that will ensure the ability of consumers to understand the rights and responsibilities expressed in the plan of care. [2004 c 141 § 3; 1999 c 175 § 2; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 38.]

**Findings—1999 c 175:** "(1) The legislature finds that the quality of long-term care services provided to, and protection of, Washington's low-income elderly and disabled residents is of great importance to the state. The legislature further finds that revised in-home care policies are needed to more effectively address concerns about the quality of these services.

(2) The legislature finds that consumers of in-home care services frequently are in contact with multiple health and long-term care providers in the public and private sector. The legislature further finds that better coordination between these health and long-term care providers, and case managers, can increase the consumer's understanding of their plan of care, maximize the health benefits of coordinated care, and facilitate cost efficiencies across health and long-term care systems." [1999 c 175 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.095 Case management services—Agency on aging oversight—Plan of care—Termination of contract—Rejection of individual provider.** (1) In carrying out case management responsibilities established under RCW 74.39A.090 for consumers who are receiving services under the medicaid personal care, community options programs entry system or chore services program through an individual provider, each area agency on aging shall provide oversight of the care being provided to consumers receiving services under this section to the extent of available funding. Case management responsibilities incorporate this oversight, and include, but are not limited to:

(a) Verification that any individual provider has met any training requirements established by the department;

(b) Verification of a sample of worker time sheets;

(c) Monitoring the consumer's plan of care to verify that it adequately meets the needs of the consumer, through activities such as home visits, telephone contacts, and responses to information received by the area agency on aging indicating that a consumer may be experiencing problems relating to his or her home care;

(d) Reassessing and reauthorizing services;

(e) Monitoring of individual provider performance; and

(f) Conducting criminal background checks or verifying that criminal background checks have been conducted for any individual provider. Individual providers who are hired after January 7, 2012, are subject to background checks under RCW 74.39A.056.

(2) The area agency on aging case manager shall work with each consumer to develop a plan of care under this sec-

tion that identifies and ensures coordination of health and long-term care services that meet the consumer's needs. In developing the plan, they shall utilize, and modify as needed, any comprehensive community service plan developed by the department as provided in RCW 74.39A.040. The plan of care shall include, at a minimum:

(a) The name and telephone number of the consumer's area agency on aging case manager, and a statement as to how the case manager can be contacted about any concerns related to the consumer's well-being or the adequacy of care provided;

(b) The name and telephone numbers of the consumer's primary health care provider, and other health or long-term care providers with whom the consumer has frequent contacts;

(c) A clear description of the roles and responsibilities of the area agency on aging case manager and the consumer receiving services under this section;

(d) The duties and tasks to be performed by the area agency on aging case manager and the consumer receiving services under this section;

(e) The type of in-home services authorized, and the number of hours of services to be provided;

(f) The terms of compensation of the individual provider;

(g) A statement by the individual provider that he or she has the ability and willingness to carry out his or her responsibilities relative to the plan of care; and

(h)(i) Except as provided in (h)(ii) of this subsection, a clear statement indicating that a consumer receiving services under this section has the right to waive any of the case management services offered by the area agency on aging under this section, and a clear indication of whether the consumer has, in fact, waived any of these services.

(ii) The consumer's right to waive case management services does not include the right to waive reassessment or reauthorization of services, or verification that services are being provided in accordance with the plan of care.

(3) Each area agency on aging shall retain a record of each waiver of services included in a plan of care under this section.

(4) Each consumer has the right to direct and participate in the development of their plan of care to the maximum practicable extent of their abilities and desires, and to be provided with the time and support necessary to facilitate that participation.

(5) A copy of the plan of care must be distributed to the consumer's primary care provider, individual provider, and other relevant providers with whom the consumer has frequent contact, as authorized by the consumer.

(6) The consumer's plan of care shall be an attachment to the contract between the department, or their designee, and the individual provider.

(7) If the department or area agency on aging case manager finds that an individual provider's inadequate performance or inability to deliver quality care is jeopardizing the health, safety, or well-being of a consumer receiving service under this section, the department or the area agency on aging may take action to terminate the contract between the department and the individual provider. If the department or the area agency on aging has a reasonable, good faith belief that the health, safety, or well-being of a consumer is in imminent

jeopardy, the department or area agency on aging may summarily suspend the contract pending a fair hearing. The consumer may request a fair hearing to contest the planned action of the case manager, as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW. The department may by rule adopt guidelines for implementing this subsection.

(8) The department or area agency on aging may reject a request by a consumer receiving services under this section to have a family member or other person serve as his or her individual provider if the case manager has a reasonable, good faith belief that the family member or other person will be unable to appropriately meet the care needs of the consumer. The consumer may request a fair hearing to contest the decision of the case manager, as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW. The department may by rule adopt guidelines for implementing this subsection. [2012 c 164 § 507. Prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 31 § 14; 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 5; 2009 c 580 § 8; 2004 c 141 § 1; 2002 c 3 § 11 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001); 2000 c 87 § 5; 1999 c 175 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Findings—Captions not law—Severability—2002 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775):** See RCW 74.39A.220 and notes following.

**Findings—1999 c 175:** See note following RCW 74.39A.090.

**74.39A.100 Chore services—Legislative finding, intent.** The legislature finds that it is desirable to provide a coordinated and comprehensive program of in-home services for certain citizens in order that such persons may remain in their own homes, obtain employment if possible, and maintain a closer contact with the community. Such a program will seek to prevent mental and psychological deterioration which our citizens might otherwise experience. The legislature intends that the services will be provided in a fashion which promotes independent living. [1980 c 137 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 51 § 1. Formerly RCW 74.08.530.]

**74.39A.110 Chore services—Legislative policy and intent regarding available funds—Levels of service.** It is the intent of the legislature that chore services be provided to eligible persons within the limits of funds appropriated for that purpose. Therefore, the department shall provide services only to those persons identified as at risk of being placed in a long-term care facility in the absence of such services. The department shall not provide chore services to any individual who is eligible for, and whose needs can be met by another community service administered by the department. Chore services shall be provided to the extent necessary to maintain a safe and healthful living environment. It is the policy of the state to encourage the development of volunteer chore services in local communities as a means of meeting chore care service needs and directing financial resources. In determining eligibility for chore services, the department shall consider the following:

(1) The kind of services needed;

(2) The degree of service need, and the extent to which an individual is dependent upon such services to remain in his or her home or return to his or her home;

(3) The availability of personal or community resources which may be utilized to meet the individual's need; and

(4) Such other factors as the department considers necessary to insure service is provided only to those persons whose chore service needs cannot be met by relatives, friends, non-profit organizations, other persons, or by other programs or resources.

In determining the level of services to be provided under this chapter, the client shall be assessed using an instrument designed by the department to determine the level of functional disability, the need for service and the person's risk of long-term care facility placement. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 36; 1989 c 427 § 5; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 16. Formerly RCW 74.08.545.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.120 Chore services—Expenditure limitation—Priorities—Rule on patient resource limit.** (1) The department shall establish a monthly dollar lid for each region on chore services expenditures within the legislative appropriation. Priority for services shall be given to the following situations:

(a) People who were receiving chore personal care services as of June 30, 1995;

(b) People for whom chore personal care services are necessary to return to the community from a nursing home;

(c) People for whom chore personal care services are necessary to prevent unnecessary nursing home placement; and

(d) People for whom chore personal care services are necessary as a protective measure based on referrals resulting from an adult protective services investigation.

(2) The department shall require a client to participate in the cost of chore services as a necessary precondition to receiving chore services paid for by the state. The client shall retain an amount equal to one hundred percent of the federal poverty level, adjusted for household size, for maintenance needs. The department shall consider the remaining income as the client participation amount for chore services except for those persons whose participation is established under \*RCW 74.08.570.

(3) The department shall establish, by rule, the maximum amount of resources a person may retain and be eligible for chore services. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 37.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 74.08.570 was recodified as RCW 74.39A.150 pursuant to 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 34.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.130 Chore services—Department to develop program.** (1) The department is authorized to develop a program to provide for chore services under this chapter.

(2) The department may provide assistance in the recruiting of providers of the services enumerated in RCW 74.39A.120 and seek to assure the timely provision of services in emergency situations.

(3) The department shall assure that all providers of the chore services under this chapter are compensated for the delivery of the services on a prompt and regular basis. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 40; 1989 c 427 § 6; 1983 c 3 § 189; 1980 c 137 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 51 § 3. Formerly RCW 74.08.550.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.140 Chore services—Employment of public assistance recipients.** In developing the program set forth in \*RCW 74.08.550, the department shall, to the extent possible, and consistent with federal law, enlist the services of persons receiving grants under the provisions of chapter 74.08 RCW and chapter 74.12 RCW to carry out the services enumerated under \*\*RCW 74.08.541. To this end, the department shall establish appropriate rules and regulations designed to determine eligibility for employment under this section, as well as regulations designed to notify persons receiving such grants of eligibility for such employment. The department shall further establish a system of compensation to persons employed under the provisions of this section which provides that any grants they receive under chapter 74.08 RCW or chapter 74.12 RCW shall be diminished by such percentage of the compensation received under this section as the department shall establish by rules and regulations. [1983 c 3 § 190; 1973 1st ex.s. c 51 § 4. Formerly RCW 74.08.560.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 74.08.550 was recodified as RCW 74.39A.130 pursuant to 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 34, effective July 1, 1995.

\*\* (2) RCW 74.08.541 was repealed by 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 35, effective July 1, 1995.

**74.39A.150 Chore services for persons with disabilities—Eligibility.** (1) An otherwise eligible disabled person shall not be deemed ineligible for chore services under this chapter if the person's gross income from employment, adjusted downward by the cost of the chore services to be provided and the disabled person's work expenses, does not exceed the maximum eligibility standard established by the department for such chore services. The department shall establish a methodology for client participation that allows such disabled persons to be employed.

(2) If a disabled person arranges for chore services through an individual provider arrangement, the client's contribution shall be counted as first dollar toward the total amount owed to the provider for chore services rendered.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Gross income" means total earned wages, commissions, salary, and any bonus;

(b) "Work expenses" includes:

(i) Payroll deductions required by law or as a condition of employment, in amounts actually withheld;

(ii) The necessary cost of transportation to and from the place of employment by the most economical means, except rental cars; and

(iii) Expenses of employment necessary for continued employment, such as tools, materials, union dues, transportation to service customers if not furnished by the employer, and uniforms and clothing needed on the job and not suitable for wear away from the job;

(c) "Employment" means any work activity for which a recipient receives monetary compensation;

(d) "Disabled" means:

(i) Permanently and totally disabled as defined by the department and as such definition is approved by the federal social security administration for federal matching funds;

(ii) Eighteen years of age or older;

(iii) A resident of the state of Washington; and

(iv) Willing to submit to such examinations as are deemed necessary by the department to establish the extent

and nature of the disability. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 41; 1989 c 427 § 7; 1980 c 137 § 3. Formerly RCW 74.08.570.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.155 Support for persons at risk of institutional placement.** Within funds appropriated for this purpose, the department shall provide additional support for residents in community settings who exhibit challenging behaviors that put them at risk for institutional placement. The residents must be receiving services under the community options program entry system waiver or the medically needy residential facility waiver under section 1905(c) of the federal social security act and must have been evaluated under the individual comprehensive assessment reporting and evaluation process. [2008 c 146 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2008 c 146:** See notes following RCW 74.41.040.

**74.39A.160 Transfer of assets—Penalties.** (1) A person who receives an asset from an applicant for or recipient of long-term care services for less than fair market value shall be subject to a civil fine payable to the department if:

(a) The applicant for or recipient of long-term care services transferred the asset for the purpose of qualifying for state or federal coverage for long-term care services and the person who received the asset was aware, or should have been aware, of this purpose;

(b) Such transfer establishes a period of ineligibility for such service under state or federal laws or regulations; and

(c) The department provides coverage for such services during the period of ineligibility because the failure to provide such coverage would result in an undue hardship for the applicant or recipient.

(2) The civil fine imposed under this section shall be imposed in a judicial proceeding initiated by the department and shall equal (a) up to one hundred fifty percent of the amount the department expends for the care of the applicant or recipient during the period of ineligibility attributable to the amount transferred to the person subject to the civil fine plus (b) the department's court costs and legal fees.

(3) Transfers subject to a civil fine under this section shall be considered null and void and a fraudulent conveyance as to the department. The department shall have the right to petition a court to set aside such transfers and require all assets transferred returned to the applicant or recipient. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 55.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.170 Recovery of payments—Transfer of assets rules for eligibility—Disclosure of estate recovery costs, terms, and conditions.** (1) All payments made in state-funded long-term care shall be recoverable as if they were medical assistance payments subject to recovery under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396p and chapter 43.20B RCW, but without regard to the recipient's age.

(2) In determining eligibility for state-funded long-term care services programs, the department shall impose the same rules with respect to the transfer of assets for less than fair market value as are imposed under 42 U.S.C. 1396p with respect to nursing home and home and community services.

(3) It is the responsibility of the department to fully disclose in advance verbally and in writing, in easy to understand language, the terms and conditions of estate recovery to all persons offered long-term care services subject to recovery of payments.

(4) In disclosing estate recovery costs to potential clients, and to family members at the consent of the client, the department shall provide a written description of the community service options.

(5) The department of social and health services shall develop an implementation plan for notifying the client or his or her legal representative at least quarterly of the types of services used and the cost of those services (debt) that will be charged against the estate. The estate planning implementation plan shall be submitted by December 12, 1999, to the appropriate standing committees of the house of representatives and the senate, and to the joint legislative and executive task force on long-term care. [1999 c 354 § 1; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 56.]

*Recovery for state-funded long-term care—Legislative intent: RCW 43.20B.090.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.180 Authority to pay for probate actions and collection of bad debts.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(1) In order to facilitate and ensure compliance with the federal social security act, Title XIX, as now existing or hereafter amended, later enactment to be adopted by reference by the director by rule, and other state laws mandating recovery of assets from estates of persons receiving long-term care services, the secretary of the department, with the approval of the office of the attorney general, may pay the reasonable and proper fees of attorneys admitted to practice before courts of this state, and associated professionals such as guardians, who are engaged in probate practice for the purpose of maintaining actions under Title 11 RCW, to the end that assets are not wasted, but are rather collected and preserved, and used for the care of the client or the reimbursement of the department pursuant to this chapter or chapter 43.20B RCW.

(2) The department may hire such other agencies and professionals on a contingency basis or otherwise as are necessary and cost-effective to collect bad debts owed to the department for long-term care services. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 57.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.39A.200 Training curricula, materials—In public domain—Exceptions.** All training curricula and material, except competency testing material, developed by or for the department and used in part or in whole for the purpose of improving provider and caregiver knowledge and skill are in the public domain unless otherwise protected by copyright law and are subject to disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. Any training curricula and material developed by a private entity through a contract with the department are also considered part of the public domain and shall be shared subject to copyright restrictions. Any proprietary curricula and material developed by a private entity for the purposes of training staff in facilities licensed under chapter 18.20 or 70.128 RCW or individual providers and home care agency provid-

(2012 Ed.)

ers under this chapter and approved for training by the department are not part of the public domain. [2005 c 274 § 355; 2000 c 121 § 11.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

**74.39A.210 Disclosure of employee information—Employer immunity—Rebuttable presumption.** An employer providing home and community services, including facilities licensed under chapters 18.51, 18.20, and 70.128 RCW, an employer of a program authorized under RCW 71A.12.040(10), or an in-home services agency employer licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, who discloses information about a former or current employee to a prospective home and community services employer, nursing home employer, or are an in-home services agency employer, is presumed to be acting in good faith and is immune from civil and criminal liability for such disclosure or its consequences if the disclosed information relates to: (1) The employee's ability to perform his or her job; (2) the diligence, skill, or reliability with which the employee carried out the duties of his or her job; or (3) any illegal or wrongful act committed by the employee when related to his or her ability to care for a vulnerable adult. For purposes of this section, the presumption of good faith may only be rebutted upon a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the information disclosed by the employer was knowingly false or made with reckless disregard for the truth of the information disclosed. Should the employee successfully rebut the presumption of good faith standard in a court of competent jurisdiction, and therefore be the prevailing party, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees against the employer. Nothing in this section shall affect or limit any other state, federal, or constitutional right otherwise available. [2001 c 319 § 13.]

**74.39A.220 Findings.** The people of the state of Washington find as follows:

(1) Thousands of Washington seniors and persons with disabilities live independently in their own homes, which they prefer and is less costly than institutional care such as nursing homes.

(2) Many Washington seniors and persons with disabilities currently receive long-term in-home care services from individual providers hired directly by them under the medicare personal care, community options programs entry system, or chore services program.

(3) Quality long-term in-home care services allow Washington seniors, persons with disabilities, and their families the choice of allowing seniors and persons with disabilities to remain in their homes, rather than forcing them into institutional care such as nursing homes. Long-term in-home care services are also less costly, saving Washington taxpayers significant amounts through lower reimbursement rates. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 6; 2002 c 3 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001).]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Captions not law—2002 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775):** "Captions used in this act are not any part of the law." [2002 c 3 § 16 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001).]

**Severability—2002 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775):** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2002 c 3 § 17 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001).]

**74.39A.240 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 74.39A.030 and 74.39A.095 and 74.39A.220 through 74.39A.300, and 41.56.026 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Consumer" means a person to whom an individual provider provides any such services.

(2) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(3) "Individual provider" means a person, including a personal aide, who has contracted with the department to provide personal care or respite care services to functionally disabled persons under the medicaid personal care, community options program entry system, chore services program, or respite care program, or to provide respite care or residential services and support to persons with developmental disabilities under chapter 71A.12 RCW, or to provide respite care as defined in RCW 74.13.270. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 7; 2002 c 3 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001).]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Findings—Captions not law—Severability—2002 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775):** See RCW 74.39A.220 and notes following.

**74.39A.250 Department duties.** (1) The department shall provide assistance to consumers and prospective consumers in finding individual providers and prospective individual providers through the establishment of a referral registry of individual providers and prospective individual providers. Before placing an individual provider or prospective individual provider on the referral registry, the department shall determine that:

(a) The individual provider or prospective individual provider has met the minimum requirements for training set forth in RCW 74.39A.051;

(b) The individual provider or prospective individual provider has satisfactorily undergone a criminal background check conducted within the prior twelve months; and

(c) The individual provider or prospective individual provider is not listed on any long-term care abuse and neglect registry used by the department.

(2) The department shall remove from the referral registry any individual provider or prospective individual provider that does not meet the qualifications set forth in subsection (1) of this section or to have committed misfeasance or malfeasance in the performance of his or her duties as an individual provider. The individual provider or prospective individual provider, or the consumer to which the individual provider is providing services, may request a fair hearing to contest the removal from the referral registry, as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW.

(3) The department shall provide routine, emergency, and respite referrals of individual providers and prospective individual providers to consumers and prospective consumers who are authorized to receive long-term in-home care services through an individual provider.

(4) The department shall give preference in the recruiting, training, referral, and employment of individual providers and prospective individual providers to recipients of public assistance or other low-income persons who would qualify for public assistance in the absence of such employment. [2012 c 164 § 708; 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 8; 2002 c 3 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001).]

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Findings—Captions not law—Severability—2002 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775):** See RCW 74.39A.220 and notes following.

**74.39A.261 Department duties—Criminal background checks on individual providers.** The department must perform criminal background checks for individual providers and prospective individual providers under RCW 74.39A.056. [2012 c 164 § 502; 2012 c 1 § 102 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 102, was identical to RCW 74.39A.260 as amended by 2009 c 580 § 9, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 502.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Contingent effective dates—Application—Construction—Effective date—Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.270 Collective bargaining—Circumstances in which individual providers are considered public employees—Exceptions.** (1) Solely for the purposes of collective bargaining and as expressly limited under subsections (2) and (3) of this section, the governor is the public employer, as defined in chapter 41.56 RCW, of individual providers, who, solely for the purposes of collective bargaining, are public employees as defined in chapter 41.56 RCW. To accommodate the role of the state as payor for the community-based services provided under this chapter and to ensure coordination with state employee collective bargaining under chapter 41.80 RCW and the coordination necessary to implement RCW 74.39A.300, the public employer shall be represented for bargaining purposes by the governor or the governor's designee appointed under chapter 41.80 RCW. The governor or governor's designee shall periodically consult with the authority during the collective bargaining process to allow the authority to communicate issues relating to the long-term in-home care services received by consumers. The department shall solicit input from the developmental disabilities council, the governor's committee on disability issues and employment, the state council on aging, and other consumer advocacy organizations to obtain informed input from consumers on their interests, including impacts on consumer choice, for all issues proposed for collective bargaining under subsections (5) and (6) of this section.

(2) Chapter 41.56 RCW governs the collective bargaining relationship between the governor and individual providers, except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter and except as follows:

(a) The only unit appropriate for the purpose of collective bargaining under RCW 41.56.060 is a statewide unit of all individual providers;

(b) The showing of interest required to request an election under RCW 41.56.060 is ten percent of the unit, and any intervener seeking to appear on the ballot must make the same showing of interest;

(c) The mediation and interest arbitration provisions of RCW 41.56.430 through 41.56.470 and 41.56.480 apply, except that:

(i) With respect to commencement of negotiations between the governor and the bargaining representative of individual providers, negotiations shall be commenced by May 1st of any year prior to the year in which an existing collective bargaining agreement expires; and

(ii) The decision of the arbitration panel is not binding on the legislature and, if the legislature does not approve the request for funds necessary to implement the compensation and fringe benefit provisions of the arbitrated collective bargaining agreement, is not binding on the authority or the state;

(d) Individual providers do not have the right to strike; and

(e) Individual providers who are related to, or family members of, consumers or prospective consumers are not, for that reason, exempt from this chapter or chapter 41.56 RCW.

(3) Individual providers who are public employees solely for the purposes of collective bargaining under subsection (1) of this section are not, for that reason, employees of the state, its political subdivisions, or an area agency on aging for any purpose. Chapter 41.56 RCW applies only to the governance of the collective bargaining relationship between the employer and individual providers as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(4) Consumers and prospective consumers retain the right to select, hire, supervise the work of, and terminate any individual provider providing services to them. Consumers may elect to receive long-term in-home care services from individual providers who are not referred to them by the authority.

(5) Except as expressly limited in this section and RCW 74.39A.300, the wages, hours, and working conditions of individual providers are determined solely through collective bargaining as provided in this chapter. No agency or department of the state may establish policies or rules governing the wages or hours of individual providers. However, this subsection does not modify:

(a) The department's authority to establish a plan of care for each consumer or its core responsibility to manage long-term in-home care services under this chapter, including determination of the level of care that each consumer is eligible to receive. However, at the request of the exclusive bargaining representative, the governor or the governor's designee appointed under chapter 41.80 RCW shall engage in collective bargaining, as defined in RCW 41.56.030(4), with the exclusive bargaining representative over how the department's core responsibility affects hours of work for individual providers. This subsection shall not be interpreted to require collective bargaining over an individual consumer's plan of care;

(b) The department's authority to terminate its contracts with individual providers who are not adequately meeting the needs of a particular consumer, or to deny a contract under RCW 74.39A.095(8);

(c) The consumer's right to assign hours to one or more individual providers selected by the consumer within the maximum hours determined by his or her plan of care;

(d) The consumer's right to select, hire, terminate, supervise the work of, and determine the conditions of employment for each individual provider providing services to the consumer under this chapter;

(e) The department's obligation to comply with the federal medicaid statute and regulations and the terms of any community-based waiver granted by the federal department of health and human services and to ensure federal financial participation in the provision of the services; and

(f) The legislature's right to make programmatic modifications to the delivery of state services under this title, including standards of eligibility of consumers and individual providers participating in the programs under this title, and the nature of services provided. The governor shall not enter into, extend, or renew any agreement under this chapter that does not expressly reserve the legislative rights described in this subsection (5)(f).

(6) At the request of the exclusive bargaining representative, the governor or the governor's designee appointed under chapter 41.80 RCW shall engage in collective bargaining, as defined in RCW 41.56.030(4), with the exclusive bargaining representative over employer contributions to the training partnership for the costs of: (a) Meeting all training and peer mentoring required under this chapter; and (b) other training intended to promote the career development of individual providers.

(7) The state, the department, the area agencies on aging, or their contractors under this chapter may not be held vicariously or jointly liable for the action or inaction of any individual provider or prospective individual provider, whether or not that individual provider or prospective individual provider was included on the referral registry or referred to a consumer or prospective consumer. The existence of a collective bargaining agreement, the placement of an individual provider on the referral registry, or the development or approval of a plan of care for a consumer who chooses to use the services of an individual provider and the provision of case management services to that consumer, by the department or an area agency on aging, does not constitute a special relationship with the consumer.

(8) Nothing in this section affects the state's responsibility with respect to unemployment insurance for individual providers. However, individual providers are not to be considered, as a result of the state assuming this responsibility, employees of the state. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 10; 2007 c 361 § 7; 2007 c 278 § 3; 2006 c 106 § 1; 2004 c 3 § 1; 2002 c 3 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001).]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Effective date—2007 c 361 §§ 7 and 8:** "Sections 7 and 8 of this act take effect March 1, 2008." [2007 c 361 § 14.]

**Construction—Severability—Captions not law—Short title—2007 c 361:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**Effective date—2006 c 106:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 17, 2006]." [2006 c 106 § 2.]

**Severability—2004 c 3:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2004 c 3 § 8.]

**Effective date—2004 c 3:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 9, 2004]." [2004 c 3 § 9.]

**Findings—Captions not law—Severability—2002 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775):** See RCW 74.39A.220 and notes following.

**74.39A.300 Funding.** (1) Upon meeting the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, the governor must submit, as a part of the proposed biennial or supplemental operating budget submitted to the legislature under RCW 43.88.030, a request for funds necessary to administer chapter 3, Laws of 2002 and to implement the compensation and fringe benefits provisions of a collective bargaining agreement entered into under RCW 74.39A.270 or for legislation necessary to implement such agreement.

(2) A request for funds necessary to implement the compensation and fringe benefits provisions of a collective bargaining agreement entered into under RCW 74.39A.270 shall not be submitted by the governor to the legislature unless such request:

(a) Has been submitted to the director of financial management by October 1st prior to the legislative session at which the request is to be considered; and

(b) Has been certified by the director of financial management as being feasible financially for the state or reflects the binding decision of an arbitration panel reached under RCW 74.39A.270(2)(c).

(3) The legislature must approve or reject the submission of the request for funds as a whole. If the legislature rejects or fails to act on the submission, any such agreement will be reopened solely for the purpose of renegotiating the funds necessary to implement the agreement.

(4) When any increase in individual provider wages or benefits is negotiated or agreed to, no increase in wages or benefits negotiated or agreed to under this chapter will take effect unless and until, before its implementation, the department has determined that the increase is consistent with federal law and federal financial participation in the provision of services under Title XIX of the federal social security act.

(5) The governor shall periodically consult with the joint committee on employment relations established by RCW 41.80.010 regarding appropriations necessary to implement the compensation and fringe benefits provisions of any collective bargaining agreement and, upon completion of negotiations, advise the committee on the elements of the agreement and on any legislation necessary to implement such agreement.

(6) After the expiration date of any collective bargaining agreement entered into under RCW 74.39A.270, all of the terms and conditions specified in any such agreement remain in effect until the effective date of a subsequent agreement, not to exceed one year from the expiration date stated in the agreement, except as provided in \*RCW 74.39A.270(6)(f).

[Title 74 RCW—page 190]

(7) If, after the compensation and benefit provisions of an agreement are approved by the legislature, a significant revenue shortfall occurs resulting in reduced appropriations, as declared by proclamation of the governor or by resolution of the legislature, both parties shall immediately enter into collective bargaining for a mutually agreed upon modification of the agreement. [2004 c 3 § 2; 2002 c 3 § 9 (Initiative Measure No. 775, approved November 6, 2001).]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 74.39A.270 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 10, changing subsection (6)(f) to subsection (5)(f).

**Severability—Effective date—2004 c 3:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.270.

**Findings—Captions not law—Severability—2002 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 775):** See RCW 74.39A.220 and notes following.

**74.39A.310 Contract for individual home care services providers—Cost of increase in wages and benefits funded—Formula.**

(1) The department shall create a formula that converts the cost of the increase in wages and benefits negotiated and funded in the contract for individual providers of home care services pursuant to RCW 74.39A.270 and 74.39A.300, into a per-hour amount, excluding those benefits defined in subsection (2) of this section. That per-hour amount shall be added to the statewide home care agency vendor rate and shall be used exclusively for improving the wages and benefits of home care agency workers who provide direct care. The formula shall account for:

(a) All types of wages, benefits, and compensation negotiated and funded each biennium, including but not limited to:

(i) Regular wages;

(ii) Benefit pay, such as vacation, sick, and holiday pay;

(iii) Taxes on wages/benefit pay;

(iv) Mileage; and

(v) Contributions to a training partnership; and

(b) The increase in the average cost of worker's compensation for home care agencies and application of the increases identified in (a) of this subsection to all hours required to be paid, including travel time, of direct service workers under the wage and hour laws and associated employer taxes.

(2) The contribution rate for health care benefits, including but not limited to medical, dental, and vision benefits, for eligible agency home care workers shall be paid by the department to home care agencies at the same rate as negotiated and funded in the collective bargaining agreement for individual providers of home care services. [2007 c 361 § 8; 2006 c 9 § 1.]

**Effective date—2007 c 361 §§ 7 and 8:** See note following RCW 74.39A.270.

**Construction—Severability—Captions not law—Short title—2007 c 361:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**Effective date—2006 c 9:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 9 § 3.]

**74.39A.320 Establishment of capital add-on rate—Determination of medicaid occupancy percentage.**

(1) To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the department shall establish a capital add-on rate, not less than the July 1, 2005, capital add-on rate established by the department, for those assisted living facilities contracting with the department that have a medicaid occupancy percentage of sixty percent or greater.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) Effective for July 1, 2006, and for each July 1st rate-setting period thereafter, the department shall determine the facility's medicaid occupancy percentage using the last six months' medicaid resident days from the preceding calendar year divided by the product of all its licensed assisted living facility beds irrespective of use, times calendar days for the six-month period. For the purposes of this section, medicaid resident days include those clients who are enrolled in a medicaid managed long-term care program, including but not limited to the program for all inclusive care and the medicaid integration project.

(3) The medicaid occupancy percentage established beginning on July 1, 2006, and for each July 1st thereafter, shall be used to determine whether an assisted living facility qualifies for the capital add-on rate under this section. Those facilities that qualify for the capital add-on rate shall receive the capital add-on rate throughout the applicable fiscal year. [2012 c 10 § 67; 2006 c 260 § 1.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—2006 c 260:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 260 § 2.]

**74.39A.325 In-home personal care or respite services—Electronic timekeeping.** (1) Beginning July 1, 2010, the department shall not pay a home care agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW for in-home personal care or respite services provided under this chapter, Title 71A RCW, or chapter 74.39 RCW if the home care agency does not verify agency employee hours by electronic timekeeping.

(2) For purposes of this section, "electronic timekeeping" means an electronic, verifiable method of recording an employee's presence in the client's home at the beginning and end of the employee's client visit workday. [2009 c 571 § 2.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—2009 c 571:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [2009 c 571 § 3.]

**Effective date—2009 c 571:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 19, 2009]." [2009 c 571 § 4.]

**74.39A.326 In-home personal care or respite services to family members—Department not authorized to pay—Exceptions—Enforcement—Rules.** (1)(a) The department shall not pay a home care agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW for in-home personal care or respite services provided under this chapter, Title 71A RCW, or chapter 74.39 RCW if the care is provided to a client by a family member of the client. To the extent permitted under federal law, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply if the family member providing care is older than the client.

(b) The department may, on a case-by-case basis based on the client's health and safety, make exceptions to (a) of this subsection to authorize payment or to provide for payment during a transition period of up to three months.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) The department shall take appropriate enforcement action against a home care agency found to have charged the state for hours of service for which the department is not authorized to pay under this section, including requiring recoupment of any payment made for those hours and, under criteria adopted by the department by rule, terminating the contract of an agency that violates a recoupment requirement.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Client" means a person who has been deemed eligible by the department to receive in-home personal care or respite services.

(b) "Family member" shall be liberally construed to include, but not be limited to, a parent, child, sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandparent, grandchild, grandniece, or grandnephew, or such relatives when related by marriage.

(4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules shall not result in affecting the amount, duration, or scope of the personal care or respite services benefit to which a client may be entitled pursuant to RCW 74.09.520 or Title XIX of the federal social security act. [2009 c 571 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2009 c 571:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.325.

**74.39A.331 Peer mentoring.** Long-term care workers shall be offered on-the-job training or peer mentorship for at least one hour per week in the first ninety days of work from a long-term care worker who has completed at least twelve hours of mentor training and is mentoring no more than ten other workers at any given time. This requirement applies to long-term care workers who begin work on or after July 1, 2012, except that it does not apply to long-term care workers employed by community residential service businesses until January 1, 2016. [2012 c 164 § 403; 2012 c 1 § 111 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 111, was identical to RCW 74.39A.330 as amended by 2009 c 478 § 1, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 403.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Contingent effective dates—Application—Construction—Effective date—Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.341 Continuing education requirements for long-term care workers.** (1) All long-term care workers shall complete twelve hours of continuing education training in advanced training topics each year. This requirement applies beginning July 1, 2012.

(2) Completion of continuing education as required in this section is a prerequisite to maintaining home care aide certification under chapter 18.88B RCW.

(3) Unless voluntarily certified as a home care aide under chapter 18.88B RCW, subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) An individual provider caring only for his or her biological, step, or adoptive child;

(b) Before January 1, 2016, a long-term care worker employed by a community residential service business; or

[Title 74 RCW—page 191]

(c) Before July 1, 2014, a person hired as an individual provider who provides twenty hours or less of care for one person in any calendar month.

(4) Only training curriculum approved by the department may be used to fulfill the training requirements specified in this section. The department shall only approve training curriculum that:

(a) Has been developed with input from consumer and worker representatives; and

(b) Requires comprehensive instruction by qualified instructors.

(5) Individual providers under RCW 74.39A.270 shall be compensated for training time required by this section.

(6) The department of health shall adopt rules to implement subsection (1) of this section.

(7) The department shall adopt rules to implement subsection (2) of this section. [2012 c 164 § 405; 2012 c 1 § 112 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 112, was identical to RCW 74.39A.340 as amended by 2009 c 580 § 12, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 405.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Contingent effective dates—Application—Construction—Effective date—Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.351 Advanced training.** (1) The department shall offer, directly or through contract, training opportunities sufficient for a long-term care worker to accumulate seventy hours of training within a reasonable time period. For individual providers represented by an exclusive bargaining representative under RCW 74.39A.270, the training opportunities shall be offered through the training partnership established under RCW 74.39A.360.

(2) Training topics offered under this section shall include, but are not limited to: Client rights; personal care; mental illness; dementia; developmental disabilities; depression; medication assistance; advanced communication skills; positive client behavior support; developing or improving client-centered activities; dealing with wandering or aggressive client behaviors; medical conditions; nurse delegation core training; peer mentor training; and advocacy for quality care training.

(3) The department may not require long-term care workers to obtain the training described in this section.

(4) The requirement to offer advanced training applies beginning January 1, 2013, except that it does not apply to long-term care workers employed by community residential service businesses until January 1, 2016. [2012 c 164 § 404; 2012 c 1 § 113 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Reviser's note:** The language of this section, as enacted by 2012 c 1 § 113, was identical to RCW 74.39A.350 as amended by 2009 c 580 § 13, which was repealed by 2012 c 1 § 115. This section has since been amended by 2012 c 164 § 404.

**Finding—Intent—Rules—Effective date—2012 c 164:** See notes following RCW 18.88B.010.

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Contingent effective dates—Application—Construction—Effective date—**

[Title 74 RCW—page 192]

**Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.360 Training partnership.** Beginning January 1, 2010, for individual providers represented by an exclusive bargaining representative under RCW 74.39A.270, all training and peer mentoring required under this chapter shall be provided by a training partnership. Contributions to the partnership pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement negotiated under this chapter shall be made beginning July 1, 2009. The training partnership shall provide reports as required by the department verifying that all individual providers have complied with all training requirements. The exclusive bargaining representative shall designate the training partnership. [2007 c 361 § 6.]

**Construction—Severability—Captions not law—Short title—2007 c 361:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**74.39A.370 Addressing long-term care complaint workload.** Subject to funding provided for this specific purpose, the department of social and health services shall use additional investigative resources to address a significant growth in the long-term care complaint workload. The department shall use the resulting licensor resources to meet current statutory requirements and timelines. "Complaints," as used in this section, include both complaints about provider practice, under chapters 70.128, 18.20, 18.51, and 74.42 RCW, and complaints about individuals alleged to have abused, neglected, abandoned, or exploited residents or clients, under chapter 74.34 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 501.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

**74.39A.380 Internal quality review and accountability program for residential care services—Quality assurance panel—Report.** (1) Subject to funding provided for this specific purpose, the department of social and health services shall develop for phased-in implementation a statewide internal quality review and accountability program for residential care services. The program must be designed to enable the department to improve the accountability of staff and the consistent application of investigative activities across all long-term care settings, and must allow the systematic monitoring and evaluation of long-term care licensing and certification. The program must be designed to improve and standardize investigative outcomes for the vulnerable individuals at risk of abuse and neglect, and coordinate outcomes across the department to prevent perpetrators from changing settings and continuing to work with vulnerable adults.

(2) The department shall convene a quality assurance panel to review problems in the quality of care in adult family homes and to reduce incidents of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation. The state's long-term care ombudsman shall chair the panel and identify appropriate stakeholders to participate. The panel must consider inspection, investigation, public complaint, and enforcement issues that relate to adult family homes. The panel must also focus on oversight issues to address de minimis violations, processes for handling unresolved citations, and better ways to oversee new providers. The panel shall meet at least quarterly, and provide a report with recommendations to the gov-

ernor's office, the senate health and long-term care committee, and the house of representatives health and wellness committee by December 1, 2012. [2011 1st sp.s. c 3 § 502.]

**Finding—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 3:** See note following RCW 70.128.005.

**74.39A.800 Changes to agreements—Performance of duties.** (1) If any provision of chapter 1, Laws of 2012 triggers changes to an agreement reached under RCW 74.39A.300, the changes must go into effect immediately without need for legislative approval.

(2) The requirements contained in RCW 74.39A.300 and chapter 1, Laws of 2012 constitute ministerial, mandatory, and nondiscretionary duties. Failure to fully perform such duties constitutes a violation of chapter 1, Laws of 2012. Any person may bring an action to require the governor or other responsible persons to perform such duties. Such action may be brought in the superior court, at the petitioner's option, for (a) Thurston county, or (b) the county of the petitioner's residence or principal place of business, or such action may be filed directly with the supreme court, which is hereby given original jurisdiction over such action. [2012 c 1 § 304 (Initiative Measure No. 1163, approved November 8, 2011).]

**Intent—Findings—Performance audits—Spending limits—Construction—Effective date—Short title—2012 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 1163):** See notes following RCW 74.39A.056.

**74.39A.900 Section captions—1993 c 508.** Section captions as used in this act constitute no part of the law. [1993 c 508 § 10.]

**74.39A.901 Conflict with federal requirements.** If any part of this chapter or a collective bargaining agreement under this chapter is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this chapter or the agreement is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter or the agreement in its application to the agencies concerned. The rules under this chapter shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [2004 c 3 § 5; 1993 c 508 § 11.]

**Severability—Effective date—2004 c 3:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.270.

**74.39A.902 Severability—1993 c 508.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1993 c 508 § 12.]

**74.39A.903 Effective date—1993 c 508.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 18, 1993]. [1993 c 508 § 13.]

(2012 Ed.)

## Chapter 74.41 RCW RESPITE CARE SERVICES

### Sections

74.41.010	Legislative findings.
74.41.020	Intent.
74.41.030	Definitions.
74.41.040	Administration—Rules—Program standards.
74.41.050	Family caregiver long-term care information and support services—Respite services, evaluation of need, caregiver abilities.
74.41.060	Respite care program—Criteria.
74.41.070	Family caregiver long-term care information and support services—Data.
74.41.080	Health care practitioners and facilities not impaired.
74.41.090	Entitlement not created.
74.41.900	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**74.41.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature recognizes that:

(1) Most care provided for functionally disabled adults is delivered by family members or friends who are not compensated for their services. Family involvement is a crucial element for avoiding or postponing institutionalization of the disabled adult.

(2) Family or other caregivers who provide continuous care in the home are frequently under substantial stress, physical, psychological, and financial. The stress, if unrelieved by family or community support to the caregiver, may lead to premature or unnecessary nursing home placement.

(3) Respite care and other community-based supportive services for the caregiver and for the disabled adult could relieve some of the stresses, maintain and strengthen the family structure, and postpone or prevent institutionalization.

(4) With family and friends providing the primary care for the disabled adult, supplemented by community health and social services, long-term care may be less costly than if the individual were institutionalized. [1984 c 158 § 1.]

**74.41.020 Intent.** It is the intent of the legislature to provide a comprehensive program of long-term care information and support, including in-home and out-of-home respite care services, for family and other unpaid caregivers who provide the daily services required when caring for adults with functional disabilities. The family caregiver long-term care information and support services shall:

(1) Provide information, relief, and support to family or other unpaid caregivers of adults with functional disabilities;

(2) Encourage family and other nonpaid individuals to provide care for adults with functional disabilities at home, and thus offer a viable alternative to placement in a long-term care facility;

(3) Ensure that respite care is made generally available on a sliding-fee basis to eligible participants in the program according to priorities established by the department;

(4) Be provided in the least restrictive setting available consistent with the individually assessed needs of the adults with functional disabilities;

(5) Include services appropriate to the needs of persons caring for individuals with dementing illnesses; and

(6) Provide unpaid family and other unpaid caregivers with services that enable them to make informed decisions about current and future care plans, solve day-to-day caregiving problems, learn essential caregiving skills, and locate ser-

vices that may strengthen their capacity to provide care. [2000 c 207 § 2; 1987 c 409 § 1; 1984 c 158 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.41.030 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Family caregiver long-term care information and support services" means providing long-term care information and support services to unpaid family and other unpaid caregivers of adults with functional disabilities, including but not limited to providing: (a) Information about available public and private long-term care support services; (b) assistance in gaining access to an array of appropriate long-term care family caregiver services; (c) promotion and implementation of support groups; (d) caregiver training to assist the nonpaid caregivers in making decisions and solving challenges relating to their caregiving roles; (e) respite care services; and (f) additional supportive long-term care services that may include but not be limited to translating/interpreter services, specialized transportation, coordination of health care services, help purchasing needed supplies, durable goods, or equipment, and other forms of information and support necessary to maintain the unpaid caregiving activity.

(2) "Respite care services" means relief care for families or other caregivers of adults with functional disabilities, eligibility for which shall be determined by the department by rule. The services provide temporary care or supervision of adults with functional disabilities in substitution for the caregiver. The term includes adult day services.

(3) "Eligible participant for family caregiver long-term care information and support services" means an adult who needs substantially continuous care or supervision by reason of his or her functional disability and may be at risk of placement into a long-term care facility.

(4) "Eligible participant for respite care services" means an adult who needs substantially continuous care or supervision by reason of his or her functional disability and is also assessed as requiring placement into a long-term care facility in the absence of an unpaid family or other unpaid caregiver.

(5) "Unpaid caregiver" means a spouse, relative, or friend who has primary responsibility for the care of an adult with a functional disability and who does not receive financial compensation for the care. To be eligible for respite care and for family caregiver support services, the caregiver is considered the client.

(6) "Adult day services" means nonmedical services to persons who live with their families, cannot be left unsupervised, and are at risk of being placed in a twenty-four-hour care facility if their families do not receive some relief from constant care.

(7) "Department" means the department of social and health services. [2000 c 207 § 3; 1987 c 409 § 2; 1984 c 158 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.41.040 Administration—Rules—Program standards.** The department shall administer this chapter and shall establish such rules and standards as the department deems necessary in carrying out this chapter. The department shall not require the development of plans of care or dis-

charge plans by nursing homes or adult family homes providing respite care service under this chapter. Assisted living facilities providing respite care services shall comply with the assessment and plan of care provisions of RCW 18.20.350.

The department shall develop standards for the respite program in conjunction with the selected area agencies on aging. The program standards shall serve as the basis for soliciting bids, entering into subcontracts, and developing sliding fee scales to be used in determining the ability of eligible participants to participate in paying for respite care. [2012 c 10 § 68; 2008 c 146 § 2; 1987 c 409 § 3; 1984 c 158 § 4.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 146:** "The legislature finds that Washingtonians sixty-five years of age and older will nearly double in the next twenty years, from eleven percent of our population today to almost twenty percent of our population in 2025. Younger people with disabilities will also require supportive long-term care services. Nationally, young people with a disability account for thirty-seven percent of the total number of people who need long-term care.

The legislature further finds that to address this increasing need, the long-term care system should support autonomy and self-determination, and support the role of informal caregivers and families. It should promote personal planning and savings combined with public support, when needed. It should also include culturally appropriate, high quality information, services, and supports delivered in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

The legislature further finds that more than fifteen percent of adults over age sixty-five in Washington state have diabetes. Current nurse delegation statutes limit the ability of elderly and disabled persons with diabetes to remain in their own homes or in other home-like long-term care settings. It is the intent of the legislature to modify nurse delegation statutes to enable elderly persons and persons with disabilities who have diabetes to continue to reside in their own home or other home-like settings.

The legislature further finds that the long-term care system should utilize evidence-based practices for the prevention and management of chronic disease to improve the general health of Washingtonians over their lifetime and reduce health care and long-term care costs related to ineffective chronic care management." [2008 c 146 § 1.]

**Severability—2008 c 146:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2008 c 146 § 14.]

**74.41.050 Family caregiver long-term care information and support services—Respite services, evaluation of need, caregiver abilities.** The department shall contract with area agencies on aging or other appropriate agencies to conduct family caregiver long-term care information and support services to the extent of available funding. The responsibilities of the agencies shall include but not be limited to: (1) Administering a program of family caregiver long-term care information and support services; (2) negotiating rates of payment, administering sliding-fee scales to enable eligible participants to participate in paying for respite care, and arranging for respite care information, training, and other support services; and (3) developing an evidence-based tailored caregiver assessment and referral tool. In evaluating the need for respite services, consideration shall be given to the mental and physical ability of the caregiver to perform necessary caregiver functions. [2008 c 146 § 4; 2000 c 207 § 4; 1989 c 427 § 8; 1987 c 409 § 4; 1984 c 158 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2008 c 146:** See notes following RCW 74.41.040.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.41.060 Respite care program—Criteria.** The department shall insure that the respite care program is designed to meet the following criteria:

(1) Make maximum use of services which provide care to the greatest number of eligible participants with the fewest number of staff consistent with adequate care;

(2) Provide for use of one-on-one care when necessary;

(3) Provide for both day care and overnight care;

(4) Provide personal care to continue at the same level which the caregiver ordinarily provides to the eligible participant; and

(5) Provide for the utilization of family home settings. [1984 c 158 § 6.]

**74.41.070 Family caregiver long-term care information and support services—Data.** The area agencies on aging administering family caregiver long-term care information and support services shall maintain data which indicates demand for family caregiver long-term care information and support services. [2000 c 207 § 5; 1998 c 245 § 151; 1987 c 409 § 5; 1984 c 158 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.41.080 Health care practitioners and facilities not impaired.** Nothing in this chapter shall impair the practice of any licensed health care practitioner or licensed health care facility. [1984 c 158 § 8.]

**74.41.090 Entitlement not created.** Nothing in this chapter creates or provides any individual with an entitlement to services or benefits. It is the intent of the legislature that services under this chapter shall be made available only to the extent of the availability and level of appropriation made by the legislature. [1987 c 409 § 6.]

**74.41.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 182.]

## Chapter 74.42 RCW

### NURSING HOMES—RESIDENT CARE, OPERATING STANDARDS

#### Sections

74.42.010	Definitions.
74.42.020	Minimum standards.
74.42.030	Resident to receive statement of rights, rules, services, and charges.

74.42.040	Resident's rights regarding medical condition, care, and treatment.
74.42.050	Residents to be treated with consideration, respect—Complaints.
74.42.055	Discrimination against medicaid recipients prohibited.
74.42.056	Department assessment of medicaid eligible individuals—Requirements.
74.42.057	Notification regarding resident likely to become medicaid eligible.
74.42.058	Department case management services.
74.42.060	Management of residents' financial affairs.
74.42.070	Privacy.
74.42.080	Confidentiality of records.
74.42.090	Work tasks by residents.
74.42.100	Personal mail.
74.42.110	Freedom of association—Limits.
74.42.120	Personal possessions.
74.42.130	Individual financial records.
74.42.140	Prescribed plan of care—Treatment, medication, diet services.
74.42.150	Plan of care—Goals—Program—Responsibilities—Review.
74.42.160	Nursing care.
74.42.170	Rehabilitative services.
74.42.180	Social services.
74.42.190	Activities program—Recreation areas, equipment.
74.42.200	Supervision of health care by physician—When required.
74.42.210	Pharmacist services.
74.42.220	Contracts for professional services from outside the agency.
74.42.225	Self-medication programs for residents—Educational program—Implementation.
74.42.230	Physician or authorized practitioner to prescribe medication.
74.42.240	Administering medication.
74.42.250	Medication stop orders—Procedure for persons with developmental disabilities.
74.42.260	Drug storage, security, inventory.
74.42.270	Drug disposal.
74.42.280	Adverse drug reaction.
74.42.285	Immunizations—Rules.
74.42.290	Meal intervals—Food handling—Utensils—Disposal.
74.42.300	Nutritionist—Menus, special diets.
74.42.310	Staff duties at meals.
74.42.320	Sanitary procedures for food preparation.
74.42.330	Food storage.
74.42.340	Administrative support—Purchasing—Inventory control.
74.42.350	Organization chart.
74.42.360	Adequate staff.
74.42.370	Licensed administrator.
74.42.380	Director of nursing services.
74.42.390	Communication system.
74.42.400	Engineering and maintenance personnel.
74.42.410	Laundry services.
74.42.420	Resident record system.
74.42.430	Written policy guidelines.
74.42.440	Facility rated capacity not to be exceeded.
74.42.450	Residents limited to those the facility qualified to care for—Transfer or discharge of residents—Appeal of department discharge decision—Reasonable accommodation.
74.42.455	Transitional care management.
74.42.460	Organization plan and procedures.
74.42.470	Infected employees.
74.42.480	Living areas.
74.42.490	Room requirements—Waiver.
74.42.500	Toilet and bathing facilities.
74.42.510	Room for dining, recreation, social activities—Waiver.
74.42.520	Therapy area.
74.42.530	Isolation areas.
74.42.540	Building requirements.
74.42.550	Handrails.
74.42.560	Emergency lighting for facilities housing persons with developmental disabilities.
74.42.570	Health and safety requirements.
74.42.580	Penalties for violation of standards.
74.42.600	Department inspections—Notice of noncompliance—Penalties—Coordination with department of health.
74.42.620	Departmental rules.
74.42.630	Conflict with federal requirements.
74.42.640	Quality assurance committee.
74.42.900	Severability—1979 ex.s. c 211.
74.42.910	Construction—Conflict with federal requirements.
74.42.920	Chapter 74.42 RCW suspended—Effective date delayed until January 1, 1981.

**Effective date—Chapter 74.42 RCW:** See RCW 74.42.920.

**74.42.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of social and health services and the department's employees.

(2) "Facility" refers to a nursing home as defined in RCW 18.51.010.

(3) "Licensed practical nurse" means a person licensed to practice practical nursing under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(4) "Medicaid" means Title XIX of the Social Security Act enacted by the social security amendments of 1965 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396; 79 Stat. 343), as amended.

(5) "Nurse practitioner" means a person licensed to practice advanced registered nursing under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(6) "Nursing care" means that care provided by a registered nurse, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, a licensed practical nurse, or a nursing assistant in the regular performance of their duties.

(7) "Physician" means a person practicing pursuant to chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW, including, but not limited to, a physician employed by the facility as provided in chapter 18.51 RCW.

(8) "Physician assistant" means a person practicing pursuant to chapter 18.57A or 18.71A RCW.

(9) "Qualified therapist" means:

(a) An activities specialist who has specialized education, training, or experience specified by the department.

(b) An audiologist who is eligible for a certificate of clinical competence in audiology or who has the equivalent education and clinical experience.

(c) A mental health professional as defined in chapter 71.05 RCW.

(d) An intellectual disabilities professional who is a qualified therapist or a therapist approved by the department and has specialized training or one year experience in treating or working with persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

(e) An occupational therapist who is a graduate of a program in occupational therapy or who has equivalent education or training.

(f) A physical therapist as defined in chapter 18.74 RCW.

(g) A social worker as defined in RCW 18.320.010(2).

(h) A speech pathologist who is eligible for a certificate of clinical competence in speech pathology or who has equivalent education and clinical experience.

(10) "Registered nurse" means a person licensed to practice registered nursing under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(11) "Resident" means an individual residing in a nursing home, as defined in RCW 18.51.010. [2011 c 228 § 2; 2011 c 89 § 19. Prior: 2010 c 94 § 27; 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 750; 1993 c 508 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 c 89 § 19 and by 2011 c 228 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2011 c 89:** See note following RCW 18.320.005.

**Findings—2011 c 89:** See RCW 18.320.005.

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.020 Minimum standards.** The standards in RCW 74.42.030 through 74.42.570 are the minimum standards for facilities licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That RCW 74.42.040, 74.42.140 through 74.42.280, 74.42.300, 74.42.360, 74.42.370, 74.42.380, 74.42.420 (2), (4), (5), (6) and (7), 74.42.430(3), 74.42.450 (2) and (3), 74.42.520, 74.42.530, 74.42.540, 74.42.570, and 74.42.580 shall not apply to any nursing home or institution conducted for those who rely upon treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the creed or tenets of any well-recognized church or religious denomination, or for any nursing home or institution operated for the exclusive care of members of a convent as defined in RCW 84.36.800 or rectory, monastery, or other institution operated for the care of members of the clergy. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 68; 1982 c 120 § 1; 1980 c 184 § 6; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.030 Resident to receive statement of rights, rules, services, and charges.** Each resident or guardian or legal representative, if any, shall be fully informed and receive in writing, in a language the resident or his or her representative understands, the following information:

(1) The resident's rights and responsibilities in the facility;

(2) Rules governing resident conduct;

(3) Services, items, and activities available in the facility; and

(4) Charges for services, items, and activities, including those not included in the facility's basic daily rate or not paid by medicaid.

The facility shall provide this information before admission, or at the time of admission in case of emergency, and as changes occur during the resident's stay. The resident and his or her representative must be informed in writing in advance of changes in the availability or charges for services, items, or activities, or of changes in the facility's rules. Except in unusual circumstances, thirty days' advance notice must be given prior to the change. The resident or legal guardian or representative shall acknowledge in writing receipt of this information.

The written information provided by the facility pursuant to this section, and the terms of any admission contract executed between the facility and an individual seeking admission to the facility, must be consistent with the requirements of this chapter and chapter 18.51 RCW and, for facilities certified under medicaid or medicare, with the applicable federal requirements. [1997 c 392 § 212; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 3.]

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

**74.42.040 Resident's rights regarding medical condition, care, and treatment.** The facility shall insure that each resident and guardian, if any:

(1) Is fully informed by a physician about his or her health and medical condition unless the physician decides that informing the resident is medically contraindicated and the physician documents this decision in the resident's record;

- (2) Has the opportunity to participate in his or her total care and treatment;
- (3) Has the opportunity to refuse treatment; and
- (4) Gives informed, written consent before participating in experimental research. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 4.]

**74.42.050 Residents to be treated with consideration, respect—Complaints.** (1) Residents shall be treated with consideration, respect, and full recognition of their dignity and individuality. Residents shall be encouraged and assisted in the exercise of their rights as residents of the facility and as citizens.

(2) A resident or guardian, if any, may submit complaints or recommendations concerning the policies of the facility to the staff and to outside representatives of the resident's choice. No facility may restrain, interfere, coerce, discriminate, or retaliate in any manner against a resident who submits a complaint or recommendation. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 5.]

**74.42.055 Discrimination against medicaid recipients prohibited.** (1) The purpose of this section is to prohibit discrimination against medicaid recipients by nursing homes which have contracted with the department to provide skilled or intermediate nursing care services to medicaid recipients.

(2) A nursing facility shall readmit a resident, who has been hospitalized or on therapeutic leave, immediately to the first available bed in a semiprivate room if the resident:

- (a) Requires the services provided by the facility; and
  - (b) Is eligible for medicaid nursing facility services.
- (3) It shall be unlawful for any nursing home which has a medicaid contract with the department:
- (a) To require, as a condition of admission, assurance from the patient or any other person that the patient is not eligible for or will not apply for medicaid;
  - (b) To deny or delay admission or readmission of a person to a nursing home because of his or her status as a medicaid recipient;
  - (c) To transfer a patient, except from a private room to another room within the nursing home, because of his or her status as a medicaid recipient;
  - (d) To transfer a patient to another nursing home because of his or her status as a medicaid recipient;
  - (e) To discharge a patient from a nursing home because of his or her status as a medicaid recipient; or
  - (f) To charge any amounts in excess of the medicaid rate from the date of eligibility, except for any supplementation permitted by the department pursuant to RCW 18.51.070.

(4) Any nursing home which has a medicaid contract with the department shall maintain one list of names of persons seeking admission to the facility, which is ordered by the date of request for admission. This information shall be retained for one year from the month admission was requested. However, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a nursing facility is permitted to give preferential admission to individuals who seek admission from an assisted living facility, licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, or from independent retirement housing, provided the nursing facility is owned by the same entity that owns the assisted living facility or independent housing which are located within the same proximate geographic area; and provided further,

(2012 Ed.)

the purpose of such preferential admission is to allow continued provision of: (a) Culturally or faith-based services, or (b) services provided by a continuing care retirement community as defined in RCW 70.38.025.

(5) The department may assess monetary penalties of a civil nature, not to exceed three thousand dollars for each violation of this section.

(6) Because it is a matter of great public importance to protect senior citizens who need medicaid services from discriminatory treatment in obtaining long-term health care, any violation of this section shall be construed for purposes of the application of the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW, to constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice or unfair method of competition in the conduct of trade or commerce.

(7) It is not an act of discrimination under this chapter to refuse to admit a patient if admitting that patient would prevent the needs of the other patients residing in that facility from being met at that facility, or if the facility's refusal is consistent with subsection (4) of this section. [2012 c 10 § 69; 2004 c 34 § 1; 1987 c 476 § 30; 1985 c 284 § 3.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—2004 c 34:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 22, 2004]." [2004 c 34 § 2.]

**74.42.056 Department assessment of medicaid eligible individuals—Requirements.** A nursing facility shall not admit any individual who is medicaid eligible unless that individual has been assessed by the department. Appropriate hospital discharge shall not be delayed pending the assessment.

To ensure timely hospital discharge of medicaid eligible persons, the date of the request for a department long-term care assessment, or the date that nursing home care actually begins, whichever is later, shall be deemed the effective date of the initial service and payment authorization. The department shall respond promptly to such requests.

A nursing facility admitting an individual without a request for a department assessment shall not be reimbursed by the department and shall not be allowed to collect payment from a medicaid eligible individual for any care rendered before the date the facility makes a request to the department for an assessment. The date on which a nursing facility makes a request for a department long-term care assessment, or the date that nursing home care actually begins, whichever is later, shall be deemed the effective date of initial service and payment authorization for admissions regardless of the source of referral.

A medicaid eligible individual residing in a nursing facility who is transferred to an acute care hospital shall not be required to have a department assessment under this section prior to returning to the same or another nursing facility. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.057 Notification regarding resident likely to become medicaid eligible.** If a nursing facility has reason to know that a resident is likely to become financially eligible for medicaid benefits within one hundred eighty days, the

nursing facility shall notify the patient or his or her representative and the department. The department may:

(1) Assess any such resident to determine if the resident prefers and could live appropriately at home or in some other community-based setting; and

(2) Provide case management services to the resident. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.058 Department case management services.**

(1) To the extent of available funding, the department shall provide case management services to assist nursing facility residents, in conjunction and partnership with nursing facility staff. The purpose of the case management services is to assist residents and their families to assess the appropriateness and availability of home and community services that could meet the resident's needs so that the resident and family can make informed choices.

(2) To the extent of available funding, the department shall provide case management services to nursing facility residents who are:

(a) Medicaid funded;

(b) Dually medicaid and medicare eligible;

(c) Medicaid applicants; and

(d) Likely to become financially eligible for medicaid within one hundred eighty days, pursuant to RCW 74.42.057. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.060 Management of residents' financial affairs.** The facility shall allow a resident or the resident's guardian to manage the resident's financial affairs. The facility may assist a resident in the management of his or her financial affairs if the resident requests assistance in writing and the facility complies with the recordkeeping requirements of RCW 74.42.130 and the provisions of \*chapter . . . (Senate Bill No. 2335), Laws of 1979. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 6.]

\*Reviser's note: Senate Bill No. 2335 was not enacted during the 1979 legislative sessions. A similar bill was enacted in 1980 and became 1980 c 177, which is codified primarily in chapter 74.46 RCW.

**74.42.070 Privacy.** Residents shall be given privacy during treatment and care of personal needs. Residents who are spouses or domestic partners shall be given privacy during visits with their spouses or their domestic partners. If both spouses or both domestic partners are residents of the facility, the facility shall permit the spouses or domestic partners to share a room, unless medically contraindicated. [2008 c 6 § 305; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**74.42.080 Confidentiality of records.** Residents' records, including information in an automatic data bank, shall be treated confidentially. The facility shall not release information from a resident's record to a person not otherwise authorized by law to receive the information without the resident's or the resident's guardian's written consent. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 8.]

[Title 74 RCW—page 198]

**74.42.090 Work tasks by residents.** No resident may be required to perform services for the facility; except that a resident may be required to perform work tasks specified or included in the comprehensive plan of care. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 9.]

**74.42.100 Personal mail.** The facility shall not open the personal mail that residents send or receive. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 10.]

**74.42.110 Freedom of association—Limits.** Residents shall be allowed to communicate, associate, meet privately with individuals of their choice, and participate in social, religious, and community group activities unless this infringes on the rights of other residents. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 11.]

**74.42.120 Personal possessions.** The facility shall allow residents to have personal possessions as space or security permits. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 12.]

**74.42.130 Individual financial records.** The facility shall keep a current, written financial record for each resident. The record shall include written receipts for all personal possessions and funds received by or deposited with the facility and for all disbursements made to or for the resident. The resident or guardian and the resident's family shall have access to the financial record. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 13.]

**74.42.140 Prescribed plan of care—Treatment, medication, diet services.** The facility shall care for residents by providing residents with authorized medical services which shall include treatment, medication, and diet services, and any other services contained in the comprehensive plan of care or otherwise prescribed by the attending physician. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 14.]

**74.42.150 Plan of care—Goals—Program—Responsibilities—Review.** (1) Under the attending physician's instructions, qualified facility staff will establish and maintain a comprehensive plan of care for each resident which shall be kept on file by the facility and be evaluated through review and assessment by the department. The comprehensive plan contains:

(a) Goals for each resident to accomplish;

(b) An integrated program of treatment, therapies and activities to help each resident achieve those goals; and

(c) The persons responsible for carrying out the programs in the plan.

(2) Qualified facility staff shall review the comprehensive plan of care at least quarterly. [1980 c 184 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 15.]

**74.42.160 Nursing care.** The facility shall provide the nursing care required for the classification given each resident. The nursing care shall help each resident to achieve and maintain the highest possible degree of function, self-care, and independence to the extent medically possible. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 16.]

**74.42.170 Rehabilitative services.** (1) The facility shall provide rehabilitative services itself or arrange for the

(2012 Ed.)

provision of rehabilitative services with qualified outside resources for each resident whose comprehensive plan of care requires the provision of rehabilitative services.

(2) The rehabilitative service personnel shall be qualified therapists, qualified therapists' assistants, or mental health professionals. Other support personnel under appropriate supervision may perform the duties of rehabilitative service personnel.

(3) The rehabilitative services shall be designed to maintain and improve the resident's ability to function independently; prevent, as much as possible, advancement of progressive disabilities; and restore maximum function. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 17.]

**74.42.180 Social services.** (1) The facility shall provide social services, or arrange for the provision of social services with qualified outside resources, for each resident whose comprehensive plan of care requires the provision of social services.

(2) The facility shall designate one staff member qualified by training or experience to be responsible for arranging for social services in the facility or with qualified outside resources and integrating social services with other elements of the plan of care. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 18.]

**74.42.190 Activities program—Recreation areas, equipment.** The facility shall have an activities program designed to encourage each resident to maintain normal activity and help each resident return to self care. A staff member qualified by experience or training in directing group activities shall be responsible for the activities program. The facility shall provide adequate recreation areas with sufficient equipment and materials to support the program. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 19.]

**74.42.200 Supervision of health care by physician—When required.** The health care of each resident shall be under the continuing supervision of a physician: PROVIDED, That a resident of a facility licensed pursuant to chapter 18.51 RCW but not certified by the federal government under Title XVIII or Title XIX of the Social Security Act as now or hereafter amended shall not be required to receive the continuing supervision of a health care practitioner licensed pursuant to chapter 18.22, 18.25, 18.32, 18.57, 18.71, and 18.83 RCW, nor shall the state of Washington require such continuing supervision as a condition of licensing. The physician shall see the resident whenever necessary, and as required and/or consistent with state and federal regulations. [1980 c 184 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 20.]

**74.42.210 Pharmacist services.** The facility shall either employ a licensed pharmacist responsible for operating the facility's pharmacy or have a written agreement with a licensed pharmacist who will advise the facility on ordering, storage, administration, disposal, and recordkeeping of drugs and biologicals. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 21.]

**74.42.220 Contracts for professional services from outside the agency.** (1) If the facility does not employ a qualified professional to furnish required services, the facility shall have a written contract with a qualified professional or

agency outside the facility to furnish the required services. The terms of the contract, including terms about responsibilities, functions, and objectives, shall be specified. The contract shall be signed by the administrator, or the administrator's representative, and the qualified professional.

(2) All contracts for these services shall require the standards in RCW 74.42.010 through 74.42.570 to be met. [1980 c 184 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 22.]

**74.42.225 Self-medication programs for residents—Educational program—Implementation.** The department shall develop an educational program for attending and staff physicians and patients on self-medication. The department shall actively encourage the implementation of such self-medication programs for residents. [1980 c 184 § 18.]

**74.42.230 Physician or authorized practitioner to prescribe medication.** (1) The resident's attending or staff physician or authorized practitioner approved by the attending physician shall order all medications for the resident. The order may be oral or written and shall be limited by time. An "authorized practitioner," as used in this section, is a registered nurse under chapter 18.79 RCW when authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission, an osteopathic physician assistant under chapter 18.57A RCW when authorized by the committee of osteopathic examiners, or a physician assistant under chapter 18.71A RCW when authorized by the medical quality assurance commission.

(2) An oral order shall be given only to a licensed nurse, pharmacist, or another physician. The oral order shall be recorded and signed immediately by the person receiving the order. The attending physician shall sign the record of the oral order in a manner consistent with good medical practice. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 751; 1982 c 120 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.240 Administering medication.** (1) No staff member may administer any medication to a resident unless the staff member is licensed to administer medication: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting graduate nurses or student nurses from administering medications when permitted to do so under chapter 18.79 RCW and rules adopted thereunder.

(2) The facility may only allow a resident to give himself or herself medication with the attending physician's permission.

(3) Medication shall only be administered to or used by the resident for whom it is ordered. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 752; 1989 c 372 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 24.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.250 Medication stop orders—Procedure for persons with developmental disabilities.** (1) When the physician's order for medication does not include a specific time limit or a specific number of dosages, the facility shall notify the physician that the medication will be stopped at a date certain unless the medication is ordered continued by the physician. The facility shall so notify the physician every thirty days.

(2) A facility for the developmentally disabled shall have an automatic stop order on all drugs, unless such stoppage will place the patient in jeopardy. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 25.]

**74.42.260 Drug storage, security, inventory.** (1) The facility shall store drugs under proper conditions of sanitation, temperature, light, moisture, ventilation, segregation, and security. Poisons, drugs used externally, and drugs taken internally shall be stored on separate shelves or in separate cabinets at all locations. When medication is stored in a refrigerator containing other items, the medication shall be kept in a separate compartment with proper security. All drugs shall be kept under lock and key unless an authorized individual is in attendance.

(2) The facility shall meet the drug security requirements of federal and state laws that apply to storerooms, pharmacies, and living units.

(3) If there is a drug storeroom separate from the pharmacy, the facility shall keep a perpetual inventory of receipts and issues of all drugs from that storeroom. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 26.]

**74.42.270 Drug disposal.** Any drug that is discontinued or outdated and any container with a worn, illegible, or missing label shall be properly disposed. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 27.]

**74.42.280 Adverse drug reaction.** Medication errors and adverse drug reactions shall be recorded and reported immediately to the practitioner who ordered the drug. The facility shall report adverse drug reactions consistent with good medical practice. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 28.]

**74.42.285 Immunizations—Rules.** (1) Long-term care facilities shall:

(a) Provide access on-site or make available elsewhere for all residents to obtain the influenza virus immunization on an annual basis;

(b) Require that each resident, or the resident's legal representative, upon admission to the facility, be informed verbally and in writing of the benefits of receiving the influenza virus immunization and, if not previously immunized against pneumococcal disease, the benefits of the pneumococcal immunization.

(2) As used in this section, "long-term care facility" is limited to nursing homes licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW.

(3) The department of social and health services shall adopt rules to implement this section.

(4) This section and rules adopted under this section shall not apply to nursing homes conducted for those who rely exclusively upon treatment by nonmedical religious healing methods, including prayer. [2002 c 256 § 2.]

**Intent—Findings—2002 c 256:** "It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that long-term care facilities are safe.

(1) The long-term care resident immunization act is intended to:

(a) Prevent and reduce the occurrence and severity of the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease by increasing the use of immunizations licensed by the food and drug administration;

(b) Avoid pain, suffering, and deaths that may result from the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

(c) Improve the well-being and quality of life of residents of long-term care facilities; and

(d) Reduce avoidable costs associated with treating the influenza virus

and pneumococcal disease.

(2) The legislature finds that:

(a) Recent studies show that it is important to immunize older citizens against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

(b) The centers for disease control and prevention recommend individuals living in long-term care facilities and those over age sixty-five receive immunizations against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease;

(c) The influenza virus and pneumococcal disease have been identified as leading causes of death for citizens over age sixty-five; and

(d) Immunizations licensed by the food and drug administration are readily available and effective in reducing and preventing the severity of the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease." [2002 c 256 § 1.]

**Short title—2002 c 256:** "This act may be known and cited as the long-term care resident immunization act of 2002." [2002 c 256 § 3.]

**74.42.290 Meal intervals—Food handling—Utensils—Disposal.** (1) The facility shall serve at least three meals, or their equivalent, daily at regular times with not more than fourteen hours between a substantial evening meal and breakfast on the following day and not less than ten hours between breakfast and a substantial evening meal on the same day.

(2) Food shall be procured, stored, transported, and prepared under sanitary conditions in compliance with state and local regulations.

(3) Food of an appropriate quantity at an appropriate temperature shall be served in a form consistent with the needs of the resident;

(4) Special eating equipment and utensils shall be provided for residents who need them; and

(5) Food served and uneaten shall be discarded. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 29.]

**74.42.300 Nutritionist—Menus, special diets.** (1) The facility shall have a staff member trained or experienced in food management and nutrition responsible for planning menus that meet the requirements of subsection (2) of this section and supervising meal preparation and service to insure that the menu plan is followed.

(2) The menu plans shall follow the orders of the resident's physician.

(3) The facility shall:

(a) Meet the nutritional needs of each resident;

(b) Have menus written in advance;

(c) Provide a variety of foods at each meal;

(d) Provide daily and weekly variations in the menus; and

(e) Adjust the menus for seasonal changes.

(4) If the facility has residents who require medically prescribed special diets, the menus for those residents shall be planned by a professionally qualified dietitian or reviewed and approved by the attending physician. The preparation and serving of meals shall be supervised to insure that the resident accepts the special diet. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 30.]

**74.42.310 Staff duties at meals.** (1) A facility shall have sufficient personnel to supervise the residents, direct self-help dining skills, and to insure that each resident receives enough food.

(2) A facility shall provide table service for all residents, including residents in wheelchairs, who are capable and willing to eat at tables. [1980 c 184 § 10; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 31.]

**74.42.320 Sanitary procedures for food preparation.**

Facilities shall have effective sanitary procedures for the food preparation staff including procedures for cleaning food preparation equipment and food preparation areas. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 32.]

**74.42.330 Food storage.** The facility shall store dry or staple food items at an appropriate height above the floor in a ventilated room not subject to sewage or waste water back-flow or contamination by condensation, leakage, rodents or vermin. Perishable foods shall be stored at proper temperatures to conserve nutritive values. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 33.]

**74.42.340 Administrative support—Purchasing—Inventory control.** (1) The facility shall provide adequate administrative support to efficiently meet the needs of residents and facilitate attainment of the facility's goals and objectives.

(2) The facility shall:

(a) Document the purchasing process;

(b) Adequately operate the inventory control system and stockroom;

(c) Have appropriate storage facilities for all supplies and surplus equipment; and

(d) Train and assist personnel to do purchase, supply, and property control functions. [1980 c 184 § 11; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 34.]

**74.42.350 Organization chart.** The facility shall have and keep current an organization chart showing:

(1) The major operating programs of the facility;

(2) The staff divisions of the facility;

(3) The administrative personnel in charge of the programs and divisions; and

(4) The lines of authority, responsibility, and communication of administrative personnel. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 35.]

**74.42.360 Adequate staff.** The facility shall have staff on duty twenty-four hours daily sufficient in number and qualifications to carry out the provisions of RCW 74.42.010 through 74.42.570 and the policies, responsibilities, and programs of the facility. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 36.]

**74.42.370 Licensed administrator.** The facility shall have an administrator who is a licensed nursing home administrator under chapter 18.52 RCW. The administrator is responsible for managing the facility and implementing established policies and procedures. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 37.]

**74.42.380 Director of nursing services.** (1) The facility shall have a director of nursing services. The director of nursing services shall be a registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse practitioner.

(2) The director of nursing services is responsible for:

(a) Coordinating the plan of care for each resident;

(b) Permitting only licensed personnel to administer medications: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting graduate nurses or student nurses from administering medications when permitted to do so under chapter 18.79 RCW and rules adopted under it: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing herein shall be construed as prohib-

iting persons certified under chapter 18.135 RCW from practicing pursuant to the delegation and supervision requirements of chapter 18.135 RCW and rules adopted under it; and

(c) Insuring that the licensed practical nurses and the registered nurses comply with chapter 18.79 RCW, and persons certified under chapter 18.135 RCW comply with the provisions of that chapter and rules adopted under it. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 753; 1989 c 372 § 6; 1985 c 284 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 38.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.390 Communication system.** The facility shall have a communication system, including telephone service, that insures prompt contact of on-duty personnel and prompt notification of responsible personnel in an emergency. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 39.]

**74.42.400 Engineering and maintenance personnel.** The facility shall have sufficient trained and experienced personnel for necessary engineering and maintenance functions. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 40.]

**74.42.410 Laundry services.** The facility shall manage laundry services to meet the residents' daily clothing and linen needs. The facility shall have available at all times enough linen for the proper care and comfort of the residents. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 41.]

**74.42.420 Resident record system.** The facility shall maintain an organized record system containing a record for each resident. The record shall contain:

(1) Identification information;

(2) Admission information, including the resident's medical and social history;

(3) A comprehensive plan of care and subsequent changes to the comprehensive plan of care;

(4) Copies of initial and subsequent periodic examinations, assessments, evaluations, and progress notes made by the facility and the department;

(5) Descriptions of all treatments, services, and medications provided for the resident since the resident's admission;

(6) Information about all illnesses and injuries including information about the date, time, and action taken; and

(7) A discharge summary.

Resident records shall be available to the staff members directly involved with the resident and to appropriate representatives of the department. The facility shall protect resident records against destruction, loss, and unauthorized use. The facility shall keep a resident's record after the resident is discharged as provided in RCW 18.51.300. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 42.]

**74.42.430 Written policy guidelines.** The facility shall develop written guidelines governing:

(1) All services provided by the facility;

(2) Admission, transfer or discharge;

(3) The use of chemical and physical restraints, the personnel authorized to administer restraints in an emergency, and procedures for monitoring and controlling the use of the restraints;

- (4) Procedures for receiving and responding to residents' complaints and recommendations;
- (5) Access to, duplication of, and dissemination of information from the resident's record;
- (6) Residents' rights, privileges, and duties;
- (7) Procedures if the resident is adjudicated incompetent or incapable of understanding his or her rights and responsibilities;
- (8) When to recommend initiation of guardianship proceedings under chapter 11.88 RCW; and
- (9) Emergencies;
- (10) Procedures for isolation of residents with infectious diseases;
- (11) Procedures for residents to refuse treatment and for the facility to document informed refusal.

The written guidelines shall be made available to the staff, residents, members of residents' families, and the public. [1980 c 184 § 12; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 43.]

**74.42.440 Facility rated capacity not to be exceeded.**

The facility may only admit individuals when the facility's rated capacity will not be exceeded and when the facility has the capability to provide adequate treatment, therapy, and activities. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 44.]

**74.42.450 Residents limited to those the facility qualified to care for—Transfer or discharge of residents—Appeal of department discharge decision—Reasonable accommodation.** (1) The facility shall admit as residents only those individuals whose needs can be met by:

- (a) The facility;
  - (b) The facility cooperating with community resources;
- or
- (c) The facility cooperating with other providers of care affiliated or under contract with the facility.

(2) The facility shall transfer a resident to a hospital or other appropriate facility when a change occurs in the resident's physical or mental condition that requires care or service that the facility cannot provide. The resident, the resident's guardian, if any, the resident's next of kin, the attending physician, and the department shall be consulted at least fifteen days before a transfer or discharge unless the resident is transferred under emergency circumstances. The department shall use casework services or other means to insure that adequate arrangements are made to meet the resident's needs.

(3) A resident shall be transferred or discharged only for medical reasons, the resident's welfare or request, the welfare of other residents, or nonpayment. A resident may not be discharged for nonpayment if the discharge would be prohibited by the medicaid program.

(4) If a resident chooses to remain in the nursing facility, the department shall respect that choice, provided that if the resident is a medicaid recipient, the resident continues to require a nursing facility level of care.

(5) If the department determines that a resident no longer requires a nursing facility level of care, the resident shall not be discharged from the nursing facility until at least thirty days after written notice is given to the resident, the resident's surrogate decision maker and, if appropriate, a family member or the resident's representative. A form for request-

ing a hearing to appeal the discharge decision shall be attached to the written notice. The written notice shall include at least the following:

- (a) The reason for the discharge;
  - (b) A statement that the resident has the right to appeal the discharge; and
  - (c) The name, address, and telephone number of the state long-term care ombudsman.
- (6) If the resident appeals a department discharge decision, the resident shall not be discharged without the resident's consent until at least thirty days after a final order is entered upholding the decision to discharge the resident.

(7) Before the facility transfers or discharges a resident, the facility must first attempt through reasonable accommodations to avoid the transfer or discharge unless the transfer or discharge is agreed to by the resident. The facility shall admit or retain only individuals whose needs it can safely and appropriately serve in the facility with available staff or through the provision of reasonable accommodations required by state or federal law. "Reasonable accommodations" has the meaning given to this term under the federal Americans with disabilities act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. and other applicable federal or state antidiscrimination laws and regulations. [1997 c 392 § 216; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 64; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 45.]

**Short title—Findings—Construction—Conflict with federal requirements—Part headings and captions not law—1997 c 392:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.009.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.42.455 Transitional care management.** (1) Nursing facilities may provide telephone or web-based transitional care management services to persons discharged from the facility to home for up to thirty days postdischarge.

(2) When a nursing facility provides transitional care management services, the facility must coordinate postdischarge care and service needs with in-home agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, and other authorized care providers, to promote evidence-based transition care planning. In-home service agencies and other authorized care providers, including the department, shall, when appropriate, determine resident eligibility for postdischarge care and services and coordinate with nursing facilities to plan a safe transition of the client to the home setting. When a resident is discharged to home and is without in-home care or services due to the resident's refusal of care or their ineligibility for care, the nursing facility may provide telephone or web-based transitional care management services. These services may include care coordination services, review of the discharge plan, instructions to promote compliance with the discharge plan, reminders or assistance with scheduling follow-up appointments with other health care professionals consistent with the discharge plan, and promotion of self-management of the client's health condition. Web-based transition care services may include patient education and the provision of services described in this section. They are not intended to include telehealth monitoring.

(3) If the nursing facility identifies concerns in client care that result from telephone or web-based transitional care management services, the nursing facility will notify the client's primary care physician. The nursing facility will also

discuss with the client options for care or other services which may include in-home services provided by agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW. [2011 c 366 § 7.]

**Findings—Purpose—Conflict with federal requirements—2011 c 366:** See notes following RCW 18.20.020.

**74.42.460 Organization plan and procedures.** The facility shall have a written staff organization plan and detailed written procedures to meet potential emergencies and disasters. The facility shall clearly communicate and periodically review the plan and procedures with the staff and residents. The plan and procedures shall be posted at suitable locations throughout the facility. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 46.]

**74.42.470 Infected employees.** No employee with symptoms of a communicable disease may work in a facility. The facility shall have written guidelines that will help enforce this section. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 47.]

**74.42.480 Living areas.** The facility shall design and equip the resident living areas for the comfort and privacy of each resident. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 48.]

**74.42.490 Room requirements—Waiver.** Each resident's room shall:

- (1) Be equipped with or conveniently located near toilet and bathing facilities;
- (2) Be at or above grade level;
- (3) Contain a suitable bed for each resident and other appropriate furniture;
- (4) Have closet space that provides security and privacy for clothing and personal belongings;
- (5) Contain no more than four beds;
- (6) Have adequate space for each resident; and
- (7) Be equipped with a device for calling the staff member on duty.

The department may waive the space, occupancy, and certain equipment requirements of this section for an existing building constructed prior to January 1, 1980, or space and certain equipment for new intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities for as long as the department considers appropriate if the department finds that the requirements would result in unreasonable hardship on the facility, the waiver serves the particular needs of the residents, and the waiver does not adversely affect the health and safety of the residents. [2010 c 94 § 28; 1980 c 184 § 13; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 49.]

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**74.42.500 Toilet and bathing facilities.** Toilet and bathing facilities shall be located in or near residents' rooms and shall be appropriate in number, size, and design to meet the needs of the residents. The facility shall provide an adequate supply of hot water at all times for resident use. Plumbing shall be equipped with control valves that automatically regulate the temperature of the hot water used by residents. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 50.]

**74.42.510 Room for dining, recreation, social activities—Waiver.** The facility shall provide one or more areas not used for corridor traffic for dining, recreation, and social

activities. A multipurpose room may be used if it is large enough to accommodate all of the activities without the activities interfering with each other: PROVIDED, That the department may waive the provisions of this section for facilities constructed prior to January 1, 1980. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 51.]

**74.42.520 Therapy area.** The facility's therapy area shall be large enough and designed to accommodate the necessary equipment, conduct an examination, and provide treatment: PROVIDED, That developmentally disabled facilities shall not be subject to the provisions of this section if therapeutic services are obtained by contract with other facilities. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 52.]

**74.42.530 Isolation areas.** The facility shall have isolation areas for residents with infectious diseases or make other provisions for isolating these residents. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 53.]

**74.42.540 Building requirements.** (1) The facility shall be accessible to and usable by all residents, personnel, and the public, including individuals with disabilities: PROVIDED, That no substantial structural changes shall be required in any facilities constructed prior to January 1, 1980.

(2) The facility shall meet the requirements of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard No. A117.1 (1961), or, if applicable, the requirements of chapter 70.92 RCW if the requirements are stricter than ANSI standard No. A117.1 (1961), unless the department waives the requirements of ANSI standard No. A117.1 (1961) under subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The department may waive, for as long as the department considers appropriate, provisions of ANSI standard No. A117.1 (1961) if:

(a) The construction plans for the facility or a part of the facility were approved by the department before March 18, 1974;

(b) The provisions would result in unreasonable hardship on the facility if strictly enforced; and

(c) The waiver does not adversely affect the health and safety of the residents. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 54.]

**74.42.550 Handrails.** The facility shall have handrails that are firmly attached to the walls in all corridors used by residents: PROVIDED, That the department may waive the provisions of this section in developmentally disabled facilities. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 55.]

**74.42.560 Emergency lighting for facilities housing persons with developmental disabilities.** If a living unit of a facility for the developmentally disabled houses more than fifteen residents, the living unit shall have emergency lighting with automatic switches for stairs and exits. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 56.]

**74.42.570 Health and safety requirements.** The facility shall meet state and local laws, rules, regulations, and codes pertaining to health and safety. [1980 c 184 § 14; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 57.]

**74.42.580 Penalties for violation of standards.** The department may deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license or provisional license, assess monetary penalties of a civil nature, deny payment, seek receivership, order stop placement, appoint temporary management, order emergency closure, or order emergency transfer as provided in RCW 18.51.054 and 18.51.060 for violations of requirements of this chapter or, in the case of medicaid contractors, the requirements of Title XIX of the social security act, as amended, or rules adopted thereunder. Chapter 34.05 RCW shall apply to any such actions, except for receivership, and except that stop placement, appointment of temporary management, emergency closure, emergency transfer, and summary license suspension shall be effective pending any hearing, and except that denial of payment shall be effective pending any hearing when the department determines deficiencies jeopardize the health and safety of the residents or seriously limit the nursing home's capacity to provide adequate care. [1989 c 372 § 13; 1987 c 476 § 27; 1980 c 184 § 15; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 58.]

**74.42.600 Department inspections—Notice of non-compliance—Penalties—Coordination with department of health.** (1) In addition to the inspection required by chapter 18.51 RCW, the department shall inspect the facility for compliance with resident rights and direct care standards of this chapter. The department may inspect any and all other provisions randomly, by exception profiles, or during complaint investigations.

(2) If the facility has not complied with all the requirements of this chapter, the department shall notify the facility in writing that the facility is in noncompliance and describe the reasons for the facility's noncompliance and the department may impose penalties in accordance with RCW 18.51.060.

(3) To avoid unnecessary duplication in inspections, the department shall coordinate with the department of health when inspecting medicaid-certified or medicare-certified, or both, long-term care beds in hospitals for compliance with Title XVIII or XIX of the social security act. [1995 c 282 § 5; 1987 c 476 § 28; 1982 c 120 § 3; 1980 c 184 § 17; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 60.]

**74.42.620 Departmental rules.** The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW necessary to carry out the policies and provisions of RCW 74.42.010 through 74.42.570. The department shall amend or repeal any rules that are in conflict with RCW 74.42.010 through 74.42.570. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 62.]

**74.42.630 Conflict with federal requirements.** If any part of chapter 184, Laws of 1980 shall be found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, such conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of such conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act; the rules and regulations under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1980 c 184 § 21.]

**74.42.640 Quality assurance committee.** (1) To ensure the proper delivery of services and the maintenance and improvement in quality of care through self-review, each facility may maintain a quality assurance committee that, at a minimum, includes:

- (a) The director of nursing services;
- (b) A physician designated by the facility; and
- (c) Three other members from the staff of the facility.

(2) When established, the quality assurance committee shall meet at least quarterly to identify issues that may adversely affect quality of care and services to residents and to develop and implement plans of action to correct identified quality concerns or deficiencies in the quality of care provided to residents.

(3) To promote quality of care through self-review without the fear of reprisal, and to enhance the objectivity of the review process, the department shall not require, and the long-term care ombudsman program shall not request, disclosure of any quality assurance committee records or reports, unless the disclosure is related to the committee's compliance with this section, if:

- (a) The records or reports are not maintained pursuant to statutory or regulatory mandate; and
- (b) The records or reports are created for and collected and maintained by the committee.

(4) The department may request only information related to the quality assurance committee that may be necessary to determine whether a facility has a quality assurance committee and that it is operating in compliance with this section.

(5) Good faith attempts by the committee to identify and correct quality deficiencies shall not be used as a basis for imposing sanctions.

(6) If the facility offers the department documents generated by, or for, the quality assurance committee as evidence of compliance with nursing facility requirements, the documents are protected as quality assurance committee documents under subsections (7) and (9) of this section when in the possession of the department. The department is not liable for an inadvertent disclosure, a disclosure related to a required federal or state audit, or disclosure of documents incorrectly marked as quality assurance committee documents by the facility.

(7) Information and documents, including the analysis of complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a quality assurance committee are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil action, and no person who was in attendance at a meeting of such committee or who participated in the creation, collection, or maintenance of information or documents specifically for the committee shall be permitted or required to testify in any civil action as to the content of such proceedings or the documents and information prepared specifically for the committee. This subsection does not preclude: (a) In any civil action, the discovery of the identity of persons involved in the care that is the basis of the civil action whose involvement was independent of any quality improvement committee activity; and (b) in any civil action, the testimony of any person concerning the facts which form the basis for the institution of such proceedings of which the person had personal knowledge acquired independently of their participation in the quality assurance committee activities.

(8) A quality assurance committee under subsection (1) of this section, RCW 18.20.390, 70.41.200, 4.24.250, or 43.70.510 may share information and documents, including the analysis of complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, the committee, with one or more other quality assurance committees created under subsection (1) of this section, RCW 18.20.390, 70.41.200, 4.24.250, or 43.70.510 for the improvement of the quality of care and services rendered to nursing facility residents. Information and documents disclosed by one quality assurance committee to another quality assurance committee and any information and documents created or maintained as a result of the sharing of information and documents shall not be subject to the discovery process and confidentiality shall be respected as required by subsections (7) and (9) of this section, RCW 18.20.390 (6) and (8), 43.70.510(4), 70.41.200(3), and 4.24.250(1). The privacy protections of chapter 70.02 RCW and the federal health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 and its implementing regulations apply to the sharing of individually identifiable patient information held by a coordinated quality improvement program. Any rules necessary to implement this section shall meet the requirements of applicable federal and state privacy laws.

(9) Information and documents, including the analysis of complaints and incident reports, created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a quality assurance committee are exempt from disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(10) Notwithstanding any records created for the quality assurance committee, the facility shall fully set forth in the resident's records, available to the resident, the department, and others as permitted by law, the facts concerning any incident of injury or loss to the resident, the steps taken by the facility to address the resident's needs, and the resident outcome.

(11) A facility operated as part of a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW may maintain a quality assurance committee in accordance with this section which shall be subject to the provisions of subsections (1) through (10) of this section or may conduct quality improvement activities for the facility through a quality improvement committee under RCW 70.41.200 which shall be subject to the provisions of RCW 70.41.200(9). [2006 c 209 § 13; 2005 c 33 § 3.]

**Effective date—2006 c 209:** See RCW 42.56.903.

**Findings—2005 c 33:** See note following RCW 18.20.390.

**74.42.900 Severability—1979 ex.s. c 211.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 69.]

**74.42.910 Construction—Conflict with federal requirements.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to

the agencies concerned. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1979 ex.s. c 211 § 70.]

**74.42.920 Chapter 74.42 RCW suspended—Effective date delayed until January 1, 1981.** Chapter 74.42 RCW shall be suspended immediately, and its effective date delayed so that it shall take effect on January 1, 1981. [1980 c 184 § 19; 1979 ex.s. c 211 § 72.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 74.46 RCW NURSING FACILITY MEDICAID PAYMENT SYSTEM

(Formerly: Nursing home auditing and cost reimbursement act of 1980)

### Sections

74.46.010	Short title—Purpose—Finding.
74.46.020	Definitions.
74.46.022	Nursing facility medicaid payment system—Establishing procedures, principles, and conditions.
74.46.024	Pay-for-performance supplemental payment structure—Establishing procedures, principles, and conditions.
74.46.421	Purpose of part E—Nursing facility medicaid payment rates.
74.46.431	Nursing facility medicaid payment rate allocations—Components—Minimum wage—Rules.
74.46.435	Property component rate allocation.
74.46.437	Financing allowance component rate allocation.
74.46.439	Facilities leased in arm's-length agreements—Financing allowance rate—Rate adjustment.
74.46.441	Public disclosure of rate-setting information.
74.46.475	Submitted cost report—Analysis and adjustment by department.
74.46.485	Case mix classification methodology—Notice of implementation.
74.46.496	Case mix weights—Determination—Revisions.
74.46.501	Average case mix indexes determined quarterly—Facility average case mix index—Medicaid average case mix index.
74.46.506	Direct care component rate allocations—Determination—Quarterly updates—Fines.
74.46.508	Direct care component rate allocation—Increases—Rules.
74.46.511	Therapy care component rate allocation—Determination.
74.46.515	Support services component rate allocation—Determination—Emergency situations.
74.46.521	Operations component rate allocation—Determination.
74.46.531	Department may adjust component rates—Contractor may request—Errors or omissions.
74.46.541	Skilled nursing facility safety net assessment—Reimbursement of medicaid share.
74.46.800	Rule-making authority.
74.46.803	Certificate of capital authorization—Rules—Emergency situations.
74.46.807	Capital authorization—Determination.
74.46.835	AIDS pilot nursing facility—Payment for direct care.
74.46.840	Conflict with federal requirements.
74.46.907	Severability—1998 c 322.
74.46.909	Retrospective application—Clarification of chapter 8, Laws of 2001 1st sp. sess.—2008 c 263.

**74.46.010 Short title—Purpose—Finding.** (1) This chapter may be known and cited as the "nursing facility medicaid payment system."

(2) The purposes of this chapter are to set forth principles to guide the nursing facility medicaid payment system and specify the manner by which legislative appropriations for medicaid nursing facility services are to be allocated as payment rates among nursing facilities.

(3) The legislature finds that the medicaid nursing facility rates calculated under this chapter provide sufficient reimbursement to efficient and economically operating facilities and bear a reasonable relationship to costs. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 1; 1998 c 322 § 1; 1980 c 177 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 23.]

**74.46.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Appraisal" means the process of estimating the fair market value or reconstructing the historical cost of an asset acquired in a past period as performed by a professionally designated real estate appraiser with no pecuniary interest in the property to be appraised. It includes a systematic, analytic determination and the recording and analyzing of property facts, rights, investments, and values based on a personal inspection and inventory of the property.

(2) "Arm's-length transaction" means a transaction resulting from good-faith bargaining between a buyer and seller who are not related organizations and have adverse positions in the market place. Sales or exchanges of nursing home facilities among two or more parties in which all parties subsequently continue to own one or more of the facilities involved in the transactions shall not be considered as arm's-length transactions for purposes of this chapter. Sale of a nursing home facility which is subsequently leased back to the seller within five years of the date of sale shall not be considered as an arm's-length transaction for purposes of this chapter.

(3) "Assets" means economic resources of the contractor, recognized and measured in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

(4) "Audit" or "department audit" means an examination of the records of a nursing facility participating in the medicare payment system, including but not limited to: The contractor's financial and statistical records, cost reports and all supporting documentation and schedules, receivables, and resident trust funds, to be performed as deemed necessary by the department and according to department rule.

(5) "Capitalization" means the recording of an expenditure as an asset.

(6) "Case mix" means a measure of the intensity of care and services needed by the residents of a nursing facility or a group of residents in the facility.

(7) "Case mix index" means a number representing the average case mix of a nursing facility.

(8) "Case mix weight" means a numeric score that identifies the relative resources used by a particular group of a nursing facility's residents.

(9) "Certificate of capital authorization" means a certification from the department for an allocation from the biennial capital financing authorization for all new or replacement building construction, or for major renovation projects, receiving a certificate of need or a certificate of need exemption under chapter 70.38 RCW after July 1, 2001.

(10) "Contractor" means a person or entity licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW to operate a medicare and medicare-certified nursing facility, responsible for operational decisions, and contracting with the department to provide services to medicare recipients residing in the facility.

(11) "Default case" means no initial assessment has been completed for a resident and transmitted to the department by

the cut-off date, or an assessment is otherwise past due for the resident, under state and federal requirements.

(12) "Department" means the department of social and health services (DSHS) and its employees.

(13) "Depreciation" means the systematic distribution of the cost or other basis of tangible assets, less salvage, over the estimated useful life of the assets.

(14) "Direct care" means nursing care and related care provided to nursing facility residents. Therapy care shall not be considered part of direct care.

(15) "Direct care supplies" means medical, pharmaceutical, and other supplies required for the direct care of a nursing facility's residents.

(16) "Entity" means an individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or any other association of individuals capable of entering enforceable contracts.

(17) "Equity" means the net book value of all tangible and intangible assets less the recorded value of all liabilities, as recognized and measured in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

(18) "Essential community provider" means a facility which is the only nursing facility within a commuting distance radius of at least forty minutes duration, traveling by automobile.

(19) "Facility" or "nursing facility" means a nursing home licensed in accordance with chapter 18.51 RCW, excepting nursing homes certified as institutions for mental diseases, or that portion of a multiservice facility licensed as a nursing home, or that portion of a hospital licensed in accordance with chapter 70.41 RCW which operates as a nursing home.

(20) "Fair market value" means the replacement cost of an asset less observed physical depreciation on the date for which the market value is being determined.

(21) "Financial statements" means statements prepared and presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles including, but not limited to, balance sheet, statement of operations, statement of changes in financial position, and related notes.

(22) "Generally accepted accounting principles" means accounting principles approved by the financial accounting standards board (FASB) or its successor.

(23) "Grouper" means a computer software product that groups individual nursing facility residents into case mix classification groups based on specific resident assessment data and computer logic.

(24) "High labor-cost county" means an urban county in which the median allowable facility cost per case mix unit is more than ten percent higher than the median allowable facility cost per case mix unit among all other urban counties, excluding that county.

(25) "Historical cost" means the actual cost incurred in acquiring and preparing an asset for use, including feasibility studies, architect's fees, and engineering studies.

(26) "Home and central office costs" means costs that are incurred in the support and operation of a home and central office. Home and central office costs include centralized services that are performed in support of a nursing facility. The department may exclude from this definition costs that are nonduplicative, documented, ordinary, necessary, and related to the provision of care services to authorized patients.

(27) "Large nonessential community providers" means nonessential community providers with more than sixty licensed beds, regardless of how many beds are set up or in use.

(28) "Lease agreement" means a contract between two parties for the possession and use of real or personal property or assets for a specified period of time in exchange for specified periodic payments. Elimination (due to any cause other than death or divorce) or addition of any party to the contract, expiration, or modification of any lease term in effect on January 1, 1980, or termination of the lease by either party by any means shall constitute a termination of the lease agreement. An extension or renewal of a lease agreement, whether or not pursuant to a renewal provision in the lease agreement, shall be considered a new lease agreement. A strictly formal change in the lease agreement which modifies the method, frequency, or manner in which the lease payments are made, but does not increase the total lease payment obligation of the lessee, shall not be considered modification of a lease term.

(29) "Medical care program" or "medicaid program" means medical assistance, including nursing care, provided under RCW 74.09.500 or authorized state medical care services.

(30) "Medical care recipient," "medicaid recipient," or "recipient" means an individual determined eligible by the department for the services provided under chapter 74.09 RCW.

(31) "Minimum data set" means the overall data component of the resident assessment instrument, indicating the strengths, needs, and preferences of an individual nursing facility resident.

(32) "Net book value" means the historical cost of an asset less accumulated depreciation.

(33) "Net invested funds" means the net book value of tangible fixed assets employed by a contractor to provide services under the medical care program, including land, buildings, and equipment as recognized and measured in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

(34) "Nonurban county" means a county which is not located in a metropolitan statistical area as determined and defined by the United States office of management and budget or other appropriate agency or office of the federal government.

(35) "Owner" means a sole proprietor, general or limited partners, members of a limited liability company, and beneficial interest holders of five percent or more of a corporation's outstanding stock.

(36) "Patient day" or "resident day" means a calendar day of care provided to a nursing facility resident, regardless of payment source, which will include the day of admission and exclude the day of discharge; except that, when admission and discharge occur on the same day, one day of care shall be deemed to exist. A "medicaid day" or "recipient day" means a calendar day of care provided to a medicaid recipient determined eligible by the department for services provided under chapter 74.09 RCW, subject to the same conditions regarding admission and discharge applicable to a patient day or resident day of care.

(37) "Qualified therapist" means:

(a) A mental health professional as defined by chapter 71.05 RCW;

(b) An intellectual disabilities professional who is a therapist approved by the department who has had specialized training or one year's experience in treating or working with persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

(c) A speech pathologist who is eligible for a certificate of clinical competence in speech pathology or who has the equivalent education and clinical experience;

(d) A physical therapist as defined by chapter 18.74 RCW;

(e) An occupational therapist who is a graduate of a program in occupational therapy, or who has the equivalent of such education or training; and

(f) A respiratory care practitioner certified under chapter 18.89 RCW.

(38) "Rate" or "rate allocation" means the medicaid per-patient-day payment amount for medicaid patients calculated in accordance with the allocation methodology set forth in \*part E of this chapter.

(39) "Rebased rate" or "cost-rebased rate" means a facility-specific component rate assigned to a nursing facility for a particular rate period established on desk-reviewed, adjusted costs reported for that facility covering at least six months of a prior calendar year designated as a year to be used for cost-rebasing payment rate allocations under the provisions of this chapter.

(40) "Records" means those data supporting all financial statements and cost reports including, but not limited to, all general and subsidiary ledgers, books of original entry, and transaction documentation, however such data are maintained.

(41) "Resident assessment instrument," including federally approved modifications for use in this state, means a federally mandated, comprehensive nursing facility resident care planning and assessment tool, consisting of the minimum data set and resident assessment protocols.

(42) "Resident assessment protocols" means those components of the resident assessment instrument that use the minimum data set to trigger or flag a resident's potential problems and risk areas.

(43) "Resource utilization groups" means a case mix classification system that identifies relative resources needed to care for an individual nursing facility resident.

(44) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and health services.

(45) "Small nonessential community providers" means nonessential community providers with sixty or fewer licensed beds, regardless of how many beds are set up or in use.

(46) "Support services" means food, food preparation, dietary, housekeeping, and laundry services provided to nursing facility residents.

(47) "Therapy care" means those services required by a nursing facility resident's comprehensive assessment and plan of care, that are provided by qualified therapists, or support personnel under their supervision, including related costs as designated by the department.

(48) "Title XIX" or "medicaid" means the 1965 amendments to the social security act, P.L. 89-07, as amended and the medicaid program administered by the department.

(49) "Urban county" means a county which is located in a metropolitan statistical area as determined and defined by

the United States office of management and budget or other appropriate agency or office of the federal government. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 2; 2010 c 94 § 29; 2007 c 508 § 7; 2006 c 258 § 1; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 1; 1999 c 353 § 1; 1998 c 322 § 2; 1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 90; 1993 sp.s. c 13 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 8 § 11; 1989 c 372 § 17; 1987 c 476 § 6; 1985 c 361 § 16; 1982 c 117 § 1; 1980 c 177 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: Chapter 74.46 RCW was previously divided by parts. RCW 74.46.421 through 74.46.531 were included in part E of this chapter.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**Effective date—2007 c 508:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2006 c 258:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 258 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.022 Nursing facility medicaid payment system—Establishing procedures, principles, and conditions.** The department shall establish, by rule, the procedures, principles, and conditions for the nursing facility medicaid payment system addressed by the following principles:

(1) The department must receive complete, annual reporting of all costs and the financial condition of each contractor, prepared and presented in a standardized manner. The department shall establish, by rule, due dates, requirements for cost report completion, actions required for improperly completed or late cost reports, fines for any statutory or regulatory noncompliance, retention requirements, and public disclosure requirements.

(2) The department shall examine all cost reports to determine whether the information is correct, complete, and reported in compliance with this chapter, department rules and instructions, and generally accepted accounting principles.

(3) Each contractor must establish and maintain, as a service to the resident, a bookkeeping system incorporated into the business records for all resident funds entrusted to the contractor and received by the contractor for the resident. The department shall adopt rules to ensure that resident personal funds handled by the contractor are maintained by each contractor in a manner that is, at a minimum, consistent with federal requirements.

(4) The department shall have the authority to audit resident trust funds and receivables, at its discretion.

(5) Contractors shall provide the department access to the nursing facility, all financial and statistical records, and all working papers that are in support of the cost report, receivables, and resident trust funds.

(6) The department shall establish a settlement process in order to reconcile medicaid resident days to billed days and medicaid payments for the preceding calendar year. The settlement process shall ensure that any savings in the direct care or therapy care component rates be shifted only between direct care and therapy care component rates, and shall not be shifted into any other rate components.

(7) The department shall define and identify allowable and unallowable costs.

(8) A contractor shall bill the department for care provided to medicaid recipients, and the department shall pay a contractor for service rendered under the facility contract and

appropriately billed. Billing and payment procedures shall be specified by rule.

(9) The department shall establish the conditions for participation in the nursing facility medicaid payment system.

(10) The department shall establish procedures and a rate setting methodology for a change of ownership.

(11) The department shall establish, consistent with federal requirements for nursing facilities participating in the medicaid program, an appeals or exception procedure that allows individual nursing home providers an opportunity to receive prompt administrative review of payment rates with respect to such issues as the department deems appropriate.

(12) The department shall have authority to adopt, amend, and rescind such administrative rules and definitions as it deems necessary to carry out the policies and purposes of this chapter. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 19.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**74.46.024 Pay-for-performance supplemental payment structure—Establishing procedures, principles, and conditions.** The department shall establish, by rule, the procedures, principles, and conditions for a pay-for-performance supplemental payment structure that provides payment add-ons for high performing facilities. To the extent that funds are appropriated for this purpose, the pay-for-performance structure will include a one percent reduction in payments to facilities with exceptionally high direct care staff turnover, and a method by which the funding that is not paid to these facilities is then used to provide a supplemental payment to facilities with lower direct care staff turnover. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 20.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**74.46.421 Purpose of part E—Nursing facility medicaid payment rates.** (1) The purpose of \*part E of this chapter is to determine nursing facility medicaid payment rates that, in the aggregate for all participating nursing facilities, are in accordance with the biennial appropriations act.

(2)(a) The department shall use the nursing facility medicaid payment rate methodologies described in this chapter to determine initial component rate allocations for each medicaid nursing facility.

(b) The initial component rate allocations shall be subject to adjustment as provided in this section in order to assure that the statewide average payment rate to nursing facilities is less than or equal to the statewide average payment rate specified in the biennial appropriations act.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as creating a legal right or entitlement to any payment that (a) has not been adjusted under this section or (b) would cause the statewide average payment rate to exceed the statewide average payment rate specified in the biennial appropriations act.

(4)(a) The statewide average payment rate for any state fiscal year under the nursing facility payment system, weighted by patient days, shall not exceed the annual statewide weighted average nursing facility payment rate identified for that fiscal year in the biennial appropriations act.

(b) If the department determines that the weighted average nursing facility payment rate calculated in accordance

with this chapter is likely to exceed the weighted average nursing facility payment rate identified in the biennial appropriations act, then the department shall adjust all nursing facility payment rates proportional to the amount by which the weighted average rate allocations would otherwise exceed the budgeted rate amount. Any such adjustments for the current fiscal year shall only be made prospectively, not retrospectively, and shall be applied proportionately to each component rate allocation for each facility.

(c) If any final order or final judgment, including a final order or final judgment resulting from an adjudicative proceeding or judicial review permitted by chapter 34.05 RCW, would result in an increase to a nursing facility's payment rate for a prior fiscal year or years, the department shall consider whether the increased rate for that facility would result in the statewide weighted average payment rate for all facilities for such fiscal year or years to be exceeded. If the increased rate would result in the statewide average payment rate for such year or years being exceeded, the department shall increase that nursing facility's payment rate to meet the final order or judgment only to the extent that it does not result in an increase to the statewide weighted average payment rate for all facilities. [2008 c 263 § 1; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 4; 1999 c 353 § 3; 1998 c 322 § 18.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 74.46 RCW was previously divided by parts. This section and RCW 74.46.431 through 74.46.531 were included in part E of this chapter.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.431 Nursing facility medicaid payment rate allocations—Components—Minimum wage—Rules.** (1) Nursing facility medicaid payment rate allocations shall be facility-specific and shall have six components: Direct care, therapy care, support services, operations, property, and financing allowance. The department shall establish and adjust each of these components, as provided in this section and elsewhere in this chapter, for each medicaid nursing facility in this state.

(2) Component rate allocations in therapy care and support services for all facilities shall be based upon a minimum facility occupancy of eighty-five percent of licensed beds, regardless of how many beds are set up or in use. Component rate allocations in operations, property, and financing allowance for essential community providers shall be based upon a minimum facility occupancy of eighty-seven percent of licensed beds, regardless of how many beds are set up or in use. Component rate allocations in operations, property, and financing allowance for small nonessential community providers shall be based upon a minimum facility occupancy of ninety-two percent of licensed beds, regardless of how many beds are set up or in use. Component rate allocations in operations, property, and financing allowance for large nonessential community providers shall be based upon a minimum facility occupancy of ninety-five percent of licensed beds, regardless of how many beds are set up or in use. For all facilities, the component rate allocation in direct care shall be based upon actual facility occupancy. The median cost limits used to set component rate allocations shall be based on the applicable minimum occupancy percentage. In determining each facility's therapy care component rate allocation under RCW 74.46.511, the department shall apply the applicable

minimum facility occupancy adjustment before creating the array of facilities' adjusted therapy costs per adjusted resident day. In determining each facility's support services component rate allocation under RCW 74.46.515(3), the department shall apply the applicable minimum facility occupancy adjustment before creating the array of facilities' adjusted support services costs per adjusted resident day. In determining each facility's operations component rate allocation under RCW 74.46.521(3), the department shall apply the minimum facility occupancy adjustment before creating the array of facilities' adjusted general operations costs per adjusted resident day.

(3) Information and data sources used in determining medicaid payment rate allocations, including formulas, procedures, cost report periods, resident assessment instrument formats, resident assessment methodologies, and resident classification and case mix weighting methodologies, may be substituted or altered from time to time as determined by the department.

(4)(a) Direct care component rate allocations shall be established using adjusted cost report data covering at least six months. Effective July 1, 2009, the direct care component rate allocation shall be rebased, so that adjusted cost report data for calendar year 2007 is used for July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2013. Beginning July 1, 2013, the direct care component rate allocation shall be rebased biennially during every odd-numbered year thereafter using adjusted cost report data from two years prior to the rebase period, so adjusted cost report data for calendar year 2011 is used for July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, and so forth.

(b) Direct care component rate allocations established in accordance with this chapter shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act. The economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act shall not be compounded with the economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in any other biennial appropriations acts before applying it to the direct care component rate allocation established in accordance with this chapter. When no economic trends and conditions factor or factors for either fiscal year are defined in a biennial appropriations act, no economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in any earlier biennial appropriations act shall be applied solely or compounded to the direct care component rate allocation established in accordance with this chapter.

(5)(a) Therapy care component rate allocations shall be established using adjusted cost report data covering at least six months. Effective July 1, 2009, the therapy care component rate allocation shall be cost rebased, so that adjusted cost report data for calendar year 2007 is used for July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2013. Beginning July 1, 2013, the therapy care component rate allocation shall be rebased biennially during every odd-numbered year thereafter using adjusted cost report data from two years prior to the rebase period, so adjusted cost report data for calendar year 2011 is used for July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, and so forth.

(b) Therapy care component rate allocations established in accordance with this chapter shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act. The economic trends and

conditions factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act shall not be compounded with the economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in any other biennial appropriations acts before applying it to the therapy care component rate allocation established in accordance with this chapter. When no economic trends and conditions factor or factors for either fiscal year are defined in a biennial appropriations act, no economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in any earlier biennial appropriations act shall be applied solely or compounded to the therapy care component rate allocation established in accordance with this chapter.

(6)(a) Support services component rate allocations shall be established using adjusted cost report data covering at least six months. Effective July 1, 2009, the support services component rate allocation shall be cost rebased, so that adjusted cost report data for calendar year 2007 is used for July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2013. Beginning July 1, 2013, the support services component rate allocation shall be rebased biennially during every odd-numbered year thereafter using adjusted cost report data from two years prior to the rebase period, so adjusted cost report data for calendar year 2011 is used for July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, and so forth.

(b) Support services component rate allocations established in accordance with this chapter shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act. The economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act shall not be compounded with the economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in any other biennial appropriations acts before applying it to the support services component rate allocation established in accordance with this chapter. When no economic trends and conditions factor or factors for either fiscal year are defined in a biennial appropriations act, no economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in any earlier biennial appropriations act shall be applied solely or compounded to the support services component rate allocation established in accordance with this chapter.

(7)(a) Operations component rate allocations shall be established using adjusted cost report data covering at least six months. Effective July 1, 2009, the operations component rate allocation shall be cost rebased, so that adjusted cost report data for calendar year 2007 is used for July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2013. Beginning July 1, 2013, the operations care component rate allocation shall be rebased biennially during every odd-numbered year thereafter using adjusted cost report data from two years prior to the rebase period, so adjusted cost report data for calendar year 2011 is used for July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, and so forth.

(b) Operations component rate allocations established in accordance with this chapter shall be adjusted annually for economic trends and conditions by a factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act. The economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in the biennial appropriations act shall not be compounded with the economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in any other biennial appropriations acts before applying it to the operations component rate allocation established in accordance with this chapter. When no economic trends and conditions factor or

factors for either fiscal year are defined in a biennial appropriations act, no economic trends and conditions factor or factors defined in any earlier biennial appropriations act shall be applied solely or compounded to the operations component rate allocation established in accordance with this chapter.

(8) Total payment rates under the nursing facility medic-aid payment system shall not exceed facility rates charged to the general public for comparable services.

(9) The department shall establish in rule procedures, principles, and conditions for determining component rate allocations for facilities in circumstances not directly addressed by this chapter, including but not limited to: Inflation adjustments for partial-period cost report data, newly constructed facilities, existing facilities entering the medicaid program for the first time or after a period of absence from the program, existing facilities with expanded new bed capacity, existing medicaid facilities following a change of ownership of the nursing facility business, facilities temporarily reducing the number of set-up beds during a remodel, facilities having less than six months of either resident assessment, cost report data, or both, under the current contractor prior to rate setting, and other circumstances.

(10) The department shall establish in rule procedures, principles, and conditions, including necessary threshold costs, for adjusting rates to reflect capital improvements or new requirements imposed by the department or the federal government. Any such rate adjustments are subject to the provisions of RCW 74.46.421.

(11) Effective July 1, 2010, there shall be no rate adjustment for facilities with banked beds. For purposes of calculating minimum occupancy, licensed beds include any beds banked under chapter 70.38 RCW.

(12) Facilities obtaining a certificate of need or a certificate of need exemption under chapter 70.38 RCW after June 30, 2001, must have a certificate of capital authorization in order for (a) the depreciation resulting from the capitalized addition to be included in calculation of the facility's property component rate allocation; and (b) the net invested funds associated with the capitalized addition to be included in calculation of the facility's financing allowance rate allocation. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 1; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 3; 2009 c 570 § 1; 2008 c 263 § 2; 2007 c 508 § 2; 2006 c 258 § 2; 2005 c 518 § 944; 2004 c 276 § 913; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 5; 1999 c 353 § 4; 1998 c 322 § 19.]

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** "(1) For fiscal years 2012 and 2013 and subject to appropriation, the department of social and health services shall do a comparative analysis of the facility-based payment rates calculated on July 1, 2011, using the payment methodology defined in chapter 74.46 RCW as modified by RCW 74.46.431, 74.46.435, 74.46.437, 74.46.485, 74.46.496, 74.46.501, 74.46.506, 74.46.515, and 74.46.521, to the facility-based payment rates in effect June 30, 2010. If the facility-based payment rate calculated on July 1, 2011, is smaller than the facility-based payment rate on June 30, 2011, the difference shall be provided to the individual nursing facilities as an add-on payment per medicaid resident day.

(2) During the comparative analysis performed in subsection (1) of this section, if it is found that the direct care rate for any facility calculated under RCW 74.46.431, 74.46.435, 74.46.437, 74.46.485, 74.46.496, 74.46.501, 74.46.506, 74.46.515, and 74.46.521 is greater than the direct care rate in effect on June 30, 2010, then the facility shall receive a ten percent direct care rate add-on to compensate that facility for taking on more acute clients than they have in the past.

(3) The rate add-ons provided in subsection (2) of this section are sub-

ject to the reconciliation and settlement process provided in RCW 74.46.022(6)." [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 11.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Effective date—2009 c 570:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 19, 2009]." [2009 c 570 § 3.]

**Effective date—2007 c 508:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 508 § 8.]

**Effective date—2006 c 258:** See note following RCW 74.46.020.

**Severability—Effective date—2005 c 518:** See notes following RCW 28A.500.030.

**Severability—Effective date—2004 c 276:** See notes following RCW 43.330.167.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **74.46.435 Property component rate allocation.** (1)

The property component rate allocation for each facility shall be determined by dividing the sum of the reported allowable prior period actual depreciation, subject to department rule, adjusted for any capitalized additions or replacements approved by the department, and the retained savings from such cost center, by the greater of a facility's total resident days in the prior period or resident days as calculated on eighty-seven percent facility occupancy for essential community providers, ninety-two percent occupancy for small non-essential community providers, or ninety-five percent facility occupancy for large nonessential community providers. If a capitalized addition or retirement of an asset will result in a different licensed bed capacity during the ensuing period, the prior period total resident days used in computing the property component rate shall be adjusted to anticipated resident day level.

(2) A nursing facility's property component rate allocation shall be rebased annually, effective July 1st, in accordance with this section and this chapter.

(3) When a certificate of need for a new facility is requested, the department, in reaching its decision, shall take into consideration per-bed land and building construction costs for the facility which shall not exceed a maximum to be established by the secretary.

(4) The property component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 2; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 5; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 7; 1999 c 353 § 10; 1998 c 322 § 29.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.437 Financing allowance component rate allocation.** (1) The department shall establish for each medicaid nursing facility a financing allowance component rate allocation. The financing allowance component rate shall be

(2012 Ed.)

rebased annually, effective July 1st, in accordance with the provisions of this section and this chapter.

(2) The financing allowance is determined by multiplying the net invested funds of each facility by .04, and dividing by the greater of a nursing facility's total resident days from the most recent cost report period or resident days calculated on eighty-seven percent facility occupancy for essential community providers, ninety-two percent facility occupancy for small nonessential community providers, or ninety-five percent occupancy for large nonessential community providers. If a capitalized addition, renovation, replacement, or retirement of an asset will result in a different licensed bed capacity during the ensuing period, the prior period total resident days used in computing the financing allowance shall be adjusted to the greater of the anticipated resident day level or eighty-seven percent of the new licensed bed capacity for essential community providers, ninety-two percent facility occupancy for small nonessential community providers, or ninety-five percent occupancy for large nonessential community providers.

(3) In computing the portion of net invested funds representing the net book value of tangible fixed assets, the same assets, depreciation bases, lives, and methods referred to in department rule, including owned and leased assets, shall be utilized, except that the capitalized cost of land upon which the facility is located and such other contiguous land which is reasonable and necessary for use in the regular course of providing resident care must also be included. Subject to provisions and limitations contained in this chapter, for land purchased by owners or lessors before July 18, 1984, capitalized cost of land is the buyer's capitalized cost. For all partial or whole rate periods after July 17, 1984, if the land is purchased after July 17, 1984, capitalized cost is that of the owner of record on July 17, 1984, or buyer's capitalized cost, whichever is lower. In the case of leased facilities where the net invested funds are unknown or the contractor is unable to provide necessary information to determine net invested funds, the secretary has the authority to determine an amount for net invested funds based on an appraisal conducted according to department rule.

(4) The financing allowance rate allocation calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 3; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 8; 1999 c 353 § 11.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.439 Facilities leased in arm's-length agreements—Financing allowance rate—Rate adjustment.** (1) In the case of a facility that was leased by the contractor as of January 1, 1980, in an arm's-length agreement, which continues to be leased under the same lease agreement, the financing allowance rate will be the greater of the rate existing on June 30, 2010, or the rate calculated under \*RCW 74.46.437.

(2) The alternate return on investment component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 7; 1999 c 353 § 12.]

\***Reviser's note:** The amendments to RCW 74.46.437 by 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 6 were vetoed.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.441 Public disclosure of rate-setting information.** The department shall disclose to any member of the public all rate-setting information consistent with requirements of state and federal laws. [1998 c 322 § 20.]

**74.46.475 Submitted cost report—Analysis and adjustment by department.** The department shall analyze the submitted cost report or a portion thereof of each contractor for each report period to determine if the information is correct, complete, reported in conformance with department instructions and generally accepted accounting principles, the requirements of this chapter, and such rules as the department may adopt. If the analysis finds that the cost report is incorrect or incomplete, the department may make adjustments to the reported information for purposes of establishing payment rate allocations. A schedule of such adjustments shall be provided to contractors and shall include an explanation for the adjustment and the dollar amount of the adjustment. Adjustments shall be subject to review and appeal as provided in this chapter. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 8; 1998 c 322 § 21; 1985 c 361 § 13; 1983 1st ex.s. c 67 § 23.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.485 Case mix classification methodology—Notice of implementation.** (1) The department shall:

(a) Employ the resource utilization group III case mix classification methodology. The department shall use the forty-four group index maximizing model for the resource utilization group III grouper version 5.10, but the department may revise or update the classification methodology to reflect advances or refinements in resident assessment or classification, subject to federal requirements. The department may adjust the case mix index for any of the lowest ten resource utilization group categories beginning with PA1 through PE2 to any case mix index that aids in achieving the purpose and intent of RCW 74.39A.007 and cost-efficient care; and

(b) Implement minimum data set 3.0 under the authority of this section and RCW 74.46.431(3). The department must notify nursing home contractors twenty-eight days in advance the date of implementation of the minimum data set 3.0. In the notification, the department must identify for all semiannual rate settings following the date of minimum data set 3.0 implementation a previously established semiannual case mix adjustment established for the semiannual rate settings that will be used for semiannual case mix calculations in direct care until minimum data set 3.0 is fully implemented.

(2) A default case mix group shall be established for cases in which the resident dies or is discharged for any purpose prior to completion of the resident's initial assessment. The default case mix group and case mix weight for these cases shall be designated by the department.

(3) A default case mix group may also be established for cases in which there is an untimely assessment for the resi-

dent. The default case mix group and case mix weight for these cases shall be designated by the department. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 4; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 9; 2009 c 570 § 2; 1998 c 322 § 22.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Effective date—2009 c 570:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**74.46.496 Case mix weights—Determination—Revisions.** (1) Each case mix classification group shall be assigned a case mix weight. The case mix weight for each resident of a nursing facility for each calendar quarter or six-month period during a calendar year shall be based on data from resident assessment instruments completed for the resident and weighted by the number of days the resident was in each case mix classification group. Days shall be counted as provided in this section.

(2) The case mix weights shall be based on the average minutes per registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, and certified nurse aide, for each case mix group, and using the United States department of health and human services nursing facility staff time measurement study. Those minutes shall be weighted by statewide ratios of registered nurse to certified nurse aide, and licensed practical nurse to certified nurse aide, wages, including salaries and benefits, which shall be based on cost report data for this state.

(3) The case mix weights shall be determined as follows:

(a) Set the certified nurse aide wage weight at 1.000 and calculate wage weights for registered nurse and licensed practical nurse average wages by dividing the certified nurse aide average wage into the registered nurse average wage and licensed practical nurse average wage;

(b) Calculate the total weighted minutes for each case mix group in the resource utilization group classification system by multiplying the wage weight for each worker classification by the average number of minutes that classification of worker spends caring for a resident in that resource utilization group classification group, and summing the products;

(c) Assign the lowest case mix weight to the resource utilization group with the lowest total weighted minutes and calculate case mix weights by dividing the lowest group's total weighted minutes into each group's total weighted minutes and rounding weight calculations to the third decimal place.

(4) The case mix weights in this state may be revised if the United States department of health and human services updates its nursing facility staff time measurement studies. The case mix weights shall be revised, but only when direct care component rates are cost-rebased as provided in subsection (5) of this section, to be effective on the July 1st effective date of each cost-rebased direct care component rate. However, the department may revise case mix weights more frequently if, and only if, significant variances in wage ratios occur among direct care staff in the different caregiver classifications identified in this section.

(5) Case mix weights shall be revised when direct care component rates are cost-rebased as provided in RCW 74.46.431(4). [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 5; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 10; 2006 c 258 § 4; 1998 c 322 § 23.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Effective date—2006 c 258:** See note following RCW 74.46.020.

**74.46.501 Average case mix indexes determined quarterly—Facility average case mix index—Medicaid average case mix index.** (1) From individual case mix weights for the applicable quarter, the department shall determine two average case mix indexes for each medicaid nursing facility, one for all residents in the facility, known as the facility average case mix index, and one for medicaid residents, known as the medicaid average case mix index.

(2)(a) In calculating a facility's two average case mix indexes for each quarter, the department shall include all residents or medicaid residents, as applicable, who were physically in the facility during the quarter in question based on the resident assessment instrument completed by the facility and the requirements and limitations for the instrument's completion and transmission (January 1st through March 31st, April 1st through June 30th, July 1st through September 30th, or October 1st through December 31st).

(b) The facility average case mix index shall exclude all default cases as defined in this chapter. However, the medicaid average case mix index shall include all default cases.

(3) Both the facility average and the medicaid average case mix indexes shall be determined by multiplying the case mix weight of each resident, or each medicaid resident, as applicable, by the number of days, as defined in this section and as applicable, the resident was at each particular case mix classification or group, and then averaging.

(4) In determining the number of days a resident is classified into a particular case mix group, the department shall determine a start date for calculating case mix grouping periods as specified by rule.

(5) The cutoff date for the department to use resident assessment data, for the purposes of calculating both the facility average and the medicaid average case mix indexes, and for establishing and updating a facility's direct care component rate, shall be one month and one day after the end of the quarter for which the resident assessment data applies.

(6)(a) Although the facility average and the medicaid average case mix indexes shall both be calculated quarterly, the cost-rebasing period facility average case mix index will be used throughout the applicable cost-rebasing period in combination with cost report data as specified by RCW 74.46.431 and 74.46.506, to establish a facility's allowable cost per case mix unit. To allow for the transition to minimum data set 3.0 and implementation of resource utilization group IV for July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013, the department shall calculate rates using the medicaid average case mix scores effective for January 1, 2011, rates adjusted under RCW 74.46.485(1)(a), and the scores shall be increased each six months during the transition period by one-half of one percent. The July 1, 2013, direct care cost per case mix unit shall be calculated by utilizing 2011 direct care costs, patient days, and 2011 facility average case mix indexes based on the minimum data set 3.0 resource utilization group IV grouper 57. A facility's medicaid average case mix index shall be

(2012 Ed.)

used to update a nursing facility's direct care component rate semiannually.

(b) The facility average case mix index used to establish each nursing facility's direct care component rate shall be based on an average of calendar quarters of the facility's average case mix indexes from the four calendar quarters occurring during the cost report period used to rebase the direct care component rate allocations as specified in RCW 74.46.431.

(c) The medicaid average case mix index used to update or recalibrate a nursing facility's direct care component rate semiannually shall be from the calendar six-month period commencing nine months prior to the effective date of the semiannual rate. For example, July 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, direct care component rates shall utilize case mix averages from the October 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010, calendar quarters, and so forth. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 6; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 11; 2006 c 258 § 5; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 9; 1998 c 322 § 24.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Effective date—2006 c 258:** See note following RCW 74.46.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.506 Direct care component rate allocations—Determination—Quarterly updates—Fines.** (1) The direct care component rate allocation corresponds to the provision of nursing care for one resident of a nursing facility for one day, including direct care supplies. Therapy services and supplies, which correspond to the therapy care component rate, shall be excluded. The direct care component rate includes elements of case mix determined consistent with the principles of this section and other applicable provisions of this chapter.

(2) The department shall determine and update semiannually for each nursing facility serving medicaid residents a facility-specific per-resident day direct care component rate allocation, to be effective on the first day of each six-month period. In determining direct care component rates the department shall utilize, as specified in this section, minimum data set resident assessment data for each resident of the facility, as transmitted to, and if necessary corrected by, the department in the resident assessment instrument format approved by federal authorities for use in this state.

(3) The department may question the accuracy of assessment data for any resident and utilize corrected or substitute information, however derived, in determining direct care component rates. The department is authorized to impose civil fines and to take adverse rate actions against a contractor, as specified by the department in rule, in order to obtain compliance with resident assessment and data transmission requirements and to ensure accuracy.

(4) Cost report data used in setting direct care component rate allocations shall be for rate periods as specified in RCW 74.46.431(4)(a).

(5) The department shall rebase each nursing facility's direct care component rate allocation as described in RCW 74.46.431, adjust its direct care component rate allocation for

economic trends and conditions as described in RCW 74.46.431, and update its medicaid average case mix index as described in RCW 74.46.496 and 74.46.501, consistent with the following:

(a) Adjust total direct care costs reported by each nursing facility for the applicable cost report period specified in RCW 74.46.431(4)(a) to reflect any department adjustments, and to eliminate reported resident therapy costs and adjustments, in order to derive the facility's total allowable direct care cost;

(b) Divide each facility's total allowable direct care cost by its adjusted resident days for the same report period, to derive the facility's allowable direct care cost per resident day;

(c) Divide each facility's adjusted allowable direct care cost per resident day by the facility average case mix index for the applicable quarters specified by RCW 74.46.501(6)(b) to derive the facility's allowable direct care cost per case mix unit;

(d) Divide nursing facilities into at least two and, if applicable, three peer groups: Those located in nonurban counties; those located in high labor-cost counties, if any; and those located in other urban counties;

(e) Array separately the allowable direct care cost per case mix unit for all facilities in nonurban counties; for all facilities in high labor-cost counties, if applicable; and for all facilities in other urban counties, and determine the median allowable direct care cost per case mix unit for each peer group;

(f) Determine each facility's semiannual direct care component rate as follows:

(i) Any facility whose allowable cost per case mix unit is greater than one hundred ten percent of the peer group median established under (e) of this subsection shall be assigned a cost per case mix unit equal to one hundred ten percent of the peer group median, and shall have a direct care component rate allocation equal to the facility's assigned cost per case mix unit multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable six-month period specified in RCW 74.46.501(6)(c);

(ii) Any facility whose allowable cost per case mix unit is less than or equal to one hundred ten percent of the peer group median established under (e) of this subsection shall have a direct care component rate allocation equal to the facility's allowable cost per case mix unit multiplied by that facility's medicaid average case mix index from the applicable six-month period specified in RCW 74.46.501(6)(c).

(6) The direct care component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421.

(7) Costs related to payments resulting from increases in direct care component rates, granted under authority of RCW 74.46.508 for a facility's exceptional care residents, shall be offset against the facility's examined, allowable direct care costs, for each report year or partial period such increases are paid. Such reductions in allowable direct care costs shall be for rate setting, settlement, and other purposes deemed appropriate by the department. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 7; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 12; 2007 c 508 § 3; 2006 c 258 § 6; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 10. Prior: 1999 c 353 § 5; 1999 c 181 § 1; 1998 c 322 § 25.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Effective date—2007 c 508:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2006 c 258:** See note following RCW 74.46.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.508 Direct care component rate allocation—Increases—Rules.** The department is authorized to increase the direct care component rate allocation calculated under RCW 74.46.506(5) for residents who have unmet exceptional care needs as determined by the department in rule. The department may, by rule, establish criteria, patient categories, and methods of exceptional care payment. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 13; 2003 1st sp.s. c 6 § 1; 1999 c 181 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**74.46.511 Therapy care component rate allocation—Determination.** (1) The therapy care component rate allocation corresponds to the provision of medicaid one-on-one therapy provided by a qualified therapist as defined in this chapter, including therapy supplies and therapy consultation, for one day for one medicaid resident of a nursing facility. The therapy care component rate allocation shall be based on adjusted therapy costs and days as described in RCW 74.46.431(5). The therapy care component rate shall be adjusted for economic trends and conditions as specified in RCW 74.46.431(5), and shall be determined in accordance with this section. In determining each facility's therapy care component rate allocation, the department shall apply the applicable minimum facility occupancy adjustment before creating the array of facilities' adjusted therapy care costs per adjusted resident day.

(2) In rebasing, as provided in RCW 74.46.431(5)(a), the department shall take from the cost reports of facilities the following reported information:

(a) Direct one-on-one therapy charges for all residents by payer including charges for supplies;

(b) The total units or modules of therapy care for all residents by type of therapy provided, for example, speech or physical. A unit or module of therapy care is considered to be fifteen minutes of one-on-one therapy provided by a qualified therapist or support personnel; and

(c) Therapy consulting expenses for all residents.

(3) The department shall determine for all residents the total cost per unit of therapy for each type of therapy by dividing the total adjusted one-on-one therapy expense for each type by the total units provided for that therapy type.

(4) The department shall divide medicaid nursing facilities in this state into two peer groups:

(a) Those facilities located within urban counties; and

(b) Those located within nonurban counties.

The department shall array the facilities in each peer group from highest to lowest based on their total cost per unit of therapy for each therapy type. The department shall determine the median total cost per unit of therapy for each therapy type and add ten percent of median total cost per unit of therapy. The cost per unit of therapy for each therapy type at

a nursing facility shall be the lesser of its cost per unit of therapy for each therapy type or the median total cost per unit plus ten percent for each therapy type for its peer group.

(5) The department shall calculate each nursing facility's therapy care component rate allocation as follows:

(a) To determine the allowable total therapy cost for each therapy type, the allowable cost per unit of therapy for each type of therapy shall be multiplied by the total therapy units for each type of therapy;

(b) The medicaid allowable one-on-one therapy expense shall be calculated taking the allowable total therapy cost for each therapy type times the medicaid percent of total therapy charges for each therapy type;

(c) The medicaid allowable one-on-one therapy expense for each therapy type shall be divided by total adjusted medicaid days to arrive at the medicaid one-on-one therapy cost per patient day for each therapy type;

(d) The medicaid one-on-one therapy cost per patient day for each therapy type shall be multiplied by total adjusted patient days for all residents to calculate the total allowable one-on-one therapy expense. The lesser of the total allowable therapy consultant expense for the therapy type or a reasonable percentage of allowable therapy consultant expense for each therapy type, as established in rule by the department, shall be added to the total allowable one-on-one therapy expense to determine the allowable therapy cost for each therapy type;

(e) The allowable therapy cost for each therapy type shall be added together, the sum of which shall be the total allowable therapy expense for the nursing facility;

(f) The total allowable therapy expense will be divided by the greater of adjusted total patient days from the cost report on which the therapy expenses were reported, or patient days at eighty-five percent occupancy of licensed beds. The outcome shall be the nursing facility's therapy care component rate allocation.

(6) The therapy care component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421.

(7) The therapy care component rate shall be suspended for medicaid residents in qualified nursing facilities designated by the department who are receiving therapy paid by the department outside the facility daily rate. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 14; 2008 c 263 § 3; 2007 c 508 § 4; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 11. Prior: 1999 c 353 § 6; 1999 c 181 § 3; 1998 c 322 § 26.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Effective date—2007 c 508:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.515 Support services component rate allocation—Determination—Emergency situations.** (1) The support services component rate allocation corresponds to the provision of food, food preparation, dietary, housekeeping, and laundry services for one resident for one day.

(2) The department shall determine each medicaid nursing facility's support services component rate allocation using cost report data specified by RCW 74.46.431(6).

(3) To determine each facility's support services component rate allocation, the department shall:

(a) Array facilities' adjusted support services costs per adjusted resident day, as determined by dividing each facility's total allowable support services costs by its adjusted resident days for the same report period, increased if necessary to a minimum occupancy provided by RCW 74.46.431(2), for each facility from facilities' cost reports from the applicable report year, for facilities located within urban counties, and for those located within nonurban counties and determine the median adjusted cost for each peer group;

(b) Set each facility's support services component rate at the lower of the facility's per resident day adjusted support services costs from the applicable cost report period or the adjusted median per resident day support services cost for that facility's peer group, either urban counties or nonurban counties, plus eight percent; and

(c) Adjust each facility's support services component rate for economic trends and conditions as provided in RCW 74.46.431(6).

(4) The support services component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 8; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 15; 2008 c 263 § 4; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 12; 1999 c 353 § 7; 1998 c 322 § 27.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.46.521 Operations component rate allocation—Determination.** (1) The operations component rate allocation corresponds to the general operation of a nursing facility for one resident for one day, including but not limited to management, administration, utilities, office supplies, accounting and bookkeeping, minor building maintenance, minor equipment repairs and replacements, and other supplies and services, exclusive of direct care, therapy care, support services, property, financing allowance, and variable return.

(2) The department shall determine each medicaid nursing facility's operations component rate allocation using cost report data specified by RCW 74.46.431(7)(a). Operations component rates for essential community providers shall be based upon a minimum occupancy of eighty-seven percent of licensed beds. Operations component rates for small nonessential community providers shall be based upon a minimum occupancy of ninety-two percent of licensed beds. Operations component rates for large nonessential community providers shall be based upon a minimum occupancy of ninety-five percent of licensed beds.

(3) For all calculations and adjustments in this subsection, the department shall use the greater of the facility's actual occupancy or an occupancy equal to eighty-seven percent for essential community providers, ninety-two percent for small nonessential community providers, or ninety-five percent for large nonessential community providers. To determine each facility's operations component rate the department shall:

(a) Array facilities' adjusted general operations costs per adjusted resident day, as determined by dividing each facility's total allowable operations cost by its adjusted resident

days for the same report period for facilities located within urban counties and for those located within nonurban counties and determine the median adjusted cost for each peer group;

(b) Set each facility's operations component rate at the lower of:

(i) The facility's per resident day adjusted operations costs from the applicable cost report period adjusted if necessary for minimum occupancy; or

(ii) The adjusted median per resident day general operations cost for that facility's peer group, urban counties or nonurban counties; and

(c) Adjust each facility's operations component rate for economic trends and conditions as provided in RCW 74.46.431(7)(b).

(4) The operations component rate allocations calculated in accordance with this section shall be adjusted to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 74.46.421. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 9; 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 16; 2007 c 508 § 5; 2006 c 258 § 7; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 13; 1999 c 353 § 8; 1998 c 322 § 28.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**Analysis—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**Effective date—2007 c 508:** See note following RCW 74.46.431.

**Effective date—2006 c 258:** See note following RCW 74.46.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **74.46.531 Department may adjust component rates—Contractor may request—Errors or omissions.**

(1) The department may adjust component rates for errors or omissions made in establishing component rates and determine amounts either overpaid to the contractor or underpaid by the department.

(2) A contractor may request the department to adjust its component rates because of:

(a) An error or omission the contractor made in completing a cost report; or

(b) An alleged error or omission made by the department in determining one or more of the contractor's component rates.

(3) A request for a rate adjustment made on incorrect cost reporting must be accompanied by the amended cost report pages prepared in accordance with the department's written instructions and by a written explanation of the error or omission and the necessity for the amended cost report pages and the rate adjustment.

(4) The department shall review a contractor's request for a rate adjustment because of an alleged error or omission, even if the time period has expired in which the contractor must appeal the rate when initially issued, pursuant to rules adopted by the department under \*RCW 74.46.780. If the request is received after this time period, the department has the authority to correct the rate if it agrees an error or omission was committed. However, if the request is denied, the contractor shall not be entitled to any appeals or exception review procedure that the department may adopt under \*RCW 74.46.780.

(5) The department shall notify the contractor of the amount of the overpayment to be recovered or additional

payment to be made to the contractor reflecting a rate adjustment to correct an error or omission. The recovery from the contractor of the overpayment or the additional payment to the contractor shall be governed by the reconciliation, settlement, security, and recovery processes set forth in this chapter and by rules adopted by the department in accordance with this chapter.

(6) Component rate adjustments approved in accordance with this section are subject to the provisions of RCW 74.46.421. [1998 c 322 § 31.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 74.46.780 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 21.

**74.46.541 Skilled nursing facility safety net assessment—Reimbursement of medicaid share.** (1) The department shall establish a skilled nursing facility safety net assessment medicaid share pass through or rate add-on to reimburse the medicaid share of the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment as a medicaid allowable cost consistent with RCW 74.48.030. This add-on shall not be considered an allowable cost for future year cost rebasing.

(2) As of July 1, 2011, supplemental payments to reimburse medicaid expenditures, including an amount to reimburse the medicaid share of the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment, not to exceed the annual medicare upper payment limit, must be provided for all years when the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment is levied, consistent with RCW 74.48.030. These supplemental payments, at a minimum, must be sufficient to reimburse the medicaid share of the assessment for those paying the assessment. The part of these supplemental payments that reimburses the medicaid share of the assessment are not subject to the reconciliation and settlement process provided in RCW 74.46.022(6). [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 10.]

**Purpose—Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7:** See RCW 74.48.005, 74.48.900, and 74.48.901.

**74.46.800 Rule-making authority.** (1) The department shall have authority to adopt, amend, and rescind such administrative rules and definitions as it deems necessary to carry out the policies and purposes of this chapter and to resolve issues and develop procedures to implement, update, and improve the nursing facility medicaid payment system.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require the department to adopt or employ any calculations, steps, tests, methodologies, alternate methodologies, indexes, formulas, mathematical or statistical models, concepts, or procedures for medicaid rate setting or payment that are not expressly called for in this chapter. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 18; 1998 c 322 § 42; 1980 c 177 § 80.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**74.46.803 Certificate of capital authorization—Rules—Emergency situations.** (1) The department shall establish rules for issuing a certificate of capital authorization. The rules shall address the following subjects, among others:

(a) The period of time during which applications for certificates of capital authorization will be accepted;

(b) The period of time for which a certificate of capital authorization will be valid; and

(c) The prioritization of applications for certificates of capital authorization, consistent with the principles set out in this section.

(2) The rules for a certificate of capital authorization shall be consistent with the following principles:

(a) A certificate of capital authorization is only required for capital expenditures exceeding the expenditure minimum as defined in RCW 70.38.025.

(b) Certificate of capital authorization applications must be filed with the department by the end of the previous calendar year to be considered for priority assignment the following state fiscal year beginning July 1. For example, a facility requesting a certificate of capital authorization for state fiscal year July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, must file a request for capital authorization no later than December 31, 2008. Within ninety days of receipt of an application, the department shall either reject the application as unacceptable or act upon it.

(c) In processing and approving certificates of capital authorization filed with the department in accordance with (b) of this subsection, the department shall give priority approval in the following order:

(i) First priority shall be given to applications for renovation or replacement on existing facilities that incorporate innovative building designs that create more home-like settings. Of these applications, preference shall be given to the greatest length of time since the last major renovation or construction.

(ii) Second priority shall be given to renovations of existing facilities with the greatest length of time since their last major renovation or construction.

(iii) Third priority shall be given to replacements of existing facilities with the greatest length of time since their last major renovation or construction.

(iv) Last priority shall be given to new facilities and shall be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

(d) Within the priorities established by this section, applications for certificates of capital authorization that do not receive approval in one state fiscal year because that year's authorization limit has been reached shall have priority the following fiscal year if the applications are resubmitted.

(3) The department shall have the authority to give first priority for a project that is necessitated by an emergency situation even if the project is not submitted in a timely fashion. Projects shall be considered on an emergency basis if the construction or renovation must be completed as soon as possible to:

- (a) Retain a facility's license or certification;
- (b) Protect the health or safety of the facility's residents;

or

- (c) Avoid closure.

(4) The department shall establish deadlines for progress and the department shall have the authority to withdraw the certificate of capital authorization where the holder of the certificate has not complied with those deadlines in a good faith manner. [2008 c 255 § 1; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

#### **74.46.807 Capital authorization—Determination.**

The total capital authorization available for any state fiscal year shall be specified in the biennial appropriations act and shall be calculated on an annual basis. [2008 c 255 § 2; 2001 1st sp.s. c 8 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **74.46.835 AIDS pilot nursing facility—Payment for direct care.**

(1) Payment for direct care at the pilot nursing facility in King county designed to meet the service needs of residents living with AIDS, as defined in RCW 70.24.017, and as specifically authorized for this purpose under chapter 9, Laws of 1989 1st ex. sess., shall be exempt from case mix methods of rate determination set forth in this chapter and shall be exempt from the direct care metropolitan statistical area peer group cost limitation set forth in this chapter.

(2) Direct care component rates at the AIDS pilot facility shall be based on direct care reported costs at the pilot facility, utilizing the same rate-setting cycle prescribed for other nursing facilities, and as supported by a staffing benchmark based upon a department-approved acuity measurement system.

(3) The provisions of RCW 74.46.421 and all other rate-setting principles, cost lids, and limits, including settlement as provided in rule shall apply to the AIDS pilot facility.

(4) This section applies only to the AIDS pilot nursing facility. [2010 1st sp.s. c 34 § 17; 1998 c 322 § 46.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 34:** See note following RCW 74.46.010.

**74.46.840 Conflict with federal requirements.** If any part of this chapter or RCW 18.51.145 or 74.09.120 is found by an agency of the federal government to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the receipts of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this chapter or RCW 18.51.145 or 74.09.120 is declared inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter or RCW 18.51.145 or 74.09.120 in its application to the agencies concerned. In the event that any portion of this chapter or RCW 18.51.145 or 74.09.120 is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the receipt of federal funds, the secretary, to the extent that the secretary finds it to be consistent with the general policies and intent of chapters 18.51, 74.09, and 74.46 RCW, may adopt such rules as to resolve a specific conflict and that do meet minimum federal requirements. In addition, the secretary shall submit to the next regular session of the legislature a summary of the specific rule changes made and recommendations for statutory resolution of the conflict. [1998 c 322 § 44; 1983 1st ex.s. c 67 § 42; 1980 c 177 § 92.]

**74.46.907 Severability—1998 c 322.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1998 c 322 § 56.]

**74.46.909 Retrospective application—Clarification of chapter 8, Laws of 2001 1st sp. sess.—2008 c 263.** The

legislature clarifies the enactment of \*chapter 8, Laws of 2001 1st sp. sess. and intends this act be curative, remedial, and retrospectively applicable to July 1, 1998. [2008 c 263 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: For codification of chapter 8, Laws of 2001 1st sp. sess., see Codification Tables.

**Chapter 74.48 RCW**  
**SKILLED NURSING FACILITY**  
**SAFETY NET ASSESSMENTS**

## Sections

74.48.005	Purpose—Findings—Intent.
74.48.010	Definitions.
74.48.020	Skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund.
74.48.030	Assessments.
74.48.040	Administration and collection.
74.48.050	Exceptions.
74.48.060	Conditions.
74.48.070	Assessment part of operating overhead.
74.48.080	Enforcement.
74.48.090	Quality incentive payments.
74.48.900	Severability—2011 1st sp.s. c 7.
74.48.901	Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7.

**74.48.005 Purpose—Findings—Intent.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature to encourage maximization of financial resources eligible and available for medicaid services by establishing the skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund to receive skilled nursing facility safety net assessments to use in securing federal matching funds under federally prescribed programs available through the state medicaid plan.

(2) The purpose of this chapter is to provide for a safety net assessment on certain Washington skilled nursing facilities, which will be used solely to support payments to skilled nursing facilities for medicaid services.

(3) The legislature finds that:

(a) Washington skilled nursing facilities have proposed a skilled nursing facility safety net assessment to generate additional state and federal funding for the medicaid program, which will be used in part to restore recent reductions in skilled nursing facility reimbursement rates and provide for an increase in medicaid reimbursement rates; and

(b) The skilled nursing facility safety net assessment and skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund created in this chapter allows the state to generate additional federal financial participation for the medicaid program and provides for increased reimbursement to skilled nursing facilities.

(4) In adopting this chapter, it is the intent of the legislature:

(a) To impose a skilled nursing facility safety net assessment to be used solely for the purposes specified in this chapter;

(b) That funds generated by the assessment, including matching federal financial participation, shall not be used for purposes other than as specified in this chapter;

(c) That the total amount assessed not exceed the amount needed, in combination with all other available funds, to support the reimbursement rates and other payments authorized by this chapter, including payments under RCW 74.48.030; and

(d) To condition the assessment and use of the resulting funds on receiving federal approval for receipt of additional federal financial participation. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 12.]

**74.48.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Certain high volume medicaid nursing facilities" means the fewest number of facilities necessary with the highest number of medicaid days or total patient days annually to meet the statistical redistribution test at 42 C.F.R. Sec. 433.68(e)(2).

(2) "Continuing care retirement community" means a facility that provides a continuum of services by one operational entity or related organization providing independent living services, or boarding home or assisted living services under chapter 18.20 RCW, and skilled nursing services under chapter 18.51 RCW in a single contiguous campus. The number of licensed nursing home beds must be sixty percent or less of the total number of beds available in the entire continuing care retirement community. For purposes of this subsection "contiguous" means land adjoining or touching other property held by the same or related organization including land divided by a public road.

(3) "Deductions from revenue" means reductions from gross revenue resulting from an inability to collect payment of charges. Such reductions include bad debt, contractual adjustments, policy discounts and adjustments, and other such revenue deductions.

(4) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(5) "Fund" means the skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund.

(6) "Hospital based" means a nursing facility that is physically part of, or contiguous to, a hospital. For purposes of this subsection "contiguous" has the same meaning as in subsection (2) of this section.

(7) "Medicare patient day" means a patient day for medicare beneficiaries on a medicare part A stay, medicare hospice stay, and a patient day for persons who have opted for managed care coverage using their medicare benefit.

(8) "Medicare upper payment limit" means the limitation established by federal regulations, 42 C.F.R. Sec. 447.272, that disallows federal matching funds when state medicaid agencies pay certain classes of nursing facilities an aggregate amount for services that would exceed the amount that would be paid for the same services furnished by that class of nursing facilities under medicare payment principles.

(9) "Net resident service revenue" means gross revenue from services to nursing facility residents less deductions from revenue. Net resident service revenue does not include other operating revenue or nonoperating revenue.

(10) "Nonexempt nursing facility" means a nursing facility that is not exempt from the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment.

(11) "Nonoperating revenue" means income from activities not relating directly to the day-to-day operations of an organization. Nonoperating revenue includes such items as gains on disposal of a facility's assets, dividends, and interest from security investments, gifts, grants, and endowments.

(12) "Nursing facility," "facility," or "skilled nursing facility" has the same meaning as "nursing home" as defined in RCW 18.51.010.

(13) "Other operating revenue" means income from non-resident care services to residents, as well as sales and activi-

ties to persons other than residents. It is derived in the course of operating the facility such as providing personal laundry service for residents or from other sources such as meals provided to persons other than residents, personal telephones, gift shops, and vending machines.

(14) "Related organization" means an entity which is under common ownership and/or control with, or has control of, or is controlled by, the contractor, as defined under chapter 74.46 RCW.

(a) "Common ownership" exists when an entity is the beneficial owner of five percent or more ownership interest in the contractor, as defined under chapter 74.46 RCW and any other entity.

(b) "Control" exists where an entity has the power, directly or indirectly, significantly to influence or direct the actions or policies of an organization or institution, whether or not it is legally enforceable and however it is exercisable or exercised.

(15) "Resident day" means a calendar day of care provided to a nursing facility resident, excluding medicare patient days. Resident days include the day of admission and exclude the day of discharge. An admission and discharge on the same day count as one day of care. Resident days include nursing facility hospice days and exclude bedhold days for all residents. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 13.]

**74.48.020 Skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund.** (1) There is established in the state treasury the skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund. The purpose and use of the fund shall be to receive and disburse funds, together with accrued interest, in accordance with this chapter. Moneys in the fund, including interest earned, shall not be used or disbursed for any purposes other than those specified in this chapter. Any amounts expended from the fund that are later recouped by the department on audit or otherwise shall be returned to the fund.

(2) The skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund must be a separate and continuing fund, and no money in the fund reverts to the state general fund at any time. All assessments, interest, and penalties collected by the department under RCW 74.48.030, 74.48.040, and 74.48.080 shall be deposited into the fund.

(3) Any money received under RCW 74.48.030, 74.48.040, and 74.48.080 must be deposited in the state treasury for credit to the skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund, and must be expended, to the extent authorized by federal law, to obtain federal financial participation in the medicaid program and to maintain and enhance nursing facility rates in a manner set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) Disbursements from the fund may be made only as follows:

(a) As an immediate pass-through or rate add-on to reimburse the medicaid share of the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment as a medicaid allowable cost;

(b) To make medicaid payments for nursing facility services in accordance with chapter 74.46 RCW and pursuant to this chapter;

(c) To refund erroneous or excessive payments made by skilled nursing facilities pursuant to this chapter;

(d) To administer the provisions of this chapter the department may expend an amount not to exceed one-half of

(2012 Ed.)

one percent of the money received from the assessment, and must not exceed the amount authorized for expenditure by the legislature for administrative expenses in a fiscal year;

(e) To repay the federal government for any excess payments made to skilled nursing facilities from the fund if the assessments or payment increases set forth in this chapter are deemed out of compliance with federal statutes and regulations and all appeals have been exhausted. In such a case, the department may require skilled nursing facilities receiving excess payments to refund the payments in question to the fund. The state in turn shall return funds to the federal government in the same proportion as the original financing. If a skilled nursing facility is unable to refund payments, the state shall either develop a payment plan or deduct moneys from future medicaid payments, or both; and

(f) To increase nursing facility payments to fund covered services to medicaid beneficiaries within medicare upper limits.

(5) Any positive balance in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall be applied to reduce the assessment amount for the subsequent fiscal year in accordance with RCW 74.48.040(1)(c)(i).

(6) Upon termination of the assessment, any amounts remaining in the fund shall be refunded to skilled nursing facilities, pro rata according to the amount paid by the facility, subject to limitations of federal law. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 14.]

**74.48.030 Assessments.** (1) In accordance with the redistribution method set forth in 42 C.F.R. Sec. 433.68(e)(1) and (2), the department shall seek a waiver of the broad-based and uniform provider assessment requirements of federal law to exclude certain nursing facilities from the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment and to permit certain high volume medicaid nursing facilities or facilities with a high number of total annual resident days to pay the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment at a lesser amount per nonmedicare patient day.

(2) The skilled nursing facility safety net assessment shall, at no time, be greater than the maximum percentage of the nursing facility industry reported net patient service revenues allowed under federal law or regulation.

(3) All skilled nursing facility safety net assessments collected pursuant to this section by the department shall be transmitted to the state treasurer who shall credit all such amounts to the skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 15.]

**74.48.040 Administration and collection.** (1) The department, in cooperation with the office of financial management, shall develop rules for determining the amount to be assessed to individual skilled nursing facilities, notifying individual skilled nursing facilities of the assessed amount, and collecting the amounts due. Such rule making shall specifically include provision for:

(a) Payment of the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment;

(b) Interest on delinquent assessments;

(c) Adjustment of the assessment amounts as follows:

(i) The assessment amounts under RCW 74.48.030 may be adjusted as follows:

(A) If sufficient other appropriated funds for skilled nursing facilities, are available to support the nursing facility reimbursement rates as authorized in the biennial appropriations act and other uses and payments permitted by RCW 74.48.020 and 74.48.030 without utilizing the full assessment authorized under RCW 74.48.030, the department shall reduce the amount of the assessment to the minimum level necessary to support those reimbursement rates and other uses and payments.

(B) So long as none of the conditions set forth in RCW 74.48.060(2) have occurred, if the department's forecasts indicate that the assessment amounts under RCW 74.48.030, together with all other appropriated funds, are not sufficient to support the skilled nursing facility reimbursement rates authorized in the biennial appropriations act and other uses and payments authorized under RCW 74.48.020 and 74.48.030, the department shall increase the assessment rates to the amount necessary to support those reimbursement rates and other payments to the maximum amount allowable under federal law.

(C) Any positive balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be applied to reduce the assessment amount for the subsequent fiscal year.

(ii) Beginning July 1, 2012, any adjustment to the assessment amounts pursuant to this subsection, and the data supporting such adjustment, including but not limited to relevant data listed in subsection (2) of this section, must be submitted to the Washington health care association, and aging services of Washington, for review and comment at least sixty calendar days prior to implementation of such adjusted assessment amounts. Any review and comment provided by the Washington health care association, and aging services of Washington, shall not limit the ability of either association or its members to challenge an adjustment or other action by the department that is not made in accordance with this chapter.

(2) By November 30th of each year, the department shall provide the following data to the office of financial management, the chair of the fiscal committee of the senate and the house of representatives, the Washington health care association, and aging services of Washington:

(a) The fund balance; and

(b) The amount of assessment paid by each skilled nursing facility.

(3) Assessments shall be assessed from July 1, 2011. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 16.]

**74.48.050 Exceptions.** (1) Subject to subsection (4) of this section the department shall exempt the following nursing facility providers from the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment subject to federal approval under 42 C.F.R. Sec. 433.68(e)(2):

(a) Continuing care retirement communities;

(b) Nursing facilities with thirty-five or fewer licensed beds;

(c) State, tribal, and county operated nursing facilities; and

(d) Any nursing facility operated by a public hospital district and nursing facilities that are hospital-based.

(2) The department shall lower the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment for either certain high volume medicaid nursing facilities or certain facilities with high resident

volumes to meet the redistributive tests of 42 C.F.R. Sec. 433.68(e)(2).

(3) The department shall lower the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment for any skilled nursing facility with a licensed bed capacity in excess of two hundred three beds to the same level described in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) To the extent necessary to obtain federal approval under 42 C.F.R. Sec. 433.68(e)(2), the exemptions prescribed in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section may be amended by the department.

(5) The per resident day assessment rate shall be the same amount for each affected facility except as prescribed in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

(6) The department shall notify the nursing facility operators of any skilled nursing facilities that would be exempted from the skilled nursing facility safety net assessment pursuant to the waiver request submitted to the United States department of health and human services under this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 17.]

**74.48.060 Conditions.** (1) If the centers for medicare and medicaid services fail to approve any state plan amendments or waiver requests that are necessary in order to implement the applicable sections of this chapter then the assessment authorized in RCW 74.48.040 shall cease to be imposed.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits the department from working cooperatively with the centers for medicare and medicaid services to secure approval of any needed state plan amendments or waiver requests. As provided in RCW 74.48.030 and 74.48.050, the department shall adjust any submitted state plan amendments or waiver requests as necessary to achieve approval.

(3) If this chapter does not take effect or ceases to be imposed, any moneys remaining in the fund shall be refunded to skilled nursing facilities in proportion to the amounts paid by such facilities. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 18.]

**74.48.070 Assessment part of operating overhead.** The incidence and burden of assessments imposed under this chapter shall be on skilled nursing facilities and the expense associated with the assessments shall constitute a part of the operating overhead of the facilities. Skilled nursing facilities shall not itemize the safety net assessment on billings to residents or third-party payers. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 19.]

**74.48.080 Enforcement.** If a nursing facility fails to make timely payment of the safety net assessment, the department may seek a remedy provided by law, including, but not limited to:

(1) Withholding any medical assistance reimbursement payments until such time as the assessment amount is recovered;

(2) Suspension or revocation of the nursing facility license; or

(3) Imposition of a civil fine up to one thousand dollars per day for each delinquent payment, not to exceed the amount of the assessment. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 20.]

**74.48.090 Quality incentive payments.** (1) The department and the department of health, in consultation with

the Washington state health care association, and aging services of Washington, shall design a system of skilled nursing facility quality incentive payments. The design of the system shall be submitted to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by January 1, 2013. For the 2011-2013 fiscal biennial budget period, the department shall not implement a system of skilled nursing facility quality incentive payments designed pursuant to this section. The system shall be based upon the following principles:

(a) Evidence-based treatment and processes shall be used to improve health care outcomes for skilled nursing facility residents;

(b) Effective purchasing strategies to improve the quality of health care services should involve the use of common quality improvement measures, while recognizing that some measures may not be appropriate for application to facilities with high bariatric, behaviorally challenged, or rehabilitation populations;

(c) Quality measures chosen for the system should be consistent with the standards that have been developed by national quality improvement organizations, such as the national quality forum, the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services, or the federal agency for healthcare research and quality. New reporting burdens to skilled nursing facilities should be minimized by giving priority to measures skilled nursing facilities that are currently required to report to governmental agencies, such as the nursing home compare measures collected by the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services;

(d) Benchmarks for each quality improvement measure should be set at levels that are feasible for skilled nursing facilities to achieve, yet represent real improvements in quality and performance for a majority of skilled nursing facilities in Washington state; and

(e) Skilled nursing facilities performance and incentive payments should be designed in a manner such that all facilities in Washington are able to receive the incentive payments if performance is at or above the benchmark score set in the system established under this section.

(2) Pursuant to an appropriation by the legislature, for state fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter, assessments may be increased to support an additional one percent increase in skilled nursing facility reimbursement rates for facilities that meet the quality incentive benchmarks established under this section. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 921; 2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 21.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**74.48.900 Severability—2011 1st sp.s. c 7.** Except as provided in RCW 74.48.060, if any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 24.]

**74.48.901 Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 7.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2011. [2011 1st sp.s. c 7 § 26.]

(2012 Ed.)

## Chapter 74.50 RCW ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT AND SUPPORT

### Sections

74.50.010	Legislative findings.
74.50.011	Additional legislative findings.
74.50.035	Shelter services—Eligibility.
74.50.040	Client assessment, treatment, and support services.
74.50.050	Treatment services.
74.50.055	Treatment services—Eligibility.
74.50.060	Shelter assistance program.
74.50.070	County multipurpose diagnostic center or detention center.
74.50.080	Rules—Discontinuance of service.
74.50.900	Short title.

*Alcoholism, intoxication, and drug addiction treatment: Chapters 70.96 and 70.96A RCW.*

*Applicability of chapter 74.08 RCW: RCW 74.08.900.*

### **74.50.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds:

(1) There is a need for reevaluation of state policies and programs regarding indigent alcoholics and drug addicts;

(2) The practice of providing a cash grant may be causing rapid caseload growth and attracting transients to the state;

(3) Many chronic public inebriates have been recycled through county detoxification centers repeatedly without apparent improvement;

(4) The assumption that all individuals will recover through treatment has not been substantiated;

(5) The state must modify its policies and programs for alcoholics and drug addicts and redirect its resources in the interests of these individuals, the community, and the taxpayers; and

(6) Treatment resources should be focused on persons willing to commit to rehabilitation; and

(7) It is the intent of the legislature that, to the extent possible, shelter services be developed under this chapter that do not result in the displacement of existing emergency shelter beds. To the extent that shelter operators do not object, it is the intent of the legislature that any vacant shelter beds contracted for under this chapter be made available to provide emergency temporary shelter to homeless individuals. [1988 c 163 § 1; 1987 c 406 § 2.]

**74.50.011 Additional legislative findings.** The legislature recognizes that alcoholism and drug addiction are treatable diseases and that most persons with this illness can recover. For this reason, this chapter provides a range of substance abuse treatment services. In addition, the legislature recognizes that when these diseases have progressed to the stage where a person's alcoholism or drug addiction has resulted in physiological or organic damage or cognitive impairment, shelter services may be appropriate. The legislature further recognizes that distinguishing alcoholics and drug addicts from persons incapacitated due to physical disability or mental illness is necessary in order to provide an incentive for alcoholics and drug addicts to seek appropriate treatment and in order to avoid use of programs that are not oriented toward their conditions. [1989 1st ex.s. c 18 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.50.035 Shelter services—Eligibility.** A person is eligible for shelter services under this chapter only if he or she:

(1) Meets the financial eligibility requirements contained in RCW 74.04.005;

(2) Is incapacitated from gainful employment due to a condition contained in subsection (3) of this section, which incapacity will likely continue for a minimum of sixty days; and

(3)(a) Suffers from active addiction to alcohol or drugs manifested by physiological or organic damage resulting in functional limitation, based on documented evidence from a physician, psychologist, or alcohol or drug treatment professional who is determined by the department to be qualified to make this finding; or

(b) Suffers from active addiction to alcohol or drugs to the extent that impairment of the applicant's cognitive ability will not dissipate with sobriety or detoxification, based on documented evidence from a physician, psychologist, or alcohol or drug treatment professional who is determined by the department to be qualified to make this finding. [1989 1st ex.s. c 18 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.50.040 Client assessment, treatment, and support services.** (1) The department shall provide client assessment, treatment, and support services. The assessment services shall include diagnostic evaluation and arranging for admission into treatment or supported living programs.

(2) The department shall assist clients in making application for supplemental security benefits and in obtaining the necessary documentation required by the federal social security administration for such benefits. [1987 c 406 § 5.]

**74.50.050 Treatment services.** (1) The department shall establish a treatment program to provide, within available funds, alcohol and drug treatment services for indigent persons eligible under this chapter. The treatment services may include but are not limited to:

(a) Intensive inpatient treatment services;

(b) Recovery house treatment;

(c) Outpatient treatment and counseling, including assistance in obtaining employment, and including a living allowance while undergoing outpatient treatment. The living allowance may not be used to provide shelter to clients in a dormitory setting that does not require sobriety as a condition of residence. The living allowance shall be administered on the clients' behalf by the outpatient treatment facility or other social service agency designated by the department. The department is authorized to pay the facility a fee for administering this allowance.

(2) The department may require an applicant or recipient selecting treatment to complete inpatient and recovery house treatment when, in the judgment of a designated assessment center, such treatment is necessary prior to providing the outpatient program. [2002 c 64 § 1; 1989 1st ex.s. c 18 § 5; 1988 c 163 § 3; 1987 c 406 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.50.055 Treatment services—Eligibility.** (1) A person shall not be eligible for treatment services under this chapter unless he or she:

(a) Meets the income and resource eligibility requirements for the medical care services program under RCW 74.09.035(1)(a)(iv) and (v); and

(b) Is incapacitated from gainful employment, which incapacity will likely continue for a minimum of sixty days.

(2) First priority for receipt of treatment services shall be given to pregnant women and parents of young children.

(3) In order to rationally allocate treatment services, the department may establish by rule caseload ceilings and additional eligibility criteria, including the setting of priorities among classes of persons for the receipt of treatment services. Any such rules shall be consistent with any conditions or limitations contained in any appropriations for treatment services. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 10; 1989 1st ex.s. c 18 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.50.060 Shelter assistance program.** The department shall establish a shelter assistance program to provide, within available funds, shelter for persons eligible under this chapter. "Shelter," "shelter support," or "shelter assistance" means a facility under contract to the department providing room and board in a supervised living arrangement, normally in a group or dormitory setting, to eligible recipients under this chapter. This may include supervised domiciliary facilities operated under the auspices of public or private agencies. No facility under contract to the department shall allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises. The department may contract with counties and cities for such shelter services. To the extent possible, the department shall not displace existing emergency shelter beds for use as shelter under this chapter. In areas of the state in which it is not feasible to develop shelters, due to low numbers of people needing shelter services, or in which sufficient numbers of shelter beds are not available, the department may provide shelter through an intensive protective payee program, unless the department grants an exception on an individual basis for less intense supervision. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 33; 2010 1st sp.s. c 8 § 31; 1989 1st ex.s. c 18 § 3; 1988 c 163 § 4; 1987 c 406 § 7.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See RCW 74.62.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Findings—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 8:** See notes following RCW 74.04.225.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.50.070 County multipurpose diagnostic center or detention center.** (1) If a county elects to establish a multipurpose diagnostic center or detention center, the alcoholism and drug addiction assessment service under RCW 74.50.040 may be integrated into the services provided by such a center.

(2) The center may be financed from funds made available by the department for alcoholism and drug addiction assessments under this chapter and funds contained in the department's budget for detoxification, involuntary deten-

tion, and involuntary treatment under chapters 70.96A and 71.05 RCW. The center may be operated by the county or pursuant to contract between the county and a qualified organization. [1987 c 406 § 8.]

**74.50.080 Rules—Discontinuance of service.** The department by rule may establish procedures for the administration of the services provided by this chapter. Any rules shall be consistent with any conditions or limitations on appropriations provided for these services. If funds provided for any service under this chapter have been fully expended, the department shall immediately discontinue that service. [1989 1st ex.s. c 18 § 6; 1989 c 3 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**74.50.900 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the alcoholism and drug addiction treatment and support act. [1987 c 406 § 1.]

**Chapter 74.55 RCW**

**CHILDREN’S SYSTEM OF CARE**

Sections

- 74.55.010 Demonstration sites—Selection criteria—Definition.
- 74.55.020 Goals.
- 74.55.030 Collaboration contract or memorandum of understanding.
- 74.55.050 Funding—Report.

**74.55.010 Demonstration sites—Selection criteria—Definition.** (1) The secretary shall establish demonstration sites for statewide implementation of a children’s system of care. The demonstration sites shall be selected using the following criteria:

- (a) The system administrator must be the recipient of funding by the federal center for mental health services for the purpose of developing a system of care for children with emotional and behavioral disorders;
- (b) The system administrator must have established a process for ongoing input and coordination from the public health and safety network or networks established in the catchment area of the project; and
- (c) The system administrator may be a project site under a Title IV-E waiver.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "children’s system of care" means a centralized community care coordination system representing a philosophy about the way services should be delivered to children and their families, using existing resources of various child-serving agencies addressing the problems of children with emotional and behavioral disorders. The agencies represented may include providers of mental health services, drug and alcohol services, services for the developmentally disabled, county juvenile justice and state juvenile rehabilitation, child welfare, and special education. [2002 c 309 § 1.]

**74.55.020 Goals.** The goals of the children’s system of care are to:

- (1) Maintain a multiagency collaborative planning and system management mechanism at the state and local levels through the establishment of an oversight committee at the local level in accordance with the principles and program

(2012 Ed.)

requirements associated with the federal center for children’s mental health services;

- (2) Recommend and make necessary financing changes to support individualized and flexible home and community-based services and supports that are child centered, family driven, strength based, and culturally competent;
- (3) Support a common screening tool and integrated care coordination system;
- (4) Recommend and make necessary changes in contracting to support integrated service delivery;
- (5) Promote and increase the expansion of system capacity for children and their families in each demonstration site community;
- (6) Develop the capacity of family members to provide support for one another and to strengthen the family voice in system implementation through the utilization of a citizens’ advisory board as described in \*RCW 74.55.040 and through other outreach activities;
- (7) Conduct research and draw on outside consultation to identify best practices to inform system development and refinement; and
- (8) Demonstrate cost-effectiveness by creating system efficiencies that generate savings from the current level of expenditures for children being served by the participating agencies. These savings must be used to provide more services to the children involved in the project, or to serve more children. [2002 c 309 § 2.]

\*Reviser’s note: RCW 74.55.040 expired January 1, 2004.

**74.55.030 Collaboration contract or memorandum of understanding.** The secretary shall assure collaboration with each demonstration site by child-serving entities operated directly by the department or by departmental contractors. A collaboration contract or memorandum of understanding shall be developed by the demonstration site and the secretary for that purpose. [2002 c 309 § 3.]

**74.55.050 Funding—Report.** Funding for children’s system of care projects following the expiration of the federal grant shall be determined using the process established in RCW 74.14A.060 and funded children’s system of care projects shall be included in the annual report required by that section. [2002 c 309 § 5.]

**Chapter 74.60 RCW**

**HOSPITAL SAFETY NET ASSESSMENT**

Sections

- 74.60.005 Purpose—Findings—Intent.
- 74.60.010 Definitions.
- 74.60.020 Hospital safety net assessment fund.
- 74.60.030 Assessments.
- 74.60.040 Exemptions.
- 74.60.050 Administration and collection.
- 74.60.060 Local assessments or taxes not authorized.
- 74.60.070 Assessment part of operating overhead.
- 74.60.080 Restoration of June 30, 2009, reimbursement rates.
- 74.60.090 Increased hospital reimbursement rates.
- 74.60.100 Critical access hospital payments.
- 74.60.110 Small rural disproportionate share hospital payments.
- 74.60.120 Increased managed care payments and corresponding payments to hospitals.
- 74.60.130 Quality incentive payments.
- 74.60.140 Multihospital locations, new hospitals, and changes in ownership.

74.60.150	Conditions.
74.60.900	Severability—2010 1st sp.s. c 30.
74.60.901	Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 30.
74.60.902	Expiration of chapter—2010 1st sp.s. c 30.
74.60.903	Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 30.

**74.60.005 Purpose—Findings—Intent. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) The purpose of this chapter is to provide for a safety net assessment on certain Washington hospitals, which will be used solely to augment funding from all other sources and thereby obtain additional funds to restore recent reductions and to support additional payments to hospitals for medicaid services.

(2) The legislature finds that:

(a) Washington hospitals, working with the department of social and health services, have proposed a hospital safety net assessment to generate additional state and federal funding for the medicaid program, which will be used to partially restore recent inpatient and outpatient reductions in hospital reimbursement rates and provide for an increase in hospital payments; and

(b) The hospital safety net assessment and hospital safety net assessment fund created in this chapter allows the state to generate additional federal financial participation for the medicaid program and provides for increased reimbursement to hospitals.

(3) In adopting this chapter, it is the intent of the legislature:

(a) To impose a hospital safety net assessment to be used solely for the purposes specified in this chapter;

(b) That funds generated by the assessment shall be used solely to augment all other funding sources and not as a substitute for any other funds;

(c) That the total amount assessed not exceed the amount needed, in combination with all other available funds, to support the reimbursement rates and other payments authorized by this chapter; and

(d) To condition the assessment on receiving federal approval for receipt of additional federal financial participation and on continuation of other funding sufficient to maintain hospital inpatient and outpatient reimbursement rates and small rural disproportionate share payments at least at the levels in effect on July 1, 2009. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 1.]

**74.60.010 Definitions. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Certified public expenditure hospital" means a hospital participating in the department's certified public expenditure payment program as described in WAC 388-550-4650 or successor rule.

(2) "Critical access hospital" means a hospital as described in RCW 74.09.5225.

(3) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(4) "Fund" means the hospital safety net assessment fund established under RCW 74.60.020.

(5) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.

(6) "Long-term acute care hospital" means a hospital which has an average inpatient length of stay of greater than twenty-five days as determined by the department of health.

(7) "Managed care organization" means an organization having a certificate of authority or certificate of registration from the office of the insurance commissioner that contracts with the department under a comprehensive risk contract to provide prepaid health care services to eligible clients under the department's medicaid managed care programs, including the healthy options program.

(8) "Medicaid" means the medical assistance program as established in Title XIX of the social security act and as administered in the state of Washington by the department of social and health services.

(9) "Medicare cost report" means the medicare cost report, form 2552-96, or successor document.

(10) "Nonmedicare hospital inpatient day" means total hospital inpatient days less medicare inpatient days, including medicare days reported for medicare managed care plans, as reported on the medicare cost report, form 2552-96, or successor forms, excluding all skilled and nonskilled nursing facility days, skilled and nonskilled swing bed days, nursery days, observation bed days, hospice days, home health agency days, and other days not typically associated with an acute care inpatient hospital stay.

(11) "Prospective payment system hospital" means a hospital reimbursed for inpatient and outpatient services provided to medicaid beneficiaries under the inpatient prospective payment system and the outpatient prospective payment system as defined in WAC 388-550-1050. For purposes of this chapter, prospective payment system hospital does not include a hospital participating in the certified public expenditure program or a bordering city hospital located outside of the state of Washington and in one of the bordering cities listed in WAC 388-501-0175 or successor regulation.

(12) "Psychiatric hospital" means a hospital facility licensed as a psychiatric hospital under chapter 71.12 RCW.

(13) "Regional support network" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 71.24.025.

(14) "Rehabilitation hospital" means a medicare-certified freestanding inpatient rehabilitation facility.

(15) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social and health services.

(16) "Small rural disproportionate share hospital payment" means a payment made in accordance with WAC 388-550-5200 or subsequently filed regulation. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 2.]

**74.60.020 Hospital safety net assessment fund. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) A dedicated fund is hereby established within the state treasury to be known as the hospital safety net assessment fund. The purpose and use of the fund shall be to receive and disburse funds, together with accrued interest, in accordance with this chapter. Moneys in the fund, including interest earned, shall not be used or disbursed for any purposes other than those specified in this chapter. Any amounts expended from the fund that are later recouped by the department on audit or otherwise shall be returned to the fund.

(a) Any unexpended balance in the fund at the end of a fiscal biennium shall carry over into the following biennium and shall be applied to reduce the amount of the assessment under RCW 74.60.050(1)(c).

(b) Any amounts remaining in the fund on July 1, 2013, shall be used to make increased payments in accordance with RCW 74.60.090 and 74.60.120 for any outstanding claims with dates of service prior to July 1, 2013. Any amounts remaining in the fund after such increased payments are made shall be refunded to hospitals, pro rata according to the amount paid by the hospital, subject to the limitations of federal law.

(2) All assessments, interest, and penalties collected by the department under RCW 74.60.030 and 74.60.050 shall be deposited into the fund.

(3) Disbursements from the fund may be made only as follows:

(a) Subject to appropriations and the continued availability of other funds in an amount sufficient to maintain the level of medicaid hospital rates in effect on July 1, 2009;

(b) Upon certification by the secretary that the conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1) have been met with respect to the assessments imposed under RCW 74.60.030 (1) and (2), the payments provided under RCW 74.60.080, payments provided under RCW 74.60.120(2), and any initial payments under RCW 74.60.100 and 74.60.110, funds shall be disbursed in the amount necessary to make the payments specified in those sections;

(c) Upon certification by the secretary that the conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1) have been met with respect to the assessments imposed under RCW 74.60.030(3) and the payments provided under RCW 74.60.090 and 74.60.130, payments made subsequent to the initial payments under RCW 74.60.100 and 74.60.110, and payments under RCW 74.60.120(3), funds shall be disbursed periodically as necessary to make the payments as specified in those sections;

(d) To refund erroneous or excessive payments made by hospitals pursuant to this chapter;

(e) The sum of forty-nine million three hundred thousand dollars for the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium may be expended in lieu of state general fund payments to hospitals. An additional sum of seventeen million five hundred thousand dollars for the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium may be expended in lieu of state general fund payments to hospitals if additional federal financial participation under section 5001 of P.L. No. 111-5 is extended beyond December 31, 2010. The sum of one hundred ninety-nine million eight hundred thousand dollars for the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium may be expended in lieu of state general fund payments to hospitals;

(f) The sum of one million dollars per biennium may be disbursed for payment of administrative expenses incurred by the department in performing the activities authorized by this chapter;

(g) To repay the federal government for any excess payments made to hospitals from the fund if the assessments or payment increases set forth in this chapter are deemed out of compliance with federal statutes and regulations and all appeals have been exhausted. In such a case, the department may require hospitals receiving excess payments to refund the payments in question to the fund. The state in turn shall return funds to the federal government in the same proportion as the original financing. If a hospital is unable to refund payments, the state shall develop a payment plan and/or deduct moneys from future medicaid payments. [2011 1st sp.s. c 35 § 1; 2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 3.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Expiration date—2011 1st sp.s. c 35:** "Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire July 1, 2013." [2011 1st sp.s. c 35 § 3.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 35:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 35 § 4.]

**74.60.030 Assessments. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) An assessment is imposed as set forth in this subsection effective after the date when the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) have been satisfied through June 30, 2013, for the purpose of funding restoration of reimbursement rates under RCW 74.60.080(1) and 74.60.120(2)(a) and funding payments made subsequent to the initial payments under RCW 74.60.100 and 74.60.110. Payments under this subsection are due and payable on the first day of each calendar quarter after the department sends notice of assessment to affected hospitals. However, the initial assessment is not due and payable less than thirty calendar days after notice of the amount due has been provided to affected hospitals.

(a) For the period beginning on the date the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) are met through December 31, 2010:

(i) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of thirty-two dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(ii) Each critical access hospital shall pay an assessment of ten dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(b) For the period beginning on January 1, 2011, and ending on June 30, 2011:

(i) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of forty dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(ii) Each critical access hospital shall pay an assessment of ten dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(c) For the period beginning July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013:

(i) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of forty-four dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(ii) Each critical access hospital shall pay an assessment of ten dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(d)(i) For purposes of (a) and (b) of this subsection, the department shall determine each hospital's annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient days by summing the total reported nonmedicare inpatient days for each hospital that is not exempt from the assessment as described in RCW 74.60.040 for the relevant state fiscal year 2008 portions included in the hospital's fiscal year end reports 2007 and/or 2008 cost reports. The department shall use nonmedicare hospital inpatient day data for each hospital taken from the centers for medicare and medicaid services' hospital 2552-96 cost report

data file as of November 30, 2009, or equivalent data collected by the department.

(ii) For purposes of (c) of this subsection, the department shall determine each hospital's annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient days by summing the total reported nonmedicare hospital inpatient days for each hospital that is not exempt from the assessment under RCW 74.60.040, taken from the most recent publicly available hospital 2552-96 cost report data file or successor data file available through the centers for medicare and medicaid services, as of a date to be determined by the department. If cost report data are unavailable from the foregoing source for any hospital subject to the assessment, the department shall collect such information directly from the hospital.

(2) An assessment is imposed in the amounts set forth in this section for the purpose of funding the restoration of the rates under RCW 74.60.080(2) and 74.60.120(2)(b) and funding the initial payments under RCW 74.60.100 and 74.60.110, which shall be due and payable within thirty calendar days after the department has transmitted a notice of assessment to hospitals. Such notice shall be transmitted immediately upon determination by the secretary that the applicable conditions established by RCW 74.60.150(1) have been met.

(a) Prospective payment system hospitals.

(i) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of thirty dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day up to sixty thousand per year, multiplied by a ratio, the numerator of which is the number of days between June 30, 2009, and the day after the applicable conditions established by RCW 74.60.150(1) have been met and the denominator of which is three hundred sixty-five.

(ii) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of one dollar for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day over and above sixty thousand per year, multiplied by a ratio, the numerator of which is the number of days between June 30, 2009, and the day after the applicable conditions established by RCW 74.60.150(1) have been met and the denominator of which is three hundred sixty-five.

(b) Each critical access hospital shall pay an assessment of ten dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by a ratio, the numerator of which is the number of days between June 30, 2009, and the day after the applicable conditions established by RCW 74.60.150(1) have been met and the denominator of which is three hundred sixty-five.

(c) For purposes of this subsection, the department shall determine each hospital's annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient days by summing the total reported nonmedicare inpatient days for each hospital that is not exempt from the assessment as described in RCW 74.60.040 for the relevant state fiscal year 2008 portions included in the hospital's fiscal year end reports 2007 and/or 2008 cost reports. The department shall use nonmedicare hospital inpatient day data for each hospital taken from the centers for medicare and medicaid services' hospital 2552-96 cost report data file as of November 30, 2009, or equivalent data collected by the department.

(3) An assessment is imposed as set forth in this subsection for the period February 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013, for the purpose of funding increased hospital payments under RCW 74.60.090 and 74.60.120(3), which shall be due and

payable on the first day of each calendar quarter after the department has sent notice of the assessment to each affected hospital, provided that the initial assessment shall be transmitted only after the secretary has determined that the applicable conditions established by RCW 74.60.150(1) have been satisfied and shall be payable no less than thirty calendar days after the department sends notice of the amount due to affected hospitals. The initial assessment shall include the full amount due from February 1, 2010, through the date of the notice.

(a) For the period February 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010:

(i) Prospective payment system hospitals.

(A) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of one hundred nineteen dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day up to sixty thousand per year, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(B) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of five dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day over and above sixty thousand per year, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(ii) Each psychiatric hospital and each rehabilitation hospital shall pay an assessment of thirty-one dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(b) For the period beginning on January 1, 2011, and ending on June 30, 2011:

(i) Prospective payment system hospitals.

(A) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of one hundred fifty dollars for each annual nonmedicare inpatient day up to sixty thousand per year, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(B) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of six dollars for each annual nonmedicare inpatient day over and above sixty thousand per year, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five. The department may adjust the assessment or the number of nonmedicare hospital inpatient days used to calculate the assessment amount if necessary to maintain compliance with federal statutes and regulations related to medicaid program health care-related taxes.

(ii) Each psychiatric hospital and each rehabilitation hospital shall pay an assessment of thirty-nine dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(c) For the period beginning July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013:

(i) Prospective payment system hospitals.

(A) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of one hundred fifty-six dollars for each annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient day up to sixty thousand per year, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(B) Each prospective payment system hospital shall pay an assessment of six dollars for each annual nonmedicare inpatient day over and above sixty thousand per year, multi-

plied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five. The department may adjust the assessment or the number of nonmedicare hospital inpatient days if necessary to maintain compliance with federal statutes and regulations related to medicaid program health care-related taxes.

(ii) Each psychiatric hospital and each rehabilitation hospital shall pay an assessment of thirty-nine dollars for each annual nonmedicare inpatient day, multiplied by the number of days in the assessment period divided by three hundred sixty-five.

(d)(i) For purposes of (a) and (b) of this subsection, the department shall determine each hospital's annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient days by summing the total reported nonmedicare inpatient days for each hospital that is not exempt from the assessment as described in RCW 74.60.040 for the relevant state fiscal year 2008 portions included in the hospital's fiscal year end reports 2007 and/or 2008 cost reports. The department shall use nonmedicare hospital inpatient day data for each hospital taken from the centers for medicare and medicaid services' hospital 2552-96 cost report data file as of November 30, 2009, or equivalent data collected by the department.

(ii) For purposes of (c) of this subsection, the department shall determine each hospital's annual nonmedicare hospital inpatient days by summing the total reported nonmedicare hospital inpatient days for each hospital that is not exempt from the assessment under RCW 74.60.040, taken from the most recent publicly available hospital 2552-96 cost report data file or successor data file available through the centers for medicare and medicaid services, as of a date to be determined by the department. If cost report data are unavailable from the foregoing source for any hospital subject to the assessment, the department shall collect such information directly from the hospital.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 74.60.070, nothing in chapter 30, Laws of 2010 1st sp. sess. is intended to prohibit a hospital from including assessment amounts paid in accordance with this section on their medicare and medicaid cost reports. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 4.]

**74.60.040 Exemptions. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** The following hospitals are exempt from any assessment under this chapter provided that if and to the extent any exemption is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction or by the centers for medicare and medicaid services, hospitals previously exempted shall be liable for assessments due after the date of final invalidation:

(1) Hospitals owned or operated by an agency of federal or state government, including but not limited to western state hospital and eastern state hospital;

(2) Washington public hospitals that participate in the certified public expenditure program;

(3) Hospitals that do not charge directly or indirectly for hospital services; and

(4) Long-term acute care hospitals. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 5.]

**74.60.050 Administration and collection. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) The department, in cooperation with the office of financial management, shall develop rules for deter-

mining the amount to be assessed to individual hospitals, notifying individual hospitals of the assessed amount, and collecting the amounts due. Such rule making shall specifically include provision for:

(a) Transmittal of quarterly notices of assessment by the department to each hospital informing the hospital of its non-medicare hospital inpatient days and the assessment amount due and payable. Such quarterly notices shall be sent to each hospital at least thirty calendar days prior to the due date for the quarterly assessment payment.

(b) Interest on delinquent assessments at the rate specified in RCW 82.32.050.

(c) Adjustment of the assessment amounts as follows:

(i) For each fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, the assessment amounts under RCW 74.60.030 (1) and (3) may be adjusted as follows:

(A) If sufficient other funds for hospitals, excluding any extension of section 5001 of P.L. No. 111-5, are available to support the reimbursement rates and other payments under RCW 74.60.080, 74.60.090, 74.60.100, 74.60.110, or 74.60.120 without utilizing the full assessment authorized under RCW 74.60.030 (1) or (3), the department shall reduce the amount of the assessment for prospective payment system, psychiatric, and rehabilitation hospitals proportionately to the minimum level necessary to support those reimbursement rates and other payments.

(B) Provided that none of the conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(2) have occurred, if the department's forecasts indicate that the assessment amounts under RCW 74.60.030 (1) and (3), together with all other available funds, are not sufficient to support the reimbursement rates and other payments under RCW 74.60.080, 74.60.090, 74.60.100, 74.60.110, or 74.60.120, the department shall increase the assessment rates for prospective payment system, psychiatric, and rehabilitation hospitals proportionately to the amount necessary to support those reimbursement rates and other payments, plus a contingency factor up to ten percent of the total assessment amount.

(C) Any positive balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be applied to reduce the assessment amount for the subsequent fiscal year.

(ii) Any adjustment to the assessment amounts pursuant to this subsection, and the data supporting such adjustment, including but not limited to relevant data listed in subsection (2) of this section, must be submitted to the Washington state hospital association for review and comment at least sixty calendar days prior to implementation of such adjusted assessment amounts. Any review and comment provided by the Washington state hospital association shall not limit the ability of the Washington state hospital association or its members to challenge an adjustment or other action by the department that is not made in accordance with this chapter.

(2) By November 30th of each year, the department shall provide the following data to the Washington state hospital association:

(a) The fund balance;

(b) The amount of assessment paid by each hospital;

(c) The annual medicaid fee-for-service payments for inpatient hospital services and outpatient hospital services; and

(d) The medicaid healthy options inpatient and outpatient payments as reported by all hospitals to the department on disproportionate share hospital applications. The department shall amend the disproportionate share hospital application and reporting instructions as needed to ensure that the foregoing data is reported by all hospitals as needed in order to comply with this subsection (2)(d).

(3) The department shall determine the number of non-medicare hospital inpatient days for each hospital for each assessment period.

(4) To the extent necessary, the department shall amend the contracts between the managed care organizations and the department and between regional support networks and the department to incorporate the provisions of RCW 74.60.120. The department shall pursue amendments to the contracts as soon as possible after April 27, 2010. The amendments to the contracts shall, among other provisions, provide for increased payment rates to managed care organizations in accordance with RCW 74.60.120. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 6.]

**74.60.060 Local assessments or taxes not authorized. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize any unit of local government to impose a tax or assessment on hospitals, including but not limited to a tax or assessment measured by a hospital's income, earnings, bed days, or other similar measures. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 7.]

**74.60.070 Assessment part of operating overhead. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** The incidence and burden of assessments imposed under this chapter shall be on hospitals and the expense associated with the assessments shall constitute a part of the operating overhead of hospitals. Hospitals shall not increase charges or billings to patients or third-party payers as a result of the assessments under this chapter. The department may require hospitals to submit certified statements by their chief financial officers or equivalent officials attesting that they have not increased charges or billings as a result of the assessments. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 8.]

**74.60.080 Restoration of June 30, 2009, reimbursement rates. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** Upon satisfaction of the applicable conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1), the department shall:

(1) Restore medicaid inpatient and outpatient reimbursement rates to levels as if the four percent medicaid inpatient and outpatient rate reductions did not occur on July 1, 2009; and

(2) Recalculate the amount payable to each hospital that submitted an otherwise allowable claim for inpatient and outpatient medicaid-covered services rendered from and after July 1, 2009, up to and including the date when the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) have been satisfied, as if the four percent medicaid inpatient and outpatient rate reductions did not occur effective July 1, 2009, and, within sixty calendar days after the date upon which the applicable conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1) have been satisfied, remit the difference to each hospital. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 9.]

**74.60.090 Increased hospital reimbursement rates. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) Upon satisfaction of the applicable conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1) and for services

rendered on or after February 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, the department shall increase the medicaid inpatient and outpatient fee-for-service hospital reimbursement rates in effect on June 30, 2009, by the percentages specified below:

(a) Prospective payment system hospitals:

(i) Inpatient psychiatric services: Thirteen percent;

(ii) Inpatient services: Thirteen percent;

(iii) Outpatient services: Thirty-six and eighty-three one-hundredths percent.

(b) Harborview medical center and University of Washington medical center:

(i) Inpatient psychiatric services: Three percent;

(ii) Inpatient services: Three percent;

(iii) Outpatient services: Twenty-one percent.

(c) Rehabilitation hospitals:

(i) Inpatient services: Thirteen percent;

(ii) Outpatient services: Thirty-six and eighty-three one-hundredths percent.

(d) Psychiatric hospitals:

(i) Inpatient psychiatric services: Thirteen percent;

(ii) Inpatient services: Thirteen percent.

(2) Upon satisfaction of the applicable conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1) and for services rendered on or after July 1, 2011, the department shall increase the medicaid inpatient and outpatient fee-for-service hospital reimbursement rates in effect on June 30, 2009, by the percentages specified below:

(a) Prospective payment system hospitals:

(i) Inpatient psychiatric services: Thirteen percent;

(ii) Inpatient services: Three and ninety-six one-hundredths percent;

(iii) Outpatient services: Twenty-seven and twenty-five one-hundredths percent.

(b) Harborview medical center and University of Washington medical center:

(i) Inpatient psychiatric services: Three percent;

(ii) Inpatient services: Three percent;

(iii) Outpatient services: Twenty-one percent.

(c) Rehabilitation hospitals:

(i) Inpatient services: Thirteen percent;

(ii) Outpatient services: Thirty-six and eighty-three one-hundredths percent.

(d) Psychiatric hospitals:

(i) Inpatient psychiatric services: Thirteen percent;

(ii) Inpatient services: Thirteen percent.

(3) For claims processed for services rendered on or after February 1, 2010, but prior to satisfaction of the applicable conditions specified in RCW 74.60.150(1), the department shall, within sixty calendar days after satisfaction of those conditions, calculate the amount payable to hospitals in accordance with this section and remit the difference to each hospital that has submitted an otherwise allowable claim for payment for such services.

(4) By December 1, 2012, the department will submit a study to the legislature with recommendations on the amount of the assessments necessary to continue to support hospital payments for the 2013-2015 biennium. The evaluation will assess medicaid hospital payments relative to medicaid hospital costs. The study should address current federal law, including any changes on scope of medicaid coverage, provisions related to provider taxes, and impacts of federal health

care reform legislation. The study should also address the state's economic forecast. Based on the forecast, the department should recommend the amount of assessment needed to support future hospital payments and the departmental administrative expenses. Recommendations should be developed with the fiscal committees of the legislature, office of financial management, and the Washington state hospital association. [2011 1st sp.s. c 35 § 2; 2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 10.]

**Expiration date—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 35:** See notes following RCW 74.60.020.

**74.60.100 Critical access hospital payments. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** Upon satisfaction of the applicable conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1), the department shall pay critical access hospitals that do not qualify for or receive a small rural disproportionate share payment in the subject state fiscal year an access payment of fifty dollars for each medicaid inpatient day, exclusive of days on which a swing bed is used for subacute care, from and after July 1, 2009. Initial payments to hospitals, covering the period from July 1, 2009, to the date when the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) are satisfied, shall be made within sixty calendar days after such conditions are satisfied. Subsequent payments shall be made to critical access hospitals on an annual basis at the time that disproportionate share eligibility and payment for the state fiscal year are established. These payments shall be in addition to any other amount payable with respect to services provided by critical access hospitals and shall not reduce any other payments to critical access hospitals. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 11.]

**74.60.110 Small rural disproportionate share hospital payments. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** Upon satisfaction of the applicable conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1), small rural disproportionate share payments shall be increased to one hundred twenty percent of the level in effect as of June 30, 2009, for the period from and after July 1, 2009, until July 1, 2013. Initial payments, covering the period from July 1, 2009, to the date when the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) are satisfied, shall be made within sixty calendar days after those conditions are satisfied. Subsequent payments shall be made directly to hospitals by the department on a periodic basis. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 12.]

**74.60.120 Increased managed care payments and corresponding payments to hospitals. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** Subject to the applicable conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1), the department shall:

(1) Amend medicaid-managed care and regional support network contracts as necessary in order to ensure compliance with this chapter;

(2) With respect to the inpatient and outpatient rates established by RCW 74.60.080:

(a) Upon satisfaction of the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1), increase payments to managed care organizations and regional support networks as necessary to ensure that hospitals are reimbursed in accordance with RCW 74.60.080(1) for services rendered from and after the date when applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) have been satisfied, and pay an additional amount equal to the estimated amount of additional state taxes on managed care

organizations or regional support networks due as a result of the payments under this section, and require managed care organizations and regional support networks to make payments to each hospital in accordance with RCW 74.60.080. The increased payments made to hospitals pursuant to this subsection shall be in addition to any other amounts payable to hospitals by managed care organizations or regional support networks and shall not affect any other payments to hospitals;

(b) Within sixty calendar days after satisfaction of the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1), calculate the additional amount due to each hospital to pay claims submitted for inpatient and outpatient medicaid-covered services rendered from and after July 1, 2009, through the date when the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) have been satisfied, based on the rates required by RCW 74.60.080(2), make payments to managed care organizations and regional support networks in amounts sufficient to pay the additional amounts due to each hospital plus an additional amount equal to the estimated amount of additional state taxes on managed care organizations or regional support networks due as a result of the payments under this subsection, and require managed care organizations and regional support networks to make payments to each hospital in accordance with the department's calculations within forty-five calendar days after the department disburses funds for those purposes;

(3) With respect to the inpatient and outpatient hospital rates established by RCW 74.60.090:

(a) Upon satisfaction of the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1), increase payments to managed care organizations and regional support networks as necessary to ensure that hospitals are reimbursed in accordance with RCW 74.60.090, and pay an additional amount equal to the estimated amount of additional state taxes on managed care organizations or regional support networks due as a result of the payments under this section;

(b) Require managed care organizations and regional support networks to reimburse hospitals for hospital inpatient and outpatient services rendered after the date that the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) are satisfied at rates no lower than the combined rates established by RCW 74.60.080 and 74.60.090;

(c) Within sixty calendar days after satisfaction of the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1), calculate the additional amount due to each hospital to pay claims submitted for inpatient and outpatient medicaid-covered services rendered from and after February 1, 2010, through the date when the applicable conditions under RCW 74.60.150(1) are satisfied based on the rates required by RCW 74.60.090, make payments to managed care organizations and regional support networks in amounts sufficient to pay the additional amounts due to each hospital plus an additional amount equal to the estimated amount of additional state taxes on managed care organizations or regional support networks, and require managed care organizations and regional support networks to make payments to each hospital in accordance with the department's calculations within forty-five calendar days after the department disburses funds for those purposes;

(d) Require managed care organizations that contract with health care organizations that provide, directly or by contract, health care services on a prepaid or capitated basis

to make payments to health care organizations for any of the hospital payments that the managed care organizations would have been required to pay to hospitals under this section if the managed care organizations did not contract with those health care organizations, and require the managed care organizations to require those health care organizations to make equivalent payments to the hospitals that would have received payments under this section if the managed care organizations did not contract with the health care organizations;

(4) The department shall ensure that the increases to the medicaid fee schedules as described in RCW 74.60.090 are included in the development of healthy options premiums.

(5) The department may require managed care organizations and regional support networks to demonstrate compliance with this section. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 13.]

**74.60.130 Quality incentive payments. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) The department, in collaboration with the health care authority, the department of health, the department of labor and industries, the Washington state hospital association, the Puget Sound health alliance, and the forum, a collaboration of health carriers, physicians, and hospitals in Washington state, shall design a system of hospital quality incentive payments. The design of the system shall be submitted to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by December 15, 2010. The system shall be based upon the following principles:

(a) Evidence-based treatment and processes shall be used to improve health care outcomes for hospital patients;

(b) Effective purchasing strategies to improve the quality of health care services should involve the use of common quality improvement measures by public and private health care purchasers, while recognizing that some measures may not be appropriate for application to specialty pediatric, psychiatric, or rehabilitation hospitals;

(c) Quality measures chosen for the system should be consistent with the standards that have been developed by national quality improvement organizations, such as the national quality forum, the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services, or the federal agency for healthcare research and quality. New reporting burdens to hospitals should be minimized by giving priority to measures hospitals are currently required to report to governmental agencies, such as the hospital compare measures collected by the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services;

(d) Benchmarks for each quality improvement measure should be set at levels that are feasible for hospitals to achieve, yet represent real improvements in quality and performance for a majority of hospitals in Washington state; and

(e) Hospital performance and incentive payments should be designed in a manner such that all noncritical access hospitals in Washington are able to receive the incentive payments if performance is at or above the benchmark score set in the system established under this section.

(2) Upon satisfaction of the applicable conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1), and for state fiscal year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter, assessments may be increased to support an additional one percent increase in inpatient hospital rates for noncritical access hospitals that meet the quality

incentive benchmarks established under this section. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 14.]

**74.60.140 Multihospital locations, new hospitals, and changes in ownership. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) If an entity owns or operates more than one hospital subject to assessment under this chapter, the entity shall pay the assessment for each hospital separately. However, if the entity operates multiple hospitals under a single medicaid provider number, it may pay the assessment for the hospitals in the aggregate.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if a hospital subject to the assessment imposed under this chapter ceases to conduct hospital operations throughout a state fiscal year, the assessment for the quarter in which the cessation occurs shall be adjusted by multiplying the assessment computed under RCW 74.60.030 (1) and (3) by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days during the year which the hospital conducts, operates, or maintains the hospital and the denominator of which is three hundred sixty-five. Immediately prior to ceasing to conduct, operate, or maintain a hospital, the hospital shall pay the adjusted assessment for the fiscal year to the extent not previously paid.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in the case of a hospital that commences conducting, operating, or maintaining a hospital that is not exempt from payment of the assessment under RCW 74.60.040 and that did not conduct, operate, or maintain such hospital throughout the cost reporting year used to determine the assessment amount, the assessment for that hospital shall be computed on the basis of the actual number of nonmedicare inpatient days reported to the department by the hospital on a quarterly basis. The hospital shall be eligible to receive increased payments under this chapter beginning on the date it commences hospital operations.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if a hospital previously subject to assessment is sold or transferred to another entity and remains subject to assessment, the assessment for that hospital shall be computed based upon the cost report data previously submitted by that hospital. The assessment shall be allocated between the transferor and transferee based on the number of days within the assessment period that each owned, operated, or maintained the hospital. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 16.]

**74.60.150 Conditions. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) The assessment, collection, and disbursement of funds under this chapter shall be conditional upon:

(a) Withdrawal of those aspects of any pending state plan amendments previously submitted to the centers for medicare and medicaid services that are inconsistent with this chapter, specifically any pending state plan amendment related to the four percent rate reductions for inpatient and outpatient hospital rates and elimination of the small rural disproportionate share hospital payment program as implemented July 1, 2009;

(b) Approval by the centers for medicare and medicaid services of any state plan amendments or waiver requests that are necessary in order to implement the applicable sections of this chapter;

(c) To the extent necessary, amendment of contracts between the department and managed care organizations in order to implement this chapter; and

(d) Certification by the office of financial management that appropriations have been adopted that fully support the rates established in this chapter for the upcoming fiscal year.

(2) This chapter does not take effect or ceases to be imposed, and any moneys remaining in the fund shall be refunded to hospitals in proportion to the amounts paid by such hospitals, if and to the extent that:

(a) An appellate court or the centers for medicare and medicaid services makes a final determination that any element of this chapter, other than RCW 74.60.100, cannot be validly implemented;

(b) Medicaid inpatient or outpatient reimbursement rates for hospitals are reduced below the combined rates established by RCW 74.60.080 and 74.60.090;

(c) Except for payments to the University of Washington medical center and harborview medical center, payments to hospitals required under RCW 74.60.080, 74.60.090, 74.60.110, and 74.60.120 are not eligible for federal matching funds;

(d) Other funding available for the medicaid program is not sufficient to maintain medicaid inpatient and outpatient reimbursement rates at the levels set in RCW 74.60.080, 74.60.090, and 74.60.110; or

(e) The fund is used as a substitute for or to supplant other funds, except as authorized by RCW 74.60.020(3)(e). [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 17.]

**74.60.900 Severability—2010 1st sp.s. c 30. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter are not severable: If the conditions set forth in RCW 74.60.150(1) are not satisfied or if any of the circumstances set forth in RCW 74.60.150(2) should occur, this entire chapter shall have no effect from that point forward, except that if the payment under RCW 74.60.100, or the application thereof to any hospital or circumstances does not receive approval by the centers for medicare and medicaid services as described in RCW 74.60.150(1)(b) or is determined to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the other provisions of this chapter or its application to hospitals or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

(2) In the event that any portion of this chapter shall have been validly implemented and the entire chapter is later rendered ineffective under this section, prior assessments and payments under the validly implemented portions shall not be affected.

(3) In the event that the payment under RCW 74.60.100, or the application thereof to any hospital or circumstances does not receive approval by the centers for medicare and medicaid services as described in RCW 74.60.150(1)(b) or is determined to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the amount of the assessment shall be adjusted under RCW 74.60.050(1)(c). [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 18.]

**74.60.901 Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 30.** This chapter expires July 1, 2013. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 21.]

**74.60.902 Expiration of chapter—2010 1st sp.s. c 30.** Upon expiration of chapter 74.60 RCW, inpatient and outpa-

tient hospital reimbursement rates shall return to a rate structure as if the four percent medicaid inpatient and outpatient rate reductions did not occur on July 1, 2009, or as otherwise specified in the 2013-15 biennial operating appropriations act. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 22.]

**74.60.903 Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 30.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 27, 2010]. [2010 1st sp.s. c 30 § 23.]

**Chapter 74.62 RCW  
AGED, BLIND, OR DISABLED  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PREGNANT WOMEN  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—ESSENTIAL NEEDS  
AND HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Sections

74.62.005	Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36.
74.62.010	Definitions.
74.62.020	Termination of disability lifeline program.
74.62.030	Assistance programs—Eligibility criteria.

**74.62.005 Findings—Intent—2011 1st sp.s. c 36.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Persons who have a long-term disability and apply for federal supplemental security income benefits should receive assistance while their application for federal benefits is pending, with repayment from the federal government of state-funded income assistance paid through the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program;

(b) Persons who are incapacitated from gainful employment for an extended period, but who may not meet the level of severity of a long-term disability, are at increased risk of homelessness; and

(c) Persons who are homeless and suffering from significant medical impairments, mental illness, or chemical dependency face substantial barriers to successful participation in, and completion of, needed medical or behavioral health treatment services. Stable housing increases the likelihood of compliance with and completion of treatment.

(2) Through chapter 36, Laws of 2011 1st sp. sess., the legislature intends to:

(a) Terminate all components of the disability lifeline program created in 2010 and codified in \*RCW 74.04.005 and create new programs: (i) To provide financial grants through the aged, blind, and [or] disabled assistance program and the pregnant women assistance program; and (ii) to provide services through the essential needs and housing support program; and

(b) Increase opportunities to utilize limited public funding, combined with private charitable and volunteer efforts to serve persons who are recipients of the benefits provided by the new programs created under chapter 36, Laws of 2011 1st sp. sess. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 8 deleted the definition of "disability lifeline program."

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** "Except for sections 6 and 8 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [June 15, 2011]." [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 38.]

**74.62.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Aged, blind, and [or] disabled assistance program" means the program established under RCW 74.62.030.

(2) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(3) "Director" or "secretary" means the secretary of social and health services.

(4) "Essential needs and housing support program" means the program established under RCW 43.185C.220.

(5) "Essential needs support" means personal health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies, other necessary items and transportation passes or tokens provided through an essential needs support entity established under RCW 43.185C.220.

(6) "Housing support" means assistance provided by a designated housing support entity established under RCW 43.185C.220 to maintain existing housing when the client is at substantial risk of becoming homeless, to obtain housing, or to obtain heat, electricity, natural gas, sewer, garbage, and water services when the client is at substantial risk of losing these services.

(7) "Pregnant women assistance program" means the program established under RCW 74.62.030.

(8) In the construction of words and phrases used in this chapter, the singular number shall include the plural, the masculine gender shall include both the feminine and neuter genders, and the present tense shall include the past and future tenses, unless the context thereof shall clearly indicate to the contrary. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 7.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**74.62.020 Termination of disability lifeline program.**

Effective October 31, 2011, the disability lifeline program, as defined under chapter 74.04 RCW, is terminated and all benefits provided under that program shall expire and cease to exist. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**74.62.030 Assistance programs—Eligibility criteria.**

(1)(a) Effective November 1, 2011, the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program shall provide financial grants to persons in need who:

(i) Are not eligible to receive federal aid assistance, other than basic food benefits transferred electronically and medical assistance;

(ii) Meet the eligibility requirements of subsection (3) of this section; and

(iii) Are aged, blind, or disabled. For purposes of determining eligibility for assistance for the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program, the following definitions apply:

(A) "Aged" means age sixty-five or older.

(B) "Blind" means statutorily blind as defined for the purpose of determining eligibility for the federal supplemental security income program.

(C) "Disabled" means likely to meet the federal supplemental security income disability standard. In making this determination, the department should give full consideration to the cumulative impact of an applicant's multiple impair-

ments, an applicant's age, and vocational and educational history.

In determining whether a person is disabled, the department may rely on the following:

(I) A previous disability determination by the social security administration or the disability determination service entity within the department; or

(II) A determination that an individual is eligible to receive optional categorically needy medicaid as a disabled person under the federal regulations at 42 C.F.R. Parts 435, Secs. 201(a)(3) and 210.

(b) The following persons are not eligible for the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program:

(i) Persons who are not able to engage in gainful employment due primarily to alcohol or drug addiction. These persons shall be referred to appropriate assessment, treatment, shelter, or supplemental security income referral services as authorized under chapter 74.50 RCW. Referrals shall be made at the time of application or at the time of eligibility review. This subsection may not be construed to prohibit the department from granting aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits to alcoholics and drug addicts who are incapacitated due to other physical or mental conditions that meet the eligibility criteria for the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program; or

(ii) Persons for whom there has been a final determination of ineligibility for federal supplemental security income benefits.

(c) Persons may receive aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefits pending application for federal supplemental security income benefits. The monetary value of any aged, blind, or disabled assistance benefit that is subsequently duplicated by the person's receipt of supplemental security income for the same period shall be considered a debt due the state and shall by operation of law be subject to recovery through all available legal remedies.

(2) Effective November 1, 2011, the pregnant women assistance program shall provide financial grants to persons who:

(a) Are not eligible to receive federal aid assistance other than basic food benefits or medical assistance; and

(b) Are pregnant and in need, based upon the current income and resource standards of the federal temporary assistance for needy families program, but are ineligible for federal temporary assistance for needy families benefits for a reason other than failure to cooperate in program requirements; and

(c) Meet the eligibility requirements of subsection (3) of this section.

(3) To be eligible for the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program under subsection (1) of this section or the pregnant women assistance program under subsection (2) of this section, a person must:

(a) Be a citizen or alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise residing in the United States under color of law;

(b) Have furnished the department his or her social security number. If the social security number cannot be furnished because it has not been issued or is not known, an application for a number shall be made prior to authorization

of benefits, and the social security number shall be provided to the department upon receipt;

(c) Have not refused or failed without good cause to participate in drug or alcohol treatment if an assessment by a certified chemical dependency counselor indicates a need for such treatment. Good cause must be found to exist when a person's physical or mental condition, as determined by the department, prevents the person from participating in drug or alcohol dependency treatment, when needed outpatient drug or alcohol treatment is not available to the person in the county of his or her residence or when needed inpatient treatment is not available in a location that is reasonably accessible for the person; and

(d) Not have refused or failed to cooperate in obtaining federal aid assistance, without good cause.

(4) Effective November 1, 2011, referrals for essential needs and housing support under RCW 43.185C.220 shall be provided to persons found eligible for medical care services under RCW 74.09.035 who are not recipients of alcohol and addiction services provided under chapter 74.50 RCW or are not recipients of aged, blind, or disabled assistance.

(5) No person may be considered an eligible individual for benefits under this section with respect to any month if during that month the person:

(a) Is fleeing to avoid prosecution of, or to avoid custody or confinement for conviction of, a felony, or an attempt to commit a felony, under the laws of the state of Washington or the place from which the person flees; or

(b) Is violating a condition of probation, community supervision, or parole imposed under federal or state law for a felony or gross misdemeanor conviction.

(6) The department must review the cases of all persons, except recipients of alcohol and addiction treatment under chapter 74.50 RCW, or recipients of aged, blind, or disabled assistance, who have received medical care services for twelve consecutive months, and at least annually after the first review, to determine whether they are eligible for the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program. [2011 1st sp.s. c 36 § 3.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 74.62.005.

**Chapter 74.64 RCW**

**MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM—  
WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE DETECTION,  
PREVENTION, AND RECOVERY SOLUTIONS**

Sections

74.64.005	Intent.
74.64.010	Definitions.
74.64.020	Contracting for services.
74.64.030	Funding for chapter—Reimbursement methods.
74.64.900	Effective date—2012 c 234.

**74.64.005 Intent.** It is the intent of the legislature to:

(1) Implement waste, fraud, and abuse detection, prevention, and recovery solutions to improve program integrity for medical services programs in the state and create efficiency and cost savings through a shift from a retrospective "pay and chase" model to a prospective prepayment model; and

(2012 Ed.)

(2) Invest in the most cost-effective technologies or strategies that yield the highest return on investment. [2012 c 234 § 1.]

**74.64.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authority" means the Washington state health care authority.

(2) "Enrollee" means an individual who receives benefits through a medical services program.

(3) "Medical services programs" means those medical programs established under chapter 74.09 RCW, including medical assistance, the limited casualty program, children's health program, medical care services, and state children's health insurance program. [2012 c 234 § 2.]

**74.64.020 Contracting for services.** (1) Not later than September 1, 2012, the authority shall issue a request for information to seek input from potential contractors on capabilities that the authority does not currently possess, functions that the authority is not currently performing, and the cost structures associated with implementing:

(a) Advanced predictive modeling and analytics technologies to provide a comprehensive and accurate view across all providers, enrollees, and geographic locations within the medical services programs in order to:

(i) Identify and analyze those billing or utilization patterns that represent a high risk of fraudulent activity;

(ii) Be integrated into the existing medical services programs claims operations;

(iii) Undertake and automate such analysis before payment is made to minimize disruptions to agency operations and speed claim resolution;

(iv) Prioritize such identified transactions for additional review before payment is made based on the likelihood of potential waste, fraud, or abuse;

(v) Obtain outcome information from adjudicated claims to allow for refinement and enhancement of the predictive analytics technologies based on historical data and algorithms with the system;

(vi) Prevent the payment of claims for reimbursement that have been identified as potentially wasteful, fraudulent, or abusive until the claims have been automatically verified as valid;

(b) Provider and enrollee data verification and screening technology solutions, which may use publicly available records, for the purposes of automating reviews and identifying and preventing inappropriate payments by:

(i) Identifying associations between providers, practitioners, and beneficiaries which indicate rings of collusive fraudulent activity; and

(ii) Discovering enrollee attributes which indicate improper eligibility, including, but not limited to, death, out-of-state residence, inappropriate asset ownership, or incarceration; and

(c) Fraud investigation services that combine retrospective claims analysis and prospective waste, fraud, or abuse detection techniques. These services must include analysis of historical claims data, medical records, suspect provider databases, and high-risk identification lists, as well as direct

enrollee and provider interviews. Emphasis must be placed on providing education to providers and allowing them the opportunity to review and correct any problems identified prior to adjudication.

(2) The authority is encouraged to use the results of the request for information to create a formal request for proposals to carry out the work identified in this section if the following conditions are met:

(a) The authority expects to generate state savings by preventing fraud, waste, and abuse;

(b) This work can be integrated into the authority's current medical services claims operations without creating additional costs to the state;

(c) The reviews or audits are not anticipated to delay or improperly deny the payment of legitimate claims to providers. [2012 c 234 § 3.]

**74.64.030 Funding for chapter—Reimbursement methods.** It is the intent of the legislature that the savings achieved through this chapter shall more than cover the cost of implementation and administration. Therefore, to the extent possible, technology services used in carrying out this chapter must be secured using the savings generated by the program, whereby the state's only direct cost will be funded through the actual savings achieved. Further, to enable this model, reimbursement to the contractor may be contracted on the basis of a percentage of achieved savings model, a per beneficiary per month model, a per transaction model, a case-rate model, or any blended model of the aforementioned methodologies. Reimbursement models with the contractor may include performance guarantees of the contractor to ensure savings identified exceeds [exceed] program costs. [2012 c 234 § 4.]

**74.64.900 Effective date—2012 c 234.** This act takes effect July 1, 2012. [2012 c 234 § 7.]

## Chapter 74.66 RCW

### MEDICAID FRAUD FALSE CLAIMS ACT

#### Sections

74.66.005	Short title.
74.66.010	Definitions.
74.66.020	Civil penalty—False or fraudulent claims.
74.66.030	Public records exemption.
74.66.040	Attorney general—Investigation—Civil action.
74.66.050	Qui tam action—Relator rights and duties.
74.66.060	Qui tam action—Attorney general authority.
74.66.070	Qui tam action—Award—Proceeds of action or settlement of claim.
74.66.080	Qui tam action—Restrictions—Dismissal.
74.66.090	Whistleblower relief.
74.66.100	Procedure for civil actions.
74.66.110	Jurisdiction—Seal on action.
74.66.120	Civil investigative demands.
74.66.130	Reporting.

**Reviser's note—Sunset Act application:** The medicaid fraud false claims act is subject to review, termination, and possible extension under chapter 43.131 RCW, the Sunset Act. See RCW 43.131.419. RCW 74.66.005 through 74.66.130 are scheduled for future repeal under RCW 43.131.420.

**74.66.005 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the medicaid fraud false claims act. [2012 c 241 § 214.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter:

(1)(a) "Claim" means any request or demand made for a medicaid payment under chapter 74.09 RCW, whether under a contract or otherwise, for money or property and whether or not a government entity has title to the money or property, that:

(i) Is presented to an officer, employee, or agent of a government entity; or

(ii) Is made to a contractor, grantee, or other recipient, if the money or property is to be spent or used on the government entity's behalf or to advance a government entity program or interest, and the government entity:

(A) Provides or has provided any portion of the money or property requested or demanded; or

(B) Will reimburse such contractor, grantee, or other recipient for any portion of the money or property which is requested or demanded.

(b) A "claim" does not include requests or demands for money or property that the government entity has paid to an individual as compensation for employment or as an income subsidy with no restrictions on that individual's use of the money or property.

(2) "Custodian" means the custodian, or any deputy custodian, designated by the attorney general.

(3) "Documentary material" includes the original or any copy of any book, record, report, memorandum, paper, communication, tabulation, chart, or other document, or data compilations stored in or accessible through computer or other information retrieval systems, together with instructions and all other materials necessary to use or interpret the data compilations, and any product of discovery.

(4) "False claims act investigation" means any inquiry conducted by any false claims act investigator for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person is or has been engaged in any violation of this chapter.

(5) "False claims act investigator" means any attorney or investigator employed by the state attorney general who is charged with the duty of enforcing or carrying into effect any provision of this chapter, or any officer or employee of the state of Washington acting under the direction and supervision of the attorney or investigator in connection with an investigation pursuant to this chapter.

(6) "Government entity" means all Washington state agencies that administer medicaid funded programs under this title.

(7)(a) "Knowing" and "knowingly" mean that a person, with respect to information:

(i) Has actual knowledge of the information;

(ii) Acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information; or

(iii) Acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information.

(b) "Knowing" and "knowingly" do not require proof of specific intent to defraud.

(8) "Material" means having a natural tendency to influence, or be capable of influencing, the payment or receipt of money or property.

(9) "Obligation" means an established duty, whether or not fixed, arising from an express or implied contractual, grantor-grantee, or licensor-licensee relationship, from a fee-based or similar relationship, from statute or rule, or from the retention of any overpayment.

(10) "Official use" means any use that is consistent with the law, and the rules and policies of the attorney general, including use in connection with: Internal attorney general memoranda and reports; communications between the attorney general and a federal, state, or local government agency, or a contractor of a federal, state, or local government agency, undertaken in furtherance of an investigation or prosecution of a case; interviews of any qui tam relator or other witness; oral examinations; depositions; preparation for and response to civil discovery requests; introduction into the record of a case or proceeding; applications, motions, memoranda, and briefs submitted to a court or other tribunal; and communications with attorney general investigators, auditors, consultants and experts, the counsel of other parties, and arbitrators or mediators, concerning an investigation, case, or proceeding.

(11) "Person" means any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, including any local or political subdivision of a state.

(12) "Product of discovery" includes:

(a) The original or duplicate of any deposition, interrogatory, document, thing, result of the inspection of land or other property, examination, or admission, which is obtained by any method of discovery in any judicial or administrative proceeding of an adversarial nature;

(b) Any digest, analysis, selection, compilation, or derivation of any item listed in (a) of this subsection; and

(c) Any index or other manner of access to any item listed in (a) of this subsection.

(13) "Qui tam action" is an action brought by a person under RCW 74.66.050.

(14) "Qui tam relator" or "relator" is a person who brings an action under RCW 74.66.050. [2012 c 241 § 201.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** "The legislature intends to enact a state false claims act in order to provide this state with another tool to combat medicaid fraud. The legislature finds that between 1996 and 2009 state-initiated false claims acts resulted in over five billion dollars in total recoveries to those states. The highest recoveries in those cases were from claims relating to billing fraud, off-label marketing, and withholding safety information; these cases were primarily related to the pharmaceuticals industry and hospital networks, hospitals, and medical centers. By chapter 241, Laws of 2012, the legislature does not intend to target a certain industry, profession, or retailer of medical equipment, or to place an undue burden on health care professionals. Chapter 241, Laws of 2012 is not intended to harass health care professionals, nor is intended to be used as a tool to target actions that are related to incidental errors or clerical errors, which should not be considered fraud. The intent is to use the false claims act to root out significant areas of fraud that result in higher health care costs to this state and to use the false claims act to recover state money that could and should be used to support the medicaid program." [2012 c 241 § 101.]

#### **74.66.020 Civil penalty—False or fraudulent claims.**

(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (4) of this section, a person is liable to the government entity for a civil penalty of not less than five thousand five hundred dollars and not more than

eleven thousand dollars, plus three times the amount of damages which the government entity sustains because of the act of that person, if the person:

(a) Knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval;

(b) Knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement material to a false or fraudulent claim;

(c) Conspires to commit one or more of the violations in this subsection (1);

(d) Has possession, custody, or control of property or money used, or to be used, by the government entity and knowingly delivers, or causes to be delivered, less than all of that money or property;

(e) Is authorized to make or deliver a document certifying receipt of property used, or to be used, by the government entity and, intending to defraud the government entity, makes or delivers the receipt without completely knowing that the information on the receipt is true;

(f) Knowingly buys, or receives as a pledge of an obligation or debt, public property from an officer or employee of the government entity who lawfully may not sell or pledge property; or

(g) Knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement material to an obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the government entity, or knowingly conceals or knowingly and improperly avoids or decreases an obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the government entity.

(2) The court may assess not less than two times the amount of damages which the government entity sustains because of the act of a person, if the court finds that:

(a) The person committing the violation of subsection (1) of this section furnished the Washington state attorney general with all information known to him or her about the violation within thirty days after the date on which he or she first obtained the information;

(b) The person fully cooperated with any investigation by the attorney general of the violation; and

(c) At the time the person furnished the attorney general with the information about the violation, no criminal prosecution, civil action, or administrative action had commenced under this title with respect to the violation, and the person did not have actual knowledge of the existence of an investigation into the violation.

(3) A person violating this section is liable to the attorney general for the costs of a civil action brought to recover any such penalty or damages.

(4) For the purposes of determining whether an insurer has a duty to provide a defense or indemnification for an insured and if coverage may be denied if the terms of the policy exclude coverage for intentional acts, a violation of subsection (1) of this section is an intentional act.

(5) The office of the attorney general must, by rule, annually adjust the civil penalties established in subsection (1) of this section so that they are equivalent to the civil penalties provided under the federal false claims act and in accordance with the federal civil penalties inflation adjustment act of 1990. [2012 c 241 § 202.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.030 Public records exemption.** Any information furnished pursuant to this chapter is exempt from disclosure under the public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW, until final disposition and all court-ordered seals are lifted. [2012 c 241 § 203.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.040 Attorney general—Investigation—Civil action.** The attorney general must diligently investigate a violation under RCW 74.66.020. If the attorney general finds that a person has violated or is violating RCW 74.66.020, the attorney general may bring a civil action under this section against the person. [2012 c 241 § 204.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.050 Qui tam action—Relator rights and duties.**

(1) A person may bring a civil action for a violation of RCW 74.66.020 for the person and for the government entity. The action may be known as a qui tam action and the person bringing the action as a qui tam relator. The action must be brought in the name of the government entity. The action may be dismissed only if the court, and the attorney general give written consent to the dismissal and their reason for consenting.

(2) A relator filing an action under this chapter must serve a copy of the complaint and written disclosure of substantially all material evidence and information the person possesses on the attorney general in electronic format. The relator must file the complaint in camera. The complaint must remain under seal for at least sixty days, and may not be served on the defendant until the court so orders. The attorney general may elect to intervene and proceed with the action within sixty days after it receives both the complaint and the material evidence and information.

(3) The attorney general may, for good cause shown, move the court for extensions of the time during which the complaint remains under seal under subsection (2) of this section. The motions may be supported by affidavits or other submissions in camera. The defendant may not be required to respond to any complaint filed under this section until twenty days after the complaint is unsealed and served upon the defendant.

(4) If the attorney general does not proceed with the action prior to the expiration of the sixty-day period or any extensions obtained under subsection (3) of this section, then the relator has the right to conduct the action.

(5) When a person brings an action under this section, no person other than the attorney general may intervene or bring a related action based on the facts underlying the pending action. [2012 c 241 § 205.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.060 Qui tam action—Attorney general authority.** (1) If the attorney general proceeds with the qui tam action, the attorney general shall have the primary responsibility for prosecuting the action, and is not bound by an act of the relator. The relator has the right to continue as a party to

the action, subject to the limitations set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) The attorney general may move to dismiss the qui tam action notwithstanding the objections of the relator if the relator has been notified by the attorney general of the filing of the motion and the court has provided the relator with an opportunity for a hearing on the motion.

(b) The attorney general may settle the action with the defendant notwithstanding the objections of the relator if the court determines, after a hearing, that the proposed settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable under all the circumstances. Upon a showing of good cause, the hearing may be held in camera.

(c) Upon a showing by the attorney general that unrestricted participation during the course of the litigation by the relator would interfere with or unduly delay the attorney general's prosecution of the case, or would be repetitious, irrelevant, or for purposes of harassment, the court may, in its discretion, impose limitations on the relator's participation, such as:

- (i) Limiting the number of witnesses the relator may call;
- (ii) Limiting the length of the testimony of the witnesses;
- (iii) Limiting the relator's cross-examination of witnesses; or
- (iv) Otherwise limiting the participation by the relator in the litigation.

(d) Upon a showing by the defendant that unrestricted participation during the course of the litigation by the relator would be for purposes of harassment or would cause the defendant undue burden or unnecessary expense, the court may limit the participation by the relator in the litigation.

(3) If the attorney general elects not to proceed with the qui tam action, the relator has the right to conduct the action. If the attorney general so requests, the relator must serve on the attorney general copies of all pleadings filed in the action and shall supply copies of all deposition transcripts, at the attorney general's expense. When the relator proceeds with the action, the court, without limiting the status and rights of the relator, may nevertheless permit the attorney general to intervene at a later date upon a showing of good cause.

(4) Whether or not the attorney general proceeds with the qui tam action, upon a showing by the attorney general that certain actions of discovery by the relator would interfere with the attorney general's investigation or prosecution of a criminal or civil matter arising out of the same facts, the court may stay such discovery for a period of not more than sixty days. The showing must be conducted in camera. The court may extend the sixty-day period upon a further showing in camera that the attorney general has pursued the criminal or civil investigation or proceedings with reasonable diligence and any proposed discovery in the civil action will interfere with the ongoing criminal or civil investigation or proceedings.

(5) Notwithstanding RCW 74.66.050, the attorney general may elect to pursue its claim through any alternate remedy available to the state, including any administrative proceeding to determine a civil money penalty. If any alternate remedy is pursued in another proceeding, the relator has the same rights in the proceeding as the relator would have had if the action had continued under this section. Any finding of fact or conclusion of law made in the other proceeding that

has become final is conclusive on all parties to an action under this section. For purposes of this subsection, a finding or conclusion is final if it has been finally determined on appeal to the appropriate court of the state of Washington, if all time for filing the appeal with respect to the finding or conclusion has expired, or if the finding or conclusion is not subject to judicial review. [2012 c 241 § 206.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.070 Qui tam action—Award—Proceeds of action or settlement of claim.** (1)(a) Subject to (b) of this subsection, if the attorney general proceeds with a qui tam action, the relator must receive at least fifteen percent but not more than twenty-five percent of the proceeds of the action or settlement of the claim, depending upon the extent to which the relator substantially contributed to the prosecution of the action.

(b) Where the action is one which the court finds to be based primarily on disclosures of specific information, other than information provided by the relator, relating to allegations or transactions in a criminal, civil, or administrative hearing, in a legislative or administrative report, hearing, audit, or investigation, or from the news media, the court may award an amount it considers appropriate, but in no case more than ten percent of the proceeds, taking into account the significance of the information and the role of the relator in advancing the case to litigation.

(c) Any payment to a relator under (a) or (b) of this subsection must be made from the proceeds. The relator must also receive an amount for reasonable expenses which the court finds to have been necessarily incurred, plus reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. All expenses, fees, and costs must be awarded against the defendant.

(2) If the attorney general does not proceed with a qui tam action, the relator shall receive an amount which the court decides is reasonable for collecting the civil penalty and damages. The amount may not be less than twenty-five percent and not more than thirty percent of the proceeds of the action or settlement and must be paid out of the proceeds. The relator must also receive an amount for reasonable expenses, which the court finds to have been necessarily incurred, plus reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. All expenses, fees, and costs must be awarded against the defendant.

(3) Whether or not the attorney general proceeds with the qui tam action, if the court finds that the action was brought by a person who planned and initiated the violation of RCW 74.66.020 upon which the action was brought, then the court may, to the extent the court considers appropriate, reduce the share of the proceeds of the action which the person would otherwise receive under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, taking into account the role of that person in advancing the case to litigation and any relevant circumstances pertaining to the violation. If the person bringing the action is convicted of criminal conduct arising from his or her role in the violation of RCW 74.66.020, that person must be dismissed from the civil action and may not receive any share of the proceeds of the action. The dismissal may not prejudice the right of the state to continue the action, represented by the attorney general.

(4) If the attorney general does not proceed with the qui tam action and the relator conducts the action, the court may award to the defendant reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses if the defendant prevails in the action and the court finds that the claim of the relator was clearly frivolous, clearly vexatious, or brought primarily for purposes of harassment.

(5) Any funds recovered that remain after calculation and distribution under subsections (1) through (3) of this section must be deposited into the medicaid fraud penalty account established in RCW 74.09.215. [2012 c 241 § 207.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.080 Qui tam action—Restrictions—Dismissal.**

(1) In no event may a person bring a qui tam action which is based upon allegations or transactions which are the subject of a civil suit or an administrative civil money penalty proceeding in which the state is already a party.

(2)(a) The court must dismiss an action or claim under this section, unless opposed by the attorney general, if substantially the same allegations or transactions as alleged in the action or claim were publicly disclosed:

(i) In a state criminal, civil, or administrative hearing in which the attorney general or other governmental [government] entity is a party;

(ii) In a legislative report, or other state report, hearing, audit, or investigation; or

(iii) By the news media;

unless the action is brought by the attorney general or the relator is an original source of the information.

(b) For purposes of this section, "original source" means an individual who either (i) prior to a public disclosure under (a) of this subsection, has voluntarily disclosed to the attorney general the information on which allegations or transactions in a claim are based, or (ii) has knowledge that is independent of, and materially adds to, the publicly disclosed allegations or transactions, and who has voluntarily provided the information to the attorney general before filing an action under this section. [2012 c 241 § 208.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.090 Whistleblower relief.** (1) Any employee, contractor, or agent is entitled to all relief necessary to make that employee, contractor, or agent whole, if that employee, contractor, or agent, is discharged, demoted, suspended, threatened, harassed, or in any other manner discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment because of lawful acts done by the employee, contractor, agent, or associated others in furtherance of an action under this chapter or other efforts to stop one or more violations of this chapter.

(2) Relief under subsection (1) of this section must include reinstatement with the same seniority status that employee, contractor, or agent would have had but for the discrimination, two times the amount of back pay, interest on the back pay, and compensation for any special damages sustained as a result of the discrimination, including litigation costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, and any and all relief available under RCW 49.60.030(2). An action under this subsection may be brought in the appropriate superior court

of the state of Washington for the relief provided in this subsection.

(3) A civil action under this section may not be brought more than three years after the date when the retaliation occurred. [2012 c 241 § 209.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.100 Procedure for civil actions.** (1) A subpoena requiring the attendance of a witness at a trial or hearing conducted under RCW 74.66.040 or 74.66.050 may be served at any place in the state of Washington.

(2) A civil action under RCW 74.66.040 or 74.66.050 may be brought at any time, without limitation after the date on which the violation of RCW 74.66.020 is committed.

(3) If the attorney general elects to intervene and proceed with a qui tam action, the attorney general may file its own complaint or amend the complaint of a relator to clarify or add detail to the claims in which the attorney general is intervening and to add any additional claims with respect to which the attorney general contends it is entitled to relief.

(4) In any action brought under RCW 74.66.040 or 74.66.050, the attorney general is required to prove all essential elements of the cause of action, including damages, by a preponderance of the evidence.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or the rules for superior court, a final judgment rendered in favor of the government entity in any criminal proceeding charging fraud or false statements, whether upon a verdict after trial or upon a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, estops the defendant from denying the essential elements of the offense in any action which involves the same transaction as in the criminal proceeding and which is brought under RCW 74.66.040 or 74.66.050. [2012 c 241 § 210.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.110 Jurisdiction—Seal on action.** (1) Any action under RCW 74.66.040 or 74.66.050 may be brought in the superior court in any county in which the defendant or, in the case of multiple defendants, any one defendant can be found, resides, transacts business, or in which any act proscribed by RCW 74.66.020 occurred. The appropriate court must issue a summons as required by the superior court civil rules and service must occur at any place within the state of Washington.

(2) The superior courts have jurisdiction over any action brought under the laws of any city or county for the recovery of funds paid by a government entity if the action arises from the same transaction or occurrence as an action brought under RCW 74.66.040 or 74.66.050.

(3) With respect to any local government that is named as a plaintiff with the state in an action brought under RCW 74.66.050, a seal on the action ordered by the court under RCW 74.66.050 does not preclude the attorney general or the person bringing the action from serving the complaint, any other pleadings, or the written disclosure of substantially all material evidence and information possessed by the person bringing the action on the law enforcement authorities that are authorized under the law of the local government to investigate and prosecute the action on behalf of the local

government, except that the seal applies to the law enforcement authorities so served to the same extent as the seal applies to other parties in the action. [2012 c 241 § 211.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.120 Civil investigative demands.** (1)(a) Whenever the attorney general, or a designee, for purposes of this section, has reason to believe that any person may be in possession, custody, or control of any documentary material or information relevant to a false claims act investigation, the attorney general, or a designee, may, before commencing a civil proceeding under RCW 74.66.040 or making an election under RCW 74.66.050, issue in writing and serve upon the person, a civil investigative demand requiring the person:

(i) To produce the documentary material for inspection and copying;

(ii) To answer in writing written interrogatories with respect to the documentary material or information;

(iii) To give oral testimony concerning the documentary material or information; or

(iv) To furnish any combination of such material, answers, or testimony.

(b) The attorney general may delegate the authority to issue civil investigative demands under this subsection (1). Whenever a civil investigative demand is an express demand for any product of discovery, the attorney general, the deputy attorney general, or an assistant attorney general must serve, in any manner authorized by this section, a copy of the demand upon the person from whom the discovery was obtained and must notify the person to whom the demand is issued of the date on which the copy was served. Any information obtained by the attorney general or a designee of the attorney general under this section may be shared with any qui tam relator if the attorney general or designee determines it is necessary as part of any false claims act investigation.

(2)(a) Each civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) of this section must state the nature of the conduct constituting the alleged violation of this chapter which is under investigation, and the applicable provision of law alleged to be violated.

(b) If the demand is for the production of documentary material, the demand must:

(i) Describe each class of documentary material to be produced with such definiteness and certainty as to permit the material to be fairly identified;

(ii) Prescribe a return date for each class which will provide a reasonable period of time within which the material so demanded may be assembled and made available for inspection and copying; and

(iii) Identify the false claims act investigator to whom such material must be made available.

(c) If the demand is for answers to written interrogatories, the demand must:

(i) Set forth with specificity the written interrogatories to be answered;

(ii) Prescribe dates at which time answers to written interrogatories must be submitted; and

(iii) Identify the false claims law investigator to whom such answers must be submitted.

(d) If the demand is for the giving of oral testimony, the demand must:

(i) Prescribe a date, time, and place at which oral testimony must be commenced;

(ii) Identify a false claims act investigator who must conduct the examination and the custodian to whom the transcript of the examination must be submitted;

(iii) Specify that the attendance and testimony are necessary to the conduct of the investigation;

(iv) Notify the person receiving the demand of the right to be accompanied by an attorney and any other representative; and

(v) Describe the general purpose for which the demand is being issued and the general nature of the testimony, including the primary areas of inquiry, which will be taken pursuant to the demand.

(e) Any civil investigative demand issued under this section which is an express demand for any product of discovery is not due until thirty days after a copy of the demand has been served upon the person from whom the discovery was obtained.

(f) The date prescribed for the commencement of oral testimony pursuant to a civil investigative demand issued under this section may not be sooner than six days after the date on which demand is received, unless the attorney general or an assistant attorney general designated by the attorney general determines that exceptional circumstances are present which warrant the commencement of the testimony sooner.

(g) The attorney general may not authorize the issuance under this section of more than one civil investigative demand for oral testimony by the same person unless the person requests otherwise or unless the attorney general, after investigation, notifies that person in writing that an additional demand for oral testimony is necessary.

(3) A civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section may not require the production of any documentary material, the submission of any answers to written interrogatories, or the giving of any oral testimony if the material, answers, or testimony would be protected from disclosure under:

(a) The standards applicable to subpoenas or subpoenas duces tecum issued by a court to aid in a special inquiry investigation; or

(b) The standards applicable to discovery requests under the superior court civil rules, to the extent that the application of these standards to any demand is appropriate and consistent with the provisions and purposes of this section.

(4) Any demand which is an express demand for any product of discovery supersedes any inconsistent order, rule, or provision of law, other than this section, preventing or restraining disclosure of the product of discovery to any person. Disclosure of any product of discovery pursuant to any express demand does not constitute a waiver of any right or privilege which the person making such disclosure may be entitled to invoke to resist discovery of trial preparation materials.

(5) Any civil investigative demand issued under this section may be served by a false claims act investigator, or by a commissioned law enforcement official, at any place within the state of Washington.

(6) Service of any civil investigative demand issued under (a) of this subsection or of any petition filed under subsection (25) of this section may be made upon a partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity by:

(a) Delivering an executed copy of the demand or petition to any partner, executive officer, managing agent, or general agent of the partnership, corporation, association, or entity, or to any agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process on behalf of such partnership, corporation, association, or entity;

(b) Delivering an executed copy of the demand or petition to the principal office or place of business of the partnership, corporation, association, or entity; or

(c) Depositing an executed copy of the demand or petition in the United States mail by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested, addressed to such partnership, corporation, association, or entity at its principal office or place of business.

(7) Service of any demand or petition may be made upon any natural person by:

(a) Delivering an executed copy of the demand or petition to the person; or

(b) Depositing an executed copy of the demand or petition in the United States mail by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested, addressed to the person at the person's residence or principal office or place of business.

(8) A verified return by the individual serving any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section or any petition filed under subsection (25) of this section setting forth the manner of the service constitutes proof of the service. In the case of service by registered or certified mail, the return must be accompanied by the return post office receipt of delivery of the demand.

(9)(a) The production of documentary material in response to a civil investigative demand served under this section must be made under a sworn certificate, in the form as the demand designates, by:

(i) In the case of a natural person, the person to whom the demand is directed; or

(ii) In the case of a person other than a natural person, a person having knowledge of the facts and circumstances relating to the production and authorized to act on behalf of the person.

(b) The certificate must state that all of the documentary material required by the demand and in the possession, custody, or control of the person to whom the demand is directed has been produced and made available to the false claims act investigator identified in the demand.

(10) Any person upon whom any civil investigative demand for the production of documentary material has been served under this section shall make such material available for inspection and copying to the false claims act investigator identified in the demand at the principal place of business of the person, or at another place as the false claims act investigator and the person thereafter may agree and prescribe in writing, or as the court may direct under subsection (25) of this section. The material must be made available on the return date specified in the demand, or on a later date as the false claims act investigator may prescribe in writing. The person may, upon written agreement between the person and

the false claims act investigator, substitute copies for originals of all or any part of the material.

(11)(a) Each interrogatory in a civil investigative demand served under this section must be answered separately and fully in writing under oath and must be submitted under a sworn certificate, in the form as the demand designates, by:

(i) In the case of a natural person, the person to whom the demand is directed; or

(ii) In the case of a person other than a natural person, the person or persons responsible for answering each interrogatory.

(b) If any interrogatory is objected to, the reasons for the objection must be stated in the certificate instead of an answer. The certificate must state that all information required by the demand and in the possession, custody, control, or knowledge of the person to whom the demand is directed has been submitted. To the extent that any information is not furnished, the information must be identified and reasons set forth with particularity regarding the reasons why the information was not furnished.

(12) The examination of any person pursuant to a civil investigative demand for oral testimony served under this section must be taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths and affirmations by the laws of the state of Washington or of the place where the examination is held. The officer before whom the testimony is to be taken must put the witness on oath or affirmation and must, personally or by someone acting under the direction of the officer and in the officer's presence, record the testimony of the witness. The testimony must be recorded and must be transcribed. When the testimony is fully transcribed, the officer before whom the testimony is taken shall promptly transmit a copy of the transcript of the testimony to the custodian. This subsection does not preclude the taking of testimony by any means authorized by, and in a manner consistent with, the superior court civil rules.

(13) The false claims act investigator conducting the examination shall exclude from the place where the examination is held all persons except the person giving the testimony, the attorney for and any other representative of the person giving the testimony, the attorney general, any person who may be agreed upon by the attorney for the government and the person giving the testimony, the officer before whom the testimony is to be taken, and any stenographer taking the testimony.

(14) The oral testimony of any person taken pursuant to a civil investigative demand served under this section must be taken in the county within which such person resides, is found, or transacts business, or in another place as may be agreed upon by the false claims act investigator conducting the examination and the person.

(15) When the testimony is fully transcribed, the false claims act investigator or the officer before whom the testimony is taken must afford the witness, who may be accompanied by counsel, a reasonable opportunity to examine and read the transcript, unless the examination and reading are waived by the witness. Any changes in form or substance which the witness desires to make must be entered and identified upon the transcript by the officer or the false claims act investigator, with a statement of the reasons given by the wit-

ness for making the changes. The transcript must then be signed by the witness, unless the witness in writing waives the signing, is ill, cannot be found, or refuses to sign. If the transcript is not signed by the witness within thirty days after being afforded a reasonable opportunity to examine it, the officer or the false claims act investigator must sign it and state on the record the fact of the waiver, illness, absence of the witness, or the refusal to sign, together with the reasons given.

(16) The officer before whom the testimony is taken must certify on the transcript that the witness was sworn by the officer and that the transcript is a true record of the testimony given by the witness, and the officer or false claims act investigator must promptly deliver the transcript, or send the transcript by registered or certified mail, to the custodian.

(17) Upon payment of reasonable charges therefor, the false claims act investigator must furnish a copy of the transcript to the witness only, except that the attorney general, the deputy attorney general, or an assistant attorney general may, for good cause, limit the witness to inspection of the official transcript of the witness' testimony.

(18)(a) Any person compelled to appear for oral testimony under a civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section may be accompanied, represented, and advised by counsel. Counsel may advise the person, in confidence, with respect to any question asked of the person. The person or counsel may object on the record to any question, in whole or in part, and must briefly state for the record the reason for the objection. An objection may be made, received, and entered upon the record when it is claimed that the person is entitled to refuse to answer the question on the grounds of any constitutional or other legal right or privilege, including the privilege against self-incrimination. The person may not otherwise object to or refuse to answer any question, and may not directly or through counsel otherwise interrupt the oral examination. If the person refuses to answer any question, a special injury proceeding petition may be filed in the superior court under subsection (25) of this section for an order compelling the person to answer the question.

(b) If the person refuses to answer any question on the grounds of the privilege against self-incrimination, the testimony of the person may be compelled in accordance with the provisions of the superior court civil rules.

(19) Any person appearing for oral testimony under a civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section is entitled to the same fees and allowances which are paid to witnesses in the superior courts.

(20) The attorney general must designate a false claims act investigator to serve as custodian of documentary material, answers to interrogatories, and transcripts of oral testimony received under this section, and must designate such additional false claims act investigators as the attorney general determines from time to time to be necessary to serve as deputies to the custodian.

(21)(a) A false claims act investigator who receives any documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony under this section must transmit them to the custodian. The custodian shall take physical possession of the material, answers, or transcripts and is respon-

sible for the use made of them and for the return of documentary material under subsection (23) of this section.

(b) The custodian may cause the preparation of the copies of the documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony as may be required for official use by any false claims act investigator, or employee of the attorney general. The material, answers, and transcripts may be used by any authorized false claims act investigator or other officer or employee in connection with the taking of oral testimony under this section.

(c)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (21), no documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony, or copies thereof, while in the possession of the custodian, may be available for examination by any individual other than a false claims act investigator or other officer or employee of the attorney general authorized under (b) of this subsection.

(ii) The prohibition in (c)(i) of this subsection on the availability of material, answers, or transcripts does not apply if consent is given by the person who produced the material, answers, or transcripts, or, in the case of any product of discovery produced pursuant to an express demand for the material, consent is given by the person from whom the discovery was obtained. Nothing in this subsection [(21)](c)(ii) is intended to prevent disclosure to the legislature, including any committee or subcommittee for use by such an agency in furtherance of its statutory responsibilities.

(d) While in the possession of the custodian and under the reasonable terms and conditions as the attorney general shall prescribe:

(i) Documentary material and answers to interrogatories must be available for examination by the person who produced the material or answers, or by a representative of that person authorized by that person to examine the material and answers; and

(ii) Transcripts of oral testimony must be available for examination by the person who produced the testimony, or by a representative of that person authorized by that person to examine the transcripts.

(22) Whenever any official has been designated to appear before any court, special inquiry judge, or state administrative judge in any case or proceeding, the custodian of any documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony received under this section may deliver to the official the material, answers, or transcripts for official use in connection with any case or proceeding as the official determines to be required. Upon the completion of such a case or proceeding, the official must return to the custodian any material, answers, or transcripts so delivered which have not passed into the control of any court, grand jury, or agency through introduction into the record of such a case or proceeding.

(23) If any documentary material has been produced by any person in the course of any false claims act investigation pursuant to a civil investigative demand under this section, and:

(a) Any case or proceeding before the court or special inquiry judge arising out of the investigation, or any proceeding before any administrative judge involving the material, has been completed; or

(b) No case or proceeding in which the material may be used has been commenced within a reasonable time after completion of the examination and analysis of all documentary material and other information assembled in the course of the investigation:

Then, the custodian shall, upon written request of the person who produced the material, return to the person the material, other than copies furnished to the false claims act investigator under subsection (10) of this section or made for the attorney general under subsection (21)(b) of this section, which has not passed into the control of any court, grand jury, or agency through introduction into the record of the case or proceeding.

(24)(a) In the event of the death, disability, or separation from service of the attorney general of the custodian of any documentary material, answers to interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony produced pursuant to civil investigative demand under this section, or in the event of the official relief of the custodian from responsibility for the custody and control of the material, answers, or transcripts, the attorney general must promptly:

(i) Designate another false claims act investigator to serve as custodian of the material, answers, or transcripts; and

(ii) Transmit in writing to the person who produced the material, answers, or testimony notice of the identity and address of the successor so designated.

(b) Any person who is designated to be a successor under this subsection (24) has, with regard to the material, answers, or transcripts, the same duties and responsibilities as were imposed by this section upon that person's predecessor in office, except that the successor may not be held responsible for any default or dereliction which occurred before that designation.

(25) Whenever any person fails to comply with any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, or whenever satisfactory copying or reproduction of any material requested in the demand cannot be done and the person refuses to surrender the material, the attorney general may file, in any superior court of the state of Washington for any county in which the person resides, is found, or transacts business, and serve upon the person a petition for an order of the court for the enforcement of the civil investigative demand.

(26)(a) Any person who has received a civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section may file, in the superior court of the state of Washington for the county within which the person resides, is found, or transacts business, and serve upon the false claims act investigator identified in the demand a petition for an order of the court to modify or set aside the demand. In the case of a petition addressed to an express demand for any product of discovery, a petition to modify or set aside the demand may be brought only in the district court of the United States for the judicial district in which the proceeding in which the discovery was obtained is or was last pending. Any petition filed under this subsection (26)(a) must be filed:

(i) Within thirty days after the date of service of the civil investigative demand, or at any time before the return date specified in the demand, whichever date is earlier; or

(ii) Within a longer period as may be prescribed in writing by any false claims act investigator identified in the demand.

(b) The petition must specify each ground upon which the petitioner relies in seeking relief under (a) of this subsection, and may be based upon any failure of the demand to comply with the provisions of this section or upon any constitutional or other legal right or privilege of the person. During the pendency of the petition in the court, the court may stay, as it deems proper, the running of the time allowed for compliance with the demand, in whole or in part, except that the person filing the petition shall comply with any portions of the demand not sought to be modified or set aside.

(27)(a) In the case of any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section which is an express demand for any product of discovery, the person from whom the discovery was obtained may file, in the superior court of the state of Washington for the county in which the proceeding in which the discovery was obtained is or was last pending, and serve upon any false claims act investigator identified in the demand and upon the recipient of the demand, a petition for an order of the court to modify or set aside those portions of the demand requiring production of any product of discovery. Any petition under this subsection (27)(a) must be filed:

(i) Within twenty days after the date of service of the civil investigative demand, or at any time before the return date specified in the demand, whichever date is earlier; or

(ii) Within a longer period as may be prescribed in writing by any false claims act investigator identified in the demand.

(b) The petition must specify each ground upon which the petitioner relies in seeking relief under (a) of this subsection, and may be based upon any failure of the portions of the demand from which relief is sought to comply with the provisions of this section, or upon any constitutional or other legal right or privilege of the petitioner. During the pendency of the petition, the court may stay, as it deems proper, compliance with the demand and the running of the time allowed for compliance with the demand.

(28) At any time during which any custodian is in custody or control of any documentary material or answers to interrogatories produced, or transcripts of oral testimony given, by any person in compliance with any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, the person, and in the case of an express demand for any product of discovery, the person from whom the discovery was obtained, may file, in the superior court of the state of Washington for the county within which the office of the custodian is situated, and serve upon the custodian, a petition for an order of the court to require the performance by the custodian of any duty imposed upon the custodian by this section.

(29) Whenever any petition is filed in any superior court of the state of Washington under this section, the court has jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter so presented, and to enter an order or orders as may be required to carry out the provisions of this section. Any final order so entered is subject to appeal under the rules of appellate procedure. Any disobedience of any final order entered under this section by any court must be punished as a contempt of the court.

(30) The superior court civil rules apply to any petition under this section, to the extent that the rules are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

(31) Any documentary material, answers to written interrogatories, or oral testimony provided under any civil investigative demand issued under subsection (1) or (2) of this section are exempt from disclosure under the public records act, chapter 42.56 RCW. [2012 c 241 § 212.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

**74.66.130 Reporting.** Beginning November 15, 2012, and annually thereafter, the attorney general in consultation with the health care authority must report results of implementing the medicaid fraud false claims act. This report must include:

(1) The number of attorneys assigned to qui tam initiated actions;

(2) The number of cases brought by qui tam actions and indicate how many cases are brought by the attorney general and how many by the qui tam relator without attorney general participation;

(3) The results of any actions brought under subsection (2) of this section, delineated by cases brought by the attorney general and cases brought by the qui tam relator without attorney general participation;

(4) The amount of recoveries attributable to the medicaid false claims; and

(5) Information on the costs, attorneys' fees, and any other expenses incurred by defendants in investigating and defending against qui tam actions, to the extent this information is provided to the attorney general or health care authority. [2012 c 241 § 213.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following chapter digest.

**Intent—Finding—2012 c 241:** See note following RCW 74.66.010.

## Chapter 74.98 RCW CONSTRUCTION

### Sections

74.98.010	Continuation of existing law.
74.98.020	Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.
74.98.030	Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.
74.98.040	Purpose—1959 c 26.
74.98.050	Repeals and saving.
74.98.060	Emergency—1959 c 26.

**74.98.010 Continuation of existing law.** The provisions of this title insofar as they are substantially the same as statutory provisions repealed by this chapter, and relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations, and not as new enactments. [1959 c 26 § 74.98.010.]

**74.98.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.** Title headings, chapter headings, and section or subsection headings, as used in this title do not constitute any part of the law. [1959 c 26 § 74.98.020.]

**74.98.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.** If any provision of this title, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of

the title, the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1959 c 26 § 74.98.030.]

**74.98.040 Purpose—1959 c 26.** It is the purpose and intent of this title to provide for the public welfare by making available, in conjunction with federal matching funds, such public assistance as is necessary to insure to recipients thereof a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. [1959 c 26 § 74.98.040.]

**74.98.050 Repeals and saving.** See 1959 c 26 § 74.98.050.

**74.98.060 Emergency—1959 c 26.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. [1959 c 26 § 74.98.060.]



# Title 76

## FORESTS AND FOREST PRODUCTS

### Chapters

- 76.01 General provisions.
- 76.04 Forest protection.
- 76.06 Forest insect and disease control.
- 76.09 Forest practices.
- 76.10 Surface mining.
- 76.13 Stewardship of nonindustrial forests and woodlands.
- 76.14 Forest rehabilitation.
- 76.15 Community and urban forestry.
- 76.36 Marks and brands.
- 76.42 Wood debris—Removal from navigable waters.
- 76.44 Institute of forest resources.
- 76.48 Specialized forest products.
- 76.52 Cooperative forest management services act.
- 76.56 Center for international trade in forest products.

*Access roads to public and state forest lands: Chapter 79.38 RCW.*

*County timber: Chapter 36.34 RCW.*

*Easements over public lands: Chapter 79.36 RCW.*

*Exchange of state lands to facilitate marketing of forest products or to consolidate state lands: RCW 79.17.010.*

*Excise tax on conveyance of standing timber: Chapter 82.45 RCW.*

*Forest management, major line at state universities: RCW 28B.10.115, 28B.20.060.*

*Forest roads, county: RCW 36.82.140.*

*Infractions: Chapter 7.84 RCW.*

*Lien for labor and services on timber and lumber: Chapter 60.24 RCW.*

*Limitation on liability of forest landowner for injuries to recreation users: RCW 4.24.210.*

*Logging railroads: Title 81 RCW.*

*Logging trucks, special permits for use of roads and highways: RCW 46.44.047.*

*Logs on county highways and bridges: RCW 36.86.090.*

*Measurement of timber and wood products, fraud, penalty: RCW 9.45.122 through 9.45.126.*

*Motor vehicle size, weight and load: Chapter 46.44 RCW.*

*National forests, jurisdiction: Chapter 37.08 RCW.*

*Pest control compact: Chapter 17.34 RCW.*

*Reservation of timber on sale of county tax-title lands: RCW 36.35.120.*

*Safety supervisor: RCW 43.22.040.*

*Sustained yield plan and cooperative agreements: Chapter 79.10 RCW.*

*Taxation and/or assessment of lands lying both within fire protection district and forest protection assessment area: RCW 52.16.170.*

*Transportation of forest products, applicability of public utility tax: RCW 82.16.020.*

*University demonstration forest and experiment station: RCW 79.17.030.*

### Chapter 76.01 RCW GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sections

- 76.01.080 Lacey compound—Light industrial facilities/land—Sale or exchange.
- 76.01.090 Proposal for exchange or sale—Lacey compound site.

(2012 Ed.)

**76.01.080 Lacey compound—Light industrial facilities/land—Sale or exchange.** Except as provided in RCW 76.01.090, the department of natural resources may sell or exchange the light industrial facilities and land in Thurston county, known as the Lacey compound, which was acquired as an administrative site. This land and the facilities may be sold or exchanged for other lands and facilities in Thurston county, or counties adjacent to Thurston county, for use as an administrative site. The property may be exchanged for public or private property. The department is authorized to accept cash or expend cash from appropriated funds in order to balance a proposed exchange. Alternatively, the department may sell the Lacey compound at public auction or under \*RCW 79.01.009. The sale or exchange must be for at least market value. Transactions involving the construction of improvements must be conducted pursuant to Title 39 RCW, as applicable, and must comply with all other applicable laws and rules. Proceeds received from the sale or exchange of the Lacey compound must be deposited into the park land trust revolving fund to be used to acquire a replacement administrative site. Funds received from the exchange or sale that are not used to either replace or construct, or both, the administrative site must be deposited pursuant to \*\*RCW 76.01.030 or into the appropriate trust account as determined by the department. [2001 c 189 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 79.01.009 was recodified as RCW 79.17.200 pursuant to 2003 c 334 § 560.

\*\* (2) RCW 76.01.030 was repealed by 2003 c 334 § 235.

**76.01.090 Proposal for exchange or sale—Lacey compound site.** Before proceeding with an exchange or sale of the Lacey compound site, the department of natural resources shall submit a proposal for an exchange or sale to the office of financial management for review and approval. The proposal shall include:

- (1) A determination of the ownership by trust of the Lacey compound site;
- (2) A determination of the market value of the Lacey compound site;
- (3) A determination of prospective proportional use of the future site based on function and an assessment of the financial responsibility for the new site based on the functional analysis; and
- (4) A financing plan for the future site based on prospective use.

The location of a future site is subject to the approval of the board of natural resources and the state capitol committee.

Any additional funding requirements shall be submitted for approval by the legislature by January 1, 2002. [2001 c 189 § 2.]

**Chapter 76.04 RCW**  
**FOREST PROTECTION**

## Sections

## ADMINISTRATION

76.04.005	Definitions.
76.04.015	Fire protection powers and duties of department—Enforcement—Investigation—Administration.
76.04.016	Fire prevention and suppression capacity—Duties owed to public in general—Legislative intent.
76.04.025	Federal funds.
76.04.035	Wardens—Appointment—Duties.
76.04.045	Rangers—Appointment—Ex officio rangers—Compensation.
76.04.055	Service of notices.
76.04.065	Arrests without warrants.
76.04.075	Rules—Penalty.
76.04.085	Penalty for violations.
76.04.095	Cooperative protection.
76.04.105	Contracts for protection and development.
76.04.115	Articles of incorporation—Requirements.
76.04.125	Requisites of contract.
76.04.135	Cooperative agreements—Public agencies.
76.04.155	Firefighting—Employment—Assistance.
76.04.165	Legislative declaration—Forest protection zones.
76.04.167	Legislative declaration—Equitable sharing of forest fire protection costs—Coordinated forest fire protection and suppression.
76.04.175	Fire suppression equipment—Comparison of costs.
76.04.177	Fire suppression equipment—Requirement to utilize private equipment.

## PERMITS

76.04.205	Burning permits.
76.04.215	Burning mill wood waste—Arresters.
76.04.235	Dumping mill waste, forest debris—Penalty.
76.04.246	Use of blasting fuse.

## CLOSURES/SUSPENSIONS

76.04.305	Closed to entry—Designation.
76.04.315	Suspension of burning permits/privileges.
76.04.325	Closure of forest operations or forest lands.

## FIRE PROTECTION REGULATION

76.04.405	Steam, internal combustion, or electrical engines and other spark-emitting equipment regulated.
76.04.415	Penalty for violations—Work stoppage notice.
76.04.425	Unauthorized entry into sealed fire tool box.
76.04.435	Deposit of fire or live coals.
76.04.445	Reports of fire.
76.04.455	Lighted material, etc.—Receptacles in conveyances.
76.04.465	Certain snags to be felled currently with logging.
76.04.475	Reimbursement for costs of suppression action.
76.04.486	Escaped slash burns—Obligations.
76.04.495	Negligent starting of fires or allowance of extreme fire hazard or debris—Liability—Recovery of reasonable expenses—Lien.

## ASSESSMENTS, OBLIGATIONS, FUNDS

76.04.600	Owners to protect forests.
76.04.610	Forest fire protection assessment.
76.04.620	State funds—Loans—Recovery of funds from the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account.
76.04.630	Landowner contingency forest fire suppression account—Expenditures—Assessments.

## HAZARD ABATEMENT

76.04.650	Disposal of forest debris—Permission to allow trees to fall on another's land.
76.04.660	Additional fire hazards—Extreme fire hazard areas—Abatement, isolation or reduction—Summary action—Recovery of costs—Inspection of property.

## FIRE REGULATION

76.04.700	Failure to extinguish campfire.
76.04.710	Wilful setting of fire.
76.04.720	Removal of notices.
76.04.730	Negligent fire—Spread.
76.04.740	Reckless burning.

76.04.750	Uncontrolled fire a public nuisance—Suppression—Duties—Summary action—Recovery of costs.
76.04.900	Captions—1986 c 100.

*Burning permits within fire protection districts: RCW 52.12.101.*

*Excessive steam in boilers, penalty: RCW 70.54.080.*

*Steam boilers and pressure vessels, construction, installation, inspection, and certification: Chapter 70.79 RCW.*

*Treble damages for removal of trees: RCW 64.12.030 and 79.02.320.*

## ADMINISTRATION

**76.04.005 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Additional fire hazard" means a condition existing on any land in the state:

(a) Covered wholly or in part by forest debris which is likely to further the spread of fire and thereby endanger life or property; or

(b) When, due to the effects of disturbance agents, broken, down, dead, or dying trees exist on forest land in sufficient quantity to be likely to further the spread of fire within areas covered by a forest health hazard warning or order issued by the commissioner of public lands under RCW 76.06.180. The term "additional fire hazard" does not include green trees or snags left standing in upland or riparian areas under the provisions of RCW 76.04.465 or chapter 76.09 RCW.

(2) "Closed season" means the period between April 15 and October 15, unless the department designates different dates because of prevailing fire weather conditions.

(3) "Department" means the department of natural resources, or its authorized representatives, as defined in chapter 43.30 RCW.

(4) "Department protected lands" means all lands subject to the forest protection assessment under RCW 76.04.610 or covered under contract or agreement pursuant to RCW 76.04.135 by the department.

(5) "Disturbance agent" means those forces that damage or kill significant numbers of forest trees, such as insects, diseases, wind storms, ice storms, and fires.

(6) "Emergency fire costs" means those costs incurred or approved by the department for emergency forest fire suppression, including the employment of personnel, rental of equipment, and purchase of supplies over and above costs regularly budgeted and provided for nonemergency fire expenses for the biennium in which the costs occur.

(7) "Forest debris" includes forest slash, chips, and any other vegetative residue resulting from activities on forest land.

(8) "Forest fire service" includes all wardens, rangers, and other persons employed especially for preventing or fighting forest fires.

(9) "Forest land" means any unimproved lands which have enough trees, standing or down, or flammable material, to constitute in the judgment of the department, a fire menace to life or property. Sagebrush and grass areas east of the summit of the Cascade mountains may be considered forest lands when such areas are adjacent to or intermingled with areas supporting tree growth. Forest land, for protection purposes, does not include structures.

(10) "Forest landowner," "owner of forest land," "landowner," or "owner" means the owner or the person in possession of any public or private forest land.

(11) "Forest material" means forest slash, chips, timber, standing or down, or other vegetation.

(12) "Landowner operation" means every activity, and supporting activities, of a forest landowner and the landowner's agents, employees, or independent contractors or permittees in the management and use of forest land subject to the forest protection assessment under RCW 76.04.610 for the primary benefit of the owner. The term includes, but is not limited to, the growing and harvesting of forest products, the development of transportation systems, the utilization of minerals or other natural resources, and the clearing of land. The term does not include recreational and/or residential activities not associated with these enumerated activities.

(13) "Participating landowner" means an owner of forest land whose land is subject to the forest protection assessment under RCW 76.04.610.

(14) "Slash" means organic forest debris such as tree tops, limbs, brush, and other dead flammable material remaining on forest land as a result of a landowner operation.

(15) "Slash burning" means the planned and controlled burning of forest debris on forest lands by broadcast burning, underburning, pile burning, or other means, for the purposes of silviculture, hazard abatement, or reduction and prevention or elimination of a fire hazard.

(16) "Suppression" means all activities involved in the containment and control of forest fires, including the patrolling thereof until such fires are extinguished or considered by the department to pose no further threat to life or property.

(17) "Unimproved lands" means those lands that will support grass, brush and tree growth, or other flammable material when such lands are not cleared or cultivated and, in the opinion of the department, are a fire menace to life and property. [2007 c 480 § 12; 1992 c 52 § 24; 1986 c 100 § 1.]

**76.04.015 Fire protection powers and duties of department—Enforcement—Investigation—Administration.** (1) The department may, at its discretion, appoint trained personnel possessing the necessary qualifications to carry out the duties and supporting functions of the department and may determine their respective salaries.

(2) The department shall have direct charge of and supervision of all matters pertaining to the forest fire service of the state.

(3) The department shall:

(a) Enforce all laws within this chapter;

(b) Be empowered to take charge of and direct the work of suppressing forest fires;

(c)(i) Investigate the origin and cause of all forest fires to determine whether either a criminal act or negligence by any person, firm, or corporation caused the starting, spreading, or existence of the fire. In conducting investigations, the department shall work cooperatively, to the extent possible, with utilities, property owners, and other interested parties to identify and preserve evidence. Except as provided otherwise in this subsection, the department in conducting investigations is authorized, without court order, to take possession or control of relevant evidence found in plain view and belonging to any person, firm, or corporation. To the extent

possible, the department shall notify the person, firm, or corporation of its intent to take possession or control of the evidence. The person, firm, or corporation shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to view the evidence and, before the department takes possession or control of the evidence, also shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to examine, document, and photograph it. If the person, firm, or corporation objects in writing to the department's taking possession or control of the evidence, the department must either return the evidence within seven days after the day on which the department is provided with the written objections or obtain a court order authorizing the continued possession or control.

(ii) Absent a court order authorizing otherwise, the department may not take possession or control of evidence over the objection of the owner of the evidence if the evidence is used by the owner in conducting a business or in providing an electric utility service and the department's taking possession or control of the evidence would substantially and materially interfere with the operation of the business or provision of electric utility service.

(iii) Absent a court order authorizing otherwise, the department may not take possession or control of evidence over the objection of an electric utility when the evidence is not owned by the utility but has caused damage to property owned by the utility. However, this subsection (3)(c)(iii) does not apply if the department has notified the utility of its intent to take possession or control of the evidence and provided the utility with reasonable time to examine, document, and photograph the evidence.

(iv) Only personnel qualified to work on electrical equipment may take possession or control of evidence owned or controlled by an electric utility;

(d) Furnish notices or information to the public calling attention to forest fire dangers and the penalties for violation of this chapter;

(e) Be familiar with all timbered and cut-over areas of the state; and

(f) Regulate and control the official actions of its employees, the wardens, and the rangers.

(4) The department may:

(a) Authorize all needful and proper expenditures for forest protection;

(b) Adopt rules consistent with this section for the prevention, control, and suppression of forest fires as it considers necessary including but not limited to: Fire equipment and materials; use of personnel; and fire prevention standards and operating conditions including a provision for reducing these conditions where justified by local factors such as location and weather;

(c) Remove at will the commission of any ranger or suspend the authority of any warden;

(d) Inquire into:

(i) The extent, kind, value, and condition of all timber lands within the state;

(ii) The extent to which timber lands are being destroyed by fire and the damage thereon;

(e) Provide fire detection, prevention, presuppression, or suppression services on nonforested public lands managed by the department or another state agency, but only to the extent that providing these services does not interfere with or detract from the obligations set forth in subsection (3) of this section.

If the department provides fire detection, prevention, presuppression, or suppression services on nonforested public lands managed by another state agency, the department must be fully reimbursed for the work through a cooperative agreement as provided for in RCW 76.04.135(1).

(5) Any rules adopted under this section for the suppression of forest fires must include a mechanism by which a local fire mobilization radio frequency, consistent with RCW 43.43.963, is identified and made available during the initial response to any forest fire that crosses jurisdictional lines so that all responders have access to communications during the response. Different initial response frequencies may be identified and used as appropriate in different geographic response areas. If the fire radio communication needs escalate beyond the capability of the identified local radio frequency, the use of other available designated interoperability radio frequencies may be used.

(6) When the department considers it to be in the best interest of the state, it may cooperate with any agency of another state, the United States or any agency thereof, the Dominion of Canada or any agency or province thereof, and any county, town, corporation, individual, or Indian tribe within the state of Washington in forest firefighting and patrol. [2012 c 38 § 1; 2010 c 38 § 1; 1993 c 196 § 3; 1986 c 100 § 2.]

**76.04.016 Fire prevention and suppression capacity—Duties owed to public in general—Legislative intent.** The department when acting, in good faith, in its statutory capacity as a fire prevention and suppression agency, is carrying out duties owed to the public in general and not to any individual person or class of persons separate and apart from the public. Nothing contained in this title, including but not limited to any provision dealing with payment or collection of forest protection or fire suppression assessments, may be construed to evidence a legislative intent that the duty to prevent and suppress forest fires is owed to any individual person or class of persons separate and apart from the public in general. This section does not alter the department's duties and responsibilities as a landowner. [1993 c 196 § 1.]

**76.04.025 Federal funds.** The department shall receive and disburse any and all moneys contributed, allotted, or paid by the United States under the authority of any act of Congress for use in cooperation with the state of Washington in protecting and developing forests. [1986 c 100 § 3.]

**76.04.035 Wardens—Appointment—Duties.** (1) The department may appoint any of its employees as wardens, at the times and localities as it considers the public welfare demands, within any area of the state where there is forest land requiring protection.

(2) The duties of wardens shall be:

- (a) To provide forest fire prevention and protection information to the public;
- (b) To investigate discovered or reported fires on forest lands and take appropriate action;
- (c) To patrol their areas as necessary;
- (d) To visit all parts of their area, and frequented places and camps as far as possible, and warn campers or other users and visitors of fire hazards;

(e) To see that all locomotives and all steam, internal combustion, and other spark-emitting equipment are provided with spark arresters and adequate devices for preventing the escape of fire or sparks in accordance with the law;

(f) To see that operations or activities on forest land have all required fire prevention and suppression equipment or devices as required by law;

(g) To extinguish wildfires;

(h) To set back-fires to control fires;

(i) To summons, impress, and employ help in controlling wildfires;

(j) To see that all laws for the protection of forests are enforced;

(k) To investigate, arrest, and initiate prosecution of all offenders of this chapter or other chapters as allowed by law; and

(l) To perform all other duties as prescribed by law and as the department directs.

(3) All wardens and rangers shall render reports to the department on blanks or forms, or in the manner and at the times as may be ordered, giving a summary of how employed, the area visited, expenses incurred, and other information as required by the department.

(4) The department may suspend the authority of any warden who may be incompetent or unwilling to discharge properly the duties of the office.

(5) The department shall determine the placement of the wardens and, upon its request to the county commissioners of any county, the county commissioners shall designate and furnish the wardens with suitably equipped office quarters in the county courthouse.

(6) The authority of the wardens regarding the prevention, suppression, and control of forest fires, summoning, impressing, or employing help, or making arrests for violations of this chapter may extend to any part of the state. [1986 c 100 § 4.]

**76.04.045 Rangers—Appointment—Ex officio rangers—Compensation.** (1) All Washington state patrol officers, fish and wildlife officers, deputy state fire marshals, and state park rangers, while in their respective jurisdictions, shall be ex officio rangers.

(2) Employees of the United States forest service, when recommended by their forest supervisor, and citizens of the state advantageously located may, at the discretion of the department, be commissioned as rangers and vested with the certain powers and duties of wardens as specified in this chapter and as directed by the department.

(3) Rangers shall receive no compensation for their services except when employed in cooperation with the state and under the provisions of this chapter and shall not create any indebtedness or incur any liability on behalf of the state: PROVIDED, That rangers actually engaged in extinguishing or preventing the spread of fire on forest land or elsewhere that may endanger forest land shall, when their accounts for such service have been approved by the department, be entitled to receive compensation for such services at a rate to be fixed by the department.

(4) The department may cancel the commission of any ranger or authority granted to any ex officio ranger who may

be incompetent or unwilling to discharge properly the duties of the office. [2001 c 253 § 9; 1986 c 100 § 5.]

**76.04.055 Service of notices.** Any notice required by law to be served by the department, warden, or ranger shall be sufficient if a written or printed copy thereof is delivered, mailed, telegraphed, or electronically transmitted by the department, warden, or ranger to the person to receive the notice or to his or her responsible agent. If the name or address of the person or agent is unknown and cannot be obtained by reasonable diligence, the notice may be served by posting the copy in a conspicuous place upon the premises concerned by the notice. [1986 c 100 § 6.]

**76.04.065 Arrests without warrants.** Department employees appointed as wardens, persons commissioned as rangers, and all police officers may arrest persons violating this chapter, without warrant, as prescribed by law. [1986 c 100 § 7.]

**76.04.075 Rules—Penalty.** Any person who violates any of the orders or rules adopted under this chapter for the protection of forests from fires is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the penalties for a misdemeanor under RCW 9A.20.021, unless another penalty is provided. [1986 c 100 § 8.]

**76.04.085 Penalty for violations.** Unless specified otherwise, violations of the provisions of this chapter shall be a misdemeanor and subject to the penalties for a misdemeanor under RCW 9A.20.021. [1986 c 100 § 9.]

**76.04.095 Cooperative protection.** When any responsible protective agency or agencies composed of timber owners other than the state agrees to undertake systematic forest protection in cooperation with the state and such cooperation appears to the department to be more advantageous to the state than the state-provided forest fire services, the department may designate suitable areas to be official cooperative districts and substitute cooperative services for the state-provided services. The department may cooperate in the compensation for expenses of preventing and controlling fire in cooperative districts to the extent it considers equitable on behalf of the state. [1986 c 100 § 10.]

**76.04.105 Contracts for protection and development.** The department may enter into contracts and undertakings with private corporations for the protection and development of the forest lands within the state, subject to the provisions of this chapter. [1986 c 100 § 11.]

**76.04.115 Articles of incorporation—Requirements.** Before any private corporation may enter into any contract under RCW 76.04.105, there shall be incorporated into the articles of incorporation or charter of such corporation a provision requiring that the corporation, out of its earnings or earned surplus, and in a manner satisfactory to the department, annually set apart funds to discharge any contract entered into between such corporation and the department. [1986 c 100 § 12.]

(2012 Ed.)

**76.04.125 Requisites of contract.** Any undertaking for the protection and development of the forest lands of the state under RCW 76.04.105 shall be regulated and controlled by a contract to be entered into between the private corporation and the department. The contract shall outline the lands involved and the conditions and details of the undertaking, including an exact specification of the amount of funds to be made available by the corporation and the time and manner of disbursement. Before entering into any such contract, the department shall be satisfied that the private corporation is financially solvent and will be able to carry out the project outlined in the contract. The department shall have charge of the project for the protection and development of the forest lands described in the contract, and any expense incurred by the department under any such contract shall be payable solely by the corporation from the funds provided by it for these purposes. The state of Washington shall not in any event be responsible to any person, firm, company, or corporation for any indebtedness created by any corporation under a contract pursuant to RCW 76.04.105. [1986 c 100 § 13.]

**76.04.135 Cooperative agreements—Public agencies.** (1) For the purpose of promoting and facilitating cooperation among fire protection agencies, including the department, and between the department and other agencies that manage lands owned by the state, and to more adequately protect life, property, and the natural resources of the state, the department may enter into a contract or agreement with a municipality, county, state, or federal agency to provide fire detection, prevention, presuppression, or suppression services on property which they are responsible to protect or manage.

(2) Contracts or agreements under subsection (1) of this section may contain provisions for the exchange of services on a cooperative basis or services in return for cash payment or other compensation.

(3) No charges may be made when the department determines that under a cooperative contract or agreement the assistance received from a municipality, county, or federal agency on state protected lands equals that provided by the state on municipal, county, or federal lands. [2012 c 38 § 2; 1986 c 100 § 14.]

**76.04.155 Firefighting—Employment—Assistance.** (1) The department may employ a sufficient number of persons to extinguish or prevent the spreading of any fire that may be in danger of damaging or destroying any timber or other property on department protected lands. The department may provide needed tools and supplies and may provide transportation when necessary for persons so employed.

(2) Every person so employed is entitled to compensation at a rate to be fixed by the department. The department shall, upon request, show the person the number of hours worked by that person and the rate established for payment. After approval of the department, that person is entitled to receive payment from the state.

(3) It is unlawful to fail to render assistance when called upon by the department to aid in guarding or extinguishing any fire. [1986 c 100 § 16.]

**76.04.165 Legislative declaration—Forest protection zones.** (1) The legislature finds and declares that forest lands

within the state are increasingly being used for residential purposes; that the risk to life and property is increasing from forest fires which may destroy developed property; that, based on the primary missions for the respective fire control agencies established in this chapter, adjustment of the geographic areas of responsibility has not kept pace with the increasing use of forest lands for residential purposes; and that the department should work with the state's other fire control agencies to define geographic areas of responsibility that are more consistent with their respective primary missions.

(2) To accomplish the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the department shall establish a procedure to clarify its geographic areas of responsibility. The areas of department protection shall be called forest protection zones. The forest protection zones shall include all forest land which the department is obligated to protect but shall not include forest land within rural fire districts or municipal fire districts which affected local fire control agencies agree, by mutual consent with the department, is not appropriate for department protection. Forest land not included within a forest protection zone established by mutual agreement of the department and a rural fire district or a municipal fire district shall not be assessed under RCW 76.04.610 or 76.04.630.

(3) After the department and any affected local fire protection agencies have agreed on the boundary of a forest protection zone, the department shall establish the boundary by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(4) Except by agreement of the affected parties, the establishment of forest protection zones shall not alter any mutual aid agreement. [1995 c 151 § 2; 1988 c 273 § 2.]

**76.04.167 Legislative declaration—Equitable sharing of forest fire protection costs—Coordinated forest fire protection and suppression.** (1) The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(a) Forest wild fires are a threat to public health and safety and can cause catastrophic damage to public and private resources, including clean air, clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, timber resources, forest soils, scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, economic and employment opportunities, structures, and other improvements;

(b) Forest landowners and the public have a shared interest in protecting forests and forest resources by preventing and suppressing forest wild fires;

(c) A recent independent analysis of the state fire program considered it imperative to restore a more equitable split between the general fund and forest protection assessments;

(d) Without a substantial increase in forest protection funds, the state's citizens will be paying much more money for emergency fire suppression; and

(e) It is therefore the intent of the legislature that the costs of fire protection be equitably shared between the forest protection assessment account and state contributions to ensure that there will be sufficient firefighters who are equipped and trained to respond quickly to fires in order to keep fires small and manage those large fires that do occur. In recognition of increases in landowner assessments, the legislature declares its intent that increases in the state's share for forest protection should be provided to stabilize the funding

for the forest protection program, and that sufficient state funds should be committed to the forest protection program so that the recommendations contained in the 1997 tridata report can be implemented on an equitable basis.

(2) The legislature hereby finds and declares that it is in the public interest to establish and maintain a complete, cooperative, and coordinated forest fire protection and suppression program for the state; that, second only to saving lives, the primary mission of the department is protecting forest resources and suppressing forest wild fires; that a primary mission of rural fire districts and municipal fire departments is protecting improved property and suppressing structural fires; and that the most effective way to protect structures is for the department to focus its efforts and resources on aggressively suppressing forest wild fires.

(3) The legislature also acknowledges the natural role of fire in forest ecosystems, and finds and declares it in the public interest to use fire under controlled conditions to prevent wild fires by maintaining healthy forests and eliminating sources of fuel. [2001 c 279 § 1; 1995 c 151 § 1.]

**76.04.175 Fire suppression equipment—Comparison of costs.** (1) The department shall, by June 1 of each year, establish a list of fire suppression equipment, such as portable showers, kitchens, water tanks, dozers, and hauling equipment, provided by the department so that the cost by unit or category can be determined and can be compared to the expense of utilizing private vendors.

(2) The department shall establish a roster of quotes by vendors who are able to provide equipment to respond to incidents involving wildfires on department-protected lands. The department shall use these quotes from private vendors to make a comparison with the costs established in subsection (1) of this section. The department shall utilize the most effective and efficient resource available for responding to wildfires. [1995 c 113 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—1995 c 113:** "The legislature finds that it is frequently in the best interest of the state to utilize fire suppression equipment from private vendors whenever possible in responding to incidents involving wildfires on department-protected lands. It is the intent of the legislature to encourage the department of natural resources to utilize kitchen, shower, and other fire suppression equipment from private vendors as allowed in RCW 76.04.015(4)(b), when such utilization will be most effective and efficient." [1995 c 113 § 1.]

**76.04.177 Fire suppression equipment—Requirement to utilize private equipment.** Before constructing or purchasing any equipment listed in RCW 76.04.175(1) for wildfire suppression, the department shall compare the per use cost of the equipment to be purchased or constructed with the per use cost of utilizing private equipment. If utilizing private equipment is more effective and efficient, the department may not construct or purchase the equipment but shall utilize the equipment from the lowest responsive bidder. [1995 c 113 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—1995 c 113:** See note following RCW 76.04.175.

## PERMITS

**76.04.205 Burning permits.** (1) Except in certain areas designated by the department or as permitted under rules

adopted by the department, a person shall have a valid written burning permit obtained from the department to burn:

(a) Any flammable material on any lands under the protection of the department; or

(b) Refuse or waste forest material on forest lands protected by the department.

(2) To be valid a permit must be signed by both the department and the permittee. Conditions may be imposed in the permit for the protection of life, property, or air quality and [the department] may suspend or revoke the permits when conditions warrant. A permit shall be effective only under the conditions and for the period stated therein. Signing of the permit shall indicate the permittee's agreement to and acceptance of the conditions of the permit.

(3) The department may inspect or cause to be inspected the area involved and may issue a burning permit if:

(a) All requirements relating to firefighting equipment, the work to be done, and precautions to be taken before commencing the burning have been met;

(b) No unreasonable danger will result; and

(c) Burning will be done in compliance with air quality standards established by chapter 70.94 RCW.

(4) The department, authorized employees thereof, or any warden or ranger may refuse, revoke, or postpone the use of permits to burn when necessary for the safety of adjacent property or when necessary in their judgment to prevent air pollution as provided in chapter 70.94 RCW. [1986 c 100 § 17.]

**76.04.215 Burning mill wood waste—Arresters.** (1) It is unlawful for anyone manufacturing lumber or shingles, or other forest products, to destroy wood waste material by burning within one-fourth of one mile of any forest material without properly confining the place of the burning and without further safeguarding the surrounding property against danger from the burning by such additional devices as the department may require.

(2) It is unlawful for anyone to destroy any wood waste material by fire within any burner or destructor operated within one-fourth of one mile of any forest material, or to operate any power-producing plant using in connection therewith any smokestack, chimney, or other spark-emitting outlet, without installing and maintaining on such burner, or destructor, or on such smokestack, chimney, or other spark-emitting outlet, a safe and suitable device for arresting sparks. [1986 c 100 § 18.]

**76.04.235 Dumping mill waste, forest debris—Penalty.** (1) No person may dump mill waste from forest products, or forest debris of any kind, in quantities that the department declares to constitute a forest fire hazard on or threatening forest lands located in this state without first obtaining a written permit issued by the department on such terms and conditions determined by the department pursuant to rules enacted to protect forest lands from fire. The permit is in addition to any other permit required by law.

(2) Any person who dumps such mill waste, or forest debris, without a permit, or in violation of a permit is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and subject to the penalties for a gross misdemeanor under RCW 9A.20.021 and may further

(2012 Ed.)

be required to remove all materials dumped. [1986 c 100 § 19.]

**76.04.246 Use of blasting fuse.** It is unlawful to use fuse for blasting on any area of logging slash or area of actual logging operation without a permit during the closed season. Upon the issuance of a written permit by the department or warden or ranger, fuse may be used during the closed season under the conditions specified in the permit. [1986 c 100 § 20.]

## CLOSURES/SUSPENSIONS

**76.04.305 Closed to entry—Designation.** (1) When, in the opinion of the department, any forest land is particularly exposed to fire danger, the department may designate such land as a region of extra fire hazard subject to closure, and the department shall adopt rules for the protection thereof.

(2) All such rules shall be published in such newspapers of general circulation in the counties wherein such region is situated and for such length of time as the department may determine.

(3) When in the opinion of the department it becomes necessary to close the region to entry, posters carrying the wording "Region of extra fire hazard-CLOSED TO ENTRY-except as provided by RCW 76.04.305" and indicating the beginning and ending dates of the closures shall be posted on the public highways entering the regions.

(4) The rules shall be in force from the time specified therein, but when in the opinion of the department such forest region continues to be exposed to fire danger, or ceases to be so exposed, the department may extend, suspend, or terminate the closure by proclamation.

(5) This section does not authorize the department to prohibit the conduct of industrial operations, public work, or access of permanent residents to their own property within the closed area, but no one legally entering the region of extra fire hazard may use the area for recreational purposes which are prohibited to the general public under the terms of this section. [1986 c 100 § 21.]

**76.04.315 Suspension of burning permits/privileges.** In times and localities of unusual fire danger, the department may issue an order suspending any or all burning permits or privileges authorized by RCW 76.04.205 and may prohibit absolutely the use of fire in such locations. [1986 c 100 § 22.]

**76.04.325 Closure of forest operations or forest lands.** (1) When in the opinion of the department weather conditions arise which present an extreme fire hazard, whereby life and property may be endangered, the department may issue an order shutting down all logging, land clearing, or other industrial operations which may cause a fire to start. The shutdown shall be for the periods and regions designated in the order. During shutdowns, all persons are excluded from logging operating areas and areas of logging slash, except those present in the interest of fire protection.

(2) When in the opinion of the department extreme fire weather exists, whereby forest lands may be endangered, the department may issue an order restricting access to and activities on forest lands. The order shall describe the regions and

extent of restrictions necessary to protect forest lands. During the period in which the order is in effect, all persons may be excluded from the regions described, except those persons present in the interest of fire protection.

(3) Each day's violation of an order under this section shall constitute a separate offense. [1986 c 100 § 23.]

#### FIRE PROTECTION REGULATION

**76.04.405 Steam, internal combustion, or electrical engines and other spark-emitting equipment regulated.** It is unlawful during the closed season for any person to operate any steam, internal combustion, or electric engine, or any other spark-emitting equipment or device, on any forest land or in any place where, in the opinion of the department, fire could spread to forest land, without first complying with the requirements as may be established by the department by rule pursuant to this chapter. [1986 c 100 § 24.]

**76.04.415 Penalty for violations—Work stoppage notice.** (1) Every person upon receipt of written notice issued by the department that such person has or is violating any of the provisions of RCW 76.04.215, 76.04.305, 76.04.405, or 76.04.650 or any rule adopted by the department concerning fire prevention and fire suppression preparedness shall cease operations until compliance with the provisions of the sections or rules specified in such notice.

(2) The department may specify in the notice of violation the special conditions and precautions under which the operation would be allowed to continue until the end of that working day. [1986 c 100 § 25.]

**76.04.425 Unauthorized entry into sealed fire tool box.** It is unlawful to enter into a sealed fire tool box without authorization. [1986 c 100 § 26.]

**76.04.435 Deposit of fire or live coals.** No person operating a railroad may permit to be deposited by any employee, and no one may deposit fire or live coals, upon the right-of-way within one-fourth of one mile of any forest material, during the closed season, unless the fire or live coals are immediately extinguished. [1986 c 100 § 27.]

**76.04.445 Reports of fire.** (1) Any person engaged in any activity on forest lands shall immediately report to the department, in person or by radio, telephone, or telegraph, any fires on forest lands.

(2) Railroad companies and other public carriers operating on or through forest lands shall immediately report to the department, in person or by radio, telephone, or telegraph, any fires on or adjacent to their right-of-way or route. [1986 c 100 § 28.]

**76.04.455 Lighted material, etc.—Receptacles in conveyances.** (1) It is unlawful during the closed season for any person to throw away any lighted tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, matches, fireworks, charcoal, or other lighted material or to discharge any tracer or incendiary ammunition in any forest, brush, range, or grain areas.

(2) It is unlawful during the closed season for any individual to smoke any flammable material when in forest or

brush areas except on roads, cleared landings, gravel pits, or any similar area free of flammable material.

(3) Every conveyance operated through or above forest, range, brush, or grain areas shall be equipped in each compartment with a suitable receptacle for the disposition of lighted tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, matches, or other flammable material.

(4) Every person operating a public conveyance through or above forest, range, brush, or grain areas shall post a copy of this section in a conspicuous place within the smoking compartment of the conveyance; and every person operating a saw mill or a logging camp in any such areas shall post a copy of this section in a conspicuous place upon the ground or buildings of the milling or logging operation. [1986 c 100 § 29.]

**76.04.465 Certain snags to be felled currently with logging.** Standing dead trees constitute a substantial deterrent to effective fire control action in forest areas, but are also an important and essential habitat for many species of wildlife. To insure continued existence of these wildlife species and continued forest growth while minimizing the risk of destruction by conflagration, only certain snags must be felled currently with the logging. The department shall adopt rules relating to effective fire control action to require that only certain snags be felled, taking into consideration the need to protect the wildlife habitat. [1986 c 100 § 30.]

**76.04.475 Reimbursement for costs of suppression action.** Any person, firm, or corporation, public or private, obligated to take suppression action on any forest fire is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable costs incurred, subject to the following:

(1) No reimbursement is allowed under this section to a person, firm, or corporation whose negligence is responsible for the starting or existence of any fire for which costs may be recoverable pursuant to law. Reimbursement for fires resulting from slash burns are subject to RCW 76.04.486.

(2) If the fire is started in the course of or as a result of land clearing operations, right-of-way clearing, or a land-owner operation, the person, firm, or corporation conducting the operation shall supply:

(a) At no cost to the department, all equipment and able-bodied persons under contract, control, employment, or ownership that are requested by the department and are reasonably available until midnight of the day on which the fire started; and

(b) After midnight of the day on which the fire started, at no cost to the department, all equipment and able-bodied persons under contract, control, employment, or ownership that were within a one-half mile radius of the fire at the time of discovery, until the fire is declared out by the department. In no case may the person, firm, or corporation provide less than one suitable bulldozer and five able-bodied persons, or other equipment accepted by the department as equivalent, unless the department determines less is needed for the purpose of suppressing the fire; and

(c) If the person, firm, or corporation has no personnel or equipment within one-half mile of the fire, payment shall be made to the department for the minimum requirement of one

suitable bulldozer and five able-bodied persons, for the duration of the fire; and

(d) If, after midnight of the day on which the fire started, additional personnel and equipment are requested by the department, the person, firm, or corporation shall supply the personnel and equipment under contract, control, employment, or ownership outside the one-half mile radius, if reasonably available, but shall be reimbursed for such personnel and equipment as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(3) When a fire which occurred in the course of or as a result of land clearing operations, right-of-way clearing, or a landowner operation, which had previously been suppressed, rekindles, the person, firm, or corporation shall supply the same personnel and equipment, under the same conditions, as were required at the time of the original fire.

(4) Claims for reimbursement shall be submitted within a reasonable time to the department which shall upon verifying the amounts therein and the necessity thereof authorize payment at such rates as established by the department for wages and equipment rental. [1986 c 100 § 31.]

**76.04.486 Escaped slash burns—Obligations.** (1) All personnel and equipment required by the burning permit issued for a slash burn may be required by the department, at the permittee's expense, for suppression of a fire resulting from the slash burn until the fire is declared out by the department. In no case may the permittee provide less than one suitable bulldozer and five persons capable of taking suppression action. In addition, if a slash burn becomes an uncontrolled fire the department may recover from the landowner the actual costs incurred in suppressing the fire. The amount collected from the landowner shall be limited to and calculated at the rate of one dollar per acre for the landowner's total forest lands protected by the department, up to a maximum charge of fifty thousand dollars per escaped slash burn.

(2) The landowner contingency forest fire suppression account shall be used to pay and the permittee shall not be responsible for fire suppression expenditures greater than fifty thousand dollars or the total amount calculated for forest lands owned as determined in subsection (1) of this section for each escaped slash burn.

(3) All expenses incurred in suppressing a fire resulting from a slash burn in which negligence was involved shall be the obligation of the landowner. [1986 c 100 § 32.]

**76.04.495 Negligent starting of fires or allowance of extreme fire hazard or debris—Liability—Recovery of reasonable expenses—Lien.** (1) Any person, firm, or corporation: (a) Whose negligence is responsible for the starting or existence of a fire which spreads on forest land; or (b) who creates or allows an extreme fire hazard under RCW 76.04.660 to exist and which hazard contributes to the spread of a fire; or (c) who allows forest debris subject to RCW 76.04.650 to exist and which debris contributes to the spread of fire, shall be liable for any reasonable expenses made necessary by (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection. The state, a municipality, a forest protective association, or any fire protection agency of the United States may recover such reasonable expenses in fighting the fire, together with costs of investigation and litigation including reasonable attorneys' fees and taxable court costs, if the expense was authorized or subse-

quently approved by the department. The authority granted under this subsection allowing the recovery of reasonable expenses incurred by fire protection agencies of the United States shall apply only to such expenses incurred after June 30, 1993.

(2) The department or agency incurring such expense shall have a lien for the same against any property of the person, firm, or corporation liable under subsection (1) of this section by filing a claim of lien naming the person, firm, or corporation, describing the property against which the lien is claimed, specifying the amount expended on the lands on which the firefighting took place and the period during which the expenses were incurred, and signing the claim with post office address. No claim of lien is valid unless filed, with the county auditor of the county in which the property sought to be charged is located, within a period of ninety days after the expenses of the claimant are incurred. The lien may be foreclosed in the same manner as a mechanic's lien is foreclosed under the statutes of the state of Washington. [1993 c 196 § 2; 1986 c 100 § 33.]

#### ASSESSMENTS, OBLIGATIONS, FUNDS

**76.04.600 Owners to protect forests.** Every owner of forest land in the state of Washington shall furnish or provide, during the season of the year when there is danger of forest fires, adequate protection against the spread of fire thereon or therefrom which shall meet with the approval of the department. [1986 c 100 § 34.]

**76.04.610 Forest fire protection assessment.** (1)(a) If any owner of forest land within a forest protection zone neglects or fails to provide adequate fire protection as required by RCW 76.04.600, the department shall provide such protection and shall annually impose the following assessments on each parcel of such land: (i) A flat fee assessment of seventeen dollars and fifty cents; and (ii) twenty-seven cents on each acre exceeding fifty acres.

(b) Assessors may, at their option, collect the assessment on tax exempt lands. If the assessor elects not to collect the assessment, the department may bill the landowner directly.

(2) An owner who has paid assessments on two or more parcels, each containing fewer than fifty acres and each within the same county, may obtain the following refund:

(a) If all the parcels together contain less than fifty acres, then the refund is equal to the flat fee assessments paid, reduced by the total of (i) seventeen dollars and (ii) the total of the amounts retained by the county from such assessments under subsection (5) of this section.

(b) If all the parcels together contain fifty or more acres, then the refund is equal to the flat fee assessments paid, reduced by the total of (i) seventeen dollars, (ii) twenty-seven cents for each acre exceeding fifty acres, and (iii) the total of the amounts retained by the county from such assessments under subsection (5) of this section.

Applications for refunds shall be submitted to the department on a form prescribed by the department and in the same year in which the assessments were paid. The department may not provide refunds to applicants who do not provide verification that all assessments and property taxes on the property have been paid. Applications may be made by mail.

In addition to the procedures under this subsection, property owners with multiple parcels in a single county who qualify for a refund under this section may apply to the department on an application listing all the parcels owned in order to have the assessment computed on all parcels but billed to a single parcel. Property owners with the following number of parcels may apply to the department in the year indicated:

Year	Number of Parcels
2002	10 or more parcels
2003	8 or more parcels
2004 and thereafter	6 or more parcels

The department must compute the correct assessment and allocate one parcel in the county to use to collect the assessment. The county must then bill the forest fire protection assessment on that one allocated identified parcel. The landowner is responsible for notifying the department of any changes in parcel ownership.

(3) Beginning January 1, 1991, under the administration and at the discretion of the department up to two hundred thousand dollars per year of this assessment shall be used in support of those rural fire districts assisting the department in fire protection services on forest lands.

(4) For the purpose of this chapter, the department may divide the forest lands of the state, or any part thereof, into districts, for fire protection and assessment purposes, may classify lands according to the character of timber prevailing, and the fire hazard existing, and place unprotected lands under the administration of the proper district. Amounts paid or contracted to be paid by the department for protection of forest lands from funds at its disposal shall be a lien upon the property protected, unless reimbursed by the owner within ten days after October 1st of the year in which they were incurred. The department shall be prepared to make statement thereof, upon request, to a forest owner whose own protection has not been previously approved as to its adequacy, the department shall report the same to the assessor of the county in which the property is situated. The assessor shall extend the amounts upon the tax rolls covering the property, and upon authorization from the department shall levy the forest protection assessment against the amounts of unimproved land as shown in each ownership on the county assessor's records. The assessor may then segregate on the records to provide that the improved land and improvements thereon carry the millage levy designed to support the rural fire protection districts as provided for in RCW 52.16.170.

(5) The amounts assessed shall be collected at the time, in the same manner, by the same procedure, and with the same penalties attached that general state and county taxes on the same property are collected, except that errors in assessments may be corrected at any time by the department certifying them to the treasurer of the county in which the land involved is situated. Assessments shall be known and designated as assessments of the year in which the amounts became reimbursable. Upon the collection of assessments the county treasurer shall place fifty cents of the total assessments paid on a parcel for fire protection into the county current expense fund to defray the costs of listing, billing, and collecting these assessments. The treasurer shall then trans-

mit the balance to the department. Collections shall be applied against expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this section, including necessary and reasonable administrative costs incurred by the department in the enforcement of these provisions. The department may also expend sums collected from owners of forest lands or received from any other source for necessary administrative costs in connection with the enforcement of RCW 76.04.660.

(6) When land against which forest protection assessments are outstanding is acquired for delinquent taxes and sold at public auction, the state shall have a prior lien on the proceeds of sale over and above the amount necessary to satisfy the county's delinquent tax judgment. The county treasurer, in case the proceeds of sale exceed the amount of the delinquent tax judgment, shall immediately remit to the department the amount of the outstanding forest protection assessments.

(7) All nonfederal public bodies owning or administering forest land included in a forest protection zone shall pay the forest protection assessments provided in this section and the special forest fire suppression account assessments under RCW 76.04.630. The forest protection assessments and special forest fire suppression account assessments shall be payable by nonfederal public bodies from available funds within thirty days following receipt of the written notice from the department which is given after October 1st of the year in which the protection was provided. Unpaid assessments are not a lien against the nonfederal publicly owned land but shall constitute a debt by the nonfederal public body to the department and are subject to interest charges at the legal rate. During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the forest fire protection assessment account may be appropriated to The Evergreen State College for analysis and recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's mechanisms for funding fire prevention and suppression activities.

(8) A public body, having failed to previously pay the forest protection assessments required of it by this section, which fails to suppress a fire on or originating from forest lands owned or administered by it, is liable for the costs of suppression incurred by the department or its agent and is not entitled to reimbursement of costs incurred by the public body in the suppression activities.

(9) The department may adopt rules to implement this section, including, but not limited to, rules on levying and collecting forest protection assessments. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 922; 2007 c 110 § 1; 2004 c 216 § 1; 2001 c 279 § 2; 1993 c 36 § 1; 1989 c 362 § 1; 1988 c 273 § 3; 1986 c 100 § 35.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.04.620 State funds—Loans—Recovery of funds from the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account.** Biennial general fund appropriations to the department of natural resources normally provide funds for the purpose of paying the emergency fire costs and expenses incurred and/or approved by the department in forest fire suppression or in reacting to any potential forest fire situation. When a determination is made that the fire started in the course of or as a result of a landowner operation, moneys expended from such appropriations in the suppression of the fire shall be recovered from the landowner contingency forest

fire suppression account. The department shall transmit to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund any such moneys which are later recovered. Moneys recovered during the biennium in which they are expended may be spent for purposes set forth in this section during the same biennium, without reappropriation. Loans between the general fund and the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account are authorized for emergency fire suppression. The loans shall not exceed the amount appropriated for emergency forest fire suppression costs and shall bear interest at the then current rate of interest as determined by the state treasurer. [1986 c 100 § 36.]

**76.04.630 Landowner contingency forest fire suppression account—Expenditures—Assessments.** There is created a landowner contingency forest fire suppression account in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only as provided in this section. Disbursements from the account shall be on authorization of the commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's designee. The account is subject to the allotment procedure provided under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for disbursements.

The department may expend from this account the amounts as may be available and as it considers appropriate for the payment of emergency fire costs resulting from a participating landowner fire. The department may, when moneys are available from the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account, expend moneys for summarily abating, isolating, or reducing an extreme fire hazard under RCW 76.04.660. All moneys recovered as a result of the department's actions, from the owner or person responsible, under RCW 76.04.660 shall be deposited in the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account.

When a determination is made that the fire was started by other than a landowner operation, moneys expended from this account in the suppression of such fire shall be recovered from the general fund appropriations as may be available for emergency fire suppression costs. The department shall deposit in the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account moneys paid out of the account which are later recovered, less reasonable costs of recovery.

This account shall be established and renewed by an annual special forest fire suppression account assessment paid by participating landowners at a rate to be established by the department. In establishing assessments, the department shall seek to establish and thereafter reestablish a balance in the account of three million dollars. The department may establish a flat fee assessment of no more than seven dollars and fifty cents for participating landowners owning parcels of fifty acres or less. For participating landowners owning parcels larger than fifty acres, the department may charge the flat fee assessment plus a per acre assessment for every acre over fifty acres. The per acre assessment established by the department may not exceed fifteen cents per acre per year. The assessments may differ to equitably distribute the assessment based on emergency fire suppression cost experience necessitated by landowner operations. Amounts assessed for this account shall be a lien upon the forest lands with respect to which the assessment is made and may be collected as directed by the department in the same manner as forest pro-

tection assessments. Payment of emergency costs from this account shall in no way restrict the right of the department to recover costs pursuant to RCW 76.04.495 or other laws.

When the department determines that a forest fire was started in the course of or as a result of a landowner operation, the determination shall be final, unless, within ninety days of the notification, or an interested party serves a request for a hearing before the department. The hearing shall constitute an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act, and an appeal shall be in accordance with RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 129; 1993 c 36 § 2; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 31. Prior: 1989 c 362 § 2; 1989 c 175 § 162; 1986 c 100 § 37.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## HAZARD ABATEMENT

**76.04.650 Disposal of forest debris—Permission to allow trees to fall on another's land.** Everyone clearing land or clearing right-of-way for railroad, public highway, private road, ditch, dike, pipe or wire line, or for any other transmission, or transportation utility right-of-way, shall pile and burn or dispose of by other satisfactory means, all forest debris cut thereon, as rapidly as the clearing or cutting progresses, or at such other times as the department may specify, and if during the closed season, in compliance with the law requiring burning permits.

No person clearing any land or right-of-way, or in cutting or logging timber for any purpose, may fell, or permit to be felled, any trees so that they may fall onto land owned by another without first obtaining permission from the owner in addition to complying with the terms of this section for the disposal of refuse. All the terms of this section and other forest laws of the state shall be observed in all clearings of right-of-way or other land on behalf of the state itself or any county thereof, either directly or by contract, and, unless unavoidable emergency prevents, provision shall be made by all officials directing the work for withholding a sufficient portion of the payment therefor until the disposal is completed, to insure the completion of the disposal in compliance with this section. [1986 c 100 § 38.]

**76.04.660 Additional fire hazards—Extreme fire hazard areas—Abatement, isolation or reduction—Summary action—Recovery of costs—Inspection of property.**

(1) The owner of land on which there is an additional fire hazard, when the hazard is the result of a landowner operation or the land is within an area covered by a forest health hazard warning issued under RCW 76.06.180, shall take reasonable measures to reduce the danger of fire spreading from the area and may abate the hazard by burning or other satisfactory means.

(2) An extreme fire hazard shall exist within areas covered by a forest health hazard order issued by the commissioner of public lands under RCW 76.06.180 in which there is an additional fire hazard caused by disturbance agents and the landowner has failed to take such action as required by the forest health hazard order. The duties and liability of such

landowner under this chapter are as described in subsections (5), (6), and (7) of this section.

(3) The department shall adopt rules defining areas of extreme fire hazard that the owner and person responsible shall abate. The areas shall include but are not limited to high risk areas such as where life or buildings may be endangered, areas adjacent to public highways, and areas of frequent public use.

(4) The department may adopt rules defining other conditions of extreme fire hazard with a high potential for fire spreading to lands in other ownerships. The department may prescribe additional measures that shall be taken by the owner and person responsible to isolate or reduce the extreme fire hazard.

(5) The owner or person responsible for the existence of the extreme fire hazard is required to abate, isolate, or reduce the hazard. The duty to abate, isolate, or reduce, and liability under this chapter, arise upon creation of the extreme fire hazard. Liability shall include but not be limited to all fire suppression expenses incurred by the department, regardless of fire cause.

(6) If the owner or person responsible for the existence of the extreme fire hazard or forest debris subject to RCW 76.04.650 refuses, neglects, or unsuccessfully attempts to abate, isolate, or reduce the same, the department may summarily abate, isolate, or reduce the hazard as required by this chapter and recover twice the actual cost thereof from the owner or person responsible. Landowner contingency forest fire suppression account moneys may be used by the department, when available, for this purpose. Moneys recovered by the department pursuant to this section shall be returned to the landowner contingency forest fire suppression account.

(7) Such costs shall include all salaries and expenses of people and equipment incurred therein, including those of the department. All such costs shall also be a lien upon the land enforceable in the same manner with the same effect as a mechanic's lien.

(8) The summary action may be taken only after ten days' notice in writing has been given to the owner or reputed owner of the land on which the extreme fire hazard or forest debris subject to RCW 76.04.650 exists. The notice shall include a suggested method of abatement and estimated cost thereof. The notice shall be by personal service or by registered or certified mail addressed to the owner or reputed owner at the owner's last known place of residence.

(9) A landowner or manager may make a written request to the department to inspect their property and provide a written notice that they have complied with a forest health hazard warning or forest health hazard order, or otherwise adequately abated, isolated, or reduced an additional or extreme fire hazard. An additional or extreme fire hazard shall be considered to continue to exist unless and until the department, in its sole discretion, issues such notice. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 130; 2007 c 480 § 13; 1986 c 100 § 39.]

**Effective date—**2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7: See note following RCW 43.03.027.

## FIRE REGULATION

**76.04.700 Failure to extinguish campfire.** It is unlawful for any person to start any fire upon any camping ground

and upon leaving the camping ground fail to extinguish the fire. [1986 c 100 § 40.]

**76.04.710 Wilful setting of fire.** It is unlawful for any person to wilfully start a fire, whether on his or her land or the land of another, whereby forest lands or the property of another is endangered, under circumstances not amounting to arson in either the first or second degree or reckless burning in either the first or second degree. [1986 c 100 § 41.]

**76.04.720 Removal of notices.** It is unlawful for any person to wilfully and without authorization deface or remove any warning notice posted under the requirements of this chapter. [1986 c 100 § 42.]

**76.04.730 Negligent fire—Spread.** It is unlawful for any person to negligently allow fire originating on the person's own property to spread to the property of another. [1986 c 100 § 43.]

**76.04.740 Reckless burning.** (1) It is unlawful to knowingly cause a fire or explosion and thereby place forest lands in danger of destruction or damage.

(2) This section does not apply to acts amounting to reckless burning in the first degree under RCW 9A.48.040.

(3) Terms used in this section shall have the meanings given to them in Title 9A RCW.

(4) A violation of this section shall be punished as a gross misdemeanor under RCW 9A.20.021. [1986 c 100 § 44.]

**76.04.750 Uncontrolled fire a public nuisance—Suppression—Duties—Summary action—Recovery of costs.** Any fire on or threatening any forest land burning uncontrolled and without proper action being taken to prevent its spread, notwithstanding the origin of the fire, is a public nuisance by reason of its menace to life and property. Any person engaged in any activity on such lands, having knowledge of the fire, notwithstanding the origin or subsequent spread thereof on his or her own or other forest lands, and the landowner, shall make every reasonable effort to suppress the fire. If the person has not suppressed the fire and the fire is on or threatening forest land within a forest protection zone, the department shall summarily suppress the fire. If the owner, lessee, other possessor of such land, or an agent or contractor of the owner, lessee, or possessor, having knowledge of the fire, has not made a reasonable effort to suppress the fire, the cost thereof may be recovered from the owner, lessee, or other possessor of the land and the cost of the work shall also constitute a lien upon the real property or chattels under the person's ownership. The lien may be filed by the department in the office of the county auditor and foreclosed in the same manner provided by law for the foreclosure of mechanics' liens. The prosecuting attorney shall bring the action to recover the cost or foreclose the lien, upon the request of the department. In the absence of negligence, no costs, other than those provided in RCW 76.04.475, shall be recovered from any landowner for lands subject to the forest protection assessment with respect to the land on which the fire burns.

When a fire occurs in a land clearing, right-of-way clearing, or landowner operation it shall be fought to the full limit

of the available employees and equipment, and the firefighting shall be continued with the necessary crews and equipment in such numbers as are, in the opinion of the department, sufficient to suppress the fire. The fire shall not be left without a firefighting crew or fire patrol until authority has been granted in writing by the department. [1988 c 273 § 4; 1986 c 100 § 45.]

**76.04.900 Captions—1986 c 100.** As used in this act subchapter and section captions constitute no part of the law. [1986 c 100 § 60.]

## Chapter 76.06 RCW

### FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

#### Sections

76.06.010	Forest insects and tree diseases are public nuisance.
76.06.020	Definitions.
76.06.030	Administration—Comprehensive forest health program—Limited liability.
76.06.040	Maintenance of forest lands in healthy condition.
76.06.130	Exotic forest insect or disease control—Department's authority and duties—Declaration of forest health emergency.
76.06.140	Forest health problems—Findings.
76.06.150	Forest health—Commissioner of public lands designated as state's lead—Report to legislature.
76.06.160	Forest health issues—Tiered system.
76.06.170	Forest health technical advisory committee.
76.06.180	Forest health hazard warning—Forest health hazard order—Notice—Appeal.
76.06.190	Chapter 480, Laws of 2007 subject to the provisions of chapter 76.09 RCW.
76.06.900	Severability.

**76.06.010 Forest insects and tree diseases are public nuisance.** The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) Forest insects and forest tree diseases which threaten the permanent timber production of the forested areas of the state of Washington are a public nuisance.

(2) Exotic forest insects or diseases, even in small numbers, can constitute serious threats to native forests. Native tree species may lack natural immunity. There are often no natural control agents such as diseases, predators, or parasites to limit populations of exotic forest insects or diseases. Exotic forest insects or diseases can also outcompete, displace, or destroy habitat of native species. It is in the public interest to identify, control, and eradicate outbreaks of exotic forest insects or diseases that threaten the diversity, abundance, and survivability of native forest trees and the environment. [2003 c 314 § 1; 1951 c 233 § 1.]

**Findings—2003 c 314:** See note following RCW 17.24.220.

**76.06.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agent" means the recognized legal representative, representatives, agent, or agents for any owner.

(2) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public lands.

(3) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(4) "Disturbance agent" means those forces that damage or kill significant numbers of forest trees, such as insects, diseases, wind storms, ice storms, and fires.

(2012 Ed.)

(5) "Exotic" means not native to forest lands in Washington state.

(6) "Forest health" means, for the purposes of this chapter, the condition of a forest being sound in ecological function, sustainable, resilient, and resistant to insects, diseases, fire, and other disturbance, and having the capacity to meet landowner objectives.

(7) "Forest health emergency" means the introduction of, or an outbreak of, an exotic forest insect or disease that poses an imminent danger of damage to the environment by threatening the survivability of native tree species.

(8) "Forest insect or disease" means a living stage of an insect, other invertebrate animal, or disease-causing organism or agent that can directly or indirectly injure or cause disease or damage in trees, or parts of trees, or in processed or manufactured wood, or other products of trees.

(9) "Forest land" means any land on which there are sufficient numbers and distribution of trees and associated species to, in the judgment of the department, contribute to the spread of forest insect or forest disease outbreaks that could be detrimental to forest health.

(10) "Integrated pest management" means a strategy that uses various combinations of pest control methods, including biological, cultural, and chemical methods, in a compatible manner to achieve satisfactory control and ensure favorable economic and environmental consequences.

(11) "Native" means having populated Washington's forested lands prior to European settlement.

(12) "Outbreak" means a rapidly expanding population of insects or diseases with potential to spread.

(13) "Owner" means and includes persons or their agents.

(14) "Person" means any individual, partnership, private, public, or municipal corporation, county, federal, state, or local governmental agency, tribes, or association of individuals of whatever nature.

(15) "Timber land" means any land on which there is a sufficient number of trees, standing or down, to constitute, in the judgment of the department, a forest insect or forest disease breeding ground of a nature to constitute a menace, injurious and dangerous to permanent forest growth in the district under consideration.

(16) "Uncharacteristic" means ecologically atypical for a forest or vegetation type or plant association and refers to fire, insect, or disease events that are not within a natural range of variability. [2007 c 480 § 2; 2003 c 314 § 2; 2000 c 11 § 2; 1988 c 128 § 15; 1951 c 233 § 2.]

**Findings—2003 c 314:** See note following RCW 17.24.220.

**76.06.030 Administration—Comprehensive forest health program—Limited liability.** (1) This chapter shall be administered by the department.

(2) The department has the lead role in developing a comprehensive forest health program to achieve the goals of chapter 480, Laws of 2007. Within available funding, the department shall:

(a) Develop, gather, and disseminate information on forest health conditions, monitor forest health conditions and changes over time, and coordinate and enter agreements with interested and affected parties;

(b) Coordinate with universities, university extension services, federal and state agencies, private, public, and tribal forest landowners, consulting foresters, and forest managers to monitor forest fuel buildup, forest insect and disease outbreaks, and wind and ice storm events; and

(c) Coordinate with universities, university extension services, and state and federal agencies to provide education and technical assistance to private, public, and tribal forest landowners on silvicultural and forest management science, techniques, and technology to maintain forests in conditions that are resilient and resistant to disturbance agents.

(3) The department may implement a technical committee to advise on subjects and procedures for monitoring forest health conditions and program activities.

(4) The department may coordinate, support, and assist in establishing cooperative forest health projects to address outbreaks of insects or diseases. Priority for assistance authorized under this section shall be given to areas under forest health hazard warnings and areas where forest health decline has resulted in increased risk to public safety from fire.

(5) The state and its officers and employees are not liable for damages to a person or their property to the extent that liability is asserted to arise from providing or failing to provide assistance under chapter 480, Laws of 2007. [2007 c 480 § 3; 1988 c 128 § 16; 1951 c 233 § 3.]

**76.06.040 Maintenance of forest lands in healthy condition.** Landowners and managers are encouraged to maintain their forest lands in a healthy condition in order to meet their individual ownership objectives, protect public resources as defined in chapter 76.09 RCW, and avoid contributing to forest insect or disease outbreaks or increasing the risk of uncharacteristic fire. [2007 c 480 § 4; 1951 c 233 § 4.]

**76.06.130 Exotic forest insect or disease control—Department's authority and duties—Declaration of forest health emergency.** The department is authorized to contribute resources and expertise to assist the department of agriculture in control or eradication efforts authorized under chapter 17.24 RCW in order to protect forest lands of the state.

If either the department of agriculture has not taken action under chapter 17.24 RCW or the commissioner finds that additional efforts are required to control or prevent an outbreak of an exotic forest insect or disease which has not become so habituated that it can no longer be eradicated and that poses an imminent danger of damage to the forested environment by threatening the diversity, abundance, and survivability of native tree species, or both, the commissioner may declare a forest health emergency.

Upon declaration of a forest health emergency, the department must delineate the area at risk and determine the most appropriate integrated pest management methods to control the outbreak, in consultation with other interested agencies, affected tribes, and affected forest landowners. The department must notify affected forest landowners of its intent to conduct control operations.

Upon declaration of a forest health emergency by the commissioner, the department is authorized to enter into

agreements with forest landowners, companies, individuals, tribal entities, and federal, state, and local agencies to accomplish control of exotic forest insects or diseases on any affected forest lands using such funds as have been, or may be, made available.

The department must proceed with the control of the exotic forest insects or diseases on affected nonfederal and nontribal forest lands with or without the cooperation of the owner. The department may reimburse cooperating forest landowners and agencies for actual cost of equipment, labor, and materials utilized in cooperative exotic forest insect or disease control projects, as agreed to by the department.

A forest health emergency no longer exists when the department finds that the exotic forest insect or disease has been controlled or eradicated, that the imminent threat no longer exists, or that there is no longer good likelihood of effective control.

Nothing under this chapter diminishes the authority and responsibility of the department of agriculture under chapter 17.24 RCW. [2003 c 314 § 3.]

**Findings—2003 c 314:** See note following RCW 17.24.220.

**76.06.140 Forest health problems—Findings.** The legislature finds as follows:

(1) Washington faces serious forest health problems, primarily in eastern Washington, where forests are overcrowded or trees lack sufficient resilience to insects, diseases, wind, ice storms, and fire. The causes of and contributions to these conditions include fire suppression, past timber harvesting and silvicultural practices, altered species composition and stand structure, and the amplified risks that occur when the urban interface penetrates forest land.

(2) There is a private and public interest in addressing uncharacteristic outbreaks of native, naturalized, and nonnative insects and diseases, and reducing the risk of significant loss due to ice storms, wind storms, and uncharacteristic fire. The public interest is in protecting forest productivity on forests managed for commodity production; restoring and maintaining forest ecosystem vitality and natural forest processes and functions; reducing the cost of fire suppression and the resulting public expenditures; protecting, restoring, and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, including the habitat of threatened or endangered species; and protecting drinking water supplies and water quality.

(3) Well managed forests are the first line of defense in reducing the likelihood of uncharacteristic fire, insect, and disease events, and supporting conservation and restoration of desired plants and animals. Active management of forests, consistent with landowner objectives and the protection of public resources, is the most economical and effective way to promote forest health and protect communities. Fire, native insects, and diseases perform important ecological functions when their occurrence does not present a material threat to long-term forest productivity and increase the likelihood of uncharacteristic fire.

(4) Forest health problems may exist on forest land regardless of ownership, and the state should pursue collaboration with the federal government to address common health deficiencies. [2007 c 480 § 1; 2004 c 218 § 1.]

**Effective date—2004 c 218:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state gov-

ernment and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 29, 2004]." [2004 c 218 § 11.]

**76.06.150 Forest health—Commissioner of public lands designated as state's lead—Report to legislature.**

(1) The commissioner of public lands is designated as the state of Washington's lead for all forest health issues.

(2) The commissioner of public lands shall strive to promote communications between the state and the federal government regarding forest land management decisions that potentially affect the health of forests in Washington and will allow the state to have an influence on the management of federally owned land in Washington. Such government-to-government cooperation is vital if the condition of the state's public and private forest lands are to be protected. These activities may include, when deemed by the commissioner to be in the best interest of the state:

(a) Representing the state's interest before all appropriate local, state, and federal agencies;

(b) Assuming the lead state role for developing formal comments on federal forest management plans that may have an impact on the health of forests in Washington;

(c) Pursuing in an expedited manner any available and appropriate cooperative agreements, including cooperating agency status designation, with the United States forest service and the United States bureau of land management that allow for meaningful participation in any federal land management plans that could affect the department's strategic plan for healthy forests and effective fire prevention and suppression, including the pursuit of any options available for giving effect to the cooperative philosophy contained within the national environmental policy act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4331); and

(d) Pursuing agreements with federal agencies in the service of forest biomass energy partnerships and cooperatives authorized under RCW 43.30.835 through 43.30.840.

(3) The commissioner of public lands shall report to the chairs of the appropriate standing committees of the legislature every year on progress under this section, including the identification, if deemed appropriate by the commissioner, of any needed statutory changes, policy issues, or funding needs. [2009 c 163 § 5; 2004 c 218 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 163:** See note following RCW 43.30.835.

**Effective date—2004 c 218:** See note following RCW 76.06.140.

**76.06.160 Forest health issues—Tiered system.** Forest health issues shall be addressed by a tiered system.

(1) The first tier is intended to maintain forest health and protect forests from disturbance agents through the voluntary efforts of landowners. Tier 1 is the desired status. Consistent with landowner objectives and the protection of public resources, forests should be managed in ways that create, restore, or maintain healthy forest ecosystems so that disturbance agents occur or exist at nonepidemic levels. To the extent of available funding, information and technical assistance will be made available to forest landowners so they can plan for and implement necessary forest health maintenance and restoration activities.

(2) The second tier is intended to manage the development of threats to forest health, or address existing threats to forest health, due to disturbance agents. Actions by landown-

ers to address such threats to forest health are voluntary except as required under chapter 76.04 RCW to reduce the danger of the spread of fire. Actions suggested to reduce threats to forest health are specified in forest health hazard warnings issued by the commissioner of public lands under RCW 76.06.180. Within available funding, site-specific information, technical assistance, and project coordination services shall be offered as determined appropriate by the department.

(3) The third tier is intended to address significant threats to forest health due to disturbance agents that have spread to multiple forest ownerships or increased forest fuel that is likely to further the spread of fire. Actions required to reduce significant threats to forest health are specified in forest health hazard orders issued by the commissioner of public lands under RCW 76.06.180(5). Within available funding, site-specific information, technical assistance, and project coordination services shall be offered as determined appropriate by the department. Landowners who are provided notice of a forest health hazard order under RCW 76.06.180(5) and fail to take the action required under such order may be subject to increased liability for the spread of fire as described in RCW 76.04.495 and 76.04.660. However, a private landowner need not take actions required under the third tier, and may not be held liable for the failure to take such actions, where the disturbance agents on the private landowner's land spread from state or federal lands or where the presence of disturbance agents on state or federal lands would limit the effectiveness of actions required on the private landowner's land under the third tier. [2007 c 480 § 5.]

**76.06.170 Forest health technical advisory committee.**

(1) The commissioner of public lands may appoint a forest health technical advisory committee when the commissioner determines that forest lands in any area of the state appear to be threatened by a forest health condition of such a nature, extent, or timing that action to reduce the threat may be necessary.

(a) The committee shall consist of one scientist chosen for expertise in forest ecology, one scientist chosen for expertise in aquatic ecology, one scientist chosen for expertise in wildlife biology, two scientists chosen for expertise relative to the attendant risk, one specialist in wildfire protection, one specialist in fuels management, one forester with extensive silvicultural experience in the affected forest type, and a chairperson who shall represent the commissioner. The departments of fish and wildlife, ecology, and natural resources shall provide technical assistance to the committee in the areas of fish and wildlife, water quality, and forest practices, but shall not be members of the committee. The director of forest health protection of region 6 of the United States department of agriculture forest service or their named designee shall be invited to be an ex officio member of the committee. In the event the area affected contains substantial acreage of tribal or federally owned lands, representatives of the affected agencies and tribes shall be invited to participate in the proceedings of the committee.

(b) The commissioner may disband the committee when he or she deems appropriate.

(2) The committee shall evaluate the threat to forest health and make a timely report to the commissioner on its nature, extent, and location.

(a) In its deliberations, the committee shall consider the need for action to reduce the threat and alternative methods of achieving the desired results, including the environmental risks associated with the alternatives and the risks associated with taking no action.

(b) The committee shall also recommend potential approaches to achieve the desired results for forest land ownerships of fewer than ten acres and for forests owned for scientific, study, recreational, or other uses not compatible with active management.

(c) The committee shall recommend to the commissioner whether a forest health hazard warning or forest health hazard order is warranted based on the factors in RCW 76.06.180(2) or when otherwise determined by the committee to be warranted.

(d) When the commissioner issues a forest health hazard warning or forest health hazard order, the committee shall monitor the progress and results of activities to address the hazard, and periodically report its findings to the commissioner.

(3) The exercise by forest health technical advisory committee members of their authority under this section shall not imply or create any liability on their part. Advisory committee members shall be compensated as provided in RCW 43.03.250 and shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses as provided by RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Costs associated with the committee may be paid from the general fund appropriation made available to the department of natural resources for fire suppression. [2007 c 480 § 6.]

**76.06.180 Forest health hazard warning—Forest health hazard order—Notice—Appeal.** (1) Prior to issuing a forest health hazard warning or forest health hazard order, the commissioner shall consider the findings and recommendations of the forest health technical advisory committee and shall consult with county government officials, forest landowners and forest land managers, consulting foresters, and other interested parties to gather information on the threat, opportunities or constraints on treatment options, and other information they may provide. The commissioner, or a designee, shall conduct a public hearing in a county within the geographical area being considered.

(2) The commissioner of public lands may issue a forest health hazard warning when he or she deems such action is necessary to manage the development of a threat to forest health or address an existing threat to forest health. A decision to issue a forest health hazard warning may be based on existing forest stand conditions and:

(a) The presence of an uncharacteristic insect or disease outbreak that has or is likely to (i) spread to multiple forest ownerships and cause extensive damage to forests; or (ii) significantly increase forest fuel that is likely to further the spread of uncharacteristic fire;

(b) When, due to extensive physical damage from wind or ice storm or other cause, there are (i) insect populations building up to large scale levels; or (ii) significantly increased forest fuels that are likely to further the spread of uncharacteristic fire; or

(c) When otherwise determined by the commissioner to be appropriate.

(3) The commissioner of public lands may issue a forest health hazard order when he or she deems such action is necessary to address a significant threat to forest health. A decision to issue a forest health hazard order may be based on existing forest stand conditions and:

(a) The presence of an uncharacteristic insect or disease outbreak that has (i) spread to multiple forest ownerships and has caused and is likely to continue to cause extensive damage to forests; or (ii) significantly increased forest fuels that are likely to further the spread of uncharacteristic fire;

(b) When, due to extensive physical damage from wind or ice storm or other cause (i) insect populations are causing extensive damage to forests; or (ii) significantly increased forest fuels are likely to further the spread of uncharacteristic fire;

(c) Insufficient landowner action under a forest health hazard warning; or

(d) When otherwise determined by the commissioner to be appropriate.

(4) A forest health hazard warning or forest health hazard order shall be issued by use of a commissioner's order. General notice of the commissioner's order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county within the area covered by the order and on the department's web site. The order shall specify the boundaries of the area affected, including federal and tribal lands, the forest stand conditions that would make a parcel subject to the provisions of the order, and the actions landowners or land managers should take to reduce the hazard. If the forest health hazard warning or order relates to land managed by the department, the warning or order may also contain provisions for the department's utilization of any forest biomass pursuant to chapter 79.150 RCW.

(5) Written notice of a forest health hazard warning or forest health hazard order shall be provided to forest landowners of specifically affected property.

(a) The notice shall set forth:

(i) The reasons for the action;

(ii) The boundaries of the area affected, including federal and tribal lands;

(iii) Suggested actions that should be taken by the forest landowner under a forest health hazard warning or the actions that must be taken by a forest landowner under a forest health hazard order;

(iv) The time within which such actions should or must be taken;

(v) How to obtain information or technical assistance on forest health conditions and treatment options;

(vi) The right to request mitigation under subsection (6) of this section and appeal under subsection (7) of this section;

(vii) These requirements are advisory only for federal and tribal lands.

(b) The notice shall be served by personal service or by mail to the latest recorded real property owner, as shown by the records of the county recording officer as defined in RCW 65.08.060. Service by mail is effective on the date of mailing. Proof of service shall be by affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury.

(6) Forest landowners who have been issued a forest health hazard order under subsection (5) of this section may apply to the department for the remission or mitigation of such order. The application shall be made to the department within fifteen days after notice of the order has been served. Upon receipt of the application, the department may remit or mitigate the order upon whatever terms the department in its discretion deems proper, provided the department deems the remission or mitigation to be in the best interests of carrying out the purposes of this chapter. The department may ascertain the facts regarding all such applications in such reasonable manner and under such rule as it deems proper.

(7) Forest landowners who have been issued a forest health hazard order under subsection (5) of this section may appeal the order to the pollution control hearings board.

The appeal shall be filed within thirty days after notice of the order has been served, unless application for mitigation has been made to the department. When such an application for mitigation is made, such appeal shall be filed within thirty days after notice of the disposition of the application for mitigation has been served as provided in RCW 43.21B.230.

(8) A forest health hazard order issued under subsection (5) of this section is effective thirty days after date of service unless application for remission or mitigation is made or an appeal is filed. When an application for remission or mitigation is made, the order is effective thirty days after notice setting forth the disposition of the application is served unless an appeal is filed from such disposition. Whenever an appeal of the order is filed, the order shall become effective only upon completion of all administrative and judicial review proceedings and the issuance of a final decision confirming the order in whole or in part.

(9) Upon written request, the department may certify as adequate a forest health management plan developed by a forest landowner, before or in response to a forest health hazard warning or forest health hazard order, if the plan is likely to achieve the desired result and the terms of the plan are being diligently followed by the forest landowner. The certification of adequacy shall be determined by the department in its sole discretion, and be provided to the requestor in writing. [2010 c 210 § 18; 2010 c 126 § 8; 2007 c 480 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2010 c 126 § 8 and by 2010 c 210 § 18, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**76.06.190 Chapter 480, Laws of 2007 subject to the provisions of chapter 76.09 RCW.** Nothing in chapter 480, Laws of 2007 shall exempt actions specified under the authority of chapter 480, Laws of 2007 from the application of the provisions of chapter 76.09 RCW and rules adopted thereunder which govern forest practices. [2007 c 480 § 9.]

**76.06.900 Severability.** If any part of this chapter or requirements imposed upon landowners pursuant to this chapter are found to conflict with requirements of other statutes or rules, the conflicting part of this chapter or requirements imposed pursuant to this chapter shall be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict. The finding or determina-

tion shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter or such requirements. [2007 c 480 § 10.]

## Chapter 76.09 RCW FOREST PRACTICES

### Sections

76.09.010	Legislative finding and declaration.
76.09.020	Definitions.
76.09.030	Forest practices board—Created—Membership—Terms—Vacancies—Meetings—Compensation, travel expenses—Staff.
76.09.040	Forest practices rules—Adoption—Review of proposed rules—Hearings—Fish protection standards—Program for the acquisition of riparian open space.
76.09.050	Rules establishing classes of forest practices—Applications for classes of forest practices—Approval or disapproval—Notifications—Procedures—Appeals—Waiver.
76.09.055	Findings—Emergency rule making authorized.
76.09.060	Form and contents of notification and application—Reforestation requirements—Conversion of forest land to other use—New applications—Approval—Emergencies.
76.09.063	Forest practices permit—Habitat incentives agreement.
76.09.065	Fee for applications and notifications related to the commercial harvest of timber—Forest practices application account—Creation—Applications submitted to a local governmental entity.
76.09.067	Application for forest practices—Owner of perpetual timber rights.
76.09.070	Reforestation—Requirements—Procedures—Notification on sale or transfer.
76.09.080	Stop work orders—Grounds—Contents—Procedure—Appeals.
76.09.090	Notice of failure to comply—Contents—Procedures—Appeals—Hearing—Final order—Limitations on actions.
76.09.100	Failure to comply with water quality protection—Department of ecology authorized to petition appeals board—Action on petition.
76.09.110	Final orders or final decisions binding upon all parties.
76.09.120	Failure of owner to take required course of action—Notice of cost—Department authorized to complete course of action—Liability of owner for costs—Lien.
76.09.130	Failure to obey stop work order—Departmental action authorized—Liability of owner or operator for costs.
76.09.140	Enforcement.
76.09.150	Inspection—Right of entry.
76.09.160	Right of entry by department of ecology.
76.09.170	Violations—Conversion to nontimber operation—Penalties—Remission or mitigation—Appeals—Lien.
76.09.180	Disposition of moneys received as penalties, reimbursement for damages.
76.09.190	Additional penalty, gross misdemeanor.
76.09.205	Appeals board review.
76.09.240	Forest practices—County, city, or town to regulate—When—Adoption of development regulations—Enforcement—Technical assistance—Exceptions and limitations—Verification that land not subject to a notice of conversion to non-forestry uses—Reporting of information to the department of revenue.
76.09.250	Policy for continuing program of orientation and training.
76.09.260	Department to represent state's interest—Cooperation with other public agencies—Grants and gifts.
76.09.270	Annual determination of state's research needs—Recommendations.
76.09.280	Removal of log and debris jams from streams.
76.09.290	Inspection of lands—Reforestation.
76.09.300	Mass earth movements and fluvial processes—Program to correct hazardous conditions on sites associated with roads and railroad grades—Hazard-reduction plans.
76.09.305	Advisory committee to review hazard-reduction plans authorized—Compensation, travel expenses.
76.09.310	Hazard-reduction program—Notice to landowners within areas selected for review—Proposed plans—Objections to plan, procedure—Final plans—Appeal.
76.09.315	Implementation of hazard-reduction measures—Election—Notice and application for cost-sharing funds—Inspection—Letter of compliance—Limitations on liability.
76.09.320	Implementation of hazard-reduction program—Cost sharing by department—Limitations.
76.09.330	Legislative findings—Liability from naturally falling trees required to be left standing.

76.09.340	Certain forest practices exempt from rules and policies under this chapter.
76.09.350	Long-term multispecies landscape management plans—Pilot projects, selection—Plan approval, elements—Notice of agreement recorded—Memorandums of agreements—Report, evaluation.
76.09.360	Single multiyear permit.
76.09.368	Intent—Small forest landowners—Alternate plan processes/alternate harvest restrictions—Report to the legislature.
76.09.370	Findings—Forests and fish report—Adoption of rules.
76.09.380	Report to the legislature—Emergency rules—Permanent rules.
76.09.390	Sale of land or timber rights with continuing obligations—Notice—Failure to notify—Exemption.
76.09.405	Forest and fish support account—Created.
76.09.410	Road maintenance and abandonment plans—Fish passage barriers.
76.09.420	Road maintenance and abandonment plans—Rules—Checklist—Report to the legislature—Emergency rules.
76.09.430	Application to RCW 76.13.150.
76.09.440	Small forest landowner—Fish passage barriers.
76.09.450	Small forest landowner—Defined.
76.09.460	Notice of conversion to nonforestry use—Denial of permits or approvals by the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity—Enforcement.
76.09.470	Conversion of land to nonforestry use—Action required of landowner—Action required of county, city, town, or regional governmental entity.
76.09.480	Identification of projects that mitigate infrastructure and non-infrastructure development.
76.09.490	Forest practices hydraulic project—Department may request information/technical assistance from the department of fish and wildlife—Concurrence review process.
76.09.900	Short title.
76.09.905	Air pollution laws not modified.
76.09.910	Shoreline management act, hydraulics act, other statutes and ordinances not modified—Exceptions.
76.09.915	Repeal and savings.
76.09.920	Application for extension of prior permits.
76.09.925	Effective dates—1974 ex.s. c 137.
76.09.935	Severability—1974 ex.s. c 137.

Chapter 76.09 RCW to be used to satisfy federal water pollution act requirements: RCW 90.48.425.

#### 76.09.010 Legislative finding and declaration. (1)

The legislature hereby finds and declares that the forest land resources are among the most valuable of all resources in the state; that a viable forest products industry is of prime importance to the state's economy; that it is in the public interest for public and private commercial forest lands to be managed consistent with sound policies of natural resource protection; that coincident with maintenance of a viable forest products industry, it is important to afford protection to forest soils, fisheries, wildlife, water quantity and quality, air quality, recreation, and scenic beauty.

(2) The legislature further finds and declares it to be in the public interest of this state to create and maintain through the adoption of this chapter a comprehensive statewide system of laws and forest practices rules which will achieve the following purposes and policies:

(a) Afford protection to, promote, foster and encourage timber growth, and require such minimum reforestation of commercial tree species on forest lands as will reasonably utilize the timber growing capacity of the soil following current timber harvest;

(b) Afford protection to forest soils and public resources by utilizing all reasonable methods of technology in conducting forest practices;

(c) Recognize both the public and private interest in the profitable growing and harvesting of timber;

(d) Promote efficiency by permitting maximum operating freedom consistent with the other purposes and policies stated herein;

(e) Provide for regulation of forest practices so as to avoid unnecessary duplication in such rules;

(f) Provide for interagency input and intergovernmental and tribal coordination and cooperation;

(g) Achieve compliance with all applicable requirements of federal and state law with respect to nonpoint sources of water pollution from forest practices;

(h) To consider reasonable land use planning goals and concepts contained in local comprehensive plans and zoning regulations;

(i) Foster cooperation among managers of public resources, forest landowners, Indian tribes and the citizens of the state;

(j) Develop a watershed analysis system that addresses the cumulative effect of forest practices on, at a minimum, the public resources of fish, water, and public capital improvements of the state and its political subdivisions; and

(k) Assist forest landowners in accessing market capital and financing for the ecosystem services provided to the public as a result of the protection of public resources.

(3) The legislature further finds and declares that it is also in the public interest of the state to encourage forest landowners to undertake corrective and remedial action to reduce the impact of mass earth movements and fluvial processes.

(4) The legislature further finds and declares that it is in the public interest that the applicants for state forest practices permits should assist in paying for the cost of review and permitting necessary for the environmental protection of these resources. [2010 c 188 § 3; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 901; 1993 c 443 § 1; 1987 c 95 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 188:** See note following RCW 76.44.070.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Adaptive management" means reliance on scientific methods to test the results of actions taken so that the management and related policy can be changed promptly and appropriately.

(2) "Appeals board" means the pollution control hearings board created by RCW 43.21B.010.

(3) "Application" means the application required pursuant to RCW 76.09.050.

(4) "Aquatic resources" includes water quality, salmon, other species of the vertebrate classes Cephalaspidomorphi and Osteichthyes identified in the forests and fish report, the Columbia torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton kezeri*), the Cascade torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton cascadae*), the Olympic torrent salamander (*Rhyacotriton olympian*), the Dunn's salamander (*Plethodon dunni*), the Van Dyke's salamander (*Plethodon vandyke*), the tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*), and their respective habitats.

(5) "Board" means the forest practices board created in RCW 76.09.030.

(6) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public lands.

(7) "Contiguous" means land adjoining or touching by common corner or otherwise. Land having common ownership divided by a road or other right-of-way shall be considered contiguous.

(8) "Conversion to a use other than commercial timber operation" means a bona fide conversion to an active use which is incompatible with timber growing and as may be defined by forest practices rules.

(9) "Date of receipt" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 43.21B.001.

(10) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(11) "Ecosystem services" means the benefits that the public enjoys as a result of natural processes and biological diversity.

(12) "Ecosystem services market" means a system in which providers of ecosystem services can access financing or market capital to protect, restore, and maintain ecological values, including the full spectrum of regulatory, quasiregulatory, and voluntary markets.

(13) "Fill" means the placement of earth material or aggregate for road or landing construction or other similar activities.

(14) "Fish passage barrier" means any artificial instream structure that impedes the free passage of fish.

(15) "Forest land" means all land which is capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber and is not being actively used for a use which is incompatible with timber growing. Forest land does not include agricultural land that is or was enrolled in the conservation reserve enhancement program by contract if such agricultural land was historically used for agricultural purposes and the landowner intends to continue to use the land for agricultural purposes in the future. As it applies to the operation of the road maintenance and abandonment plan element of the forest practices rules on small forest landowners, the term "forest land" excludes:

(a) Residential home sites, which may include up to five acres; and

(b) Cropfields, orchards, vineyards, pastures, feedlots, fish pens, and the land on which appurtenances necessary to the production, preparation, or sale of crops, fruit, dairy products, fish, and livestock exist.

(16) "Forest landowner" means any person in actual control of forest land, whether such control is based either on legal or equitable title, or on any other interest entitling the holder to sell or otherwise dispose of any or all of the timber on such land in any manner. However, any lessee or other person in possession of forest land without legal or equitable title to such land shall be excluded from the definition of "forest landowner" unless such lessee or other person has the right to sell or otherwise dispose of any or all of the timber located on such forest land.

(17) "Forest practice" means any activity conducted on or directly pertaining to forest land and relating to growing, harvesting, or processing timber, including but not limited to:

(a) Road and trail construction, including forest practices hydraulic projects that include water crossing structures, and associated activities and maintenance;

(b) Harvesting, final and intermediate;

(c) Precommercial thinning;

(d) Reforestation;

(e) Fertilization;

(f) Prevention and suppression of diseases and insects;

(g) Salvage of trees; and

(h) Brush control.

"Forest practice" shall not include preparatory work such as tree marking, surveying and road flagging, and removal or harvesting of incidental vegetation from forest lands such as berries, ferns, greenery, mistletoe, herbs, mushrooms, and other products which cannot normally be expected to result in damage to forest soils, timber, or public resources.

(18) "Forest practices hydraulic project" means a hydraulic project, as defined under RCW 77.55.011, that requires a forest practices application or notification under this chapter.

(19) "Forest practices rules" means any rules adopted pursuant to RCW 76.09.040.

(20) "Forest road," as it applies to the operation of the road maintenance and abandonment plan element of the forest practices rules on small forest landowners, means a road or road segment that crosses land that meets the definition of forest land, but excludes residential access roads.

(21) "Forest trees" does not include hardwood trees cultivated by agricultural methods in growing cycles shorter than fifteen years if the trees were planted on land that was not in forest use immediately before the trees were planted and before the land was prepared for planting the trees. "Forest trees" includes Christmas trees, but does not include Christmas trees that are cultivated by agricultural methods, as that term is defined in RCW 84.33.035.

(22) "Forests and fish report" means the forests and fish report to the board dated April 29, 1999.

(23) "Operator" means any person engaging in forest practices except an employee with wages as his or her sole compensation.

(24) "Person" means any individual, partnership, private, public, or municipal corporation, county, the department or other state or local governmental entity, or association of individuals of whatever nature.

(25) "Public resources" means water, fish and wildlife, and in addition shall mean capital improvements of the state or its political subdivisions.

(26) "Small forest landowner" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 76.09.450.

(27) "Timber" means forest trees, standing or down, of a commercial species, including Christmas trees. However, "timber" does not include Christmas trees that are cultivated by agricultural methods, as that term is defined in RCW 84.33.035.

(28) "Timber owner" means any person having all or any part of the legal interest in timber. Where such timber is subject to a contract of sale, "timber owner" shall mean the contract purchaser.

(29) "Unconfined channel migration zone" means the area within which the active channel of an unconfined stream is prone to move and where the movement would result in a potential near-term loss of riparian forest adjacent to the stream. Sizeable islands with productive timber may exist within the zone.

(30) "Unconfined stream" means generally fifth order or larger waters that experience abrupt shifts in channel location, creating a complex floodplain characterized by exten-

sive gravel bars, disturbance species of vegetation of variable age, numerous side channels, wall-based channels, oxbow lakes, and wetland complexes. Many of these streams have dikes and levees that may temporarily or permanently restrict channel movement. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 212. Prior: 2010 c 210 § 19; 2010 c 188 § 6; prior: 2009 c 354 § 5; 2009 c 246 § 4; 2003 c 311 § 3; 2002 c 17 § 1; prior: 2001 c 102 § 1; 2001 c 97 § 2; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 301; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 188:** See note following RCW 76.44.070.

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 354:** See note following RCW 84.33.140.

**Findings—2003 c 311:** "(1) The legislature finds that chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. strongly encouraged the forest practices board to adopt administrative rules that were substantially similar to the recommendations presented to the legislature in the form of the forests and fish report. The rules adopted pursuant to the 1999 legislation require all forest landowners to complete a road maintenance and abandonment plan, and those rules cannot be changed by the forest practices board without either a final order from a court, direct instructions from the legislature, or a recommendation from the adaptive management process. In the time since the enactment of chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess., it has become clear that both the planning aspect and the implementation aspect of the road maintenance and abandonment plan requirement may cause an unforeseen and unintended disproportionate financial hardship on small forest landowners.

(2) The legislature further finds that the commissioner of public lands and the governor have explored solutions that minimize the hardship caused to small forest landowners by the forest road maintenance and abandonment requirements of the forests and fish law, while maintaining protection for public resources. This act represents recommendations stemming from that process.

(3) The legislature further finds that it is in the state's interest to help small forest landowners comply with the requirements of the forest practices rules in a way that does not require the landowner to spend unreasonably high and unpredictable amounts of money to complete road maintenance and abandonment plan preparation and implementation. Small forest landowners provide significant wildlife habitat and serve as important buffers between urban development and Washington's public forest land holdings." [2003 c 311 § 1.]

**Effective date—2003 c 311:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 14, 2003]." [2003 c 311 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.030 Forest practices board—Created—Membership—Terms—Vacancies—Meetings—Compensation, travel expenses—Staff.** (1) There is hereby created the forest practices board of the state of Washington as an agency of state government consisting of members as follows:

(a) The commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's designee;

(b) The director of the department of commerce or the director's designee;

(c) The director of the department of agriculture or the director's designee;

(d) The director of the department of ecology or the director's designee;

(e) The director of the department of fish and wildlife or the director's designee;

(f) An elected member of a county legislative authority appointed by the governor. However, the county member's

service on the board shall be conditioned on the member's continued service as an elected county official;

(g) One member representing a timber products union, appointed by the governor from a list of three names submitted by a timber labor coalition affiliated with a statewide labor organization that represents a majority of the timber product unions in the state; and

(h) Six members of the general public appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a small forest landowner who actively manages his or her land, and one of whom shall be an independent logging contractor.

(2) The members of the initial board appointed by the governor shall be appointed so that the term of one member shall expire December 31, 1975, the term of one member shall expire December 31, 1976, the term of one member shall expire December 31, 1977, the terms of two members shall expire December 31, 1978, and the terms of two members shall expire December 31, 1979. Thereafter, each member shall be appointed for a term of four years. Vacancies on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Each member of the board shall continue in office until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. The commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's designee shall be the chair of the board.

(3) The board shall meet at such times and places as shall be designated by the chair or upon the written request of the majority of the board. The principal office of the board shall be at the state capital.

(4) Members of the board, except public employees and elected officials, shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.250. Each member shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(5) The board may employ such clerical help and staff pursuant to chapter 41.06 RCW as is necessary to carry out its duties. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 211; 2008 c 46 § 1; 2003 c 39 § 32; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 1001; 1995 c 399 § 207; 1993 c 257 § 1; 1987 c 330 § 1301; 1985 c 466 § 70; 1984 c 287 § 108; 1975-76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 173; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287:** See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.040 Forest practices rules—Adoption—Review of proposed rules—Hearings—Fish protection standards—Program for the acquisition of riparian open space.** (1)(a) Where necessary to accomplish the purposes and policies stated in RCW 76.09.010, and to implement the provisions of this chapter, the board shall adopt forest practices rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW and in accordance with the procedures enumerated in this section that:

(i) Establish minimum standards for forest practices;

(ii) Provide procedures for the voluntary development of resource management plans which may be adopted as an alternative to the minimum standards in (a)(i) of this subsection if the plan is consistent with the purposes and policies

stated in RCW 76.09.010 and the plan meets or exceeds the objectives of the minimum standards;

(iii) Set forth necessary administrative provisions;

(iv) Establish procedures for the collection and administration of forest practice fees as set forth by this chapter; and

(v) Allow for the development of watershed analyses.

(b) Forest practices rules pertaining to water quality protection shall be adopted by the board after reaching agreement with the director of the department of ecology or the director's designee on the board with respect to these rules. All other forest practices rules shall be adopted by the board.

(c) Forest practices rules shall be administered and enforced by either the department or the local governmental entity as provided in this chapter. Such rules shall be adopted and administered so as to give consideration to all purposes and policies set forth in RCW 76.09.010.

(2)(a) The board shall prepare proposed forest practices rules consistent with this section and chapter 34.05 RCW. In addition to any forest practices rules relating to water quality protection proposed by the board, the department of ecology may submit to the board proposed forest practices rules relating to water quality protection.

(b)(i) The board shall hold one or more hearings on the proposed rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. Any county representative may propose specific forest practices rules relating to problems existing within the county at the hearings.

(ii) The board may adopt and the department of ecology may approve such proposals if they find the proposals are consistent with the purposes and policies of this chapter.

(3)(a) The board shall incorporate into the forest practices rules those fish protection standards in the rules adopted under chapter 77.55 RCW, as the rules existed on July 10, 2012, that are applicable to activities regulated under the forest practices rules. If fish protection standards are incorporated by reference, the board shall minimize administrative processes by utilizing the exception from the administrative procedures controlling significant legislative rules under RCW 34.05.328(5)(b)(iii) for the incorporation of rules adopted by other state agencies.

(b) Thereafter, the board shall incorporate into the forest practices rules any changes to those fish protection standards in the rules adopted under chapter 77.55 RCW that are: (i) Adopted consistent with RCW 77.55.361; and (ii) applicable to activities regulated under the forest practices rules. If fish protection standards are incorporated by reference, the board shall minimize administrative processes by utilizing the exception from the administrative procedures controlling significant legislative rules under RCW 34.05.328(5)(b)(iii) for the incorporation of rules adopted by other state agencies.

(c) The board shall establish and maintain technical guidance in the forest practices board manual, as provided under WAC 222-12-090 as it existed on July 10, 2012, to assist with implementation of the standards incorporated into the forest practices rules under this section. The guidance must include best management practices and standard techniques to ensure fish protection.

(d) The board must complete the requirements of (a) of this subsection and establish initial technical guidance under (c) of this subsection by December 31, 2013.

(4)(a) The board shall establish by rule a program for the acquisition of riparian open space and critical habitat for threatened or endangered species as designated by the board. Acquisition must be a conservation easement. Lands eligible for acquisition are forest lands within unconfined channel migration zones or forest lands containing critical habitat for threatened or endangered species as designated by the board. Once acquired, these lands may be held and managed by the department, transferred to another state agency, transferred to an appropriate local government agency, or transferred to a private nonprofit nature conservancy corporation, as defined in RCW 64.04.130, in fee or transfer of management obligation. The board shall adopt rules governing the acquisition by the state or donation to the state of such interest in lands including the right of refusal if the lands are subject to unacceptable liabilities. The rules shall include definitions of qualifying lands, priorities for acquisition, and provide for the opportunity to transfer such lands with limited warranties and with a description of boundaries that does not require full surveys where the cost of securing the surveys would be unreasonable in relation to the value of the lands conveyed. The rules shall provide for the management of the lands for ecological protection or fisheries enhancement. For the purposes of conservation easements entered into under this section, the following apply:

(i) For conveyances of a conservation easement in which the landowner conveys an interest in the trees only, the compensation must include the timber value component, as determined by the cruised volume of any timber located within the channel migration zone or critical habitat for threatened or endangered species as designated by the board, multiplied by the appropriate quality code stumpage value for timber of the same species shown on the appropriate table used for timber harvest excise tax purposes under RCW 84.33.091;

(ii) For conveyances of a conservation easement in which the landowner conveys interests in both land and trees, the compensation must include the timber value component in (a)(i) of this subsection plus such portion of the land value component as determined just and equitable by the department. The land value component must be the acreage of qualifying channel migration zone or critical habitat for threatened or endangered species as determined by the board, to be conveyed, multiplied by the average per acre value of all commercial forest land in western Washington or the average for eastern Washington, whichever average is applicable to the qualifying lands. The department must determine the western and eastern Washington averages based on the land value tables established by RCW 84.33.140 and revised annually by the department of revenue.

(b) Subject to appropriations sufficient to cover the cost of such an acquisition program and the related costs of administering the program, the department must establish a conservation easement in land that an owner tenders for purchase; provided that such lands have been taxed as forest lands and are located within an unconfined channel migration zone or contain critical habitat for threatened or endangered species as designated by the board. Lands acquired under this section shall become riparian or habitat open space. These acquisitions shall not be deemed to trigger the compensating tax of chapters 84.33 and 84.34 RCW.

(c) Instead of offering to sell interests in qualifying lands, owners may elect to donate the interests to the state.

(d) Any acquired interest in qualifying lands by the state under this section shall be managed as riparian open space or critical habitat. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 203; 2010 c 188 § 4; 2009 c 246 § 1; 2000 c 11 § 3; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 701; 1997 c 173 § 1; 1994 c 264 § 48; 1993 c 443 § 2; 1988 c 36 § 46; 1987 c 95 § 8; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 188:** See note following RCW 76.44.070.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.050 Rules establishing classes of forest practices—Applications for classes of forest practices—Approval or disapproval—Notifications—Procedures—Appeals—Waiver. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) The board shall establish by rule which forest practices shall be included within each of the following classes:

Class I: Minimal or specific forest practices that have no direct potential for damaging a public resource and that may be conducted without submitting an application or a notification except that when the regulating authority is transferred to a local governmental entity, those Class I forest practices that involve timber harvesting or road construction within "urban growth areas," designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, are processed as Class IV forest practices, but are not subject to environmental review under chapter 43.21C RCW;

Class II: Forest practices which have a less than ordinary potential for damaging a public resource that may be conducted without submitting an application and may begin five calendar days, or such lesser time as the department may determine, after written notification by the operator, in the manner, content, and form as prescribed by the department, is received by the department. However, the work may not begin until all forest practice fees required under RCW 76.09.065 have been received by the department. Class II shall not include forest practices:

(a) On forest lands that are being converted to another use;

(b) Which require approvals under the provisions of the hydraulics act, RCW 77.55.021;

(c) Within "shorelines of the state" as defined in RCW 90.58.030;

(d) Excluded from Class II by the board; or

(e) Including timber harvesting or road construction within "urban growth areas," designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, which are Class IV;

Class III: Forest practices other than those contained in Class I, II, or IV. A Class III application must be approved or disapproved by the department within thirty calendar days from the date the department receives the application. However, the applicant may not begin work on that forest practice until all forest practice fees required under RCW 76.09.065 have been received by the department;

Class IV: Forest practices other than those contained in Class I or II:

(a) On forest lands that are being converted to another use;

(b) On lands which, pursuant to RCW 76.09.070 as now or hereafter amended, are not to be reforested because of the likelihood of future conversion to urban development;

(c) That involve timber harvesting or road construction on forest lands that are contained within "urban growth areas," designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, except where the forest landowner provides:

(i) A written statement of intent signed by the forest landowner not to convert to a use other than commercial forest product operations for ten years, accompanied by either a written forest management plan acceptable to the department or documentation that the land is enrolled under the provisions of chapter 84.33 or 84.34 RCW; or

(ii) A conversion option harvest plan approved by the local governmental entity and submitted to the department as part of the application; and/or

(d) Which have a potential for a substantial impact on the environment and therefore require an evaluation by the department as to whether or not a detailed statement must be prepared pursuant to the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW. Such evaluation shall be made within ten days from the date the department receives the application: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any local or regional governmental entity from determining that a detailed statement must be prepared for an action pursuant to a Class IV forest practice taken by that governmental entity concerning the land on which forest practices will be conducted. A Class IV application must be approved or disapproved by the department within thirty calendar days from the date the department receives the application, unless the department determines that a detailed statement must be made, in which case the application must be approved or disapproved by the department within sixty calendar days from the date the department receives the application, unless the commissioner of public lands, through the promulgation of a formal order, determines that the process cannot be completed within such period. However, the applicant may not begin work on that forest practice until all forest practice fees required under RCW 76.09.065 have been received by the department.

Forest practices under Classes I, II, and III are exempt from the requirements for preparation of a detailed statement under the state environmental policy act.

(2) Except for those forest practices being regulated by local governmental entities as provided elsewhere in this chapter, no Class II, Class III, or Class IV forest practice shall be commenced or continued after January 1, 1975, unless the department has received a notification with regard to a Class II forest practice or approved an application with regard to a Class III or Class IV forest practice containing all information required by RCW 76.09.060 as now or hereafter amended. However, in the event forest practices regulations necessary for the scheduled implementation of this chapter and RCW 90.48.420 have not been adopted in time to meet such schedules, the department shall have the authority to regulate forest practices and approve applications on such terms and conditions consistent with this chapter and RCW 90.48.420 and the purposes and policies of RCW 76.09.010 until applicable forest practices regulations are in effect.

(3) Except for those forest practices being regulated by local governmental entities as provided elsewhere in this

chapter, if a notification or application is delivered in person to the department by the operator or the operator's agent, the department shall immediately provide a dated receipt thereof. In all other cases, the department shall immediately mail a dated receipt to the operator.

(4) Except for those forest practices being regulated by local governmental entities as provided elsewhere in this chapter, forest practices shall be conducted in accordance with the forest practices regulations, orders and directives as authorized by this chapter or the forest practices regulations, and the terms and conditions of any approved applications.

(5) Except for those forest practices being regulated by local governmental entities as provided elsewhere in this chapter, the department of natural resources shall notify the applicant in writing of either its approval of the application or its disapproval of the application and the specific manner in which the application fails to comply with the provisions of this section or with the forest practices regulations. Except as provided otherwise in this section, if the department fails to either approve or disapprove an application or any portion thereof within the applicable time limit, the application shall be deemed approved and the operation may be commenced: PROVIDED, That this provision shall not apply to applications which are neither approved nor disapproved pursuant to the provisions of subsection (7) of this section: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if seasonal field conditions prevent the department from being able to properly evaluate the application, the department may issue an approval conditional upon further review within sixty days: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the department shall have until April 1, 1975, to approve or disapprove an application involving forest practices allowed to continue to April 1, 1975, under the provisions of subsection (2) of this section. Upon receipt of any notification or any satisfactorily completed application the department shall in any event no later than two business days after such receipt transmit a copy to the departments of ecology and fish and wildlife, and to the county, city, or town in whose jurisdiction the forest practice is to be commenced. Any comments by such agencies shall be directed to the department of natural resources.

(6) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, if the county, city, or town believes that an application is inconsistent with this chapter, the forest practices regulations, or any local authority consistent with RCW 76.09.240 as now or hereafter amended, it may so notify the department and the applicant, specifying its objections.

(7) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, the department shall not approve portions of applications to which a county, city, or town objects if:

(a) The department receives written notice from the county, city, or town of such objections within fourteen business days from the time of transmittal of the application to the county, city, or town, or one day before the department acts on the application, whichever is later; and

(b) The objections relate to forest lands that are being converted to another use.

The department shall either disapprove those portions of such application or appeal the county, city, or town objections to the appeals board. If the objections related to (b) of this subsection are based on local authority consistent with RCW 76.09.240 as now or hereafter amended, the depart-

ment shall disapprove the application until such time as the county, city, or town consents to its approval or such disapproval is reversed on appeal. The applicant shall be a party to all department appeals of county, city, or town objections. Unless the county, city, or town either consents or has waived its rights under this subsection, the department shall not approve portions of an application affecting such lands until the minimum time for county, city, or town objections has expired.

(8) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, in addition to any rights under the above paragraph, the county, city, or town may appeal any department approval of an application with respect to any lands within its jurisdiction. The appeals board may suspend the department's approval in whole or in part pending such appeal where there exists potential for immediate and material damage to a public resource.

(9) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, appeals under this section shall be made to the appeals board in the manner and time provided in RCW 76.09.205. In such appeals there shall be no presumption of correctness of either the county, city, or town or the department position.

(10) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, the department shall, within four business days notify the county, city, or town of all notifications, approvals, and disapprovals of an application affecting lands within the county, city, or town, except to the extent the county, city, or town has waived its right to such notice.

(11) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, a county, city, or town may waive in whole or in part its rights under this section, and may withdraw or modify any such waiver, at any time by written notice to the department.

(12) Notwithstanding subsections (2) through (5) of this section, forest practices applications or notifications are not required for exotic insect and disease control operations conducted in accordance with RCW 76.09.060(8) where eradication can reasonably be expected. [2011 c 207 § 1; 2010 c 210 § 20; 2005 c 146 § 1003; 2003 c 314 § 4; 2002 c 121 § 1; 1997 c 173 § 2; 1994 c 264 § 49; 1993 c 443 § 3; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 61; 1988 c 36 § 47; 1987 c 95 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 5.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Findings—2003 c 314:** See note following RCW 17.24.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.050 Rules establishing classes of forest practices—Applications for classes of forest practices—Approval or disapproval—Notifications—Procedures—Appeals—Waiver. (Contingent effective date.)** (1) The board shall establish by rule which forest practices shall be included within each of the following classes:

Class I: Minimal or specific forest practices that have no direct potential for damaging a public resource and that may be conducted without submitting an application or a notification except that when the regulating authority is transferred to a local governmental entity, those Class I forest practices that

involve timber harvesting or road construction within "urban growth areas," designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, are processed as Class IV forest practices, but are not subject to environmental review under chapter 43.21C RCW;

Class II: Forest practices which have a less than ordinary potential for damaging a public resource that may be conducted without submitting an application and may begin five calendar days, or such lesser time as the department may determine, after written notification by the operator, in the manner, content, and form as prescribed by the department, is received by the department. However, the work may not begin until all forest practice fees required under RCW 76.09.065 have been received by the department. Class II shall not include forest practices:

- (a) On forest lands that are being converted to another use;
- (b) Within "shorelines of the state" as defined in RCW 90.58.030;
- (c) Excluded from Class II by the board; or
- (d) Including timber harvesting or road construction within "urban growth areas," designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, which are Class IV;

Class III: Forest practices other than those contained in Class I, II, or IV. A Class III application must be approved or disapproved by the department according to the following timelines; however, the applicant may not begin work on the forest practice until all forest practice fees required under RCW 76.09.065 have been received by the department:

- (a) Within thirty calendar days from the date the department receives the application if the application is not subject to concurrence review by the department of fish and wildlife under RCW 76.09.490; and
- (b) Within thirty days of the completion of the concurrence review by the department of fish and wildlife if the application is subject to concurrence review by the department of fish and wildlife under RCW 76.09.490;

Class IV: Forest practices other than those contained in Class I or II:

- (a) On forest lands that are being converted to another use;
- (b) On lands which, pursuant to RCW 76.09.070 as now or hereafter amended, are not to be reforested because of the likelihood of future conversion to urban development;
- (c) That involve timber harvesting or road construction on forest lands that are contained within "urban growth areas," designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, except where the forest landowner provides:
  - (i) A written statement of intent signed by the forest landowner not to convert to a use other than commercial forest product operations for ten years, accompanied by either a written forest management plan acceptable to the department or documentation that the land is enrolled under the provisions of chapter 84.33 or 84.34 RCW; or
  - (ii) A conversion option harvest plan approved by the local governmental entity and submitted to the department as part of the application; and/or
- (d) Which have a potential for a substantial impact on the environment and therefore require an evaluation by the department as to whether or not a detailed statement must be prepared pursuant to the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW. Such evaluation shall be made within the

timelines established in RCW 43.21C.037; however, nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any local or regional governmental entity from determining that a detailed statement must be prepared for an action pursuant to a Class IV forest practice taken by that governmental entity concerning the land on which forest practices will be conducted. Unless the application is subject to concurrence review by the department of fish and wildlife under RCW 76.09.490, a Class IV application must be approved or disapproved by the department within thirty calendar days from the date the department receives the application. If a Class IV application is subject to concurrence review by the department of fish and wildlife under RCW 76.09.490, then the application must be approved or disapproved by the department within thirty calendar days from the completion of the concurrence review by the department of fish and wildlife. However, the department may extend the timelines applicable to the approval or disapproval of the application an additional thirty calendar days if the department determines that a detailed statement must be made, unless the commissioner of public lands, through the promulgation of a formal order, determines that the process cannot be completed within such a period. However, the applicant may not begin work on that forest practice until all forest practice fees required under RCW 76.09.065 have been received by the department.

Forest practices under Classes I, II, and III are exempt from the requirements for preparation of a detailed statement under the state environmental policy act.

(2) Except for those forest practices being regulated by local governmental entities as provided elsewhere in this chapter, no Class II, Class III, or Class IV forest practice shall be commenced or continued after January 1, 1975, unless the department has received a notification with regard to a Class II forest practice or approved an application with regard to a Class III or Class IV forest practice containing all information required by RCW 76.09.060 as now or hereafter amended. However, in the event forest practices regulations necessary for the scheduled implementation of this chapter and RCW 90.48.420 have not been adopted in time to meet such schedules, the department shall have the authority to regulate forest practices and approve applications on such terms and conditions consistent with this chapter and RCW 90.48.420 and the purposes and policies of RCW 76.09.010 until applicable forest practices regulations are in effect.

(3) Except for those forest practices being regulated by local governmental entities as provided elsewhere in this chapter, if a notification or application is delivered in person to the department by the operator or the operator's agent, the department shall immediately provide a dated receipt thereof. In all other cases, the department shall immediately mail a dated receipt to the operator.

(4) Except for those forest practices being regulated by local governmental entities as provided elsewhere in this chapter, forest practices shall be conducted in accordance with the forest practices regulations, orders and directives as authorized by this chapter or the forest practices regulations, and the terms and conditions of any approved applications.

(5) Except for those forest practices being regulated by local governmental entities as provided elsewhere in this chapter, the department of natural resources shall notify the applicant in writing of either its approval of the application or

its disapproval of the application and the specific manner in which the application fails to comply with the provisions of this section or with the forest practices regulations. Except as provided otherwise in this section, if the department fails to either approve or disapprove an application or any portion thereof within the applicable time limit, the application shall be deemed approved and the operation may be commenced: PROVIDED, That this provision shall not apply to applications which are neither approved nor disapproved pursuant to the provisions of subsection (7) of this section: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if seasonal field conditions prevent the department from being able to properly evaluate the application, the department may issue an approval conditional upon further review within sixty days. Upon receipt of any notification or any satisfactorily completed application the department shall in any event no later than two business days after such receipt transmit a copy to the departments of ecology and fish and wildlife, and to the county, city, or town in whose jurisdiction the forest practice is to be commenced. Any comments by such agencies shall be directed to the department of natural resources.

(6) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, if the county, city, or town believes that an application is inconsistent with this chapter, the forest practices regulations, or any local authority consistent with RCW 76.09.240 as now or hereafter amended, it may so notify the department and the applicant, specifying its objections.

(7) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, the department shall not approve portions of applications to which a county, city, or town objects if:

(a) The department receives written notice from the county, city, or town of such objections within fourteen business days from the time of transmittal of the application to the county, city, or town, or one day before the department acts on the application, whichever is later; and

(b) The objections relate to forest lands that are being converted to another use.

The department shall either disapprove those portions of such application or appeal the county, city, or town objections to the appeals board. If the objections related to (b) of this subsection are based on local authority consistent with RCW 76.09.240 as now or hereafter amended, the department shall disapprove the application until such time as the county, city, or town consents to its approval or such disapproval is reversed on appeal. The applicant shall be a party to all department appeals of county, city, or town objections. Unless the county, city, or town either consents or has waived its rights under this subsection, the department shall not approve portions of an application affecting such lands until the minimum time for county, city, or town objections has expired.

(8) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, in addition to any rights under the above paragraph, the county, city, or town may appeal any department approval of an application with respect to any lands within its jurisdiction. The appeals board may suspend the department's approval in whole or in part pending such appeal where there exists potential for immediate and material damage to a public resource.

(9) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, appeals under this section shall be made to

(2012 Ed.)

the appeals board in the manner and time provided in RCW 76.09.205. In such appeals there shall be no presumption of correctness of either the county, city, or town or the department position.

(10) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, the department shall, within four business days notify the county, city, or town of all notifications, approvals, and disapprovals of an application affecting lands within the county, city, or town, except to the extent the county, city, or town has waived its right to such notice.

(11) For those forest practices regulated by the board and the department, a county, city, or town may waive in whole or in part its rights under this section, and may withdraw or modify any such waiver, at any time by written notice to the department.

(12) Notwithstanding subsections (2) through (5) of this section, forest practices applications or notifications are not required for exotic insect and disease control operations conducted in accordance with RCW 76.09.060(8) where eradication can reasonably be expected. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 205; 2011 c 207 § 1; 2010 c 210 § 20; 2005 c 146 § 1003; 2003 c 314 § 4; 2002 c 121 § 1; 1997 c 173 § 2; 1994 c 264 § 49; 1993 c 443 § 3; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 61; 1988 c 36 § 47; 1987 c 95 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 5.]

**Contingent effective date—2012 1st sp.s. c 1 §§ 202 and 205:** See note following RCW 76.09.490.

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Findings—2003 c 314:** See note following RCW 17.24.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.055 Findings—Emergency rule making authorized.** (1) The legislature finds that the levels of fish stocks throughout much of the state require immediate action to be taken to help these fish runs where possible. The legislature also recognizes that federal and state agencies, tribes, county representatives, and private timberland owners have spent considerable effort and time to develop the forests and fish report. Given the agreement of the parties, the legislature believes that the immediate adoption of emergency rules is appropriate in this particular instance. These rules can implement many provisions of the forests and fish report to protect the economic well-being of the state, and to minimize the risk to the state and landowners to legal challenges. This authority is not designed to set any precedents for the forest practices board in future rule making or set any precedents for other rule-making bodies of the state.

(2) The forest practices board is authorized to adopt emergency rules amending the forest practices rules with respect to the protection of aquatic resources, in accordance with RCW 34.05.350, except: (a)(i) That the rules adopted under this section may remain in effect until permanent rules are adopted, or until June 30, 2001, whichever is sooner; (ii) that the rules adopted under RCW 76.09.420(5) must remain in effect until permanent rules are adopted; (b) notice of the proposed rules must be published in the Washington State

Register as provided in RCW 34.05.320; (c) at least one public hearing must be conducted with an opportunity to provide oral and written comments; and (d) a rule-making file must be maintained as required by RCW 34.05.370. In adopting emergency rules consistent with this section, the board is not required to prepare a small business economic impact statement under chapter 19.85 RCW, prepare a statement indicating whether the rules constitute a significant legislative rule under RCW 34.05.328, prepare a significant legislative rule analysis under RCW 34.05.328, or follow the procedural requirements of the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW. Except as provided in RCW 76.09.420, the forest practices board may only adopt recommendations contained in the forests and fish report as emergency rules under this section. [2003 c 311 § 5; 2000 c 11 § 4; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 201.]

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.060 Form and contents of notification and application—Reforestation requirements—Conversion of forest land to other use—New applications—Approval—Emergencies.** (1) The department shall prescribe the form and contents of the notification and application. The forest practices rules shall specify by whom and under what conditions the notification and application shall be signed or otherwise certified as acceptable. Activities conducted by the department or a contractor under the direction of the department under the provisions of RCW 76.04.660, shall be exempt from the landowner signature requirement on any forest practices application required to be filed. The application or notification shall be delivered in person to the department, sent by first-class mail to the department or electronically filed in a form defined by the department. The form for electronic filing shall be readily convertible to a paper copy, which shall be available to the public pursuant to chapter 42.56 RCW. The information required may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Name and address of the forest landowner, timber owner, and operator;
- (b) Description of the proposed forest practice or practices to be conducted;
- (c) Legal description and tax parcel identification numbers of the land on which the forest practices are to be conducted;
- (d) Planimetric and topographic maps showing location and size of all lakes and streams and other public waters in and immediately adjacent to the operating area and showing all existing and proposed roads and major tractor roads;
- (e) Description of the silvicultural, harvesting, or other forest practice methods to be used, including the type of equipment to be used and materials to be applied;
- (f) For an application or notification submitted on or after July 10, 2012, that includes a forest practices hydraulic project, plans and specifications for the forest practices hydraulic project to ensure the proper protection of fish life;
- (g) Proposed plan for reforestation and for any revegetation necessary to reduce erosion potential from roadsides and yarding roads, as required by the forest practices rules;

(h) Soil, geological, and hydrological data with respect to forest practices;

(i) The expected dates of commencement and completion of all forest practices specified in the application;

(j) Provisions for continuing maintenance of roads and other construction or other measures necessary to afford protection to public resources;

(k) An affirmation that the statements contained in the notification or application are true; and

(1) All necessary application or notification fees.

(2) Long range plans may be submitted to the department for review and consultation.

(3) The application for a forest practice or the notification of a forest practice is subject to the reforestation requirement of RCW 76.09.070.

(a) If the application states that any land will be or is intended to be converted:

(i) The reforestation requirements of this chapter and of the forest practices rules shall not apply if the land is in fact converted unless applicable alternatives or limitations are provided in forest practices rules issued under RCW 76.09.070;

(ii) Completion of such forest practice operations shall be deemed conversion of the lands to another use for purposes of chapters 84.33 and 84.34 RCW unless the conversion is to a use permitted under a current use tax agreement permitted under chapter 84.34 RCW;

(iii) The forest practices described in the application are subject to applicable county, city, town, and regional governmental authority permitted under RCW 76.09.240 as well as the forest practices rules.

(b) Except as provided elsewhere in this section, if the landowner harvests without an approved application or notification or the landowner does not state that any land covered by the application or notification will be or is intended to be converted, and the department or the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity becomes aware of conversion activities to a use other than commercial timber operations, as that term is defined in RCW 76.09.020, then the department shall send to the department of ecology and the appropriate county, city, town, and regional governmental entities the following documents:

(i) A notice of a conversion to nonforestry use;

(ii) A copy of the applicable forest practices application or notification, if any; and

(iii) Copies of any applicable outstanding final orders or decisions issued by the department related to the forest practices application or notification.

(c) Failure to comply with the reforestation requirements contained in any final order or decision shall constitute a removal of designation under the provisions of RCW 84.33.140, and a change of use under the provisions of RCW 84.34.080, and, if applicable, shall subject such lands to the payments and/or penalties resulting from such removals or changes.

(d) Conversion to a use other than commercial forest product operations within six years after approval of the forest practices application or notification without the consent of the county, city, or town shall constitute a violation of each of the county, municipal city, town, and regional authorities to

which the forest practice operations would have been subject if the application had stated an intent to convert.

(e) Land that is the subject of a notice of conversion to a nonforestry use produced by the department and sent to the department of ecology and a local government under this subsection is subject to the development prohibition and conditions provided in RCW 76.09.460.

(f) Landowners who have not stated an intent to convert the land covered by an application or notification and who decide to convert the land to a nonforestry use within six years of receiving an approved application or notification must do so in a manner consistent with RCW 76.09.470.

(g) The application or notification must include a statement requiring an acknowledgment by the forest landowner of his or her intent with respect to conversion and acknowledging that he or she is familiar with the effects of this subsection.

(4) Whenever an approved application authorizes a forest practice which, because of soil condition, proximity to a water course or other unusual factor, has a potential for causing material damage to a public resource, as determined by the department, the applicant shall, when requested on the approved application, notify the department two days before the commencement of actual operations.

(5) Before the operator commences any forest practice in a manner or to an extent significantly different from that described in a previously approved application or notification, there shall be submitted to the department a new application or notification form in the manner set forth in this section.

(6)(a) Except as provided in RCW 76.09.350(4), the notification to or the approval given by the department to an application to conduct a forest practice shall be effective for a term of three years from the date of approval or notification.

(b) A notification or application may be renewed for an additional three-year term by the filing and approval of a notification or application, as applicable, prior to the expiration of the original application or notification. A renewal application or notification is subject to the forest practices rules in effect at the time the renewal application or notification is filed. Nothing in this section precludes the applicant from applying for a new application or notification after the renewal period has lapsed.

(c) At the option of the applicant, an application or notification may be submitted to cover a single forest practice or a number of forest practices within reasonable geographic or political boundaries as specified by the department. An application or notification that covers more than one forest practice may have an effective term of more than three years.

(d) The board shall adopt rules that establish standards and procedures for approving an application or notification that has an effective term of more than three years. Such rules shall include extended time periods for application or notification approval or disapproval. The department may require the applicant to provide advance notice before commencing operations on an approved application or notification.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no prior application or notification shall be required for any emergency forest practice necessitated by fire, flood, windstorm, earthquake, or other emergency as defined by the

board, but the operator shall submit an application or notification, whichever is applicable, to the department within forty-eight hours after commencement of such practice or as required by local regulations.

(8) Forest practices applications or notifications are not required for forest practices conducted to control exotic forest insect or disease outbreaks, when conducted by or under the direction of the department of agriculture in carrying out an order of the governor or director of the department of agriculture to implement pest control measures as authorized under chapter 17.24 RCW, and are not required when conducted by or under the direction of the department in carrying out emergency measures under a forest health emergency declaration by the commissioner of public lands as provided in RCW 76.06.130.

(a) For the purposes of this subsection, exotic forest insect or disease has the same meaning as defined in RCW 76.06.020.

(b) In order to minimize adverse impacts to public resources, control measures must be based on integrated pest management, as defined in RCW 17.15.010, and must follow forest practices rules relating to road construction and maintenance, timber harvest, and forest chemicals, to the extent possible without compromising control objectives.

(c) Agencies conducting or directing control efforts must provide advance notice to the appropriate regulatory staff of the department of the operations that would be subject to exemption from forest practices application or notification requirements.

(d) When the appropriate regulatory staff of the department are notified under (c) of this subsection, they must consult with the landowner, interested agencies, and affected tribes, and assist the notifying agencies in the development of integrated pest management plans that comply with forest practices rules as required under (b) of this subsection.

(e) Nothing under this subsection relieves agencies conducting or directing control efforts from requirements of the federal clean water act as administered by the department of ecology under RCW 90.48.260.

(f) Forest lands where trees have been cut as part of an exotic forest insect or disease control effort under this subsection are subject to reforestation requirements under RCW 76.09.070.

(g) The exemption from obtaining approved forest practices applications or notifications does not apply to forest practices conducted after the governor, the director of the department of agriculture, or the commissioner of public lands have declared that an emergency no longer exists because control objectives have been met, that there is no longer an imminent threat, or that there is no longer a good likelihood of control. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 206. Prior: 2007 c 480 § 11; 2007 c 106 § 1; 2005 c 274 § 357; 2003 c 314 § 5; prior: 1997 c 290 § 3; 1997 c 173 § 3; 1993 c 443 § 4; 1992 c 52 § 22; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 62; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 6.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

**Findings—2003 c 314:** See note following RCW 17.24.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.063 Forest practices permit—Habitat incentives agreement.** When a private landowner is applying for a forest practices permit under this chapter and that landowner has entered into a habitat incentives agreement with the department and the department of fish and wildlife as provided in \*RCW 77.55.300, the department shall comply with the terms of that agreement when evaluating the permit application. [2003 c 39 § 33; 1997 c 425 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.55.300 was recodified as RCW 77.55.121 pursuant to 2005 c 146 § 1001.

**Finding—Intent—1997 c 425:** See note following RCW 77.55.121.

**76.09.065 Fee for applications and notifications related to the commercial harvest of timber—Forest practices application account—Creation—Applications submitted to a local governmental entity.** (1) An applicant shall pay an application fee, if applicable, at the time an application or notification is submitted to the department or to the local governmental entity as provided in this chapter.

(2)(a) If RCW 77.55.361, 76.09.490, 76.09.040, and 76.09.060 are not enacted into law by June 30, 2012, then the fee for applications and notifications submitted to the department shall be fifty dollars for class II, III, and IV forest practices applications or notifications relating to the commercial harvest of timber. However, the fee shall be five hundred dollars for class IV forest practices applications on lands being converted to other uses or on lands which are not to be reforested because of the likelihood of future conversion to urban development or on lands that are contained within "urban growth areas," designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, except the fee shall be fifty dollars on those lands where the forest landowner provides:

(i) A written statement of intent signed by the forest landowner not to convert to a use other than commercial forest product operations for ten years, accompanied by either a written forest management plan acceptable to the department or documentation that the land is enrolled under the provisions of chapter 84.33 RCW; or

(ii) A conversion option harvest plan approved by the local governmental entity and submitted to the department as part of the forest practices application.

(b)(i) If RCW 77.55.361, 76.09.490, 76.09.040, and 76.09.060 are enacted into law by June 30, 2012, then:

(A) The fee for applications and notifications relating to the commercial harvest of timber submitted to the department shall be one hundred dollars for class II applications and notifications, class III applications, and class IV forest practices that have a potential for a substantial impact on the environment and therefore require an evaluation by the department as to whether or not a detailed statement must be prepared pursuant to the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, when the application or notification is submitted by a landowner who satisfies the definition of small forest landowner provided in RCW 76.09.450 and the application or notification applies to a single contiguous ownership consisting of one or more parcels;

(B) The fee for applications and notifications relating to the commercial harvest of timber submitted to the department shall be one hundred fifty dollars for class II applications and

notifications, class III applications, and class IV forest practices that have a potential for a substantial impact on the environment and therefore require an evaluation by the department as to whether or not a detailed statement must be prepared pursuant to the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, when the application or notification is submitted by a landowner who does not satisfy the criteria for a reduced application fee as provided in (b)(i)(A) of this subsection (2); and

(C) The fee shall be one thousand five hundred dollars for class IV forest practices applications on lands being converted to other uses or on lands that are not to be reforested because of the likelihood of future conversion to urban development or on lands that are contained within urban growth areas, designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW, except the fee shall be the same as for a class III forest practices application where the forest landowner provides:

(I) A written statement of intent signed by the forest landowner not to convert to a use other than commercial forest product operations for ten years, accompanied by either a written forest management plan acceptable to the department or documentation that the land is enrolled under the provisions of chapter 84.33 RCW; or

(II) A conversion option harvest plan approved by the local governmental entity and submitted to the department as part of the forest practices application.

(ii) If the board has not incorporated fish protection standards adopted under chapter 77.55 RCW into the forest practices rules and approved technical guidance as required under RCW 76.09.040 by December 31, 2013, the fee for applications and notifications submitted to the department shall be as provided under (a) of this subsection until the rules are adopted and technical guidance approved.

(3) The forest practices application account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. All money collected from fees under subsection (2) of this section shall be deposited in the forest practices application account for the purposes of implementing this chapter, chapter 76.13 RCW, and Title 222 WAC.

(4) For applications submitted to a local governmental entity as provided in this chapter, the fee shall be determined, collected, and retained by the local governmental entity. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 209; 2000 c 11 § 5; 1997 c 173 § 4; 1993 c 443 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.067 Application for forest practices—Owner of perpetual timber rights.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, for the purposes of RCW 76.09.050(1) and 76.09.060, where timber rights have been transferred by deed to a perpetual owner who is different from the forest landowner, the owner of perpetual timber rights may sign the forest practices application or notification. The forest practices application is not complete until the holder of perpetual timber rights has submitted evidence to the department that the signed forest practices application or notification has been received by the forest landowner. [2007 c 106 § 5; 1998 c 100 § 1.]

**76.09.070 Reforestation—Requirements—Procedures—Notification on sale or transfer.** (1) After the completion of a logging operation, satisfactory reforestation, as defined by the rules and regulations promulgated by the board, shall be completed within three years. However:

(a) A longer period may be authorized if seed or seedlings are not available;

(b) A period of up to five years may be allowed where a natural regeneration plan is approved by the department; and

(c) The department may identify low-productivity lands on which it may allow for a period of up to ten years for natural regeneration.

(2)(a) Upon the completion of a reforestation operation a report on such operation shall be filed with the department of natural resources.

(b) Within twelve months of receipt of such a report the department shall inspect the reforestation operation, and shall determine either that the reforestation operation has been properly completed or that further reforestation and inspection is necessary.

(3) Satisfactory reforestation is the obligation of the owner of the land as defined by forest practices regulations, except the owner of perpetual rights to cut timber owned separately from the land is responsible for satisfactory reforestation. The reforestation obligation shall become the obligation of a new owner if the land or perpetual timber rights are sold or otherwise transferred.

(4)(a) Prior to the sale or transfer of land or perpetual timber rights subject to a reforestation obligation or to a notice of conversion to a nonforestry use issued under RCW 76.09.060, the seller shall notify the buyer of the existence and nature of the obligation and the buyer shall sign a notice indicating the buyer's knowledge of all obligations.

(b) The notice shall be on a form prepared by the department and shall be sent to the department by the seller at the time of sale or transfer of the land or perpetual timber rights.

(c) If the seller fails to notify the buyer about the reforestation obligation or the notice of conversion to a nonforestry use, the seller shall pay the buyer's costs related to reforestation or mitigation under RCW 76.09.470, including all legal costs which include reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the buyer in enforcing the reforestation obligation or mitigation requirements against the seller.

(d) Failure by the seller to send the required notice to the department at the time of sale shall be prima facie evidence, in an action by the buyer against the seller for costs related to reforestation or mitigation, that the seller did not notify the buyer of the reforestation obligation or potential mitigation requirements prior to sale.

(5) The forest practices regulations may provide alternatives to or limitations on the applicability of reforestation requirements with respect to forest lands being converted in whole or in part to another use which is compatible with timber growing. The forest practices regulations may identify classifications and/or areas of forest land that have the likelihood of future conversion to urban development within a ten year period. The reforestation requirements may be modified or eliminated on such lands. However, such identification and/or such conversion to urban development must be consistent with any local or regional land use plans or ordinances.

(2012 Ed.)

[2007 c 106 § 4; 1987 c 95 § 10; 1982 c 173 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 4; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.080 Stop work orders—Grounds—Contents—Procedure—Appeals.** (1) The department shall have the authority to serve upon an operator a stop work order which shall be a final order of the department if:

(a) There is any violation of the provisions of this chapter or the forest practices regulations; or

(b) There is a deviation from the approved application; or

(c) Immediate action is necessary to prevent continuation of or to avoid material damage to a public resource.

(2) The stop work order shall set forth:

(a) The specific nature, extent, and time of the violation, deviation, damage, or potential damage;

(b) An order to stop all work connected with the violation, deviation, damage, or potential damage;

(c) The specific course of action needed to correct such violation or deviation or to prevent damage and to correct and/or compensate for damage to public resources which has resulted from any violation, unauthorized deviation, or willful or negligent disregard for potential damage to a public resource; and/or those courses of action necessary to prevent continuing damage to public resources where the damage is resulting from the forest practice activities but has not resulted from any violation, unauthorized deviation, or negligence; and

(d) The right of the operator to a hearing before the appeals board.

The department shall immediately file a copy of such order with the appeals board and mail a copy thereof to the timber owner and forest land owner at the addresses shown on the application. The operator, timber owner, or forest land owner may commence an appeal to the appeals board within thirty days from the date of receipt of the order by the operator. If such appeal is commenced, a hearing shall be held not more than twenty days after copies of the notice of appeal were filed with the appeals board. Such proceeding shall be an adjudicative proceeding within the meaning of chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act. The operator shall comply with the order of the department immediately upon being served, but the appeals board if requested shall have authority to continue or discontinue in whole or in part the order of the department under such conditions as it may impose pending the outcome of the proceeding. [2010 c 210 § 21; 1989 c 175 § 163; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 5; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 8.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.090 Notice of failure to comply—Contents—Procedures—Appeals—Hearing—Final order—Limitations on actions.** If a violation, a deviation, material damage or potential for material damage to a public resource has occurred and the department determines that a stop work order is unnecessary, then the department shall issue and serve upon the operator or land owner a notice, which shall clearly set forth:

[Title 76 RCW—page 29]

(1)(a) The specific nature, extent, and time of failure to comply with the approved application; or identifying the damage or potential damage; and/or

(b) The relevant provisions of this chapter or of the forest practice regulations relating thereto;

(2) The right of the operator or land owner to a hearing before the department; and

(3) The specific course of action ordered by the department to be followed by the operator to correct such failure to comply and to prevent, correct and/or compensate for material damage to public resources which resulted from any violation, unauthorized deviation, or wilful or negligent disregard for potential damage to a public resource; and/or those courses of action necessary to prevent continuing damage to public resources where the damage is resulting from the forest practice activities but has not resulted from any violation, unauthorized deviation, or negligence.

The department shall mail a copy thereof to the forest land owner and the timber owner at the addresses shown on the application, showing the date of service upon the operator. Such notice to comply shall become a final order of the department: PROVIDED, That no direct appeal to the appeals board will be allowed from such final order. Such operator shall undertake the course of action so ordered by the department unless, within fifteen days after the date of service of such notice to comply, the operator, forest land owner, or timber owner, shall request the department in writing to schedule a hearing. If so requested, the department shall schedule a hearing on a date not more than twenty days after receiving such request. Within ten days after such hearing, the department shall issue a final order either withdrawing its notice to comply or clearly setting forth the specific course of action to be followed by such operator. Such operator shall undertake the course of action so ordered by the department unless within thirty days after the date of receipt of such final order, the operator, forest land owner, or timber owner appeals such final order to the appeals board.

No person shall be under any obligation under this section to prevent, correct, or compensate for any damage to public resources which occurs more than one year after the date of completion of the forest practices operations involved exclusive of reforestation, unless such forest practices were not conducted in accordance with forest practices rules and regulations: PROVIDED, That this provision shall not relieve the forest land owner from any obligation to comply with forest practices rules and regulations pertaining to providing continuing road maintenance. No action to recover damages shall be taken under this section more than two years after the date the damage involved occurs. [2010 c 210 § 22; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 6; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 9.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**76.09.100 Failure to comply with water quality protection—Department of ecology authorized to petition appeals board—Action on petition.** If the department of ecology determines that a person has failed to comply with the forest practices regulations relating to water quality protection, and that the department of natural resources has not issued a stop work order or notice to comply, the department of ecology shall inform the department thereof. If the depart-

ment of natural resources fails to take authorized enforcement action within twenty-four hours under RCW 76.09.080, 76.09.090, 76.09.120, or 76.09.130, the department of ecology may petition to the chairman of the appeals board, who shall, within forty-eight hours, either deny the petition or direct the department of natural resources to immediately issue a stop work order or notice to comply, or to impose a penalty. No civil or criminal penalties shall be imposed for past actions or omissions if such actions or omissions were conducted pursuant to an approval or directive of the department of natural resources. [1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 7; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 10.]

**76.09.110 Final orders or final decisions binding upon all parties.** Unless declared invalid on appeal, a final order of the department or a final decision of the appeals board shall be binding upon all parties. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 11.]

**76.09.120 Failure of owner to take required course of action—Notice of cost—Department authorized to complete course of action—Liability of owner for costs—Lien.** If an operator fails to undertake and complete any course of action with respect to a forest practice, as required by a final order of the department or a final decision of the appeals board or any court pursuant to RCW 76.09.080 and 76.09.090, the department may determine the cost thereof and give written notice of such cost to the operator, the timber owner and the owner of the forest land upon or in connection with which such forest practice was being conducted. If such operator, timber owner, or forest land owner fails within thirty days after such notice is given to undertake such course of action, or having undertaken such course of action fails to complete it within a reasonable time, the department may expend any funds available to undertake and complete such course of action and such operator, timber owner, and forest land owner shall be jointly and severally liable for the actual, direct cost thereof, but in no case more than the amount set forth in the notice from the department. If not paid within sixty days after the department completes such course of action and notifies such forest land owner in writing of the amount due, such amount shall become a lien on such forest land and the department may collect such amount in the same manner provided in chapter 60.04 RCW for mechanics' liens. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 12.]

**76.09.130 Failure to obey stop work order—Departmental action authorized—Liability of owner or operator for costs.** When the operator has failed to obey a stop work order issued under the provisions of RCW 76.09.080 the department may take immediate action to prevent continuation of or avoid material damage to public resources. If a final order or decision fixes liability with the operator, timber owner, or forest land owner, they shall be jointly and severally liable for such emergency costs which may be collected in the manner provided for in RCW 76.09.120. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 13.]

**76.09.140 Enforcement.** (1) The department of natural resources may take any necessary action to enforce any final order or final decision, and may disapprove any forest prac-

tices application or notification submitted by any person who has failed to comply with a final order or final decision or has failed to pay any civil penalties as provided in RCW 76.09.170, for up to one year from the issuance of a notice of intent to disapprove notifications and applications under this section or until the violator pays all outstanding civil penalties and complies with all validly issued and outstanding notices to comply and stop work orders, whichever is longer. For purposes of chapter 482, Laws of 1993, the terms "final order" and "final decision" shall mean the same as set forth in RCW 76.09.080, 76.09.090, and 76.09.110. The department shall provide written notice of its intent to disapprove an application or notification under this subsection. The department shall forward copies of its notice of intent to disapprove to any affected landowner. The disapproval period shall run from thirty days following the date of actual notice or when all administrative and judicial appellate processes, if any, have been exhausted. Any person provided the notice may seek review from the appeals board by filing a request for review within thirty days of the date of the notice of intent. While the notice of intent to disapprove is in effect, the violator may not serve as a person in charge of, be employed by, manage, or otherwise participate to any degree in forest practices.

(2) On request of the department, the attorney general may take action necessary to enforce this chapter, including, but not limited to: Seeking penalties, interest, costs, and attorneys' fees; enforcing final orders or decisions; and seeking civil injunctions, show cause orders, or contempt orders.

(3) A county may bring injunctive, declaratory, or other actions for enforcement for forest practice activities within its jurisdiction in the superior court as provided by law against the department, the forest landowner, timber owner or operator to enforce the forest practices rules or any final order of the department, or the appeals board. No civil or criminal penalties shall be imposed for past actions or omissions if such actions or omissions were conducted pursuant to an approval or directive of the department. Injunctions, declaratory actions, or other actions for enforcement under this subsection may not be commenced unless the department fails to take appropriate action after ten days written notice to the department by the county of a violation of the forest practices rules or final orders of the department or the appeals board.

(4)(a) The department may require financial assurance prior to the conduct of any further forest practices from an operator or landowner who within the preceding three-year period has:

(i) Operated without an approved forest practices application, other than an unintentional operation in connection with an approved application outside the approved boundary of such an application;

(ii) Continued to operate in breach of, or failed to comply with, the terms of an effective stop work order or notice to comply; or

(iii) Failed to pay any civil or criminal penalty.

(b) The department may deny any application for failure to submit financial assurances as required. [2000 c 11 § 6; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 801; 1993 c 482 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 8; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**76.09.150 Inspection—Right of entry.** (1) The department shall make inspections of forest lands, before, during, and after the conducting of forest practices as necessary for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this chapter, the forest practices rules, including forest practices rules incorporated under RCW 76.09.040(3), and to ensure that no material damage occurs to the natural resources of this state as a result of forest practices.

(2) Any duly authorized representative of the department shall have the right to enter upon forest land at any reasonable time to enforce the provisions of this chapter and the forest practices rules.

(3) The department or the department of ecology may apply for an administrative inspection warrant to either Thurston county superior court, or the superior court in the county in which the property is located. An administrative inspection warrant may be issued where:

(a) The department has attempted an inspection of forest lands under this chapter to ensure compliance with this chapter and the forest practices rules or to ensure that no potential or actual material damage occurs to the natural resources of this state, and access to all or part of the forest lands has been actually or constructively denied; or

(b) The department has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of this chapter or of rules adopted under this chapter is occurring or has occurred.

(4) In connection with any watershed analysis, any review of a pending application by an identification team appointed by the department, any compliance studies, any effectiveness monitoring, or other research that has been agreed to by a landowner, the department may invite representatives of other agencies, tribes, and interest groups to accompany a department representative and, at the landowner's election, the landowner, on any such inspections. Reasonable efforts shall be made by the department to notify the landowner of the persons being invited onto the property and the purposes for which they are being invited. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 207; 2000 c 11 § 7; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 802; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 15.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.160 Right of entry by department of ecology.** Any duly authorized representative of the department of ecology shall have the right to enter upon forest land at any reasonable time to administer the provisions of this chapter and RCW 90.48.420. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 16.]

**76.09.170 Violations—Conversion to nontimber operation—Penalties—Remission or mitigation—Appeals—Lien.** (1) Every person who violates any provision of RCW 76.09.010 through 76.09.280 or of the forest practices rules, or who converts forest land to a use other than commercial timber operation within three years after completion of the forest practice without the consent of the county, city, or town, shall be subject to a penalty in an amount of not more than ten thousand dollars for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense. In case of a failure to comply with a stop work order,

[Title 76 RCW—page 31]

every day's continuance shall be a separate and distinct violation. Every person who through an act of commission or omission procures, aids or abets in the violation shall be considered to have violated the provisions of this section and shall be subject to the penalty in this section. No penalty shall be imposed under this section upon any governmental official, an employee of any governmental department, agency, or entity, or a member of any board or advisory committee created by this chapter for any act or omission in his or her duties in the administration of this chapter or of any rule adopted under this chapter.

(2) The department shall develop and recommend to the board a penalty schedule to determine the amount to be imposed under this section. The board shall adopt by rule, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, such penalty schedule to be effective no later than January 1, 1994. The schedule shall be developed in consideration of the following:

- (a) Previous violation history;
- (b) Severity of the impact on public resources;
- (c) Whether the violation of this chapter or its rules was intentional;
- (d) Cooperation with the department;
- (e) Repairability of the adverse effect from the violation; and
- (f) The extent to which a penalty to be imposed on a forest landowner for a forest practice violation committed by another should be reduced because the owner was unaware of the violation and has not received substantial economic benefits from the violation.

(3) The penalty in this section shall be imposed by a notice in writing, either by certified mail with return receipt requested or by personal service, to the person incurring the same from the department describing the violation with reasonable particularity. Within fifteen days after the notice is received, the person incurring the penalty may apply in writing to the department for the remission or mitigation of such penalty. Upon receipt of the application, that department may remit or mitigate the penalty upon whatever terms that department in its discretion deems proper, provided the department deems such remission or mitigation to be in the best interests of carrying out the purposes of this chapter. The department shall have authority to ascertain the facts regarding all such applications in such reasonable manner and under such rule as it may deem proper.

(4) Any person incurring a penalty under this section may appeal the penalty to the appeals board. Such appeals shall be filed within thirty days after the date of receipt of the penalty unless an application for remission or mitigation is made to the department. When such an application for remission or mitigation is made, such appeals shall be filed within thirty days of receipt of notice from the department setting forth the disposition of the application for remission or mitigation.

(5) The penalty imposed under this section shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of a notice imposing the same unless application for remission or mitigation is made or an appeal is filed. When such an application for remission or mitigation is made, any penalty incurred under this section shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of notice setting forth the disposition of such application unless an appeal is filed from such disposition. When-

ever an appeal of the penalty incurred is filed, the penalty shall become due and payable only upon completion of all administrative and judicial review proceedings and the issuance of a final decision confirming the penalty in whole or in part.

(6) If the amount of any penalty is not paid to the department within thirty days after it becomes due and payable, the attorney general, upon the request of the department, shall bring an action in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county or of any county in which such violator may do business, to recover such penalty, interest, costs, and attorneys' fees. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as an ordinary civil action except as otherwise provided in this chapter. In addition to or as an alternative to seeking enforcement of penalties in superior court, the department may bring an action in district court as provided in Title 3 RCW, to collect penalties, interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

(7) Penalties imposed under this section for violations associated with a conversion to a use other than commercial timber operation shall be a lien upon the real property of the person assessed the penalty and the department may collect such amount in the same manner provided in chapter 60.04 RCW for mechanics' liens.

(8) Any person incurring a penalty imposed under this section is also responsible for the payment of all costs and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with the penalty and interest accruing on the unpaid penalty amount. [2010 c 210 § 23; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 803; 1993 c 482 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 9; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 17.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.180 Disposition of moneys received as penalties, reimbursement for damages.** All penalties received or recovered by state agency action for violations as prescribed in RCW 76.09.170 shall be deposited in the state general fund. All such penalties recovered as a result of local government action shall be deposited in the local government general fund. Any funds recovered as reimbursement for damages pursuant to RCW 76.09.080 and 76.09.090 shall be transferred to that agency with jurisdiction over the public resource damaged, including but not limited to political subdivisions, the department of fish and wildlife, the department of ecology, the department of natural resources, or any other department that may be so designated: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to affect the provisions of RCW 90.48.142. [1994 c 264 § 50; 1988 c 36 § 48; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 18.]

**76.09.190 Additional penalty, gross misdemeanor.** In addition to the penalties imposed pursuant to RCW 76.09.170, any person who conducts any forest practice or knowingly aids or abets another in conducting any forest practice in violation of any provisions of RCW 76.09.010 through 76.09.280 or 90.48.420, or of the regulations implementing RCW 76.09.010 through 76.09.280 or 90.48.420, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or by

imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days or by both fine and imprisonment for each separate violation. Each day upon which such violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation. [2011 c 96 § 55; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 19.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**76.09.205 Appeals board review.** A person aggrieved by the approval or disapproval of an application to conduct a forest practice or the approval or disapproval of any landscape plan or permit or watershed analysis may seek review from the appeals board by filing a request for the same within thirty days from the date of receipt of the decision. Concurrently with the filing of any request for review with the appeals board as provided in this section, the requestor must file a copy of his or her request with the department and the attorney general. The attorney general may intervene to protect the public interest and ensure that the provisions of this chapter are complied with. [2010 c 210 § 24.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**76.09.240 Forest practices—County, city, or town to regulate—When—Adoption of development regulations—Enforcement—Technical assistance—Exceptions and limitations—Verification that land not subject to a notice of conversion to nonforestry uses—Reporting of information to the department of revenue.** (1)(a) Counties planning under RCW 36.70A.040 with a population greater than one hundred thousand, and the cities and towns within those counties, where more than a total of twenty-five Class IV forest practices applications, as defined in RCW 76.09.050(1) Class IV (a) through (d), have been filed with the department between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2005, shall adopt and enforce ordinances or regulations as provided in subsection (2) of this section for the following:

(i) Forest practices classified as Class I, II, III, and IV that are within urban growth areas designated under RCW 36.70A.110, except for forest practices on ownerships of contiguous forest land equal to or greater than twenty acres where the forest landowner provides, to the department and the county, city, or town, a written statement of intent, signed by the forest landowner, not to convert to a use other than growing commercial timber for ten years. This statement must be accompanied by either:

(A) A written forest management plan acceptable to the department; or

(B) Documentation that the land is enrolled as forest land of long-term commercial significance under the provisions of chapter 84.33 RCW; and

(ii) Forest practices classified as Class IV, outside urban growth areas designated under RCW 36.70A.110, involving either timber harvest or road construction, or both on:

(A) Forest lands that are being converted to another use; or

(B) Lands which, under RCW 76.09.070, are not to be reforested because of the likelihood of future conversion to urban development;

(b) Counties planning under RCW 36.70A.040, and the cities and towns within those counties, not included in (a) of this subsection, may adopt and enforce ordinances or regulations as provided in (a) of this subsection; and

(c) Counties not planning under RCW 36.70A.040, and the cities and towns within those counties, may adopt and enforce ordinances or regulations as provided in subsection (2) of this section for forest practices classified as Class IV involving either timber harvest or road construction, or both on:

(i) Forest lands that are being converted to another use; or

(ii) Lands which, under RCW 76.09.070, are not to be reforested because of the likelihood of future conversion to urban development.

(2) Before a county, city, or town may regulate forest practices under subsection (1) of this section, it shall ensure that its critical areas and development regulations are in compliance with RCW 36.70A.130 and, if applicable, RCW 36.70A.215. The county, city, or town shall notify the department and the department of ecology in writing sixty days prior to adoption of the development regulations required in this section. The transfer of jurisdiction shall not occur until the county, city, or town has notified the department, the department of revenue, and the department of ecology in writing of the effective date of the regulations. Ordinances and regulations adopted under subsection (1) of this section and this subsection must be consistent with or supplement development regulations that protect critical areas pursuant to RCW 36.70A.060, and shall at a minimum include:

(a) Provisions that require appropriate approvals for all phases of the conversion of forest lands, including land clearing and grading; and

(b) Procedures for the collection and administration of permit and recording fees.

(3) Activities regulated by counties, cities, or towns as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be administered and enforced by those counties, cities, or towns. The department shall not regulate these activities under this chapter.

(4) The board shall continue to adopt rules and the department shall continue to administer and enforce those rules in each county, city, or town for all forest practices as provided in this chapter until such a time as the county, city, or town has updated its development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.130 and, if applicable, RCW 36.70A.215, and has adopted ordinances or regulations under subsections (1) and (2) of this section. However, counties, cities, and towns that have adopted ordinances or regulations regarding forest practices prior to July 22, 2011, are not required to readopt their ordinances or regulations in order to satisfy the requirements of this section except as necessary to ensure consistency with Class IV forest practices as defined in RCW 76.09.050.

(5) Upon request, the department shall provide technical assistance to all counties, cities, and towns while they are in the process of adopting the regulations required by this section, and after the regulations become effective.

(6) For those forest practices over which the board and the department maintain regulatory authority no county, city, municipality, or other local or regional governmental entity shall adopt or enforce any law, ordinance, or regulation pertaining to forest practices, except that to the extent otherwise permitted by law, such entities may exercise any:

(a) Land use planning or zoning authority: PROVIDED, That exercise of such authority may regulate forest practices only where the application submitted under RCW 76.09.060 as now or hereafter amended indicates that the lands are being converted to a use other than commercial forest product production: PROVIDED, That no permit system solely for forest practices shall be allowed; that any additional or more stringent regulations shall not be inconsistent with the forest practices regulations enacted under this chapter; and such local regulations shall not unreasonably prevent timber harvesting;

(b) Taxing powers;

(c) Regulatory authority with respect to public health; and

(d) Authority granted by chapter 90.58 RCW, the "Shoreline Management Act of 1971."

(7) All counties and cities adopting or enforcing regulations or ordinances under this section shall include in the regulation or ordinance a requirement that a verification accompany every permit issued for forest land by that county or city associated with the conversion to a use other than commercial timber operation, as that term is defined in RCW 76.09.020, that verifies that the land in question is not or has not been subject to a notice of conversion to nonforestry uses under RCW 76.09.060 during the six-year period prior to the submission of a permit application.

(8) To improve the administration of the forest excise tax created in chapter 84.33 RCW, a county, city, or town that regulates forest practices under this section shall report permit information to the department of revenue for all approved forest practices permits. The permit information shall be reported to the department of revenue no later than sixty days after the date the permit was approved and shall be in a form and manner agreed to by the county, city, or town and the department of revenue. Permit information includes the landowner's legal name, address, telephone number, and parcel number. [2011 c 207 § 2; 2010 c 219 § 1. Prior: 2007 c 236 § 1; 2007 c 106 § 6; 2002 c 121 § 2; 1997 c 173 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 11; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 24.]

**76.09.250 Policy for continuing program of orientation and training.** The board shall establish a policy for a continuing program of orientation and training to be conducted by the department with relation to forest practices and the regulation thereof pursuant to RCW 76.09.010 through 76.09.280. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 25.]

**76.09.260 Department to represent state's interest—Cooperation with other public agencies—Grants and gifts.** The department shall represent the state's interest in matters pertaining to forestry and forest practices, including federal matters, and may consult with and cooperate with the federal government and other states, as well as other public agencies, in the study and enhancement of forestry and forest practices. The department is authorized to accept, receive, disburse, and administer grants or other funds or gifts from any source, including private individuals or agencies, the federal government, and other public agencies for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

Nothing in this chapter shall modify the designation of the department of ecology as the agency representing the

state for all purposes of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 26.]

**76.09.270 Annual determination of state's research needs—Recommendations.** The department, along with other affected agencies and institutions, shall annually determine the state's needs for research in forest practices and the impact of such practices on public resources and shall recommend needed projects to the governor and the legislature. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 27.]

**76.09.280 Removal of log and debris jams from streams.** Forest land owners shall permit reasonable access requested by appropriate agencies for removal from stream beds abutting their property of log and debris jams accumulated from upstream ownerships. Any owner of logs in such jams in claiming or removing them shall be required to remove all unmerchantable material from the stream bed in accordance with the forest practices regulations. Any material removed from stream beds must also be removed in compliance with all applicable laws administered by other agencies. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 28.]

**76.09.290 Inspection of lands—Reforestation.** The department shall inspect, or cause to be inspected, deforested lands of the state and ascertain if the lands are valuable chiefly for agriculture, timber growing, or other purposes, with a view to reforestation. [1986 c 100 § 49.]

**76.09.300 Mass earth movements and fluvial processes—Program to correct hazardous conditions on sites associated with roads and railroad grades—Hazard-reduction plans.** (1) Mass earth movements and fluvial processes can endanger public resources and public safety. In some cases, action can be taken which has a probability of reducing the danger to public resources and public safety. In other cases it may be best to take no action. In order to determine where and what, if any, actions should be taken on forest lands, the department shall develop a program to correct hazardous conditions on identified sites associated with roads and railroad grades constructed on private and public forest lands prior to January 1, 1987. The first priority treatment shall be accorded to those roads and railroad grades constructed before the effective date of the forest practices act of 1974.

(2) This program shall be designed to accomplish the purposes and policies set forth in RCW 76.09.010. For each geographic area studied, the department shall produce a hazard-reduction plan which shall consist of the following elements:

(a) Identification of sites where the department determines that earth movements or fluvial processes pose a significant danger to public resources or public safety: PROVIDED, That no liability shall attach to the state of Washington or the department for failure to identify such sites;

(b) Recommendations for the implementation of any appropriate hazard-reduction measures on the identified sites, which minimize interference with natural processes and disturbance to the environment;

(c) Analysis of the costs and benefits of each of the hazard-reduction alternatives, including a no-action alternative.

(3) In developing these plans, it is intended that the department utilize appropriate scientific expertise including a geomorphologist, a forest hydrologist, and a forest engineer.

(4) In developing these plans, the department shall consult with affected tribes, landowners, governmental agencies, and interested parties.

(5) Unless requested by a forest landowner under RCW 76.09.320, the department shall study geographic areas for participation in the program only to the extent that funds have been appropriated for cost sharing of hazard-reduction measures under RCW 76.09.320. [1987 c 95 § 2.]

**76.09.305 Advisory committee to review hazard-reduction plans authorized—Compensation, travel expenses.** The forest practices board may, upon request of the department or at its own discretion, appoint an advisory committee consisting of not more than five members qualified by appropriate experience and training to review and comment upon such draft hazard reduction plans prepared by the department as the department submits for review.

If an advisory committee is established, and within ninety days following distribution of a draft plan, the advisory committee shall prepare a written report on each hazard reduction plan submitted to it. The report, which shall be kept on file by the department, shall address each of those elements described in RCW 76.09.300(2).

Final authority for each plan is vested in the department, and advisory committee comments and decisions shall be advisory only. The exercise by advisory committee members of their authority to review and comment shall not imply or create any liability on their part. Advisory committee members shall be compensated as provided for in RCW 43.03.250 and shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses as provided by RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [1987 c 95 § 3.]

**76.09.310 Hazard-reduction program—Notice to landowners within areas selected for review—Proposed plans—Objections to plan, procedure—Final plans—Appeal.** (1) The department shall send a notice to all forest landowners, both public and private, within the geographic area selected for review, stating that the department intends to study the area as part of the hazard-reduction program.

(2) The department shall prepare a proposed plan for each geographic area studied. The department shall provide the proposed plan to affected landowners, Indian tribes, interested parties, and to the advisory committee, if established pursuant to RCW 76.09.305.

(3) Any aggrieved landowners, agencies, tribes, and other persons who object to any or all of the proposed hazard-reduction plan may, within thirty days of issuance of the plan, request the department in writing to schedule a conference. If so requested, the department shall schedule a conference on a date not more than thirty days after receiving such request.

(4) Within ten days after such a conference, the department shall either amend the proposed plan or respond in writing indicating why the objections were not incorporated into the plan.

(5) Within one hundred twenty days following the issuance of the proposed plan as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the department shall distribute a final hazard-reduction plan designating those sites for which hazard-reduction

measures are recommended and those sites where no action is recommended. For each hazard-reduction measure recommended, a description of the work and cost estimate shall be provided.

(6) Any aggrieved landowners, agencies, tribes, and other persons are entitled to appeal the final hazard-reduction plan to the appeals board if, within thirty days of the issuance of the final plan, the party transmits a notice of appeal to the appeals board and to the department.

(7) A landowner's failure to object to the recommendations or to appeal the final hazard-reduction plan shall not be deemed an admission that the hazard-reduction recommendations are appropriate.

(8) The department shall provide a copy of the final hazard-reduction plan to the department of ecology and to each affected county. [2010 c 210 § 25; 1987 c 95 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**76.09.315 Implementation of hazard-reduction measures—Election—Notice and application for cost-sharing funds—Inspection—Letter of compliance—Limitations on liability.** (1) When a forest landowner elects to implement the recommended hazard-reduction measures, the landowner shall notify the department and apply for cost-sharing funds. Upon completion, the department shall inspect the remedial measures undertaken by the forest landowner. If, in the department's opinion, the remedial measures have been properly implemented, the department shall promptly transmit a letter to the landowner stating that the landowner has complied with the hazard-reduction measures.

(2) Forest landowners, public and private, of hazard-reduction sites reviewed by the department and who have complied with the department's recommendations for sites which require action shall not be liable for any personal injuries or property damage, occurring on or off the property reviewed, arising from mass earth movements or fluvial processes associated with the hazard-reduction site reviewed. The limitation on liability contained in this subsection shall also cover personal injuries or property damage arising from mass earth movements or fluvial processes which are associated with those areas disturbed by activities required to acquire site access and to execute the plan when such activities are approved as part of a hazard-reduction plan. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection, a landowner may be liable when the landowner had actual knowledge of a dangerous artificial latent condition on the property that was not disclosed to the department.

(3) The exercise by the department of its authority, duties, and responsibilities provided for developing and implementing the hazard-reduction program and plans shall not imply or create any liability in the state of Washington or the department except that the department may be liable if the department is negligent in making a final hazard-reduction plan or in approving the implementation of specific hazard-reduction measures. [1987 c 95 § 5.]

**76.09.320 Implementation of hazard-reduction program—Cost sharing by department—Limitations.** (1) Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the department shall pay fifty percent of the cost of implementing the

hazard-reduction program, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) In the event department funds described in subsection (1) of this section are not available for all or a portion of a forest landowner's property, the landowner may request application of the hazard-reduction program to the owner's lands, provided the landowner funds one hundred percent of the cost of implementation of the department's recommended actions on his property.

(3) No cost-sharing funds may be made available for sites where the department determines that the hazardous condition results from a violation of then-prevailing standards as established by statute or rule. [1987 c 95 § 6.]

**76.09.330 Legislative findings—Liability from naturally falling trees required to be left standing.** The legislature hereby finds and declares that riparian ecosystems on forest lands in addition to containing valuable timber resources, provide benefits for wildlife, fish, and water quality. The legislature further finds and declares that leaving riparian areas unharvested and leaving snags and green trees for large woody debris recruitment for streams and rivers provides public benefits including but not limited to benefits for threatened and endangered salmonids, other fish, amphibians, wildlife, and water quality enhancement. The legislature further finds and declares that leaving upland areas unharvested for wildlife and leaving snags and green trees for future snag recruitment provides benefits for wildlife. Forest landowners may be required to leave trees standing in riparian and upland areas to benefit public resources. It is recognized that these trees may blow down or fall into streams and that organic debris may be allowed to remain in streams. This is beneficial to riparian dependent and other wildlife species. Further, it is recognized that trees may blow down, fall onto, or otherwise cause damage or injury to public improvements, private property, and persons. Notwithstanding any statutory provision, rule, or common law doctrine to the contrary, the landowner, the department, and the state of Washington shall not be held liable for any injury or damages resulting from these actions, including but not limited to wildfire, erosion, flooding, personal injury, property damage, damage to public improvements, and other injury or damages of any kind or character resulting from the trees being left. [1999 sp.s. c 4 § 602; 1992 c 52 § 5; 1987 c 95 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.340 Certain forest practices exempt from rules and policies under this chapter.** Forest practices consistent with a habitat conservation plan approved prior to March 25, 1996, by the secretary of the interior or commerce under 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq., and the endangered species act of 1973 as amended, are exempt from rules and policies under this chapter, provided the proposed forest practices indicated in the application are in compliance with the plan, and provided this exemption applies only to rules and policies adopted primarily for the protection of one or more species, including unlisted species, covered by the plan. Such forest practices are deemed not to have the potential for a substantial impact on the environment but may be found to have the potential for a substantial impact on the environment due to other reasons under RCW 76.09.050.

Nothing in this section is intended to limit the board's rule-making authority under this chapter. [1996 c 136 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.350 Long-term multispecies landscape management plans—Pilot projects, selection—Plan approval, elements—Notice of agreement recorded—Memorandums of agreements—Report, evaluation.** The legislature recognizes the importance of providing the greatest diversity of habitats, particularly riparian, wetland, and old growth habitats, and of assuring the greatest diversity of species within those habitats for the survival and reproduction of enough individuals to maintain the native wildlife of Washington forest lands. The legislature also recognizes the importance of long-term habitat productivity for natural and wild fish, for the protection of hatchery water supplies, and for the protection of water quality and quantity to meet the needs of people, fish, and wildlife. The legislature recognizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing fish and wildlife habitats capable of sustaining the commercial and noncommercial uses of fish and wildlife. The legislature further recognizes the importance of the continued growth and development of the state's forest products industry which has a vital stake in the long-term productivity of both the public and private forest land base.

The development of a landscape planning system would help achieve these goals. Landowners and resource managers should be provided incentives to voluntarily develop long-term multispecies landscape management plans that will provide protection to public resources. Because landscape planning represents a departure from the use of standard baseline rules and may result in unintended consequences to both the affected habitats and to a landowner's economic interests, the legislature desires to establish up to seven experimental pilot programs to gain experience with landscape planning that may prove useful in fashioning legislation of a more general application.

(1) Until December 31, 2000, the department in cooperation with the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology when relating to water quality protection, is granted authority to select not more than seven pilot projects for the purpose of developing individual landowner multispecies landscape management plans.

(a) Pilot project participants must be selected by the department in cooperation with the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology when relating to water quality protection, no later than October 1, 1997.

(b) The number and the location of the pilot projects are to be determined by the department in cooperation with the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology when relating to water quality protection, and should be selected on the basis of risk to the habitat and species, variety and importance of species and habitats in the planning area, geographic distribution, surrounding ownership, other ongoing landscape and watershed planning activities in the area, potential benefits to water quantity and quality, financial and staffing capabilities of participants, and other factors that will contribute to the creation of landowner multispecies landscape planning efforts.

(c) Each pilot project shall have a landscape management plan with the following elements:

(i) An identification of public resources selected for coverage under the plan and measurable objectives for the protection of the selected public resources;

(ii) A termination date of not later than 2050;

(iii) A general description of the planning area including its geographic location, physical and biological features, habitats, and species known to be present;

(iv) An identification of the existing forest practices rules that will not apply during the term of the plan;

(v) Proposed habitat management strategies or prescriptions;

(vi) A projection of the habitat conditions likely to result from the implementation of the specified management strategies or prescriptions;

(vii) An assessment of habitat requirements and the current habitat conditions of representative species included in the plan;

(viii) An assessment of potential or likely impacts to representative species resulting from the prescribed forest practices;

(ix) A description of the anticipated benefits to those species or other species as a result of plan implementation;

(x) A monitoring plan;

(xi) Reporting requirements including a schedule for review of the plan's performance in meeting its objectives;

(xii) Conditions under which a plan may be modified, including a procedure for adaptive management;

(xiii) Conditions under which a plan may be terminated;

(xiv) A procedure for adaptive management that evaluates the effectiveness of the plan to meet its measurable public resources objectives, reflects changes in the best available science, and provides changes to its habitat management strategies, prescriptions, and hydraulic project standards to the extent agreed to in the plan and in a timely manner and schedule;

(xv) A description of how the plan relates to publicly available plans of adjacent federal, state, tribal, and private timberland owners; and

(xvi) A statement of whether the landowner intends to apply for approval of the plan under applicable federal law.

(2) Until December 31, 2000, the department, in agreement with the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology when the landowner elects to cover water quality in the plan, shall approve a landscape management plan and enter into a binding implementation agreement with the landowner when such departments find, based upon the best scientific data available, that:

(a) The plan contains all of the elements required under this section including measurable public resource objectives;

(b) The plan is expected to be effective in meeting those objectives;

(c) The landowner has sufficient financial resources to implement the management strategies or prescriptions to be implemented by the landowner under the plan;

(d) The plan will:

(i) Provide better protection than current state law for the public resources selected for coverage under the plan considered in the aggregate; and

(ii) Compared to conditions that could result from compliance with current state law:

(A) Not result in poorer habitat conditions over the life of the plan for any species selected for coverage that is listed as threatened or endangered under federal or state law, or that has been identified as a candidate for such listing, at the time the plan is approved; and

(B) Measurably improve habitat conditions for species selected for special consideration under the plan;

(e) The plan shall include watershed analysis or provide for a level of protection that meets or exceeds the protection that would be provided by watershed analysis, if the landowner selects fish or water quality as a public resource to be covered under the plan. Any alternative process to watershed analysis would be subject to timely peer review;

(f) The planning process provides for a public participation process during the development of the plan, which shall be developed by the department in cooperation with the landowner.

The management plans must be submitted to the department and the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology when the landowner elects to cover water quality in the plan, no later than March 1, 2000. The department shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the proposed plan. The comment period shall not be less than forty-five days. The department shall approve or reject plans within one hundred twenty days of submittal by the landowner of a final plan. The decision by the department, in agreement with the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology when the landowner has elected to cover water quality in the plan, to approve or disapprove the management plan is subject to the environmental review process of chapter 43.21C RCW, provided that any public comment period provided for under chapter 43.21C RCW shall run concurrently with the public comment period provided in this subsection (2).

(3) After a landscape management plan is adopted:

(a) Forest practices consistent with the plan need not comply with:

(i) The specific forest practices rules identified in the plan; and

(ii) Any forest practice rules and policies adopted after the approval of the plan to the extent that the rules:

(A) Have been adopted primarily for the protection of a public resource selected for coverage under the plan; or

(B) Provide for procedural or administrative obligations inconsistent with or in addition to those provided for in the plan with respect to those public resources; and

(b) If the landowner has selected fish as one of the public resources to be covered under the plan, the plan shall serve as the hydraulic project approval for the life of the plan, in compliance with \*RCW 77.55.100.

(4) The department is authorized to issue a single landscape level permit valid for the life of the plan to a landowner who has an approved landscape management plan and who has requested a landscape permit from the department. Landowners receiving a landscape level permit shall meet annually with the department and the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology where water quality has been selected as a public resource to be covered under the plan, to review the specific forest practices activities planned for the next twelve months and to determine whether such activities are in compliance with the plan. The departments

will consult with the affected Indian tribes and other interested parties who have expressed an interest in connection with the review. The landowner is to provide ten calendar days' notice to the department prior to the commencement of any forest practices authorized under a landscape level permit. The landscape level permit will not impose additional conditions relating to the public resources selected for coverage under the plan beyond those agreed to in the plan. For the purposes of chapter 43.21C RCW, forest practices conducted in compliance with an approved plan are deemed not to have the potential for a substantial impact on the environment as to any public resource selected for coverage under the plan.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in a plan, the agreement implementing the landscape management plan is an agreement that runs with the property covered by the approved landscape management plan and the department shall record notice of the plan in the real property records of the counties in which the affected properties are located. Prior to its termination, no plan shall permit forest land covered by its terms to be withdrawn from such coverage, whether by sale, exchange, or other means, nor to be converted to nonforestry uses except to the extent that such withdrawal or conversion would not measurably impair the achievement of the plan's stated public resource objectives. If a participant transfers all or part of its interest in the property, the terms of the plan still apply to the new landowner for the plan's stated duration unless the plan is terminated under its terms or unless the plan specifies the conditions under which the terms of the plan do not apply to the new landowner.

(6) The departments of natural resources, fish and wildlife, and ecology shall seek to develop memorandums of agreements with federal agencies and affected Indian tribes relating to tribal issues in the landscape management plans. The departments shall solicit input from affected Indian tribes in connection with the selection, review, and approval of any landscape management plan. If any recommendation is received from an affected Indian tribe and is not adopted by the departments, the departments shall provide a written explanation of their reasons for not adopting the recommendation.

(7) The department is directed to report to the forest practices board annually through the year 2000, but no later than December 31st of each year, on the status of each pilot project. The department is directed to provide to the forest practices board, no later than December 31, 2000, an evaluation of the pilot projects including a determination if a permanent landscape planning process should be established along with a discussion of what legislative and rule modifications are necessary. [2003 c 39 § 34; 1997 c 290 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.55.100 was repealed by 2005 c 146 § 1006.

**76.09.360 Single multiyear permit.** The department together with the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of ecology relating to water quality protection, shall develop a suitable process to permit landowners to secure all permits required for the conduct of forest practices in a single multiyear permit to be jointly issued by the departments and the departments shall report their findings to the legislature not later than December 31, 2000. [1997 c 290 § 2.]

**76.09.368 Intent—Small forest landowners—Alternate plan processes/alternate harvest restrictions—Report to the legislature.** The legislature intends that small forest landowners have access to alternate plan processes or alternate harvest restrictions, or both if necessary, that meet the public resource protection standard set forth in RCW 76.09.370(3), but which also lowers the overall cost of regulation to small forest landowners including, but not limited to, timber value forgone, layout costs, and operating costs. The forest practices board shall consult with the small forest landowner office advisory committee in developing these alternate approaches. By July 1, 2003, the forest practices board shall provide the legislature with a written report that describes the board's progress in developing alternate plan processes or alternate harvest restrictions, or both if necessary, that meet legislative intent.

As used in this section, "small forest landowner" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 76.13.120(2). [2002 c 120 § 4.]

**76.09.370 Findings—Forests and fish report—Adoption of rules.** (1) The legislature finds that the process that produced the forests and fish report was instigated by the forest practices board, the report is the product of considerable negotiations between several diverse interest groups, and the report has the support of key federal agencies. When adopting permanent rules under this section, the forest practices board is strongly encouraged to follow the recommendations of the forests and fish report, but may include other alternatives for protection of aquatic resources. If the forest practices board chooses to adopt rules under this section that are not consistent with the recommendations contained in the forests and fish report, the board must notify the appropriate legislative committees of the proposed deviations, the reasons for the proposed deviations, and whether the parties to the forests and fish report still support the agreement. The board shall defer final adoption of such rules for sixty days of the legislative session to allow for the opportunity for additional public involvement and legislative oversight.

(2) The forest practices board shall follow the regular rules adoption process contained in the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, when adopting permanent rules pertaining to forest practices and the protection of aquatic resources except as limited by subsection (1) of this section. The permanent rules must accomplish the policies stated in RCW 76.09.010 without jeopardizing the economic viability of the forest products industry.

(3) The rules adopted under this section should be as specific as reasonably possible while also allowing an applicant to propose alternate plans in response to site-specific physical features. Alternate plans should provide protection to public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness by alternate means.

(4) Rule making under subsection (2) of this section shall be completed by June 30, 2001.

(5) The board should consider coordinating any environmental review process under chapter 43.21C RCW relating to the adoption of rules under subsection (2) of this section with any review of a related proposal under the national environmental policy act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321, et seq.).

(6) After the board has adopted permanent rules under subsection (2) of this section, changes to those rules and any new rules covering aquatic resources may be adopted by the board but only if the changes or new rules are consistent with recommendations resulting from the scientifically based adaptive management process established by a rule of the board. Any new rules or changes under this subsection need not be based upon the recommendations of the adaptive management process if: (a) The board is required to adopt or modify rules by the final order of any court having jurisdiction thereof; or (b) future state legislation directs the board to adopt or modify the rules.

(7) In adopting permanent rules, the board shall incorporate the scientific-based adaptive management process described in the forests and fish report which will be used to determine the effectiveness of the new forest practices rules in aiding the state's salmon recovery effort. The purpose of an adaptive management process is to make adjustments as quickly as possible to forest practices that are not achieving the resource objectives. The adaptive management process shall incorporate the best available science and information, include protocols and standards, regular monitoring, a scientific and peer review process, and provide recommendations to the board on proposed changes to forest practices rules to meet timber industry viability and salmon recovery. [1999 sp.s. c 4 § 204.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.380 Report to the legislature—Emergency rules—Permanent rules.** Prior to the adoption of permanent rules as required by chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. and no later than January 1, 2000, the board shall report to the appropriate legislative committees regarding the substance of emergency rules that have been adopted under chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. In addition, the report shall include information on changes made to the forests and fish report after April 29, 1999, and an update on the status of the adoption of permanent rules, including the anticipated substance of the rules and the anticipated date of final adoption. The board shall additionally provide a report to the appropriate legislative committees by January 1, 2001.

On January 1, 2006, the board shall provide a summary to the appropriate legislative committees regarding modifications made to the forests and fish report made after January 1, 2000, and to the permanent rules according to the adaptive management process as set forth in the forests and fish report. [1999 sp.s. c 4 § 205.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.390 Sale of land or timber rights with continuing obligations—Notice—Failure to notify—Exemption.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, prior to the sale or transfer of land or perpetual timber rights subject to continuing forest land obligations under the forest practices rules adopted under RCW 76.09.370, as specifically identified in the forests and fish report the seller shall notify the buyer of the existence and nature of such a continuing obligation and the buyer shall sign a notice of continuing forest land obligation indicating the buyer's knowledge thereof. The notice shall be on a form prepared by the department and shall be sent to the department by the seller at the time of sale

or transfer of the land or perpetual timber rights and retained by the department. If the seller fails to notify the buyer about the continuing forest land obligation, the seller shall pay the buyer's costs related to such continuing forest land obligation, including all legal costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the buyer in enforcing the continuing forest land obligation against the seller. Failure by the seller to send the required notice to the department at the time of sale shall be prima facie evidence, in an action by the buyer against the seller for costs related to the continuing forest land obligation, that the seller did not notify the buyer of the continuing forest land obligation prior to sale.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to checklist road maintenance and abandonment plans created by RCW 76.09.420. [2003 c 311 § 6; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 707.]

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.09.405 Forest and fish support account—Created.**

The forest and fish support account is hereby created in the state treasury. Receipts from appropriations, the surcharge imposed under RCW 82.04.261, and other sources must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account shall be used for activities pursuant to the state's implementation of the forests and fish report as defined in this chapter and related activities including, but not limited to, adaptive management, monitoring, and participation grants to tribes, state and local agencies, and not-for-profit public interest organizations. Expenditures from the account may be made only after appropriation by the legislature. [2007 c 54 § 3; 2007 c 48 § 1; 2006 c 300 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2007 c 48 § 1 and by 2007 c 54 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective date—2007 c 48:** See note following RCW 82.04.260.

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

**76.09.410 Road maintenance and abandonment plans—Fish passage barriers.**

(1) The state may not require a small forest landowner to invest in upgrades, replacements, or other engineering of a forest road, and any fish passage barriers that are a part of the road, that do not threaten public resources or create a barrier to the passage of fish.

(2) Participation in the forests and fish agreement provides a benefit to both the landowner in terms of federal assurances, and the public in terms of aquatic habitat preservation and water quality enhancement; therefore, if conditions do threaten public resources or create a fish passage barrier, the road maintenance and abandonment planning process may not require a small forest landowner to take a positive action that will result in high cost without a significant portion of that cost being shared by the public.

(3) Some fish passage barriers are more of a threat to public resources than others; therefore, no small forest landowner should be required to repair a fish passage barrier until higher priority fish passage barriers on other lands in the watershed have been repaired.

(4) If an existing fish passage barrier on land owned by a small forest landowner was installed under an approved forest practices application or notification, and hydraulics approval, and that fish passage barrier becomes a high priority for fish passage based on the watershed ranking in \*RCW 76.13.150, one hundred percent public funding shall be provided.

(5) The preparation of a road maintenance and abandonment plan can require technical expertise that may require large expenditures before the time that the landowner plans to conduct any revenue-generating operations on his or her land; therefore, small forest landowners should be allowed to complete a simplified road maintenance and abandonment plan checklist, that does not require professional engineering or forestry expertise to complete, and that does not need to be submitted until the time that the landowner submits a forest practices application or notification for final or intermediate harvesting, or for salvage of trees. Chapter 311, Laws of 2003 is intended to provide an alternate way for small forest landowners to comply with the road maintenance and abandonment plan goals identified in the forest practices rules. [2003 c 311 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 76.13.150 appears to be erroneous. Reference to RCW 77.12.755 was apparently intended.

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

**76.09.420 Road maintenance and abandonment plans—Rules—Checklist—Report to the legislature—Emergency rules.** (1) The board must amend the forest practices rules relating to road maintenance and abandonment plans that exist on May 14, 2003, to reflect the following:

(a) A forest landowner who owns a total of eighty acres or less of forest land in Washington is not required to submit a road maintenance and abandonment plan for any block of forest land that is twenty contiguous acres or less in area;

(b) A landowner who satisfies the definition of a small forest landowner, but who does not qualify under (a) of this subsection, is only required to submit a checklist road maintenance and abandonment plan with the abbreviated content requirements provided for in subsection (3) of this section, and is not required to comply with annual reporting and review requirements; and

(c) Existing forest roads must be maintained only to the extent necessary to prevent damage to public resources.

(2) The department must provide a landowner who is either exempted from submitting a road maintenance and abandonment plan under subsection (1)(a) of this section, or who qualifies for a checklist road maintenance and abandonment plan under subsection (1)(b) of this section, with an educational brochure outlining road maintenance standards and requirements. In addition, the department must develop a series of nonmandatory educational workshops on the rules associated with road construction and maintenance.

(3)(a) A landowner who qualifies for a checklist road maintenance and abandonment plan under subsection (1)(b) of this section is only required to submit a checklist, designed by the department in consultation with the small forest landowner office advisory committee created in RCW 76.13.110, that confirms that the landowner is applying the checklist cri-

teria to forest roads covered or affected by a forest practices application or notification. When developing the checklist road maintenance and abandonment plan, the department shall ensure that the checklist does not exceed current state law. Nothing in this subsection increases or adds to small forest landowners' duties or responsibilities under any other section of the forest practices rules or any other state law or rule.

(b) A landowner who qualifies for the checklist road maintenance and abandonment plan is not required to submit the checklist before the time that he or she submits a forest practices application or notification for final or intermediate harvesting, or for salvage of trees. The department may encourage and accept checklists prior to the time that they are due.

(4) The department must monitor the extent of the checklist road maintenance and abandonment plan approach and report its findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2008, and December 31, 2013.

(5) The board shall adopt emergency rules under RCW 34.05.090 by October 31, 2003, to implement this section. The emergency rules shall remain in effect until permanent rules can be adopted. The forest practices rules that relate to road maintenance and abandonment plans shall remain in effect as they existed on May 14, 2003, until emergency rules have been adopted under this section.

(6) This section is only intended to relate to the board's duties as they relate to the road maintenance and abandonment plan element of the forests and fish report. Nothing in this section alters any forest landowner's duties and responsibilities under any other section of the forest practices rules, or any other state law or rule. [2003 c 311 § 4.]

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

**76.09.430 Application to RCW 76.13.150.** RCW 76.13.150 applies to road maintenance and abandonment plans under this chapter. [2003 c 311 § 8.]

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

**76.09.440 Small forest landowner—Fish passage barriers.** The department shall not disapprove a forest practices application filed by a small forest landowner on the basis that fish passage barriers have not been removed or replaced if the small forest landowner filing the application has committed to participate in the program established in RCW 76.13.150 for all fish passage barriers existing on the block of forest land covered by the forest practices application, and the fish passage barriers existing on the block of forest land covered by the forest practices application are lower on the funding order list established for the program than the current projects that are capable of being funded by the program. [2003 c 311 § 9.]

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

**76.09.450 Small forest landowner—Defined.** For the purposes of this chapter and RCW 76.13.150 and 77.12.755, "small forest landowner" means an owner of forest land who, at the time of submission of required documentation to the

department, has harvested from his or her own lands in this state no more than an average timber volume of two million board feet per year during the three years prior to submitting documentation to the department and who certifies that he or she does not expect to harvest from his or her own lands in the state more than an average timber volume of two million board feet per year during the ten years following the submission of documentation to the department. However, any landowner who exceeded the two million board feet annual average timber harvest threshold from their land in the three years prior to submitting documentation to the department, or who expects to exceed the threshold during any of the following ten years, shall still be deemed a "small forest landowner" if he or she establishes to the department's reasonable satisfaction that the harvest limits were, or will be, exceeded in order to raise funds to pay estate taxes or for an equally compelling and unexpected obligation, such as for a court-ordered judgment or for extraordinary medical expenses. [2003 c 311 § 11.]

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

**76.09.460 Notice of conversion to nonforestry use—Denial of permits or approvals by the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity—Enforcement.** If a county, city, town, or regional governmental entity receives a notice of conversion to nonforestry use by the department under RCW 76.09.060, then the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity must deny all applications for permits or approvals, including building permits and subdivision approvals, relating to nonforestry uses of the land that is the subject of the notification. The prohibition created by this section must be enforced by the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity:

(1) For a period of six years from the approval date of the applicable forest practices application or notification or the date that the department was made aware of the harvest activities; or

(2) Until the following activities are completed for the land that is the subject of the notice of conversion to a nonforestry use:

(a) Full compliance with chapter 43.21C RCW, if applicable;

(b) The department has notified the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity that the landowner has resolved any outstanding final orders or decisions issued by the department; and

(c) A determination is made by the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity as to whether or not the condition of the land in question is in full compliance with local ordinances and regulations. If full compliance is not found, a mitigation plan to address violations of local ordinances or regulations must be required for the parcel in question by the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity. Required mitigation plans must be prepared by the landowner and approved by the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity. Once approved, the mitigation plan must be implemented by the landowner. Mitigation measures that may be required include, but are not limited to, revegetation requirements to plant and maintain trees of sufficient maturity and appropriate species composition to restore critical

(2012 Ed.)

area and buffer function or to be in compliance with applicable local government regulations. [2007 c 106 § 2.]

**76.09.470 Conversion of land to nonforestry use—Action required of landowner—Action required of county, city, town, or regional governmental entity.** (1) If a landowner who did not state an intent to convert his or her land to a nonforestry use decides to convert his or her land to a nonforestry use within six years of receiving an approved forest practices application or notification under this chapter, the landowner must:

(a) Stop all forest practices activities on the parcels subject to the proposed land use conversion to a nonforestry use;

(b) Contact the department of ecology and the applicable county, city, town, or regional governmental entity to begin the permitting process; and

(c) Notify the department, withdraw any applicable applications or notifications, and submit a new application for the conversion. The fee for a new application for conversion under this subsection (1)(c) is the difference between the applicable fee for the new application under RCW 76.09.065 and the fee previously paid for the original application or notification, which must be deposited in the forest practices application account created in RCW 76.09.065.

(2) Upon being contacted by a landowner under this section, the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity must:

(a) Notify the department and request from the department the status of any applicable forest practices applications, notifications, or final orders or decisions; and

(b) Complete the following activities:

(i) Require that the landowner be in full compliance with chapter 43.21C RCW, if applicable;

(ii) Receive notification from the department that the landowner has resolved any outstanding final orders or decisions issued by the department; and

(iii) Make a determination as to whether or not the condition of the land in question is in full compliance with local ordinances and regulations. If full compliance is not found, a mitigation plan to address violations of local ordinances or regulations must be required for the parcel in question by the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity. Required mitigation plans must be prepared by the landowner and approved by the county, city, town, or regional governmental entity. Once approved, the mitigation plan must be implemented by the landowner. Mitigation measures that may be required include, but are not limited to, revegetation requirements to plant and maintain trees of sufficient maturity and appropriate species composition to restore critical area and buffer function or to be in compliance with applicable local government regulations. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 210; 2007 c 106 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**76.09.480 Identification of projects that mitigate infrastructure and noninfrastructure development.** The department and, when appropriate, the small forest landowner office established in RCW 76.13.110 must assist in identifying potential projects that can be used for the mitiga-

tion of infrastructure and noninfrastructure development, as those terms are defined in RCW 90.74.010, as provided in RCW 90.74.040. [2012 c 62 § 8.]

**76.09.490 Forest practices hydraulic project—Department may request information/technical assistance from the department of fish and wildlife—Concurrence review process. (Contingent effective date.)** (1) The department may request information and technical assistance from the department of fish and wildlife regarding any forest practices hydraulic project regulated under this chapter.

(2) A concurrence review process is established for certain forest practices hydraulic projects, as follow[s]:

(a) After receiving an application under RCW 76.09.050 that includes a forest practices hydraulic project involving one or more water crossing structures meeting the criteria of (b) of this subsection, the department shall provide all necessary information provided by the applicant to the department of fish and wildlife for concurrence review consistent with RCW 77.55.361(3). The required information must be transmitted by the department to the department of fish and wildlife as soon as practicable following the receipt of a complete application.

(b) The concurrence review process applies only to:

(i) Culvert installation or replacement, and repair at or below the bankfull width, as that term is defined in WAC 222-16-010 on July 10, 2012, in fish bearing rivers and streams that exceed five percent gradient;

(ii) Bridge construction or replacement, and repair at or below the bankfull width, of fish bearing unconfined streams; or

(iii) Fill within the flood level - 100 year, as that term is defined in WAC 222-16-010, as it existed on July 10, 2012, of fish bearing unconfined streams. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 202.]

**Contingent effective date—2012 1st sp.s. c 1 §§ 202 and 205:** "Sections 202 and 205 of this act take effect on the date the forest practices board incorporates fish protection standards adopted under chapter 77.55 RCW into the forest practices rules and approves technical guidance as required under RCW 76.09.040. The department of natural resources must provide written notice of the effective date of these sections to affected parties, the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate, the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the department of natural resources." [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 215.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**76.09.900 Short title.** Sections 1 through 28 of this 1974 act shall be known and may be cited as the "Forest Practices Act of 1974". [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 29.]

**76.09.905 Air pollution laws not modified.** Nothing in RCW 76.09.010 through 76.09.280 or 90.48.420 shall modify chapter 70.94 RCW or any other provision of law relating to the control of air pollution. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 31.]

**76.09.910 Shoreline management act, hydraulics act, other statutes and ordinances not modified—Exceptions.** Nothing in RCW 76.09.010 through 76.09.280 as now or hereafter amended shall modify any requirements to comply with the Shoreline Management Act of 1971 except as limited by RCW 76.09.240 as now or hereafter amended, or the hydraulics act (\*RCW 77.55.100), other state statutes in

effect on January 1, 1975, and any local ordinances not inconsistent with RCW 76.09.240 as now or hereafter amended. [2003 c 39 § 35; 1975 1st ex.s. c 200 § 12; 1974 ex.s. c 137 § 32.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.55.100 was repealed by 2005 c 146 § 1006.

**76.09.915 Repeal and savings.** (1) The following acts or parts of acts are each repealed:

(a) Section 2, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 1, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 1, chapter 44, Laws of 1953, section 1, chapter 79, Laws of 1957, section 10, chapter 207, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 76.08.010;

(b) Section 1, chapter 193, Laws of 1945 and RCW 76.08.020;

(c) Section 3, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 2, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 1, chapter 115, Laws of 1955 and RCW 76.08.030;

(d) Section 4, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 3, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 2, chapter 79, Laws of 1957 and RCW 76.08.040;

(e) Section 5, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 4, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 3, chapter 79, Laws of 1957, section 11, chapter 207, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 76.08.050;

(f) Section 6, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 5, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 2, chapter 44, Laws of 1953, section 12, chapter 207, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 76.08.060;

(g) Section 7, chapter 193, Laws of 1945 and RCW 76.08.070;

(h) Section 8, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 6, chapter 218, Laws of 1947, section 3, chapter 44, Laws of 1953, section 2, chapter 115, Laws of 1955, section 1, chapter 40, Laws of 1961 and RCW 76.08.080; and

(i) Section 9, chapter 193, Laws of 1945, section 4, chapter 44, Laws of 1953 and RCW 76.08.090.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing repealer, obligations under such sections or permits issued thereunder and in effect on January 1, 1975, shall continue in full force and effect, and no liability thereunder, civil or criminal, shall be in any way modified. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 34.]

**76.09.920 Application for extension of prior permits.** Permits issued by the department under the provisions of RCW 76.08.030 during 1974 shall be effective until April 1, 1975 if an application has been submitted under the provisions of RCW 76.09.050 prior to January 1, 1975. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 35.]

**76.09.925 Effective dates—1974 ex.s. c 137.** RCW 76.09.030, 76.09.040, 76.09.050, 76.09.060, 76.09.200, 90.48.420, and 76.09.935 are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. RCW 76.09.010, 76.09.020, 76.09.070, 76.09.080, 76.09.090, 76.09.100, 76.09.110, 76.09.120, 76.09.130, 76.09.140, 76.09.150, 76.09.160, 76.09.170, 76.09.180, 76.09.190, \*76.09.210, \*76.09.220, \*76.09.230, 76.09.240, 76.09.250, 76.09.260, 76.09.270, 76.09.280, 76.09.900, 76.09.905, 76.09.910,

76.09.930, 76.09.915, and 76.09.920 shall take effect January 1, 1975. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 37.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 76.09.210, 76.09.220, and 76.09.230 were repealed by 2010 c 210 § 41.

**76.09.935 Severability—1974 ex.s. c 137.** If any provision of this 1974 act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected. [1974 ex.s. c 137 § 36.]

## Chapter 76.10 RCW SURFACE MINING

Reviser's note: Chapter 64, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. has been codified as chapter 78.44 RCW, "Mines, minerals, and petroleum" although section 1 of the act states "Sections 2 through 25 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 76 RCW." As the act pertains solely to surface mining, the change in placement has been made to preserve the subject matter arrangement of the code.

## Chapter 76.13 RCW STEWARDSHIP OF NONINDUSTRIAL FORESTS AND WOODLANDS

### Sections

76.13.005	Finding.
76.13.007	Purpose.
76.13.010	Definitions.
76.13.020	Authority.
76.13.030	Funding sources—Fees—Contracts.
76.13.100	Findings.
76.13.110	Small forest landowner office—Establishment—Duties—Advisory committee—Report to the legislature.
76.13.120	Findings—Definitions—Forestry riparian easement program.
76.13.130	Small parcels—Alternative management plans.
76.13.140	Small forest landowners—Value of buffer trees.
76.13.150	Fish passage barriers—Cost-sharing program.
76.13.160	Qualifying small forest landowner—Review of certain records.
76.13.170	List of forest riparian easements to be funded.
76.13.180	Sale of land to nonqualifying landowner—Selling landowner must reimburse the state.

**76.13.005 Finding.** The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(1) Over half of the private forest and woodland acreage in Washington is owned by landowners with less than five thousand acres who are not in the business of industrial handling or processing of timber products.

(2) Nonindustrial forests and woodlands are absorbing more demands and impacts on timber, fish, wildlife, water, recreation, and aesthetic resources, due to population growth and a shrinking commercial forest land base.

(3) Nonindustrial forests and woodlands provide valuable habitat for many of the state's numerous fish, wildlife, and plant species, including some threatened and endangered species, and many habitats can be protected and improved through knowledgeable forest resource stewardship.

(4) Providing for long-term stewardship of nonindustrial forests and woodlands in growth areas and rural areas is an important factor in maintaining Washington's special character and quality of life.

(5) In order to encourage and maintain nonindustrial forests and woodlands for their present and future benefit to all citizens, Washington's nonindustrial forest and woodland

(2012 Ed.)

owners' long-term commitments to stewardship of forest resources must be recognized and supported by the citizens of Washington state. [1991 c 27 § 1.]

**76.13.007 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to:

(1) Promote the coordination and delivery of services with federal, state, and local agencies, colleges and universities, landowner assistance organizations, consultants, forest resource-related industries and environmental organizations to nonindustrial forest and woodland owners.

(2) Facilitate the production of forest products, enhancement of wildlife and fisheries, protection of streams and wetlands, culturing of special plants, availability of recreation opportunities and the maintenance of scenic beauty for the enjoyment and benefit of nonindustrial forest and woodland owners and the citizens of Washington by meeting the landowners' stewardship objectives. [1991 c 27 § 2.]

**76.13.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply to RCW 76.13.005, 76.13.007, 76.13.020, and 76.13.030.

(1) "Cooperating organization" means federal, state, and local agencies, colleges and universities, landowner assistance organizations, consultants, forest resource-related industries, and environmental organizations which promote and maintain programs designed to provide information and technical assistance services to nonindustrial forest and woodland owners.

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(3) "Landowner" means an individual, partnership, private, public or municipal corporation, Indian tribe, state agency, county, or local government entity, educational institution, or association of individuals of whatever nature that own nonindustrial forests and woodlands.

(4) "Nonindustrial forests and woodlands" are those suburban acreages and rural lands supporting or capable of supporting trees and other flora and fauna associated with a forest ecosystem, comprised of total individual land ownerships of less than five thousand acres and not directly associated with wood processing or handling facilities.

(5) "Stewardship" means managing by caring for, promoting, protecting, renewing, or reestablishing or both, forests and associated resources for the benefit of the landowner, the natural resources and the citizens of Washington state, in accordance with each landowner's objectives, best management practices, and legal requirements. [2000 c 11 § 11; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 502; 1991 c 27 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.13.020 Authority.** In order to accomplish the purposes stated in RCW 76.13.007, the department may:

(1) Establish and maintain a nonindustrial forest and woodland owner assistance program, and through such a program, assist nonindustrial forest and woodland owners in meeting their stewardship objectives.

(2) Provide direct technical assistance through development of management plans, advice, and information to nonindustrial forest land owners to meet their stewardship objectives.

(3) Assist and facilitate efforts of cooperating organizations to provide stewardship education, information, technical assistance, and incentives to nonindustrial forest and woodland owners.

(4) Provide financial assistance to landowners and cooperating organizations.

(5) Appoint a stewardship advisory committee to assist in establishing and operating this program.

(6) Loan or rent surplus equipment to assist cooperating organizations and nonindustrial forest and woodland owners.

(7) Work with local governments to explain the importance of maintaining nonindustrial forests and woodlands.

(8) Take such other steps as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1991 c 27 § 4.]

**76.13.030 Funding sources—Fees—Contracts.** The department may:

(1) Receive and disburse any and all moneys contributed, allotted, or paid by the United States under authority of any act of congress for the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Receive such gifts, grants, bequests, and endowments and donations of moneys, labor, material, seedlings, and equipment from public or private sources as may be made for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter and may spend the gifts, grants, bequests, endowments, and donations as well as other moneys from public or private sources according to their terms.

(3) Charge fees for attendance at workshops and conferences, for various publications and other materials which the department may prepare.

(4) Enter into contracts with cooperating organizations having responsibility to carry out programs of similar purposes to this chapter. [1991 c 27 § 5.]

**76.13.100 Findings.** (1) The legislature finds that increasing regulatory requirements continue to diminish the economic viability of small forest landowners. The concerns set forth in RCW 77.85.180 about the importance of sustaining forestry as a viable land use are particularly applicable to small landowners because of the location of their holdings, the expected complexity of the regulatory requirements, and the need for significant technical expertise not readily available to small landowners. The further reduction in harvestable timber owned by small forest landowners as a result of the rules to be adopted under RCW 76.09.055 will further erode small landowners' economic viability and willingness or ability to keep the lands in forestry use and, therefore, reduce the amount of habitat available for salmon recovery and conservation of other aquatic resources, as defined in RCW 76.09.020.

(2) The legislature finds that the concerns identified in subsection (1) of this section should be addressed by establishing within the department of natural resources a small forest landowner office that shall be a resource and focal point for small forest landowner concerns and policies. The legislature further finds that a forestry riparian easement program shall be established to acquire easements from small landowners along riparian and other areas of value to the state for protection of aquatic resources. The legislature further finds that small forest landowners should have the option of alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions on

smaller harvest units that may have a relatively low impact on aquatic resources. The small forest landowner office should be responsible for assisting small landowners in the development and implementation of these plans or restrictions. [2003 c 39 § 36; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 501.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.13.110 Small forest landowner office—Establishment—Duties—Advisory committee—Report to the legislature.** (1) The department of natural resources shall establish and maintain a small forest landowner office. The small forest landowner office shall be a resource and focal point for small forest landowner concerns and policies, and shall have significant expertise regarding the management of small forest holdings, governmental programs applicable to such holdings, and the forestry riparian easement program.

(2) The small forest landowner office shall administer the provisions of the forestry riparian easement program created under RCW 76.13.120.

(3) The small forest landowner office shall assist in the development of small landowner options through alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions appropriate to small landowners. The small forest landowner office shall develop criteria to be adopted by the forest practices board in rules and a manual for alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions. These alternate plans or alternate harvest restrictions shall meet riparian functions while requiring less costly regulatory prescriptions. At the landowner's option, alternate plans or alternate harvest restrictions may be used to further meet riparian functions.

The small forest landowner office shall evaluate the cumulative impact of such alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions on essential riparian functions at the subbasin or watershed level. The small forest landowner office shall adjust future alternate management plans or alternate harvest restrictions in a manner that will minimize the negative impacts on essential riparian functions within a subbasin or watershed.

(4) An advisory committee is established to assist the small forest landowner office in developing policy and recommending rules to the forest practices board. The advisory committee shall consist of seven members, including a representative from the department of ecology, the department of fish and wildlife, and a tribal representative. Four additional committee members shall be small forest landowners who shall be appointed by the commissioner of public lands from a list of candidates submitted by the board of directors of the Washington farm forestry association or its successor organization. The association shall submit more than one candidate for each position. The commissioner shall designate two of the initial small forest landowner appointees to serve five-year terms and the other two small forest landowner appointees to serve four-year terms. Thereafter, appointees shall serve for a term of four years. The small forest landowner office shall review draft rules or rule concepts with the committee prior to recommending such rules to the forest practices board. The office shall reimburse nongovernmental committee members for reasonable expenses associated with attending committee meetings as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(5) By December 1, 2002, the small forest landowner office shall provide a report to the board and the legislature containing:

(a) Estimates of the amounts of nonindustrial forests and woodlands in holdings of twenty acres or less, twenty-one to one hundred acres, one hundred to one thousand acres, and one thousand to five thousand acres, in western Washington and eastern Washington, and the number of persons having total nonindustrial forest and woodland holdings in those size ranges;

(b) Estimates of the number of parcels of nonindustrial forests and woodlands held in contiguous ownerships of twenty acres or less, and the percentages of those parcels containing improvements used: (i) As primary residences for half or more of most years; (ii) as vacation homes or other temporary residences for less than half of most years; and (iii) for other uses;

(c) The watershed administrative units in which significant portions of the riparian areas or total land area are nonindustrial forests and woodlands;

(d) Estimates of the number of forest practices applications and notifications filed per year for forest road construction, silvicultural activities to enhance timber growth, timber harvest not associated with conversion to nonforest land uses, with estimates of the number of acres of nonindustrial forests and woodlands on which forest practices are conducted under those applications and notifications; and

(e) Recommendations on ways the board and the legislature could provide more effective incentives to encourage continued management of nonindustrial forests and woodlands for forestry uses in ways that better protect salmon, other fish and wildlife, water quality, and other environmental values.

(6) By December 1, 2004, and every four years thereafter, the small forest landowner office shall provide to the board and the legislature an update of the report described in subsection (5) of this section, containing more recent information and describing:

(a) Trends in the items estimated under subsection (5)(a) through (d) of this section;

(b) Whether, how, and to what extent the forest practices act and rules contributed to those trends; and

(c) Whether, how, and to what extent: (i) The board and legislature implemented recommendations made in the previous report; and (ii) implementation of or failure to implement those recommendations affected those trends. [2002 c 120 § 1; 2001 c 280 § 1; 2000 c 11 § 12; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 503.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.13.120 Findings—Definitions—Forestry riparian easement program.** (1) The legislature finds that the state should acquire easements primarily along riparian and other sensitive aquatic areas from qualifying small forest landowners willing to sell or donate such easements to the state provided that the state will not be required to acquire such easements if they are subject to unacceptable liabilities. The legislature therefore establishes a forestry riparian easement program.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section and RCW 76.13.100, 76.13.110, 76.13.140, and 76.13.160 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Forestry riparian easement" means an easement covering qualifying timber granted voluntarily to the state by a qualifying small forest landowner.

(b) "Qualifying small forest landowner" means a landowner meeting all of the following characteristics as of the date the department offers compensation for a forestry riparian easement:

(i) Is a small forest landowner as defined in (d) of this subsection; and

(ii) Is an individual, partnership, corporation, or other nongovernmental for-profit legal entity.

(c) "Qualifying timber" means those forest trees for which the small forest landowner is willing to grant the state a forestry riparian easement and must meet all of the following:

(i) The forest trees are covered by a forest practices application that the small forest landowner is required to leave unharvested under the rules adopted under RCW 76.09.055 and 76.09.370 or that is made uneconomic to harvest by those rules;

(ii) The forest trees are within or bordering a commercially reasonable harvest unit as determined under rules adopted by the forest practices board, or for which an approved forest practices application for timber harvest cannot be obtained because of restrictions under the forest practices rules;

(iii) The forest trees are located within, or affected by forest practices rules pertaining to any one, or all, of the following:

(A) Riparian or other sensitive aquatic areas;

(B) Channel migration zones; or

(C) Areas of potentially unstable slopes or landforms, verified by the department, and must meet all of the following:

(I) Are addressed in a forest practices application;

(II) Are adjacent to a commercially reasonable harvest area; and

(III) Have the potential to deliver sediment or debris to a public resource or threaten public safety.

(d) "Small forest landowner" means a landowner meeting all of the following characteristics:

(i) A forest landowner as defined in RCW 76.09.020 whose interest in the land and timber is in fee or who has rights to the timber to be included in the forestry riparian easement that extend at least fifty years from the date the completed forestry riparian easement application associated with the easement is submitted;

(ii) An entity that has harvested from its own lands in this state during the three years prior to the year of application an average timber volume that would qualify the owner as a small harvester under RCW 84.33.035; and

(iii) An entity that certifies at the time of application that it does not expect to harvest from its own lands more than the volume allowed by RCW 84.33.035 during the ten years following application. If a landowner's prior three-year average harvest exceeds the limit of RCW 84.33.035, or the landowner expects to exceed this limit during the ten years following application, and that landowner establishes to the department's reasonable satisfaction that the harvest limits were or will be exceeded to raise funds to pay estate taxes or equally compelling and unexpected obligations such as court-

ordered judgments or extraordinary medical expenses, the landowner shall be deemed to be a small forest landowner. For purposes of determining whether a person qualifies as a small forest landowner, the small forest landowner office, created in RCW 76.13.110, shall evaluate the landowner under this definition, pursuant to RCW 76.13.160, as of the date that the forest practices application is submitted and the date that the department offers compensation for the forestry riparian easement. A small forest landowner can include an individual, partnership, corporation, or other nongovernmental legal entity. If a landowner grants timber rights to another entity for less than five years, the landowner may still qualify as a small forest landowner under this section. If a landowner is unable to obtain an approved forest practices application for timber harvest for any of his or her land because of restrictions under the forest practices rules, the landowner may still qualify as a small forest landowner under this section.

(e) "Completion of harvest" means that the trees have been harvested from an area and that further entry into that area by mechanized logging or slash treating equipment is not expected.

(3) The department is authorized and directed to accept and hold in the name of the state of Washington forestry riparian easements granted by qualifying small forest landowners covering qualifying timber and to pay compensation to such landowners in accordance with this section. The department may not transfer the easements to any entity other than another state agency.

(4) Forestry riparian easements shall be effective for fifty years from the date of the completed forestry riparian easement application, unless the easement is voluntarily terminated earlier by the department, based on a determination that termination is in the best interest of the state, or under the terms of a termination clause in the easement.

(5) Forestry riparian easements shall be restrictive only, and shall preserve all lawful uses of the easement premises by the landowner that are consistent with the terms of the easement and the requirement to protect riparian functions during the term of the easement, subject to the restriction that the leave trees required by the rules to be left on the easement premises may not be cut during the term of the easement. No right of public access to or across, or any public use of the easement premises is created by this statute or by the easement. Forestry riparian easements shall not be deemed to trigger the compensating tax of or otherwise disqualify land from being taxed under chapter 84.33 or 84.34 RCW.

(6) The small forest landowner office shall determine what constitutes a completed application for a forestry riparian easement. Such an application shall, at a minimum, include documentation of the owner's status as a qualifying small forest landowner, identification of location and the types of qualifying timber, and notification of completion of harvest, if applicable.

(7) Upon receipt of the qualifying small forest landowner's forestry riparian easement application, and subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the following must occur:

(a) The small forest landowner office shall determine the compensation to be offered to the qualifying small forest landowner for qualifying timber after the department accepts the completed forestry riparian easement application and the

landowner has completed marking the boundary of the area containing the qualifying timber. The legislature recognizes that there is not readily available market transaction evidence of value for easements of the nature required by this section, and thus establishes the methodology provided in this subsection to ascertain the value for forestry riparian easements. Values so determined may not be considered competent evidence of value for any other purpose.

(b) The small forest landowner office, subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, is responsible for assessing the volume of qualifying timber. However, no more than fifty percent of the total amounts appropriated for the forestry riparian easement program may be applied to determine the volume of qualifying timber for completed forestry riparian easement applications. Based on the volume established by the small forest landowner office and using data obtained or maintained by the department of revenue under RCW 84.33.074 and 84.33.091, the small forest landowner office shall attempt to determine the fair market value of the qualifying timber as of the date the complete forestry riparian easement application is received. Removal of any qualifying timber before the expiration of the easement must be in accordance with the forest practices rules and the terms of the easement. There shall be no reduction in compensation for reentry.

(8)(a) Except as provided in subsection (9) of this section and subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the small forest landowner office shall offer compensation for qualifying timber to the qualifying small forest landowner in the amount of fifty percent of the value determined by the small forest landowner office, plus the compliance and reimbursement costs as determined in accordance with RCW 76.13.140. However, compensation for any qualifying small forest landowner for qualifying timber located on potentially unstable slopes or landforms may not exceed a total of fifty thousand dollars during any biennial funding period.

(b) If the landowner accepts the offer for qualifying timber, the department shall pay the compensation promptly upon:

(i) Completion of harvest in the area within a commercially reasonable harvest unit with which the forestry riparian easement is associated under an approved forest practices application, unless an approved forest practices application for timber harvest cannot be obtained because of restrictions under the forest practices rules;

(ii) Verification that the landowner has no outstanding violations under chapter 76.09 RCW or any associated rules; and

(iii) Execution and delivery of the easement to the department.

(c) Upon donation or payment of compensation, the department may record the easement.

(9) For approved forest practices applications for which the regulatory impact is greater than the average percentage impact for all small forest landowners as determined by an analysis by the department under the regulatory fairness act, chapter 19.85 RCW, the compensation offered will be increased to one hundred percent for that portion of the regulatory impact that is in excess of the average. Regulatory impact includes all trees identified as qualifying timber. A

separate average or high impact regulatory threshold shall be established for western and eastern Washington. Criteria for these measurements and payments shall be established by the small forest landowner office.

(10) The forest practices board shall adopt rules under the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, to implement the forestry riparian easement program, including the following:

(a) A standard version of a forestry riparian easement application as well as all additional documents necessary or advisable to create the forestry riparian easements as provided for in this section;

(b) Standards for descriptions of the easement premises with a degree of precision that is reasonable in relation to the values involved;

(c) Methods and standards for cruises and valuation of forestry riparian easements for purposes of establishing the compensation. The department shall perform the timber cruises of forestry riparian easements required under this chapter and chapter 76.09 RCW. Timber cruises are subject to amounts appropriated for this purpose. However, no more than fifty percent of the total appropriated funding for the forestry riparian easement program may be applied to determine the volume of qualifying timber for completed forestry riparian easement applications. Any rules concerning the methods and standards for valuations of forestry riparian easements shall apply only to the department, qualifying small forest landowners, and the small forest landowner office;

(d) A method to determine that a forest practices application involves a commercially reasonable harvest, and adopt criteria for entering into a forestry riparian easement where a commercially reasonable harvest is not possible or a forest practices application that has been submitted cannot be approved because of restrictions under the forest practices rules;

(e) A method to address blowdown of qualified timber falling outside the easement premises;

(f) A formula for sharing of proceeds in relation to the acquisition of qualified timber covered by an easement through the exercise or threats of eminent domain by a federal or state agency with eminent domain authority, based on the present value of the department's and the landowner's relative interests in the qualified timber;

(g) High impact regulatory thresholds;

(h) A method to determine timber that is qualifying timber because it is rendered uneconomic to harvest by the rules adopted under RCW 76.09.055 and 76.09.370;

(i) A method for internal department review of small forest landowner office compensation decisions under this section; and

(j) Consistent with RCW 76.13.180, a method to collect reimbursement from landowners who received compensation for a forestry riparian easement and who, within the first ten years after receipt of compensation for a forestry riparian easement, sells the land on which an easement is located to a nonqualifying landowner. [2011 c 218 § 1; 2004 c 102 § 1; 2002 c 120 § 2; 2001 c 280 § 2; 2000 c 11 § 13; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 504.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.13.130 Small parcels—Alternative management plans.** On parcels of twenty contiguous acres or less, landowners with a total parcel ownership of less than eighty acres shall not be required to leave riparian buffers adjacent to streams according to forest practices rules adopted under the forests and fish report as defined in RCW 76.09.020. These landowners shall be subject to the permanent forest practices rules in effect as of January 1, 1999, but may additionally be required to leave timber adjacent to streams that is equivalent to no greater than fifteen percent of a volume of timber contained in a stand of well managed fifty-year old commercial timber covering the harvest area. The additional fifteen percent leave tree level shall be computed as a rotating stand volume and shall be regulated through flexible forest practices as the stream buffer is managed over time to meet riparian functions.

On parcels of twenty contiguous acres or less the small forest landowner office shall work with landowners with a total parcel ownership of less than eighty acres to develop alternative management plans for riparian buffers. Such alternative plans shall provide for the removal of leave trees as other new trees grow in order to ensure the most effective protection of critical riparian function. The office may recommend reasonable modifications in alternative management plans of such landowners to further reduce risks to public resources and endangered species so long as the anticipated operating costs are not unreasonably increased and the landowner is not required to leave a greater volume than the threshold level. To qualify for the provisions of this section, parcels must be twenty acres or less in contiguous ownership, and owners cannot have ownership interests in a total of more than eighty acres of forest lands within the state. [1999 sp.s. c 4 § 505.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.13.140 Small forest landowners—Value of buffer trees.** In order to assist small forest landowners to remain economically viable, the legislature intends that the qualifying small forest landowners be able to net fifty percent of the value of the trees left in the buffer areas. The amount of compensation offered in RCW 76.13.120 shall also include the compliance costs for participation in the forestry riparian easement program, including the cost of preparing and recording the forestry riparian easement, and any business and occupation tax and real estate excise tax imposed because of entering into the forestry riparian easement. The small forest landowner office may contract with private consultants that the office finds qualified to perform timber cruises of forestry riparian easements or to lay out streamside buffers and comply with other forest practices regulatory requirements related to the forestry riparian easement program. The department shall reimburse qualifying small forest landowners for the actual costs incurred for laying out the streamside buffers and marking the qualifying timber once a contract has been executed for the forestry riparian easement program. Reimbursement is subject to the work being acceptable to the department. The small forest landowner office shall determine how the reimbursement costs will be calculated. [2011 c 218 § 2; 2002 c 120 § 3; 2001 c 280 § 3.]

**76.13.150 Fish passage barriers—Cost-sharing program.** (1) The legislature finds that a state-led cost-sharing program is necessary to assist small forest landowners with removing and replacing fish passage barriers that were added to their land prior to May 14, 2003, to help achieve the goals of the forests and fish report, and to assist small forest landowners in complying with the state's fish passage requirements.

(2) The small forest landowner office must, in cooperation with the department of fish and wildlife, establish a program designed to assist small forest landowners with repairing or removing fish passage barriers and assist lead entities in acquiring the data necessary to fill any gaps in fish passage barrier information. The small forest landowner office and the department of fish and wildlife must work closely with lead entities or other local watershed groups to make maximum use of current information regarding the location and priority of current fish passage barriers. Where additional fish passage barrier inventories are necessary, funding will be sought for the collection of this information. Methods, protocols, and formulas for data gathering and prioritizing must be developed in consultation with the department of fish and wildlife. The department of fish and wildlife must assist in the training and management of fish passage barrier location data collection.

(3) The small forest landowner office must actively seek out funding for the program authorized in this section. The small forest landowner office must work with consenting landowners to identify and secure funding from local, state, federal, tribal, or nonprofit habitat restoration organizations and other private sources, including the salmon recovery funding board, the United States department of agriculture, the United States department of transportation, the Washington state department of transportation, the United States department of commerce, and the federal highway administration.

(4)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the small forest landowner office, in implementing the program established in this section, must provide the highest proportion of public funding available for the removal or replacement of any fish passage barrier.

(b) In no case shall a small forest landowner be required to pay more than the lesser of either: (i) Twenty-five percent of any costs associated with the removal or replacement of a particular fish passage barrier; or (ii) five thousand dollars for the removal or replacement of a particular fish passage barrier. No small forest landowner shall be required to pay more than the maximum total annual costs in (c) of this subsection.

(c) The portion of the total cost of removing or replacing fish passage barriers that a small forest landowner must pay in any calendar year shall be determined based on the average annual timber volume harvested from the landowner's lands in this state during the three preceding calendar years, and whether the fish passage barrier is in eastern or western Washington.

(i) In western Washington (west of the Cascade Crest), a small forest landowner who has harvested an average annual timber volume of less than five hundred thousand board feet shall not be required to pay more than a total of eight thousand dollars during that calendar year, a small forest landowner who has harvested an annual average timber volume

between five hundred thousand and nine hundred ninety-nine thousand board feet shall not be required to pay more than a total of sixteen thousand dollars during that calendar year, a small forest landowner who has harvested an average annual timber volume between one million and one million four hundred ninety-nine thousand board feet shall not be required to pay more than a total of twenty-four thousand dollars during that calendar year, and a small forest landowner who has harvested an average annual timber volume greater than or equal to one million five hundred thousand board feet shall not be required to pay more than a total of thirty-two thousand dollars during that calendar year, regardless of the number of fish passage barriers removed or replaced on the landowner's lands during that calendar year.

(ii) In eastern Washington (east of the Cascade Crest), a small forest landowner who has harvested an average annual timber volume of less than five hundred thousand board feet shall not be required to pay more than a total of two thousand dollars during that calendar year, a small forest landowner who has harvested an average annual timber volume between five hundred thousand and nine hundred ninety-nine thousand board feet shall not be required to pay more than a total of four thousand dollars during that calendar year, a small forest landowner who has harvested an average annual timber volume between one million and one million four hundred ninety-nine thousand board feet shall not be required to pay more than a total of twelve thousand dollars during that calendar year, and a small forest landowner who has harvested an average annual timber volume greater than or equal to one million five hundred thousand board feet shall not be required to pay more than a total of sixteen thousand dollars during that calendar year, regardless of the number of fish passage barriers removed or replaced on the landowner's lands during that calendar year.

(iii) Maximum total annual costs for small forest landowners with fish passage barriers in both western and eastern Washington shall be those specified under (c)(i) and (ii) of this subsection.

(d) If an existing fish passage barrier on land owned by a small forest landowner was installed under an approved forest practices application or notification, and hydraulics approval, and that fish passage barrier becomes a high priority for fish passage based on the watershed ranking in \*RCW 76.13.150, one hundred percent public funding shall be provided.

(5) If a small forest landowner is required to contribute a portion of the funding under the cost-share program established in this section, that landowner may satisfy his or her required proportion by providing either direct monetary contributions or in-kind services to the project. In-kind services may include labor, equipment, materials, and other landowner-provided services determined by the department to have an appropriate value to the removal of a particular fish passage barrier.

(6)(a) The department, using fish passage barrier assessments and ranked inventory information provided by the department of fish and wildlife and the appropriate lead entity as delineated in RCW 77.12.755, must establish a prioritized list for the funding of fish passage barrier removals on property owned by small forest landowners that ensures that funding is provided first to the known fish passage barrier

ers existing on forest land owned by small forest landowners that cause the greatest harm to public resources.

(b) As the department collects information about the presence of fish passage barriers from submitted checklists, it must share this information with the department of fish and wildlife and the technical advisory groups established in \*\*RCW 77.85.070. If the addition of the information collected in the checklists or any other changes to the scientific instruments described in RCW 77.12.755 alter the analysis conducted under RCW 77.12.755, the department must alter the funding order appropriately to reflect the new information.

(7) The department may accept commitments from small forest landowners that they will participate in the program to remove fish passage barriers from their land at any time, regardless of the funding order given to the fish passage barriers on a particular landowner's property. [2003 c 311 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The reference to RCW 76.13.150 appears to be erroneous. Reference to RCW 77.12.755 was apparently intended.

\*\* (2) RCW 77.85.070 was repealed by 2005 c 309 § 10.

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

**76.13.160 Qualifying small forest landowner—Review of certain records.** When establishing a forestry riparian easement program applicant's status as a qualifying small forest landowner pursuant to RCW 76.13.120, the department shall not review the applicant's timber harvest records, or any other tax-related documents, on file with the department of revenue. The department of revenue may confirm or deny an applicant's status as a small forest landowner at the request of the department. However, for the purposes of this section, the department of revenue may not disclose more information than whether or not the applicant has reported a harvest or harvests totaling greater than or less than the qualifying thresholds established in RCW 76.13.120. Nothing in this section, or RCW 84.33.280, prohibits the department from reviewing aggregate or general information provided by the department of revenue. [2011 c 218 § 3; 2004 c 102 § 2.]

**76.13.170 List of forest riparian easements to be funded.** (1) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the department must recommend to the governor a list of all forest riparian easement applications to be funded under RCW 76.13.120. The governor must determine the number of applications to receive funding and then submit the list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list must include, but not be limited to, the date of the forestry riparian easement application, the type of qualifying timber, estimates of the value of the easement, aerial photograph maps of the application area, and an estimate of administrative costs for purchase of easements.

(2) The governor or the legislature may remove an application from the list if there is evidence that the applicant is a nonqualifying landowner for a forestry riparian easement. [2011 c 218 § 4.]

**76.13.180 Sale of land to nonqualifying landowner—Selling landowner must reimburse the state.** If, within the first ten years after receipt of compensation for a forestry

(2012 Ed.)

riparian easement, a landowner sells the land on which an easement is located to a nonqualifying landowner, then the selling landowner must reimburse the state for the full compensation received for the forestry riparian easement. The department continues to hold, in the name of the state, the forestry riparian easement for the full term of the easement. The department may not transfer the easement to any entity other than another state agency. [2011 c 218 § 5.]

## Chapter 76.14 RCW FOREST REHABILITATION

### Sections

76.14.010	Definitions.
76.14.020	Yacolt burn designated high hazard area—Rehabilitation required.
76.14.030	Administration.
76.14.040	Duties.
76.14.050	Firebreaks—Powers of department—Grazing lands.
76.14.051	Firebreaks—Preexisting agreements not altered.
76.14.060	Powers and duties—Private lands.
76.14.070	Powers and duties—Expenditure of public funds.
76.14.080	Fire protection projects—Assessments—Payment.
76.14.090	Fire protection projects—Notice—Hearing.
76.14.100	Fire protection projects—Collection of assessments.
76.14.110	Fire protection projects—Credit on assessment for private expenditure.
76.14.120	Landowner's responsibility under other laws.
76.14.130	Lands not to be included in project.

**76.14.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Department" means the department of natural resources;
- (2) "Forest land" means any lands considered best adapted for the growing of trees; and
- (3) The term "owner" means and includes individuals, partnerships, corporations, associations, federal land managing agencies, state of Washington, counties, municipalities, and other forest landowners. [2000 c 11 § 14; 1988 c 128 § 37; 1953 c 74 § 2.]

**76.14.020 Yacolt burn designated high hazard area—Rehabilitation required.** The Yacolt burn situated in Clark, Skamania, and Cowlitz counties in townships 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 north, ranges 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 7 1/2 and 8 east is hereby designated a high hazard forest area requiring rehabilitation by the establishment of extensive protection facilities and by the restocking of denuded areas artificially to restore the productivity of the land. [1953 c 74 § 1.]

**76.14.030 Administration.** This chapter shall be administered by the department. [1988 c 128 § 38; 1953 c 74 § 3.]

**76.14.040 Duties.** The department shall use funds placed at its disposal to map, survey, fell snags, build firebreaks and access roads, increase forest protection activities and do all work deemed necessary to protect forest lands from fire in the rehabilitation zone, and to perform reforestation and do other improvement work on state lands in the rehabilitation zone. [1988 c 128 § 39; 1955 c 171 § 1; 1953 c 74 § 4.]

**76.14.050 Firebreaks—Powers of department—Grazing lands.** The department is authorized to cooperate

with owners of land located in the area described in RCW 76.14.020 in establishing firebreaks in their most logical position regardless of land ownership. The department may by gift, purchase, condemnation or otherwise acquire easements for road rights-of-way and land or interests therein located in the high hazard forest area described in RCW 76.14.020 for any purpose deemed necessary for access for forest protection, reforestation, development and utilization, and for access to state owned lands within the area described in RCW 76.14.020 for all other purposes, and the department shall have authority to regulate the use thereof. When the landowner is using the land for agricultural grazing purposes the state shall maintain gates or adequate cattle guards at each place the road enters upon the private landowner's fenced lands. [1988 c 128 § 40; 1975 1st ex.s. c 101 § 1; 1955 c 171 § 2; 1953 c 74 § 5.]

**76.14.051 Firebreaks—Preexisting agreements not altered.** Nothing in the provisions of RCW 76.14.050 as now or hereafter amended shall be construed to otherwise alter the terms of any existing agreements heretofore entered into by the state and private parties under the authority of RCW 76.14.050 as now or hereafter amended. [1975 1st ex.s. c 101 § 2.]

**76.14.060 Powers and duties—Private lands.** The department shall have authority to acquire the right by purchase, condemnation or otherwise to cause snags on private land to be felled, slash to be disposed of, and to take such other measures on private land necessary to carry out the objectives of this chapter. [1988 c 128 § 41; 1955 c 171 § 3.]

**76.14.070 Powers and duties—Expenditure of public funds.** The department shall have authority to expend public money for the purposes and objectives provided in this chapter. [1988 c 128 § 42; 1955 c 171 § 4.]

**76.14.080 Fire protection projects—Assessments—Payment.** The department shall develop fire protection projects within the high hazard forest area and shall determine the boundaries thereof in accordance with the lands benefited thereby and shall assess one-sixth of the cost of such projects equally upon all forest lands within the project on an acreage basis. Such assessment shall not, however, exceed twenty-five cents per acre annually nor more than one dollar and fifty cents per acre in the aggregate and shall constitute a lien upon any forest products harvested therefrom. The landowner may by written notice to the department elect to pay his assessment on a deferred basis at a rate of ten cents per thousand board feet and/or one cent per Christmas tree when these products are harvested from the lands for commercial use until the assessment plus two percent interest from the date of completion of each project has been paid for each acre. Payments under the deferred plan shall be credited by forty acre tracts and shall be first applied to payment of the assessment against the forty acre tract from which the funds were derived and secondly to other forty acre tracts held and designated by the payor. In the event total ownership is less than forty acres then payment shall be applied on an undivided basis to the entire areas as to which the assessment remains unpaid. The landowner who elects to pay on deferred

basis may pay any unpaid assessment and interest at any time. [1988 c 128 § 43; 1955 c 171 § 5.]

**76.14.090 Fire protection projects—Notice—Hearing.** Notice of each project, the estimated assessment per acre and a description of the boundaries thereof shall be given by publication in a local newspaper of general circulation thirty days in advance of commencing work. Any person owning land within the project may within ten days after publication of notice demand a hearing before the department in Olympia and present any reasons why he feels the assessment should not be made upon his land. Thereafter, the department may change the boundaries of said project to eliminate land from the project which it determines in its discretion will not be benefited by the project. [1988 c 128 § 44; 1955 c 171 § 6.]

**76.14.100 Fire protection projects—Collection of assessments.** Except when the owner has notified the department in writing that he will make payment on the deferred plan, the assessment shall be collected by the department reporting the same to the county assessor of the county in which the property is situated upon completion of the work in that project and the assessor shall annually extend the amounts upon the tax rolls covering the property, and the amounts shall be collected in the same manner, by the same procedure, and with the same penalties attached as the next general state and county taxes on the same property are collected. Errors in assessments may be corrected at any time by the department by certifying them to the treasurer of the county in which the land involved is situated. Upon the collection of such assessments the county treasurer shall transmit them to the department. Payment on the deferred plan shall be made directly to the department. Such payment must be made by January 31st for any timber or Christmas trees harvested during the previous calendar year and must be accompanied by a statement of the amount of timber or number of Christmas trees harvested and the legal description of the property from which they were harvested. Whenever an owner paying on the deferred plan desires to pay any unpaid balance or portion thereof, he may make direct payment to the department. [1988 c 128 § 45; 1955 c 171 § 7.]

*Collection of taxes: Chapter 84.56 RCW.*

**76.14.110 Fire protection projects—Credit on assessment for private expenditure.** Where the department finds that a portion of the work in any project, except road building, has been done by private expenditures for fire protection purposes only and that the work was not required by other forestry laws having general application, then the department shall appraise the work on the basis of what it would have cost the state and shall credit the amount of the appraisal toward payment of any sums assessed against lands contained in the project and owned by the person or his predecessors in title making the expenditure. Such appraisal shall be added to the cost of the project for purposes of determining the general assessment. [1988 c 128 § 46; 1955 c 171 § 8.]

**76.14.120 Landowner's responsibility under other laws.** This chapter shall not relieve the landowner of providing adequate fire protection for forest land pursuant to RCW

76.04.610 or, in lieu thereof, of paying the forest fire protection assessment specified, but shall be deemed as providing solely for extra fire protection needed in the extrahazardous fire area. [1986 c 100 § 56; 1955 c 171 § 9.]

#### 76.14.130 Lands not to be included in project.

Projects pursuant to RCW 76.14.080 shall not be developed to include lands outside the following described boundary within the high hazard forest areas: Beginning at a point on the east boundary of section 24, township 4 north, range 4 east 1/4 mile south of the northeast corner; thence west 1/4 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 1/4 mile; north 1/16 mile; west 1/2 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 1/4 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 1/2 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 1/2 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 3/4 mile; north 1/16 mile; west 1/4 mile; north 1/16 mile; west 1/2 mile; north 1/16 mile; west 1/4 mile; north 1/16 mile; west 1 3/4 miles to the west quarter corner of section 19, township 4 north, range 4 east. Thence north 1/4 mile; west 1/4 mile; north 1/8 mile; west 1/8 mile; north 1/8 mile; west 1/16 mile; north 1/4 mile; west 1/16 mile; north 1/8 mile; west 1/8 mile; north 1/8 mile; west 3/16 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 3/16 mile; south 1/8 mile; east 3/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; west 2 3/16 miles; south 1/8 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 1/8 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 3/16 mile; east 3/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; east 1/8 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 3/16 mile; south 7/16 mile; west 3/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; west 3/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 15/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 3/4 mile; to the southwest corner of section 36, township 4 north, range 3 east. Thence west 3/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; east 1/8 mile; south 1/2 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 3/8 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/4 mile; west 1/4 mile; south 1/2 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 3/8 mile; south 7/16 mile; west 1/4 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 1/4 mile; south 1/2 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 1/8 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 1/4 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 1/2 mile; south 3/16 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 7/16 mile; south 3/16 mile; east 9/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 1/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; east 1/16 mile; south 1/8 mile; east 1/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 1/16 mile; south 5/8 mile; west 3/16 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 1/8 mile; south 3/16 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 11/16 mile; south 3/16 mile; east 15/16 mile, being 1/16 mile north of the southeast corner of section 36, township 3 north, range 3 east. Thence east 1 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 7/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 1/4 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 3/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; west 7/16 mile; north 1/8 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 5/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; west 3/16 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 1/2 mile; north 1/16 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 1/8 mile; east 1/8 mile; north 1/8 mile; east 1/8 mile being the southeast corner of section 1, township 2 north, range 3 east. Thence south 1/4 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 1/4 mile; south 1/8 mile; east 1/8 mile; north 1/8 mile; east 3/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; east 1/16 mile; north 1/4 mile; east 7/16 mile; north 1/8 mile; east 9/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; west 1/16 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 1/16 mile; south 1/4 mile; west 1/16 mile; south 1/8 mile; west 1/8 mile; south 1/16 mile; west 1/4 mile; south

(2012 Ed.)

5/16 mile; to the center of section 17, township 2 north, range 4 east. Thence east 1 mile; south 1/16 mile; east 2 miles; north 1/16 mile; east 1 1/2 miles; to the east quarter corner of section 13, township 2 north, range 4 east. Thence easterly 9 miles following Bonneville Power Administration's power transmission line through sections 18, 17, 16, 15, 14 and 13, township 2 north, range 5 east and sections 18, 17 and 16, township 2 north, range 6 east to the southeast corner of section 16, township 2 north, range 6 east. Thence easterly 3 3/4 miles; north 1 1/4 miles; east 1/4 mile; north 2 1/4 miles; west 3/4 mile; north 1 1/2 miles; east 3/4 mile; north 1/2 mile; east 1 mile; north 1/2 mile; east 1 mile; north 1 mile; east 2 miles; south 1 mile; east 1 mile; north 3 miles; to the northeast corner of section 1, township 3 north, range 7 east. Thence west 4 miles; south 1 mile; west 2 miles; north 1/2 mile; west 2 miles; south 1/2 mile; west 1 mile; south 1/2 mile; west 2 miles; north 1 1/2 miles; west 1 mile; south 1 mile; west 2 miles; south 1 1/2 miles; east 1 mile; south 1/2 mile; west 1 mile; south 1/2 mile; west 1/2 mile; south 1/2 mile; west 3 1/2 miles to the northwest corner of section 30, township 3 north, range 5 east. Thence north along Gifford Pinchot National Forest boundary to the point of beginning. [1955 c 171 § 10.]

### Chapter 76.15 RCW

#### COMMUNITY AND URBAN FORESTRY

##### Sections

76.15.005	Finding.
76.15.007	Purpose.
76.15.010	Definitions.
76.15.020	Authority.
76.15.030	Funding sources—Fees—Contracts.
76.15.040	Primary duty, department's—Cooperation.
76.15.050	Agreements for urban tree planting.
76.15.060	Urban tree planting to be encouraged.
76.15.070	Prioritized statewide inventory of community and urban forests—Community and urban forest assessment—Criteria and implementation plan.
76.15.080	Technical advisory committee.
76.15.090	Evergreen community designation—Department's duties.

**76.15.005 Finding.** (1) Trees and other woody vegetation are a necessary and important part of community and urban environments. Community and urban forests have many values and uses including conserving energy, reducing air and water pollution and soil erosion, contributing to property values, attracting business, reducing glare and noise, providing aesthetic and historical values, providing wood products, and affording comfort and protection for humans and wildlife.

(2) As urban and community areas in Washington state grow, the need to plan for and protect community and urban forests increases. Cities and communities benefit from assistance in developing and maintaining community and urban forestry programs that also address future growth.

(3) Assistance and encouragement in establishment, retention, and enhancement of these forests and trees by local governments, citizens, organizations, and professionals are in the interest of the state based on the contributions these forests make in preserving and enhancing the quality of life of Washington's municipalities and counties while providing opportunities for economic development. [1991 c 179 § 1.]

**76.15.007 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to:

(1) Encourage planting and maintenance and management of trees in the state's municipalities and counties and maximize the potential of tree and vegetative cover in improving the quality of the environment.

(2) Encourage the coordination of state and local agency activities and maximize citizen participation in the development and implementation of community and urban forestry-related programs.

(3) Foster healthy economic activity for the state's community and urban forestry-related businesses through cooperative and supportive contracts with the private business sector.

(4) Facilitate the creation of employment opportunities related to community and urban forestry activities including opportunities for inner city youth to learn teamwork, resource conservation, environmental appreciation, and job skills.

(5) Provide meaningful voluntary opportunities for the state's citizens and organizations interested in community and urban forestry activities. [1991 c 179 § 2.]

**76.15.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Community and urban forest" is that land in and around human settlements ranging from small communities to metropolitan areas, occupied or potentially occupied by trees and associated vegetation. Community and urban forest land may be planted or unplanted, used or unused, and includes public and private lands, lands along transportation and utility corridors, and forested watershed lands within populated areas.

(2) "Community and urban forest assessment" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 35.105.010.

(3) "Community and urban forest inventory" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 35.105.010.

(4) "Community and urban forestry" means the planning, establishment, protection, care, and management of trees and associated plants individually, in small groups, or under forest conditions within municipalities and counties.

(5) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(6) "Municipality" means a city, town, port district, public school district, community college district, irrigation district, weed control district, park district, or other political subdivision of the state.

(7) "Person" means an individual, partnership, private or public municipal corporation, Indian tribe, state entity, county or local governmental entity, or association of individuals of whatever nature. [2008 c 299 § 23; 2000 c 11 § 15; 1991 c 179 § 3.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**76.15.020 Authority.** (1) The department may establish and maintain a program in community and urban forestry to accomplish the purpose stated in RCW 76.15.007. The department may assist municipalities and counties in establishing and maintaining community and urban forestry programs and encourage persons to engage in appropriate and improved tree management and care.

(2) The department may advise, encourage, and assist municipalities, counties, and other public and private entities in the development and coordination of policies, programs, and activities for the promotion of community and urban forestry.

(3) The department may appoint a committee or council, in addition to the technical advisory committee created in RCW 76.15.080 to advise the department in establishing and carrying out a program in community and urban forestry.

(4) The department may assist municipal and county tree maintenance programs by making surplus equipment available on loan where feasible for community and urban forestry programs and cooperative projects. [2008 c 299 § 3; 1991 c 179 § 4.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**76.15.030 Funding sources—Fees—Contracts.** The department may:

(1) Receive and disburse any and all moneys contributed, allotted, or paid by the United States under authority of any act of congress for the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Receive such gifts, grants, bequests, and endowments and donations of labor, material, seedlings, and equipment from public or private sources as may be made for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter, and may spend the gifts, grants, bequests, endowments, and donations as well as other moneys from public or private sources.

(3) Charge fees for attendance at workshops and conferences, and for various publications and other materials that the department may prepare.

(4) Enter into agreements and contracts with persons having community and urban forestry-related responsibilities. [1991 c 179 § 5.]

**76.15.040 Primary duty, department's—Cooperation.** The department shall assume the primary responsibility of carrying out this chapter and shall cooperate with other private and public, state and federal persons, any agency of another state, the United States, any agency of the United States, or any agency or province of Canada. [1991 c 179 § 6.]

**76.15.050 Agreements for urban tree planting.** The department may enter into agreements with one or more non-profit organizations whose primary purpose is urban tree planting. The agreements shall be to further public education about and support for urban tree planting, and for obtaining voluntary activities by the local community organizations in tree planting programs. The agreements shall ensure that such programs are consistent with the purposes of the community and urban forestry program under this chapter. [1993 c 204 § 10.]

**Findings—1993 c 204:** See note following RCW 35.92.390.

**76.15.060 Urban tree planting to be encouraged.** The department shall encourage urban planting of tree varieties that are site-appropriate and provide the best combination of energy and water conservation, fire safety and other safety, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic value. The department may provide technical assistance in developing programs in tree

planting for energy conservation in areas of the state where such programs are most cost-effective. [1993 c 204 § 11.]

**Findings—1993 c 204:** See note following RCW 35.92.390.

**76.15.070 Prioritized statewide inventory of community and urban forests—Community and urban forest assessment—Criteria and implementation plan.** (1)(a) The department may, in collaboration with educational institutions, municipalities, corporations, the technical advisory committee created in RCW 76.15.080, state and national service organizations, and environmental organizations, conduct a prioritized statewide inventory of community and urban forests.

(b) For purposes of efficiency, existing data and current inventory technologies must be utilized in the development of the inventory. Statewide data must be maintained and periodically updated by the department and made available to every municipality in the state.

(c) The criteria established for the statewide community and urban forest inventory must support the planning needs of local governments.

(d) The criteria for the statewide community and urban forest inventory may include but not be limited to: Tree size, species, location, site appropriateness, condition and health, contribution to canopy cover and volume, available planting spaces, and ecosystem, economic, social, and monetary value.

(e) In developing the statewide community and urban forest inventory, the department shall strive to enable Washington cities' urban forest managers to access carbon markets by working to ensure the inventory developed under this section is compatible with existing and developing urban forest reporting protocols designed to facilitate access to those carbon markets.

(2) The department may, in collaboration with a statewide organization representing urban and community forestry programs, and with the evergreen communities partnership task force established in RCW 35.105.110, conduct a community and urban forest assessment and develop recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature to improve community and urban forestry in Washington.

(3) The inventory and assessment in this section must be capable of supporting the adoption and implementation of evergreen community management plans and ordinances described in RCW 35.105.050.

(4) The department may, in collaboration with municipalities, the technical advisory committee created in RCW 76.15.080, and a statewide organization representing urban and community forestry programs, develop an implementation plan for the inventory and assessment of the community and urban forests in Washington.

(5)(a) The criteria and implementation plan for the statewide community and urban forest inventory and assessment required under this section must be completed by December 1, 2008. Upon the completion of the criteria and implementation plan's development, the department shall report the final product to the appropriate committees of the legislature.

(b) An initial inventory and assessment, consisting of the community and urban forests of the willing municipalities located in one county located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains and the willing municipalities located in one

county located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains must be completed by June 1, 2010.

(6) The requirements of this section are subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for the specific purposes of this section. [2008 c 299 § 4.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**76.15.080 Technical advisory committee.** (1) The commissioner of public lands shall appoint a technical advisory committee to provide advice to the department during the development of the criteria and implementation plan for the statewide community and urban forest inventory and assessment required under RCW 76.15.070.

(2) The technical advisory committee must include, but not be limited to, representatives from the following groups: Arborists; municipal foresters; educators; consultants; researchers; public works and utilities professionals; information technology specialists; and other affiliated professionals.

(3) The technical advisory committee members shall serve without compensation. Advisory committee members who are not state employees may receive reimbursement for travel expenses as provided by RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Costs associated with the technical advisory committee may be paid from the general fund appropriation made available to the department for community and urban forestry.

(4) The technical advisory committee created in this section must be disbanded by the commissioner upon the completion of the criteria and implementation plan for the statewide community and urban forest inventory and assessment required under RCW 76.15.070. [2008 c 299 § 5.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**76.15.090 Evergreen community designation—Department's duties.** The department shall manage the application and evaluation of candidates for evergreen community designation under RCW 35.105.030, and forward its recommendations to the \*department of community, trade, and economic development. [2008 c 299 § 8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

## Chapter 76.36 RCW MARKS AND BRANDS

### Sections

76.36.010	Definitions.
76.36.020	Forest products to be marked.
76.36.035	Registration of brands—Assignments—Fee—Rules—Penalty.
76.36.060	Impression of mark—Presumption.
76.36.070	Cancellation of registration.
76.36.090	Catch brands.
76.36.100	Right of entry to retake branded products.
76.36.110	Penalty for false branding, etc.
76.36.120	Forgery of mark, etc.—Penalty.
76.36.130	Sufficiency of mark.
76.36.140	Application of chapter to eastern Washington.
76.36.160	Deposit of fees—Use.
76.36.900	Severability—1925 ex.s. c 154.

**76.36.010 Definitions.** The words and phrases herein used, unless the same be clearly contrary to or inconsistent with the context of this chapter or the section in which used, shall be construed as follows:

(1) "Booming equipment" includes boom sticks and boom chains.

(2) "Brand" means a unique symbol or mark placed on or in forest products for the purpose of identifying ownership.

(3) "Catch brand" means a mark or brand used by a person as an identifying mark placed upon forest products and booming equipment previously owned by another.

(4) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(5) "Forest products" means logs, spars, piles, and poles, boom sticks, and shingle bolts and every form into which a fallen tree may be cut before it is manufactured into lumber or run through a sawmill, shingle mill, or tie mill, or cut into cord wood, stove wood, or hewn ties.

(6) "Person" includes the plural and all corporations, foreign and domestic, copartnerships, firms, and associations of persons.

(7) "Waters of this state" includes any and all bodies of fresh and salt water within the jurisdiction of the state capable of being used for the transportation or storage of forest products, including all rivers and lakes and their tributaries, harbors, bays, bayous, and marshes. [2000 c 11 § 16; 1984 c 60 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 1; RRS § 8381-1.]

**76.36.020 Forest products to be marked.** Persons who wish to identify any of their forest products which will be stored or transported in or on the waters of the state shall place a registered mark or brand in a conspicuous place on each forest product item. Placement of the registered mark or brand is prima facie evidence of ownership over forest product items which have escaped from storage or transportation. Unbranded or unmarked stray logs or forest products become the property of the state when recovered. [1984 c 60 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 2; RRS § 8381-2. Prior: 1890 p 110 § 1.]

**76.36.035 Registration of brands—Assignments—Fee—Rules—Penalty.** (1) All applications for brands, catch brands, renewals, and assignments thereof shall be submitted to and approved by the department prior to use. The department may refuse to approve any brand or catch brand which is identical to or closely resembles a registered brand or catch brand, or is in use by any other person or was not selected in good faith for the marking or branding of forest products. If approval is denied the applicant will select another brand.

(2) The registration for all existing brands or catch brands shall expire on December 31, 1984, unless renewed prior to that date. Renewals or new approved applications shall be for five-year periods or portions thereof beginning on January 1, 1985. On or before September 30, 1984, and September 30th immediately preceding the end of each successive five-year period the department shall notify by mail all registered owners of brands or catch brands of the forthcoming expiration of their brands and the requirements for renewal.

(3) A fee of fifteen dollars shall be charged by the department for registration of all brands, catch brands, renewals or

assignments prior to January 1, 1985. Thereafter the fee shall be twenty-five dollars.

(4) Abandoned or canceled brands shall not be reissued for a period of at least one year. The department shall determine the right to use brands or catch brands in dispute by applicants.

(5) The department may adopt and enforce rules implementing the provisions of this chapter.

(6)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a violation of any rule adopted by the department under this [the] authority of this section is a misdemeanor.

(b) The department may specify by rule, when not inconsistent with applicable statutes, that violation of a specific rule is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. [2003 c 53 § 370; 1987 c 380 § 18; 1984 c 60 § 8.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.36.060 Impression of mark—Presumption.** All forest products and booming equipment having impressed thereupon a registered mark or brand are presumed to belong to the person appearing on the records of the department as the owner of such mark or brand. All forest products having impressed thereupon a registered catch brand are presumed to belong to the owner of the registered catch brand, unless there is impressed thereupon more than one registered catch brand, in which event they are presumed to belong to the owner whose registered catch brand was placed thereupon latest in point of time. [1984 c 60 § 3; 1957 c 36 § 4; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 6; RRS § 8381-6. Prior: 1890 p 111 § 4.]

**76.36.070 Cancellation of registration.** The department, upon the petition of the owner of a registered mark or brand, may cancel the registration in which case the mark or brand shall be open to registration by any person subsequently applying therefor. [1984 c 60 § 4; 1957 c 36 § 5; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 7; RRS § 8381-7.]

**76.36.090 Catch brands.** A person desiring to use a catch brand as an identifying mark upon forest products or booming equipment purchased or lawfully acquired from another, shall before using it, make application for the registration thereof to the department in the manner prescribed for the registration of other marks or brands as herein required. The provisions contained in this chapter in reference to registration, certifications, assignment, and cancellation, and the fees to be paid to the department shall apply equally to catch brands. The certificate of the department shall designate the mark or brand as a catch brand, and the mark or brand selected by the applicant as a catch brand shall be inclosed in the letter C, which shall identify the mark or brand as, and shall be used only in connection with, a catch brand. [1984 c 60 § 5; 1957 c 36 § 6; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 9; RRS § 8381-9.]

**76.36.100 Right of entry to retake branded products.** The owner of any mark or brand registered as herein provided, by himself or his duly authorized agent or representative, shall have a lawful right, at any time and in any peaceable manner, to enter into or upon any tidelands, marshes and beaches of this state and any mill, mill yard, mill boom, raft-

ing or storage grounds and any forest products or raft or boom thereof, for the purpose of searching for any forest products and booming equipment having impressed thereupon or cut therein a registered mark or brand belonging to him and to retake any forest products and booming equipment so found by him. [1925 ex.s. c 154 § 10; RRS § 8381-10. Prior: 1901 c 123 § 4.]

**76.36.110 Penalty for false branding, etc.** Every person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor:

(1) Except boom companies organized as corporations for the purpose of catching or reclaiming and holding or disposing of forest products for the benefit of the owners, and authorized to do business under the laws of this state, who has or takes in tow or into custody or possession or under control, without the authorization of the owner of a registered mark or brand thereupon, any forest products or booming equipment having thereupon a mark or brand registered as required by the terms of this chapter, or, with or without such authorization, any forest products or booming equipment which may be branded under the terms of this chapter with a registered mark or brand and having no registered mark or brand impressed thereupon or cut therein; or,

(2) Who impresses upon or cut in any forest products or booming equipment a mark or brand that is false, forged or counterfeit; or,

(3) Who interferes with, prevents, or obstructs the owner of any registered mark or brand, or his or her duly authorized agent or representative, entering into or upon any tidelands, marshes or beaches of this state or any mill, mill site, mill yard or mill boom or rafting or storage grounds or any forest products or any raft or boom thereof for the purpose of searching for forest products and booming equipment having impressed thereupon a registered mark or brand belonging to him or her or retaking any forest products or booming equipment so found by him or her; or,

(4) Who impresses or cuts a catch brand that is not registered under the terms of this chapter upon or into any forest products or booming equipment upon which there is a registered mark or brand as authorized by the terms of this chapter or a catch brand, whether registered or not, upon any forest products or booming equipment that was not purchased or lawfully acquired by him or her from the owner. [2003 c 53 § 371; 1994 c 163 § 1; 1984 c 60 § 6; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 11; RRS § 8381-11. Prior: 1890 p 112 § 8.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**76.36.120 Forgery of mark, etc.—Penalty.** Every person is guilty of a class B felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW who, with an intent to injure or defraud the owner:

(1) Shall falsely make, forge or counterfeit a mark or brand registered as herein provided and use it in marking or branding forest products or booming equipment; or,

(2) Shall cut out, destroy, alter, deface, or obliterate any registered mark or brand impressed upon or cut into any forest products or booming equipment; or,

(3) Shall sell, encumber or otherwise dispose of or deal in, or appropriate to his or her own use, any forest products or

(2012 Ed.)

booming equipment having impressed thereupon a mark or brand registered as required by the terms of this chapter; or

(4) Shall buy or otherwise acquire or deal in any forest products or booming equipment having impressed thereupon a registered mark or brand. [2003 c 53 § 372; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 12; RRS § 8381-12. Prior: 1890 p 111 §§ 6, 7.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**76.36.130 Sufficiency of mark.** A mark or brand cut in boom sticks with an ax or other sharp instrument shall be sufficient for the purposes of this chapter if it substantially conforms to the impression or drawing and written description on file with the department. [1988 c 128 § 47; 1957 c 36 § 7; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 13; RRS § 8381-13.]

**76.36.140 Application of chapter to eastern Washington.** In view of the different conditions existing in the logging industry of this state between the parts of the state lying respectively east and west of the crest of the Cascade mountains, forest products may be put into the water of this state or shipped on common carrier railroads without having thereon a registered mark or brand, as herein required, within that portion of the state lying east of the crest of the Cascade mountains and composed of the following counties to wit: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima; and the penalties herein provided for failure to mark or brand such forest products shall not apply: PROVIDED, That any person operating within such east portion of the state may select a mark or brand and cause it to be registered with the department pursuant to the terms of this chapter, and use it for the purpose of marking or branding forest products and booming equipment, and, in the event of the registration of such mark or brand and the use of it in marking or branding forest products or booming equipment, the provisions hereof shall apply as to the forest products and booming equipment so marked or branded. [1988 c 128 § 48; 1957 c 36 § 8; 1925 ex.s. c 154 § 14; RRS § 8381-14.]

**76.36.160 Deposit of fees—Use.** The department shall deposit all moneys received under this chapter in the general fund to be used exclusively for the administration of this chapter by the department. [1984 c 60 § 7; 1957 c 36 § 10.]

**76.36.900 Severability—1925 ex.s. c 154.** If any section or provision of this chapter shall be adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the chapter as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. [1925 ex.s. c 154 § 15; RRS § 8381-15.]

### Chapter 76.42 RCW

### WOOD DEBRIS—REMOVAL FROM NAVIGABLE WATERS

#### Sections

76.42.010	Removal of debris authorized—Enforcement of chapter—Department of natural resources.
76.42.020	Definitions.
76.42.030	Removal of wood debris—Authorized.

- 76.42.060 Navigable waters—Unlawful to deposit wood debris into—  
Exception.
- 76.42.070 Rules and regulations—Administration of chapter—Authority  
to adopt and enforce.

*Navigation and harbor improvements: Title 88 RCW.*

**76.42.010 Removal of debris authorized—Enforcement of chapter—Department of natural resources.** This chapter authorizes the removal of wood debris from navigable waters of the state of Washington. It shall be the duty of the department of natural resources to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. [1973 c 136 § 2.]

**76.42.020 Definitions.** (1) "Removal" as used in this chapter shall include all activities necessary for the collection and disposal of such wood debris: PROVIDED, That nothing herein provided shall permit removal of wood debris from private property without written consent of the owner.

(2) "Wood debris" as used in this chapter is wood that is adrift on navigable waters or has been adrift thereon and stranded on beaches, marshes, or tidal and shorelands. [2000 c 11 § 17; 1994 c 163 § 2; 1973 c 136 § 3.]

**76.42.030 Removal of wood debris—Authorized.** The department of natural resources may by contract, license, or permit, or other arrangements, cause such wood debris to be removed by private contractors, department of natural resources employees, or by other public bodies. Nothing contained in this chapter shall prohibit any individual from using any nonmerchandise wood debris for his own personal use. [1994 c 163 § 3; 1973 c 136 § 4.]

**76.42.060 Navigable waters—Unlawful to deposit wood debris into—Exception.** It shall be unlawful to dispose of wood debris by depositing such material into any of the navigable waters of this state, except as authorized by law including any discharge or deposit allowed to be made under and in compliance with chapter 90.48 RCW and any rules duly adopted thereunder or any deposit allowed to be made under and in compliance with chapter 76.09 or 77.85 RCW and any rules duly adopted under those chapters. Violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor. [2003 c 39 § 37; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 601; 1973 c 136 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.42.070 Rules and regulations—Administration of chapter—Authority to adopt and enforce.** The department of natural resources shall adopt and enforce such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for administering this chapter. [1973 c 136 § 8.]

## Chapter 76.44 RCW

### INSTITUTE OF FOREST RESOURCES

#### Sections

- 76.44.010 Institute created.
- 76.44.020 Administration of institute.
- 76.44.030 Duties.
- 76.44.040 Dissemination of research results.
- 76.44.050 Authority to solicit financial support—Use of funds for the institute's operations and activities.
- 76.44.070 Addressing issues facing the forest sector.
- 76.44.080 Policy advisory committee—Membership—Compensation.
- 76.44.090 Director to coordinate cooperatives and centers.

**76.44.010 Institute created.** There is hereby created the institute of forest resources of the state of Washington which shall operate under the authority of the board of regents of the University of Washington. [1979 c 50 § 1; 1947 c 177 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10831-1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.44.020 Administration of institute.** The institute of forest resources shall be administered and directed by the director of the school of forest resources at the University of Washington. [2011 c 187 § 3; 1988 c 81 § 21; 1979 c 50 § 2; 1959 c 306 § 1; 1947 c 177 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10831-2.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 187:** "(1) The legislature finds that there are many challenges facing the forest sector, such as climate change, loss of forest cover in rural and urban areas, forest health and fire risks, the development of environmental service markets, the enhancement of habitat and biodiversity, timber and water supply, restoration of forest ecosystems, and the economic health of forest-dependent communities that rely on the retention of working forests.

(2) The legislature further finds that these forest issues, which occur in both rural and urban environments, and the approaches taken to address the issues, transcend the expertise and mission of the University of Washington school of forest resources and the associated centers and cooperatives. While each of these centers and cooperatives contribute expertise and resources, the structure and continuity for the integrated, interdisciplinary approach needed to address these complex issues is lacking.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature for the institute of forest resources to provide the structure and continuity needed by drawing contributions from the associated centers and cooperatives into a more consolidated, collaborative, interdisciplinary, and integrated process that is responsive to the critical issues confronting the forest sector." [2011 c 187 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.44.030 Duties.** (1) The institute of forest resources shall pursue coordinated research and education related to the forest sector and its multiple components, including:

(a) Forest conservation, restoration, sustainable management, and utilization;

(b) The evaluation of the economic, ecological, and societal value of forest land in both the rural and urban environment;

(c) The manufacture and marketing of forest products, including timber products, nontimber products, environmental services, and the provision of recreation and aesthetic values.

(2) The institute of forest resources must seek to provide a framework for identifying, prioritizing, funding, and conducting interdisciplinary research critical to the forest sector and the development of integrated, synthesized information and decision support tools that improve the understanding of complex forestry issues for stakeholders, policymakers, and other interested parties.

(3) In pursuit of these objectives, the institute of forest resources is authorized to cooperate, when cooperation advances the objectives listed in this section, with other entities, including but not limited to:

(a) Universities;

(b) State and federal agencies;

(c) Conservation and environmental organizations;

(d) Community and urban forestry organizations; and

(e) Domestic or foreign industrial and business institutions. [2011 c 187 § 4; 1979 c 50 § 5; 1947 c 177 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10831-3.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 187:** See note following RCW 76.44.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.44.040 Dissemination of research results.** The results of any research undertaken by the institute or in which the institute participates shall be available to all industries and citizens of the state of Washington and the institute is authorized to disseminate such information. [1979 c 50 § 6; 1947 c 177 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10831-4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.44.050 Authority to solicit financial support—Use of funds for the institute’s operations and activities.** (1) The institute of forest resources may solicit gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devices, including both real or personal property, in trust or otherwise, to be directed to the institute for carrying out the objectives of the institute as provided in this chapter.

(2) The institute of forest resources may solicit contracts for work, financial and in-kind contributions, and support from private industries, interest groups, federal and state sources, and other sources deemed appropriate by the director of the institute.

(3) The institute of forest resources may utilize separately appropriated funds of the University of Washington for the institute’s operations and activities. [2011 c 187 § 5; 1979 c 50 § 7; 1947 c 177 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 10831-5.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 187:** See note following RCW 76.44.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.44.070 Addressing issues facing the forest sector.** The legislature finds that there are many issues facing the forest sector, such as climate change, forest health and fire, carbon accounting, habitat and diversity, timber and water supplies, economic competitiveness, and the economic health of forest dependent communities. Enhancing the capability to effectively address these forest issues is critical to the state of Washington. To meet this need, the University of Washington school of forest resources will continue to work with the various interests concerned with the state’s forest resources, including the legislature, state and federal governments, environmental organizations, local communities, the timber industry, and tribes, to improve these entities’ ability to competitively recruit, educate, and train a high quality workforce. In order to meet these goals, it is important to our state, and in particular the University of Washington, to continue to have strong undergraduate and graduate programs in forestry and natural resources to provide well-trained professionals to meet workforce needs. [2011 c 187 § 2; 2010 c 188 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 187:** See note following RCW 76.44.020.

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 188:** "(1) The legislature finds that sustainably managed commercial forestry produces jobs and revenue while also providing clean water, clean air, renewable energy, wildlife habitat, open space, and carbon storage, among other ecological values. For these reasons, maintaining a base of forest lands that may be utilized for sustainably managed commercial forestry is of utmost importance to the state.

(2) The legislature finds that the promotion and fostering of the economic success of the forest products industry with the goal of keeping sustainably managed forestry as a priority land use, and helping to secure the timber managing, growing, harvesting, transporting, and manufacturing jobs is made possible by a vibrant working forest land base.

(3) The legislature further finds that maintaining sustainable working forests is important for the quality of life of all Washingtonians, and that sustainable forest practices can help to maintain and restore the vitality of

Washington’s communities while also helping to preserve Washington’s natural landscapes and ecosystems.

(4) The legislature further finds that it is necessary to assist landowners in gaining access to additional sources of revenue, such as emerging ecosystem services markets, and to help landowners diversify their incomes, improve the ecological functions of their lands, and pass their lands and the lands’ associated benefits to future generations.

(5) The legislature further finds that the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems provide services to the residents of the state that help improve water and habitat quality, help avoid carbon emissions, help address impacts associated with climate change, and help natural resources adapt to these impacts.

(6) The legislature further finds that ecosystem services markets can lead to efficient, innovative, and effective conservation and restoration actions and facilitate improved integration of public and private investment.

(7) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to develop tools to facilitate small and industrial forest landowners’ access to market capital from existing and emerging ecosystem services markets.

(8) The legislature further intends to enable forest landowners who provide ecosystem services access to financing to protect, restore, and maintain the ecological values provided by protection of public resources." [2010 c 188 § 1.]

**76.44.080 Policy advisory committee—Membership—Compensation.** (1) The director of the school of forest resources at the University of Washington may, at the discretion of the director, appoint and maintain an eleven-member policy advisory committee to advise the director on policies for the institute of forest resources that are consistent with the institute’s objectives as provided in this chapter.

(2) If activated, the membership of the policy advisory committee must represent, to the extent possible, the various interests concerned with the institute of forest resources, including state and federal agencies, tribal governments, conservation and environmental organizations, urban forestry interests, rural communities, industry, and business.

(3) Members of the advisory committee may not receive any salary or other compensation for service on the advisory committee. However, each member may be compensated, at the discretion of the director of the institute, for each day in actual attendance at or traveling to and from meetings of the advisory committee in accordance with RCW 43.03.220 together with travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [2011 c 187 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 187:** See note following RCW 76.44.020.

**76.44.090 Director to coordinate cooperatives and centers.** The director of the school of forest resources at the University of Washington shall coordinate the various cooperatives and centers within the school of forest resources to promote a holistic, efficient, and integrated approach that broadens the research and outreach programs and addresses issues facing the forest sector. [2011 c 187 § 7.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 187:** See note following RCW 76.44.020.

## Chapter 76.48 RCW SPECIALIZED FOREST PRODUCTS

### Sections

76.48.011	Declaration of public interest.
76.48.021	Definitions.
76.48.031	Specialized forest products permits—Required—Inspection.
76.48.041	Contents of authorization, sales invoice, or bill of lading.
76.48.051	Specialized forest products permit—True copy.
76.48.061	Permit requirements.
76.48.071	Validation of forms for verifiable permits and validated permits.

76.48.081	Specialized forest products permits—Expiration—Specifications.
76.48.091	Acceptance and validation of permits—Authorized agents.
76.48.101	Possession of specialized forest products by first or secondary buyer—Display of documentation—Specialty wood processors.
76.48.111	Specialized forest products buyers and huckleberry buyers—Required records.
76.48.121	Display of master license.
76.48.131	Unlawful acts.
76.48.141	False, fraudulent, forged, or stolen specialized forest products permit, sales invoice, bill of lading, etc.—Penalty.
76.48.151	Penalties—Affirmative defense.
76.48.161	Multiple convictions for violating RCW 76.48.141 or 76.48.151—Suspension of privileges to obtain a specialized forest products permit.
76.48.171	Disposition of fines.
76.48.181	Agencies responsible for enforcement of chapter.
76.48.191	Detention of specialized forest products and documentation.
76.48.201	Protection of items seized under RCW 76.48.191—Disposition of items.
76.48.211	Exemptions.
76.48.221	Effect of RCW 76.48.031 with respect to huckleberries.
76.48.231	Department to develop educational material.
76.48.241	Assistance and training for minority groups.
76.48.251	Specialized forest products outreach and education account.
76.48.905	Severability—1967 ex.s. c 47.
76.48.906	Severability—1979 ex.s. c 94.
76.48.907	Saving—1967 ex.s. c 47.

**76.48.011 Declaration of public interest.** (1) It is in the public interest of this state to protect an important natural resource and to provide protection to the landowners of the state of Washington from the theft of specialized forest products.

(2) To satisfy this public interest, this chapter is intended to:

- (a) Provide law enforcement with reasonable tools;
- (b) Reasonably protect landowners from theft;
- (c) Ensure that requirements are not unduly burdensome to those harvesting, transporting, possessing, and purchasing specialized forest products;
- (d) Craft requirements that are clear and readily understandable; and
- (e) Establish requirements that are able to be administered and enforced consistently statewide. [2009 c 245 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 2. Formerly RCW 76.48.010.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** "(1) The legislature finds that the specialized forest products work group created pursuant to section 2, chapter 392, Laws of 2007 produced a number of consensus recommendations to the legislature as to how the permitting requirements of chapter 76.48 RCW can be improved. In making recommendations, the work group focused on the goals enumerated in RCW 76.48.011.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to enact those recommendations contained in the report submitted to the legislature from the specialized forest products work group in December 2008 that require statutory modifications.

(3) It is also the intent of the legislature for the department of natural resources, along with other state and local agencies, to take those administrative actions necessary to execute the recommendations contained in the report that do not require statutory changes. When taking administrative actions regarding specialized forest products, those actions should, when appropriate, be conducted consistent with recommendations contained in the report submitted to the legislature from the specialized forest products work group." [2009 c 245 § 1.]

**76.48.021 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Artistic cedar product" means a product made from the wood of a cedar tree, including western red cedar, that is not included in the definition of "cedar products" and has

been carved, turned, or otherwise manipulated to more than an insignificant degree with the objective intent to be an artistic expression and that would be or is recognized by the applicable local market as having an economic value greater than the value of the raw materials used. Examples of artistic cedar products include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Chainsaw carvings;
  - (b) Hand carvings;
  - (c) Decorative bowls and boxes.
- (2) "Authorization" means a properly completed pre-printed form authorizing the transportation or possession of Christmas trees prepared consistent with RCW 76.48.041.
- (3) "Bill of lading" means a written or printed itemized list or statement of particulars pertinent to the transportation or possession of a specialized forest product prepared consistent with RCW 76.48.041.
- (4) "Cascara bark" means the bark of a Cascara tree.
- (5)(a) "Cedar products" means the following if made from the wood of a cedar tree, including western red cedar:
- (i) Shake and shingle bolts;
  - (ii) Fence posts and fence rails;
  - (iii) Logs not covered by a valid approved forest practices application or notification under chapter 76.09 RCW; and
  - (iv) Other pieces measuring fifteen inches or longer.
- (b) "Cedar products" does not include those materials identified in the definition of "processed cedar products" or "artistic cedar products."

(6) "Christmas trees" means any evergreen trees including fir, pine, spruce, cedar, and other coniferous species commonly known as Christmas trees. The definition of Christmas trees includes trees with or without the roots intact and the tops of the trees. The definition of Christmas trees does not include trees without limbs or branches.

(7) "Cut or picked evergreen foliage" means evergreen boughs, huckleberry foliage, salal, fern, Oregon grape, rhododendron, mosses, bear grass, and other cut or picked evergreen products. "Cut or picked evergreen foliage" does not include cones, berries, any foliage that does not remain green year-round, seeds, or any plant listed on the state noxious weed list under RCW 17.10.080.

(8) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(9) "First specialized forest products buyer" means the first person that receives any specialized forest products after they leave the harvest site.

(10) "Harvest" means to separate, by cutting, prying, picking, peeling, breaking, pulling, splitting, or otherwise removing, a specialized forest product. "Harvest" includes both removing a specialized forest product from its original physical connection with the land and collecting a specialized forest product that has been previously separated from the land.

(11) "Harvest site" means each location where one or more persons are engaged in harvesting specialized forest products close enough to each other that communication can be conducted with an investigating law enforcement officer in a normal conversational tone.

(12) "Huckleberry" means the following species of edible berries, if they are not nursery grown: Big huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*), Cascade blueberry (*Vaccinium*

*deliciosum*), evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*), globe huckleberry (*Vaccinium globulare*), oval-leaf huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovalifolium*), Alaska huckleberry (*Vaccinium alaskaense*), dwarf huckleberry (*Vaccinium caespitosum*), western huckleberry (*Vaccinium occidentale*), bog blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*), dwarf bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), and grouse whortleberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*).

(13) "Landowner" means, with regard to real property, the private owner, the state of Washington or any political subdivision, the federal government, or a person who by deed, contract, or lease has authority to harvest and sell the specialized forest products of the property. "Landowner" does not include the purchaser or successful high bidder at a public or private timber sale.

(14) "Native ornamental trees and shrubs" means any trees or shrubs which are not nursery grown and which have been removed from the ground with the roots intact.

(15) "Permittee" means a person who is authorized by a permit issued consistent with this chapter to harvest, possess, and transport specialized forest products or to sell huckleberries.

(16) "Permitter" means the landowner of the land from where specialized forest products were, or are planned to be, harvested under a permit issued consistent with this chapter.

(17) "Person" includes the plural and all corporations, foreign or domestic, copartnerships, firms, and associations of persons.

(18) "Processed cedar products" means products made from the wood of a cedar tree, including western red cedar, that have undergone more than an insignificant degree of value-added processing and are not included in the definition of "cedar products." Examples of processed cedar products include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Shakes;
- (b) Shingles;
- (c) Hop poles;
- (d) Pickets; and
- (e) Stakes.

(19) "Sales invoice" means a written or printed itemized list or statement of particulars pertinent to the transportation or possession of a specialized forest product prepared consistent with RCW 76.48.041.

(20) "Secondary specialized forest products buyer" means any person who receives any specialized forest products after the transaction with the first specialized forest products buyer.

(21) "Specialized forest products" means the following:

- (a) Specialty wood;
- (b) More than five Christmas trees;
- (c) More than five native ornamental trees and shrubs;
- (d) More than twenty pounds of cut or picked evergreen foliage;
- (e) More than five pounds of Cascara bark; and
- (f) More than five United States gallons of wild edible mushrooms.

(22) "Specialized forest products permit" or "permit" means a printed document and all attachments completed in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and includes both validated permits and verifiable permits.

(23) "Specialty wood" means:

(a) A cedar product; or  
(b) Englemann spruce, Sitka spruce, big leaf maple, or western red alder that:

(i) Is in logs, chunks, slabs, stumps, or burls;  
(ii) Is capable of being cut into a segment that is without knots in a portion of the surface area at least nineteen inches long and seven and a [one-] quarter inches wide when measured from the outer surface toward the center;

(iii) Measures:

- (A) Nineteen inches or longer;
- (B) Greater than one and three-quarter inches thick; and
- (C) Seven and one-quarter inches or greater in width;

and

(iv) Is being harvested or transported from areas not associated with the concurrent logging of timber stands:

(A) Under a forest practices application approval or notification received by the department under chapter 76.09 RCW; or

(B) Under a contract or permit issued by an agency of the United States government.

(24) "Specialty wood processor" means any person who purchases, takes, or retains possession of specialty wood for later sale in the same or modified form following removal and delivery from the land where harvested.

(25) "Transportation" means the physical conveyance of specialized forest products outside or off of a harvest site by any means.

(26) "True copy" means a replica of a specialized forest products permit reproduced as provided in RCW 76.48.051.

(27) "Validated permit" means a permit that is validated as required under this chapter prior to the harvest, transportation, or possession of specialized forest products.

(28) "Verifiable permit" means a permit that contains the required information allowing a law enforcement officer to verify the validity of the information contained on the permit but that does not require validation prior to the harvest, transportation, or possession of specialized forest products.

(29) "Wild edible mushrooms" means edible mushrooms not cultivated or propagated by domestic means. [2009 c 245 § 3; 2008 c 191 § 9; 2007 c 392 § 3; 2005 c 401 § 1; 2000 c 11 § 18; 1995 c 366 § 1; 1992 c 184 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 3. Formerly RCW 76.48.020.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.031 Specialized forest products permits—Required—Inspection.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 76.48.211, a completed specialized forest products permit issued under this chapter is required prior to engaging in the following activities:

(a) Harvesting any specialized forest products from any lands, including his or her own land.

(b) Possessing or transporting any specialized forest products, unless the person has in his or her possession either of the following in lieu of a permit:

(i) A true copy of the permit;

(ii) If the person is transporting the specialized forest product from a location other than the harvest site or is a first or secondary specialized forest products buyer, a sales invoice, bill of lading, or, for the possession and transporta-

tion of Christmas trees only, an authorization if a copy of the authorization has been filed prior to the harvest of the Christmas trees with the sheriff's office for the county in which the Christmas trees are to be harvested;

(iii) A bill of lading or documentation issued in or by another state, a Canadian province, or the federal government indicating the true origin of the specialized forest products as being outside of Washington; or

(iv) If the products were harvested within the operational area defined by a valid forest practices application or notification under chapter 76.09 RCW, a sequentially numbered load ticket generated by the landowner or the landowner's agent that includes, at a minimum, all information required on a bill of lading and the forest practices application number.

(c) Selling, or offering for sale, any amount of raw or unprocessed huckleberries, regardless if the huckleberries were harvested with the consent of the landowner, unless the possessor of the huckleberries being offered for sale is able to show that the huckleberries originated on land owned by the United States forest service and displays a valid permit from the United States forest service that lawfully entitles the possessor to harvest the huckleberries in question.

(2)(a) Unless otherwise designated by the permittor as provided in this subsection, a permit or true copy must be readily available for inspection at each harvest site.

(b) An individual permit or true copy must be carried and made readily available for inspection by each individual permittee at a harvest site if the permittor designated an individual permit or true copy as an additional condition or limitation specified on the permit under RCW 76.48.081. [2009 c 245 § 4; 2008 c 191 § 3; 2005 c 401 § 3; 1995 c 366 § 5; 1992 c 184 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 5; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 7. Formerly RCW 76.48.060.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.041 Contents of authorization, sales invoice, or bill of lading.** An authorization, sales invoice, or bill of lading must specify the following in order to satisfy the requirements of this chapter:

(1) The date of the product's transportation.

(2) The amount and type of specialized forest products being transported.

(3) The name and address of the person receiving the specialized forest products.

(4) The name and address of the first or secondary specialized forest products buyer, specialty wood processor, or other person from where the specialized forest products are being transported.

(5) The name of the driver transporting the specialized forest products.

(6) The license plate number of the vehicle transporting the specialized forest product. [2009 c 245 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 7; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 9. Formerly RCW 76.48.080.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.051 Specialized forest products permit—True copy.** (1) A true copy of a specialized forest products permit is valid if:

(a) The copy is reproduced by a copy machine capable of effectively reproducing the permit information required under RCW 76.48.081; and

(b)(i) The permittee has provided an original signature in the space provided on the face of the copy.

(ii) An actual signature of the permittor is also required for a true copy to be valid if the permittor indicates on the space provided for signatures on the original permit that the actual signature of the permittor is required for the validation of any copies.

(2) A true copy is effective until the expiration date of the underlying permit unless an earlier date is provided by the signatories to the copy.

(3) Either signatory to a permit may condition the use of the true copy for only harvesting, only possessing, only transporting, or a combination of harvesting, possessing, and transporting the associated specialized forest products by indicating the limitations of the true copy on the permit or the copy.

(4) Any permittee issuing a true copy must record and retain for one year the following information:

(a) The date the true copy is issued;

(b) The license plate number and make and model of the vehicle to be used with the true copy;

(c) The name and address of the person receiving the true copy;

(d) The unique number assigned to a valid state identification document issued to the person; and

(e) The expiration date of the true copy. [2009 c 245 § 6.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.061 Permit requirements.** (1)(a) Except for the sale of huckleberries, the permit requirements of RCW 76.48.031 may be satisfied with either a validated permit or a verifiable permit. The decision to use a validated or verifiable permit must be made and agreed upon jointly by the permittee and the permittor.

(b) For the sale of huckleberries, only a validated permit satisfies the requirements of RCW 76.48.031.

(2)(a) Forms for both validated permits and verifiable permits must be provided by the department and be made available in reasonable quantities through county sheriff offices and other locations deemed appropriate by the department.

(b) In designing the forms, the department shall ensure that:

(i) All mandatory requirements of this chapter are satisfied;

(ii) The type of permit is clearly marked on the form;

(iii) Each permit is separately numbered and the issuance of the permits are by unique numbers; and

(iv) The form is designed in a manner allowing a permittor to require his or her signature on all true copies as provided in RCW 76.48.051.

(3) Permit forms must be completed in triplicate for each property and in each county in which specialized forest products are proposed to be harvested or huckleberries sold.

(4)(a) Within five business days after the signature of the permittor on the form for a verifiable permit, as required in RCW 76.48.081, the original permit form must be provided

by the permittee to the sheriff of the county in which the specialized forest products are to be harvested. The permittee may provide the permit form in a manner convenient to the permittee and the sheriff's office, including in-person presentation or by mail. If mailed, the permit form must be post-marked within the time window established under this subsection.

(b) Upon full completion, as provided in RCW 76.48.081, the permit form for a validated permit must, except for permits to sell huckleberries, be mailed or presented for validation to the sheriff of the county in which the specialized forest products are to be harvested. Validated permits relating to the sale of huckleberries may be validated by the sheriff of any county in the state.

(5) Two copies of the permit must be retained by the permittee, of which one copy must be given or mailed to the permittor by the permittee. The original permit must be retained in the office of the county sheriff for the purposes of verifying the permit, if necessary.

(6) All permits expire no later than the end of the calendar year in which they are issued.

(7) Permits provided under this section are subject to any other conditions or limitations that the permittor may specify.

(8) Before a permit form is accepted or validated by a sheriff, sufficient personal identification may be required to reasonably identify the person mailing or presenting the permit form. The sheriff may conduct other investigations as deemed necessary to determine the validity of the information alleged on the form.

(9) In the event a single land ownership is situated in two or more counties, a permit form must be completed, as provided in this section, for the portions of the ownership situated in each county.

(10) Permits that are validated by or provided to a sheriff's office under this section must be maintained by that office for a length of time determined by the appropriate records retention schedule. [2009 c 245 § 7.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.071 Validation of forms for verifiable permits and validated permits.** (1) Forms for a verifiable permit become valid for the purposes of RCW 76.48.031 upon the completion of all information required by RCW 76.48.081.

(2) Forms for a validated permit become valid for the purposes of RCW 76.48.031 upon the validation of the form by the appropriate county sheriff. [2009 c 245 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.081 Specialized forest products permits—Expiration—Specifications.** (1) A specialized forest products permit form may not be validated or accepted for verification by a sheriff unless the permit satisfies the requirements of this section.

(2) A properly completed permit form shall include:

(a) The date of its execution and expiration;

(b) The name, address, up to three telephone numbers, and signature of the permittee and permittor;

(c) The type of specialized forest products to be harvested or transported;

(d) The approximate amount or volume of specialized forest products to be harvested or transported;

(e)(i) For validated permits only, the parcel number or the legal description of the property from which the specialized forest products are to be harvested or transported;

(ii) For verifiable permits only:

(A) The parcel number for where the harvesting is to occur, unless the owner of the parcel actually lives at the parcel and the parcel's boundaries comprise an area one acre in size or smaller;

(B) The address of the property where the harvesting is to occur if the owner of the property lives at the parcel and the parcel's boundaries comprise an area less than one acre;

(C) The name of the county where the harvesting is to occur; and

(D) An accurate report or statement from the county assessor of the county where the specialized forest products are to be harvested that provides clear evidence that the permittor named on the verifiable permit is the owner of the parcel named on the permit;

(f) A description by local landmarks of where the harvesting is to occur, or from where the specialized forest products are to be transported;

(g) For specialty wood, a copy of a map or aerial photograph, with defined permitted boundaries, included as an attachment to the permit;

(h)(i) For validated permits, a copy of a valid picture identification of the permittee on the copy of the permit form that is presented to the sheriff; and

(ii) For verifiable permits, the unique number assigned to a valid state identification document for both the permittee and permittor; and

(i) The details of any other condition or limitation which the permittor may specify.

(3) For permits intended to satisfy the requirements of RCW 76.48.031 relating to the sale of huckleberries, the permit:

(a) Must, in addition to the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, also contain information relating to where the huckleberries were, or plan to be, harvested, and the approximate amount of huckleberries that are going to be offered for sale; and

(b) Must include a statement designed to inform the possessor that permission from the landowner is still required prior to the harvesting of huckleberries. [2009 c 245 § 9; 2008 c 191 § 2; 2005 c 401 § 2; 1995 c 366 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 6. Formerly RCW 76.48.050.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.091 Acceptance and validation of permits—Authorized agents.** (1) County sheriffs may contract with other entities to serve as authorized agents to accept and validate permits under RCW 76.48.061. Entities that a county sheriff may contract with include the department, the United States forest service, the bureau of land management, local police departments, and other entities as decided upon by the county sheriffs' departments.

(2) An entity that contracts with a county sheriff to serve as an authorized agent under this section may make reasonable efforts to verify the information provided on the permit

form such as the legal description or parcel number of the area where harvesting is to occur.

(3) All processes and requirements applicable to county sheriffs under RCW 76.48.061 also apply to entities contracted under this section. [2009 c 245 § 10; 1995 c 366 § 15. Formerly RCW 76.48.062.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.101 Possession of specialized forest products by first or secondary buyer—Display of documentation—Specialty wood processors.** (1) It is unlawful for any first or secondary specialized forest products buyer, or for any other person, to purchase, take possession of, or retain specialized forest products subsequent to the harvesting and prior to the retail sale of the products unless the supplier of the product displays:

(a) An apparently valid permit required by RCW 76.48.031;

(b) A true copy of an apparently valid permit; or

(c) When applicable:

(i) A bill of lading, authorization, sales invoice, or a government-issued documentation, prepared consistent with RCW 76.48.031 indicating the true origin of the specialized forest products as being outside of Washington;

(ii) If the products were harvested within the operational area defined by a valid forest practices application or notification under chapter 76.09 RCW, a sequentially numbered load ticket generated by the landowner or the landowner's agent that includes, at a minimum, all information required on a bill of lading and the forest practices application number; or

(iii) A statement claiming the products offered for sale are otherwise exempt from the permit requirements of this chapter under RCW 76.48.211.

(2) In addition to the requirements of RCW 76.48.111, specialty wood processors are required to ensure that a bill of lading, authorization, or sales invoice accompanies all specialty wood upon the receipt of the specialty wood into or the shipping of the specialty wood out of the property of the specialty wood processor. [2009 c 245 § 11; 2005 c 401 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 9; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 11. Formerly RCW 76.48.094.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.111 Specialized forest products buyers and huckleberry buyers—Required records.** (1)(a) First and secondary specialized forest products buyers and huckleberry buyers are required to record:

(i) If the person is a first specialized forest product buyer, the permit number or, if applicable, a sequentially numbered load ticket generated by the landowner or the landowner's agent that includes, at a minimum, all information required on a bill of lading and the forest practices application or notification number if the seller claims the specialized forest product in question is exempt from the permit requirements of this chapter, as provided in RCW 76.48.211, due to its harvest within the operational area defined by a valid forest practices application or notification under chapter 76.09 RCW;

(ii) Whether or not the products were accompanied by a bill of lading, authorization, or sales invoice;

(iii) The type of specialized forest product purchased, and, if applicable, an indication that huckleberries were purchased;

(iv) The name of the seller;

(v) The amount of specialized forest product or huckleberries purchased;

(vi) The date of delivery;

(vii) The name of the person driving the vehicle in which the specialized forest products were transported to the buyer, as confirmed by a visual inspection of the applicable driver's license, unless the buyer has previously recorded the driver's information in an accessible record; and

(viii) Except for transactions involving Christmas trees, the license plate number of the vehicle in which the specialized forest products were transported to the buyer.

(b) First and secondary specialized forest products buyers shall keep a record of this information, along with any accompanying bill of lading, sales invoice, or authorization, for a period of one year from the date of purchase and must make the records available for inspection upon demand by enforcement officials authorized under RCW 76.48.181 to enforce this chapter.

(c) In lieu of a permit number or forest practices identification and load ticket number, the buyer may, when applicable, note that the seller claims that the products offered for sale are exempt from the permit requirements of this chapter under RCW 76.48.211, or were lawfully transported into Washington from out of state. All other information required by this section must be recorded.

(2) This section does not apply to buyers of specialized forest products at the retail sales level.

(3) Records of buyers of specialized forest products and huckleberries collected under this section may be made available to colleges and universities for the purpose of research. [2009 c 245 § 12; 2008 c 191 § 4; 2005 c 401 § 6; 2000 c 11 § 19; 1995 c 366 § 14. Formerly RCW 76.48.085.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.121 Display of master license.** Every first or secondary specialized forest products buyer purchasing specialty wood and every specialty wood processor must prominently display the master license issued under RCW 19.02.070 and endorsed with the respective licenses or registrations or a copy of the master license at each location where the buyer or processor receives specialty wood if the first or secondary specialized forest products buyer or specialty wood processor is required to possess a license incorporated into the master license system created in chapter 19.02 RCW. [2011 c 298 § 34; 2009 c 245 § 13; 2005 c 401 § 9; 1995 c 366 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 11; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 13. Formerly RCW 76.48.098.]

**Purpose—Intent—Agency transfer—Contracting—Effective date—2011 c 289:** See notes following RCW 19.02.020.

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.131 Unlawful acts.** It is unlawful for any person to:

(1) Sell or attempt to sell huckleberries, or harvest, possess, or transport specialized forest products in violation of RCW 76.48.031;

(2) Engage in activities or phases of harvesting specialized forest products not authorized by a permit under this chapter;

(3) Harvest specialized forest products in any lesser quantities than those specified in RCW 76.48.031 without first obtaining permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized agent or representative; or

(4) Harvest huckleberries in any amount using a rake, mechanical device, or any other method that damages the huckleberry bush. [2009 c 245 § 14; 2007 c 392 § 4; 1995 c 366 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 4. Formerly RCW 76.48.030.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.141 False, fraudulent, forged, or stolen specialized forest products permit, sales invoice, bill of lading, etc.—Penalty.** (1) It is unlawful for any person, upon official inquiry, investigation, or other authorized proceedings, to:

(a) Offer as genuine any paper, document, or other instrument in writing purporting to be a specialized forest products permit, true copy of a permit, authorization, sales invoice, bill of lading, or other document required under this chapter; or

(b) To make any representation of authority to possess or conduct harvesting or transporting of specialized forest products, or to conduct the sale of huckleberries, with knowledge that the representation of authority is in any manner false, fraudulent, forged, or stolen.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to produce a document for a first or secondary specialized forest products buyer purporting to be a true and genuine permit when delivering or attempting to deliver a specialized forest product with knowledge that the document is in any manner false, fraudulent, forged, or stolen.

(3) Any person who knowingly or intentionally violates this section is guilty of a class C felony punishable by imprisonment in a state correctional institution for a maximum term fixed by the court of not more than five years or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars, or by both imprisonment and fine. [2009 c 245 § 15; 2008 c 191 § 7; 2003 c 53 § 373; 1995 c 366 § 12; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 14; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 9; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 13. Formerly RCW 76.48.120.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.151 Penalties—Affirmative defense.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 76.48.141, a person who violates a provision of this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, imprisonment in the county jail for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or by both a fine and imprisonment.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) In any prosecution for a violation of this chapter's requirements to obtain or possess a specialized forest products permit, true copy, bill of lading, authorization, or sales invoice, it is an affirmative defense, if established by the defendant by a preponderance of the evidence, that:

(a) The specialized forest products were harvested from the defendant's own land; or

(b) The specialized forest products were harvested with the permission of the landowner. [2011 c 96 § 56; 2009 c 245 § 16; 2007 c 392 § 1; 1995 c 366 § 13; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 10; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 14. Formerly RCW 76.48.130.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.161 Multiple convictions for violating RCW 76.48.141 or 76.48.151—Suspension of privileges to obtain a specialized forest products permit.** (1) The court presiding over the conviction of any person for a violation of RCW 76.48.141 or 76.48.151 who has been convicted of violating either RCW 76.48.141 or 76.48.151 at least two other times shall order up to a three-year suspension of that person's privilege to obtain a specialized forest products permit under this chapter.

(2) If a court issues a suspension under this section after a conviction involving the misuse of a permit with a specified permittor, the legislature requests that the court notify the permittor listed on the permit of the suspension.

(3) Nothing in this section limits the ability of a court to order the suspension of any privileges related to specialized forest products as a condition of probation regardless of whether the person has any past convictions. [2009 c 245 § 17.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.171 Disposition of fines.** All fines collected for violations of this chapter shall be paid into the general fund of the county treasury of the county in which the violation occurred and distributed equally among the district courts in the county, the county sheriff's office, and the state treasurer. The portion of the revenue provided to the state treasurer must be distributed to the specialized forest products outreach and education account created in RCW 76.48.251. [2009 c 245 § 18; 2005 c 401 § 12; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 15. Formerly RCW 76.48.140.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.181 Agencies responsible for enforcement of chapter.** (1) Primary enforcement responsibility of this chapter belongs with county sheriffs. However, other entities that may enforce this chapter include:

- (a) The department;
- (b) The Washington state patrol;
- (c) County or municipal police forces;
- (d) Authorized personnel of the United States forest service; and
- (e) Authorized personnel of the department of fish and wildlife.

(2) The legislature encourages county sheriffs' offices to enter into interlocal agreements with these other agencies in

order to receive additional assistance with their enforcement responsibilities. [2009 c 245 § 19; 1995 c 366 § 3; 1994 c 264 § 51; 1988 c 36 § 49; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 5. Formerly RCW 76.48.040.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.191 Detention of specialized forest products and documentation.** (1) A law enforcement officer may take into custody and detain for a reasonable time any specialized forest products, authorizations, sales invoices, bills of lading, other documents, and vehicles in which the specialized forest products were transported if, under official inquiry, investigation, or other authorized proceeding regarding specialized forest products not covered by a valid permit or other acceptable document as provided in this chapter, the inspecting law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the specialized forest products were obtained in violation of this chapter until the true origin of the specialized forest products can be determined.

(2) A law enforcement officer may retain a specialized forest products permit, true copy of a permit, authorization, sales invoice, bill of lading, or other document required under this chapter if the officer reasonably suspects that the document is forged in violation of RCW 76.48.141, fraudulent, or stolen, until the authenticity of the document can be verified.

(3)(a) If no arrest is made at the conclusion of the official inquiry, investigation, or other authorized proceeding for a violation of this chapter or another state law, all materials detained under this section must be returned to the person or persons from whom the materials were taken.

(b)(i) If an arrest does follow the inquiry, investigation, or authorized proceeding, and the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that a person is selling or attempting to sell huckleberries, or is harvesting, in possession of, or transporting specialized forest products in violation of this chapter, any specialized forest products or huckleberries found at the time of arrest may be seized.

(ii) If the specialized forest product triggering the arrest is specialty wood, the law enforcement officer may also seize any equipment, vehicles, tools, or paperwork associated with the arrest.

(c) Materials seized under this chapter are subject to the provisions of RCW 76.48.201. [2009 c 245 § 20.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.201 Protection of items seized under RCW 76.48.191—Disposition of items.** (1)(a) Reasonable protection must be provided for any equipment, vehicles, tools, paperwork, huckleberries, or specialized forest products seized under RCW 76.48.191 during the period of adjudication unless the court before which the arrested person is ordered to appear orders the disposal of any or all of the seized materials.

(b) Given the perishable nature of huckleberries and specialized forest products, the seizing agency may sell the product at fair market value and retain all proceeds until a final disposition of the case has been reached.

(2) Upon any disposition of the case by the court, the court shall:

(a) Make a reasonable effort to return all materials seized under RCW 76.48.191 to its lawful owner or owners; or

(b) Order the disposal of or return of any or all materials seized under this section, including tools, vehicles, equipment, paperwork, or specialized forest products.

(3) If the court orders the disposal of seized materials, it may:

(a) Pay the proceeds of any sale of seized specialized forest products or huckleberries, less any reasonable expenses of the sale, to the lawful owner; or

(b) Pay the proceeds of any sale of seized tools, equipment, or vehicles, less any reasonable expenses of the sale or, if applicable, towards any outstanding court costs, and then to the lawful owner or owners.

(4) If, for any reason, the proceeds of any sale of materials seized under this section cannot be provided to the lawful owner, the proceeds of the sale, less reasonable expenses relating to the sale, shall be paid to the treasurer of the county in which the violation occurred for deposit into the county general fund and for distribution equally among the district courts in the county, the county sheriff's office, and the state treasurer. The portion of the revenue provided to the state treasurer must be distributed to the specialized forest products outreach and education account created in RCW 76.48.251.

(5) The owner or owners of materials seized under RCW 76.48.191 must be offered an opportunity to appeal an order for the disposal of the seized materials.

(6) The return of materials seized under RCW 76.48.191, or the payment of the proceeds of any sale of products seized to the owner, shall not preclude the court from imposing any fine or penalty upon the violator for the violation of the provisions of this chapter. [2009 c 245 § 21; 2008 c 191 § 6; 2005 c 401 § 11; 1995 c 366 § 11; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 13; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 8; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 12. Formerly RCW 76.48.110.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.211 Exemptions.** Except as otherwise conditioned, this chapter does not apply to:

(1) Nursery grown products.

(2) The following products when harvested within the operational areas as defined by a valid forest practices application or notification under chapter 76.09 RCW, and when the person harvesting is able to provide a sequentially numbered load ticket provided by the landowner or the landowner's agent that includes, at a minimum, all information required on a bill of lading and the forest practices application or notification number, or under a contract or permit issued by an agency of the United States government:

(a) Logs;

(b) Specialty wood;

(c) Cut or picked evergreen foliage;

(d) Poles;

(e) Pilings; or

(f) Other major forest products from which substantially all of the limbs and branches have been removed.

(3) Noncommercial harvest, transportation, or possession by the landowner, the landowner's agent, representative, or lessee of specialized forest products originating from property belonging to the landowner.

(4) Harvest, transportation, or possession of specialized forest products by:

(a) A governmental entity or the entity's agent for the purposes of clearing or maintaining the governmental entity's right-of-way or easement; or

(b) A public or regulated utility or the utility's agent for the purpose of clearing or maintaining the utility's right-of-way or easement. [2009 c 245 § 22; 2005 c 401 § 10; 1995 c 366 § 10; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 12; 1977 ex.s. c 147 § 7; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 11. Formerly RCW 76.48.100.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.221 Effect of RCW 76.48.031 with respect to huckleberries.** (1) Nothing in RCW 76.48.031 creates a requirement that a specialized forest products permit is required for an individual to harvest, possess, or transport huckleberries.

(2) Compliance with RCW 76.48.031 allows an individual to sell, or offer for sale, raw or unprocessed huckleberries. Possession of a specialized forest products permit does not create a right or privilege to harvest huckleberries. Huckleberries may be harvested only with the permission of the landowner and under the terms and conditions established between the landowner and the harvester. [2009 c 245 § 23; 2008 c 191 § 1. Formerly RCW 76.48.210.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.231 Department to develop educational material.** (1) Subject to the availability of funds in the specialized forest products outreach and education account established under RCW 76.48.251, the department shall develop educational material, including printed information, for law enforcement, forest landowners, and specialized forest products permittees, buyers, and processors specific to this chapter.

(2) The department is encouraged to foster partnerships with federal agencies, other state agencies, universities, local governments, and private interests in order to minimize educational and outreach expenses. [2009 c 245 § 24; 2005 c 401 § 13. Formerly RCW 76.48.150.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.241 Assistance and training for minority groups.** (1) Minority groups have long been participants in the specialized forest products and huckleberry harvesting industry. The legislature encourages agencies serving minority communities, community-based organizations, refugee centers, social service agencies, agencies and organizations with expertise in the specialized forest products and huckleberry harvesting industries, and other interested groups to work cooperatively to accomplish the following purposes:

(a) To provide assistance and make referrals on translation services and to assist in translating educational materials,

laws, and rules regarding specialized forest products and huckleberries;

(b) To hold clinics to teach techniques for effective picking; and

(c) To work with both minority and nonminority permittees in order to protect resources and foster understanding between minority and nonminority permittees.

(2) To the extent practicable within their existing resources, the department, the state commission on Asian Pacific American affairs created in RCW 43.117.030, and the state commission on Hispanic affairs created in RCW 43.115.020 are encouraged to coordinate efforts under this chapter. [2009 c 245 § 25; 2008 c 191 § 8; 1995 c 366 § 17. Formerly RCW 76.48.200.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.48.251 Specialized forest products outreach and education account.** The specialized forest products outreach and education account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from RCW 76.48.171 and 76.48.201, any legislative appropriations, private donations, or any other private or public source directed to the account must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may only be used by the department for funding activities under RCW 76.48.231 and 76.48.241. Only the commissioner of public lands or the commissioner's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2009 c 245 § 26.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 245:** See note following RCW 76.48.011.

**76.48.905 Severability—1967 ex.s. c 47.** If any section, provision, or part thereof of this chapter shall be adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the chapter as a whole, or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. [1967 ex.s. c 47 § 15. Formerly RCW 76.48.900.]

**76.48.906 Severability—1979 ex.s. c 94.** If any provision of this act or this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or this chapter or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2009 c 245 § 27; 1979 ex.s. c 94 § 17. Formerly RCW 76.48.902.]

**76.48.907 Saving—1967 ex.s. c 47.** This chapter is not intended to repeal, supersede, or modify any provision of existing law. [2009 c 245 § 28; 1967 ex.s. c 47 § 16. Formerly RCW 76.48.910.]

## Chapter 76.52 RCW

### COOPERATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT SERVICES ACT

#### Sections

76.52.010	Short title.
76.52.020	Contracts with landowners.

- 76.52.030 Extending department forest management services to landowners.  
76.52.040 Disposition of funds from landowners.

**76.52.010 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and cited as the "cooperative forest management services act." [1979 c 100 § 1.]

**76.52.020 Contracts with landowners.** The department of natural resources may, by agreement, make available to forest landowners, equipment, materials, and personnel for the purpose of more intensively managing or protecting the land when the department determines that such services are not otherwise available at a cost which would encourage the landowner to so avail himself, and that the use of department equipment, materials, or personnel will not jeopardize the management of state lands or other programs of the department. The department shall enter into a contractual agreement with the landowner for services rendered and shall recover the costs thereof. [1979 c 100 § 2.]

**76.52.030 Extending department forest management services to landowners.** The department may, by agreement, extend forest management services to private lands as a condition of carrying out such services on state lands when the private lands are adjacent to or in close proximity to the state lands being treated. The agreement shall include provisions requiring the parties to pay all costs attributable to the conducting of the services on their respective lands. [1979 c 100 § 3.]

**76.52.040 Disposition of funds from landowners.** Costs recovered by the department as a result of extending forest management practices to private lands shall be credited to the program or programs providing the services. The department will report by December 31 of each odd numbered year up to and including 1985 to the house and senate natural resources committees the private acres treated as a result of this chapter. [1979 c 100 § 4.]

### Chapter 76.56 RCW

#### CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FOREST PRODUCTS

##### Sections

- 76.56.010 Center for international trade in forest products created at the University of Washington.  
76.56.020 Duties.  
76.56.030 Director—Appointment.  
76.56.040 Use of center's programs, research, and advisory services—Schedule of fees.  
76.56.050 Solicitation of financial contributions and support—Annual report—Use of other funds.  
76.56.900 Severability—1985 c 122.

**76.56.010 Center for international trade in forest products created at the University of Washington.** There is created a center for international trade in forest products at the University of Washington in the college of forest resources, which shall be referred to in this chapter as "the center." The center shall operate under the authority of the board of regents of the University of Washington. [1985 c 122 § 1.]

**76.56.020 Duties.** The center shall:

(1) Coordinate the University of Washington's college of forest resources' faculty and staff expertise to assist in:

(a) The development of research and analysis for developing policies and strategies which will expand forest-based international trade, including a major focus on secondary manufacturing;

(b) The development of technology or commercialization support for manufactured products that will meet the evolving needs of international customers;

(c) The development of research and analysis on other factors critical to forest-based trade, including the quality and availability of raw wood resources; and

(d) The coordination, development, and dissemination of market and technical information relevant to international trade in forest products, including a major focus on secondary manufacturing;

(2) Further develop and maintain computer databases on worldwide forest products production and trade in order to monitor and report on trends significant to the Northwest forest products industry and support the center's research functions; and coordinate this system with state, federal, and private sector efforts to insure a cost-effective information resource that will avoid unnecessary duplication;

(3) Monitor international forest products markets and assess the status of the state's forest products industry, including the competitiveness of small and medium-sized secondary manufacturing firms in the forest products industry, which for the purposes of this chapter shall be firms with annual revenues of twenty-five million or less, and including the increased exports of Washington-produced products of small and medium-sized secondary manufacturing firms;

(4) Provide high-quality research and graduate education and professional nondegree training in international trade in forest products in cooperation with the University of Washington's graduate school of business administration, the school of law, the Jackson school of international studies, the Northwest policy center of the graduate school of public administration, and other supporting academic units;

(5) Develop cooperative linkages with the international marketing program for agricultural commodities and trade at Washington State University, the international trade project of the United States forest service, the department of natural resources, the \*department of community, trade, and economic development, the small business export finance assistance center, and other state and federal agencies to avoid duplication of effort and programs;

(6) Cooperate with personnel from the state's community and technical colleges in their development of wood products manufacturing and wood technology curriculum and offer periodic workshops on wood products manufacturing, wood technology, and trade opportunities to community colleges and private educators and trainers;

(7) Provide for public dissemination of research, analysis, and results of the center's programs to all groups, including direct assistance groups, through technical workshops, short courses, international and national symposia, cooperation with private sector networks and marketing associations, or other means, including appropriate publications;

(8) Establish an executive policy board, including representatives of small and medium-sized businesses, with at least fifty percent of its business members representing small businesses with one hundred or fewer employees and medium-sized businesses with one hundred to five hundred employees. The executive policy board shall also include a representative of the community and technical colleges, representatives of state and federal agencies, and a representative of a wood products manufacturing network or trade association of small and medium-sized wood product manufacturers. The executive policy board shall provide advice on: Overall policy direction and program priorities, state and federal budget requests, securing additional research funds, identifying priority areas of focus for research efforts, selection of projects for research, and dissemination of results of research efforts; and

(9) Establish advisory or technical committees for each research program area, to advise on research program area priorities, consistent with the international trade opportunities achievable by the forest products sector of the state and region, to help ensure projects are relevant to industry needs, and to advise on and support effective dissemination of research results. Each advisory or technical committee shall include representatives of forest products industries that might benefit from this research.

Service on the committees and the executive policy board established in subsections (8) and (9) of this section shall be without compensation but actual travel expenses incurred in connection with service to the center may be reimbursed from appropriated funds in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [1994 c 282 § 1; 1992 c 121 § 1; 1987 c 195 § 16; 1985 c 122 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**76.56.030 Director—Appointment.** The center shall be administered by a director appointed by the dean of the college of forest resources of the University of Washington. The director shall be a member of the professional staff of that college. [1985 c 122 § 3.]

**76.56.040 Use of center's programs, research, and advisory services—Schedule of fees.** The governor, the legislature, state agencies, and the public may use the center's programs, research, and advisory services as may be needed. The center shall establish a schedule of fees for actual services rendered. [1985 c 122 § 4.]

**76.56.050 Solicitation of financial contributions and support—Annual report—Use of other funds.** The center shall aggressively solicit financial contributions and support from the forest products industry, federal and state agencies, and other granting sources or through other arrangements to assist in conducting its activities. Subject to RCW 40.07.040, the center shall report annually to the governor and the legislature on its success in obtaining funding from nonstate sources and on its accomplishments in meeting the provisions of this chapter. It may also use separately appropriated funds of the University of Washington for the center's activities. [1994 c 282 § 2; 1987 c 505 § 74; 1985 c 122 § 5.]

**76.56.900 Severability—1985 c 122.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1985 c 122 § 6.]



# Title 77

## FISH AND WILDLIFE

(Formerly: Game and game fish)

### Chapters

- 77.04 Department of fish and wildlife.
- 77.08 General terms defined.
- 77.12 Powers and duties.
- 77.15 Fish and wildlife enforcement code.
- 77.18 Game fish mitigation.
- 77.32 Licenses.
- 77.36 Wildlife damage.
- 77.44 Warm water game fish enhancement program.
- 77.50 Limitations on certain commercial fisheries.
- 77.55 Construction projects in state waters.
- 77.57 Fishways, flow, and screening.
- 77.60 Shellfish.
- 77.65 Food fish and shellfish—Commercial licenses.
- 77.70 License limitation programs.
- 77.75 Compacts and other agreements.
- 77.80 Program to purchase fishing vessels and licenses.
- 77.85 Salmon recovery.
- 77.90 Salmon enhancement facilities—Bond issue.
- 77.95 Salmon enhancement program.
- 77.100 Volunteer fish and wildlife enhancement program.
- 77.105 Recreational salmon and marine fish enhancement program.
- 77.110 Salmon and steelhead trout—Management of resources.
- 77.115 Aquaculture disease control.
- 77.120 Ballast water management.
- 77.125 Marine fin fish aquaculture programs.
- 77.130 Disposition of unclaimed property.

*Carrier or racing pigeons—Injury to:* RCW 9.61.190 and 9.61.200.  
*Control of predatory birds injurious to agriculture:* RCW 15.04.110 through 15.04.120.  
*Coyote getters—Use in killing of coyotes:* RCW 9.41.185.  
*Hood Canal bridge, public sport fishing from:* RCW 47.56.366.  
*Infractions:* Chapter 7.84 RCW.  
*Operation and maintenance of fish collection facility on Toutle river:* RCW 77.57.080.  
*Private business activity policy:* RCW 42.52.570.  
*Volunteer cooperative fish and wildlife enhancement program:* Chapter 77.100 RCW.  
*Wildlife and recreation lands; funding of maintenance and operation:* Chapter 79A.20 RCW.

### Chapter 77.04 RCW

#### DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

(Formerly: Department of wildlife)

### Sections

- 77.04.010 Short title.
- 77.04.012 Mandate of department and commission.
- 77.04.013 Findings and intent.
- 77.04.020 Composition of department—Powers and duties.
- 77.04.030 Commission—Appointment.
- 77.04.040 Commission—Qualifications of members.
- 77.04.055 Commission—Duties.

- 77.04.060 Commission—Meetings—Officers—Compensation, travel expenses.
- 77.04.080 Director—Qualifications—Duties—Salary.
- 77.04.090 Rule-making authority—Certified copy as evidence.
- 77.04.120 Director—Research—Reports.
- 77.04.130 Adoption and certification of rules.
- 77.04.140 Unofficial printings of laws or rules—Approval required.
- 77.04.145 Notification requirements.
- 77.04.150 Hunters and fishers with disabilities—Advisory committee—Composition—Terms—Pilot project—Report to the legislature.
- 77.04.160 Surplus salmon report.
- 77.04.170 Funding for fish stock protection or recovery programs—Prioritization and selection process requirements—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts—Fees:* RCW 19.16.500.

**77.04.010 Short title.** This title is known and may be cited as "Fish and Wildlife Code of the State of Washington." [2000 c 107 § 201; 1990 c 84 § 1; 1980 c 78 § 2; 1955 c 36 § 77.04.010. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-11.]

**Intent, construction—1980 c 78:** "In enacting this 1980 act, it is the intent of the legislature to revise and reorganize the game code of this state to clarify and improve the administration of the state's game laws. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the revisions made to the game code by this act are not to be construed as substantive." [1980 c 78 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.012 Mandate of department and commission.** Wildlife, fish, and shellfish are the property of the state. The commission, director, and the department shall preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish in state waters and offshore waters.

The department shall conserve the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish resources in a manner that does not impair the resource. In a manner consistent with this goal, the department shall seek to maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state. The department shall promote orderly fisheries and shall enhance and improve recreational and commercial fishing in this state.

The commission may authorize the taking of wildlife, food fish, game fish, and shellfish only at times or places, or in manners or quantities, as in the judgment of the commission does not impair the supply of these resources.

The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities of all citizens, including juvenile, disabled, and senior citizens.

Recognizing that the management of our state wildlife, food fish, game fish, and shellfish resources depends heavily on the assistance of volunteers, the department shall work cooperatively with volunteer groups and individuals to achieve the goals of this title to the greatest extent possible.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to infringe on the right of a private property owner to control the owner's private property. [2000 c 107 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 5; 1975

1st ex.s. c 183 § 1; 1949 c 112 § 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-201, part. Formerly RCW 75.08.012, 43.25.020.]

*State policy regarding improvement of recreational salmon fishing: See note following RCW 77.65.150.*

**77.04.013 Findings and intent.** The legislature supports the recommendations of the state fish and wildlife commission with regard to the commission's responsibilities in the merged department of fish and wildlife. It is the intent of the legislature that, beginning July 1, 1996, the commission assume regulatory authority for food fish and shellfish in addition to its existing authority for game fish and wildlife. It is also the intent of the legislature to provide to the commission the authority to review and approve department agreements, to review and approve the department's budget proposals, to adopt rules for the department, and to select commission staff and the director of the department.

The legislature finds that all fish, shellfish, and wildlife species should be managed under a single comprehensive set of goals, policies, and objectives, and that the decision-making authority should rest with the fish and wildlife commission. The commission acts in an open and deliberative process that encourages public involvement and increases public confidence in department decision making. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 1 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995). Formerly RCW 75.08.013.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.020 Composition of department—Powers and duties.** The department consists of the state fish and wildlife commission and the director. The commission may delegate to the director any of the powers and duties vested in the commission. [2000 c 107 § 202; 1996 c 267 § 32; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 59; 1987 c 506 § 4; 1980 c 78 § 3; 1955 c 36 § 77.04.020. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-12.]

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** "Washington's fish and wildlife resources are the responsibility of all residents of the state. We all benefit economically, recreationally, and aesthetically from these resources. Recognizing the state's changing environment, the legislature intends to continue to provide opportunities for the people to appreciate wildlife in its native habitat. However, the wildlife management in the state of Washington shall not cause a reduction of recreational opportunity for hunting and fishing activities. The paramount responsibility of the department remains to preserve, protect, and perpetuate all wildlife species. Adequate funding for proper management, now and for future generations, is the responsibility of everyone.

The intent of the legislature is: (1) To allow the governor to select the director of wildlife; (2) to retain the authority of the wildlife commission to establish the goals and objectives of the department; (3) to insure a high level of public involvement in the decision-making process; (4) to provide effective communications among the commission, the governor, the legislature, and the public; (5) to expand the scope of appropriate funding for the management, conservation, and enhancement of wildlife; (6) to not increase the cost of license, tag, stamp, permit, and punch card fees prior to January 1, 1990; and (7) for the commission to carry out any other responsibilities prescribed by the legislature in this title." [1987 c 506 § 1.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.030 Commission—Appointment.** The fish and wildlife commission consists of nine registered voters of the state. In January of each odd-numbered year, the governor

shall appoint with the advice and consent of the senate three registered voters to the commission to serve for terms of six years from that January or until their successors are appointed and qualified. If a vacancy occurs on the commission prior to the expiration of a term, the governor shall appoint a registered voter within sixty days to complete the term. Three members shall be residents of that portion of the state lying east of the summit of the Cascade mountains, and three shall be residents of that portion of the state lying west of the summit of the Cascade mountains. Three additional members shall be appointed at-large. No two members may be residents of the same county. The legal office of the commission is at the administrative office of the department in Olympia. [2001 c 155 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 203; 1994 c 264 § 52; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 60; 1987 c 506 § 5; 1981 c 338 § 11; 1980 c 78 § 4; 1955 c 36 § 77.04.030. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-13.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.040 Commission—Qualifications of members.** Persons eligible for appointment as members of the commission shall have general knowledge of the habits and distribution of fish and wildlife and shall not hold another state, county, or municipal elective or appointive office. In making these appointments, the governor shall seek to maintain a balance reflecting all aspects of fish and wildlife, including representation recommended by organized groups representing sportfishers, commercial fishers, hunters, private landowners, and environmentalists. Persons eligible for appointment as fish and wildlife commissioners shall comply with the provisions of chapters 42.52 and \*42.17 RCW. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 3 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 61; 1987 c 506 § 6; 1980 c 78 § 5; 1955 c 36 § 77.04.040. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-14.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Provisions in chapter 42.17 RCW relating to public disclosure were recodified in chapter 42.56 RCW by 2005 c 274.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.055 Commission—Duties.** (1) In establishing policies to preserve, protect, and perpetuate wildlife, fish, and wildlife and fish habitat, the commission shall meet annually with the governor to:

(a) Review and prescribe basic goals and objectives related to those policies; and

(b) Review the performance of the department in implementing fish and wildlife policies.

The commission shall maximize fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreational opportunities compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations.

(2) The commission shall establish hunting, trapping, and fishing seasons and prescribe the time, place, manner,

and methods that may be used to harvest or enjoy game fish and wildlife.

(3) The commission shall establish provisions regulating food fish and shellfish as provided in RCW 77.12.047.

(4) The commission shall have final approval authority for tribal, interstate, international, and any other department agreements relating to fish and wildlife.

(5) The commission shall adopt rules to implement the state's fish and wildlife laws.

(6) The commission shall have final approval authority for the department's budget proposals.

(7) The commission shall select its own staff and shall appoint the director of the department. The director and commission staff shall serve at the pleasure of the commission. [2000 c 107 § 204; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 4 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 62; 1990 c 84 § 2; 1987 c 506 § 7.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.060 Commission—Meetings—Officers—Compensation, travel expenses.** The commission shall hold at least one regular meeting during the first two months of each calendar quarter, and special meetings when called by the chair and by five members. Five members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The commission at a meeting in each odd-numbered year shall elect one of its members as chairman and another member as vice chairman, each of whom shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor is elected and qualified.

Members of the commission shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.250. In addition, members are allowed their travel expenses incurred while absent from their usual places of residence in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [1993 sp.s. c 2 § 63. Prior: 1987 c 506 § 8; 1987 c 114 § 1; 1984 c 287 § 110; 1980 c 78 § 6; 1977 c 75 § 89; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 175; 1961 c 307 § 9; 1955 c 352 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.04.060; prior: 1949 c 205 § 1; 1947 c 275 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5992-16.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287:** See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.080 Director—Qualifications—Duties—Salary.** Persons eligible for appointment as director shall have practical knowledge of the habits and distribution of fish and wildlife. The director shall supervise the administration and operation of the department and perform the duties prescribed by law and delegated by the commission. The director shall carry out the basic goals and objectives prescribed under RCW 77.04.055. The director may appoint and employ necessary personnel. The director may delegate, in writing, to department personnel the duties and powers necessary for efficient operation and administration of the department.

Only persons having general knowledge of the fisheries and wildlife resources and of the commercial and recreational

fishing industry in this state are eligible for appointment as director. The director shall not have a financial interest in the fishing industry or a directly related industry. The director shall receive the salary fixed by the governor under RCW 43.03.040.

The director is the ex officio secretary of the commission and shall attend its meetings and keep a record of its business. [2000 c 107 § 205; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 5 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 64; 1987 c 506 § 9; 1980 c 78 § 8; 1955 c 36 § 77.04.080. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-18.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.090 Rule-making authority—Certified copy as evidence.** The commission shall adopt permanent rules and amendments to or repeals of existing rules by approval of a majority of the members by resolution, entered and recorded in the minutes of the commission: PROVIDED, That the commission may not adopt rules after July 23, 1995, that are based solely on a section of law stating a statute's intent or purpose, on the enabling provisions of the statute establishing the agency, or on any combination of such provisions, for statutory authority to adopt any rule. The commission shall adopt emergency rules by approval of a majority of the members. The commission, when adopting emergency rules under RCW 77.12.150, shall adopt rules in conformance with chapter 34.05 RCW. Judicial notice shall be taken of the rules filed and published as provided in RCW 34.05.380 and 34.05.210.

A copy of an emergency rule, certified as a true copy by a member of the commission, the director, or by a person authorized in writing by the director to make the certification, is admissible in court as prima facie evidence of the adoption and validity of the rule. [1996 c 267 § 35; 1995 c 403 § 111; 1984 c 240 § 1; 1980 c 78 § 16; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.050. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-25. Formerly RCW 77.12.050.]

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

**Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403:** See note following RCW 34.05.328.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.120 Director—Research—Reports.** (1) The director shall investigate the habits, supply, and economic use of food fish and shellfish in state and offshore waters.

(2) The director shall make an annual report to the governor on the operation of the department and the statistics of the fishing industry.

(3) Subject to RCW 40.07.040, the director shall provide a comprehensive biennial report of all departmental operations to the chairs of the committees on natural resources of the senate and house of representatives, the senate ways and means committee, and the house of representatives appropriations committee, including one copy to the staff of each of

the committees, to reflect the previous fiscal period. The format of the report shall be similar to reports issued by the department from 1964-1970 and the report shall include, but not be limited to, descriptions of all department activities including: Revenues generated, program costs, capital expenditures, personnel, special projects, new and ongoing research, environmental controls, cooperative projects, inter-governmental agreements, and outlines of ongoing litigation, recent court decisions and orders on major issues with the potential for state liability. The report shall describe the status of the resource and its recreational, commercial, and tribal utilization. The report shall be made available to the public. [2000 c 107 § 3; 1988 c 36 § 31; 1987 c 505 § 71; 1985 c 208 § 1; 1985 c 93 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 7; 1977 c 75 § 87; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.020. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 7(3), (6), (7); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-206 (3), (6), (7). Formerly RCW 75.08.020.]

*Director of fish and wildlife to develop proposals to reinstate salmon and steelhead in Tilton and Cowlitz rivers: RCW 77.12.765.*

**77.04.130 Adoption and certification of rules.** (1) Rules of the commission shall be adopted by the commission or a designee in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2) Rules of the commission shall be admitted as evidence in the courts of the state when accompanied by an affidavit from the commission or a designee certifying that the rule has been lawfully adopted and the affidavit is prima facie evidence of the adoption of the rule.

(3) The commission may designate department employees to act on the commission's behalf in the adoption and certification of rules. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 12 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 16; 1973 c 93 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.090. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-205, part. Formerly RCW 75.08.090.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.140 Unofficial printings of laws or rules—Approval required.** Provisions of this title or rules of the commission shall not be printed in a pamphlet unless the pamphlet is clearly marked as an unofficial version. This section does not apply to printings approved by the commission. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 13 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 17; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.110. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 16; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-215. Formerly RCW 75.08.110.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.04.145 Notification requirements.** Actions under this chapter are subject to the notification requirements of RCW 43.17.400. [2007 c 62 § 7.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—2007 c 62:** See notes following RCW 43.17.400.

**77.04.150 Hunters and fishers with disabilities—Advisory committee—Composition—Terms—Pilot project—Report to the legislature.** (1) The commission must appoint an advisory committee to generally represent the interests of hunters and fishers with disabilities on matters including, but not limited to, special hunts, modified sporting equipment, access to public land, and hunting and fishing

opportunities. The advisory committee is composed of seven members, each being an individual with a disability. The advisory committee members must represent the entire state. The members must be appointed so that each of the six department administrative regions, as they existed on January 1, 2007, are represented with one resident on the advisory committee. One additional member must be appointed at large. The chair of the advisory committee must be a member of the advisory committee and shall be selected by the members of the advisory committee.

(2) For the purposes of this section, an individual with a disability includes but is not limited to:

(a) An individual with a permanent disability who is not ambulatory over natural terrain without a prosthesis or assistive device;

(b) An individual with a permanent disability who is unable to walk without the use of assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, wheelchair, scooter, walker, or other assistive device;

(c) An individual who has a cardiac condition to the extent that the individual's functional limitations are severe;

(d) An individual who is restricted by lung disease to the extent that the individual's functional limitations are severe;

(e) An individual who is totally blind or visually impaired; or

(f) An individual with a permanent disability with upper or lower extremity impairments who does not have the use of one or both upper or lower extremities.

(3) The members of the advisory committee are appointed for a four-year term. If a vacancy occurs on the advisory committee prior to the expiration of a term, the commission must appoint a replacement within sixty days to complete the term.

(4) The advisory committee must meet at least semiannually, and may meet at other times as requested by a majority of the advisory committee members for any express purpose that directly relates to the duties set forth in subsection (1) of this section. A majority of members currently serving on the advisory committee constitutes a quorum. The department must provide staff support for all official advisory committee meetings.

(5) Each member of the advisory committee shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as authorized in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(6) The members of the advisory committee, or individuals acting on their behalf, are immune from civil liability for official acts performed in the course of their duties.

(7) Beginning December 1, 2011, and again at least once every four years, the commission shall present a report to the appropriate legislative committees detailing the effectiveness of the advisory committee including, but not limited to, the participation levels, general interest, quality of advice, and recommendations as to the advisory committee's continuance or modification. [2008 c 294 § 1; 2005 c 149 § 1; 2001 c 312 § 1.]

**77.04.160 Surplus salmon report.** (1) The department shall prepare an annual surplus salmon report. This report shall include the disposition of adult salmonids that have returned to salmonid hatchery facilities operated under the jurisdiction of the state that:

- (a) Have not been harvested; and
- (b) Were not allowed to escape for natural spawning.
- (2) The report shall include, by species, the number and estimated weight of surplus salmon and steelhead and a description of the disposition of the adult carcasses including, but not limited to, the following categories:
  - (a) Disposed in landfills;
  - (b) Transferred to another government agency for reproductive purposes;
  - (c) Sold to contract buyers in the round;
  - (d) Sold to contract buyers after spawning;
  - (e) Transferred to Native American tribes;
  - (f) Donated to food banks; and
  - (g) Used in stream nutrient enrichment programs.
- (3) The report shall also include, by species, information on the number of requests for viable salmon eggs, the number of these requests that were granted and the number that were denied, the geographic areas for which these requests were granted or denied, and a brief explanation given for each denial of a request for viable salmon eggs.
- (4) The report shall be included in the biennial state of the salmon report required by \*RCW 77.85.020 and other similar state reports on salmon.
- (5) The report shall include an assessment of the infrastructure needs and facility modifications necessary to implement chapter 337, Laws of 2001. [2001 c 337 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.85.020 was amended by 2009 c 345 § 4, deleting the biennial state of the salmon report. RCW 77.85.020 now directs the recreation and conservation office to produce a biennial report.

**77.04.170 Funding for fish stock protection or recovery programs—Prioritization and selection process requirements—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.** In administering programs funded with moneys from the capital budget related to protection or recovery of fish stocks, the department shall incorporate the environmental benefits of a project into its prioritization and selection process. The department shall also develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the program. To the extent possible, the department should coordinate its performance measure system with other natural resource-related agencies as defined in RCW 43.41.270. The department shall consult with affected interest groups in implementing this section. [2001 c 227 § 11.]

**Findings—Intent—2001 c 227:** See note following RCW 43.41.270.

**Chapter 77.08 RCW  
GENERAL TERMS DEFINED**

Sections

77.08.010	Definitions.
77.08.020	"Game fish" defined.
77.08.022	"Food fish" defined.
77.08.024	"Salmon" defined.
77.08.030	"Big game" defined.
77.08.045	Migratory waterfowl terms defined.
77.08.075	"Resident" defined.
77.08.900	Construction—Title applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**77.08.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this title or rules adopted under this title unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Anadromous game fish buyer" means a person who purchases or sells steelhead trout and other anadromous game fish harvested by Indian fishers lawfully exercising fishing rights reserved by federal statute, treaty, or executive order, under conditions prescribed by rule of the director.
- (2) "Angling gear" means a line attached to a rod and reel capable of being held in hand while landing the fish or a hand-held line operated without rod or reel.
- (3) "Aquatic invasive species" means any invasive, prohibited, regulated, unregulated, or unlisted aquatic animal or plant species as defined under subsections (4), (34), (49), (53), (70), and (71) of this section, aquatic noxious weeds as defined under RCW 17.26.020(5)(c), and aquatic nuisance species as defined under RCW 77.60.130(1).
- (4) "Aquatic plant species" means an emergent, submersed, partially submersed, free-floating, or floating-leaving plant species that grows in or near a body of water or wetland.
- (5) "Bag limit" means the maximum number of game animals, game birds, or game fish which may be taken, caught, killed, or possessed by a person, as specified by rule of the commission for a particular period of time, or as to size, sex, or species.
- (6) "Building" means a private domicile, garage, barn, or public or commercial building.
- (7) "Closed area" means a place where the hunting of some or all species of wild animals or wild birds is prohibited.
- (8) "Closed season" means all times, manners of taking, and places or waters other than those established by rule of the commission as an open season. "Closed season" also means all hunting, fishing, taking, or possession of game animals, game birds, game fish, food fish, or shellfish that do not conform to the special restrictions or physical descriptions established by rule of the commission as an open season or that have not otherwise been deemed legal to hunt, fish, take, harvest, or possess by rule of the commission as an open season.
- (9) "Closed waters" means all or part of a lake, river, stream, or other body of water, where fishing or harvesting is prohibited.
- (10) "Commercial" means related to or connected with buying, selling, or bartering.
- (11) "Commission" means the state fish and wildlife commission.
- (12) "Concurrent waters of the Columbia river" means those waters of the Columbia river that coincide with the Washington-Oregon state boundary.
- (13) "Contraband" means any property that is unlawful to produce or possess.
- (14) "Deleterious exotic wildlife" means species of the animal kingdom not native to Washington and designated as dangerous to the environment or wildlife of the state.
- (15) "Department" means the department of fish and wildlife.
- (16) "Director" means the director of fish and wildlife.
- (17) "Endangered species" means wildlife designated by the commission as seriously threatened with extinction.

(18) "Ex officio fish and wildlife officer" means:

(a) A commissioned officer of a municipal, county, or state agency having as its primary function the enforcement of criminal laws in general, while the officer is acting in the respective jurisdiction of that agency;

(b) An officer or special agent commissioned by one of the following: The national marine fisheries service; the Washington state parks and recreation commission; the United States fish and wildlife service; the Washington state department of natural resources; the United States forest service; or the United States parks service, if the agent or officer is in the respective jurisdiction of the primary commissioning agency and is acting under a mutual law enforcement assistance agreement between the department and the primary commissioning agency;

(c) A commissioned fish and wildlife peace officer from another state who meets the training standards set by the Washington state criminal justice training commission pursuant to RCW 10.93.090, 43.101.080, and 43.101.200, and who is acting under a mutual law enforcement assistance agreement between the department and the primary commissioning agency; or

(d) A Washington state tribal police officer who successfully completes the requirements set forth under RCW 43.101.157, is employed by a tribal nation that has complied with RCW 10.92.020(2) (a) and (b), and is acting under a mutual law enforcement assistance agreement between the department and the tribal government.

(19) "Fish" includes all species classified as game fish or food fish by statute or rule, as well as all fin fish not currently classified as food fish or game fish if such species exist in state waters. The term "fish" includes all stages of development and the bodily parts of fish species.

(20) "Fish and wildlife officer" means a person appointed and commissioned by the director, with authority to enforce this title and rules adopted pursuant to this title, and other statutes as prescribed by the legislature. Fish and wildlife officer includes a person commissioned before June 11, 1998, as a wildlife agent or a fisheries patrol officer.

(21) "Fish broker" means a person whose business it is to bring a seller of fish and shellfish and a purchaser of those fish and shellfish together.

(22) "Fish buyer" means a person engaged by a wholesale fish dealer to purchase food fish or shellfish from a licensed commercial fisher.

(23) "Fishery" means the taking of one or more particular species of fish or shellfish with particular gear in a particular geographical area.

(24) "Food, food waste, or other substance" includes human and pet food or other waste or garbage that could attract large wild carnivores.

(25) "Freshwater" means all waters not defined as salt-water including, but not limited to, rivers upstream of the river mouth, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

(26) "Fur-bearing animals" means game animals that shall not be trapped except as authorized by the commission.

(27) "Fur dealer" means a person who purchases, receives, or resells raw furs for commercial purposes.

(28) "Game animals" means wild animals that shall not be hunted except as authorized by the commission.

(29) "Game birds" means wild birds that shall not be hunted except as authorized by the commission.

(30) "Game farm" means property on which wildlife is held, confined, propagated, hatched, fed, or otherwise raised for commercial purposes, trade, or gift. The term "game farm" does not include publicly owned facilities.

(31) "Game reserve" means a closed area where hunting for all wild animals and wild birds is prohibited.

(32) "Illegal items" means those items unlawful to be possessed.

(33)(a) "Intentionally feed, attempt to feed, or attract" means to purposefully or knowingly provide, leave, or place in, on, or about any land or building any food, food waste, or other substance that attracts or could attract large wild carnivores to that land or building.

(b) "Intentionally feed, attempt to feed, or attract" does not include keeping food, food waste, or other substance in an enclosed garbage receptacle or other enclosed container unless specifically directed by a fish and wildlife officer or animal control authority to secure the receptacle or container in another manner.

(34) "Invasive species" means a plant species or a nonnative animal species that either:

(a) Causes or may cause displacement of, or otherwise threatens, native species in their natural communities;

(b) Threatens or may threaten natural resources or their use in the state;

(c) Causes or may cause economic damage to commercial or recreational activities that are dependent upon state waters; or

(d) Threatens or harms human health.

(35) "Large wild carnivore" includes wild bear, cougar, and wolf.

(36) "License year" means the period of time for which a recreational license is valid. The license year begins April 1st, and ends March 31st.

(37) "Limited-entry license" means a license subject to a license limitation program established in chapter 77.70 RCW.

(38) "Money" means all currency, script, personal checks, money orders, or other negotiable instruments.

(39) "Natural person" means a human being.

(40)(a) "Negligently feed, attempt to feed, or attract" means to provide, leave, or place in, on, or about any land or building any food, food waste, or other substance that attracts or could attract large wild carnivores to that land or building, without the awareness that a reasonable person in the same situation would have with regard to the likelihood that the food, food waste, or other substance could attract large wild carnivores to the land or building.

(b) "Negligently feed, attempt to feed, or attract" does not include keeping food, food waste, or other substance in an enclosed garbage receptacle or other enclosed container unless specifically directed by a fish and wildlife officer or animal control authority to secure the receptacle or container in another manner.

(41) "Nonresident" means a person who has not fulfilled the qualifications of a resident.

(42) "Offshore waters" means marine waters of the Pacific Ocean outside the territorial boundaries of the state, including the marine waters of other states and countries.

(43) "Open season" means those times, manners of taking, and places or waters established by rule of the commission for the lawful hunting, fishing, taking, or possession of game animals, game birds, game fish, food fish, or shellfish that conform to the special restrictions or physical descriptions established by rule of the commission or that have otherwise been deemed legal to hunt, fish, take, harvest, or possess by rule of the commission. "Open season" includes the first and last days of the established time.

(44) "Owner" means the person in whom is vested the ownership dominion, or title of the property.

(45) "Person" means and includes an individual; a corporation; a public or private entity or organization; a local, state, or federal agency; all business organizations, including corporations and partnerships; or a group of two or more individuals acting with a common purpose whether acting in an individual, representative, or official capacity.

(46) "Personal property" or "property" includes both corporeal and incorporeal personal property and includes, among other property, contraband and money.

(47) "Personal use" means for the private use of the individual taking the fish or shellfish and not for sale or barter.

(48) "Predatory birds" means wild birds that may be hunted throughout the year as authorized by the commission.

(49) "Prohibited aquatic animal species" means an invasive species of the animal kingdom that has been classified as a prohibited aquatic animal species by the commission.

(50) "Protected wildlife" means wildlife designated by the commission that shall not be hunted or fished.

(51) "Raffle" means an activity in which tickets bearing an individual number are sold for not more than twenty-five dollars each and in which a permit or permits are awarded to hunt or for access to hunt big game animals or wild turkeys on the basis of a drawing from the tickets by the person or persons conducting the raffle.

(52) "Recreational and commercial watercraft" includes the boat, as well as equipment used to transport the boat, and any auxiliary equipment such as attached or detached outboard motors.

(53) "Regulated aquatic animal species" means a potentially invasive species of the animal kingdom that has been classified as a regulated aquatic animal species by the commission.

(54) "Resident" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 77.08.075.

(55) "Retail-eligible species" means commercially harvested salmon, crab, and sturgeon.

(56) "Saltwater" means those marine waters seaward of river mouths.

(57) "Seaweed" means marine aquatic plant species that are dependent upon the marine aquatic or tidal environment, and exist in either an attached or free floating form, and includes but is not limited to marine aquatic plants in the classes Chlorophyta, Phaeophyta, and Rhodophyta.

(58) "Senior" means a person seventy years old or older.

(59) "Shark fin" means a raw, dried, or otherwise processed detached fin or tail of a shark.

(60)(a) "Shark fin derivative product" means any product intended for use by humans or animals that is derived in whole or in part from shark fins or shark fin cartilage.

(b) "Shark fin derivative product" does not include a drug approved by the United States food and drug administration and available by prescription only or medical device or vaccine approved by the United States food and drug administration.

(61) "Shellfish" means those species of marine and freshwater invertebrates that have been classified and that shall not be taken except as authorized by rule of the commission. The term "shellfish" includes all stages of development and the bodily parts of shellfish species.

(62) "State waters" means all marine waters and fresh waters within ordinary high water lines and within the territorial boundaries of the state.

(63) "Taxidermist" means a person who, for commercial purposes, creates lifelike representations of fish and wildlife using fish and wildlife parts and various supporting structures.

(64) "To fish," "to harvest," and "to take," and their derivatives means an effort to kill, injure, harass, or catch a fish or shellfish.

(65) "To hunt" and its derivatives means an effort to kill, injure, capture, or harass a wild animal or wild bird.

(66) "To process" and its derivatives mean preparing or preserving fish, wildlife, or shellfish.

(67) "To trap" and its derivatives means a method of hunting using devices to capture wild animals or wild birds.

(68) "Trafficking" means offering, attempting to engage, or engaging in sale, barter, or purchase of fish, shellfish, wildlife, or deleterious exotic wildlife.

(69) "Unclaimed" means that no owner of the property has been identified or has requested, in writing, the release of the property to themselves nor has the owner of the property designated an individual to receive the property or paid the required postage to effect delivery of the property.

(70) "Unlisted aquatic animal species" means a nonnative animal species that has not been classified as a prohibited aquatic animal species, a regulated aquatic animal species, or an unregulated aquatic animal species by the commission.

(71) "Unregulated aquatic animal species" means a nonnative animal species that has been classified as an unregulated aquatic animal species by the commission.

(72) "Wholesale fish dealer" means a person who, acting for commercial purposes, takes possession or ownership of fish or shellfish and sells, barter, or exchanges or attempts to sell, barter, or exchange fish or shellfish that have been landed into the state of Washington or entered the state of Washington in interstate or foreign commerce.

(73) "Wild animals" means those species of the class Mammalia whose members exist in Washington in a wild state. The term "wild animal" does not include feral domestic mammals or old world rats and mice of the family Muridae of the order Rodentia.

(74) "Wild birds" means those species of the class Aves whose members exist in Washington in a wild state.

(75) "Wildlife" means all species of the animal kingdom whose members exist in Washington in a wild state. This includes but is not limited to mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. The term "wildlife" does not include feral domestic mammals, old world rats and mice of the family Muridae of the order Rodentia, or those fish, shellfish, and marine invertebrates classified as food fish or

shellfish by the director. The term "wildlife" includes all stages of development and the bodily parts of wildlife members.

(76) "Wildlife meat cutter" means a person who packs, cuts, processes, or stores wildlife for consumption for another for commercial purposes.

(77) "Youth" means a person fifteen years old for fishing and under sixteen years old for hunting. [2012 c 176 § 4. Prior: 2011 c 324 § 3; 2009 c 333 § 12; 2008 c 277 § 2; prior: 2007 c 350 § 2; 2007 c 254 § 1; 2005 c 104 § 1; 2003 c 387 § 1; 2002 c 281 § 2; 2001 c 253 § 10; 2000 c 107 § 207; 1998 c 190 § 111; 1996 c 207 § 2; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 66; 1989 c 297 § 7; 1987 c 506 § 11; 1980 c 78 § 9; 1955 c 36 § 77.08.010; prior: 1947 c 275 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-19.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Findings—2011 c 324:** See note following RCW 77.15.770.

**Alphabetization—2008 c 277:** "The code reviser is directed to put the defined terms in RCW 77.08.010 in alphabetical order." [2008 c 277 § 1.]

**Purpose—2002 c 281:** "The legislature recognizes the potential economic and environmental damage that can occur from the introduction of invasive aquatic species. The purpose of this act is to increase public awareness of invasive aquatic species and enhance the department of fish and wildlife's regulatory capability to address threats posed by these species." [2002 c 281 § 1.]

**Intent—1996 c 207:** "It is the intent of the legislature to clarify hunting and fishing laws in light of the decision in *State v. Bailey*, 77 Wn. App. 732 (1995). The fish and wildlife commission has the authority to establish hunting and fishing seasons. These seasons are defined by limiting the times, manners of taking, and places or waters for lawful hunting, fishing, or possession of game animals, game birds, or game fish, as well as by limiting the physical characteristics of the game animals, game birds, or game fish which may be lawfully taken at those times, in those manners, and at those places or waters." [1996 c 207 § 1.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.08.020 "Game fish" defined.** (1) As used in this title or rules of the commission, "game fish" means those species of the class Osteichthyes that shall not be fished for except as authorized by rule of the commission and includes:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Ambloplites rupestris	rock bass
Coregonus clupeaformis	lake white fish
Ictalurus furcatus	blue catfish
Ictalurus melas	black bullhead
Ictalurus natalis	yellow bullhead
Ictalurus nebulosus	brown bullhead
Ictalurus punctatus	channel catfish
Lepomis cyanellus	green sunfish
Lepomis gibbosus	pumpkinseed
Lepomis gulosus	warmouth
Lepomis macrochirus	bluegill
Lota lota	burbot or freshwater ling
Micropterus dolomieu	smallmouth bass
Micropterus salmoides	largemouth bass
Oncorhynchus nerka (in its landlocked form)	kokanee or silver trout
Perca flavescens	yellow perch
Pomixis annularis	white crappie

Pomixis nigromaculatus	black crappie
Prosopium williamsoni	mountain white fish
Oncorhynchus aquabonita	golden trout
Oncorhynchus clarkii	cutthroat trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss	rainbow or steelhead trout
Salmo salar (in its landlocked form)	Atlantic salmon
Salmo trutta	brown trout
Salvelinus fontinalis	eastern brook trout
Salvelinus malma	Dolly Varden trout
Salvelinus namaycush	lake trout
Stizostedion vitreum	Walleye
Thymallus articus	arctic grayling

(2) Private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020 are not game fish. [1989 c 218 § 2; 1985 c 457 § 21; 1980 c 78 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 19 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.08.020. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-20.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.08.022 "Food fish" defined.** "Food fish" means those species of the classes Osteichthyes, Agnatha, and Chondrichthyes that have been classified and that shall not be fished for except as authorized by rule of the commission. The term "food fish" includes all stages of development and the bodily parts of food fish species. [2000 c 107 § 208.]

**77.08.024 "Salmon" defined.** "Salmon" means all species of the genus *Oncorhynchus*, except those classified as game fish in RCW 77.08.020, and includes:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Chinook salmon
Oncorhynchus kisutch	Coho salmon
Oncorhynchus keta	Chum salmon
Oncorhynchus gorbuscha	Pink salmon
Oncorhynchus nerka	Sockeye salmon

[2000 c 107 § 209.]

**77.08.030 "Big game" defined.** As used in this title or rules of the commission, "big game" means the following species:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Cervus canadensis	elk or wapiti
Odocoileus hemionus	blacktail deer or mule deer
Odocoileus virginianus	whitetail deer
Alces americana	moose
Oreamnos americanus	mountain goat
Rangifer caribou	caribou
Ovis canadensis	mountain sheep
Antilocapra americana	pronghorn antelope
Felis concolor	cougar or mountain lion
Euarctos americana	black bear
Ursus horribilis	grizzly bear

[1980 c 78 § 11; 1971 ex.s. c 166 § 1.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.08.045 Migratory waterfowl terms defined.** As used in this title or rules adopted pursuant to this title:

(1) "Migratory waterfowl" means members of the family Anatidae, including brants, ducks, geese, and swans;

(2) "Migratory bird" means migratory waterfowl and coots, snipe, doves, and band-tailed pigeon;

(3) "Migratory bird permit" means the permit that is required by RCW 77.32.350 to be in the possession of all persons to hunt migratory birds; and

(4) "Prints and artwork" means replicas of the original stamp design that are sold to the general public. Prints and artwork are not to be construed to be the migratory bird permit that is required by RCW 77.32.350. Artwork may be any facsimile of the original stamp design, including color renditions, metal duplications, or any other kind of design. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 17; 2011 c 339 § 2; 1998 c 191 § 31; 1987 c 506 § 12; 1985 c 243 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 c 339 § 2 and by 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 17, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 77.23.025.

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.08.075 "Resident" defined.** For the purposes of this title or rules adopted under this title, "resident" means:

(1) A natural person who has maintained a permanent place of abode within the state for at least ninety days immediately preceding an application for a license, has established by formal evidence an intent to continue residing within the state, is not licensed to hunt or fish as a resident in another state or country, and is not receiving resident benefits of another state or country.

(a) For purposes of this section, "permanent place of abode" means a residence in this state that a person maintains for personal use.

(b) A natural person can demonstrate that the person has maintained a permanent place of abode in Washington by showing that the person:

(i) Uses a Washington state address for federal income tax or state tax purposes;

(ii) Designates this state as the person's residence for obtaining eligibility to hold a public office or for judicial actions;

(iii) Is a registered voter in the state of Washington; or

(iv) Is a custodial parent with a child attending prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, or high school in this state.

(c) A natural person can demonstrate the intent to continue residing within the state by showing that he or she:

(i) Has a valid Washington state driver's license; or

(ii) Has a valid Washington state identification card, if the person is not eligible for a Washington state driver's license; and

(iii) Has registered the person's vehicle or vehicles in Washington state;

(2) The spouse of a member of the United States armed forces if the member qualifies as a resident under subsection

(2012 Ed.)

(1), (3), or (4) of this section, or a natural person age eighteen or younger who does not qualify as a resident under subsection (1) of this section, but who has a parent or legal guardian who qualifies as a resident under subsection (1), (3), or (4) of this section;

(3) A member of the United States armed forces temporarily stationed in Washington state on predeployment orders. A copy of the person's military orders is required to meet this condition;

(4) A member of the United States armed forces who is permanently stationed in Washington state or who designates Washington state on their military "state of legal residence certificate" or enlistment or re-enlistment documents. A copy of the person's "state of legal residence certificate" or enlistment or re-enlistment documents is required to meet the conditions of this subsection. [2012 c 176 § 5.]

**77.08.900 Construction—Title applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this title, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 183.]

## Chapter 77.12 RCW POWERS AND DUTIES

### Sections

77.12.010	Limitation on prohibiting fishing with bait or artificial lures.
77.12.020	Wildlife to be classified.
77.12.031	Llamas and alpacas.
77.12.035	Protection of grizzly bears—Limitation on transplantation or introduction—Negotiations with federal and state agencies.
77.12.037	Acquisition, use, and management of property—Condemnation—When authorized.
77.12.038	Notification requirements.
77.12.039	Acceptance of funds or property for damage claims or conservation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife resources.
77.12.043	Contracts and agreements for propagation of fish or shellfish.
77.12.045	Territorial authority of commission—Adoption of federal regulations and rules of fisheries commissions and compacts.
77.12.047	Scope of commission's authority to adopt rules—Application to private tideland owners or lessees of the state.
77.12.068	Dissemination of information about RCW 77.15.740 and responsible wildlife viewing.
77.12.071	Sampling of fish, wildlife, or shellfish by department employees.
77.12.140	Acquisition or sale of wildlife.
77.12.150	Game seasons—Opening and closing—Special hunt.
77.12.152	Commission may designate fishing areas.
77.12.154	Right of entry—Aircraft operated by department.
77.12.170	State wildlife account—Deposits.
77.12.177	Disposition of moneys collected—Proceeds from sale of food fish or shellfish—Unanticipated receipts.
77.12.184	Deposit of moneys from various activities—Production of regulation booklets.
77.12.190	Diversion of wildlife account moneys prohibited.

77.12.201 Counties may elect to receive an amount in lieu of taxes—County to record collections for violations of law or rules—Deposit.

77.12.203 In lieu payments authorized—Procedure—Game lands defined.

77.12.204 Grazing lands—Fish and wildlife goals—Implementation.

77.12.210 Department property—Management, sale.

77.12.220 Acquisition or transfer of property.

77.12.230 Local assessments against department property.

77.12.240 Authority to take wildlife—Disposition.

77.12.262 Fish and wildlife officers compensation insurance—Medical aid.

77.12.264 Fish and wildlife officers—Relieved from active duty when injured—Compensation.

77.12.275 Agreements with department of defense.

77.12.285 Agreements with United States to protect Columbia River fish—Fish cultural stations and protective devices.

77.12.320 Agreements for purposes related to fish, shellfish, and wildlife—Acceptance of compensation, gifts, grants.

77.12.323 Special wildlife account—Investments.

77.12.325 Cooperation with Oregon to assure yields of Columbia river fish, shellfish, and wildlife.

77.12.330 Exclusive fishing waters for youths.

77.12.360 Withdrawal of state land from lease—Compensation.

77.12.370 Withdrawal of state land from lease—County procedures, approval, hearing.

77.12.380 Withdrawal of state land from lease—Actions by commissioner of public lands.

77.12.390 Withdrawal of state land from lease—Payment.

77.12.420 Improvement of conditions for growth of game fish.

77.12.451 Director may take or sell fish or shellfish—Restrictions on sale of salmon.

77.12.453 Salmon fishing by Wanapum (Sokulk) Indians.

77.12.455 Prevention and suppression of diseases and pests.

77.12.459 Release and recapture of salmon or steelhead prohibited.

77.12.465 Abandoned or derelict vessels.

77.12.467 Wildlife rehabilitation program—Requirements to receive funding—Reports accounting for all expenditures of state funds—Permitted expenditures—Adoption of rules.

77.12.469 Renewal of wildlife rehabilitation licenses—Adoption of rules.

77.12.471 Wildlife rehabilitation account.

77.12.475 Fish and wildlife equipment revolving account.

77.12.540 Public shooting grounds—Effect of filing—Use for booming.

77.12.550 Tidelands used as public shooting grounds—Diversion.

77.12.560 Tidelands used as public shooting grounds—Rules.

77.12.570 Game farm licenses—Rules—Exemption.

77.12.580 Game farms—Authority to dispose of eggs.

77.12.590 Game farms—Tagging of products—Exemption.

77.12.600 Game farms—Shipping of wildlife—Exemption.

77.12.605 Whidbey Island game farm—Sale of property.

77.12.610 Check stations—Purpose.

77.12.620 Check stations—Stopping for inspection.

77.12.630 Check stations—Other inspections, powers.

77.12.650 Protection of bald eagles and their habitats—Cooperation required.

77.12.655 Habitat buffer zones for bald eagles—Rules.

77.12.670 Migratory bird permit/migratory bird license validations—Deposit and use of revenues.

77.12.690 Annual migratory bird permit design—Administration, sale, and distribution—Deposit and use of funds.

77.12.702 Rockfish research and stock assessment program—Report to the legislature—Rockfish research account.

77.12.710 Game fish production—Double by year 2000.

77.12.712 Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program.

77.12.714 Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program account.

77.12.716 Columbia river salmon and steelhead recreational anglers board.

77.12.718 Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program—Review—Report to the legislature.

77.12.722 Canada goose hunting—Season or bag limit restriction.

77.12.755 Ranked inventory of fish passage barriers.

77.12.760 Steelhead trout fishery.

77.12.765 Tilton and Cowlitz rivers—Proposals to reinstate salmon and steelhead.

77.12.790 Eastern Washington pheasant enhancement program—Purpose.

77.12.800 Pheasant hunting—Opportunities for juvenile hunters.

77.12.810 Small game hunting license—Disposition of fee.

77.12.820 Eastern Washington pheasant enhancement account—Created—Use of moneys—Report to the legislature.

77.12.850 Definitions.

77.12.852 Washington salmon stamp program—Creation.

77.12.854 Washington junior salmon stamp program—Creation.

77.12.858 Deposit of receipts—Expenditures.

77.12.860 Stamp design—Department's rule-making authority.

77.12.865 Derelict fishing gear—Guidelines for removal and disposal.

77.12.870 Derelict fishing gear and shellfish pots database—Reporting requirements.

77.12.875 Prohibited aquatic animal species—Infested state waters.

77.12.878 Infested waters—Rapid response plan.

77.12.879 Aquatic invasive species prevention account—Aquatic invasive species prevention program for recreational and commercial watercraft—Enforcement program—Check stations—Training—Report to the legislature.

77.12.880 Wildlife program management.

77.12.882 Aquatic invasive species—Inspection of recreational and commercial watercraft—Rules—Signage.

77.12.885 Reported predatory wildlife interactions—Web site posting.

77.12.887 Washington conservation corps.

*Wild salmonid policy: RCW 77.65.420.*

**77.12.010 Limitation on prohibiting fishing with bait or artificial lures.** The commission shall not adopt rules that categorically prohibit fishing with bait or artificial lures in streams, rivers, beaver ponds, and lakes except that the commission may adopt rules and regulations restricting fishing methods upon a determination by the director that an individual body of water or part thereof clearly requires a fishing method prohibition to conserve or enhance the fisheries resource or to provide selected fishing alternatives. [2000 c 107 § 210; 1985 c 438 § 1; 1980 c 78 § 12; 1977 c 74 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.010. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-21.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.020 Wildlife to be classified.** (1) The director shall investigate the habits and distribution of the various species of wildlife native to or adaptable to the habitats of the state. The commission shall determine whether a species should be managed by the department and, if so, classify it under this section.

(2) The commission may classify by rule wild animals as game animals and game animals as fur-bearing animals.

(3) The commission may classify by rule wild birds as game birds or predatory birds. All wild birds not otherwise classified are protected wildlife.

(4) In addition to those species listed in RCW 77.08.020, the commission may classify by rule as game fish other species of the class Osteichthyes that are commonly found in freshwater except those classified as food fish by the director.

(5) The director may recommend to the commission that a species of wildlife should not be hunted or fished. The commission may designate species of wildlife as protected.

(6) If the director determines that a species of wildlife is seriously threatened with extinction in the state of Washington, the director may request its designation as an endangered species. The commission may designate an endangered species.

(7) If the director determines that a species of the animal kingdom, not native to Washington, is dangerous to the environment or wildlife of the state, the director may request its designation as deleterious exotic wildlife. The commission may designate deleterious exotic wildlife.

(8) Upon recommendation by the director, the commission may classify nonnative aquatic animal species according to the following categories:

(a) Prohibited aquatic animal species: These species are considered by the commission to have a high risk of becoming an invasive species and may not be possessed, imported, purchased, sold, propagated, transported, or released into state waters except as provided in RCW 77.15.253;

(b) Regulated aquatic animal species: These species are considered by the commission to have some beneficial use along with a moderate, but manageable risk of becoming an invasive species, and may not be released into state waters, except as provided in RCW 77.15.253. The commission shall classify the following commercial aquaculture species as regulated aquatic animal species, and allow their release into state waters pursuant to rule of the commission: Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*), kumamoto oyster (*Crassostrea sikamea*), European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), manila clam (*Tapes philippinarum*), blue mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), and suminoe oyster (*Crassostrea ariankensis*);

(c) Unregulated aquatic animal species: These species are considered by the commission as having some beneficial use along with a low risk of becoming an invasive species, and are not subject to regulation under this title;

(d) Unlisted aquatic animal species: These species are not designated as a prohibited aquatic animal species, regulated aquatic animal species, or unregulated aquatic animal species by the commission, and may not be released into state waters. Upon request, the commission may determine the appropriate category for an unlisted aquatic animal species and classify the species accordingly;

(e) This subsection (8) does not apply to the transportation or release of nonnative aquatic animal species by ballast water or ballast water discharge.

(9) Upon recommendation by the director, the commission may develop a work plan to eradicate native aquatic species that threaten human health. Priority shall be given to water bodies that the department of health has classified as representing a threat to human health based on the presence of a native aquatic species. [2002 c 281 § 3; 1994 c 264 § 53; 1987 c 506 § 13; 1980 c 78 § 13; 1969 ex.s. c 18 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.020. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-22.]

**Purpose—2002 c 281:** See note following RCW 77.08.010.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.031 Llamas and alpacas.** The authority of the department does not extend to preventing, controlling, or suppressing diseases in llamas or alpacas or to controlling the movement or sale of llamas or alpacas.

This section shall not be construed as granting or denying authority to the department to prevent, control, or suppress diseases in any animals other than llamas and alpacas. [1994 c 264 § 54; 1993 c 80 § 4.]

**77.12.035 Protection of grizzly bears—Limitation on transplantation or introduction—Negotiations with federal and state agencies.** The commission shall protect grizzly bears and develop management programs on publicly owned lands that will encourage the natural regeneration of

grizzly bears in areas with suitable habitat. Grizzly bears shall not be transplanted or introduced into the state. Only grizzly bears that are native to Washington state may be utilized by the department for management programs. The department is directed to fully participate in all discussions and negotiations with federal and state agencies relating to grizzly bear management and shall fully communicate, support, and implement the policies of this section. [2000 c 107 § 211; 1995 c 370 § 1.]

**77.12.037 Acquisition, use, and management of property—Condemnation—When authorized.** The commission may acquire by gift, easement, purchase, lease, or condemnation lands, buildings, water rights, rights-of-way, or other necessary property, and construct and maintain necessary facilities for purposes consistent with this title. The commission may authorize the director to acquire property under this section, but the power of condemnation may only be exercised by the director when an appropriation has been made by the legislature for the acquisition of a specific property, except to clear title and acquire access rights-of-way.

The commission may sell, lease, convey, or grant concessions upon real or personal property under the control of the department. [2000 c 107 § 4; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 23 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 9; 1955 c 212 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.040. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 7(2); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-206(2). Formerly RCW 75.08.040.]

*Tidelands reserved for recreational use and taking of fish and shellfish:*  
RCW 79.125.740, 79.125.750.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.038 Notification requirements.** Actions under this chapter are subject to the notification requirements of RCW 43.17.400. [2007 c 62 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—2007 c 62:** See notes following RCW 43.17.400.

**77.12.039 Acceptance of funds or property for damage claims or conservation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife resources.** The director may accept money or real property from persons under conditions requiring the use of the property or money for the protection, rehabilitation, preservation, or conservation of the state wildlife, fish, and shellfish resources, or in settlement of claims for damages to wildlife, fish, and shellfish resources. The director shall only accept real property useful for the protection, rehabilitation, preservation, or conservation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife resources. [2001 c 253 § 11; 2000 c 107 § 5; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 24 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 11; 1955 c 12 § 75.16.050. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 51; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-325. Formerly RCW 75.08.045, 75.16.050.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.043 Contracts and agreements for propagation of fish or shellfish.** (1) The director may enter into contracts and agreements with a person to secure fish or shellfish or for the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities for the propagation of fish or shellfish.

(2) The director may enter into contracts and agreements to procure from private aquaculturists fish or shellfish with which to stock state waters. [2001 c 253 § 12; 1985 c 458 § 7; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 13; 1955 c 12 § 75.16.070. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 53; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-327. Formerly RCW 75.08.065, 75.16.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.045 Territorial authority of commission—Adoption of federal regulations and rules of fisheries commissions and compacts.** Consistent with federal law, the commission's authority extends to all areas and waters within the territorial boundaries of the state, to the offshore waters, and to the concurrent waters of the Columbia river.

Consistent with federal law, the commission's authority extends to fishing in offshore waters by residents of this state.

The commission may adopt rules consistent with the regulations adopted by the United States department of commerce for the offshore waters. The commission may adopt rules consistent with the recommendations or regulations of the Pacific marine fisheries commission, Columbia river compact, the Pacific salmon commission as provided in chapter 77.75 RCW, or the international Pacific halibut commission. [2001 c 253 § 13; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 10 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1989 c 130 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 14; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.070. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-205, part. Formerly RCW 75.08.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.047 Scope of commission's authority to adopt rules—Application to private tideland owners or lessees of the state.** (1) The commission may adopt, amend, or repeal rules as follows:

(a) Specifying the times when the taking of wildlife, fish, or shellfish is lawful or unlawful.

(b) Specifying the areas and waters in which the taking and possession of wildlife, fish, or shellfish is lawful or unlawful.

(c) Specifying and defining the gear, appliances, or other equipment and methods that may be used to take wildlife, fish, or shellfish, and specifying the times, places, and manner in which the equipment may be used or possessed.

(d) Regulating the importation, transportation, possession, disposal, landing, and sale of wildlife, fish, shellfish, or seaweed within the state, whether acquired within or without the state.

(e) Regulating the prevention and suppression of diseases and pests affecting wildlife, fish, or shellfish.

(f) Regulating the size, sex, species, and quantities of wildlife, fish, or shellfish that may be taken, possessed, sold, or disposed of.

(g) Specifying the statistical and biological reports required from fishers, dealers, boathouses, or processors of wildlife, fish, or shellfish.

(h) Classifying species of marine and freshwater life as food fish or shellfish.

(i) Classifying the species of wildlife, fish, and shellfish that may be used for purposes other than human consumption.

(j) Regulating the taking, sale, possession, and distribution of wildlife, fish, shellfish, or deleterious exotic wildlife.

(k) Establishing game reserves and closed areas where hunting for wild animals or wild birds may be prohibited.

(l) Regulating the harvesting of fish, shellfish, and wildlife in the federal exclusive economic zone by vessels or individuals registered or licensed under the laws of this state.

(m) Authorizing issuance of permits to release, plant, or place fish or shellfish in state waters.

(n) Governing the possession of fish, shellfish, or wildlife so that the size, species, or sex can be determined visually in the field or while being transported.

(o) Other rules necessary to carry out this title and the purposes and duties of the department.

(2) Subsections (1)(a), (b), (c), (d), and (f) of this section do not apply to private tideland owners and lessees and the immediate family members of the owners or lessees of state tidelands, when they take or possess oysters, clams, cockles, borers, or mussels, excluding razor clams, produced on their own private tidelands or their leased state tidelands for personal use.

"Immediate family member" for the purposes of this section means a spouse, brother, sister, grandparent, parent, child, or grandchild.

(3) Except for subsection (1)(g) of this section, this section does not apply to private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020. Subsection (1)(g) of this section does apply to such products. [2001 c 253 § 14; 2000 c 107 § 7; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 11 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 c 117 § 1; 1985 c 457 § 17; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 15; 1980 c 55 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.080. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-205, part. Formerly RCW 75.08.080.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.068 Dissemination of information about RCW 77.15.740 and responsible wildlife viewing.** The department and the state parks and recreation commission shall disseminate information about RCW 77.15.740, whale and wildlife viewing guidelines, and other responsible wildlife viewing messages to educate Washington's citizens on how to reduce the risk of disturbing southern resident orca whales. The department and the state parks and recreation commission must, at minimum, disseminate this information on their internet sites and through appropriate agency publications, brochures, and other information sources. The department and the state parks and recreation commission shall also attempt to reach the state's boating community by coordinating with appropriate state and nongovernmental entities to provide this information at marinas, boat shows, boat dealers, during boating safety training courses, and in conjunction with vessel registration or licensing. [2008 c 225 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 225:** See notes following RCW 77.15.740.

**77.12.071 Sampling of fish, wildlife, or shellfish by department employees.** (1) Department employees, in carrying out their duties under this title on public lands or state waters, may:

(a) Collect samples of tissue, fluids, or other bodily parts of fish, wildlife, or shellfish; or

(b) Board vessels in state waters engaged in commercial and recreational harvest activities to collect samples of fish, wildlife, or shellfish.

(i) Department employees shall ask permission from the owner or his or her agent before boarding vessels in state waters.

(ii) If an employee of the department is denied access to any vessel where access was sought for the purposes of (b) of this subsection, the department employee may contact an enforcement officer for assistance in applying for a search warrant authorizing access to the vessel in order to carry out the department employee's duties under this section.

(2) Department employees must have official identification, announce their presence and intent, and perform their duties in a safe and professional manner while carrying out the activities in this section.

(3) This section does not apply to the harvest of private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020.

(4) This section does not apply to fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers carrying out their duties under this title. [2007 c 337 § 2.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 337:** "The legislature intends that sampling of fish, wildlife, and shellfish by department of fish and wildlife employees will ensure the conservation and management of fish, shellfish, and wildlife. Because the harvest of fish and wildlife is regulated by the department, the legislature finds that sampling by departmental employees will benefit the resource, and will further the department's research related to fish, wildlife, and shellfish. This section and RCW 77.12.071 do not apply to the harvest of private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020." [2007 c 337 § 1.]

**77.12.140 Acquisition or sale of wildlife.** The director, acting in a manner not inconsistent with criteria established by the commission, may obtain by purchase, gift, or exchange and may sell or transfer wildlife and their eggs for stocking, research, or propagation. [1987 c 506 § 23; 1980 c 78 § 28; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.140. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-34.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.150 Game seasons—Opening and closing—Special hunt.** (1) By emergency rule only, and in accordance with criteria established by the commission, the director may close or shorten a season for game animals, game birds, or game fish, and after a season has been closed or shortened, may reopen it and reestablish bag limits on game animals, game birds, or game fish during that season. The director shall advise the commission of the adoption of emergency rules. A copy of an emergency rule, certified as a true copy by the director or by a person authorized in writing by the director to make the certification, is admissible in court as prima facie evidence of the adoption and validity of the rule.

(2)(a) If the director finds that game animals have increased in numbers in an area of the state so that they are damaging public or private property or over-utilizing their habitat, the commission may establish a special hunting season and designate the time, area, and manner of taking and the number and sex of the animals that may be killed or pos-

essed by a licensed hunter. The director shall include notice of the special season in the rules establishing open seasons.

(b) When the department receives six complaints concerning damage to commercial agricultural and horticultural crop production by wildlife from the owner or tenant of real property, or from several owners or tenants in a locale, the commission shall conduct a special hunt or special hunts or take remedial action to reduce the potential for the damage, and shall authorize either one or two permits per hunter. Each complaint must be confirmed by qualified department staff, or their designee.

(c) The director shall determine by random selection the identity of hunters who may hunt within the area of the special hunt and shall determine the conditions and requirements of the selection process. Within this process, the department must maintain a list of all persons holding valid wildlife hunting licenses, arranged by county of residence, who may hunt deer or elk that are causing damage to crops. The department must update the list annually and utilize the list when contacting persons to assist in controlling game damage to crops. The department must make all reasonable efforts to contact individuals residing within the county where the hunting of deer or elk will occur before contacting a person who is not a resident of that county. The department must randomize the names of people on the list in order to provide a fair distribution of the hunting opportunities. Hunters who participate in hunts under this section must report any kills to the department. The department must include a summary of the wildlife harvested in these hunts in the annual game management reports it makes available to the public. [2003 c 385 § 2; 1987 c 506 § 24; 1984 c 240 § 4; 1980 c 78 § 29; 1977 ex.s. c 58 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 102 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.150. Prior: 1949 c 205 § 2; 1947 c 275 § 25; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5992-35.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

*Special hunting season permits: RCW 77.32.370.*

**77.12.152 Commission may designate fishing areas.** The commission may designate the boundaries of fishing areas by driving piling or by establishing monuments or by description of landmarks or section lines and directional headings. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 14 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 18; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.120. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-209. Formerly RCW 75.08.120.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.154 Right of entry—Aircraft operated by department.** The director, fish and wildlife officers, ex officio fish and wildlife officers, and department employees may enter upon any land or waters and remain there while performing their duties without liability for trespass.

It is lawful for aircraft operated by the department to land and take off from the beaches or waters of the state. [1998 c 190 § 71; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 19; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.160. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-212. Formerly RCW 75.08.160.]

**77.12.170 State wildlife account—Deposits.** (1) There is established in the state treasury the state wildlife account which consists of moneys received from:

- (a) Rentals or concessions of the department;
- (b) The sale of real or personal property held for department purposes, unless the property is seized or recovered through a fish, shellfish, or wildlife enforcement action;
- (c) The assessment of administrative penalties;
- (d) The sale of licenses, permits, tags, and stamps required by chapter 77.32 RCW, RCW 77.65.490, and application fees;
- (e) Fees for informational materials published by the department;
- (f) Fees for personalized vehicle, Wild on Washington, and Endangered Wildlife license plates and Washington's Wildlife license plate collection as provided in chapter 46.17 RCW;
- (g) Articles or wildlife sold by the director under this title;
- (h) Compensation for damage to department property or wildlife losses or contributions, gifts, or grants received under RCW 77.12.320. However, this excludes fish and shellfish overages, and court-ordered restitution or donations associated with any fish, shellfish, or wildlife enforcement action, as such moneys must be deposited pursuant to RCW 77.15.425;
- (i) Excise tax on anadromous game fish collected under chapter 82.27 RCW;
- (j) The department's share of revenues from auctions and raffles authorized by the commission;
- (k) The sale of watchable wildlife decals under RCW 77.32.560; and
- (l) Moneys received from the recreation access pass account created in RCW 79A.80.090 must be dedicated to stewardship, operations, and maintenance of department lands used for public recreation purposes; and
- (m) Donations received by the director under RCW 77.12.039.

(2) State and county officers receiving any moneys listed in subsection (1) of this section shall deposit them in the state treasury to be credited to the state wildlife account. [2011 c 339 § 3; 2011 c 320 § 23; 2011 c 171 § 112; 2009 c 333 § 13. Prior: 2005 c 418 § 3; 2005 c 225 § 4; 2005 c 224 § 4; 2005 c 42 § 4; 2004 c 248 § 4; 2003 c 317 § 3; 2001 c 253 § 15; 2000 c 107 § 216; prior: 1998 c 191 § 38; 1998 c 87 § 2; 1996 c 101 § 7; 1989 c 314 § 4; 1987 c 506 § 25; 1984 c 258 § 334; prior: 1983 1st ex.s. c 8 § 2; 1983 c 284 § 1; 1981 c 310 § 2; 1980 c 78 § 30; 1979 c 56 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 200 § 12 (Referendum Bill No. 33); 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 33; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.170; prior: 1947 c 275 § 27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-37.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 c 171 § 112, 2011 c 320 § 23, and by 2011 c 339 § 3, each without reference to the other. All amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Findings—2003 c 317:** See note following RCW 77.32.560.

**Findings—1996 c 101:** See note following RCW 77.32.530.

**Finding—1989 c 314:** See note following RCW 77.15.098.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Intent—1984 c 258:** See note following RCW 3.34.130.

**Findings—Intent—1983 c 284:** See note following RCW 82.27.020.

**Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** "The legislature finds that abundant deer and elk populations are in the best interest of the state, and for many reasons the state's deer and elk populations have apparently declined. The legislature further finds that antlerless deer and elk seasons have been an issue of great controversy throughout the state, and that antlerless deer and elk seasons may contribute to a further decline in the state's deer and elk populations." [1981 c 310 § 1.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**Personalized license plates—Legislative declaration:** "It is declared to be the public policy of the state of Washington to direct financial resources of this state toward the support and aid of the wildlife resources existing within the state of Washington in order that the general welfare of these inhabitants of the state be served. For the purposes of \*this chapter, wildlife resources are understood to be those species of wildlife other than that managed by the department of fisheries under their existing jurisdiction as well as all unclassified marine fish, shellfish, and marine invertebrates which shall remain under the jurisdiction of the director of fisheries. The legislature further finds that the preservation, protection, perpetuation, and enhancement of such wildlife resources of the state is of major concern to it, and that aid for a satisfactory environment and ecological balance in this state for such wildlife resources serves a public interest, purpose, and desire.

It is further declared that such preservation, protection, perpetuation, and enhancement can be fostered through financial support derived on a voluntary basis from those citizens of the state of Washington who wish to assist in such objectives; that a desirable manner of accomplishing this is through offering personalized license plates for certain vehicles and campers the fees for which are to be directed to the state treasury to the credit of the \*\*state game fund for the furtherance of the programs, policies, and activities of the state \*\*game department in preservation, protection, perpetuation, and enhancement of the wildlife resources that abound within the geographical limits of the state of Washington.

In particular, the legislature recognizes the benefit of this program to be specifically directed toward those species of wildlife including but not limited to song birds, protected wildlife, rare and endangered wildlife, aquatic life, and specialized-habitat types, both terrestrial and aquatic, as well as all unclassified marine fish, shellfish, and marine invertebrates which shall remain under the jurisdiction of the director of fisheries that exist within the limits of the state of Washington." [1975 c 59 § 7; 1973 1st ex.s. c 200 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.12.175.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The term "this chapter" refers to chapter 77.12 RCW, where this section was originally codified, pursuant to legislative directive, as RCW 77.12.175. It was subsequently decodified by 1980 c 78 § 32.

\*\* (2) References to the "state game fund" and "game department" mean the "state wildlife fund" and "department of wildlife." See note following RCW 77.04.020. The "state wildlife fund" was renamed the "state wildlife account" pursuant to 2005 c 224 § 4 and 2005 c 225 § 4.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.177 Disposition of moneys collected—Proceeds from sale of food fish or shellfish—Unanticipated receipts.** (1) Except as provided in this title, state and county officers receiving the following moneys shall deposit them in the state general fund:

- (a) The sale of commercial licenses required under this title, except for licenses issued under RCW 77.65.490; and
  - (b) Moneys received for damages to food fish or shellfish.
- (2) The director shall make weekly remittances to the state treasurer of moneys collected by the department.

(3) All fines and forfeitures collected or assessed by a district court for a violation of this title or rule of the department shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW.

(4) Proceeds from the sale of food fish or shellfish taken in test fishing conducted by the department, to the extent that these proceeds exceed the estimates in the budget approved by the legislature, may be allocated as unanticipated receipts under RCW 43.79.270 to reimburse the department for unanticipated costs for test fishing operations in excess of the allowance in the budget approved by the legislature.

(5) Proceeds from the sale of salmon carcasses and salmon eggs from state general funded hatcheries by the \*department of general administration shall be deposited in the regional fisheries enhancement group account established in RCW 77.95.090.

(6) Proceeds from the sale of herring spawn on kelp fishery licenses by the department, to the extent those proceeds exceed estimates in the budget approved by the legislature, may be allocated as unanticipated receipts under RCW 43.79.270. Allocations under this subsection shall be made only for herring management, enhancement, and enforcement. [2011 c 339 § 4; 2001 c 253 § 16; 2000 c 107 § 10; 1996 c 267 § 3; 1995 c 367 § 11; 1993 c 340 § 48; 1989 c 176 § 4; 1987 c 202 § 230; 1984 c 258 § 332; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 23; 1979 c 151 § 175; 1977 ex.s. c 327 § 33; 1975 1st ex.s. c 223 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 31; 1969 ex.s. c 16 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 72 § 2; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.230. Prior: 1951 c 271 § 2; 1949 c 112 § 25; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-223. Formerly RCW 75.08.230.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Intent—1996 c 267:** "It is the intent of this legislation to begin to make the statutory changes required by the fish and wildlife commission in order to successfully implement Referendum Bill No. 45." [1996 c 267 § 1.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**Intent—1984 c 258:** See note following RCW 3.34.130.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.184 Deposit of moneys from various activities—Production of regulation booklets.** (1) The department shall deposit all moneys received from the following activities into the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170:

(a) The sale of interpretive, recreational, historical, educational, and informational literature and materials;

(b) The sale of advertisements in regulation pamphlets and other appropriate mediums; and

(c) Enrollment fees in department-sponsored educational training events.

(2) Moneys collected under subsection (1) of this section shall be spent primarily for producing regulation booklets for users and for the development, production, reprinting, and distribution of informational and educational materials. The department may also spend these moneys for necessary expenses associated with training activities, and other activities as determined by the director.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) Regulation pamphlets may be subsidized through appropriate advertising, but must be made available free of charge to the users.

(4) The director may enter into joint ventures with other agencies and organizations to generate revenue for providing public information and education on wildlife and hunting and fishing rules. [2009 c 333 § 31; 2000 c 252 § 1.]

**77.12.190 Diversion of wildlife account moneys prohibited.** Moneys in the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170 may be used only for the purposes of this title, including the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued for capital projects. [2009 c 333 § 32; 1991 sp.s. c 31 § 17; 1987 c 506 § 27; 1980 c 78 § 34; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.190. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-38.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.201 Counties may elect to receive an amount in lieu of taxes—County to record collections for violations of law or rules—Deposit.** The legislative authority of a county may elect, by giving written notice to the director and the treasurer prior to January 1st of any year, to obtain for the following year an amount in lieu of real property taxes on game lands as provided in RCW 77.12.203. Upon the election, the county shall keep a record of all fines, forfeitures, reimbursements, and costs assessed and collected, in whole or in part, under this title for violations of law or rules adopted pursuant to this title, with the exception of the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, and shall monthly remit an amount equal to the amount collected to the state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund. The election shall continue until the department is notified differently prior to January 1st of any year. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 923; 2009 c 479 § 63; 1987 c 506 § 29. Prior: 1984 c 258 § 335; 1984 c 214 § 1; 1980 c 78 § 36; 1977 ex.s. c 59 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 97 § 2.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Intent—1984 c 258:** See note following RCW 3.34.130.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.203 In lieu payments authorized—Procedure—Game lands defined.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section and notwithstanding RCW 84.36.010 or other statutes to the contrary, the director shall pay by April 30th of each year on game lands in each county, if requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in lieu of real property taxes equal to that amount paid on similar parcels of open space land taxable under chapter 84.34 RCW or the greater of seventy cents per acre per year or the amount paid in 1984 plus an additional amount for control of noxious weeds equal to that which would be paid if such lands were privately owned. This amount shall not be assessed or paid on department buildings, structures, facili-

ties, game farms, fish hatcheries, tidelands, or public fishing areas of less than one hundred acres.

(2) "Game lands," as used in this section and RCW 77.12.201, means those tracts one hundred acres or larger owned in fee by the department and used for wildlife habitat and public recreational purposes. All lands purchased for wildlife habitat, public access or recreation purposes with federal funds in the Snake River drainage basin shall be considered game lands regardless of acreage.

(3) This section shall not apply to lands transferred after April 23, 1990, to the department from other state agencies.

(4) The county shall distribute the amount received under this section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The county shall distribute the amount received under this section for weed control to the appropriate weed district.

(5) For the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the director shall pay by April 30th of each year on game lands in each county, if requested by an election under RCW 77.12.201, an amount in lieu of real property taxes and shall be distributed as follows:

**County**

Adams . . . . .	1,909
Asotin . . . . .	36,123
Chelan . . . . .	24,757
Columbia . . . . .	7,795
Ferry . . . . .	6,781
Garfield . . . . .	4,840
Grant . . . . .	37,443
Grays Harbor . . . . .	7,264
Kittitas . . . . .	143,974
Klickitat . . . . .	21,906
Lincoln . . . . .	13,535
Okanogan . . . . .	151,402
Pend Oreille . . . . .	3,309
Yakima . . . . .	126,225

These amounts shall not be assessed or paid on department buildings, structures, facilities, game farms, fish hatcheries, tidelands, or public fishing areas of less than one hundred acres. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 924; 2005 c 303 § 14; 1990 1st ex.s. c 15 § 11; 1984 c 214 § 2; 1980 c 78 § 37; 1965 ex.s. c 97 § 3.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.204 Grazing lands—Fish and wildlife goals—Implementation.** The department of fish and wildlife shall implement practices necessary to meet the standards developed under \*RCW 79.01.295 on agency-owned and managed agricultural and grazing lands. The standards may be modi-

fied on a site-specific basis as necessary and as determined by the department of fish and wildlife to achieve the goals established under \*RCW 79.01.295(1). Existing lessees shall be provided an opportunity to participate in any site-specific field review. Department agricultural and grazing leases issued after December 31, 1994, shall be subject to practices to achieve the standards that meet those developed pursuant to \*RCW 79.01.295.

This section shall in no way prevent the department of fish and wildlife from managing its lands according to the provisions of RCW 77.04.012, 77.12.210, or rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. [2001 c 253 § 17; 2000 c 107 § 217; 1993 sp.s. c 4 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.01.295 was recodified as RCW 79.13.610 pursuant to 2003 c 334 § 557.

**Findings—Grazing lands—1993 sp.s. c 4:** See RCW 79.13.600.

**77.12.210 Department property—Management, sale.**

The director shall maintain and manage real or personal property owned, leased, or held by the department and shall control the construction of buildings, structures, and improvements in or on the property. The director may adopt rules for the operation and maintenance of the property.

The commission may authorize the director to sell, lease, convey, or grant concessions upon real or personal property under the control of the department. This includes the authority to sell timber, gravel, sand, and other materials or products from real property held by the department, and to sell or lease the department's real or personal property or grant concessions or rights-of-way for roads or utilities in the property. Oil and gas resources owned by the state which lie below lands owned, leased, or held by the department shall be offered for lease by the commissioner of public lands pursuant to chapter 79.14 RCW with the proceeds being deposited in the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170: PROVIDED, That the commissioner of public lands shall condition such leases at the request of the department to protect wildlife and its habitat.

If the commission determines that real or personal property held by the department cannot be used advantageously by the department, the director may dispose of that property if it is in the public interest.

If the state acquired real property with use limited to specific purposes, the director may negotiate terms for the return of the property to the donor or grantor. Other real property shall be sold to the highest bidder at public auction. After appraisal, notice of the auction shall be published at least once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the county where the property is located at least twenty days prior to sale.

Proceeds from the sales shall be deposited in the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170. [2009 c 333 § 33; 2000 c 107 § 218; 1987 c 506 § 30; 1980 c 78 § 38; 1969 ex.s. c 73 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.210. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-40.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.220 Acquisition or transfer of property.** For purposes of this title, the commission may make agreements to obtain real or personal property or to transfer or convey property held by the state to the United States or its agencies or instrumentalities, units of local government of this state, public service companies, or other persons, if in the judgment of the commission and the attorney general the transfer and conveyance is consistent with public interest. For purposes of this section, "local government" means any city, town, county, special district, municipal corporation, or quasi-municipal corporation.

If the commission agrees to a transfer or conveyance under this section or to a sale or return of real property under RCW 77.12.210, the director shall certify, with the attorney general, to the governor that the agreement has been made. The certification shall describe the real property. The governor then may execute and the secretary of state attest and deliver to the appropriate entity or person the instrument necessary to fulfill the agreement. [2000 c 107 § 219; 1987 c 506 § 31; 1980 c 78 § 39; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.220. Prior: 1949 c 205 § 3; 1947 c 275 § 31; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5992-41.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.230 Local assessments against department property.** The director may pay lawful local improvement district assessments for projects that may benefit wildlife or wildlife-oriented recreation made against lands held by the state for department purposes. The payments may be made from money appropriated from the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170 to the department. [2009 c 333 § 34; 1987 c 506 § 32; 1980 c 78 § 40; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.230. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-42.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.240 Authority to take wildlife—Disposition.** (1) The department may authorize the removal or killing of wildlife that is destroying or injuring property, or when it is necessary for wildlife management or research.

(2) The department shall dispose of wildlife taken or possessed by them under this title in the manner determined by the director to be in the best interest of the state. Proceeds from sales shall be deposited in the state treasury to be credited to the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170. [2009 c 333 § 63; 1989 c 197 § 1; 1987 c 506 § 33; 1980 c 78 § 41; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.240. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 33; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-43.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.262 Fish and wildlife officers compensation insurance—Medical aid.** The director shall provide compensation insurance for fish and wildlife officers, insuring

(2012 Ed.)

these employees against injury or death in the performance of enforcement duties not covered under the workers' compensation act of the state. The beneficiaries and the compensation and benefits under the compensation insurance shall be the same as provided in chapter 51.32 RCW, and the compensation insurance also shall provide for medical aid and hospitalization to the extent and amount as provided in RCW 51.36.010 and 51.36.020. [2000 c 107 § 8; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 20; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 73; 1953 c 207 § 14. Formerly RCW 75.08.206, 43.25.047.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.264 Fish and wildlife officers—Relieved from active duty when injured—Compensation.** The director shall relieve from active duty fish and wildlife officers who are injured in the performance of their official duties to such an extent as to be incapable of active service. While relieved from active duty, the employees shall receive one-half of their salary less any compensation received through the provisions of RCW 41.26.470, 41.40.200, 41.40.220, and 77.12.262. [2006 c 39 § 2; 2001 c 253 § 18; 2000 c 107 § 9; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 22; 1957 c 216 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.08.208, 75.08.024.]

**Effective date—2006 c 39:** See note following RCW 41.26.470.

**77.12.275 Agreements with department of defense.** The commission may negotiate agreements with the United States department of defense to coordinate fishing in state waters over which the department of defense has assumed control. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 7 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 8; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.025. Prior: 1953 c 207 § 11. Formerly RCW 75.08.025.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.285 Agreements with United States to protect Columbia River fish—Fish cultural stations and protective devices.** (1) The commission may enter into agreements with and receive funds from the United States for the construction, maintenance, and operation of fish cultural stations, laboratories, and devices in the Columbia River basin for improvement of feeding and spawning conditions for fish, for the protection of migratory fish from irrigation projects and for facilitating free migration of fish over obstructions.

(2) The director and the department may acquire by gift, purchase, lease, easement, or condemnation the use of lands where the construction or improvement is to be carried on by the United States. [2000 c 107 § 6; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 8 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 23; 1987 c 506 § 94; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 12; 1955 c 12 § 75.16.060. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 52; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-326. Formerly RCW 75.08.055, 75.16.060.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.320 Agreements for purposes related to fish, shellfish, and wildlife—Acceptance of compensation, gifts, grants.** (1) The commission may make agreements with persons, political subdivisions of this state, or the United States or its agencies or instrumentalities, regarding fish,

shellfish, and wildlife-oriented recreation and the propagation, protection, conservation, and control of fish, shellfish, and wildlife.

(2) The director may make written agreements with the owners or lessees of real or personal property to provide for the use of the property for fish, shellfish, and wildlife-oriented recreation. The director may adopt rules governing the conduct of persons in or on the real property.

(3) The director may accept compensation for fish, shellfish, and wildlife losses or gifts or grants of personal property for use by the department. [2001 c 253 § 19; 1987 c 506 § 41; 1980 c 78 § 50; 1975 1st ex.s. c 207 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 67 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.320. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 37; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-47.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.323 Special wildlife account—Investments.** (1) There is established in the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170 a special wildlife account. Moneys received under RCW 77.12.320 as now or hereafter amended as compensation for wildlife losses shall be deposited in the state treasury to be credited to the special wildlife account.

(2) The state treasurer may invest and reinvest the surplus as provided by RCW 43.84.080. [2012 c 187 § 7; 2009 c 333 § 35; 1987 c 506 § 42; 1982 c 10 § 15. Prior: 1981 c 3 § 43; 1980 c 78 § 51; 1975 1st ex.s. c 207 § 2.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.325 Cooperation with Oregon to assure yields of Columbia river fish, shellfish, and wildlife.** The commission may cooperate with the Oregon fish and wildlife commission in the adoption of rules to ensure an annual yield of fish, shellfish, and wildlife on the Columbia river and to prevent the taking of fish, shellfish, and wildlife at places or times that might endanger fish, shellfish, and wildlife. [2001 c 253 § 20; 1980 c 78 § 52; 1959 c 315 § 2.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.330 Exclusive fishing waters for youths.** The commission may establish by rule exclusive fishing waters for minors within specified ages. [1980 c 78 § 53; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.330. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 38; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-48.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.360 Withdrawal of state land from lease—Compensation.** Upon written request of the department, the department of natural resources may withdraw from lease state-owned lands described in the request. The request shall bear the endorsement of the county legislative authority if the lands were acquired under \*RCW 76.12.030 or 76.12.080. Withdrawals shall conform to the state outdoor recreation plan. If the lands are held for the benefit of the common

school fund or another fund, the department shall pay compensation equal to the lease value of the lands to the appropriate fund. [1980 c 78 § 54; 1969 ex.s. c 129 § 3; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.360. Prior: 1947 c 130 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 8136-10.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 76.12.030 and 76.12.080 were recodified as RCW 79.22.040 and 79.22.020, respectively, by 2003 c 334 § 245.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.370 Withdrawal of state land from lease—County procedures, approval, hearing.** Prior to the forwarding of a request needing endorsement under RCW 77.12.360, the director shall present the request to the legislative authority of the county in which the lands are located for its approval. The legislative authority, before acting on the request, may call a public hearing. The hearing shall take place within thirty days after presentation of the request to the legislative authority.

The director shall publish notice of the public hearing called by the legislative authority in a newspaper of general circulation within the county at least once a week for two successive weeks prior to the hearing. The notice shall contain a copy of the request and the time and place of the hearing.

The chairman of the county legislative authority shall preside at the public hearing. The proceedings shall be informal and all persons shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

Within ten days after the hearing, the county legislative authority shall endorse its decision on the request for withdrawal. The decision is final and not subject to appeal. [1987 c 506 § 43; 1980 c 78 § 55; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.370. Prior: 1947 c 130 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 8136-11.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.380 Withdrawal of state land from lease—Actions by commissioner of public lands.** Upon receipt of a request under RCW 77.12.360, the commissioner of public lands shall determine if the withdrawal would benefit the people of the state. If the withdrawal would be beneficial, the commissioner shall have the lands appraised for their lease value. Before withdrawal, the department shall transmit to the commissioner a voucher authorizing payment from the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170 in favor of the fund for which the lands are held. The payment shall equal the amount of the lease value for the duration of the withdrawal. [2009 c 333 § 36; 1987 c 506 § 44; 1980 c 78 § 56; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.380. Prior: 1947 c 130 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 8136-12.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.390 Withdrawal of state land from lease—Payment.** Upon receipt of a voucher under RCW 77.12.380, the commissioner of public lands shall withdraw the lands from lease. The commissioner shall forward the voucher to the state treasurer, who shall draw a warrant against the state

wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170 in favor of the fund for which the withdrawn lands are held. [2009 c 333 § 37; 1987 c 506 § 45; 1980 c 78 § 57; 1973 c 106 § 35; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.390. Prior: 1947 c 130 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 8136-13.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.420 Improvement of conditions for growth of game fish.** The director may spend moneys to improve natural growing conditions for fish by constructing fishways, installing screens, and removing obstructions to migratory fish. The eradication of undesirable fish shall be authorized by the commission. The director may enter into cooperative agreements with state, county, municipal, and federal agencies, and with private individuals for these purposes. [1987 c 506 § 46; 1980 c 78 § 59; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.420. Prior: 1947 c 127 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5944-1.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.451 Director may take or sell fish or shellfish—Restrictions on sale of salmon.** (1) The director may take or remove any species of fish or shellfish from the waters or beaches of the state.

(2) The director may sell food fish or shellfish caught or taken during department test fishing operations.

(3) The director shall not sell inedible salmon for human consumption. Salmon and carcasses may be given to state institutions or schools or to economically depressed people, unless the salmon are unfit for human consumption. Salmon not fit for human consumption may be sold by the director for animal food, fish food, or for industrial purposes.

(4) In the sale of surplus salmon from state hatcheries, the \*division of purchasing shall require that a portion of the surplus salmon be processed and returned to the state by the purchaser. The processed salmon shall be fit for human consumption and in a form suitable for distribution to individuals. The \*division of purchasing shall establish the required percentage at a level that does not discourage competitive bidding for the surplus salmon. The measure of the percentage is the combined value of all of the surplus salmon sold. The department of social and health services shall distribute the processed salmon to economically depressed individuals and state institutions pursuant to rules adopted by the department of social and health services. [1990 c 36 § 1; 1985 c 28 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 26; 1979 c 141 § 382; 1969 ex.s. c 16 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 72 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.12.130. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 41; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-315. Formerly RCW 75.08.255, 75.12.130.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 43.19.190 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 207, transferring the duties of the "division of purchasing" to the "director of enterprise services." RCW 43.19.190 was subsequently repealed by 2012 c 224 § 29, effective January 1, 2013. See RCW 39.26.080 and 39.26.090.

**77.12.453 Salmon fishing by Wanapum (Sokulk) Indians.** The director may issue permits to members of the Wanapum band of Indians to take salmon for ceremonial and

(2012 Ed.)

subsistence purposes. The department shall establish the areas in which the permits are valid and shall regulate the times for and manner of taking the salmon. This section does not create a right to fish commercially. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 27; 1981 c 251 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.08.265, 75.12.310.]

**Legislative findings—1981 c 251:** "The legislature finds that the Sokulk Indians, otherwise known as the Wanapum band of Indians, have made a significant effort to maintain their traditional tribal culture, including the activity of taking salmon for ceremonial and subsistence purposes. The legislature further finds that previously the state has encouraged ceremonial and subsistence fishing by the Wanapums by chapter 210, Laws of 1939 and other permission. Therefore, the intent of the legislature in enacting RCW 75.08.265 is to recognize the cultural importance of salmon fishing to only the Wanapum Indians by authorizing these people a ceremonial and subsistence fishery, while also preserving the state's ability to conserve and manage the salmon resource." [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 62; 1981 c 251 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.12.300.]

**77.12.455 Prevention and suppression of diseases and pests.** The commission may prohibit the introduction, transportation or transplanting of fish, shellfish, organisms, material, or other equipment which in the commission's judgment may transmit any disease or pests affecting fish or shellfish. [2001 c 253 § 22; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 16 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 29; 1955 c 12 § 75.16.030. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 43; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-317. Formerly RCW 75.08.285, 75.16.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.459 Release and recapture of salmon or steelhead prohibited.** A person other than the United States, an Indian tribe recognized as such by the federal government, the state, a subdivision of the state, or a municipal corporation or an agency of such a unit of government shall not release salmon or steelhead trout into the public waters of the state and subsequently to recapture and commercially harvest such salmon or trout. This section shall not prevent any person from rearing salmon or steelhead trout in pens or in a confined area under circumstances where the salmon or steelhead trout are confined and never permitted to swim freely in open water. [1998 c 190 § 74; 1985 c 457 § 12. Formerly RCW 75.08.300.]

**77.12.465 Abandoned or derelict vessels.** The director has the authority, subject to the processes and limitation outlined in chapter 79.100 RCW, to store, strip, use, auction, sell, salvage, scrap, or dispose of an abandoned or derelict vessel found on or above publicly or privately owned aquatic lands within the jurisdiction of the department. [2002 c 286 § 19.]

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 286:** See RCW 79.100.900 and 79.100.901.

**77.12.467 Wildlife rehabilitation program—Requirements to receive funding—Reports accounting for all expenditures of state funds—Permitted expenditures—Adoption of rules.** (1) The director shall establish a wildlife rehabilitation program to help support the critical role licensed wildlife rehabilitators play in protecting the public by capturing, testing for disease, and caring for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in Washington state. The director shall contract for wildlife rehabilitation services with

up to four people in each of the department's six administrative regions. Applicants may submit only one request every two years and must reside in the administrative region for which they have applied. The contracts must be for a term of two years.

(2) In order to receive funding, the wildlife rehabilitator must: (a) Be properly licensed in wildlife rehabilitation under state and federal law; and (b) furnish information concerning his or her identity, including fingerprints for submission to the Washington state patrol to include a national criminal background check. The applicant must pay for the cost of the criminal background check. If the background check reveals that the applicant has been convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor, the applicant is ineligible to receive funding.

(3) The department must require that contractors submit detailed reports accounting for all expenditures of state funds. The reports must be submitted to the department on a quarterly basis. The department may require the contractor to submit to an inspection of the rehabilitation facility to ensure compliance with department rules governing wildlife rehabilitation. Expenditures that are permitted under this program as they specifically relate to wildlife rehabilitation include: (a) Reimbursement for diagnostic and lab support services; (b) purchase and maintenance of proper restraints and equipment used in the capture, transportation, temporary housing, and release of wildlife; (c) reimbursement of contracted veterinary services; (d) reimbursement of the cost of food, medication, and other consumables; and (e) reimbursement of the cost of continuing education. The department shall give priority to applications submitted that provide for the rehabilitation of endangered or threatened species. Funds may not be used to rehabilitate either nonnative species or nuisance animals, or both, including, but not limited to the following: Eastern gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*); opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*); raccoons (*Procyon lotor*); striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*); spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*); Eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*); domestic rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*); European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*); and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

(4) The department may adopt any rules as are necessary to carry out this section. [2007 c 246 § 4.]

**Finding—2007 c 246:** "The legislature finds that licensed wildlife rehabilitators often work closely with local law enforcement, animal control officers, wildlife enforcement officers, and wildlife biologists at the state and federal levels to aid in the safe capture, testing for disease, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and release of wildlife. The state recognizes the critical role licensed wildlife rehabilitators play in capturing and caring for the sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife of Washington state." [2007 c 246 § 1.]

**77.12.469 Renewal of wildlife rehabilitation licenses—Adoption of rules.** The department must develop a process for renewing wildlife rehabilitation licenses. All wildlife rehabilitation licenses issued by the department prior to January 1, 2006, must be renewed by January 1, 2010. The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this section. [2007 c 246 § 5.]

**Finding—2007 c 246:** See note following RCW 77.12.467.

**77.12.471 Wildlife rehabilitation account.** The wildlife rehabilitation account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from moneys directed to the account from RCW

46.68.435 must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the support of the wildlife rehabilitation program created under RCW 77.12.467. [2010 c 161 § 1160; 2007 c 246 § 3.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Finding—2007 c 246:** See note following RCW 77.12.467.

**77.12.475 Fish and wildlife equipment revolving account.** (1) The fish and wildlife equipment revolving account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The department must reimburse the account for all moneys expended from the account. Reimbursements may be made with moneys appropriated to the department or from other moneys otherwise available to the department. All moneys generated by the use or repair of vehicles, water vessels, and heavy equipment or generated by the sale or surplus of vehicles, water vessels, and heavy equipment must be deposited in the account. The department's reimbursements may be prorated over the useful life of the vehicle, water vessel, or heavy equipment acquired with moneys from the account.

(2) Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purchase or lease of vehicles, water vessels, and heavy equipment, to include the payment of costs for the operation, repair, and maintenance of the vehicles, water vessels, and heavy equipment.

(3) Only the director of fish and wildlife or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the terms and charges for the intra-agency use of vehicles, water vessels, or heavy equipment or for the disposal through sale of vehicles, water vessels, or heavy equipment is solely within the discretion of the department and the department's determination of the terms, charges, or sale price is considered a reasonable term, charge, or sale price. [2009 c 368 § 1.]

**77.12.540 Public shooting grounds—Effect of filing—Use for booming.** Upon filing a certificate with the commissioner of public lands that shows that lands will be used for public shooting grounds by the department, the lands shall be withdrawn from sale or lease and then may be used as public shooting grounds under control of the department. The commissioner of public lands may also use the lands for booming purposes. [1980 c 78 § 128; 1955 c 36 § 77.40.080. Prior: 1945 c 179 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7993-5b. Formerly RCW 77.40.080.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.550 Tidelands used as public shooting grounds—Diversion.** Tidelands granted to the department to be used as public shooting grounds shall revert to the state if used for another purpose. The department shall certify the reversion to the commissioner of public lands who shall then supervise and control the lands as provided in Title 79 RCW.

[1980 c 78 § 126; 1955 c 36 § 77.40.050. Prior: 1941 c 190 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7993-8. Formerly RCW 77.40.050.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.560 Tidelands used as public shooting grounds—Rules.** The commission may adopt rules regarding the use of the tidelands as shooting grounds. [1980 c 78 § 127; 1955 c 36 § 77.40.060. Prior: 1941 c 190 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7993-9. Formerly RCW 77.40.060.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.570 Game farm licenses—Rules—Exemption.** The commission shall establish the qualifications and conditions for issuing a game farm license. The director shall adopt rules governing the operation of game farms. Private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020 are exempt from regulation under this section. [1987 c 506 § 49; 1985 c 457 § 22; 1980 c 78 § 98; 1975 1st ex.s. c 15 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 29 § 14; 1955 c 36 § 77.28.020. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 82; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-91. Formerly RCW 77.28.020.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.580 Game farms—Authority to dispose of eggs.** A licensed game farmer may purchase, sell, give away, or dispose of the eggs of game birds or game fish lawfully possessed as provided by rule of the director. [1987 c 506 § 50; 1980 c 78 § 99; 1955 c 36 § 77.28.070. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 87; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-96. Formerly RCW 77.28.070.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.590 Game farms—Tagging of products—Exemption.** Wildlife given away, sold, or transferred by a licensed game farmer shall have attached to each wildlife member, package, or container, a tag, seal, or invoice as required by rule of the director. Private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020 are exempt from regulation under this section. [1987 c 506 § 51; 1985 c 457 § 23; 1980 c 78 § 100; 1955 c 36 § 77.28.080. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 88; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-97. Formerly RCW 77.28.080.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.600 Game farms—Shipping of wildlife—Exemption.** A common carrier may transport wildlife shipped by a licensed game farmer if the wildlife is tagged, sealed, or invoiced as provided in RCW 77.12.590. Packages containing wildlife shall have affixed to them tags or labels showing the name of the licensee and the consignee. For purposes of this section, wildlife does not include private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020. However, if a means of identifying such products is required

by rules adopted under RCW 15.85.060, this exemption from the definition of wildlife applies only if the aquatic products are identified in conformance with those rules. [1985 c 457 § 24; 1980 c 78 § 101; 1955 c 36 § 77.28.090. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 89; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-98. Formerly RCW 77.28.090.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.605 Whidbey Island game farm—Sale of property.** (1) The department shall endeavor to sell the property known as Whidbey Island game farm, Island county.

(2) If the sale takes place one year or less from May 7, 1999, the property may be sold only to a nonprofit corporation, a consortium of nonprofit corporations, or a municipal corporation that intends to preserve, to the extent practicable, the property for purposes of undeveloped open space and historical preservation.

(3) If the sale takes place more than one year after May 7, 1999, the conditions in subsection (2) of this section do not apply. [1999 c 205 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.610 Check stations—Purpose.** The purposes of RCW 77.12.610 through 77.12.630 are to facilitate the department's gathering of biological data for managing wildlife, fish, and shellfish resources of this state and to protect these resources by assuring compliance with Title 77 RCW, and rules adopted thereunder, in a manner designed to minimize inconvenience to the public. [2000 c 107 § 225; 1982 c 155 § 1.]

**77.12.620 Check stations—Stopping for inspection.** The department is authorized to require hunters and fishermen occupying a motor vehicle approaching or entering a check station to stop and produce for inspection: (1) Any wildlife, fish, shellfish, or seaweed in their possession; (2) licenses, permits, tags, stamps, or catch record cards, required under Title 77 RCW, or rules adopted thereunder. For these purposes, the department is authorized to operate check stations which shall be plainly marked by signs, operated by at least one uniformed fish and wildlife officer, and operated in a safe manner. [2000 c 107 § 226; 1982 c 155 § 2.]

**77.12.630 Check stations—Other inspections, powers.** The powers conferred by RCW 77.12.610 through 77.12.630 are in addition to all other powers conferred by law upon the department. Nothing in RCW 77.12.610 through 77.12.630 shall be construed to prohibit the department from operating wildlife information stations at which persons shall not be required to stop and report, or from executing arrests, searches, or seizures otherwise authorized by law. [2000 c 107 § 227; 1982 c 155 § 4.]

**77.12.650 Protection of bald eagles and their habitats—Cooperation required.** The department shall cooperate with other local, state, and federal agencies and governments to protect bald eagles and their essential habitats through existing governmental programs, including but not limited to:

(1) The natural heritage program managed by the department of natural resources under chapter 79.70 RCW;

(2) The natural area preserve program managed by the department of natural resources under chapter 79.70 RCW;

(3) The shoreline management master programs adopted by local governments and approved by the department of ecology under chapter 90.58 RCW. [1987 c 506 § 52; 1984 c 239 § 2.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **77.12.655 Habitat buffer zones for bald eagles—**

**Rules.** The department, in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, shall adopt and enforce necessary rules defining the extent and boundaries of habitat buffer zones for bald eagles. Rules shall take into account the need for variation of the extent of the zone from case to case, and the need for protection of bald eagles. The rules shall also establish guidelines and priorities for purchase or trade and establishment of conservation easements and/or leases to protect such designated properties. The department shall also adopt rules to provide adequate notice to property owners of their options under RCW 77.12.650 and this section. [2000 c 107 § 228; 1990 c 84 § 3; 1984 c 239 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.670 Migratory bird permit/migratory bird license validations—Deposit and use of revenues.** (1) Beginning July 1, 2011, the department, after soliciting recommendations from the public, shall select the design for the \*migratory bird stamp.

(2) All revenue derived from the sale of migratory bird license validations or stamps by the department to any person hunting waterfowl or to any stamp collector shall be deposited in the state wildlife account and shall be used only for that portion of the cost of printing and production of the stamps for migratory waterfowl hunters as determined by subsection (4) of this section, and for those migratory waterfowl projects specified by the director of the department for the acquisition and development of migratory waterfowl habitat in the state and for the enhancement, protection, and propagation of migratory waterfowl in the state. Migratory bird license validation and stamp funds may not be used on lands controlled by private hunting clubs or on private lands that charge a fee for public access. Migratory bird license validation and stamp funds may be used for migratory waterfowl projects on private land where public hunting is provided by written permission or on areas established by the department as waterfowl hunting closures.

(3) All revenue derived from the sale of the license validation and stamp by the department to persons hunting solely nonwaterfowl migratory birds shall be deposited in the state wildlife account and shall be used only for that portion of the cost of printing and production of the stamps for nonwaterfowl migratory bird hunters as determined by subsection (4) of this section, and for those nonwaterfowl migratory bird projects specified by the director for the acquisition and development of nonwaterfowl migratory bird habitat in the state and for the enhancement, protection, and propagation of nonwaterfowl migratory birds in the state.

(4) With regard to the revenue from license validation and stamp sales that is not the result of sales to stamp collectors, the department shall determine the proportion of migratory waterfowl hunters and solely nonwaterfowl migratory bird hunters by using the yearly migratory bird hunter harvest information program survey results or, in the event that these results are not available, other similar survey results. A two-year average of the most recent survey results shall be used to determine the proportion of the revenue attributed to migratory waterfowl hunters and the proportion attributed to solely nonwaterfowl migratory bird hunters for each fiscal year. For fiscal year 1998-99 and for fiscal year 1999-2000, ninety-six percent of the stamp revenue shall be attributed to migratory waterfowl hunters and four percent of the stamp revenue shall be attributed to solely nonwaterfowl migratory game hunters.

(5) Acquisition shall include but not be limited to the acceptance of gifts of real estate or any interest therein or the rental, lease, or purchase of real estate or any interest therein. If the department acquires any fee interest, leasehold, or rental interest in real property under this section, it shall allow the general public reasonable access to that property and shall, if appropriate, ensure that the deed or other instrument creating the interest allows such access to the general public. If the department obtains a covenant in real property in its favor or an easement or any other interest in real property under this section, it shall exercise its best efforts to ensure that the deed or other instrument creating the interest grants to the general public in the form of a covenant running with the land reasonable access to the property. The private landowner from whom the department obtains such a covenant or easement shall retain the right of granting access to the lands by written permission, but may not charge a fee for access.

(6) The department may produce \*migratory bird stamps in any given year in excess of those necessary for sale in that year. The excess stamps may be sold to the public. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 15; 2002 c 283 § 2; 1998 c 191 § 32; 1987 c 506 § 53; 1985 c 243 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The term "migratory bird stamp" was changed to "migratory bird permit" pursuant to 2011 c 339 § 2.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **77.12.690 Annual migratory bird permit design—Administration, sale, and distribution—Deposit and use of funds.**

(1) The director is responsible for the selection of the annual \*migratory bird stamp design. The department shall create collector art prints and related artwork, utilizing the same design. The administration, sale, distribution, and other matters relating to the prints and sales of stamps with prints and related artwork shall be the responsibility of the department.

(2) The total amount brought in from the sale of prints and related artwork shall be deposited in the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170. The costs of producing and marketing of prints and related artwork shall be paid out of the total amount brought in from sales of those same items.

Net funds derived from the sale of prints and related artwork shall be used by the director to contract with one or more appropriate individuals or nonprofit organizations for the development of waterfowl propagation projects within Washington which specifically provide waterfowl for the Pacific flyway. The department shall not contract with any individual or organization that obtains compensation for allowing waterfowl hunting except if the individual or organization does not permit hunting for compensation on the subject property. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 16; 2009 c 333 § 38. Prior: 1998 c 245 § 158; 1998 c 191 § 33; 1987 c 506 § 55; 1985 c 243 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The term "migratory bird stamp" was changed to "migratory bird permit" pursuant to 2011 c 339 § 2.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.702 Rockfish research and stock assessment program—Report to the legislature—Rockfish research account.** (1) The department is directed to develop and implement a rockfish research and stock assessment program. Using funds from the rockfish research account created in subsection (2) of this section, the department must conduct Puget Sound basin and coastal surveys with new and existing technology to estimate the current abundance and future recovery of rockfish populations and other groundfish species. The stock assessment must include an evaluation of the potential for marine fish enhancement. Beginning December 2008, and every two years thereafter, the department shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the status of the stock assessment program.

(2) The rockfish research account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from surcharges assessed on commercial and recreational fishing licenses for the purposes of rockfish research must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for rockfish research, including stock assessments. Only the director of the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2007 c 442 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 442:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Seven rockfish stocks, including canary and yelloweye rockfish, have been designated under federal law by the national marine fisheries services as overfished on the west coast.

(b) The department of fish and wildlife has classified certain rockfish species within Puget Sound as critically depressed. These common species of rockfish have undergone dramatic declines in Puget Sound and the coast during the past three decades.

(c) The Pacific fishery management council and the department of fish and wildlife have eliminated the directed commercial fisheries and greatly reduced the recreational fishing opportunity for these species.

(d) Due to the interactions of these depleted stocks with the healthier ones, commercial and recreational fisheries have been severely constrained in recent years in order to rebuild the populations of these overfished rockfish. For many of these stocks there have been no recent stock assessments, or the current assessments are based on poor data. Improved survey information is essential for assessing abundance and to monitor progress toward rebuilding efforts on the coast and in Puget Sound.

(e) Department of fish and wildlife staff have been developing underwater robot technology or remote operated vehicles to scientifically estimate

the abundance of rockfish populations in both the nearshore and in deep waters. These new assessment techniques, coupled with existing bottom trawl surveys, will be used to estimate current abundance and future recovery of rockfish populations along the coast of Washington and in Puget Sound.

(2) Therefore, the legislature intends to implement a targeted surcharge on commercial licenses issued by the department of fish and wildlife that provides for the retention or landing of ground fish, and a targeted surcharge on recreational saltwater fishing licenses. Funds derived from the surcharge will be used by the department of fish and wildlife solely for the purpose of conducting rockfish research and stock assessments." [2007 c 442 § 1.]

**Effective date—2007 c 442:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 11, 2007]." [2007 c 442 § 6.]

**77.12.710 Game fish production—Double by year 2000.** The legislature hereby directs the department to determine the feasibility and cost of doubling the statewide game fish production by the year 2000. The department shall seek to equalize the effort and investment expended on anadromous and resident game fish programs. The department shall provide the legislature with a specific plan for legislative approval that will outline the feasibility of increasing game fish production by one hundred percent over current levels by the year 2000. The plan shall contain specific provisions to increase both hatchery and naturally spawning game fish to a level that will support the production goal established in this section consistent with department policies. Steelhead trout, searun cutthroat trout, resident trout, and warmwater fish producing areas of the state shall be included in the plan.

The plan shall include the following critical elements:

(1) Methods of determining current catch and production, and catch and production in the year 2000;

(2) Methods of involving fishing groups, including Indian tribes, in a cooperative manner;

(3) Methods for using low capital cost projects to produce game fish as inexpensively as possible;

(4) Methods for renovating and modernizing all existing hatcheries and rearing ponds to maximize production capability;

(5) Methods for increasing the productivity of natural spawning game fish;

(6) Application of new technology to increase hatchery and natural productivity;

(7) Analysis of the potential for private contractors to produce game fish for public fisheries;

(8) Methods to optimize public volunteer efforts and cooperative projects for maximum efficiency;

(9) Methods for development of trophy game fish fisheries;

(10) Elements of coordination with the Pacific Northwest Power Council programs to ensure maximum Columbia river benefits;

(11) The role that should be played by private consulting companies in developing and implementing the plan;

(12) Coordination with federal fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes, and department fish production programs;

(13) Future needs for game fish predator control measures;

(14) Development of disease control measures;

(15) Methods for obtaining access to waters currently not available to anglers; and

(16) Development of research programs to support game fish management and enhancement programs.

The department, in cooperation with the department of revenue, shall assess various funding mechanisms and make recommendations to the legislature in the plan. The department, in cooperation with the \*department of community, trade, and economic development, shall prepare an analysis of the economic benefits to the state that will occur when the game fish production is increased by one hundred percent in the year 2000. [1998 c 245 § 159; 1995 c 399 § 208; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 70; 1990 c 110 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Finding—1990 c 110:** "The legislature finds that the anadromous and resident game fish resource of the state can be greatly increased to benefit recreational fishermen and the economy of the state. Investments in the increase of anadromous and resident game fish stocks will provide benefits many times the cost of the program and will act as a catalyst for many additional benefits in the tourism and associated industries, while enhancing the livability of the state." [1990 c 110 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.712 Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program. (Expires June 30, 2016.)** The department shall create and administer a Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program. The program must facilitate continued and, to the maximum extent possible, improved recreational salmon and steelhead selective fishing opportunities on the Columbia river and its tributaries by supplementing the resources available to the department to carry out the scientific monitoring and evaluation, data collection, permitting, reporting, enforcement, and other activities necessary to provide such opportunities. [2009 c 420 § 2.]

**Effective date—2009 c 420 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act takes effect January 1, 2010." [2009 c 420 § 10.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 420 §§ 2-6:** "Sections 2 through 6 of this act expire June 30, 2016." [2009 c 420 § 7.]

**Intent—2009 c 420:** "It is the intent of the legislature to establish the Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program to continue and, to the maximum extent possible, increase recreational selective fishing opportunities on the Columbia river and its tributaries." [2009 c 420 § 1.]

**Scope of authority—2009 c 420:** "Nothing in this act changes the allocation of salmon or steelhead fisheries in the Columbia river and its tributaries or the authorities or processes by which such allocations are determined." [2009 c 420 § 9.]

**Not subject to transaction fee—2009 c 420:** See note following RCW 77.32.580.

**77.12.714 Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program account. (Expires June 30, 2016.)** The Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from Columbia river salmon and steelhead stamp or endorsement purchases under RCW 77.32.580 and gifts made for purposes of the Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for purposes of the program created in RCW 77.12.712. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,

but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2009 c 420 § 4.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 420 §§ 2-6:** See note following RCW 77.12.712.

**Intent—Scope of authority—2009 c 420:** See notes following RCW 77.12.712.

**Not subject to transaction fee—2009 c 420:** See note following RCW 77.32.580.

**77.12.716 Columbia river salmon and steelhead recreational anglers board. (Expires June 30, 2016.)** (1) The department shall administer the Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program in consultation with a Columbia river salmon and steelhead recreational anglers board. The board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the department.

(2) The department shall solicit recommendations for membership on the Columbia river salmon and steelhead recreational anglers board from recognized recreational fishing organizations of the Columbia river, and the director or director's designee shall give deference to such recommendations when selecting board members. In making these selections, the director or director's designee shall seek to provide equitable representation from the various geographic areas of the Columbia river. The board must consist of no fewer than six and no more than ten members at any one time.

(3) The Columbia river salmon and steelhead recreational anglers board shall make annual recommendations to the department regarding program expenditures. To the maximum extent possible, the board and department shall seek to reach consensus regarding program activities and expenditures. The director or the director's designee shall provide the board with a written explanation when the department expends funds from the Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program account created in RCW 77.12.714 in a manner that differs substantially from board recommendations.

(4) Columbia river salmon and steelhead recreational anglers board members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [2009 c 420 § 5.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 420 §§ 2-6:** See note following RCW 77.12.712.

**Intent—Scope of authority—2009 c 420:** See notes following RCW 77.12.712.

**Not subject to transaction fee—2009 c 420:** See note following RCW 77.32.580.

**77.12.718 Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program—Review—Report to the legislature. (Expires June 30, 2016.)** By December 1, 2014, the department and the Columbia river salmon and steelhead recreational anglers board shall review the Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program, prepare a brief summary of the activities conducted under the program, and provide this summary and a recommendation whether the program should be continued to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives. [2009 c 420 § 6.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 420 §§ 2-6:** See note following RCW 77.12.712.

**Intent—Scope of authority—2009 c 420:** See notes following RCW 77.12.712.

**Not subject to transaction fee—2009 c 420:** See note following RCW 77.32.580.

**77.12.722 Canada goose hunting—Season or bag limit restriction.** For the purposes of establishing a season or bag limit restriction on Canada goose hunting, the commission shall not consider leg length or bill length of dusky Canada geese (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*). [2000 c 107 § 259; 1998 c 190 § 119; 1996 c 207 § 3; 1987 c 506 § 59; 1983 c 3 § 196; 1981 c 310 § 3; 1980 c 78 § 70; 1977 c 44 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.16.020. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 41; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-50. Formerly RCW 77.16.020.]

**Intent—1996 c 207:** See note following RCW 77.08.010.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.12.755 Ranked inventory of fish passage barriers.** In coordination with the department of natural resources and lead entity groups, the department must establish a ranked inventory of fish passage barriers on land owned by small forest landowners based on the principle of fixing the worst first within a watershed consistent with the fish passage priorities of the forest and fish report. The department shall first gather and synthesize all available existing information about the locations and impacts of fish passage barriers in Washington. This information must include, but not be limited to, the most recently available limiting factors analysis conducted pursuant to RCW 77.85.060(2), the stock status information contained in the department of fish and wildlife salmonid stock inventory (SASSI), the salmon and steelhead habitat inventory and assessment project (SSHIAP), and any comparable science-based assessment when available. The inventory of fish passage barriers must be kept current and at a minimum be updated by the beginning of each calendar year. Nothing in this section grants the department or others additional right of entry onto private property. [2003 c 311 § 10.]

**Findings—Effective date—2003 c 311:** See notes following RCW 76.09.020.

**77.12.760 Steelhead trout fishery.** Steelhead trout shall be managed solely as a recreational fishery for non-Indian fishermen under the rule-setting authority of the fish and wildlife commission.

Commercial non-Indian steelhead fisheries are not authorized. [1993 sp.s. c 2 § 78.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.765 Tilton and Cowlitz rivers—Proposals to reinstate salmon and steelhead.** The director shall develop proposals to reinstate the natural salmon and steelhead trout fish runs in the Tilton and upper Cowlitz rivers in accordance with RCW 77.04.120(3). [2000 c 107 § 206; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 65; 1985 c 208 § 2. Formerly RCW 77.04.100.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**77.12.790 Eastern Washington pheasant enhancement program—Purpose.** There is created within the department the eastern Washington pheasant enhancement program. The purpose of the program is to improve the harvest of pheasants by releasing pen-reared rooster pheasants on sites accessible for public hunting and by providing grants for habitat enhancement on public or private lands under agreement with the department. The department may either purchase rooster pheasants from private contractors, or produce rooster pheasants from department-sanctioned cooperative projects, whichever is less expensive, provided that the pheasants released meet minimum department standards for health and maturity. Any surplus hen pheasants from pheasant farms or projects operated by the department or the department of corrections for this enhancement program shall be made available to landowners who voluntarily open their lands to public pheasant hunting. Pheasants produced for the eastern Washington pheasant enhancement program must not detrimentally affect the production or operation of the department's western Washington pheasant release program. The release of pheasants for hunting purposes must not conflict with or supplant other department efforts to improve upland bird habitat or naturally produced upland birds. [1997 c 422 § 2.]

**Findings—1997 c 422:** "The legislature finds that pheasant populations in eastern Washington have greatly decreased from their historic high levels and that pheasant hunting success rates have plummeted. The number of pheasant hunters has decreased due to reduced hunting success. There is an opportunity to enhance the pheasant population by release of pen-reared pheasants and habitat enhancements to create increased hunting opportunities on publicly owned and managed lands." [1997 c 422 § 1.]

**77.12.800 Pheasant hunting—Opportunities for juvenile hunters.** The commission must establish special pheasant hunting opportunities for juvenile hunters in eastern Washington for the 1998 season and future seasons. [1997 c 422 § 3.]

**Findings—1997 c 422:** See note following RCW 77.12.790.

**77.12.810 Small game hunting license—Disposition of fee.** As provided in RCW 77.32.440, a portion of each small game hunting license fee shall be deposited in the eastern Washington pheasant enhancement account created in RCW 77.12.820. [1998 c 191 § 30; 1997 c 422 § 4.]

**Findings—1997 c 422:** See note following RCW 77.12.790.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.12.820 Eastern Washington pheasant enhancement account—Created—Use of moneys—Report to the legislature.** The eastern Washington pheasant enhancement account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts under RCW 77.12.810 must be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account are subject to legislative appropriation and shall be used for the purpose of funding the eastern Washington pheasant enhancement program. The department may use moneys from the account to improve pheasant habitat or to purchase or produce pheasants. The department must continue to release rooster pheasants in eastern Washington. The eastern Washington pheasant enhancement account funds must not be used for the purchase of land. The account may be used to offer grants to improve pheasant habitat on public or private lands that are

open to public hunting. The department may enter partnerships with private landowners, nonprofit corporations, cooperative groups, and federal or state agencies for the purposes of pheasant habitat enhancement in areas that will be available for public hunting. The department shall submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1st regarding the department's eastern Washington pheasant activities. [2009 c 333 § 52; 1997 c 422 § 5.]

**Findings—1997 c 422:** See note following RCW 77.12.790.

**77.12.850 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 77.12.850 through 77.12.860 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Salmon" means all species of the genus *Oncorhynchus*, except those classified as game fish in this title, and includes:

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Chinook salmon
<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Coho salmon
<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>	Chum salmon
<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>	Pink salmon
<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	Sockeye salmon

(2) "Department" means the department of fish and wildlife.

(3) "Stamp" means the stamp created under the Washington salmon stamp program and the Washington junior salmon stamp program, created in RCW 77.12.850 through 77.12.860. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 20; 1999 c 342 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 77.23.025.

**Finding—1999 c 342:** "The legislature finds that salmon recovery in Washington state will involve everyone and will require funds to accomplish recovery measures. Several species of salmon in Washington are, or are expected to be, listed as threatened or endangered under the federal endangered species act. At present, these species include chinook, chum, bull trout and coho. To bring attention to the importance of the recovery of salmon and their place in Washington's heritage, raise funds for salmon recovery projects, and involve citizens of all ages, the Washington salmon stamp and Washington junior salmon stamp programs are created." [1999 c 342 § 1.]

**77.12.852 Washington salmon stamp program—Creation.** (1) The Washington salmon stamp program is created in the department. The purpose of the program is the creation of a stamp that will portray a salmonid species native to Washington and will be used for stamps, prints, and posters that can be sold in a wide range of prices and editions to appeal to citizens and collectors interested in supporting salmon restoration. The proceeds from the sale of the Washington salmon stamp shall be used for protection, preservation, and restoration of salmonid habitat in Washington.

(2) Every year the department will announce competition, open to all Washington artists, for the creation of the year's Washington salmon stamp. The department will market the stamp and prints through a wide distribution method including web sites, license sites, and at public events.

(3) The winning artist will receive a monetary award and a certain number of artist proof prints. [1999 c 342 § 3.]

**Finding—1999 c 342:** See note following RCW 77.12.850.

**77.12.854 Washington junior salmon stamp program—Creation.** (1) The Washington junior salmon stamp

program is created in the department. The purpose of the program is the creation of a stamp that will portray a salmonid species native to Washington and will be used for stamps, prints, and posters that can be sold in a wide range of prices and editions to appeal to citizens and collectors interested in supporting salmon restoration.

(2) Every year the department will announce a competition for the Washington junior salmon stamp program among Washington K-12 students. The top winner will receive a scholarship award. [1999 c 342 § 4.]

**Finding—1999 c 342:** See note following RCW 77.12.850.

**77.12.858 Deposit of receipts—Expenditures.** All receipts from the salmon stamp program created under RCW 77.12.850 through 77.12.860 must be deposited into the regional fisheries enhancement salmonid recovery account created under RCW 77.95.130. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes specified in RCW 77.95.130 and chapter 342, Laws of 1999. The department shall report biennially to the legislature on the amount of money the salmon stamp program has generated. [2000 c 107 § 230; 1999 c 342 § 6.]

**Finding—1999 c 342:** See note following RCW 77.12.850.

**77.12.860 Stamp design—Department's rule-making authority.** The department is granted the authority to establish by rule the method for selecting appropriate designs for the Washington salmon stamp program and Washington junior salmon stamp program. The stamp shall be designed and produced in accordance with department rules. [1999 c 342 § 7.]

**Finding—1999 c 342:** See note following RCW 77.12.850.

**77.12.865 Derelict fishing gear—Guidelines for removal and disposal.** (1) As used in this section and RCW 77.12.870, "derelict fishing gear" includes lost or abandoned fishing nets, fishing lines, and other commercial and recreational fishing equipment. The term does not include lost or abandoned vessels or shellfish pots.

(2) The department, in partnership with the Northwest straits commission, the department of natural resources, and other interested parties, must publish guidelines for the safe removal and disposal of derelict fishing gear. The guidelines may be updated as deemed necessary by the department. The guidelines must be made available to any person interested in derelict fishing gear removal.

(3) Derelict fishing gear removal conducted in accordance with the guidelines prepared in subsection (2) of this section is not subject to permitting under RCW 77.55.021. [2010 c 193 § 7; 2005 c 146 § 1004; 2002 c 20 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Finding—Purpose—2002 c 20:** "The legislature finds that fishing gear that is lost or abandoned may continue to catch marine organisms long after the gear is lost. The purpose of this act is to develop safe, effective methods to remove derelict fishing gear, eliminate regulatory barriers to gear removal, and discourage future losses of fishing gear." [2002 c 20 § 1.]

**77.12.870 Derelict fishing gear and shellfish pots database—Reporting requirements.** (1) The department, in partnership with the Northwest straits commission, the department of natural resources, and other interested parties,

must create and ensure the maintenance of a database of known derelict fishing gear and shellfish pots, including the type of gear and its location.

(2) A person who loses or abandons commercial net fishing gear within the waters of the state is required to report the location of the loss and the type of gear lost to the department within twenty-four hours of the loss.

(3) A person who loses or abandons shellfish pots within the waters of the state is encouraged to report the location of the loss and the type of gear lost to the department. [2012 c 190 § 2; 2010 c 193 § 8; 2009 c 333 § 21; 2002 c 20 § 3.]

**Findings—2012 c 190:** "(1) The legislature finds that derelict fishing gear poses a serious threat to human life, the health of the state's marine and freshwater ecosystems, and numerous species of birds, fish, marine mammals, and shellfish. Derelict fishing gear entraps and kills for decades and threatens endangered species, including federal endangered species act-listed salmon, steelhead, Puget Sound rockfish, green sturgeon, and marbled murrelet. In Puget Sound, estimates from the Northwest straits initiative indicate that derelict commercial fishing nets were killing approximately one thousand two hundred marine mammals, twenty-one thousand birds, and sixty-seven thousand fish per year.

(2) The legislature further finds that while significant progress has been made to remove historic accumulations of lost and abandoned commercial fishing nets in Puget Sound, reforms are needed to stem the ongoing accumulation of commercial fishing nets and commercial and recreational shellfish pots in both marine and freshwater environments. While the Northwest straits initiative received a one-time federal grant of over four million five hundred thousand dollars to remove high priority derelict fishing nets from Puget Sound, no long-term source of funding is currently available for the continued removal of derelict fishing nets or the removal of an estimated twelve thousand derelict shellfish pots. Insufficient funding and information is available to confirm and quantify the likely presence of derelict fishing gear in other state waters. These and other factors increase the need for a mandatory reporting system to quantify ongoing accumulations of lost or abandoned commercial fishing nets and recreational or commercial shellfish pots.

(3) The legislature further finds that the department of fish and wildlife is working cooperatively with the department of natural resources and the Northwest straits initiative to maintain a statewide database of derelict fishing gear. However, despite recent known instances of commercial fishing net losses, only two reports of lost commercial fishing nets have been made by fishers to the department of fish and wildlife database under the current voluntary reporting system since its inception in 2003.

(4) The legislature further finds that instituting a mandatory reporting requirement for persons who lose or abandon commercial fishing nets will help prevent continued accumulations, lead to prompt removal, and better allow state and federal authorities to estimate the impacts. The department of fish and wildlife is also encouraged to provide recreational and commercial shellfish pot users with the opportunity to report lost shellfish pots through existing catch reporting mechanisms. The department of fish and wildlife should rely upon existing authorities to formulate any rules necessary to ensure compliance with mandatory reporting requirements for derelict commercial fishing nets and encourage maximum participation in reporting lost shellfish pots." [2012 c 190 § 1.]

**Finding—Purpose—2002 c 20:** See note following RCW 77.12.865.

**77.12.875 Prohibited aquatic animal species—Infested state waters.** (1) The commission may designate by rule state waters as infested if the director determines that these waters contain a prohibited aquatic animal species.

(2) The commission, in consultation with the department of ecology, may designate state waters as infested if it is determined that these waters contain an invasive aquatic plant species.

(3) The department shall work with the aquatic nuisance species committee and its member agencies to create educational materials informing the public of state waters that are infested with invasive species, and advise them of applicable

(2012 Ed.)

rules and practices designed to reduce the spread of the invasive species infesting the waters. [2002 c 281 § 5.]

**Purpose—2002 c 281:** See note following RCW 77.08.010.

**77.12.878 Infested waters—Rapid response plan.** (1) The director shall create a rapid response plan in cooperation with the aquatic nuisance species committee and its member agencies that describes actions to be taken when a prohibited aquatic animal species is found to be infesting a water body. These actions include eradication or control programs where feasible and containment of infestation where practical through notification, public education, and the enforcement of regulatory programs.

(2) The commission may adopt rules to implement the rapid response plan.

(3) The director, the department of ecology, and the Washington state parks and recreation commission may post signs at water bodies that are infested with aquatic animal species that are classified as prohibited aquatic animal species under RCW 77.12.020 or with invasive species of the plant kingdom. The signs should identify the prohibited plant and animal species present and warn users of the water body of the hazards and penalties for possessing and transporting these species. Educational signs may be placed at uninfested sites. [2002 c 281 § 6.]

**Purpose—2002 c 281:** See note following RCW 77.08.010.

**77.12.879 Aquatic invasive species prevention account—Aquatic invasive species prevention program for recreational and commercial watercraft—Enforcement program—Check stations—Training—Report to the legislature.** (1) The aquatic invasive species prevention account is created in the state treasury. Moneys directed to the account from RCW 88.02.640(3)(a)(i) must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may only be used as provided in this section. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.

(2) Funds in the aquatic invasive species prevention account may be appropriated to the department to develop an aquatic invasive species prevention program for recreational and commercial watercraft. Funds must be expended as follows:

- (a) To inspect recreational and commercial watercraft;
- (b) To educate general law enforcement officers on how to enforce state laws relating to preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species;
- (c) To evaluate and survey the risk posed by recreational and commercial watercraft in spreading aquatic invasive species into Washington state waters;
- (d) To evaluate the risk posed by float planes in spreading aquatic invasive species into Washington state waters; and

(e) To implement an aquatic invasive species early detection and rapid response plan. The plan must address the treatment and immediate response to the introduction to Washington waters of aquatic invasive species. Agency and public review of the plan must be conducted under chapter 43.21C RCW, the state environmental policy act. If the implementation measures or actions would have a probable significant adverse environmental impact, a detailed state-

ment under chapter 43.21C RCW must be prepared on the plan.

(3) Funds in the aquatic invasive species enforcement account created in RCW 43.43.400 may be appropriated to the department and Washington state patrol to develop an aquatic invasive species enforcement program for recreational and commercial watercraft. The department shall provide training to Washington state patrol employees working at port of entry weigh stations, and other local law enforcement employees, on how to inspect recreational and commercial watercraft for the presence of aquatic invasive species. A person who enters Washington by road transporting any commercial or recreational watercraft that has been used in any designated aquatic invasive species state or foreign country as defined by rule of the department must have in his or her possession valid documentation that the watercraft has been inspected and found free of aquatic invasive species. The department is authorized to require persons transporting recreational and commercial watercraft to stop at check stations. Check stations must be plainly marked by signs, operated by at least one uniformed fish and wildlife officer, and operated in a safe manner. Any person stopped at a check station who possesses a recreational or commercial watercraft that has been used in any designated aquatic invasive species state or foreign country as defined by rule of the department, or that is contaminated with aquatic invasive species, must bear the expense for any necessary impoundment, transportation, cleaning, and decontamination of the watercraft. Any person stopped at a check station who possesses a recreational or commercial watercraft that has been used in any designated aquatic invasive species state or foreign country as defined by rule of the department, or that is contaminated with aquatic invasive species, is exempt from the criminal penalties found in RCW 77.15.253 and 77.15.290, and forfeiture under RCW 77.15.070, if that person complies with all department directives for the proper decontamination of the watercraft and equipment.

(4) The department shall submit a biennial report to the appropriate legislative committees describing the actions taken to implement this section along with suggestions on how to better fulfill the intent of chapter 464, Laws of 2005. [2011 c 171 § 113; 2011 c 169 § 4; 2009 c 333 § 22; 2007 c 350 § 3; 2005 c 464 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 c 169 § 4 and by 2011 c 171 § 113, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Findings—Intent—2005 c 464:** See note following RCW 88.02.560.

**77.12.880 Wildlife program management.** The department shall manage wildlife programs in a manner that provides for public opportunities to view wildlife and supports nature-based and wildlife viewing tourism without impairing the state's wildlife resources. [2003 c 153 § 3.]

**Findings—2003 c 153:** See note following RCW 43.330.090.

**77.12.882 Aquatic invasive species—Inspection of recreational and commercial watercraft—Rules—Signage.** (1) The department shall adopt rules governing how

and when the owners of recreational and commercial watercraft may request an inspection of the watercraft for the presence of aquatic invasive species. The department may coordinate with other states on inspection requirements and may determine when other state inspections meet Washington standards.

(2) The department shall develop and post signs warning vessel owners of the threat of aquatic invasive species, the penalties associated with introduction of an aquatic invasive species, and the contact information for obtaining a free inspection. The signs should provide enough information for the public to discern whether the vessel has been operated in an area that would warrant the need for an inspection. The department shall consult with the state patrol and the department of transportation regarding proper placement and authorization for sign posting.

(3) All port districts, privately or publicly owned marinas, state parks, and all state agencies or political subdivisions that own or lease a boat launch must display a sign provided by the department as described under subsection (2) of this section. Signs must be posted in a location near the boat launch to provide maximum visibility to the public.

(4) The department must coordinate with the Washington state parks and recreation commission to include such information in all boating publications provided to the public. The department shall also include the information on the department's internet site. [2007 c 350 § 4.]

**77.12.885 Reported predatory wildlife interactions—Web site posting.** The department shall post on its internet web site all reported predatory wildlife interactions, including reported human safety confrontations or sightings as well as the known details of reported depredations by predatory wildlife on humans, pets, or livestock, within ten days of receiving the report. The posted material must include, but is not limited to, the location and time, the known details, and a running summary of such reported interactions by identified specie and interaction type within each affected county. For the purposes of this section and RCW 42.56.430, "predatory wildlife" means grizzly bears, wolves, and cougars. [2007 c 293 § 2.]

**77.12.887 Washington conservation corps.** The department shall cooperate, when appropriate, as a partner in the Washington conservation corps established in chapter 43.220 RCW. [2011 c 20 § 15.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 20:** See note following RCW 43.220.020.

**Intent—Application—2011 c 20:** See RCW 43.220.905.

## Chapter 77.15 RCW

### FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT CODE

#### Sections

77.15.005	Finding—Intent.
77.15.010	Exemption for department actions.
77.15.020	Authority to define violation of rule as infraction—Agreement to enforce certain civil infractions.
77.15.030	Individual animal unlawfully taken—Separate offense.
77.15.040	Jurisdiction.
77.15.050	"Conviction" defined.
77.15.060	Reference to chapters 7.84 and 9A.20 RCW.
77.15.065	Authority of attorney general if prosecuting attorney defaults.
77.15.070	Civil forfeiture of property used for violation of chapter.

- 77.15.075 Enforcement authority of fish and wildlife officers—Volunteer chaplain.
- 77.15.080 Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers—Inspection authority.
- 77.15.085 Seizure without warrant.
- 77.15.090 Search, arrest warrant—Issuance—Execution.
- 77.15.092 Arrest without warrant.
- 77.15.094 Search without warrant—Seizure of evidence, property—Limitation.
- 77.15.096 Inspection without warrant—Commercial fish and wildlife entities—Limitations.
- 77.15.098 Willful misconduct/gross negligence—Civil liability.
- 77.15.100 Seized fish, shellfish, and wildlife—Forfeiture—Sale—Disposition of sale.
- 77.15.110 Acting for commercial purposes—When—Proof.
- 77.15.120 Endangered fish or wildlife—Unlawful taking—Penalty.
- 77.15.130 Protected fish or wildlife—Unlawful taking—Penalty—Criminal wildlife penalty assessment.
- 77.15.150 Poison or explosives—Unlawful use—Penalty.
- 77.15.160 Infractions.
- 77.15.170 Waste of fish and wildlife—Penalty.
- 77.15.180 Unlawful interference with fishing or hunting gear—Penalty.
- 77.15.190 Unlawful trapping—Penalty.
- 77.15.191 Revocation of trapper's license—Placement of unauthorized traps.
- 77.15.192 Definitions.
- 77.15.194 Unlawful traps—Penalty.
- 77.15.196 Unlawful poison—Penalty.
- 77.15.198 Violation of RCW 77.15.194 or 77.15.196—Penalty.
- 77.15.210 Obstructing the taking of fish, shellfish, or wildlife—Penalty.
- 77.15.212 Damages due to violation of RCW 77.15.210—Civil action.
- 77.15.230 Department lands or facilities—Unlawful use—Penalty.
- 77.15.240 Unlawful use of dogs—Public nuisance—Penalty.
- 77.15.245 Unlawful practices—Black bear baiting—Exceptions—Illegal hunting—Use of dogs—Exceptions—Penalties.
- 77.15.250 Unlawful release of fish, shellfish, or wildlife—Penalty—Unlawful release of deleterious exotic wildlife—Penalty.
- 77.15.253 Unlawful use of prohibited aquatic animal species—Penalty.
- 77.15.260 Unlawful trafficking in fish, shellfish, or wildlife—Penalty.
- 77.15.270 Providing false information—Penalty.
- 77.15.280 Reporting of fish or wildlife harvest—Rules violation—Penalty.
- 77.15.290 Unlawful transportation of fish or wildlife—Penalty.
- 77.15.293 Unlawfully avoiding aquatic invasive species check stations—Penalty.
- 77.15.300 Unlawful hydraulic project activities—Penalty.
- 77.15.310 Unlawful failure to use or maintain approved fish guard on water diversion device—Penalty.
- 77.15.320 Unlawful failure to provide, maintain, or operate fishway for dam or other obstruction—Penalty.
- 77.15.340 Unlawful operation of a game farm—Penalty.
- 77.15.350 Inspection and disease control of aquatic farms—Rules violation—Penalty.
- 77.15.360 Unlawful interfering in department operations—Penalty.
- 77.15.370 Unlawful recreational fishing in the first degree—Penalty.
- 77.15.380 Unlawful recreational fishing in the second degree—Penalty.
- 77.15.382 Unlawful use of shellfish gear for personal use purposes—Penalty.
- 77.15.390 Seaweed—Unlawful taking—Penalty.
- 77.15.400 Unlawful hunting of wild birds—Violation of a rule requiring nontoxic shot—Penalty.
- 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.
- 77.15.420 Illegally taken or possessed wildlife—Criminal wildlife penalty assessed.
- 77.15.425 Fish and wildlife enforcement reward account.
- 77.15.430 Unlawful hunting of wild animals—Penalty.
- 77.15.435 Unlawful hunting on or retrieving hunted wildlife from the property of another—Defense—Penalty—Forfeiture and disposition of wildlife.
- 77.15.440 Weapons, traps, or dogs on game reserves—Unlawful use—Penalty.
- 77.15.450 Spotlighting big game—Penalty.
- 77.15.460 Loaded rifle or shotgun in vehicle—Unlawful use or possession—Unlawful use of a loaded firearm—Penalty.
- 77.15.470 Wildlife check stations or field inspections—Unlawful avoidance—Penalty.
- 77.15.480 Certain devices declared public nuisances.
- 77.15.500 Commercial fishing without a license—Penalty.
- 77.15.510 Acting as a game fish guide, food fish guide, or chartering without a license—Penalty.
- 77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.
- 77.15.522 Unlawful use of shellfish gear for commercial purposes—Penalty.
- 77.15.530 Unlawful use of a nondesignated vessel—Penalty.
- 77.15.540 Unlawful use of a commercial fishery license—Penalty.
- 77.15.550 Violation of commercial fishing area or time—Penalty.
- 77.15.552 Qualifying commercial fishing violations.
- 77.15.554 License suspension review committee.
- 77.15.560 Commercial fish, shellfish harvest or delivery—Failure to report—Penalty.
- 77.15.565 Wholesale fish dealers—Accounting of commercial harvest—Penalties.
- 77.15.568 Secondary commercial fish receiver's failure to account for commercial harvest—Penalty.
- 77.15.570 Participation of non-Indians in Indian fishery forbidden—Exceptions, definitions, penalty.
- 77.15.580 Unlawful use of net to take fish—Penalty.
- 77.15.590 Commercial fishing vessel—Unlawful use for recreational or charter fishing—Penalty.
- 77.15.600 Engaging in commercial wildlife activity without a license—Penalty.
- 77.15.610 Unlawful use of a commercial wildlife license—Penalty.
- 77.15.620 Engaging in fish dealing activity—Unlicensed—Penalty.
- 77.15.630 Unlawful fish and shellfish catch accounting—Penalty.
- 77.15.640 Unlawful wholesale fish buying and dealing—Penalty.
- 77.15.650 Unlawful purchase or use of a license—Penalty.
- 77.15.660 Unlawful use of scientific permit—Penalty.
- 77.15.670 Suspension of department privileges—Violation—Penalty.
- 77.15.675 Hunting while intoxicated—Penalty.
- 77.15.680 Department authority to suspend privileges—Form and procedure.
- 77.15.690 Department authority to revoke licenses.
- 77.15.700 Grounds for department revocation and suspension of recreational license—Appeal.
- 77.15.710 Conviction for assault—Revocation of licenses and suspension of privileges.
- 77.15.720 Discharge of firearm, bow, or crossbow while hunting—In a manner that injures a person or that kills or causes substantial bodily harm to livestock—Suspension of hunting privileges—Appeal.
- 77.15.730 Wildlife violator compact citations and convictions.
- 77.15.732 Citations from wildlife violator compact party state—Failure to comply.
- 77.15.740 Protection of southern resident orca whales—Penalty.
- 77.15.750 Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.
- 77.15.760 Suspension of a master hunter permit—Appeal hearing.
- 77.15.770 Unlawful trade in shark fins—Penalty.
- 77.15.780 Disposition of judicially forfeited seized property.
- 77.15.790 Negligently feeding, attempting to feed, or attracting large wild carnivores to land or a building—Infraction.
- 77.15.792 Intentionally feeding or attempting to feed large wild carnivores or intentionally attracting large wild carnivores to land or a building—Penalty.
- 77.15.900 Short title.
- 77.15.901 Captions not law.
- 77.15.902 Savings—1998 c 190.

**77.15.005 Finding—Intent.** The legislature finds that merger of the departments of fisheries and wildlife resulted in two criminal codes applicable to fish and wildlife, and that it has become increasingly difficult to administer and enforce the two criminal codes. Furthermore, laws defining crimes involving fish and wildlife have evolved over many years of changing uses and management objectives for fish and wildlife. The resulting two codes make it difficult for citizens to comply with the law and unnecessarily complicate enforcement of laws against violators.

The legislature intends by chapter 190, Laws of 1998 to revise and recodify the criminal laws governing fish and wildlife, ensuring that all people involved with fish and wildlife are able to know and understand the requirements of the laws and the risks of violation. Additionally, the legislature intends to create a more uniform approach to criminal laws governing fish and wildlife and to the laws authorizing prosecution, sentencing, and punishments, including repealing crimes that are redundant to other provisions of the criminal code.

Chapter 190, Laws of 1998 is not intended to alter existing powers of the commission or the director to adopt rules or

exercise powers over fish and wildlife. In some places reference is made to violation of department rules, but this is intended to conform with current powers of the commission, director, or both, to adopt rules governing fish and wildlife activities. [1998 c 190 § 1.]

**77.15.010 Exemption for department actions.** A person is not guilty of a crime under this chapter if the person is an officer, employee, or agent of the department lawfully acting in the course of his or her authorized duties. [1998 c 190 § 2.]

**77.15.020 Authority to define violation of rule as infraction—Agreement to enforce certain civil infractions.** (1) If the commission or director has authority to adopt a rule that is punishable as a crime under this chapter, then the commission or director may provide that violation of the rule shall be punished with notice of infraction under RCW 7.84.030. Neither the commission nor the director have the authority to adopt a rule providing that a violation punishable as an infraction shall be a crime.

(2) The director may, under the provisions of RCW 7.84.140, enter into an agreement allowing employees of the state parks and recreation commission and the department of natural resources to enforce certain civil infractions created under this title. [2011 c 320 § 17; 2005 c 321 § 2; 1998 c 190 § 3.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**77.15.030 Individual animal unlawfully taken—Separate offense.** Except as provided in RCW 77.15.260(2)(b), where it is unlawful to hunt, take, fish, possess, or traffic in big game or protected or endangered fish or wildlife, then each individual animal unlawfully taken or possessed is a separate offense. [2012 c 176 § 6; 1999 c 258 § 1; 1998 c 190 § 4.]

**77.15.040 Jurisdiction.** District courts have jurisdiction concurrent with superior courts for misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors committed in violation of this chapter and may impose the punishment provided for these offenses. Superior courts have jurisdiction over felonies committed in violation of this chapter. Venue for offenses occurring in offshore waters shall be in a county bordering on the Pacific Ocean, or the county where fish or wildlife from the offense are landed. [1998 c 190 § 5.]

**77.15.050 "Conviction" defined.** (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this chapter, "conviction" means a final conviction in a state or municipal court.

(2) A plea of guilty or a finding of guilt for a violation of this title or department rule constitutes a conviction regardless of whether the imposition of sentence is deferred or the penalty is suspended. [2012 c 176 § 7; 2009 c 333 § 1; 1998 c 190 § 6.]

**77.15.060 Reference to chapters 7.84 and 9A.20 RCW.** Crimes defined by this chapter shall be punished as infractions, misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, or felonies,

based on the classification of crimes set out in chapters 7.84 and 9A.20 RCW. [1998 c 190 § 7.]

**77.15.065 Authority of attorney general if prosecuting attorney defaults.** If the prosecuting attorney of the county in which a violation of this title or rule of the department occurs fails to file an information against the alleged violator, the attorney general upon request of the commission may file an information in the superior court of the county and prosecute the case in place of the prosecuting attorney. The commission may request prosecution by the attorney general if thirty days have passed since the commission informed the county prosecuting attorney of the alleged violation. [1996 c 267 § 9; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 41; 1949 c 112 § 24; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-222. Formerly RCW 75.10.100, 75.08.275, 43.25.070.]

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

**77.15.070 Civil forfeiture of property used for violation of chapter.** (1) Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers may seize without warrant boats, airplanes, vehicles, motorized implements, conveyances, gear, appliances, or other articles they have probable cause to believe have been held with intent to violate or used in violation of this title or rule of the commission or director. However, fish and wildlife officers or ex officio fish and wildlife officers may not seize any item or article, other than for evidence, if under the circumstances, it is reasonable to conclude that the violation was inadvertent. The property seized is subject to forfeiture to the state under this section regardless of ownership. Property seized may be recovered by its owner by depositing with the department or into court a cash bond or equivalent security equal to the value of the seized property but not more than one hundred thousand dollars. Such cash bond or security is subject to forfeiture in lieu of the property. Forfeiture of property seized under this section is a civil forfeiture against property and is intended to be a remedial civil sanction.

(2) In the event of a seizure of property under this section, jurisdiction to begin the forfeiture proceedings shall commence upon seizure. Within fifteen days following the seizure, the seizing authority shall serve a written notice of intent to forfeit property on the owner of the property seized and on any person having any known right or interest in the property seized. Notice may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule, including service by certified mail with return receipt requested. Service by mail is deemed complete upon mailing within the fifteen-day period following the seizure.

(3) Persons claiming a right of ownership or right to possession of property are entitled to a hearing to contest forfeiture. Such a claim shall specify the claim of ownership or possession and shall be made in writing and served on the director within forty-five days of the seizure. If the seizing authority has complied with notice requirements and there is no claim made within forty-five days, then the property shall be forfeited to the state.

(4) If any person timely serves the director with a claim to property, the person shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to the person's claim or right. The hearing shall be

before the director or director's designee, or before an administrative law judge appointed under chapter 34.12 RCW, except that a person asserting a claim or right may remove the matter to a court of competent jurisdiction if the aggregate value of the property seized is more than five thousand dollars. The department may settle a person's claim of ownership prior to the administrative hearing.

(5) The hearing to contest forfeiture and any subsequent appeal shall be as provided for in chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act. The seizing authority has the burden to demonstrate that it had reason to believe the property was held with intent to violate or was used in violation of this title or rule of the commission or director. The person contesting forfeiture has the burden of production and proof by a preponderance of evidence that the person owns or has a right to possess the property and:

(a) That the property was not held with intent to violate or used in violation of this title; or

(b) If the property is a boat, airplane, or vehicle, that the illegal use or planned illegal use of the boat, airplane, or vehicle occurred without the owner's knowledge or consent, and that the owner acted reasonably to prevent illegal uses of such boat, airplane, or vehicle.

(6) A forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a perfected security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission. No security interest in seized property may be perfected after seizure.

(7) If seized property is forfeited under this section the department may retain it for official use unless the property is required to be destroyed, or upon application by any law enforcement agency of the state, release such property to the agency for the use of enforcing this title, or sell such property, and deposit the proceeds to the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account created in RCW 77.15.425. [2005 c 406 § 2; 2000 c 107 § 231; 1998 c 190 § 69.]

**77.15.075 Enforcement authority of fish and wildlife officers—Volunteer chaplain.** (1) Fish and wildlife officers shall have and exercise, throughout the state, such police powers and duties as are vested in sheriffs and peace officers generally. Fish and wildlife officers are general authority Washington peace officers.

(2) An applicant for a fish and wildlife officer position must be a citizen of the United States of America who can read and write the English language. Before a person may be appointed to act as a fish and wildlife officer, the person shall meet the minimum standards for employment with the department, including successful completion of a psychological examination and polygraph examination or similar assessment procedure administered in accordance with the requirements of RCW 43.101.095(2).

(3) Any liability or claim of liability under chapter 4.92 RCW that arises out of the exercise or alleged exercise of authority by a fish and wildlife officer rests with the department unless the fish and wildlife officer acts under the direction and control of another agency or unless the liability is otherwise assumed under an agreement between the department and another agency.

(4) The department may utilize the services of a volunteer chaplain as provided under chapter 41.22 RCW. [2012 c

(2012 Ed.)

176 § 8; 2009 c 204 § 1; 2003 c 388 § 3; 2002 c 128 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 212; 1998 c 190 § 112; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 67; 1988 c 36 § 50; 1987 c 506 § 16; 1985 c 155 § 2; 1980 c 78 § 17. Formerly RCW 77.12.055.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.15.080 Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers—Inspection authority.** (1) Based upon articulable facts that a person is engaged in fishing, harvesting, or hunting activities, fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers have the authority to temporarily stop the person and check for valid licenses, tags, permits, stamps, or catch record cards, and to inspect all fish, shellfish, seaweed, and wildlife in possession as well as the equipment being used to ensure compliance with the requirements of this title. Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers also may request that the person write his or her signature for comparison with the signature on his or her fishing, harvesting, or hunting license. Failure to comply with the request is prima facie evidence that the person is not the person named on the license. Fish and wildlife officers may require the person, if age sixteen or older, to exhibit a driver's license or other photo identification.

(2) Based upon articulable facts that a person is transporting a prohibited aquatic animal species or any aquatic plant, fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers have the authority to temporarily stop the person and inspect the watercraft to ensure that the watercraft and associated equipment are not transporting prohibited aquatic animal species or aquatic plants. [2012 c 176 § 9; 2002 c 281 § 8. Prior: 2001 c 306 § 1; 2001 c 253 § 23; 2000 c 107 § 233; 1998 c 190 § 113.]

**Purpose—2002 c 281:** See note following RCW 77.08.010.

**77.15.085 Seizure without warrant.** Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers may seize without a warrant wildlife, fish, and shellfish they have probable cause to believe have been taken, transported, or possessed in violation of this title or rule of the commission or director. [2000 c 107 § 232.]

**77.15.090 Search, arrest warrant—Issuance—Execution.** On a showing of probable cause that there has been a violation of any fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife law of the state of Washington, or upon a showing of probable cause to believe that evidence of such violation may be found at a place, a court shall issue a search warrant or arrest warrant. Fish and wildlife officers may execute any such arrest or search warrant reasonably necessary to their duties under this title and may seize fish, seaweed, shellfish, and wildlife or any evidence of a crime and the fruits or instrumentalities of a crime as provided by warrant. The court may have a building, enclosure, vehicle, vessel, container, or receptacle opened or entered and the contents examined. [2001 c 253 § 24; 2000 c 107 § 234; 1998 c 190 § 117; 1980 c 78 § 26; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.120. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-32. Formerly RCW 77.12.120.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.15.092 Arrest without warrant.** Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers may arrest without warrant persons found violating the law or rules adopted pursuant to this title. [2000 c 107 § 213; 1998 c 190 § 114; 1987 c 506 § 19; 1980 c 78 § 20; 1971 ex.s. c 173 § 2; 1961 c 68 § 3; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.080. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-28. Formerly RCW 77.12.080.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.15.094 Search without warrant—Seizure of evidence, property—Limitation.** Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers may make a reasonable search without warrant of a vessel, conveyances, vehicles, containers, packages, or other receptacles for fish, seaweed, shellfish, and wildlife which they have reason to believe contain evidence of a violation of law or rules adopted pursuant to this title and seize evidence as needed for law enforcement. This authority does not extend to quarters in a boat, building, or other property used exclusively as a private domicile, does not extend to transitory residences in which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, and does not allow search and seizure without a warrant if the thing or place is protected from search without warrant within the meaning of Article I, section 7 of the state Constitution. Seizure of property as evidence of a crime does not preclude seizure of the property for forfeiture as authorized by law. [2001 c 253 § 25; 2000 c 107 § 214; 1998 c 190 § 115; 1987 c 506 § 20; 1980 c 78 § 21; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.090. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-29. Formerly RCW 77.12.090.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.15.096 Inspection without warrant—Commercial fish and wildlife entities—Limitations.** Fish and wildlife officers may inspect without warrant at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner the premises, containers, fishing equipment, fish, seaweed, shellfish, and wildlife, and records required by the department of any commercial fisher or wholesale dealer or fish buyer. Fish and wildlife officers may similarly inspect without warrant the premises, containers, fishing equipment, fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and records required by the department of any shipping agent or other person placing or attempting to place fish, shellfish, or wildlife into interstate commerce, any cold storage plant that the department has probable cause to believe contains fish, shellfish, or wildlife, or of any taxidermist or fur buyer. Fish and wildlife officers may inspect without warrant the records required by the department of any retail outlet selling fish, shellfish, or wildlife, and, if the officers have probable cause to believe a violation of this title or rules of the commission has occurred, they may inspect without warrant the premises, containers, and fish, shellfish, and wildlife of any retail outlet selling fish, shellfish, or wildlife. Authority granted under

this section does not extend to quarters in a boat, building, or other property used exclusively as a private domicile, does not extend to transitory residences in which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, and does not allow search and seizure without a warrant if the thing or place is protected from search without warrant within the meaning of Article I, section 7 of the state Constitution. [2002 c 128 § 5; 2001 c 253 § 26; 1998 c 190 § 116; 1982 c 152 § 1; 1980 c 78 § 22. Formerly RCW 77.12.095.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.15.098 Willful misconduct/gross negligence—Civil liability.** (1) An authorized state, county, or municipal officer may be subject to civil liability under RCW 77.15.070 for willful misconduct or gross negligence in the performance of his or her duties.

(2) The director, the fish and wildlife commission, or the department may be subject to civil liability for their willful or reckless misconduct in matters involving the seizure and forfeiture of personal property involved with fish or wildlife offenses. [2000 c 107 § 215; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 68; 1989 c 314 § 3. Formerly RCW 77.12.103.]

**Finding—1989 c 314:** "In order to improve the enforcement of wildlife laws it is important to increase the penalties upon poachers by seizing the conveyances and gear that are used in poaching activities and to cause forfeiture of those items to the department." [1989 c 314 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.15.100 Seized fish, shellfish, and wildlife—Forfeiture—Sale—Disposition of sale.** (1) Fish, shellfish, and wildlife are property of the state under RCW 77.04.012. Fish and wildlife officers may sell seized, commercially harvested fish and shellfish to a wholesale buyer and deposit the proceeds into the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account under RCW 77.15.425. Seized, recreationally harvested fish, shellfish, and wildlife may be donated to nonprofit charitable organizations. The charitable organization must qualify for tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in this title, fish, shellfish, or wildlife taken, possessed, or harvested in violation of this title or department rule shall be forfeited to the state upon conviction or any outcome in criminal court whereby a person voluntarily enters into a disposition that continues or defers the case for dismissal upon the successful completion of specific terms or conditions. For criminal cases resulting in other types of dispositions, the fish, shellfish, or wildlife may be returned, or its equivalent value paid, if the fish, shellfish, or wildlife have already been donated or sold. [2012 c 176 § 10; 2009 c 333 § 39; 2000 c 107 § 235; 1998 c 190 § 63.]

**77.15.110 Acting for commercial purposes—When—Proof.** (1) For purposes of this chapter, a person acts for commercial purposes if the person engages in conduct that relates to commerce in fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife or any parts thereof. Commercial conduct may include taking, delivering, selling, buying, or trading fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife where there is present or future exchange of money, goods, or any valuable consideration. Evidence that

a person acts for commercial purposes includes, but is not limited to, the following conduct:

- (a) Using gear typical of that used in commercial fisheries;
- (b) Exceeding the bag or possession limits for personal use by taking or possessing more than three times the amount of fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife allowed;
- (c) Delivering or attempting to deliver fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife to a person who sells or resells fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife including any licensed or unlicensed wholesaler;
- (d) Taking fish or shellfish using a vessel designated on a commercial fishery license or using gear not authorized in a personal use fishery;
- (e) Using a commercial fishery license;
- (f) Selling or dealing in raw furs for a fee or in exchange for goods or services;
- (g) Performing taxidermy service on fish, shellfish, or wildlife belonging to another person for a fee or receipt of goods or services; or
- (h) Packs, cuts, processes, or stores the meat of wildlife for consumption, for a fee or in exchange for goods or services.

(2) For purposes of this chapter, the value of any fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife may be proved based on evidence of legal or illegal sales involving the person charged or any other person, of offers to sell or solicitation of offers to sell by the person charged or by any other person, or of any market price for the fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife including market price for farm-raised game animals. The value assigned to specific fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife by RCW 77.15.420 may be presumed to be the value of such fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife. It is not relevant to proof of value that the person charged misrepresented that the fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife was taken in compliance with law if the fish, seaweed, shellfish, or wildlife was unlawfully taken and had no lawful market value. [2012 c 176 § 13; 2002 c 127 § 2; 2001 c 253 § 27; 1998 c 190 § 8.]

**Intent—2002 c 127:** "The legislature intends to clarify that when a crime under chapter 77.15 RCW requires proof that a person acted for commercial purposes, that element refers to engaging in particular conduct that is commercial in nature and the element does not imply that a particular state of mind must exist. This act revises the existing definition of that element to confirm that the element is fulfilled by engaging in commercial conduct and to eliminate any implication that a particular mental state of mind must be shown. Examples are given of the type of conduct that may be considered as evidence that a person acts for a commercial purpose; however, these examples do not create a conclusive presumption that a person acts for a commercial purpose." [2002 c 127 § 1.]

**77.15.120 Endangered fish or wildlife—Unlawful taking—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful taking of endangered fish or wildlife in the second degree if the person hunts, fishes, possesses, maliciously harasses or kills fish or wildlife, or maliciously destroys the nests or eggs of fish or wildlife and the fish or wildlife is designated by the commission as endangered, and the taking has not been authorized by rule of the commission.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful taking of endangered fish or wildlife in the first degree if the person has been:

- (a) Convicted under subsection (1) of this section or convicted of any crime under this title involving the killing, pos-

sessing, harassing, or harming of endangered fish or wildlife; and

(b) Within five years of the date of the prior conviction the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section.

(3)(a) Unlawful taking of endangered fish or wildlife in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor.

(b) Unlawful taking of endangered fish or wildlife in the first degree is a class C felony. The department shall revoke any licenses or tags used in connection with the crime and order the person's privileges to hunt, fish, trap, or obtain licenses under this title to be suspended for two years. [2000 c 107 § 236; 1998 c 190 § 13.]

**77.15.130 Protected fish or wildlife—Unlawful taking—Penalty—Criminal wildlife penalty assessment.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful taking of protected fish or wildlife if:

(a) The person hunts, fishes, possesses, or maliciously kills protected fish or wildlife, or the person possesses or maliciously destroys the eggs or nests of protected fish or wildlife, and the taking has not been authorized by rule of the commission; or

(b) The person violates any rule of the commission regarding the taking, harming, harassment, possession, or transport of protected fish or wildlife.

(2) Unlawful taking of protected fish or wildlife is a misdemeanor.

(3) In addition to the penalties set forth in subsection (2) of this section, if a person is convicted of violating this section and the violation results in the death of protected wildlife listed in this subsection, the court shall require payment of the following amounts for each animal killed or possessed. This is a criminal wildlife penalty assessment that must be paid to the clerk of the court and distributed each month to the state treasurer for deposit in the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account created in RCW 77.15.425:

- (a) Ferruginous hawk, two thousand dollars;
- (b) Common loon, two thousand dollars;
- (c) Bald eagle, two thousand dollars;
- (d) Golden eagle, two thousand dollars; and
- (e) Peregrine falcon, two thousand dollars.

(4) If two or more persons are convicted under subsection (1) of this section, and subsection (3) of this section is applicable, the criminal wildlife penalty assessment must be imposed against the persons jointly and separately.

(5)(a) The criminal wildlife penalty assessment under subsection (3) of this section must be imposed regardless of and in addition to any sentence, fines, or costs otherwise provided for violating any provision of this section. The criminal wildlife penalty assessment must be included by the court in any pronouncement of sentence and may not be suspended, waived, modified, or deferred in any respect.

(b) This subsection may not be construed to abridge or alter alternative rights of action or remedies in equity or under common law or statutory law, criminal or civil.

(6) A defaulted criminal wildlife penalty assessment authorized under subsection (3) of this section may be collected by any means authorized by law for the enforcement of orders of the court or collection of a fine or costs, including

but not limited to vacation of a deferral of sentencing or vacation of a suspension of sentence.

(7) The department shall revoke the hunting license and suspend the hunting privileges of a person assessed a criminal wildlife penalty assessment under this section until the penalty assessment is paid through the registry of the court in which the penalty assessment was assessed.

(8) The criminal wildlife penalty assessments provided in subsection (3) of this section must be doubled in the following instances:

(a) When a person commits a violation that requires payment of a criminal wildlife penalty assessment within five years of a prior gross misdemeanor or felony conviction under this title; or

(b) When the person killed the protected wildlife in question with the intent of bartering, selling, or otherwise deriving economic profit from the wildlife or wildlife parts. [2012 c 176 § 14; 1998 c 190 § 14.]

**77.15.150 Poison or explosives—Unlawful use—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of poison or explosives if:

(a) The person lays out, sets out, or uses a drug, poison, or other deleterious substance that kills, injures, harms, or endangers fish, shellfish, or wildlife, except if the person is using the substance in compliance with federal and state laws and label instructions; or

(b) The person lays out, sets out, or uses an explosive that kills, injures, harms, or endangers fish, shellfish, or wildlife, except if authorized by law or permit of the director.

(2) Unlawful use of poison or explosives is a gross misdemeanor. [2001 c 253 § 28; 1998 c 190 § 16.]

**77.15.160 Infractions.** The following acts are infractions and must be cited and punished as provided under chapter 7.84 RCW:

(1) Fishing and shellfishing infractions:

(a) Barbed hooks: Fishing for personal use with barbed hooks in violation of any department rule.

(b) Catch recording: Failing to immediately record a catch of fish or shellfish on a catch record card as required by RCW 77.32.430 or department rule.

(c) Catch reporting: Failing to return a catch record card to the department for other than Puget Sound Dungeness crab, as required by department rule.

(d) Recreational fishing: Fishing for fish or shellfish and, without yet possessing fish or shellfish, the person:

(i) Owns, but fails to have in the person's possession the license or the catch record card required by chapter 77.32 RCW for such an activity; or

(ii) Violates any department rule regarding seasons, closed areas, closed times, or any other rule addressing the manner or method of fishing for fish or shellfish. This subsection does not apply to use of a net to take fish under RCW 77.15.580 or the unlawful use of shellfish gear for personal use under RCW 77.15.382.

(e) Seaweed: Taking, possessing, or harvesting less than two times the daily possession limit of seaweed:

(i) While owning, but not having in the person's possession, the license required by chapter 77.32 RCW; or

(ii) In violation of any rule of the department or the department of natural resources regarding seasons, closed areas, closed times, or any other rule addressing the manner or method of taking, possessing, or harvesting of seaweed.

(f) Unclassified fish or shellfish: Taking unclassified fish or shellfish in violation of any department rule by killing, fishing, taking, holding, possessing, or maliciously injuring or harming fish or shellfish that is not classified as game fish, food fish, shellfish, protected fish, or endangered fish.

(g) Wasting fish or shellfish: Killing, taking, or possessing fish or shellfish having a value of less than two hundred fifty dollars and allowing the fish or shellfish to be wasted.

(2) Hunting infractions:

(a) Eggs or nests: Maliciously, and without permit authorization, destroying, taking, or harming the eggs or active nests of a wild bird not classified as endangered or protected. For purposes of this subsection, "active nests" means nests that contain eggs or fledglings.

(b) Unclassified wildlife: Taking unclassified wildlife in violation of any department rule by killing, hunting, taking, holding, possessing, or maliciously injuring or harming wildlife that is not classified as big game, game animals, game birds, protected wildlife, or endangered wildlife.

(c) Wasting wildlife: Killing, taking, or possessing wildlife that is not classified as big game and has a value of less than two hundred fifty dollars, and allowing the wildlife to be wasted.

(d) Wild animals: Hunting for wild animals not classified as big game and, without yet possessing the wild animals, the person owns, but fails to have in the person's possession, all licenses, tags, or permits required by this title.

(e) Wild birds: Hunting for and, without yet possessing a wild bird or birds, the person:

(i) Owns, but fails to have in the person's possession, all licenses, tags, stamps, and permits required under this title; or

(ii) Violates any department rule regarding seasons, closed areas, closed times, or any other rule addressing the manner or method of hunting wild birds.

(3) Trapping, taxidermy, fur dealing, and wildlife meat cutting infractions:

(a) Recordkeeping and reporting: If a person is a taxidermist, fur dealer, or wildlife meat cutter who is processing, holding, or storing wildlife for commercial purposes, failing to:

(i) Maintain records as required by department rule; or

(ii) Report information from these records as required by department rule.

(b) Trapper's report: Failing to report trapping activity as required by department rule.

(4) Other infractions:

(a) Contests: Conducting, holding, or sponsoring a hunting contest, a fishing contest involving game fish, or a competitive field trial using live wildlife.

(b) Other rules: Violating any other department rule that is designated by rule as an infraction.

(c) Posting signs: Posting signs preventing hunting or fishing on any land not owned or leased by the person doing the posting, or without the permission of the person who owns, leases, or controls the land posted.

(d) Scientific permits: Using a scientific permit issued by the director for fish, shellfish, or wildlife, but not including big game or big game parts, and the person:

(i) Violates any terms or conditions of the scientific permit; or

(ii) Violates any department rule applicable to the issuance or use of scientific permits.

(e) Transporting aquatic plants: Transporting aquatic plants on any state or public road, including forest roads. However:

(i) This subsection does not apply to plants that are:

(A) Being transported to the department or to another destination designated by the director, in a manner designated by the department, for purposes of identifying a species or reporting the presence of a species;

(B) Legally obtained for aquarium use, wetland or lake-shore restoration, or ornamental purposes;

(C) Located within or on a commercial aquatic plant harvester that is being transported to a suitable location to remove aquatic plants;

(D) Being transported in a manner that prevents their unintentional dispersal, to a suitable location for disposal, research, or educational purposes; or

(E) Being transported in such a way as the commission may otherwise prescribe; and

(ii) This subsection does not apply to a person who:

(A) Is stopped at an aquatic invasive species check station and possesses a recreational or commercial watercraft that is contaminated with an aquatic invasive plant species if that person complies with all department directives for the proper decontamination of the watercraft and equipment; or

(B) Has voluntarily submitted a recreational or commercial watercraft for inspection by the department or its designee and has received a receipt verifying that the watercraft has not been contaminated since its last use. [2012 c 176 § 15; 2000 c 107 § 237; 1998 c 190 § 17.]

**77.15.170 Waste of fish and wildlife—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of waste of fish and wildlife if:

(a) The person kills, takes, or possesses fish, shellfish, or wildlife having a value of two hundred fifty dollars or more or wildlife classified as big game; and

(b) The person recklessly allows such fish, shellfish, or wildlife to be wasted.

(2) Waste of fish and wildlife is a gross misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the department shall revoke any license or tag used in the crime and shall order suspension of the person's privileges to engage in the activity in which the person committed waste of fish and wildlife for a period of one year.

(3) It is prima facie evidence of waste if:

(a) A processor purchases or engages a quantity of food fish, shellfish, or game fish that cannot be processed within sixty hours after the food fish, game fish, or shellfish are taken from the water, unless the food fish, game fish, or shellfish are preserved in good marketable condition; or

(b) A person brings a big game animal to a wildlife meat cutter and then abandons the animal. For purposes of this subsection (3)(b), a big game animal is deemed to be abandoned when its carcass is placed in the custody of a wildlife meat cutter for butchering and processing and:

(i) Having been placed in such custody for an unspecified period of time, the meat is not removed within thirty days after the wildlife meat cutter gives notice to the person who brought in the carcass or, having been so notified, the person who brought in the carcass refuses or fails to pay the agreed upon or reasonable charges for the butchering or processing of the carcass; or

(ii) Having been placed in such custody for a specified period of time, the meat is not removed at the end of the specified period or the person who brought in the carcass refuses to pay the agreed upon or reasonable charges for the butchering or processing of the carcass. [2012 c 176 § 16; 1999 c 258 § 5; 1998 c 190 § 21.]

**77.15.180 Unlawful interference with fishing or hunting gear—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful interference with fishing or hunting gear in the second degree if the person:

(a) Takes or releases a wild animal from another person's trap without permission;

(b) Springs, pulls up, damages, possesses, or destroys another person's trap without the owner's permission; or

(c) Interferes with recreational gear used to take fish or shellfish.

(2) Unlawful interference with fishing or hunting gear in the second degree is a misdemeanor.

(3) A person is guilty of unlawful interference with fishing or hunting gear in the first degree if the person:

(a) Takes or releases fish or shellfish from commercial fishing gear without the owner's permission; or

(b) Intentionally destroys or interferes with commercial fishing gear.

(4) Unlawful interference with fishing or hunting gear in the first degree is a gross misdemeanor.

(5) A person is not in violation of unlawful interference with fishing or hunting gear if the person removes a trap placed on property owned, leased, or rented by the person. [2001 c 253 § 29; 1998 c 190 § 22.]

**77.15.190 Unlawful trapping—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful trapping if the person:

(a) Sets out traps that are capable of taking wild animals, game animals, or furbearing mammals and does not possess all licenses, tags, or permits required under this title;

(b) Violates any department rule regarding seasons, bag or possession limits, closed areas including game reserves, closed times, or any other rule governing the trapping of wild animals, with the exception of reporting rules; or

(c) Fails to identify the owner of the traps or devices by neither (i) attaching a metal tag with the owner's department-assigned identification number or the name and address of the trapper legibly written in numbers or letters not less than one-eighth inch in height nor (ii) inscribing into the metal of the trap such number or name and address.

(2) Unlawful trapping is a misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 17; 1999 c 258 § 9; 1998 c 190 § 34.]

**77.15.191 Revocation of trapper's license—Placement of unauthorized traps.** The director may revoke the trapper's license of a person placing unauthorized traps on

private property and may remove those traps. [2000 c 107 § 268; 1987 c 372 § 4. Formerly RCW 77.65.470, 77.32.199.]

**77.15.192 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 77.15.194 through 77.15.198.

(1) "Animal" means any nonhuman vertebrate.

(2) "Body-gripping trap" means a trap that grips an animal's body or body part. Body-gripping trap includes, but is not limited to, steel-jawed leghold traps, padded-jaw leghold traps, Conibear traps, neck snares, and nonstrangling foot snares. Cage and box traps, suitcase-type live beaver traps, and common rat and mouse traps are not considered body-gripping traps.

(3) "Person" means a human being and, where appropriate, a public or private corporation, an unincorporated association, a partnership, a government, or a governmental instrumentality.

(4) "Raw fur" means a pelt that has not been processed for purposes of retail sale.

(5) "Animal problem" means any animal that threatens or damages timber or private property or threatens or injures livestock or any other domestic animal. [2001 c 1 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 713, approved November 7, 2000).]

**Finding—2001 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 713):** "The people of the state of Washington find that this act is necessary in order to protect people and domestic pets and to protect and conserve wildlife from the dangers of cruel and indiscriminate steel-jawed leghold traps and poisons, and to encourage the use of humane methods of trapping when trapping is necessary to ensure public health and safety, protect livestock or property, safeguard threatened and endangered species, or conduct field research on wildlife." [2001 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 713, approved November 7, 2000).]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.15.194 Unlawful traps—Penalty.** (1) It is unlawful to use or authorize the use of any steel-jawed leghold trap, neck snare, or other body-gripping trap to capture any mammal for recreation or commerce in fur.

(2) It is unlawful to knowingly buy, sell, barter, or otherwise exchange, or offer to buy, sell, barter, or otherwise exchange the raw fur of a mammal or a mammal that has been trapped in this state with a steel-jawed leghold trap or any other body-gripping trap, whether or not pursuant to permit.

(3) It is unlawful to use or authorize the use of any steel-jawed leghold trap or any other body-gripping trap to capture any animal, except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

(4) Nothing in this section prohibits the use of a Conibear trap in water, a padded leghold trap, or a nonstrangling type foot snare with a special permit granted by the director under (a) through (d) of this subsection. Issuance of the special permits shall be governed by rules adopted by the department and in accordance with the requirements of this section. Every person granted a special permit to use a trap or device listed in this subsection shall check the trap or device at least every twenty-four hours.

(a) Nothing in this section prohibits the director, in consultation with the department of social and health services or the United States department of health and human services from granting a permit to use traps listed in this subsection for the purpose of protecting people from threats to their health and safety.

(b) Nothing in this section prohibits the director from granting a special permit to use traps listed in this subsection to a person who applies for such a permit in writing, and who establishes that there exists on a property an animal problem that has not been and cannot be reasonably abated by the use of nonlethal control tools, including but not limited to guard animals, electric fencing, or box and cage traps, or if such nonlethal means cannot be reasonably applied. Upon making a finding in writing that the animal problem has not been and cannot be reasonably abated by nonlethal control tools or if the tools cannot be reasonably applied, the director may authorize the use, setting, placing, or maintenance of the traps for a period not to exceed thirty days.

(c) Nothing in this section prohibits the director from granting a special permit to department employees or agents to use traps listed in this subsection where the use of the traps is the only practical means of protecting threatened or endangered species as designated under RCW 77.08.010.

(d) Nothing in this section prohibits the director from issuing a permit to use traps listed in this subsection, excluding Conibear traps, for the conduct of legitimate wildlife research.

(5) Nothing in this section prohibits the United States fish and wildlife service, its employees or agents, from using a trap listed in subsection (4) of this section where the fish and wildlife service determines, in consultation with the director, that the use of such traps is necessary to protect species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal endangered species act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.).

(6) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 374; 2001 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 713, approved November 7, 2000).]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Finding—Severability—2001 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 713):** See notes following RCW 77.15.192.

**77.15.196 Unlawful poison—Penalty.** (1) It is unlawful to poison or attempt to poison any animal using sodium fluoroacetate, also known as compound 1080, or sodium cyanide.

(2) A person violating this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 375; 2001 c 1 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 713, approved November 7, 2000).]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Finding—Severability—2001 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 713):** See notes following RCW 77.15.192.

**77.15.198 Violation of RCW 77.15.194 or 77.15.196—Penalty.** In addition to appropriate criminal penalties, the director shall revoke the trapping license of any person convicted of a violation of RCW 77.15.194 or 77.15.196. The director shall not issue the violator a trapping license for a period of five years following the revocation. Following a subsequent conviction for a violation of RCW 77.15.194 or 77.15.196 by the same person, the director shall not issue a trapping license to the person at any time. [2003 c 53 § 376; 2001 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 713, approved November 7, 2000).]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Finding—Severability—2001 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 713):** See notes following RCW 77.15.192.

**77.15.210 Obstructing the taking of fish, shellfish, or wildlife—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of obstructing the taking of fish[, shellfish,] or wildlife if the person:

(a) Harasses, drives, or disturbs fish, shellfish, or wildlife with the intent of disrupting lawful pursuit or taking thereof; or

(b) Harasses, intimidates, or interferes with an individual engaged in the lawful taking of fish, shellfish, or wildlife or lawful predator control with the intent of disrupting lawful pursuit or taking thereof.

(2) Obstructing the taking of fish, shellfish, or wildlife is a gross misdemeanor.

(3) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for obstructing the taking of fish, shellfish, or wildlife that the person charged was:

(a) Interfering with a person engaged in hunting outside the legally established hunting season; or

(b) Preventing or attempting to prevent unauthorized trespass on private property.

(4) The person raising a defense under subsection (3) of this section has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence. [2001 c 253 § 30; 1998 c 190 § 24.]

**77.15.212 Damages due to violation of RCW 77.15.210—Civil action.** Any person who is damaged by any act prohibited in RCW 77.15.210 may bring a civil action to enjoin further violations, and recover damages sustained, including a reasonable attorneys' fee. The trial court may increase the award of damages to an amount not to exceed three times the damages sustained. A party seeking civil damages under this section may recover upon proof of a violation by a preponderance of the evidence. The state of Washington may bring a civil action to enjoin violations of this section. [2000 c 107 § 238.]

**77.15.230 Department lands or facilities—Unlawful use—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of department lands or facilities if the person enters upon, uses, or remains upon department-owned or department-controlled lands or facilities in violation of any rule of the department.

(2) Unlawful use of department lands or facilities is a misdemeanor. [1999 c 258 § 6; 1998 c 190 § 26.]

**77.15.240 Unlawful use of dogs—Public nuisance—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of dogs if the person:

(a) Negligently fails to prevent a dog under the person's control from pursuing, harassing, attacking, or killing deer, elk, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, or animals classified as endangered under this title; or

(b) Uses the dog to hunt deer or elk.

(2) For purposes of this section, a dog is "under a person's control" if the dog is owned or possessed by, or in the custody of, a person.

(3) Unlawful use of dogs is a misdemeanor.

(4)(a) Based on a reasonable belief that a dog is pursuing, harassing, attacking, or killing a snow bound deer, elk, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, or animals classified as protected or endangered under this title, fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers may:

(i) Lawfully take a dog into custody; or

(ii) If necessary to avoid repeated harassment, injury, or death of wildlife under this section, destroy the dog.

(b) Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers who destroy a dog pursuant to this section are immune from civil or criminal liability arising from their actions. [2012 c 176 § 18; 1998 c 190 § 30.]

**77.15.245 Unlawful practices—Black bear baiting—Exceptions—Illegal hunting—Use of dogs—Exceptions—Penalties.** (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 77.12.240, \*77.36.020, 77.36.030, or any other provisions of law, it is unlawful to take, hunt, or attract black bear with the aid of bait.

(a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the killing of black bear with the aid of bait by employees or agents of county, state, or federal agencies while acting in their official capacities for the purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals, private property, or the public safety.

(b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the establishment and operation of feeding stations for black bear in order to prevent damage to commercial timberland.

(c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for the use of bait to attract black bear for scientific purposes.

(d) As used in this subsection, "bait" means a substance placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise used for the purpose of attracting black bears to an area where one or more persons hunt or intend to hunt them.

(2) Notwithstanding RCW 77.12.240, \*77.36.020, 77.36.030, or any other provisions of law, it is unlawful to hunt or pursue black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx with the aid of a dog or dogs.

(a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the killing of black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx with the aid of a dog or dogs by employees or agents of county, state, or federal agencies while acting in their official capacities for the purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals, private property, or the public safety. A dog or dogs may be used by the owner or tenant of real property consistent with a permit issued and conditioned by the director.

(b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for the use of a dog or dogs for the pursuit, capture and relocation, of black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx for scientific purposes.

(c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for the use of a dog or dogs for the kill-

ing of black bear, cougar, or bobcat, for the protection of a state and/or federally listed threatened or endangered species.

(3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the commission shall authorize the use of dogs only in selected areas within a game management unit to address a public safety need presented by one or more cougar. This authority may only be exercised after the commission has determined that no other practical alternative to the use of dogs exists, and after the commission has adopted rules describing the conditions in which dogs may be used. Conditions that may warrant the use of dogs within a game management unit include, but are not limited to, confirmed cougar/human safety incidents, confirmed cougar/livestock and cougar/pet depredations, and the number of cougar capture attempts and relocations.

(b) The department shall post on their internet web site the known details of all reported cougar/human, cougar/pet, or cougar/livestock interactions within ten days of receiving the report. The posted material must include, but is not limited to, the location and time of all reported sightings, and the known details of any cougar/livestock incidents.

(4) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. In addition to appropriate criminal penalties, the department shall revoke the hunting license of a person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section and order the suspension of wildlife hunting privileges for a period of five years following the revocation. Following a subsequent violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section by the same person, a hunting license shall not be issued to the person at any time. [2005 c 107 § 1; 2001 c 253 § 31. Prior: 2000 c 248 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 260; 1997 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 655, approved November 5, 1996). Formerly RCW 77.16.360.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 77.36.020 was repealed by 2009 c 333 § 65, effective July 1, 2010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.15.250 Unlawful release of fish, shellfish, or wildlife—Penalty—Unlawful release of deleterious exotic wildlife—Penalty.** (1)(a) A person is guilty of unlawfully releasing, planting, or placing fish, shellfish, or wildlife if the person knowingly releases, plants, or places live fish, shellfish, wildlife, or aquatic plants within the state, and the fish, shellfish, or wildlife have not been classified as deleterious wildlife. This subsection does not apply to a release of game fish into private waters for which a game fish stocking permit has been obtained, or the planting of fish or shellfish by permit of the commission.

(b) A violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor. In addition, the department shall order the person to pay all costs the department incurred in capturing, killing, or controlling the fish, shellfish, aquatic plants, or wildlife released or its progeny. This does not affect the existing authority of the department to bring a separate civil action to recover costs of capturing, killing, controlling the fish, shellfish, aquatic plants, or wildlife released or their progeny, or restoration of habitat necessitated by the unlawful release.

(2)(a) A person is guilty of unlawful release of deleterious exotic wildlife if the person knowingly releases, plants, or places live fish, shellfish, or wildlife within the state and

such fish, shellfish, or wildlife has been classified as deleterious exotic wildlife by rule of the commission.

(b) A violation of this subsection is a class C felony. In addition, the department shall also order the person to pay all costs the department incurred in capturing, killing, or controlling the fish, shellfish, or wildlife released or its progeny. This does not affect the existing authority of the department to bring a separate civil action to recover costs of capturing, killing, controlling the fish, shellfish, or wildlife released or their progeny, or restoration of habitat necessitated by the unlawful release. [2001 c 253 § 32; 1998 c 190 § 31.]

**77.15.253 Unlawful use of prohibited aquatic animal species—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of a prohibited aquatic animal species if he or she possesses, imports, purchases, sells, propagates, transports, or releases a prohibited aquatic animal species within the state, except as provided in this section.

(2) Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a person may:

(a) Transport prohibited aquatic animal species to the department, or to another destination designated by the director, in a manner designated by the director, for purposes of identifying a species or reporting the presence of a species;

(b) Possess a prohibited aquatic animal species if he or she is in the process of removing it from watercraft or equipment in a manner specified by the department;

(c) Release a prohibited aquatic animal species if the species was caught while fishing and it is being immediately returned to the water from which it came; or

(d) Possess, transport, or release a prohibited aquatic animal species as the commission may otherwise prescribe.

(3) Unlawful use of a prohibited aquatic animal species is a gross misdemeanor. A subsequent violation of subsection (1) of this section within five years is a class C felony.

(4) A person is guilty of unlawful release of a regulated aquatic animal species if he or she releases a regulated aquatic animal species into state waters, unless allowed by the commission.

(5) Unlawful release of a regulated aquatic animal species is a gross misdemeanor.

(6) A person is guilty of unlawful release of an unlisted aquatic animal species if he or she releases an unlisted aquatic animal species into state waters without requesting a commission designation under RCW 77.12.020.

(7) Unlawful release of an unlisted aquatic animal species is a gross misdemeanor.

(8) This section does not apply to:

(a) The transportation or release of organisms in ballast water;

(b) A person stopped at an aquatic invasive species check station who possesses a recreational or commercial watercraft that is contaminated with an aquatic invasive species, if that person complies with all department directives for the proper decontamination of the watercraft and equipment; or

(c) A person who has voluntarily submitted a recreational or commercial watercraft for inspection by the department and has received a receipt verifying that the watercraft has not been contaminated since its last use. [2007 c 350 § 5; 2002 c 281 § 4.]

**Purpose—2002 c 281:** See note following RCW 77.08.010.

**77.15.260 Unlawful trafficking in fish, shellfish, or wildlife—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful trafficking in fish, shellfish, or wildlife in the second degree if the person traffics in fish, shellfish, or wildlife with a wholesale value of less than two hundred fifty dollars and:

(a) The fish or wildlife is classified as game, food fish, shellfish, game fish, or protected wildlife and the trafficking is not authorized by statute or department rule; or

(b) The fish, shellfish, or wildlife is unclassified and the trafficking violates any department rule.

(2)(a) A person is guilty of unlawful trafficking in fish, shellfish, or wildlife in the first degree if the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and:

(i) The fish, shellfish, or wildlife has a value of two hundred fifty dollars or more; or

(ii) The fish, shellfish, or wildlife is designated as an endangered species or deleterious exotic wildlife and such trafficking is not authorized by any statute or department rule.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (2), whenever any series of transactions that constitute unlawful trafficking would, when considered separately, constitute unlawful trafficking in the second degree due to the value of the fish, shellfish, or wildlife, and the series of transactions are part of a common scheme or plan, then the transactions may be aggregated in one count and the sum of the value of all the transactions considered when determining the degree of unlawful trafficking involved.

(3)(a) Unlawful trafficking in fish, shellfish, or wildlife in the second degree is a class C felony.

(b) Unlawful trafficking in fish, shellfish, or wildlife in the first degree is a class B felony. [2012 c 176 § 19; 2001 c 253 § 33; 1998 c 190 § 42.]

**77.15.270 Providing false information—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of providing false information regarding fish, shellfish, or wildlife if the person knowingly provides false or misleading information required by any statute or rule to be provided to the department regarding the taking, delivery, possession, transportation, sale, transfer, or any other use of fish, shellfish, or wildlife.

(2) Providing false information regarding fish, shellfish, or wildlife is a gross misdemeanor. [2001 c 253 § 34; 1998 c 190 § 46.]

**77.15.280 Reporting of fish or wildlife harvest—Rules violation—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of violating rules requiring reporting of fish or wildlife harvest if the person:

(a) Fails to make a harvest log report of a commercial fish or shellfish catch in violation of any department rule; or

(b) Fails to submit any portion of a big game animal for an inspection as required by department rule.

(2) Violating rules requiring reporting of fish or wildlife harvest is a misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 20; 2008 c 244 § 2; 2005 c 418 § 2; 1998 c 190 § 47.]

**77.15.290 Unlawful transportation of fish or wildlife—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful transportation of fish or wildlife in the second degree if the person:

(a) Knowingly imports, moves within the state, or exports fish, shellfish, or wildlife in violation of any department rule governing the transportation or movement of fish, shellfish, or wildlife and the transportation does not involve big game, endangered fish or wildlife, deleterious exotic wildlife, or fish, shellfish, or wildlife having a value greater than two hundred fifty dollars; or

(b) Possesses but fails to affix or notch a big game transport tag as required by department rule.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful transportation of fish or wildlife in the first degree if the person:

(a) Knowingly imports, moves within the state, or exports fish, shellfish, or wildlife in violation of any department rule governing the transportation or movement of fish, shellfish, or wildlife and the transportation involves big game, endangered fish or wildlife, deleterious exotic wildlife, or fish, shellfish, or wildlife with a value of two hundred fifty dollars or more; or

(b) Knowingly transports shellfish, shellstock, or equipment used in commercial culturing, taking, handling, or processing shellfish without a permit required by authority of this title.

(3)(a) Unlawful transportation of fish or wildlife in the second degree is a misdemeanor.

(b) Unlawful transportation of fish or wildlife in the first degree is a gross misdemeanor.

(4) This section does not apply to: (a) Any person stopped at an aquatic invasive species check station who possesses a recreational or commercial watercraft that is contaminated with an aquatic invasive species if that person complies with all department directives for the proper decontamination of the watercraft and equipment; or (b) any person who has voluntarily submitted a recreational or commercial watercraft for inspection by the department or its designee and has received a receipt verifying that the watercraft has not been contaminated since its last use. [2012 c 176 § 21; 2007 c 350 § 6; 2002 c 281 § 7; 2001 c 253 § 35; 1998 c 190 § 48.]

**Purpose—2002 c 281:** See note following RCW 77.08.010.

**77.15.293 Unlawfully avoiding aquatic invasive species check stations—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawfully avoiding aquatic invasive species check stations if the person fails to:

(a) Obey check station signs; or

(b) Stop and report at a check station if directed to do so by a uniformed fish and wildlife officer.

(2) Unlawfully avoiding aquatic invasive species check stations is a gross misdemeanor. [2007 c 350 § 7.]

**77.15.300 Unlawful hydraulic project activities—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawfully undertaking hydraulic project activities if the person constructs any form of hydraulic project or performs other work on a hydraulic project and:

(a) Fails to have a hydraulic project approval required under chapter 77.55 RCW for such construction or work; or

(b) Violates any requirements or conditions of the hydraulic project approval for such construction or work.

(2) Unlawfully undertaking hydraulic project activities is a gross misdemeanor. [2000 c 107 § 239; 1998 c 190 § 52.]

**77.15.310 Unlawful failure to use or maintain approved fish guard on water diversion device—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful failure to use or maintain an approved fish guard on a diversion device if the person owns, controls, or operates a device used for diverting or conducting water from a lake, river, or stream and:

(a) The device is not equipped with a fish guard, screen, or bypass approved by the director as required by RCW 77.57.010 or 77.57.070; or

(b) The person knowingly fails to maintain or operate an approved fish guard, screen, or bypass so as to effectively screen or prevent fish from entering the intake.

(2) Unlawful failure to use or maintain an approved fish guard, screen, or bypass on a diversion device is a gross misdemeanor. Following written notification to the person from the department that there is a violation, each day that a diversion device is operated without an approved or maintained fish guard, screen, or bypass is a separate offense. [2009 c 333 § 3; 2003 c 39 § 38; 2000 c 107 § 240; 1998 c 190 § 53.]

**77.15.320 Unlawful failure to provide, maintain, or operate fishway for dam or other obstruction—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful failure to provide, maintain, or operate a fishway for dam or other obstruction if the person owns, operates, or controls a dam or other obstruction to fish passage on a river or stream and:

(a) The dam or obstruction is not provided with a durable and efficient fishway approved by the director as required by RCW 77.57.030;

(b) Fails to maintain a fishway in efficient operating condition; or

(c) Fails to continuously supply a fishway with a sufficient supply of water to allow the free passage of fish.

(2) Unlawful failure to provide, maintain, or operate a fishway for dam or other obstruction is a gross misdemeanor. Following written notification to the person from the department that there is a violation, each day of unlawful failure to provide, maintain, or operate a fishway is a separate offense. [2009 c 333 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 241; 1998 c 190 § 54.]

**77.15.340 Unlawful operation of a game farm—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful operation of a game farm if the person (a) operates a game farm without the license required by RCW 77.65.480; or (b) violates any rule of the commission or the director applicable to game farms under RCW 77.12.570, 77.12.580, and 77.12.590.

(2) Unlawful operation of a game farm is a gross misdemeanor. [2001 c 253 § 37; 1998 c 190 § 57.]

**77.15.350 Inspection and disease control of aquatic farms—Rules violation—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of violating a rule regarding inspection and disease control of aquatic farms if the person:

(a) Violates any rule adopted under chapter 77.115 RCW regarding the inspection and disease control program for an aquatic farm; or

(b) Fails to register or report production from an aquatic farm as required by chapter 77.115 RCW.

(2) A violation of a rule regarding inspection and disease control of aquatic farms is a misdemeanor. [2000 c 107 § 242; 1998 c 190 § 58.]

**77.15.360 Unlawful interfering in department operations—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful interfering in department operations if the person prevents department employees from carrying out duties authorized by this title, including but not limited to interfering:

(a) In the operation of department vehicles, vessels, or aircraft; or

(b) With the collection of samples of tissue, fluids, or other bodily parts of fish, wildlife, and shellfish under RCW 77.12.071.

(2) Unlawful interfering in department operations is a gross misdemeanor. [2007 c 337 § 3; 2000 c 107 § 243; 1998 c 190 § 61.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 337:** See note following RCW 77.12.071.

**77.15.370 Unlawful recreational fishing in the first degree—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful recreational fishing in the first degree if:

(a) The person takes, possesses, or retains two times or more than the bag limit or possession limit of fish or shellfish allowed by any rule of the director or commission setting the amount of food fish, game fish, or shellfish that can be taken, possessed, or retained for noncommercial use;

(b) The person fishes in a fishway;

(c) The person shoots, gaffs, snags, snares, spears, dip-nets, or stones fish or shellfish in state waters, or possesses fish or shellfish taken by such means, unless such means are authorized by express department rule;

(d) The person fishes for or possesses a fish listed as threatened or endangered in 50 C.F.R. Sec. 223.102 (2006) or Sec. 224.101 (2010), unless fishing for or possession of such fish is specifically allowed under federal or state law;

(e) The person possesses a sturgeon measuring in excess of the maximum size limit as established by rules adopted by the department; or

(f) The person possesses a salmon or steelhead during a season closed for that species.

(2) Unlawful recreational fishing in the first degree is a gross misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 22; 2009 c 333 § 17; 2005 c 406 § 3; 2001 c 253 § 38; 1998 c 190 § 19.]

**77.15.380 Unlawful recreational fishing in the second degree—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful recreational fishing in the second degree if the person fishes for fish or shellfish and, whether or not the person possesses fish or shellfish, the person has not purchased the appropriate fishing or shellfishing license and catch record card issued to Washington residents or nonresidents under chapter 77.32 RCW.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful recreational fishing in the second degree if the person takes, possesses, or harvests fish or shellfish and:

(a) The person owns, but does not have in the person's possession, the license or the catch record card required by chapter 77.32 RCW for such activity; or

(b) The action violates any department rule regarding seasons, bag or possession limits but less than two times the bag or possession limit, closed areas, closed times, or any other rule addressing the manner or method of fishing or possession of fish. This section does not apply to use of a net to

take fish under RCW 77.15.580 or the unlawful use of shellfish gear for personal use under RCW 77.15.382.

(3) Unlawful recreational fishing in the second degree is a misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 23; 2010 c 193 § 5; 2001 c 253 § 39; 2000 c 107 § 244; 1998 c 190 § 18.]

**77.15.382 Unlawful use of shellfish gear for personal use purposes—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of the unlawful use of shellfish gear for personal use purposes if the person:

(a) Takes, fishes for, or possesses crab, shrimp, or crawfish for personal use purposes with shellfish gear that is constructed or altered in a manner that violates any rule of the commission relating to required gear design specifications; or

(b) Is found in possession of, upon any vessel located on the waters of the state, shellfish gear that is constructed or altered in a manner that violates any rule of the commission relating to required gear design specifications, unless a person holds a valid crab pot removal permit under RCW 77.70.500 and is in the process of transporting removed crab pots as part of the Dungeness crab pot removal program.

(2) The unlawful use of shellfish gear for personal use purposes is a misdemeanor. [2010 c 193 § 2.]

**77.15.390 Seaweed—Unlawful taking—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful taking of seaweed if the person takes, possesses, or harvests seaweed and:

(a) The person has not purchased a personal use shellfish and seaweed license issued to Washington residents or non-residents under chapter 77.32 RCW; or

(b) The person takes, possesses, or harvests seaweed in an amount that is two times or more of the daily possession limit of seaweed.

(2) Unlawful taking of seaweed is a misdemeanor. This does not affect rights of the state to recover civilly for trespass, conversion, or theft of state-owned valuable materials. [2012 c 176 § 24; 2001 c 253 § 40; 2000 c 107 § 245; 1998 c 190 § 20.]

**77.15.400 Unlawful hunting of wild birds—Violation of a rule requiring nontoxic shot—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful hunting of wild birds in the second degree if the person hunts for wild birds and, whether or not the person possesses wild birds, the person has not purchased the appropriate hunting license issued to Washington residents or nonresidents under chapter 77.32 RCW.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful hunting of wild birds in the second degree if the person takes or possesses less than two times the bag or possession limit of wild birds and the person:

(a) Owns, but does not have in the person's possession, all licenses, tags, stamps, and permits required under this title; or

(b) Violates any department rule regarding seasons, bag or possession limits, closed areas, closed times, or the manner or method of hunting or possession of wild birds.

(3) A person is guilty of unlawful hunting of wild birds in the first degree if the person takes or possesses two times or more than the possession or bag limit for wild birds allowed by department rule.

(4)(a) Unlawful hunting of wild birds in the second degree is a misdemeanor.

(b) Unlawful hunting of wild birds in the first degree is a gross misdemeanor.

(5) In addition to the penalties set forth in this section, if a person, other than a youth as defined in RCW 77.08.010 for hunting purposes, violates a department rule that requires the use of nontoxic shot, upon conviction:

(a) The court shall require a payment of one thousand dollars as a criminal wildlife penalty assessment that must be paid to the clerk of the court and distributed to the state treasurer for deposit in the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account created in RCW 77.15.425. The criminal wildlife penalty assessment must be imposed regardless of and in addition to any sentence, fine, or costs imposed for violating this section. The criminal wildlife penalty assessment must be included by the court in any pronouncement of sentence and may not be suspended, waived, modified, or deferred in any respect; and

(b) The department shall revoke the hunting license of the person and order a suspension of small game hunting privileges for two years. [2012 c 176 § 25; 2006 c 148 § 1; 2001 c 253 § 41; 1999 c 258 § 2; 1998 c 190 § 9.]

**77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful hunting of big game in the second degree if the person:

(a) Hunts for, takes, or possesses big game and the person does not have and possess all licenses, tags, or permits required under this title; or

(b) Violates any department rule regarding seasons, bag or possession limits, closed areas including game reserves, closed times, or any other rule governing the hunting, taking, or possession of big game.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful hunting of big game in the first degree if the person commits the act described in subsection (1) of this section and:

(a) The person hunts for, takes, or possesses three or more big game animals within the same course of events; or

(b) The act occurs within five years of the date of a prior conviction under this title involving unlawful hunting, killing, possessing, or taking big game.

(3)(a) Unlawful hunting of big game in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor. Upon conviction of an offense involving killing or possession of big game taken during a closed season, closed area, without the proper license, tag, or permit using an unlawful method, or in excess of the bag or possession limit, the department shall revoke all of the person's hunting licenses and tags and order a suspension of the person's hunting privileges for two years.

(b) Unlawful hunting of big game in the first degree is a class C felony. Upon conviction, the department shall revoke all of the person's hunting licenses or tags and order the person's hunting privileges suspended for ten years.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "same course of events" means within one twenty-four hour period, or a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts that are unlawful under subsection (1) of this section, over a period of time evidencing a continuity of purpose. [2012 c 176 § 26; 2011 c 133 § 1; 2005 c 406 § 4; 1999 c 258 § 3; 1998 c 190 § 10.]

**77.15.420 Illegally taken or possessed wildlife—Criminal wildlife penalty assessed.** (1) If a person is convicted of violating RCW 77.15.410 and that violation results in the death of wildlife listed in this section, the court shall require payment of the following amounts for each animal killed or possessed. This shall be a criminal wildlife penalty assessment that shall be paid to the clerk of the court and distributed each month to the state treasurer for deposit in the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account created in RCW 77.15.425.

- (a) Moose, mountain sheep, mountain goat, and all wildlife species classified as endangered by rule of the commission, except for mountain caribou and grizzly bear as listed under (d) of this subsection \$4,000
- (b) Elk, deer, black bear, and cougar . . . \$2,000
- (c) Trophy animal elk and deer . . . . . \$6,000
- (d) Mountain caribou, grizzly bear, and trophy animal mountain sheep . . \$12,000

(2) No forfeiture of bail may be less than the amount of the bail established for hunting during closed season plus the amount of the criminal wildlife penalty assessment in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) For the purpose of this section a "trophy animal" is:

- (a) A buck deer with four or more antler points on both sides, not including eyeguards;
- (b) A bull elk with five or more antler points on both sides, not including eyeguards; or
- (c) A mountain sheep with a horn curl of three-quarter curl or greater.

For purposes of this subsection, "eyeguard" means an antler protrusion on the main beam of the antler closest to the eye of the animal.

(4) If two or more persons are convicted of illegally possessing wildlife in subsection (1) of this section, the criminal wildlife penalty assessment shall be imposed on them jointly and separately.

(5) The criminal wildlife penalty assessment shall be imposed regardless of and in addition to any sentence, fines, or costs otherwise provided for violating any provision of this title. The criminal wildlife penalty assessment shall be included by the court in any pronouncement of sentence and may not be suspended, waived, modified, or deferred in any respect. This section may not be construed to abridge or alter alternative rights of action or remedies in equity or under common law or statutory law, criminal or civil.

(6) A defaulted criminal wildlife penalty assessment may be collected by any means authorized by law for the enforcement of orders of the court or collection of a fine or costs, including but not limited to vacation of a deferral of sentencing or vacation of a suspension of sentence.

(7) A person assessed a criminal wildlife penalty assessment under this section shall have his or her hunting license revoked and all hunting privileges suspended until the penalty assessment is paid through the registry of the court in which the penalty assessment was assessed.

(8) The criminal wildlife penalty assessments provided in subsection (1) of this section shall be doubled in the following instances:

- (a) When a person is convicted of spotlighting big game under RCW 77.15.450;
- (b) When a person commits a violation that requires payment of a wildlife penalty assessment within five years of a prior gross misdemeanor or felony conviction under this title;
- (c) When the person killed the animal in question with the intent of bartering, selling, or otherwise deriving economic profit from the animal or the animal's parts; or
- (d) When a person kills the animal under the supervision of a licensed guide. [2005 c 406 § 5; 1998 c 190 § 62.]

**77.15.425 Fish and wildlife enforcement reward account.** The fish and wildlife enforcement reward account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. Deposits to the account include: Receipts from fish and shellfish overages as a result of a department enforcement action; fees for hunter education deferral applications; fees for master hunter applications and master hunter certification renewals; all receipts from criminal wildlife penalty assessments under RCW 77.15.400 and 77.15.420; all receipts of court-ordered restitution or donations associated with any fish, shellfish, or wildlife enforcement action; and proceeds from forfeitures and evidence pursuant to RCW 77.15.070 and 77.15.100. The department may accept money or personal property from persons under conditions requiring the property or money to be used consistent with the intent of expenditures from the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for investigation and prosecution of fish and wildlife offenses, to provide rewards to persons informing the department about violations of this title and rules adopted under this title, to offset department-approved costs incurred to administer the hunter education deferral program and the master hunter [permit] program, and for other valid enforcement uses as determined by the commission. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2009 c 333 § 18; 2006 c 148 § 2; 2005 c 406 § 1.]

**77.15.430 Unlawful hunting of wild animals—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful hunting of wild animals in the second degree if the person hunts for wild animals not classified as big game and, whether or not the person possesses the wild animals, the person has not purchased the appropriate hunting license issued to Washington residents or nonresidents under chapter 77.32 RCW.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful hunting of wild animals in the second degree if the person:

- (a) Takes or possesses a wild animal that is not classified as big game, and owns, but does not have in the person's possession, all licenses, tags, or permits required by this title; or
- (b) Violates any department rule regarding seasons, bag or possession limits but less than two times the bag or possession limit, closed areas including game reserves, closed times, or any other rule addressing the manner or method of hunting or possession of wild animals not classified as big game.

(3) A person is guilty of unlawful hunting of wild animals in the first degree if the person takes or possesses two times or more than the possession or bag limit for wild animals that are not classified as big game animals as allowed by department rule.

(4)(a) Unlawful hunting of wild animals in the second degree is a misdemeanor.

(b) Unlawful hunting of wild animals in the first degree is a gross misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 27; 1999 c 258 § 4; 1998 c 190 § 11.]

**77.15.435 Unlawful hunting on or retrieving hunted wildlife from the property of another—Defense—Penalty—Forfeiture and disposition of wildlife.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawfully hunting on, or retrieving hunted wildlife from, the property of another if the person knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in or on the premises of another for the purpose of hunting for wildlife or retrieving hunted wildlife.

(2) In any prosecution under this section, it is a defense that:

(a) The premises were at the time open to members of the public for the purpose of hunting, and the actor complied with all lawful conditions imposed on access to or remaining on the premises;

(b) The actor reasonably believed that the owner of the premises, or other person empowered to license access thereto, would have licensed him or her to enter or remain on the premises for the purpose of hunting or retrieving hunted wildlife;

(c) The actor reasonably believed that the premises were not privately owned; or

(d) The actor, after making all reasonable attempts to contact the owner of the premises, retrieved the hunted wildlife for the sole purpose of avoiding a violation of the prohibition on the waste of fish and wildlife as provided in RCW 77.15.170. The defense in this subsection only applies to the retrieval of hunted wildlife and not to the actual act of hunting itself.

(3) Unlawfully hunting on or retrieving hunted wildlife from the property of another is a misdemeanor.

(4) If a person unlawfully hunts and kills wildlife, or retrieves hunted wildlife that he or she has killed, on the property of another, then, upon conviction of unlawfully hunting on, or retrieving hunted wildlife from, the property of another, the department shall revoke all hunting licenses and tags and order a suspension of the person's hunting privileges for two years.

(5) Any wildlife that is unlawfully hunted on or retrieved from the property of another must be seized by fish and wildlife officers. Forfeiture and disposition of the wildlife is pursuant to RCW 77.15.100. [2012 c 176 § 11.]

**77.15.440 Weapons, traps, or dogs on game reserves—Unlawful use—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of weapons, traps, or dogs on game reserves if:

(a) The person uses firearms, other hunting weapons, or traps on a game reserve; or

(b) The person negligently allows a dog upon a game reserve.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) This section does not apply to persons on a public highway or if the conduct is authorized by rule of the department.

(3) This section does not apply to a person in possession of a handgun if the person in control of the handgun possesses a valid concealed pistol license and the handgun is concealed on the person.

(4) Unlawful use of weapons, traps, or dogs on game reserves is a misdemeanor. [1998 c 190 § 12.]

**77.15.450 Spotlighting big game—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of spotlighting big game in the second degree if the person hunts big game with the aid of a spotlight, other artificial light, or night vision equipment while in possession or control of a firearm, bow and arrow, or cross bow. For purposes of this section, "night vision equipment" includes electronic light amplification devices, thermal imaging devices, and other comparable equipment used to enhance night vision.

(2) A person is guilty of spotlighting big game in the first degree if:

(a) The person has any prior conviction for gross misdemeanor or felony for a crime under this title involving big game including but not limited to subsection (1) of this section or RCW 77.15.410; and

(b) Within ten years of the date that such prior conviction was entered the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section.

(3)(a) Spotlighting big game in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the department shall revoke all hunting licenses and tags and order a suspension of the person's hunting privileges for two years.

(b) Spotlighting big game in the first degree is a class C felony. Upon conviction, the department shall order suspension of all privileges to hunt wildlife for a period of ten years.

(4) A person convicted under this section shall be assessed a criminal wildlife penalty assessment as provided in RCW 77.15.420. [2005 c 406 § 6; 1998 c 190 § 27.]

**77.15.460 Loaded rifle or shotgun in vehicle—Unlawful use or possession—Unlawful use of a loaded firearm—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle, as defined in RCW 46.04.320, or upon an off-road vehicle, as defined in RCW 46.04.365, if:

(a) The person carries, transports, conveys, possesses, or controls a rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle, or upon an off-road vehicle, except as allowed by department rule; and

(b) The rifle or shotgun contains shells or cartridges in the magazine or chamber, or is a muzzle-loading firearm that is loaded and capped or primed.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful use of a loaded firearm if:

(a) The person negligently discharges a firearm from, across, or along the maintained portion of a public highway; or

(b) The person discharges a firearm from within a moving motor vehicle or from upon a moving off-road vehicle.

(3) Unlawful possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle or upon an off-road vehicle, and unlawful use of a loaded firearm are misdemeanors.

(4) This section does not apply if the person:

(a) Is a law enforcement officer who is authorized to carry a firearm and is on duty within the officer's respective jurisdiction;

(b) Possesses a disabled hunter's permit as provided by RCW 77.32.237 and complies with all rules of the department concerning hunting by persons with disabilities; or

(c) Discharges the rifle or shotgun from upon a nonmoving motor vehicle or a nonmoving off-road vehicle, as long as the engine is turned off and the motor vehicle or off-road vehicle is not parked on or beside the maintained portion of a public road, except as authorized by the commission by rule.

(5) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, a rifle or shotgun shall not be considered loaded if the detachable clip or magazine is not inserted in or attached to the rifle or shotgun. [2012 c 176 § 28; 1999 c 258 § 7; 1998 c 190 § 28.]

**77.15.470 Wildlife check stations or field inspections—Unlawful avoidance—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawfully avoiding wildlife check stations or field inspections if the person fails to:

(a) Obey check station signs;

(b) Stop and report at a check station if directed to do so by a uniformed fish and wildlife officer; or

(c) Produce for inspection upon request by a fish and wildlife officer: (i) Hunting or fishing equipment; (ii) seaweed, fish, shellfish, or wildlife; or (iii) licenses, permits, tags, stamps, or catch record cards required by this title.

(2) Unlawfully avoiding wildlife check stations or field inspections is a gross misdemeanor.

(3) Wildlife check stations may not be established upon interstate highways or state routes. [2000 c 107 § 246; 1998 c 190 § 29.]

**77.15.480 Certain devices declared public nuisances.** Articles or devices unlawfully used, possessed, or maintained for catching, taking, killing, attracting, or decoying wildlife, fish, and shellfish are public nuisances. If necessary, fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers may seize, abate, or destroy these public nuisances without warrant or process. [2001 c 253 § 42; 2000 c 107 § 247; 1980 c 78 § 27; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.130. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-33. Formerly RCW 77.12.130.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.15.500 Commercial fishing without a license—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of commercial fishing without a license in the second degree if the person fishes for, takes, or delivers food fish, shellfish, or game fish while acting for commercial purposes and:

(a) The person does not hold a fishery license or delivery license under chapter 77.65 RCW for the food fish or shellfish; or

(b) The person is not a licensed operator designated as an alternate operator on a fishery or delivery license under chapter 77.65 RCW for the food fish or shellfish.

(2) A person is guilty of commercial fishing without a license in the first degree if the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and:

(a) The violation involves taking, delivery, or possession of food fish or shellfish with a value of two hundred fifty dollars or more; or

(b) The violation involves taking, delivery, or possession of food fish or shellfish from an area that was closed to the taking of such food fish or shellfish by any statute or rule.

(3)(a) Commercial fishing without a license in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor.

(b) Commercial fishing without a license in the first degree is a class C felony. [2000 c 107 § 248; 1998 c 190 § 35.]

**77.15.510 Acting as a game fish guide, food fish guide, or chartering without a license—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of acting as a game fish guide, food fish guide, or chartering without a license if:

(a) The person operates a charter boat and does not hold the charter boat license required for the food fish taken;

(b) The person acts as a food fish guide and does not hold a food fish guide license; or

(c) The person acts as a game fish guide and does not hold a game fish guide license.

(2) Acting without a game fish guide license, food fish guide license, or charter license is a gross misdemeanor. [2009 c 333 § 10; 2001 c 253 § 43; 1998 c 190 § 36.]

**77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.** (1) Except for actions involving shellfish gear punishable under RCW 77.15.522, a person is guilty of commercial fishing using unlawful gear or methods if the person acts for commercial purposes and takes or fishes for any fish or shellfish using any gear or method in violation of a rule of the commission specifying, regulating, or limiting the gear or method for taking, fishing, or harvesting of such fish or shellfish.

(2) Commercial fishing using unlawful gear or methods is a gross misdemeanor. [2010 c 193 § 4; 1998 c 190 § 37.]

**77.15.522 Unlawful use of shellfish gear for commercial purposes—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of the unlawful use of shellfish gear for commercial purposes if the person:

(a) Takes, fishes for, or possesses crab, shrimp, or crawfish for commercial purposes with shellfish gear that is constructed or altered in a manner that violates any rule of the commission relating to required gear design specifications; or

(b) Is found in possession of, upon any vessel located on the waters of the state, shellfish gear that is constructed or altered in a manner that violates any rule of the commission relating to required gear design specifications, unless a person holds a valid crab pot removal permit under RCW 77.70.500 and is in the process of transporting removed crab pots as part of the Dungeness crab pot removal program.

(2) The unlawful use of shellfish gear for commercial purposes is a gross misdemeanor. [2010 c 193 § 1.]

**77.15.530 Unlawful use of a nondesignated vessel—Penalty.** (1) A person who holds a fishery license required by chapter 77.65 RCW, or who holds an operator's license and is designated as an alternate operator on a fishery license required by chapter 77.65 RCW, is guilty of unlawful use of

a nondesignated vessel if the person takes, fishes for, or delivers from that fishery using a vessel not designated on the person's license, when vessel designation is required by chapter 77.65 RCW.

(2) Unlawful use of a nondesignated vessel is a gross misdemeanor.

(3) A nondesignated vessel may be used, subject to appropriate notification to the department and in accordance with rules established by the commission, when a designated vessel is inoperative because of accidental damage or mechanical breakdown.

(4) If the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and the vessel designated on the person's fishery license was used by any person in the fishery on the same day, then the violation for using a nondesignated vessel is a class C felony. Upon conviction the department shall order revocation and suspension of all commercial fishing privileges under chapter 77.65 RCW for a period of one year. [2000 c 107 § 249; 1998 c 190 § 38.]

**77.15.540 Unlawful use of a commercial fishery license—Penalty.** (1) A person who holds a fishery license required by chapter 77.65 RCW, or who holds an operator's license and is designated as an alternate operator on a fishery license required by chapter 77.65 RCW, is guilty of unlawful use of a commercial fishery license if the person:

(a) Does not have the commercial fishery license or operator's license in possession during fishing or delivery; or

(b) Violates any rule of the department regarding the use, possession, display, or presentation of the person's license, decals, or vessel numbers.

(2) Unlawful use of a commercial fishery license is a misdemeanor. [2000 c 107 § 250; 1998 c 190 § 39.]

**77.15.550 Violation of commercial fishing area or time—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of violating commercial fishing area or time in the second degree if the person acts for commercial purposes and takes, fishes for, possesses, delivers, or receives fish or shellfish:

(a) At a time not authorized by statute or rule;

(b) From an area that was closed to the taking of such fish or shellfish for commercial purposes by statute or rule; or

(c) If such fish or shellfish do not conform to the special restrictions or physical descriptions established by rule of the department.

(2) A person is guilty of violating commercial fishing area or time in the first degree if the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and:

(a) The person acted with knowledge that the area or time was not open to the taking or fishing of fish or shellfish for commercial purposes; and

(b) The violation involved two hundred fifty dollars or more worth of fish or shellfish.

(3)(a) Violating commercial fishing area or time in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor.

(b) Violating commercial fishing area or time in the first degree is a class C felony. [2001 c 253 § 44; 1999 c 258 § 10; 1998 c 190 § 40.]

**77.15.552 Qualifying commercial fishing violations.**

(1) If a person is convicted of two or more qualifying commercial fishing violations within a three-year period, the person's privileges to participate in the commercial fishery to which the violations applied may be suspended by the director for up to one year. A commercial fishery license that is suspended under this section may not be transferred after the director issues a notice of suspension, or used by an alternative operator or transferred during the period of suspension, if the person who is the subject of the suspension notice is the person who owns the commercial fishery license.

(2) For the purposes of this section only, "qualifying commercial fishing violation" means either:

(a) A conviction under RCW 77.15.500, 77.15.510, 77.15.520, 77.15.530, 77.15.550(1)(a), 77.15.570, 77.15.580, or 77.15.590;

(b) A gross misdemeanor or felony involving commercial fish harvesting, buying, or selling that is unlawful under the terms of the license, this title, or the rules issued pursuant to this title, if the quantity of unlawfully harvested, possessed, bought, or sold fish, other than shellfish, groundfish, or coastal pelagic species of baitfish totals greater than six percent, by weight, of the harvest available for inspection at the time of citation and the cumulative value of the unlawfully harvested fish is more than two hundred fifty dollars at the time of citation;

(c) A gross misdemeanor or felony involving commercial groundfish or coastal pelagic baitfish harvest, buying, or selling that is unlawful under the terms of the license, this title, or the rules issued under this title, if: (i) The quantity of unlawfully harvested, possessed, bought, or sold groundfish or coastal pelagic baitfish totals greater than ten percent, by weight, of the harvest available for inspection at the time of citation and has a cumulative value greater than five hundred dollars; or (ii) the quantity, by weight, of the unlawfully commercially harvested groundfish or coastal pelagic baitfish is ten percent greater than the landing allowances provided under rules adopted by the department for species categorized as over-fished by the national marine fisheries service; or

(d) A gross misdemeanor or felony involving commercial shellfish harvesting, buying, or selling that is unlawful under the terms of the license, this title, or the rules issued pursuant to this title, if the quantity of unlawfully harvested, possessed, bought, or sold shellfish: (i) Totals greater than six percent of the harvest available for inspection at the time of citation; and (ii) totals fifty or more individual shellfish.

(3)(a) The director may refer a person convicted of one qualifying commercial fishing violation to the license suspension review committee if the director feels that the qualifying commercial fishing violation was of a severe enough magnitude to justify suspension of the individual's license renewal privileges.

(b) The director may refer any person convicted of one egregious shellfish violation to the license suspension review committee.

(c) For the purposes of this section only, "egregious shellfish violation" means a gross misdemeanor or felony involving commercial shellfish harvesting, buying, or selling that is unlawful under the terms of the license, this title, or the rules issued pursuant to this title, if the quantity of unlawfully harvested, possessed, bought, or sold shellfish: (i) Totals more than twenty percent of the harvest available for inspection

tion at the time of citation; (ii) totals five hundred or more individual shellfish; and (iii) is valued at two thousand five hundred dollars or more.

(4) A person who has a commercial fishing license suspended or revoked under this section may file an appeal with the license suspension review committee pursuant to RCW 77.15.554. An appeal must be filed within thirty-one days of notice of license suspension or revocation. If an appeal is filed, the suspension or revocation issued by the department does not take effect until after the license suspension review committee has delivered an opinion. If no appeal is filed within thirty-one days of notice of license suspension or revocation, the right to an appeal is considered waived. All suspensions ordered under this section take effect either thirty-one days following the conviction for the second qualifying commercial fishing violation, or upon a decision pursuant to RCW 77.15.554, whichever is later.

(5) A fishing privilege suspended under this section is in addition to the statutory penalties assigned to the underlying crime.

(6) For the purposes of this section only, the burden is on the state to show the dollar amount or the percent of a harvest that is comprised of unlawfully harvested, bought, or sold individual fish or shellfish. [2003 c 386 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 386:** See note following RCW 77.15.700.

**77.15.554 License suspension review committee.** (1) The license suspension review committee is created. The license suspension review committee may only hear appeals from commercial fishers who have had a license revoked or suspended pursuant to RCW 77.15.552.

(2)(a) The license suspension review committee is composed of five voting members and up to four alternates.

(b) Two of the members must be appointed by the director and may be department employees.

(c) Three members, and up to four alternates, must be peer-group members, who are individuals owning a commercial fishing license issued by the department. If a peer-group member appears before the license suspension review committee because of a qualifying commercial fishing violation, the member must recuse himself or herself from the proceedings relating to that violation. No two voting peer-group members may reside in the same county. All peer-group members must be appointed by the commission, who may accept recommendations from professional organizations that represent commercial fishing interests or from the legislative authority of any Washington county.

(d) All license suspension review committee members serve a two-year renewable term.

(e) The commission may develop minimum member standards for service on the license suspension review committee, and standards for terminating a member before the expiration of his or her term.

(3) The license suspension review committee must convene and deliver an opinion on a license renewal suspension within three months of appeal or of referral from the department. The director shall consider the committee's opinion and make a decision and may issue, not issue, or modify the license suspension.

(4) The license suspension review committee shall collect the information and hear the testimony that it feels neces-

sary to deliver an opinion on the proper length, if any, of a suspension of a commercial license. The opinion may be based on extenuating circumstances presented by the individual convicted of the qualifying commercial fishing violation or considerations of the type and magnitude of violations that have been committed by the individual. The maximum length of any suspension may not exceed one year.

(5) All opinions of the license suspension review committee must be by a majority vote of all voting members. Alternate committee members may only vote when one of the voting members is unavailable, has been recused, or has decided not to vote on the case before the committee. Non-voting alternates may be present and may participate at all license suspension review committee meetings.

(6) Members of the license suspension review committee serve as volunteers, and are not eligible for compensation other than travel expenses pursuant to RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(7) Staff of the license suspension review committee must be provided by the department. [2003 c 386 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 386:** See note following RCW 77.15.700.

**77.15.560 Commercial fish, shellfish harvest or delivery—Failure to report—Penalty.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 77.15.640, a person is guilty of failing to report a commercial fish or shellfish harvest or delivery if the person acts for commercial purposes and takes or delivers any fish or shellfish, and the person:

(a) Fails to sign a fish-receiving ticket that documents the delivery of fish or shellfish or otherwise documents the taking or delivery; or

(b) Fails to report or document the taking, landing, or delivery as required by any rule of the department.

(2) Failing to report a commercial fish harvest or delivery is a gross misdemeanor.

(3) For purposes of this section, "delivery" of fish or shellfish occurs when there is a transfer or conveyance of title or control from the person who took, fished for, or otherwise harvested the fish or shellfish. [1998 c 190 § 41.]

**77.15.565 Wholesale fish dealers—Accounting of commercial harvest—Penalties.** Since violation of the rules of the department relating to the accounting of the commercial harvest of food fish and shellfish result in damage to the resources of the state, liability for damage to food fish and shellfish resources is imposed on a wholesale fish dealer or the holder of a direct retail endorsement for violation of a provision in chapter 77.65 RCW or a rule of the department related to the accounting of the commercial harvest of food fish and shellfish and shall be for the actual damages or for damages imposed as follows:

(1) For violation of rules requiring the timely presentation to the department of documents relating to the accounting of commercial harvest, fifty dollars for each of the first fifteen documents in a series and ten dollars for each subsequent document in the same series. If documents relating to the accounting of commercial harvest of food fish and shellfish are lost or destroyed and the wholesale dealer or holder of a direct retail endorsement notifies the department in writing within seven days of the loss or destruction, the director

shall waive the requirement for timely presentation of the documents.

(2) For violation of rules requiring accurate and legible information relating to species, value, harvest area, or amount of harvest, twenty-five dollars for each of the first five violations of this subsection following July 28, 1985, and fifty dollars for each violation after the first five violations.

(3) For violations of rules requiring certain signatures, fifty dollars for each of the first two violations and one hundred dollars for each subsequent violation. For the purposes of this subsection, each signature is a separate requirement.

(4) For other violations of rules relating to the accounting of the commercial harvest, fifty dollars for each separate violation. [2002 c 301 § 6; 2000 c 107 § 12; 1996 c 267 § 14; 1985 c 248 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.10.150.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 301:** See notes following RCW 77.65.510.

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

*Wholesale fish dealers—Documentation of commercial harvest:* RCW 77.65.310.

**77.15.568 Secondary commercial fish receiver's failure to account for commercial harvest—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of a secondary commercial fish receiver's failure to account for commercial harvest if:

(a) The person sells fish or shellfish at retail, stores or holds fish or shellfish for another in exchange for valuable consideration, ships fish or shellfish in exchange for valuable consideration, or brokers fish or shellfish in exchange for valuable consideration;

(b) The fish or shellfish were required to be entered on a Washington fish receiving ticket or a Washington aquatic farm production annual report; and

(c) The person fails to maintain records of each receipt of fish or shellfish, as required under subsections (3) through (5) of this section, at the location where the fish or shellfish are being sold, at the location where the fish or shellfish are being stored or held, or at the principal place of business of the shipper or broker.

(2) This section applies to a wholesale fish dealer acting in the capacity of a broker. However, this section does not apply to a wholesale fish dealer acting in the capacity of a wholesale fish dealer, to a fisher selling under a direct retail sale endorsement, or to a registered aquatic farmer.

(3) Records of the receipt of fish or shellfish required to be kept under this section must be in the English language and be maintained for three years from the date fish or shellfish are received, shipped, or brokered.

(4) Records maintained by persons that retail or broker must include the following:

(a) The name, address, and phone number of the wholesale fish dealer, fisher selling under a direct retail sale endorsement, or aquatic farmer or shellstock shipper from whom the fish or shellfish were purchased or received;

(b) The Washington fish receiving ticket number documenting original receipt or aquatic farm production quarterly report documenting production, if available;

(c) The date of purchase or receipt; and

(d) The amount and species of fish or shellfish purchased or received.

(5) Records maintained by persons that store, hold, or ship fish or shellfish for others must state the following:

(a) The name, address, and phone number of the person and business from whom the fish or shellfish were received;

(b) The date of receipt; and

(c) The amount and species of fish or shellfish received.

(6) A secondary commercial fish receiver's failure to account for commercial harvest is a misdemeanor. [2009 c 333 § 19; 2007 c 337 § 4; 2003 c 336 § 1.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 337:** See note following RCW 77.12.071.

**77.15.570 Participation of non-Indians in Indian fishery forbidden—Exceptions, definitions, penalty.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, it is unlawful for a person who is not a treaty Indian fisherman to participate in the taking of fish or shellfish in a treaty Indian fishery, or to be on board a vessel, or associated equipment, operating in a treaty Indian fishery. A violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section with the intent of acting for commercial purposes, including any sale of catch, control of catch, profit from catch, or payment for fishing assistance, is guilty of a class C felony. Upon conviction, the department shall order revocation of any license and a one-year suspension of all commercial fishing privileges requiring a license under chapter 77.65 or 77.70 RCW.

(3)(a) The spouse, forebears, siblings, children, and grandchildren of a treaty Indian fisherman may assist the fisherman in exercising treaty Indian fishing rights when the treaty Indian fisherman is present at the fishing site.

(b) Other treaty Indian fishermen with off-reservation treaty fishing rights in the same usual and accustomed places, whether or not the fishermen are members of the same tribe or another treaty tribe, may assist a treaty Indian fisherman in exercising treaty Indian fishing rights when the treaty Indian fisherman is present at the fishing site.

(c) Biologists approved by the department may be on board a vessel operating in a treaty Indian fishery.

(4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Treaty Indian fisherman" means a person who may exercise treaty Indian fishing rights as determined under *United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 312 (W.D. Wash. 1974), or *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Oregon 1969), and post-trial orders of those courts;

(b) "Treaty Indian fishery" means a fishery open to only treaty Indian fishermen by tribal or federal regulation;

(c) "To participate" and its derivatives mean an effort to operate a vessel or fishing equipment, provide immediate supervision in the operation of a vessel or fishing equipment, or otherwise assist in the fishing operation, to claim possession of a share of the catch, or to represent that the catch was lawfully taken in an Indian fishery.

(5) A violation of this section constitutes illegal fishing and is subject to the suspensions provided for commercial fishing violations. [2000 c 107 § 251; 1998 c 190 § 49; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 63; 1982 c 197 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.12.320.]

**77.15.580 Unlawful use of net to take fish—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of a net to take fish in the second degree if the person:

(a) Lays, sets, uses, or controls a net or other device or equipment capable of taking fish from the waters of this state, except if the person has a valid license for such fishing gear from the director under this title and is acting in accordance with all rules of the commission and director; or

(b) Fails to return unauthorized fish to the water immediately while otherwise lawfully operating a net under a valid license.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful use of a net to take fish in the first degree if the person:

(a) Commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section; and

(b) The violation occurs within five years of entry of a prior conviction for a gross misdemeanor or felony under this title involving fish, other than a recreational fishing violation, or involving unlawful use of nets.

(3)(a) Unlawful use of a net to take fish in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the department shall revoke any license held under this title allowing commercial net fishing used in connection with the crime.

(b) Unlawful use of a net to take fish in the first degree is a class C felony. Upon conviction, the department shall order a one-year suspension of all commercial fishing privileges requiring a license under this title.

(4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, it is lawful to use a landing net to land fish otherwise legally hooked. [2000 c 107 § 252; 1998 c 190 § 50.]

**77.15.590 Commercial fishing vessel—Unlawful use for recreational or charter fishing—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of a commercial fishing vessel, except as may be authorized by rule of the commission, for recreational or charter fishing if the person uses, operates, or controls a vessel on the same day for both:

(a) Charter or recreational fishing; and

(b) Commercial fishing or shellfish harvesting.

(2) Unlawful use of a commercial fishing vessel for recreational or charter fishing is a gross misdemeanor. [1998 c 190 § 51.]

**77.15.600 Engaging in commercial wildlife activity without a license—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of engaging in commercial wildlife activity without a license if the person:

(a) Deals in raw furs for commercial purposes and does not hold a fur dealer license required by chapter 77.65 RCW; or

(b) Practices taxidermy for commercial purposes and does not hold a taxidermy license required by chapter 77.65 RCW.

(2) Engaging in commercial wildlife activities without a license is a gross misdemeanor. [2001 c 253 § 45; 1999 c 258 § 8; 1998 c 190 § 32.]

**77.15.610 Unlawful use of a commercial wildlife license—Penalty.**

(1) A person who holds a fur dealer's license or taxidermy license is guilty of unlawful use of a commercial wildlife license if the person fails to purchase

and have in the person's possession the required license while engaged in fur buying or practicing taxidermy for commercial purposes.

(2) Unlawful use of a commercial wildlife license is a misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 29; 2009 c 333 § 5; 1998 c 190 § 33.]

**77.15.620 Engaging in fish dealing activity—Unlicensed—Penalty.**

(1) A person is guilty of engaging in fish dealing activity without a license in the second degree if the person:

(a) Engages in the commercial processing of fish or shellfish, including custom canning or processing of personal use fish or shellfish and does not hold a wholesale dealer's license required by RCW 77.65.280(1) or 77.65.480 for anadromous game fish, or a direct retail endorsement under RCW 77.65.510;

(b) Engages in the wholesale selling, buying, or brokering of food fish or shellfish and does not hold a wholesale dealer's or buying license required by RCW 77.65.280(2) or 77.65.480 for anadromous game fish;

(c) Is a fisher who lands and sells his or her catch or harvest in the state to anyone other than a licensed wholesale dealer within or outside the state and does not hold a direct retail endorsement required by RCW 77.65.510; or

(d) Engages in the commercial manufacture or preparation of fertilizer, oil, meal, caviar, fish bait, or other by-products from food fish or shellfish and does not hold a wholesale dealer's license required by RCW 77.65.280(4) or 77.65.480 for anadromous game fish.

(2) A person is guilty of engaging in fish dealing activity without a license in the first degree if the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and the violation involves fish or shellfish worth two hundred fifty dollars or more.

(3)(a) Engaging in fish dealing activity without a license in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor.

(b) Engaging in fish dealing activity without a license in the first degree is a class C felony. [2012 c 176 § 30; 2009 c 333 § 20; 2002 c 301 § 7; 2000 c 107 § 253; 1998 c 190 § 43.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 301:** See notes following RCW 77.65.510.

**77.15.630 Unlawful fish and shellfish catch accounting—Penalty.**

(1) A person who acts in the capacity of a wholesale fish dealer, anadromous game fish buyer, or a fish buyer is guilty of unlawful fish and shellfish catch accounting in the second degree if the person:

(a) Possesses or receives fish or shellfish for commercial purposes worth less than two hundred fifty dollars; and

(b) Fails to document such fish or shellfish with a fish-receiving ticket or other documentation required by statute or department rule; or

(c) Fails to sign the fish receiving ticket or other required documentation, fails to provide all of the information required by statute or department rule on the fish receiving ticket or other documentation, or both.

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful fish and shellfish catch accounting in the first degree if the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and:

(a) The violation involves fish or shellfish worth two hundred fifty dollars or more;

(b) The person acted with knowledge that the fish or shellfish were taken from a closed area, at a closed time, or by a person not licensed to take such fish or shellfish for commercial purposes; or

(c) The person acted with knowledge that the fish or shellfish were taken in violation of any tribal law.

(3)(a) Unlawful fish and shellfish catch accounting in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor.

(b) Unlawful fish and shellfish catch accounting in the first degree is a class C felony. Upon conviction, the department shall suspend all privileges to engage in fish buying or dealing for two years. [2012 c 176 § 31; 2000 c 107 § 254; 1998 c 190 § 44.]

**77.15.640 Unlawful wholesale fish buying and dealing—Penalty.** (1) A person who holds a wholesale fish dealer's license required by RCW 77.65.280, an anadromous game fish buyer's license required by RCW 77.65.480, a fish buyer's license required by RCW 77.65.340, or a direct retail endorsement under RCW 77.65.510 is guilty of unlawful wholesale fish buying and dealing if the person:

(a) Fails to possess or display his or her license when engaged in any act requiring the license; or

(b) Fails to display or uses the license in violation of any department rule.

(2) Unlawful wholesale fish buying and dealing is a gross misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 32; 2002 c 301 § 8; 2000 c 107 § 255; 1998 c 190 § 45.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 301:** See notes following RCW 77.65.510.

**77.15.650 Unlawful purchase or use of a license—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful purchase or use of a license in the second degree if the person buys, holds, uses, displays, transfers, or obtains any license, tag, permit, or approval required by this title and the person:

(a) Uses false information to buy, hold, use, display, or obtain a license, permit, tag, or approval;

(b) Acquires, holds, or buys in excess of one license, permit, or tag for a license year if only one license, permit, or tag is allowed per license year;

(c) Except as authorized under RCW 77.32.565, uses or displays a license, permit, tag, or approval that was issued to another person;

(d) Except as authorized under RCW 77.32.565, permits or allows a license, permit, tag, or approval to be used or displayed by another person not named on the license, permit, tag, or approval;

(e) Acquires or holds a license while privileges for the license are revoked or suspended;

(f) Holds a resident license from another state or country. This subsection (1)(f) only applies if the Washington license, tag, permit, or approval that the person buys, holds, uses, displays, transfers, or obtains is a resident license. It is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section if any person who has a resident license from another state or country purchases a resident license, tag, permit, or approval in Washington. This subsection does not apply to individuals who meet the definition of "resident" in RCW 77.08.075 (2), (3), and (4).

(2012 Ed.)

(2) A person is guilty of unlawful purchase or use of a license in the first degree if the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and the person was acting with intent that the license, permit, tag, or approval be used for any commercial purpose. A person is presumed to be acting with such intent if the violation involved obtaining, holding, displaying, or using a license or permit for participation in any commercial fishery issued under this title or a license authorizing fish or wildlife buying, trafficking, or wholesaling.

(3)(a) Unlawful purchase or use of a license in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the department shall revoke any unlawfully used or held licenses and order a two-year suspension of participation in the activities for which the person unlawfully obtained, held, or used a license, permit, tag, or approval.

(b) Unlawful purchase or use of a license in the first degree is a class C felony. Upon conviction, the department shall revoke any unlawfully used or held licenses and order a five-year suspension of participation in any activities for which the person unlawfully obtained, held, or used a license, permit, tag, or approval.

(4) For purposes of this section, a person "uses" a license, permit, tag, or approval if the person engages in any activity authorized by the license, permit, tag, or approval held or possessed by the person. Such uses include but are not limited to fishing, hunting, taking, trapping, delivery or landing fish or wildlife, and selling, buying, or wholesaling of fish or wildlife.

(5) Any license obtained in violation of this section is void upon issuance and is of no legal effect. [2012 c 176 § 33; 2008 c 10 § 2; 2000 c 107 § 256; 1998 c 190 § 59.]

**Short title—2008 c 10:** See note following RCW 77.32.565.

**77.15.660 Unlawful use of scientific permit—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of a scientific permit if the permit issued by the director is for big game or big game parts, and the person:

(a) Violates any terms or conditions of the scientific permit;

(b) Buys or sells big game or big game parts that were taken or acquired with a scientific permit; or

(c) Violates any department rule applicable to the issuance or use of scientific permits.

(2) Unlawful use of a scientific permit is a gross misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 34; 1998 c 190 § 55.]

**77.15.670 Suspension of department privileges—Violation—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of violating a suspension of department privileges in the second degree if the person engages in any activity that is licensed by the department and the person's privileges to engage in that activity were revoked or suspended by any court or the department.

(2) A person is guilty of violating a suspension of department privileges in the first degree if the person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and:

(a) The suspension of privileges that was violated was a permanent suspension;

(b) The person takes or possesses more than two hundred fifty dollars' worth of unlawfully taken food fish, wildlife, game fish, seaweed, or shellfish; or

(c) The violation involves the hunting, taking, or possession of fish or wildlife classified as endangered or threatened or big game.

(3)(a) Violating a suspension of department privileges in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the department shall order permanent suspension of the person's privileges to engage in such hunting or fishing activities.

(b) Violating a suspension of department privileges in the first degree is a class C felony. Upon conviction, the department shall order permanent suspension of all privileges to hunt, fish, trap, or take wildlife, food fish, or shellfish.

(4) As used in this section, hunting includes trapping with a trapping license. [1999 c 258 § 11; 1998 c 190 § 60.]

**77.15.675 Hunting while intoxicated—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs if the person hunts wild animals or wild birds while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.

(2) Hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs is a gross misdemeanor. [1999 c 258 § 12; 1980 c 78 § 75; 1955 c 36 § 77.16.070. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 45a; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-55. Formerly RCW 77.16.070.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.15.680 Department authority to suspend privileges—Form and procedure.** (1) If any crime in this chapter is punishable by a suspension of privileges, then the department shall issue an order that specifies the privileges suspended and period when such suspension shall begin and end. The department has no authority to issue licenses, permits, tags, or stamps for the suspended activity until the suspension ends and any license, tag, stamp, or other permission obtained in violation of an order of suspension is void and ineffective.

(2) A court sentence may include a suspension of privileges only if grounds are provided by statute. There is no right to seek reinstatement of privileges from the department during a period of court-ordered suspension.

(3) If this chapter makes revocation or suspension of privileges mandatory, then the department shall impose the punishment in addition to any other punishments authorized by law. [1998 c 190 § 65.]

**77.15.690 Department authority to revoke licenses.**

(1) Upon any conviction of any violation of this chapter, the department may revoke any license, tag, or stamp, or other permit involved in the violation or held by the person convicted, in addition to other penalties provided by law.

(2) If the department orders that a license, tag, stamp, or other permit be revoked, that order is effective upon entry of the order and any such revoked license, tag, stamp, or other permit is void as a result of such order of revocation. The department shall order such license, tag, stamp, or other permit turned over to the department, and shall order the person

not to acquire a replacement or duplicate for the remainder of the period for which the revoked license, tag, stamp, or other permit would have been valid. During this period when a license is revoked, the person is subject to punishment under this chapter. If the person appeals the sentence by the court, the revocation shall be effective during the appeal.

(3) If an existing license, tag, stamp, or other permit is voided and revoked under this chapter, the department and its agents shall not be required to refund or restore any fees, costs, or money paid for the license, nor shall any person have any right to bring a collateral appeal under chapter 34.05 RCW to attack the department order. [1998 c 190 § 64.]

**77.15.700 Grounds for department revocation and suspension of recreational license—Appeal.** (1) The department shall revoke a person's recreational license or licenses and suspend a person's recreational license privileges in the following circumstances:

(a) Upon conviction, if directed by statute for an offense.

(b) Upon conviction, failure to appear at a hearing to contest an infraction or criminal charge, or an unvacated payment of a fine or a finding of committed as a final disposition for any infraction, if the department finds that actions of the defendant demonstrated a willful or wanton disregard for conservation of fish or wildlife. Suspension of privileges under this subsection may be permanent.

(c) If a person is convicted, fails to appear at a hearing to contest an infraction or criminal citation, or has an unvacated payment of a fine or a finding of committed as a final disposition for any infraction, twice within ten years for a violation involving unlawful hunting, killing, or possessing big game. Revocation and suspension under this subsection must be ordered for all hunting privileges for two years.

(d) If a person violates, three times or more in a ten-year period, recreational hunting or fishing laws or rules for which the person: (i) Is convicted of an offense; (ii) has an unvacated payment of a fine or a finding of committed as a final disposition for any infraction; or (iii) fails to appear at a hearing to contest an infraction or a criminal citation. Revocation and suspension under this subsection must be ordered of all recreational hunting and fishing privileges for two years.

(2)(a) A violation punishable as an infraction counts towards the revocation and suspension of recreational hunting and fishing privileges under this section if that violation is:

(i) Punishable as a crime on July 24, 2005, and is subsequently decriminalized; or

(ii) One of the following violations, as they exist on July 24, 2005: RCW 77.15.160; WAC 220-56-116; WAC 220-56-315(11); or WAC 220-56-355 (1) through (4).

(b) The commission may, by rule, designate infractions that do not count towards the revocation and suspension of recreational hunting and fishing privileges.

(3) If either the deferred education licensee or the required nondeferred accompanying person, hunting under the authority of RCW 77.32.155(2), is convicted of a violation of this title, fails to appear at a hearing to contest a fish and wildlife infraction or a criminal citation, or has an unvacated payment of a fine or a finding of committed as a final disposition for any fish and wildlife infraction, except for a

violation of RCW 77.15.400 (1) through (4), the department may revoke all hunting licenses and tags and may order a suspension of either or both the deferred education licensee's and the nondeferred accompanying person's hunting privileges for one year.

(4) A person who has a recreational license revoked and privileges suspended under this section may file an appeal with the department pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. An appeal must be filed within twenty days of notice of license revocation and privilege suspension. If an appeal is filed, the revocation and suspension issued by the department do not take effect until twenty-one days after the department has delivered an opinion. If no appeal is filed within twenty days of notice of license revocation and suspension, the right to an appeal is waived, and the revocation and suspension take effect twenty-one days following the notice of revocation and suspension.

(5) A recreational license revoked and privilege suspended under this section is in addition to the statutory penalties assigned to the underlying violation. [2012 c 176 § 35; 2009 c 333 § 2; 2007 c 163 § 2; 2005 c 321 § 1; 2003 c 386 § 2; 2001 c 253 § 46; 1998 c 190 § 66.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 386:** "(1)(a) The legislature finds that existing law as it relates to the suspension of commercial fishing licenses does not take into account the real-life circumstances faced by the state's commercial fishing fleets. The nature of the commercial fishing industry, together with the complexity of fisheries regulations, is such that honest mistakes can be made by well-meaning and otherwise law-abiding fishers. Commercial fishing violations that occur within an acceptable margin of error should not result in the suspension of fishing privileges. Likewise, fishers facing the possibility of license suspension or revocation deserve the opportunity to explain any extenuating circumstances prior to having his or her professional privileges suspended.

(b) The legislature intends, by creating the license suspension review committee, to provide a fisher with the opportunity to explain any extenuating circumstances that led to a commercial fishing violation. The legislature intends for the license suspension review committee to give serious considerations to the case-specific facts and scenarios leading up to a violation, and for license suspensions to issue only when the facts indicate a willful act that undermines the conservation of fish stocks. Frivolous violations should not result in the suspension of privileges, and should be punished only by the criminal sanctions attached to the underlying crime.

(2)(a) The legislature further finds that gross abuses of fish stocks should not be tolerated. Individuals convicted of even one violation that is egregious in nature, causing serious detriment to a fishery or the competitive disposition of other fishers, should have his or her license suspended and revoked.

(b) The legislature intends for the license suspension review committee to take egregious fisheries' violations seriously. When dealing with individuals convicted of only one violation, the license suspension review committee should only consider suspension for individuals that are convicted of violations that are of a severe magnitude and show a wanton disregard for the public's resource." [2003 c 386 § 1.]

**77.15.710 Conviction for assault—Revocation of licenses and suspension of privileges.** (1) The commission shall revoke all hunting, fishing, or other licenses issued under this title and order a ten-year suspension of all privileges extended under the authority of the department of a person convicted of assault on a fish and wildlife officer, ex officio officer, employee, agent, or personnel acting for the department, if the employee assaulted was on duty at the time of the assault and carrying out the provisions of this title. The suspension shall be continued beyond this period if any damages to the victim have not been paid by the suspended person.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) For the purposes of this section, the definition of assault includes:

- (a) RCW 9A.32.030; murder in the first degree;
- (b) RCW 9A.32.050; murder in the second degree;
- (c) RCW 9A.32.060; manslaughter in the first degree;
- (d) RCW 9A.32.070; manslaughter in the second degree;
- (e) RCW 9A.36.011; assault in the first degree;
- (f) RCW 9A.36.021; assault in the second degree; and
- (g) RCW 9A.36.031; assault in the third degree. [2000 c 107 § 257; 1998 c 190 § 67; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 43 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 74; 1991 c 211 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.16.135.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.15.720 Discharge of firearm, bow, or crossbow while hunting—In a manner that injures a person or that kills or causes substantial bodily harm to livestock—Suspension of hunting privileges—Appeal.** (1)(a) If a person discharges a firearm, bow, or crossbow while hunting and in a manner that injures, or that a reasonable person would believe is likely to injure, another person, the director shall revoke all of the shooter's hunting licenses and suspend all hunting privileges for three years. If the shooting kills or results in the death of another person, then the director shall revoke all of the shooter's hunting licenses and suspend all of the person's hunting privileges for ten years.

(b) If a person, with malice, discharges a firearm, bow, or crossbow while hunting and in a manner that kills or causes substantial bodily harm to livestock belonging to another person, the director shall revoke all of the shooter's hunting licenses and suspend all hunting privileges for three years. For the purposes of this subsection (1)(b), "malice" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 9A.04.110 but applies to acts against livestock.

(2) A suspension under subsection (1) of this section shall be continued beyond the applicable periods if damages owed to the victim or livestock owner have not been paid by the suspended person. In such a case, no hunting license shall be reissued to the suspended person unless authorized by the director.

(3) A person who is notified of a license revocation under this section may request an appeal hearing under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(4) The commission may by rule authorize petitions for reinstatement of administrative suspensions and define circumstances under which such a reinstatement will be allowed. [2012 c 176 § 36; 2000 c 107 § 258; 1998 c 190 § 68.]

**77.15.730 Wildlife violator compact citations and convictions.** (1) Upon receipt of a report of failure to comply with the terms of a citation issued for a recreational violation from the licensing authority of a state that is a party to the wildlife violator compact under RCW 77.75.070, the department shall suspend the violator's recreational license privileges under this title until there is satisfactory evidence of compliance with the terms of the wildlife citation. The department shall adopt by rule procedures for the timely notification and administrative review of such suspension of recreational licensing privileges.

[Title 77 RCW—page 51]

(2) Upon receipt of a report of a conviction for a recreational offense from the licensing authority of a state that is a party to the wildlife violator compact under RCW 77.75.070, the department shall enter such conviction in its records and shall treat such conviction as if it occurred in the state of Washington for the purposes of suspension, revocation, or forfeiture of recreational license privileges. [2001 c 253 § 47; 1994 c 264 § 45; 1993 c 82 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.10.220.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.15.732 Citations from wildlife violator compact party state—Failure to comply.** (1) Upon receipt of a report of failure to comply with the terms of a citation from the licensing authority of a state that is a party to the wildlife violator compact under RCW 77.75.070, the department shall suspend the violator's license privileges under this title until satisfactory evidence of compliance with the terms of the wildlife citation has been furnished by the issuing state to the department. The department shall adopt by rule procedures for the timely notification and administrative review of such suspension of licensing privileges.

(2) Upon receipt of a report of a conviction from the licensing authority of a state that is a party to the wildlife violator compact under RCW 77.75.070, the department shall enter such conviction in its records and shall treat such conviction as if it occurred in the state of Washington for the purposes of suspension, revocation, or forfeiture of license privileges. [2000 c 107 § 263; 1993 c 82 § 5. Formerly RCW 77.21.090.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.15.740 Protection of southern resident orca whales—Penalty.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, it is unlawful to:

(a) Cause a vessel or other object to approach, in any manner, within two hundred yards of a southern resident orca whale;

(b) Position a vessel to be in the path of a southern resident orca whale at any point located within four hundred yards of the whale. This includes intercepting a southern resident orca whale by positioning a vessel so that the prevailing wind or water current carries the vessel into the path of the whale at any point located within four hundred yards of the whale;

(c) Fail to disengage the transmission of a vessel that is within two hundred yards of a southern resident orca whale; or

(d) Feed a southern resident orca whale.

(2) A person is exempt from subsection (1) of this section if that person is:

(a) Operating a federal government vessel in the course of his or her official duties, or operating a state, tribal, or local government vessel when engaged in official duties involving law enforcement, search and rescue, or public safety;

(b) Operating a vessel in conjunction with a vessel traffic service established under 33 C.F.R. and following a traffic separation scheme, or complying with a vessel traffic service measure of direction. This also includes support vessels escorting ships in the traffic lanes, such as tug boats;

(c) Engaging in an activity, including scientific research, pursuant to a permit or other authorization from the national marine fisheries service and the department;

(d) Lawfully engaging in a treaty Indian or commercial fishery that is actively setting, retrieving, or closely tending fishing gear;

(e) Conducting vessel operations necessary to avoid an imminent and serious threat to a person, vessel, or the environment, including when necessary for overall safety of navigation and to comply with state and federal navigation requirements; or

(f) Engaging in rescue or clean-up efforts of a beached southern resident orca whale overseen, coordinated, or authorized by a volunteer stranding network.

(3) For the purpose of this section, "vessel" includes aircraft, canoes, fishing vessels, kayaks, personal watercraft, rafts, recreational vessels, tour boats, whale watching boats, vessels engaged in whale watching activities, or other small craft including power boats and sailboats.

(4)(a) A violation of this section is a natural resource infraction punishable under chapter 7.84 RCW.

(b) A person who qualifies for an exemption under subsection (2) of this section may offer that exemption as an affirmative defense, which that person must prove by a preponderance of the evidence. [2012 c 176 § 37; 2008 c 225 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 225:** "The legislature finds that the resident population of orca whales in Washington waters (*Orcinus orca*), commonly referred to as the southern residents, are enormously significant to the state. These highly social, intelligent, and playful marine mammals, which the legislature designated as the official marine mammal of the state of Washington, serve as a symbol of the Pacific Northwest and illustrate the biological diversity and rich natural heritage that all Washington citizens and its visitors enjoy.

However, the legislature also finds that the southern resident orcas are currently in a serious decline. Southern residents experienced an almost twenty percent decline between 1996 and 2001. The federal government listed this orca population as depleted in 2003, and as an endangered species in 2005. The federal government has identified impacts from vessels as a significant threat to these marine mammals.

In 2006, after listing the southern resident orcas as endangered, the federal government designated critical orca habitat and released a proposed recovery plan for the southern resident orcas. The federal government has initiated the process to adopt orca conservation rules, but this process may be lengthy. Additionally, although existing whale and wildlife viewing guidelines are an excellent educational resource, these guidelines are voluntary measures that cannot be enforced.

Therefore, the legislature intends to protect southern resident orca whales from impacts from vessels, and to educate the public on how to reduce the risk of disturbing these important marine mammals." [2008 c 225 § 1.]

**Intent—2008 c 225:** "The legislature encourages the state's law enforcement agencies to utilize existing statutes and regulations to protect southern resident orca whales from impacts from vessels, including the vessel operation and enforcement standards contained in chapter 79A.60 RCW." [2008 c 225 § 3.]

**77.15.750 Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.** (1) A person is guilty of unlawful use of a department permit if the person:

(a) Violates any terms or conditions of the permit issued by the department or the director; or

(b) Violates any rule of the commission or the director applicable to the requirement for, issuance of, or use of the permit.

(2)(a) Permits covered under subsection (1) of this section include, but are not limited to, master hunter permits, crab pot removal permits and shellfish pot removal permits under RCW 77.70.500, depredation permits, landowner hunting permits, commercial carp license permits, permits to possess or dispense beer or malt liquor pursuant to RCW 66.28.210, and permits to hold, sponsor, or attend an event requiring a banquet permit from the liquor control board.

(b) Permits excluded from subsection (1) of this section include the discover pass created in RCW 79A.80.020, the vehicle access pass created in RCW 79A.80.040, the day-use permit created in RCW 79A.80.030, commercial use or activity permits, noncommercial use or activity permits, parking permits, experimental fishery permits, trial commercial fishery permits, and scientific collection permits.

(3) Unlawful use of a department permit is a misdemeanor.

(4) A person is guilty of unlawful use of an experimental fishery permit or a trial commercial fishery permit if the person:

(a) Violates any terms or conditions of the permit issued by the department or the director; or

(b) Violates any rule of the commission or the director applicable to the issuance or use of the permit.

(5) Unlawful use of an experimental fishery permit or a trial commercial fishery permit is a gross misdemeanor.

(6) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Experimental fishery permit" means a permit issued by the director for either:

(i) An "emerging commercial fishery," defined as a fishery for a newly classified species for which the department has determined that there is a need to limit participation; or

(ii) An "expanding commercial fishery," defined as a fishery for a previously classified species in a new area, by a new method, or at a new effort level, for which the department has determined that there is a need to limit participation.

(b) "Trial commercial fishery permit" means a permit issued by the department for trial harvest of a newly classified species or harvest of a previously classified species in a new area or by a new means. [2011 c 320 § 20; 2010 c 193 § 9; 2009 c 333 § 14.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**77.15.760 Suspension of a master hunter permit—Appeal hearing.** (1) The department may suspend a person's master hunter permit for the following reasons and corresponding lengths of time:

(a) If the person pays the required fine or is found to have committed an infraction under this chapter or the department's rules, the department shall suspend the person's master hunter permit for two years;

(b) If the person pays the required fine or is convicted of a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony under this chapter, the department shall suspend the person's master hunter permit for life;

(c) If the person pays the required fine or is convicted of trespass, reckless endangerment, criminal conspiracy, or making a false statement to law enforcement while hunting, fishing, or engaging in any activity regulated by the depart-

(2012 Ed.)

ment, the department shall suspend the person's master hunter permit for life;

(d) If the person pays the required fine or is convicted of a felony prohibiting the possession of firearms, unless firearm possession is reinstated, the department shall suspend the person's master hunter permit for life;

(e) If the person has a hunting or fishing license revoked or has hunting or fishing license privileges suspended in another state, the department shall suspend the person's master hunter permit for life;

(f) If the person is cited, or charged by complaint, for an offense under this chapter; or for trespass, reckless endangerment, criminal conspiracy, or making a false statement to law enforcement while hunting, fishing, or engaging in any activity regulated by the department, the department may immediately suspend the person's master hunter permit until the offense has been adjudicated; or

(g) If the person submits fraudulent information to the department, the department shall suspend the person's master hunter permit for life.

(2) Any master hunter who is notified of an intended suspension may request an appeal hearing under chapter 34.05 RCW. [2009 c 333 § 16.]

**77.15.770 Unlawful trade in shark fins—Penalty.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person is guilty of unlawful trade in shark fins in the second degree if:

(a) The person sells, offers for sale, purchases, offers to purchase, or otherwise exchanges a shark fin or shark fin derivative product for commercial purposes; or

(b) The person prepares or processes a shark fin or shark fin derivative product for human or animal consumption for commercial purposes.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person is guilty of unlawful trade in shark fins in the first degree if:

(a) The person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and the violation involves shark fins or a shark fin derivative product with a total market value of two hundred fifty dollars or more;

(b) The person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and acted with knowledge that the shark fin or shark fin derivative product originated from a shark that was harvested in an area or at a time where or when the harvest was not legally allowed or by a person not licensed to harvest the shark; or

(c) The person commits the act described by subsection (1) of this section and the violation occurs within five years of entry of a prior conviction under this section or a prior conviction for any other gross misdemeanor or felony under this title involving fish, other than a recreational fishing violation.

(3)(a) Unlawful trade in shark fins in the second degree is a gross misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the department shall suspend any commercial fishing privileges for the person that requires a license under this title for a period of one year.

(b) Unlawful trade in shark fins in the first degree is a class C felony. Upon conviction, the department shall suspend any commercial fishing privileges for the person that requires a license under this title for a period of one year.

(4) Any person who obtains a license or permit issued by the department to take or possess sharks or shark parts for

bona fide research or educational purposes, and who sells, offers for sale, purchases, offers to purchase, or otherwise trades a shark fin or shark fin derivative product, exclusively for bona fide research or educational purposes, may not be held liable under or subject to the penalties of this section.

(5) Nothing in this section prohibits the sale, offer for sale, purchase, offer to purchase, or other exchange of shark fins or shark fin derivative products for commercial purposes, or preparation or processing of shark fins or shark fin derivative products for purposes of human or animal consumption for commercial purposes, if the shark fins or shark fin derivative products were lawfully harvested or lawfully acquired prior to July 22, 2011. [2011 c 324 § 2.]

**Findings—2011 c 324:** "The legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) The practice of shark finning, where a shark is caught, its fins are sliced off while it is still alive, and the animal returned to the sea severely and almost always fatally wounded, constitutes a serious threat to Washington's coastal ecosystem and biodiversity. Sharks are particularly susceptible to overfishing because they only reach sexual maturity between seven to twelve years of age and hatch or birth small litters. The destruction of the population of sharks, which reside at the top of the marine food chain, is an urgent problem that upsets the balance of species in the ocean ecosystem.

(2) Shark finning condemns millions of sharks every year to slow, painful deaths. Returned to the water without their fins, the maimed sharks are attacked by other predators or drown, because most shark species must swim in order to push water through their gills. Shark finning is therefore a cruel practice contrary to the good morals of the citizens of the state of Washington.

(3) The market for shark fins drives the brutal practice of shark finning. Shark finning and trade in shark fins and shark fin derivative products are occurring all along the Pacific Coast, including the state of Washington.

(4) The consumption of shark fins and shark fin derivative products by humans may cause serious health risks, including risks from mercury." [2011 c 324 § 1.]

**77.15.780 Disposition of judicially forfeited seized property.** When seized property, other than fish, shellfish, and wildlife, is judicially forfeited to the department, the department may: (1) Retain it for official use unless the property is required to be destroyed; (2) upon application by any law enforcement agency of the state, release the property to the agency for use in enforcing this title; (3) donate the property as provided under RCW 77.130.060; or (4) sell the property and deposit the proceeds into the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account created in RCW 77.15.425. Any sale of the property must be done in accordance with RCW 77.130.010(1) and 77.130.020. However, the requirement in those sections for notice to owners does not apply. [2012 c 176 § 12.]

**77.15.790 Negligently feeding, attempting to feed, or attracting large wild carnivores to land or a building—Infraction.** (1) A person may not negligently feed or attempt to feed large wild carnivores or negligently attract large wild carnivores to land or a building.

(2) If a fish and wildlife officer, ex officio fish and wildlife officer, or animal control authority, as defined in RCW 16.30.010, has probable cause to believe that a person is negligently feeding, attempting to feed, or attracting large wild carnivores to land or a building by placing or locating food, food waste, or other substance in, on, or about any land or building, and the food, food waste, or other substance poses a risk to the safety of any person, livestock, or pet because it is attracting or could attract large wild carnivores to the land or

building, that person commits an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.

(3) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply to:

(a) A person who is engaging in forest practices in accordance with chapter 76.09 RCW or in hunting or trapping wildlife in accordance with all other applicable provisions of this title or rules of the commission or the director;

(b) A person who is engaging in a farming or ranching operation that is using generally accepted farming or ranching practices consistent with Titles 15 and 16 RCW;

(c) Waste disposal facilities that are operating in accordance with applicable federal, state, and municipal laws;

(d) Entities listed in RCW 16.30.020(1) (a) through (j) and scientific collection permit holders; or

(e) A fish and wildlife officer or employee or agent of the department operating under the authority of or upon request from an officer conducting authorized wildlife capture activities to address a threat to human safety or a wildlife interaction as defined in RCW 77.36.010.

(4) For persons and entities listed in subsection (3) of this section, a fish and wildlife officer, ex officio fish and wildlife officer, or animal control authority, as defined in RCW 16.30.010, may issue a written warning to the person or entity if:

(a) The officer or animal control authority can articulate facts to support that the person or entity has placed or is responsible for placing food, food waste, or other substance in, on, or about the person's or entity's land or buildings; and

(b) The food, food waste, or other substance poses a risk to the safety of any person, livestock, or pet because the food, food waste, or other substance is attracting or could attract large wild carnivores to the land or buildings.

(5)(a) Any written warning issued under subsection (4) of this section requires the person or entity placing or otherwise responsible for placing the food, food waste, or other substance to contain, move, or remove that food, food waste, or other substance within two days.

(b) If a person who is issued a written warning under (a) of this subsection fails to contain, move, or remove the food, food waste, or other substance as directed, the person commits an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. [2012 c 176 § 38.]

**77.15.792 Intentionally feeding or attempting to feed large wild carnivores or intentionally attracting large wild carnivores to land or a building—Penalty.** (1) A person may not intentionally feed or attempt to feed large wild carnivores or intentionally attract large wild carnivores to land or a building.

(2) A person who intentionally feeds, attempts to feed, or attracts large wild carnivores to land or a building is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(3) A person who is issued an infraction under RCW 77.15.790 for negligently feeding, attempting to feed, or attracting large wild carnivores to land or a building, and who fails to contain, move, or remove the food, food waste, or other substance within twenty-four hours of being issued the infraction, is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2012 c 176 § 39.]

**77.15.900 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the fish and wildlife enforcement code. [1998 c 190 § 126.]

**77.15.901 Captions not law.** Captions used in this chapter are not any part of the law. [1998 c 190 § 127.]

**77.15.902 Savings—1998 c 190.** The enactment of chapter 190, Laws of 1998 does not terminate, or in any way modify, any liability, civil or criminal, that was in existence on June 11, 1998. [1998 c 190 § 129.]

**Chapter 77.18 RCW  
GAME FISH MITIGATION**

Sections

- 77.18.050 Planting privately produced trout.
- 77.18.060 Determination of appropriate waters.

**77.18.050 Planting privately produced trout.** The legislature finds that it is beneficial to improve opportunities for trout fishing in order to satisfy the public’s demand for recreational fishing during a time of declining opportunities to catch anadromous salmon and steelhead trout.

Fish farmers can produce trout in a triploid genetic configuration for the purpose of certifying that the fish are sterile and that they cannot interbreed with wild trout. These fish are ideally suited to planting into public lakes and ponds to provide immediate recreational fishing at a reasonable cost. The fish continue to grow throughout their life cycle and have the potential to grow to trophy size.

Planting of these catchable trout can provide increased angler participation, increased fishing license sales, increased tourism activities, and a boost to local economies.

The department of fish and wildlife is authorized to purchase these privately produced fish to supplement existing department trout hatchery production. The planting of these catchable trout in water bodies with water quality sufficient to support fish life must not have an adverse impact on the wild trout population. [1999 c 363 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.18.060 Determination of appropriate waters.** The fish and wildlife commission in consultation with the department is authorized to determine which waters of the state are appropriate for this use. In making this determination, the commission shall seek geographic distribution to assure opportunity to fishers statewide.

The commission in consultation with the department will determine the maximum number of fish that may be planted into state waters so as not to compete with the wild populations of fish species in the water body. [2005 c 87 § 1; 1999 c 363 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**Chapter 77.32 RCW  
LICENSES**

Sections

- 77.32.007 "Special hunting season" defined.
- 77.32.010 Recreational license required—Activities—Pass or permit for parking.

(2012 Ed.)

- 77.32.014 Licenses, tags, and stamps—Revocation/privileges suspended for noncompliance with support order.
- 77.32.025 Establishment of times and places for family fishing with no license or catch record card—Authorized.
- 77.32.050 Recreational and commercial licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets issued by authorized officials—Rules—Fees.
- 77.32.070 Information required from license applicants—Reports on taking/effort to harvest fish, shellfish, and wildlife—Administrative penalty.
- 77.32.090 Licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets—Rules for form, display, procedures.
- 77.32.155 Hunter education training program—Certificate—Deferral—Adoption of rules—Fee.
- 77.32.237 Disabled hunter permits for persons with a disability.
- 77.32.238 Adoption of rules defining a person with a disability—Shooting from a motor vehicle—Assistance from licensed hunter.
- 77.32.240 Scientific permit—Procedures—Penalties—Fees.
- 77.32.250 Licenses nontransferable.
- 77.32.256 Duplicate licenses, rebates, permits, tags, and stamps—Fees.
- 77.32.320 Required licenses, tags—Transport tags for game.
- 77.32.350 Migratory birds—Supplemental permit—Fees.
- 77.32.370 Special hunting season permits—Fee.
- 77.32.400 Persons with a disability—Designated harvester card—Fish and shellfish.
- 77.32.410 Personal use fishing license—Reciprocity with Oregon in concurrent waters of Columbia river and coastal waters.
- 77.32.430 Catch record card—Disposition of funds.
- 77.32.440 Enhancement programs—Funding levels—Rules—Deposit to warm water game fish account.
- 77.32.450 Big game hunting license—Fees.
- 77.32.460 Small game hunting license—Turkey tags—Fees.
- 77.32.470 Personal use fishing licenses—Fees—Temporary fishing license—Family fishing weekend license—Rules.
- 77.32.480 Reduced rate licenses.
- 77.32.500 Saltwater, freshwater transition areas—Rule-making authority.
- 77.32.520 Personal use shellfish and seaweed license—Razor clam license—Fees—License available for inspection.
- 77.32.525 Hunting and fishing contests—Field trials for dogs—Rules—Limitation.
- 77.32.530 Hunting big game—Auction or raffle—Procedure.
- 77.32.535 Private lands—Raffle authorization to hunt big game.
- 77.32.540 Hunting and fishing contests—Field trials for dogs—Permit—Rules.
- 77.32.545 Removal of trap—Identification of traps—Disclosure of identities.
- 77.32.550 Group fishing permit.
- 77.32.555 Surcharge to fund biotoxin testing and monitoring—Algal bloom program—Biotoxin account.
- 77.32.560 Watchable wildlife decals.
- 77.32.565 Hunting and fishing opportunities for a terminally ill person—Provision of a license, tag, permit, or stamp without a fee—Rule-making authority.
- 77.32.570 Master hunter permit program—Fee.
- 77.32.575 Western Washington pheasant permit—Fee.
- 77.32.580 Columbia river salmon and steelhead stamp or endorsement—Cost.
- 77.32.585 Release of wild beavers.

**77.32.007 "Special hunting season" defined.** For the purposes of this chapter "special hunting season" means a hunting season established by rule of the commission for the purpose of taking specified wildlife under a special hunting permit. [1984 c 240 § 8.]

**77.32.010 Recreational license required—Activities—Pass or permit for parking.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a recreational license issued by the director is required to hunt for or take wild animals or wild birds, fish for, take, or harvest fish, shellfish, and seaweed. A recreational fishing or shellfish license is not required for carp, smelt, and crawfish, and a hunting license is not required for bullfrogs.

(2) A pass or permit issued under RCW 79A.80.020, 79A.80.030, or 79A.80.040 is required to park or operate a

motor vehicle on a recreation site or lands, as defined in RCW 79A.80.010.

(3) During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium to enable the implementation of the pilot project established in section 307, chapter 329, Laws of 2008, a fishing permit issued to a non-tribal member by the Colville Tribes shall satisfy the license requirements in subsection (1) of this section on the waters of Lake Rufus Woods and on the north shore of Lake Rufus Woods, and a Colville Tribes tribal member identification card shall satisfy the license requirements in subsection (1) of this section on all waters of Lake Rufus Woods. [2011 c 320 § 19; 2009 c 564 § 956; 2008 c 329 § 923; 2006 c 57 § 1; 2001 c 253 § 49; 2000 c 107 § 264; 1998 c 191 § 7; 1987 c 506 § 76; 1985 c 457 § 25; 1983 c 284 § 2; 1981 c 310 § 7; 1980 c 78 § 103; 1979 ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1959 c 245 § 1; 1955 c 36 § 77.32.010. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 93; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-102.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Severability—Effective date—2008 c 329:** See notes following RCW 28B.105.110.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Findings—Intent—1983 c 284:** See note following RCW 82.27.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.014 Licenses, tags, and stamps—Revocation/privileges suspended for noncompliance with support order.** Licenses, tags, and stamps issued pursuant to this chapter shall be revoked and the privileges suspended for any period in which a person is certified by the department of social and health services or a court of competent jurisdiction as a person in noncompliance with a support order. Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers shall enforce this section through checks of the department of licensing's computer database. A listing on the department of licensing's database that an individual's license is currently suspended pursuant to RCW 46.20.291(8) shall be prima facie evidence that the individual is in noncompliance with a support order. Presentation of a written release issued by the department of social and health services stating that the person is in compliance with an order shall serve as prima facie proof of compliance with a support order. [2001 c 253 § 50; 2000 c 107 § 265; 1998 c 191 § 8; 1997 c 58 § 881.]

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.025 Establishment of times and places for family fishing with no license or catch record card—Authorized.** Notwithstanding RCW 77.32.010, the commission may adopt rules designating times and places for the purposes of family fishing days when licenses and catch record cards are not required to fish or to harvest shellfish. [1998 c 191 § 9; 1996 c 20 § 2; 1987 c 506 § 103.]

[Title 77 RCW—page 56]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.050 Recreational and commercial licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets issued by authorized officials—Rules—Fees.** (1) All recreational and commercial licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets shall be issued under the authority of the commission. The commission shall adopt rules for the issuance of licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets, and for the collection, payment, and handling of license fees, including terms and conditions to govern dealers, and dealer fees. A transaction fee on commercial and recreational documents issued through an automated licensing system may be set by the commission and collected from licensees. The department may authorize all or part of such fee to be paid directly to a contractor providing automated licensing system services. The department and dealers shall collect and retain dealer fees of at least two dollars for purchase of a standard hunting or fishing recreational license document or commercial license document, except that the commission may set a lower dealer fee for issuance of tags or when a licensee buys a license that involves a stamp or display card format rather than a standard department licensing document form. Dealer fees must be uniform throughout the state.

(2) Until September 1, 2011, the department shall charge an additional transaction fee of ten percent on all recreational licenses, permits, tags, stamps, or raffle tickets. These transaction fees must be deposited into the state wildlife account, created in RCW 77.12.170, for funding fishing and hunting opportunities for recreational license holders.

(3) The application fee is waived for all commercial license documents that are issued through the automated licensing system. [2011 c 339 § 5; 2009 c 333 § 71; 2003 c 389 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 266; 1999 c 243 § 2; 1998 c 191 § 10; 1996 c 101 § 8; 1995 c 116 § 1; 1987 c 506 § 77; 1981 c 310 § 16; 1980 c 78 § 106; 1979 ex.s. c 3 § 2; 1955 c 36 § 77.32.050. Prior: 1953 c 75 § 2; 1947 c 275 § 97; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-106.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339 § 5:** "Section 5 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect June 30, 2011." [2011 c 339 § 41.]

**Finding—1999 c 243:** "The legislature finds that recreational license dealers are private businesses that provide the service of license sales in every part of the state. The dealers who sell recreational fishing and hunting licenses for the department of fish and wildlife perform a valuable public service function for those members of the public who purchase licenses as well as a revenue generating function for the department. The modernized fishing and hunting license format will require additional investments by license dealers in employee training and public education." [1999 c 243 § 1.]

**Findings—1996 c 101:** See note following RCW 77.32.530.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.070 Information required from license applicants—Reports on taking/effort to harvest fish, shellfish,**

(2012 Ed.)

**and wildlife—Administrative penalty.** (1) Applicants for a license, permit, tag, or stamp shall furnish the information required by the director. However, the director may not require the purchaser of a razor clam license under RCW 77.32.520 to provide any personal information except for proof of residency. The commission may adopt rules requiring licensees or permittees to keep records and make reports concerning the taking of or effort to harvest fish, shellfish, and wildlife. The reporting requirement may be waived where, for any reason, the department is not able to receive the report. The department must provide reasonable options for a licensee to submit information to a live operator prior to the reporting deadline.

(2) The commission may, by rule, set an administrative penalty for failure to comply with rules requiring the reporting of taking or effort to harvest wildlife. The commission may also adopt rules requiring hunters who have not reported for the previous license year to complete a report and pay the assessed administrative penalty before a new hunting license is issued.

(a) The total administrative penalty per hunter set by the commission must not exceed ten dollars.

(b) By December 31st of each year, the department shall report the rate of hunter compliance with the harvest reporting requirement, the administrative penalty imposed for failing to report, and the amount of administrative penalties collected during that year to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the senate and house of representatives.

(3) The commission may, by rule, set an administrative penalty for failure to comply with rules requiring the reporting of data from catch record cards officially endorsed for Puget Sound Dungeness crab. The commission may also adopt rules requiring fishers who possessed a catch record card officially endorsed for Puget Sound Dungeness crab and who have not reported for the previous license year to complete a report and pay the assessed administrative penalty before a new catch record card officially endorsed for Puget Sound Dungeness crab is issued.

(a) The total administrative penalty per fisher set by the commission must not exceed ten dollars.

(b) By December 31st of each year, the department shall report the rate of fisher compliance with the Puget Sound Dungeness crab catch record card reporting requirement, the administrative penalty imposed for failing to report, and the amount of administrative penalties collected during that year to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the senate and house of representatives. [2008 c 244 § 1; 2005 c 418 § 1; 2004 c 248 § 3; 1998 c 191 § 11; 1995 c 116 § 3; 1987 c 506 § 79; 1981 c 310 § 18; 1980 c 78 § 108; 1955 c 36 § 77.32.070. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 99; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-108.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.090 Licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets—Rules for form, display, procedures.** The com-

(2012 Ed.)

mission may adopt rules pertaining to the form, period of validity, use, possession, and display of licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets required by this chapter. [2000 c 107 § 267; 1998 c 191 § 12; 1996 c 101 § 10; 1995 c 116 § 4; 1987 c 506 § 80; 1981 c 310 § 19; 1980 c 78 § 109; 1955 c 36 § 77.32.090. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 101; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-110.]

**Findings—1996 c 101:** See note following RCW 77.32.530.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.155 Hunter education training program—Certificate—Deferral—Adoption of rules—Fee.** (1)(a) When purchasing any hunting license, persons under the age of eighteen shall present certification of completion of a course of instruction of at least ten hours in the safe handling of firearms, safety, conservation, and sportsmanship. All persons purchasing any hunting license for the first time, if born after January 1, 1972, shall present such certification.

(b)(i) The director may establish a program for training persons in the safe handling of firearms, conservation, and sportsmanship and shall prescribe the type of instruction and the qualifications of the instructors. The director shall, as part of establishing the training program, exempt members of the United States military from the firearms skills portion of any instruction course completed over the internet.

(ii) The director may cooperate with the National Rifle Association, organized sportsmen's groups, or other public or private organizations when establishing the training program.

(c) Upon the successful completion of a course established under this section, the trainee shall receive a hunter education certificate signed by an authorized instructor. The certificate is evidence of compliance with this section.

(d) The director may accept certificates from other states that persons have successfully completed firearm safety, hunter education, or similar courses as evidence of compliance with this section.

(2)(a) The director may authorize a once in a lifetime, one license year deferral of hunter education training for individuals who are accompanied by a nondeferred Washington-licensed hunter who has held a Washington hunting license for the prior three years and is over eighteen years of age. The commission shall adopt rules for the administration of this subsection to avoid potential fraud and abuse.

(b) The director is authorized to collect an application fee, not to exceed twenty dollars, for obtaining the once in a lifetime, one license year deferral of hunter education training from the department. This fee must be deposited into the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account and must be used exclusively to administer the deferral program created in this subsection.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection, "accompanied" means to go along with another person while staying within a range of the other person that permits continual unaided visual and auditory communication.

(3) To encourage the participation of an adequate number of instructors for the training program, the commission shall develop nonmonetary incentives available to individuals who commit to serving as an instructor. The incentives may include additional hunting opportunities for instructors. [2009 c 269 § 1; 2007 c 163 § 1; 2006 c 23 § 1; 1998 c 191 § 17; 1993 c 85 § 1; 1987 c 506 § 81; 1981 c 310 § 21; 1980 c 78 § 104; 1957 c 17 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.32.015.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.237 Disabled hunter permits for persons with a disability.** The commission shall attempt to enhance the hunting opportunities for persons with a disability. The commission shall authorize the director to issue disabled hunter permits to persons with a disability. The commission shall adopt rules governing the conduct of persons with a disability who hunt and their designated licensed hunter. [2007 c 254 § 6; 1989 c 297 § 1.]

**77.32.238 Adoption of rules defining a person with a disability—Shooting from a motor vehicle—Assistance from licensed hunter.** (1) The commission shall adopt rules defining who is a person with a disability and governing the conduct of persons with a disability who hunt and their designated licensed hunters. It is unlawful for any person to possess a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle except a person with a disability who possesses a disabled hunter permit and all appropriate hunting licenses may discharge a firearm or other legal hunting device from a nonmoving motor vehicle that has the engine turned off. A person with a disability who possesses a disabled hunter permit shall not be exempt from permit requirements for carrying concealed weapons, or from rules, laws, or ordinances concerning the discharge of these weapons. No hunting shall be permitted from a motor vehicle that is parked on or beside the maintained portion of a public road, except as authorized by the commission by rule.

(2) A person with a disability holding a disabled hunter permit may be accompanied by one licensed hunter who may assist the person with a disability by killing game wounded by the person with a disability, and by tagging and retrieving game killed by the person with a disability or the designated licensed hunter. A nondisabled hunter shall not possess a loaded gun in, or shoot from, a motor vehicle. [2007 c 254 § 5; 1989 c 297 § 2.]

**77.32.240 Scientific permit—Procedures—Penalties—Fees.** A scientific permit allows the holder to collect for research or display food fish, game fish, shellfish, and wildlife, including avian nests and eggs as required in RCW 77.32.010, under conditions prescribed by the director. Before a permit is issued, the applicant shall demonstrate to the director their qualifications and establish the need for the permit. The director may require a bond of up to one thousand dollars to ensure compliance with the permit. Permits are valid for the time specified, unless sooner revoked.

Holders of permits may exchange specimens with the approval of the director.

A permit holder who violates this section shall forfeit the permit and bond and shall not receive a similar permit for one year. The fee for a scientific permit is twelve dollars. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. [2011 c 339 § 6; 1998 c 191 § 21; 1991 sp.s. c 7 § 6; 1981 c 310 § 28; 1980 c 78 § 119; 1955 c 36 § 77.32.240. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 113; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-122.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.250 Licenses nontransferable.** Except as authorized in RCW 77.32.565, licenses, permits, tags, and stamps required by this chapter and raffle tickets authorized under this chapter shall not be transferred. [2008 c 10 § 3; 2001 c 253 § 51; 2000 c 107 § 269; 1998 c 191 § 22; 1996 c 101 § 12; 1995 c 116 § 5; 1981 c 310 § 29; 1980 c 78 § 120; 1955 c 36 § 77.32.250. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 114; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-123.]

**Short title—2008 c 10:** See note following RCW 77.32.565.

**Findings—1996 c 101:** See note following RCW 77.32.530.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.256 Duplicate licenses, rebates, permits, tags, and stamps—Fees.** The director shall by rule establish the conditions and fees for issuance of duplicate licenses, rebates, permits, tags, and stamps required by this chapter. The fee for duplicate licenses, rebates, permits, tags, and stamps, except catch record cards, may not exceed the actual cost to the department for issuing the duplicate. [2003 c 318 § 2; 2002 c 222 § 1; 1995 c 116 § 6; 1994 c 255 § 13; 1991 sp.s. c 7 § 7; 1987 c 506 § 86; 1985 c 464 § 7; 1981 c 310 § 30; 1980 c 78 § 121; 1975 1st ex.s. c 15 § 32.]

**Effective date—2003 c 318:** See note following RCW 77.32.430.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.320 Required licenses, tags—Transport tags for game.** (1) The correct licenses and tags are required to hunt deer, elk, black bear, cougar, sheep, mountain goat, moose, or wild turkey except as provided in RCW 77.32.450.

(2) Persons who kill deer, elk, bear, cougar, mountain goat, sheep, moose, or wild turkey shall immediately validate and attach their own transport tag to the carcass as provided by rule of the director. [1998 c 191 § 23; 1997 c 114 § 1; 1990 c 84 § 4; 1987 c 506 § 87; 1981 c 310 § 8.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.350 Migratory birds—Supplemental permit—Fees.** In addition to a small game hunting license, a supplemental permit is required to hunt for migratory birds.

A migratory bird permit is required for all persons sixteen years of age or older to hunt migratory birds. The fee for the permit for hunters is fifteen dollars for residents and non-residents. [2011 c 339 § 7; 2009 c 333 § 72; 2002 c 283 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 270; 1998 c 191 § 25; 1998 c 191 § 24; 1992 c 41 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 7 § 9; 1990 c 84 § 6; 1989 c 365 § 1; 1987 c 506 § 105. Prior: 1985 c 464 § 9; 1985 c 243 § 1; 1984 c 240 § 6; 1981 c 310 § 12.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.370 Special hunting season permits—Fee.** (1) A special hunting season permit is required to hunt in each special season.

(2) Persons may apply for special hunting season permits as provided by rule of the commission.

(3) The application fee to enter a drawing for a special hunting season permit or authorization is:

(a) Six dollars for residents, or one hundred dollars for nonresidents, for the permits in categories designated by the commission for deer or elk, female big game, or for small game;

(b) Twelve dollars for residents, or one hundred dollars for nonresidents, for the permits that the commission designates as "quality" hunts that allow the harvest of buck deer, bull elk, or allow the harvest of male big game species that are only available for hunting by special permit;

(c) Twelve dollars for residents and nonresidents to apply for special authorizations to hunt for migratory birds; and

(d) Three dollars for youth for any special hunt drawing or special authorization. [2011 c 339 § 8; 1998 c 191 § 26; 1991 sp.s. c 7 § 11; 1987 c 506 § 89; 1984 c 240 § 7; 1981 c 310 § 14.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.400 Persons with a disability—Designated harvester card—Fish and shellfish.** (1) The commission shall authorize the director to issue designated harvester cards to persons with a disability. The commission shall adopt rules defining who is a person with a disability and rules governing the conduct of persons with a disability who fish and harvest shellfish and their designated harvesters.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) It is lawful for a designated harvester to fish for, take, or possess the personal-use daily bag limit of fish or shellfish for a person with a disability if the harvester is licensed and has a designated harvester card, and if the person with a disability is present on site and in possession of the appropriate fishing license issued under this chapter. Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the person with a disability must be present and participating in the fishing activity.

(3) A designated harvester card will be issued to such a person with a disability upon written application to the director. The application must be submitted on a department official form and must be accompanied by a licensed medical doctor's certification of disability.

(4) A person with a disability utilizing the services of a designated harvester is not required to be present at the location where the designated harvester is harvesting shellfish for the person with a disability. The person with a disability is required to be in the direct line of sight of the designated harvester who is harvesting shellfish for him or her, unless it is not possible to be in a direct line of sight because of a physical obstruction or other barrier. If such a barrier or obstruction exists, the person with a disability is required to be within one-quarter mile of the designated harvester who is harvesting shellfish for him or her. [2007 c 254 § 2; 1998 c 191 § 1. Prior: 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 5; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 42; 1993 c 201 § 1; 1989 c 305 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 92; 1980 c 81 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.25.080.]

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.410 Personal use fishing license—Reciprocity with Oregon in concurrent waters of Columbia river and coastal waters.** In concurrent waters of the Columbia river and in Washington coastal territorial waters from the Oregon-Washington boundary to a point five nautical miles north, an Oregon angling license comparable to the Washington personal use fishing license is valid if Oregon recognizes as valid the Washington personal use fishing license in comparable Oregon waters.

If Oregon recognizes as valid the Washington personal use fishing license southward to Cape Falcon in the coastal territorial waters from the Washington-Oregon boundary and in concurrent waters of the Columbia river then Washington shall recognize a valid Oregon license comparable to the Washington personal use fishing license northward to Leadbetter Point.

Oregon licenses are not valid for the taking of food fish or game fish when angling in concurrent waters of the Columbia river from the Washington shore. [1998 c 191 § 3; 1994 c 255 § 6; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 7; 1989 c 305 § 9; 1987 c 87 § 4; 1985 c 174 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 96; 1977 ex.s. c 327 § 17. Formerly RCW 75.25.120, 75.28.670.]

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.430 Catch record card—Disposition of funds.** (1) Catch record card information is necessary for proper management of the state's food fish and game fish species and shellfish resources. Catch record card administration

[Title 77 RCW—page 59]

shall be under rules adopted by the commission. There is no charge for an initial catch record card. Each subsequent or duplicate catch record card costs eleven dollars.

(2) A license to take and possess Dungeness crab is only valid in Puget Sound waters east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line if the fisher has in possession a valid catch record card officially endorsed for Dungeness crab. The endorsement shall cost no more than seven dollars and fifty cents when purchased for a personal use saltwater, combination, or shellfish and seaweed license. The endorsement shall cost no more than three dollars when purchased for a temporary combination fishing license authorized under RCW 77.32.470(3)(a).

(3) Catch record cards issued with affixed temporary short-term charter stamp licenses are neither subject to the ten-dollar charge nor to the Dungeness crab endorsement fee provided for in this section. Charter boat or guide operators issuing temporary short-term charter stamp licenses shall affix the stamp to each catch record card issued before fishing commences. Catch record cards issued with a temporary short-term charter stamp are valid for one day.

(4) The department shall include provisions for recording marked and unmarked salmon in catch record cards issued after March 31, 2004.

(5)(a) The funds received from the sale of catch record cards, catch card penalty fees, and the Dungeness crab endorsement must be deposited into the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170. One dollar of the funds received from the sale of each Dungeness crab endorsement must be used for the removal and disposal of derelict shellfish gear either directly by the department or under contract with a third party. The department is required to maintain a separate accounting of these funds and provide an annual report to the commission and the legislature by January 1st of every year. The remaining portion of the funds received from the sale of each Dungeness crab endorsement must be used for education, sampling, monitoring, and management of catch associated with the Dungeness crab recreational fisheries.

(b) Moneys allocated under this section shall supplement and not supplant other federal, state, and local funds used for Dungeness crab recreational fisheries management. [2011 c 339 § 9; 2010 c 193 § 11; 2009 c 333 § 40; 2005 c 192 § 2; 2004 c 107 § 2; 2003 c 318 § 1; 1998 c 191 § 5; 1989 c 305 § 10. Formerly RCW 75.25.190.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Intent—2004 c 107:** "It is the intent of the legislature to optimize the management of the recreational allocation of Dungeness crab in Washington state. To accomplish this task, it is necessary to accurately and efficiently quantify the total catch by recreational fishers for Dungeness crab using data from catch record cards. Therefore, an endorsement fee on the catch record card paid at the time of purchasing a recreational fishing license will be required for Dungeness crab to specifically identify the recreational crab harvesting population. The endorsement fee will significantly improve the precision of the catch estimates by eliminating the current practice of sampling fishers who do not participate in the recreational crab fishery." [2004 c 107 § 1.]

**Report—2004 c 107:** "After the completion of one season using the Dungeness crab endorsement fee for Puget Sound recreational Dungeness crab fisheries, the department of fish and wildlife shall evaluate the effectiveness of the endorsement fee as a method for improving the accuracy of catch estimates for the Puget Sound recreational Dungeness crab fishery. The department's report shall include how the method has affected their ability to more accurately estimate the preseason allocation of the Puget Sound recreational Dungeness crab fishery and monitor in-season catch. The

department shall report their findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature by May 15, 2006." [2004 c 107 § 3.]

**Effective date—2004 c 107:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect May 15, 2004." [2004 c 107 § 4.]

**Effective date—2003 c 318:** "This act takes effect April 1, 2004." [2003 c 318 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **77.32.440 Enhancement programs—Funding levels—Rules—Deposit to warm water game fish account.**

(1) The commission shall adopt rules to continue funding current enhancement programs at levels equal to the participation of licensees in each of the individual enhancement programs. All enhancement funding will continue to be deposited directly into the individual accounts created for each enhancement.

(2) In implementing subsection (1) of this section with regard to warm water game fish, the department shall deposit in the warm water game fish account the sum of one million two hundred fifty thousand dollars each fiscal year during the fiscal years 1999 and 2000, based on two hundred fifty thousand warm water anglers. Beginning in fiscal year 2001, and each year thereafter, the deposit to the warm water game fish account established in this subsection shall be adjusted annually to reflect the actual numbers of license holders fishing for warm water game fish based on an annual survey of licensed anglers from the previous year conducted by the department beginning with the April 1, 1999, to March 31, 2000, license year survey. [1999 c 235 § 2; 1998 c 191 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.450 Big game hunting license—Fees.** (1) A big game hunting license is required to hunt for big game. A big game license allows the holder to hunt for forest grouse, unclassified wildlife, and the individual species identified within a specific big game combination license package. Each big game license includes one transport tag for each species purchased in that package. A hunter may not purchase more than one license for each big game species except as authorized by rule of the commission. The fees for annual big game combination packages are as follows:

(a) Big game number 1: Deer, elk, bear, and cougar. The fee for this license is eighty-five dollars for residents, seven hundred eighty dollars for nonresidents, and forty dollars for youth.

(b) Big game number 2: Deer and elk. The fee for this license is seventy-five dollars for residents, six hundred seventy dollars for nonresidents, and thirty-five dollars for youth.

(c) Big game number 3: Deer. The fee for this license is thirty-nine dollars for residents, three hundred ninety-three dollars for nonresidents, and eighteen dollars for youth.

(d) Big game number 4: Elk. The fee for this license is forty-four dollars for residents, four hundred fifty dollars for nonresidents, and eighteen dollars for youth.

(e) Big game number 5: Bear. The fee for this license is twenty dollars for residents, two hundred dollars for nonresidents, and ten dollars for youth.

(f) Big game number 6: Cougar. The fee for this license is twenty dollars for residents, two hundred dollars for non-residents, and ten dollars for youth.

(2) In the event that the commission authorizes a two animal big game limit, the fees for the second animal are as follows:

(a) Elk: The fee is sixty dollars for residents, three hundred fifty dollars for nonresidents, and twenty dollars for youth.

(b) Deer: The fee is sixty dollars for residents, two hundred fifty dollars for nonresidents, and twenty dollars for youth.

(3) In the event that the commission authorizes a special permit hunt for goat, sheep, moose, or other big game species not specified the permit fees are three hundred dollars for residents, one thousand five hundred dollars for nonresidents, and fifty dollars for youth.

(4) Multiple season big game permit: The commission may, by rule, offer permits for hunters to hunt deer or elk during more than one general season. Only one deer or elk may be harvested annually under a multiple season big game permit. The fee is one hundred sixty-five dollars.

(5) Authorization to hunt the species set out under subsection (3) of this section is by special permit issued under RCW 77.32.370. [2011 c 339 § 10; 2005 c 140 § 1; 2000 c 109 § 1; 1998 c 191 § 14.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.460 Small game hunting license—Turkey tags—Fees.** (1) A small game hunting license is required to hunt for all classified wild animals and wild birds, except big game. A small game license also allows the holder to hunt for unclassified wildlife.

(a) The fee for this license is thirty-five dollars for residents, one hundred sixty-five dollars for nonresidents, and fifteen dollars for youth.

(b) The fee for this license if purchased at the same time as a big game combination license package is twenty dollars for residents, eighty-eight dollars for nonresidents, and eight dollars for youth.

(c) The fee for a three-consecutive-day small game license is sixty dollars for nonresidents.

(2) In addition to a small game license, a turkey tag is required to hunt for turkey.

(a) The fee for a primary turkey tag is fourteen dollars for residents and forty dollars for nonresidents. A primary turkey tag will, on request, be issued to the purchaser of a youth small game license at no charge.

(b) The fee for each additional turkey tag is fourteen dollars for residents, sixty dollars for nonresidents, and ten dollars for youth.

(c) All moneys received from turkey tags must be deposited in the state wildlife account. One-third of the moneys received from turkey tags must be appropriated solely for the purposes of turkey management. An additional one-third of the moneys received from turkey tags must be appropriated solely for upland game bird management. Moneys received from turkey tags may not supplant existing funds provided for these purposes. [2011 c 339 § 11; 2006 c 15 § 1; 2000 c 109 § 2; 1998 c 191 § 15.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.470 Personal use fishing licenses—Fees—Temporary fishing license—Family fishing weekend license—Rules.** (1) A personal use saltwater, freshwater, combination, temporary, or family fishing weekend license is required for all persons fifteen years of age or older to fish for or possess fish taken for personal use from state waters or offshore waters.

(2) The fees for annual personal use saltwater, freshwater, or combination licenses are as follows:

(a) A combination license allows the holder to fish for or possess fish, shellfish, and seaweed from state waters or offshore waters. The fee for this license is forty-five dollars for residents, one hundred eight dollars for nonresidents, and five dollars for youth. There is an additional fifty-cent surcharge for this license, to be deposited in the rockfish research account created in RCW 77.12.702.

(b) A saltwater license allows the holder to fish for or possess fish taken from saltwater areas. The fee for this license is twenty-five dollars for residents, fifty-two dollars for nonresidents, and five dollars for resident seniors. There is an additional fifty-cent surcharge for this license, to be deposited in the rockfish research account created in RCW 77.12.702.

(c) A freshwater license allows the holder to fish for, take, or possess food fish or game fish species in all freshwater areas. The fee for this license is twenty-five dollars for residents, seventy-five dollars for nonresidents, and five dollars for resident seniors.

(3)(a) A temporary combination fishing license is valid for one to three consecutive days and allows the holder to fish for or possess fish, shellfish, and seaweed taken from state waters or offshore waters. The fee for this temporary fishing license is:

(i) One day - Eight dollars for residents and sixteen dollars for nonresidents;

(ii) Two days - Twelve dollars for residents and twenty-four dollars for nonresidents; and

(iii) Three days - Fifteen dollars for residents and thirty dollars for nonresidents.

(b) The fee for a charter stamp is eight dollars for a one-day temporary combination fishing license for residents and nonresidents for use on a charter boat as defined in RCW 77.65.150.

(c) Except for active duty military personnel serving in any branch of the United States armed forces, the temporary combination fishing license is not valid on game fish species for an eight-consecutive-day period beginning on the opening day of the lowland lake fishing season as defined by rule of the commission.

(d) The temporary combination fishing license fee for active duty military personnel serving in any branch of the United States armed forces is the resident rate as set forth in (a) of this subsection. Active duty military personnel must provide a valid military identification card at the time of purchase of the temporary license to qualify for the resident rate.

(e) There is an additional fifty-cent surcharge on the temporary combination fishing license and the associated charter

stamp, to be deposited in the rockfish research account created in RCW 77.12.702.

(4) A family fishing weekend license allows for a maximum of six anglers: One resident and five youth; two residents and four youth; or one resident, one nonresident, and four youth. This license allows the holders to fish for or possess fish taken from state waters or offshore waters. The fee for this license is twenty dollars. This license is only valid during periods as specified by rule of the department.

(5) The commission may adopt rules to create and sell combination licenses for all hunting and fishing activities at or below a fee equal to the total cost of the individual license contained within any combination.

(6) The commission may adopt rules to allow the use of two fishing poles per fishing license holder for use on selected state waters. If authorized by the commission, license holders must purchase a two-pole stamp to use a second pole. The proceeds from the sale of the two-pole stamp must be deposited into the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170 and used for the operation and maintenance of state-owned fish hatcheries. The fee for a two-pole stamp is thirteen dollars for residents and nonresidents, and five dollars for seniors. [2011 c 339 § 12; 2009 c 333 § 6; 2008 c 35 § 1; 2007 c 442 § 5; 2005 c 192 § 1; 2003 c 181 § 1; 1998 c 191 § 16.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2007 c 442:** See notes following RCW 77.12.702.

**Effective date—2003 c 181:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 9, 2003]." [2003 c 181 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.480 Reduced rate licenses.** Upon written application, a combination fishing license shall be issued at the reduced rate of five dollars, and all hunting licenses shall, be issued at the reduced rate of a youth hunting license fee for the following individuals:

(1) A resident sixty-five years old or older who is an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces having a service-connected disability;

(2) A resident who is an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces with a thirty percent or more service-connected disability;

(3) A resident with a disability who permanently uses a wheelchair;

(4) A resident who is blind or visually impaired; and

(5) A resident with a developmental disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020 with documentation of the disability certified by a physician licensed to practice in this state. [2007 c 254 § 3; 1998 c 191 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.500 Saltwater, freshwater transition areas—Rule-making authority.** In order to simplify fishing license requirements in transition areas between saltwater and freshwater, the commission may adopt rules designating specific waters where either a freshwater or a saltwater license is valid. [1998 c 191 § 41.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.520 Personal use shellfish and seaweed license—Razor clam license—Fees—License available for inspection.** (1) A personal use shellfish and seaweed license is required for all persons other than residents or nonresidents under fifteen years of age to fish for, take, dig for, or possess seaweed or shellfish, including razor clams, for personal use from state waters or offshore waters including national park beaches.

(2) A razor clam license allows a person to harvest only razor clams for personal use from state waters, including national park beaches.

(3) The fees for annual personal use shellfish and seaweed licenses are:

(a) For a resident fifteen years of age or older, ten dollars;

(b) For a nonresident fifteen years of age or older, twenty-seven dollars; and

(c) For a senior, five dollars.

(4) The fee for an annual razor clam license is eight dollars for residents, fifteen dollars for nonresidents, and eight dollars for seniors.

(5) The fee for a three-day razor clam license is five dollars for both residents and nonresidents.

(6) A personal use shellfish and seaweed license or razor clam license must be in immediate possession of the licensee and available for inspection while a licensee is harvesting shellfish or seaweed. However, the license does not need to be visible at all times. [2011 c 339 § 13; 2007 c 336 § 1; 2004 c 248 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 27; 1999 c 243 § 3; 1998 c 191 § 2; 1994 c 255 § 4; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.25.092.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Report—2007 c 336:** "The department of fish and wildlife shall monitor the sale of personal use shellfish and seaweed licenses and razor clam licenses for four years from July 22, 2007. If in any of the four years the number of license sales drop more than ten percent from July 22, 2007, then the department of fish and wildlife shall report the sales and revenue data for the licenses along with any relevant information regarding the reasons for the decrease to the legislature." [2007 c 336 § 2.]

**Finding—Effective date—1999 c 243:** See notes following RCW 77.32.050.

**Finding—1993 sp.s. c 17:** "The legislature finds that additional cost savings can be realized by simplifying the department of fisheries recreational licensing system. The legislature finds that significant benefits will accrue to recreational fishers from streamlining the department of fisheries recreational licensing system. The legislature finds recreational license fees and commercial landing taxes have not been increased in recent years. The legislature finds that reduction in important department of fisheries programs can be avoided by increasing license fees and commercial landing taxes. The legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the state to avoid significant reductions in current department of fisheries activities." [1993 sp.s. c 17 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.525 Hunting and fishing contests—Field trials for dogs—Rules—Limitation.** The director shall administer rules adopted by the commission governing the time, place, and manner of holding hunting and fishing contests and competitive field trials involving live wildlife for hunting dogs. The department shall prohibit contests and field trials that are not in the best interests of wildlife. [1987 c 506 § 48; 1980 c 78 § 67. Formerly RCW 77.12.530.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

*Contests and field trials:* RCW 77.32.540.

**77.32.530 Hunting big game—Auction or raffle—Procedure.** (1) The commission in consultation with the director may authorize hunting of big game animals and wild turkeys through auction. The department may conduct the auction for the hunt or contract with a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization to conduct the auction for the hunt.

(2) The commission in consultation with the director may authorize hunting of up to a total of thirty big game animals and wild turkeys per year through raffle. The department may conduct raffles or contract with a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization to conduct raffles for hunting these animals. In consultation with the gambling commission, the director may adopt rules for the implementation of raffles involving hunting.

(3) The director shall establish the procedures for the hunts, which shall require any participants to obtain any required license, permit, or tag. Representatives of the department may participate in the hunt upon the request of the commission to ensure that the animals to be killed are properly identified.

(4) After deducting the expenses of conducting an auction or raffle, any revenues retained by a nonprofit organization, as specified under contract with the department, shall be devoted solely for wildlife conservation, consistent with its qualification as a bona fide nonprofit organization for wildlife conservation.

(5) The department's share of revenues from auctions and raffles shall be deposited in the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170. The revenues shall be used to improve game management and shall supplement, rather than replace, other funds budgeted for management of game species. The commission may solicit input from groups or individuals with special interest in and expertise on a species in determining how to use these revenues.

(6) A nonprofit wildlife conservation organization may petition the commission to authorize an auction or raffle for a special hunt for big game animals and wild turkeys. [2009 c 333 § 41; 1996 c 101 § 5. Formerly RCW 77.12.770.]

**Findings—1996 c 101:** "The legislature finds that it is in the best interest of recreational hunters to provide them with the variety of hunting opportunities provided by auctions and raffles. Raffles provide an affordable opportunity for most hunters to participate in special hunts for big game animals and wild turkeys. The legislature also finds that wildlife management and recreation are not adequately funded and that such auctions and raffles can increase revenues to improve wildlife management and recreation." [1996 c 101 § 1.]

**77.32.535 Private lands—Raffle authorization to hunt big game.** If a private entity has a private lands wildlife management area agreement in effect with the department, the commission may authorize the private entity to conduct raffles for access to hunt for big game animals and wild turkeys to meet the conditions of the agreement. The private entity shall comply with all applicable rules adopted under RCW 77.32.530 for the implementation of raffles; however, raffle hunts conducted pursuant to this section shall not be counted toward the number of raffle hunts the commission may authorize under RCW 77.32.530. The director shall

(2012 Ed.)

establish the procedures for the hunts, which shall require any participants to obtain any required license, permit, or tag. Representatives of the department may participate in the hunt upon the request of the commission to ensure that the animals to be killed are properly identified. [2001 c 253 § 52; 1996 c 101 § 6. Formerly RCW 77.12.780.]

**Findings—1996 c 101:** See note following RCW 77.32.530.

**77.32.540 Hunting and fishing contests—Field trials for dogs—Permit—Rules.** A person shall not promote, conduct, hold, or sponsor a contest for the hunting or fishing of wildlife or a competitive field trial involving live wildlife for hunting dogs without first obtaining a hunting or fishing contest permit. Contests and field trials shall be held in accordance with established rules. [1998 c 190 § 118; 1987 c 506 § 58; 1980 c 78 § 69; 1955 c 36 § 77.16.010. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 39; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-49. Formerly RCW 77.16.010.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

*Contests and field trials:* RCW 77.32.525.

**77.32.545 Removal of trap—Identification of traps—Disclosure of identities.** A property owner, lessee, or tenant may remove a trap placed on the owner's, lessee's, or tenant's posted or fenced property by a trapper.

Trappers shall attach to the chain of their traps or devices a legible metal tag with either the department identification number of the trapper or the name and address of the trapper in English letters not less than one-eighth inch in height.

When a property owner, lessee, or tenant presents a trapper identification number to the department for a trap found upon the property of the owner, lessee, or tenant and requests identification of the trapper, the department shall provide the requestor with the name and address of the trapper. Prior to disclosure of the trapper's name and address, the department shall obtain the name and address of the requesting individual in writing and after disclosing the trapper's name and address to the requesting individual, the requesting individual's name and address shall be disclosed in writing to the trapper whose name and address was disclosed. [1998 c 190 § 121; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 75; 1988 c 36 § 51; 1987 c 372 § 1; 1980 c 78 § 85; 1955 c 36 § 77.16.170. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 56; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-65. Formerly RCW 77.16.170.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.32.550 Group fishing permit.** (1) A group fishing permit allows a group of individuals to fish, and harvest shellfish, without individual licenses or the payment of individual license fees.

(2) The director must issue a group fishing permit on a seasonal basis to a state-operated facility or state-licensed nonprofit facility or program for persons with physical or mental disabilities, hospital patients, seriously or terminally ill persons, persons who are dependent on the state because of emotional or physical developmental disabilities, or senior

[Title 77 RCW—page 63]

citizens who are in the care of the facility. The permit is valid only for use during open season.

(3) The director may set conditions and issue a group fishing permit to groups working in partnership with and participating in department outdoor education programs. At the discretion of the director, a processing fee may be applied.

(4) The commission may adopt rules that provide the conditions under which a group fishing permit is issued. [2007 c 254 § 4; 2006 c 16 § 1; 2002 c 266 § 1.]

**77.32.555 Surcharge to fund biotoxin testing and monitoring—Algal bloom program—Biotoxin account.**

(1) In addition to the fees authorized in this chapter, the department shall include a surcharge to fund biotoxin testing and monitoring by the department of health of beaches used for recreational shellfishing, and to fund monitoring by the Olympic region harmful algal bloom program of the Olympic natural resources center at the University of Washington. A surcharge of three dollars applies to resident and nonresident shellfish and seaweed licenses as authorized by RCW 77.32.520(3) (a) and (b); a surcharge of two dollars applies to resident and nonresident adult combination licenses as authorized by RCW 77.32.470(2)(a); a surcharge of two dollars applies to annual resident and nonresident razor clam licenses as authorized by RCW 77.32.520(4); and a surcharge of one dollar applies to the three-day razor clam license authorized by RCW 77.32.520(5). Amounts collected from these surcharges must be deposited in the biotoxin account created in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) Any moneys from surcharges remaining in the general fund—local account after the 2007-2009 biennium must be transferred to the biotoxin account created in subsection (3) of this section and be credited to the appropriate institution. The department of health and the University of Washington shall, by December 1st of each year, provide a letter to the relevant legislative policy and fiscal committees on the status of expenditures. This letter shall include, but is not limited to, the annual appropriation amount, the amount not expended, account fund balance, and reasons for not spending the full annual appropriation.

(3) The biotoxin account is created in the state treasury to be administered by the department of health. All moneys received under subsection (1) of this section must be deposited in the account and used by the department of health and the University of Washington as required by subsection (1) of this section. Of the moneys deposited into the account, one hundred fifty thousand dollars per year must be made available to the University of Washington to implement subsection (1) of this section. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. [2009 c 577 § 1; 2005 c 416 § 1; 2004 c 248 § 2; 2003 c 263 § 2.]

**Effective date—2009 c 577:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2009." [2009 c 577 § 2.]

**Effective date—2005 c 416:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 11, 2005]." [2005 c 416 § 2.]

**Findings—2003 c 263:** "The legislature finds that testing and monitoring of beaches used for recreational shellfishing is essential to ensure the health of recreational shellfishers. The legislature also finds that it is essen-

tial to have a stable and reliable source of funding for such biotoxin testing and monitoring. The legislature also finds that the cost of the resident and nonresident personal use shellfish and seaweed licenses is undervalued and not properly aligned with neighboring states and provinces." [2003 c 263 § 1.]

**Effective date—2003 c 263:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003." [2003 c 263 § 4.]

**77.32.560 Watchable wildlife decals.** (1) The department may sell watchable wildlife decals. Proceeds from the sale of the decal must be deposited into the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170 and must be dedicated to the support of the department's watchable wildlife activities. The department may also use proceeds from the sale of the decal for marketing the decal and for marketing watchable wildlife activities in the state.

(2) The term "watchable wildlife activities" includes but is not limited to: Initiating partnerships with communities to jointly develop watchable wildlife projects, building infrastructure to serve wildlife viewers, assisting and training communities in conducting wildlife watching events, developing destination wildlife viewing corridors and trails, tours, maps, brochures, and travel aides, and offering grants to assist rural communities in identifying key wildlife attractions and ways to protect and promote them.

(3) The commission must adopt by rule the cost of the watchable wildlife decal. A person may, at their discretion, contribute more than the cost as set by the commission by rule for the watchable wildlife decal in order to support watchable wildlife activities. [2011 c 320 § 18; 2009 c 333 § 42; 2003 c 317 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—2003 c 317:** "The legislature finds that healthy wildlife populations significantly contribute to the economic vitality of Washington's rural areas through increased opportunities for watchable wildlife and related tourism. Travel related to watchable wildlife is one of the fastest growing segments of the travel industry. Much of this travel occurs off-season, creating jobs and providing revenue to local businesses and governments during otherwise slow periods. The watchable wildlife industry is particularly important to Washington's rural economies.

The legislature also finds that it is vital to support programs that enhance watchable wildlife activities and tourism, while also protecting the wildlife resources that attract the viewers. A revenue source must be created and directed to the watchable wildlife programs of the department of fish and wildlife to develop watchable wildlife opportunities in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations." [2003 c 317 § 1.]

**77.32.565 Hunting and fishing opportunities for a terminally ill person—Provision of a license, tag, permit, or stamp without a fee—Rule-making authority.** (1) In order to facilitate hunting and fishing opportunities for a terminally ill person, the director may provide any licenses, tags, permits, stamps, and other fees without charge including transaction and dealer fees.

(2) The director may accept special permits or other special hunting opportunities, including raffle tags, auction tags, and multiple season opportunities from donors seeking to facilitate hunting opportunities for a terminally ill person. The director shall distribute these donations pursuant to rules adopted under subsection (4) of this section.

(3) The director may take other actions consistent with facilitating hunting and fishing opportunities for a terminally ill person. These actions may include, but are not limited to, entering into agreements with willing landowners pursuant to RCW 77.12.320.

(4) In addition to rules required under subsection (2) of this section, the commission may adopt rules as necessary to effectuate the purpose and policies of this section. [2008 c 10 § 1.]

**Short title—2008 c 10:** "This act may be known and cited as the Senator Bob Oke memorial act." [2008 c 10 § 4.]

**77.32.570 Master hunter permit program—Fee.** (1) In order to effectively manage wildlife in areas or at times when a higher proficiency and demonstrated skill level are needed for resource protection or public safety, the department establishes the master hunter permit program. The master hunter permit program emphasizes safe, ethical, responsible, and lawful hunting practices. Program goals include improving the public's perception of hunting and perpetuating the highest hunting standards.

(2) A master hunter permit is required to participate in controlled hunts to eliminate problem animals that damage property or threaten public safety. The commission may establish by rule the requirements an applicant must comply with when applying for or renewing a master hunter permit, including but not limited to a criminal background check. The director may establish an advisory group to assist the department with administering the master hunter [permit] program.

(3) The fee for an initial master hunter permit may not exceed fifty dollars, and the cost of renewing a master hunter permit may not exceed twenty-five dollars. Funds generated under this section must be deposited into the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account established in RCW 77.15.425, and the funds must be used exclusively to administer the master hunter [permit] program. [2009 c 333 § 15.]

**77.32.575 Western Washington pheasant permit—Fee.** (1) A western Washington pheasant permit is required to hunt for pheasant in western Washington.

(2) The permit is available as a season option, a youth full season option, or a three-day option. The fee for the permit is:

(a) For the resident full season option, seventy-five dollars;

(b) For the nonresident full season option, one hundred fifty dollars;

(c) For the youth full season option, thirty-five dollars;

(d) For the three-day option for a resident, thirty-five dollars and for a nonresident, seventy dollars. [2009 c 333 § 73.]

**77.32.580 Columbia river salmon and steelhead stamp or endorsement—Cost. (Expires June 30, 2016.)**

(1) In addition to a recreational license required under this chapter, a Columbia river salmon and steelhead stamp or endorsement is required in order for any person fifteen years of age or older to fish recreationally for salmon or steelhead in the Columbia river and its tributaries where these fisheries have been authorized by the department. The cost for each

stamp or endorsement is seven dollars and fifty cents for residents and nonresidents and six dollars for youth and seniors. The department shall deposit all receipts from stamp or endorsement purchases into the Columbia river recreational salmon and steelhead pilot stamp program account created in RCW 77.12.714.

(2) For the purposes of this section and RCW 77.12.712 and 77.12.714 through 77.12.718, the term "Columbia river" means the Columbia river from a line across the Columbia river between Rocky Point in Washington and Tongue Point in Oregon to the Chief Joseph dam. [2011 c 339 § 14; 2009 c 420 § 3.]

**Expiration date—2011 c 339 § 14:** "Section 14 of this act expires June 30, 2016." [2011 c 339 § 40.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Not subject to transaction fee—2009 c 420:** "A Columbia river salmon and steelhead stamp or endorsement is not subject to the additional ten percent transaction fee on recreational licenses, permits, tags, stamps, or raffle tickets to be charged during the 2009-2011 biennium under chapter 333, Laws of 2009 if it or a subsequent version thereof becomes law." [2009 c 420 § 11.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 420 §§ 2-6:** See note following RCW 77.12.712.

**Intent—Scope of authority—2009 c 420:** See notes following RCW 77.12.712.

**77.32.585 Release of wild beavers.** (1) The department shall permit the release of wild beavers on public and private lands with agreement from the property owner.

(2) The department may limit the release of wild beavers to areas of the state where:

(a) There is a low probability of released beavers becoming a nuisance or causing damage;

(b) Conditions exist for released beavers to improve, maintain, or manage stream or riparian ecosystem functions; and

(c) There is evidence of historic endemic beaver populations.

(3) The department may condition the release of beaver to maximize the relocation's success and minimize risk. Factors that the department may condition include:

(a) Stream gradient;

(b) Sufficiency of the water supply;

(c) Stream geomorphology;

(d) Adequacy of a food source;

(e) Proper site elevation and valley width;

(f) Age of the beavers relocated;

(g) Times of year for capture and relocation;

(h) Requirements for the capture, handling, and transport of the live beavers;

(i) Minimum and maximum numbers of beavers that can be relocated in one area; and

(j) Requirements for the permit holder to initially provide supplemental food and lodge building materials.

(4) The department may require specific training for those involved with capture, handling, and release of beavers.

(5) Nothing in this section creates any liability against the state or those releasing beavers nor authorizes any private right of action for any damages subsequently caused by beavers released pursuant to this section.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "beaver" means the American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

(7) For the purposes of this section, beavers may only be released to carry out relocation: (a) Between two areas east of the crest of the Cascade mountains; or (b) from an area west of the crest of the Cascade mountains to an area east of the crest of the Cascade mountains. [2012 c 167 § 2.]

**Finding—2012 c 167:** "The legislature finds that beavers have historically played a significant role in maintaining the health of watersheds in the Pacific Northwest and act as key agents in riparian ecology. The live trapping and relocating of beavers has long been recognized as a beneficial wildlife management practice, and has been successfully utilized to restore and maintain stream ecosystems for over fifty years. The benefits of active beaver populations include reduced stream sedimentation, stream temperature moderation, higher dissolved oxygen levels, overall improved water quality, increased natural water storage capabilities within watersheds, and reduced stream velocities. These benefits improve and create habitat for many other species, including endangered salmon, river otters, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, and other riparian and aquatic species. Relocating beavers into their historic habitat provides a natural mechanism for improving the environmental conditions in Washington's riparian ecosystems without having to resort to governmental regulation or expensive publicly funded engineering projects." [2012 c 167 § 1.]

### Chapter 77.36 RCW WILDLIFE DAMAGE

#### Sections

77.36.010	Definitions.
77.36.030	Trapping or killing wildlife threatening human safety or causing property damage—Limitations and conditions—Rules.
77.36.070	Limit on total claims from wildlife account per fiscal year.
77.36.080	Limit on total claims from general fund per fiscal year—Emergency exceptions.
77.36.100	Payment of claims for damage to commercial crops or commercial livestock—Noncash compensation—Offer of materials or services to offset or prevent wildlife interactions—Appeal of decisions.
77.36.110	Eligibility for compensation under this chapter—Adoption of rules.
77.36.120	Department's duties.
77.36.130	Limit on cash compensation—Burden of proof.
77.36.140	Chapter represents exclusive remedy.
77.36.150	Review of rules and policies.
77.36.160	Request for relocating beaver.

**77.36.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Claim" means an application to the department for compensation under this chapter.

(2) "Commercial crop" means a horticultural or agricultural product, including the growing or harvested product. For the purposes of this chapter all parts of horticultural trees shall be considered a commercial crop and shall be eligible for claims.

(3) "Commercial livestock" means cattle, sheep, and horses held or raised by a person for sale.

(4) "Compensation" means a cash payment, materials, or service.

(5) "Damage" means economic losses caused by wildlife interactions.

(6) "Immediate family member" means spouse, state registered domestic partner, brother, sister, grandparent, parent, child, or grandchild.

(7) "Owner" means a person who has a legal right to commercial crops, commercial livestock, or other property that was damaged during a wildlife interaction.

(8) "Wildlife interaction" means the negative interaction and the resultant damage between wildlife and commercial

crops, commercial livestock, or other property. [2009 c 521 § 184; 2009 c 333 § 54; 1996 c 54 § 2; (2001 c 274 § 2 expired June 30, 2004).]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 333 § 54 and by 2009 c 521 § 184, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** "Sections \*53 through 66 of this act take effect July 1, 2010." [2009 c 333 § 69.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 53, chapter 333, Laws of 2009 was vetoed by the governor.

**Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** "Sections \*53 through 66 of this act apply prospectively only and not retroactively. Sections \*53 through 66 of this act apply only to claims that arise on or after July 1, 2010. Claims under chapter 77.36 RCW that arise prior to July 1, 2010, must be adjudicated under chapter 77.36 RCW as it existed prior to July 1, 2010." [2009 c 333 § 67.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 53, chapter 333, Laws of 2009 was vetoed by the governor.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### 77.36.030 Trapping or killing wildlife threatening human safety or causing property damage—Limitations and conditions—Rules.

(1) Subject to limitations and conditions established by the commission, the owner, the owner's immediate family member, the owner's documented employee, or a tenant of real property may trap, consistent with RCW 77.15.194, or kill wildlife that is threatening human safety or causing property damage on that property, without the licenses required under RCW 77.32.010 or authorization from the director under RCW 77.12.240.

(2) The commission shall establish the limitations and conditions of this section by rule. The rules must include:

(a) Appropriate protection for threatened or endangered species;

(b) Instances when verbal or written permission is required to kill wildlife;

(c) Species that may be killed under this section; and

(d) Requirements for the disposal of wildlife trapped or killed under this section.

(3) In establishing the limitations and conditions of this section, the commission shall take into consideration the recommendations of the Washington state wolf conservation and management plan. [2009 c 333 § 61; 1996 c 54 § 4.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

#### 77.36.070 Limit on total claims from wildlife account per fiscal year.

The department may pay no more than one hundred twenty thousand dollars per fiscal year from the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170 for claims and assessment costs for damage to commercial crops caused by wild deer or elk submitted under RCW 77.36.100. [2009 c 333 § 59; 1996 c 54 § 8.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

#### 77.36.080 Limit on total claims from general fund per fiscal year—Emergency exceptions.

(1) Unless the legislature declares an emergency under this section, the department may pay no more than thirty thousand dollars per fiscal year from the general fund for claims and assessment costs

for damage to commercial crops caused by wild deer or elk submitted under RCW 77.36.100.

(2)(a) The legislature may declare an emergency if weather, fire, or other natural events result in deer or elk causing excessive damage to commercial crops.

(b) After an emergency declaration, the department may pay as much as may be subsequently appropriated, in addition to the funds authorized under subsection (1) of this section, for claims and assessment costs under RCW 77.36.100. Such money shall be used to pay wildlife interaction claims only if the claim meets the conditions of RCW 77.36.100 and the department has expended all funds authorized under RCW 77.36.070 or subsection (1) of this section. [2009 c 333 § 60; 1996 c 54 § 9; (2001 c 274 § 3 expired June 30, 2004).]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.36.100 Payment of claims for damage to commercial crops or commercial livestock—Noncash compensation—Offer of materials or services to offset or prevent wildlife interactions—Appeal of decisions.** (1)(a) Except as limited by RCW 77.36.070 and 77.36.080, the department shall offer to distribute money appropriated to pay claims to the owner of commercial crops for damage caused by wild deer or elk or to the owners of commercial livestock that has been killed by bears, wolves, or cougars, or injured by bears, wolves, or cougars to such a degree that the market value of the commercial livestock has been diminished. Payments for claims for damage to commercial livestock are not subject to the limitations of RCW 77.36.070 and 77.36.080, but may not exceed the total amount specifically appropriated therefor.

(b) Owners of commercial crops or commercial livestock are only eligible for a claim under this subsection if:

(i) The owner satisfies the definition of "eligible farmer" in RCW 82.08.855;

(ii) The conditions of RCW 77.36.110 have been satisfied; and

(iii) The damage caused to the commercial crop or commercial livestock satisfies the criteria for damage established by the commission under this subsection.

(c) The commission shall adopt and maintain by rule criteria that clarifies the damage to commercial crops and commercial livestock qualifying for compensation under this subsection. An owner of a commercial crop or commercial livestock must satisfy the criteria prior to receiving compensation under this subsection. The criteria for damage adopted under this subsection must include, but not be limited to, a required minimum economic loss to the owner of the commercial crop or commercial livestock, which may not be set at a value of less than five hundred dollars.

(2)(a) The department may offer to provide noncash compensation only to offset wildlife interactions to a person who applies to the department for compensation for damage to property other than commercial crops or commercial livestock that is the result of a mammalian or avian species of wildlife on a case-specific basis if the conditions of RCW 77.36.110 have been satisfied and if the damage satisfies the criteria for damage established by the commission under this subsection.

(b) The commission shall adopt and maintain by rule criteria for damage to property other than a commercial crop or commercial livestock that is damaged by wildlife and may be eligible for compensation under this subsection, including criteria for filing a claim for compensation under this subsection.

(3)(a) To prevent or offset wildlife interactions, the department may offer materials or services to a person who applies to the department for assistance in providing mitigating actions designed to reduce wildlife interactions if the actions are designed to address damage that satisfies the criteria for damage established by the commission under this subsection.

(b) The commission shall adopt and maintain by rule criteria for mitigating actions designed to address wildlife interactions that may be eligible for materials and services under this section, including criteria for submitting an application under this section.

(4) An owner who files a claim under this section may appeal the decision of the department pursuant to rules adopted by the commission if the claim:

(a) Is denied; or

(b) Is disputed by the owner and the owner disagrees with the amount of compensation determined by the department. [2009 c 333 § 55.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

**77.36.110 Eligibility for compensation under this chapter—Adoption of rules.** (1) No owner may receive compensation for wildlife interactions under this chapter unless the owner has, as determined by the department, first:

(a) Utilized applicable legal and practicable self-help preventive measures available to prevent the damage, including the use of nonlethal methods and department-provided materials and services when available under RCW 77.36.100; and

(b) Exhausted all available compensation options available from nonprofit organizations that provide compensation to private property owners due to financial losses caused by wildlife interactions.

(2) In determining if the requirements of this section have been satisfied, the department may recognize and consider the following:

(a) Property losses may occur without future or anticipated knowledge of potential problems resulting in an owner being unable to take preemptive measures.

(b) Normal agricultural practices, animal husbandry practices, recognized standard management techniques, and other industry-recognized management practices may represent adequate preventative efforts.

(c) Under certain circumstances, as determined by the department, wildlife may not logistically or practicably be managed by nonlethal efforts.

(d) Not all available legal preventative efforts are cost-effective for the owner to practicably employ.

(e) There are certain effective preventative control options not available due to federal or state restrictions.

(f) Under certain circumstances, as determined by the department, permitting public hunting may not be a practicable self-help method due to the size and nature of the prop-

erty, the property's setting, or the ability of the landowner to accommodate public access.

(3) An owner is not eligible to receive compensation if the damages are covered by insurance.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules implementing this section, including requirements that owners document nonlethal preventive efforts undertaken and all permits issued by the department under RCW 77.12.240 and 77.12.150. [2009 c 333 § 56.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

**77.36.120 Department's duties.** The department shall establish:

(1) The form of affidavits or proof required to accompany all claims under this chapter;

(2) The process, time, and methods used to identify and assess damage, including the anticipated timeline for the initiation and conclusion of department action;

(3) How claims will be prioritized when available funds for reimbursement are limited;

(4) Timelines after the discovery of damage by which an owner must file a claim or notify the department;

(5) Protocols for an owner to follow if the owner wishes to undertake activities that would complicate the determination of damages, such as harvesting damaged crops;

(6) The process for determining damage assessments, including the role and selection of professional damage assessors and the responsibility for reimbursing third-party assessors for their services;

(7) Timelines for a claimant to accept, reject, or appeal a determination made by the department;

(8) The identification of instances when an owner would be ineligible for compensation;

(9) An appeals process for an owner eligible for compensation under RCW 77.36.100 who is denied a claim or feels the compensation is insufficient; and

(10) Other policies necessary for administering this chapter. [2009 c 333 § 57.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

**77.36.130 Limit on cash compensation—Burden of proof.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and as limited by RCW 77.36.100, 77.36.070, and 77.36.080, the cash compensation portion of each claim by the department under this chapter is limited to the lesser of:

(a) The value of the damage to the property by wildlife reduced by the amount of compensation provided to the claimant by any nonprofit organizations that provide compensation to private property owners due to financial losses caused by wildlife interactions, except that, subject to appropriation to pay compensation for damage to commercial livestock, the value of killed or injured commercial livestock may be no more than two hundred dollars per sheep, one thousand five hundred dollars per head of cattle, and one thousand five hundred dollars per horse; or

(b) Ten thousand dollars.

(2) The department may offer to pay a claim for an amount in excess of ten thousand dollars to the owners of commercial crops or commercial livestock filing a claim

under RCW 77.36.100 only if the outcome of an appeal filed by the claimant under RCW 77.36.100 determines a payment higher than ten thousand dollars.

(3) All payments of claims by the department under this chapter must be paid to the owner of the damaged property and may not be assigned to a third party.

(4) The burden of proving all property damage, including damage to commercial crops and commercial livestock, belongs to the claimant. [2009 c 333 § 58.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

**77.36.140 Chapter represents exclusive remedy.** This chapter represents the exclusive remedy against the state for damage caused by wildlife interactions. [2009 c 333 § 62.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

**77.36.150 Review of rules and policies. (Expires July 30, 2014.)** The fish and wildlife commission shall formally review the rules and policies adopted under sections \*53 through 66, chapter 333, Laws of 2009. If, in the process of reviewing the rules, the fish and wildlife commission identifies recommended statutory changes related to the subject of sections \*53 through 66, chapter 333, Laws of 2009 and to the ability of the fish and wildlife commission to fulfill the intent of sections \*53 through 66, chapter 333, Laws of 2009, those recommendations must be forwarded to the appropriate policy committees of the legislature during the regularly scheduled 2014 legislative session. [2009 c 333 § 64.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 53, chapter 333, Laws of 2009 was vetoed by the governor.

**Expiration date—2009 c 333 § 64:** "Section 64 of this act expires July 30, 2014." [2009 c 333 § 70.]

**Effective date—Application—2009 c 333 §§ 53-66:** See notes following RCW 77.36.010.

**77.36.160 Request for relocating beaver.** (1) Whenever the department receives a request for relocating beaver, the department must inform the requesting party of locations, if available, of surplus beaver available for capture and relocation. The department may identify nuisance beaver or areas with thriving beaver populations as a source population for capturing and relocating beaver.

(2) The department shall post on the agency's web site quarterly reports of nuisance beaver activity, beaver trapping, and beaver relocations reported to the department. [2012 c 167 § 3.]

**Finding—2012 c 167:** See note following RCW 77.32.585.

## Chapter 77.44 RCW WARM WATER GAME FISH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

### Sections

77.44.005	Public interest declaration.
77.44.007	Definitions.
77.44.010	Warm water game fish enhancement program—Created.
77.44.030	Freshwater, combination fishing license—Disposition of fee.
77.44.040	Program goals.
77.44.050	Warm water game fish account—Created—Use of moneys.
77.44.060	Specifications—Purchases from aquatic farmers.
77.44.070	Purchases from aquatic farmers for stocking purposes.

**77.44.005 Public interest declaration.** The legislature declares that the public and private propagation, production, protection, and enhancement of fish is in the public interest. [1991 c 253 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.18.005.]

**77.44.007 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Contract" means an agreement setting at a minimum, price, quantity of fish to be delivered, time of delivery, and fish health requirements.

(2) "Fish health requirements" means those site specific fish health and genetic requirements actually used by the department of fish and wildlife in fish stocking.

(3) "Aquatic farmer" means a private sector person who commercially farms and manages private sector cultured aquatic products on the person's own land or on land in which the person has a present right of possession.

(4) "Warm water game fish" includes the following species: Bass, channel catfish, walleye, crappie, and other species as defined by the department. [2000 c 107 § 262; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 76; 1991 c 253 § 2. Formerly RCW 77.18.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.44.010 Warm water game fish enhancement program—Created.** A warm water game fish enhancement program is created in the department. The enhancement program shall be designed to increase the opportunities to fish for and catch warm water game fish including: Largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass, channel catfish, black crappie, white crappie, walleye, and tiger musky. The program shall be designed to use a practical applied approach to increasing warm water fishing. The department shall use the funds available efficiently to assure the greatest increase in the fishing for warm water fish at the lowest cost. This approach shall involve the minimization of overhead and administrative costs and the maximization of productive in-the-field activities. [1998 c 191 § 39; 1996 c 222 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.44.030 Freshwater, combination fishing license—Disposition of fee.** (1) As provided in RCW 77.32.440, a portion of each freshwater and combination fishing license fee shall be deposited into the warm water game fish account.

(2) The department shall use the most cost-effective format in designing and administering the warm water game fish surcharge [account].

(3) A warm water game fish account shall be used for enhancement of largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, black crappie, white crappie, channel catfish, and tiger musky. [1998 c 191 § 29; 1996 c 222 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.44.040 Program goals.** The goals of the warm water game fish enhancement program are to improve the fishing for warm water game fish using cost-effective management. Development of new ponds and lakes shall be an important and integral part of the program. The department shall work with the department of natural resources to coordinate the reclamation of surface mines and the development of warm water game fish ponds. Improvement of warm water fishing

shall be coordinated with the protection and conservation of cold water fish populations. This shall be accomplished by carefully designing the warm water projects to have minimal adverse effects upon the cold water fish populations. New pond and lake development should have beneficial effects upon wildlife due to the increase in lacustrine and wetland habitat that will accompany the improvement of warm water fish habitat. The department shall not develop projects that will increase the populations of undesirable or deleterious fish species such as carp, squawfish, walking catfish, and others.

Fish culture programs shall be used in conditions where they will prove to be cost-effective, and may include the purchase of warm water fish from aquatic farmers defined in RCW 15.85.020. Consideration should be made for development of urban area enhancement of fishing opportunity for put-and-take species, such as channel catfish, that are amenable to production by low-cost fish culture methods. Fish culture shall also be used for stocking of high value species, such as walleye, smallmouth bass, and tiger musky. Introduction of special genetic strains that show high potential for recreational fishing improvement, including Florida strain largemouth bass and striped bass, shall be considered.

Transplantation and introduction of exotic warm water fish shall be carefully reviewed to assure that adverse effects to native fish and wildlife populations do not occur. This review shall include an analysis of consequences from disease and parasite introduction.

Population management through the use of fish toxicants, including rotenone or derris root, shall be an integral part of the warm water game fish enhancement program. However, any use of fish toxicants shall be subject to a thorough review to prevent adverse effects to cold water fish, desirable warm water fish, and other biota. Eradication of deleterious fish species shall be a goal of the program.

Habitat improvement shall be a major aspect of the warm water game fish enhancement program. Habitat improvement opportunities shall be defined with scientific investigations, field surveys, and by using the extensive experience of other state management entities. Installation of cover, structure, water flow control structures, screens, spawning substrate, vegetation control, and other management techniques shall be fully used. The department shall work to gain access to privately owned waters that can be developed with habitat improvements to improve the warm water resource for public fishing.

The department shall use the resources of cooperative groups to assist in the planning and implementation of the warm water game fish enhancement program. In the development of the program the department shall actively involve the organized fishing clubs that primarily fish for warm water fish. The warm water fish enhancement program shall be cooperative between the department and private landowners; private landowners shall not be required to alter the uses of their private property to fulfill the purposes of the warm water fish enhancement program. The director shall not impose restrictions on the use of private property, or take private property, for the purpose of the warm water fish enhancement program. [1996 c 222 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.44.050 Warm water game fish account—Created—Use of moneys.** The warm water game fish account is hereby created in the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170. Moneys in the account are subject to legislative appropriation and shall be used for the purpose of funding the warm water game fish enhancement program, including the development of warm water pond and lake habitat, culture of warm water game fish, improvement of warm water fish habitat, management of warm water fish populations, and other practical activities that will improve the fishing for warm water fish. Funds for warm water game fish as provided in RCW 77.32.440 shall not serve as replacement funding for department-operated warm water fish projects existing on December 31, 1994. [2009 c 333 § 43; 1999 c 235 § 1; 1996 c 222 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.44.060 Specifications—Purchases from aquatic farmers.** If the department requires, pursuant to its authority relative to environmental permits or licenses, that resident hatchery game fish be stocked by the permittee or licensee for mitigation of environmental damage, the department shall specify the pounds or numbers, species, stock, and/or race of resident game fish that are to be provided. The department shall offer the permittee or licensee the option of purchasing under contract from aquatic farmers in Washington, those game fish, unless the fish specified by the department are not available from Washington growers. [1991 c 253 § 3. Formerly RCW 77.18.020.]

**77.44.070 Purchases from aquatic farmers for stocking purposes.** Any agency of state or federal government, political subdivision of the state, private or public utility company, corporation, or sports group, or any purchaser of fish under RCW 77.44.060 may purchase resident game fish from an aquatic farmer for stocking purposes if permit requirements of this title and the department have been met. [2001 c 253 § 53; 1991 c 253 § 4. Formerly RCW 77.18.030.]

### Chapter 77.50 RCW LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES (Formerly: Unlawful acts)

Sections	
77.50.010	Limitations on commercial fishing for salmon in Puget Sound waters.
77.50.020	Limitations on commercial fishing for chinook or coho salmon in Pacific Ocean and Straits of Juan de Fuca.
77.50.030	Salmon fishing gear.
77.50.040	Commercial net fishing for salmon in tributaries of Columbia river—Boundaries defined.
77.50.050	Reef net salmon fishing gear—Reef net areas specified.
77.50.060	Unauthorized fishing vessels entering state waters.
77.50.070	Limitation on salmon fishing gear in Pacific Ocean.
77.50.080	Possession or transportation in Pacific Ocean of salmon taken by other than troll lines or angling gear.
77.50.090	Bottom trawling not authorized—Areas specified.
77.50.100	Hood Canal shrimp—Limitation on number of shrimp pots.
77.50.110	Commercial salmon fishing—Unauthorized gear.
77.50.120	Maintaining consistent salmon harvest levels.
77.50.900	Purpose—2000 c 107.

**77.50.010 Limitations on commercial fishing for salmon in Puget Sound waters.** (1) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for sockeye salmon within the

waters described in subsection (2) of this section only during the period June 10th to July 25th and for other salmon only from the second Monday of September through November 30th, except during the hours between 4:00 p.m. of Friday and 4:00 p.m. of the following Sunday.

(2) All waters east and south of a line commencing at a concrete monument on Angeles Point in Clallam county near the mouth of the Elwha River on which is inscribed "Angeles Point Monument" (latitude 48° 9' 3" north, longitude 123° 33' 01" west of Greenwich Meridian); thence running east on a line 81° 30' true across the flashlight and bell buoy off Partridge Point and thence continued to longitude 122° 40' west; thence north to the southerly shore of Sinclair Island; thence along the southerly shore of the island to the most easterly point of the island; thence 46° true to Carter Point, the most southerly point of Lummi Island; thence northwesterly along the westerly shore line of Lummi Island to where the shore line intersects line of longitude 122° 40' west; thence north to the mainland, including: The southerly portion of Hale Passage, Bellingham Bay, Padilla Bay, Fidalgo Bay, Guemes Channel, Skagit Bay, Similk Bay, Saratoga Passage, Holmes Harbor, Possession Sound, Admiralty Inlet, Hood Canal, Puget Sound, and their inlets, passages, waters, waterways, and tributaries.

(3) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for salmon with gill net, purse seine, and other lawful gear prior to the second Monday in September within the waters of Hale Passage, Bellingham Bay, Samish Bay, Padilla Bay, Fidalgo Bay, Guemes Channel, Skagit Bay, and Similk Bay, to wit: Those waters northerly and easterly of a line commencing at Stanwood, thence along the south shore of Skagit Bay to Rocky Point on Camano Island; thence northerly to Polnell Point on Whidbey Island.

(4) Whenever the commission determines that a stock or run of salmon cannot be harvested in the usual manner, and that the stock or run of salmon may be in danger of being wasted and surplus to natural or artificial spawning requirements, the commission may authorize units of gill net and purse seine gear in any number or equivalents, by time and area, to fully utilize the harvestable portions of these salmon runs for the economic well being of the citizens of this state. Gill net and purse seine gear other than emergency and test gear authorized by the director shall not be used in Lake Washington.

(5) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for pink salmon in each odd-numbered year from August 1st through September 1st in the waters lying inside of a line commencing at the most easterly point of Dungeness Spit and thence projected to Point Partridge on Whidbey Island and a line commencing at Olele Point and thence projected easterly to Bush Point on Whidbey Island. [2002 c 311 § 2; 1998 c 190 § 75; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 25 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 46; 1973 1st ex.s. c 220 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 283 § 13; 1955 c 12 § 75.12.010. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 28; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-301. Formerly RCW 75.12.010.]

**Findings—2002 c 311:** "The legislature finds that the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry and the conservation of the food fish resources of the state of Washington are best served by providing managers with all available tools to stabilize and distribute the commercial harvest of targeted Puget Sound salmon stocks. In recent years, segments of the

industry in cooperation with the department of fish and wildlife have funded studies examining modification of harvest practices and fishing gear, particularly purse seine gear, to minimize or avoid impacts on nontargeted Puget Sound salmon stocks.

The legislature finds that the new Pacific salmon treaty agreement of 1999 will drastically reduce the commercial harvest of Fraser river sockeye salmon while likely providing increased harvest opportunities in areas of Puget Sound where only gill net gear is now authorized. This exclusive limitation is contrary to the long-term needs of the fishing industry and inconsistent with the legislature's intent to stabilize harvest levels while selectively targeting healthy salmon stocks." [2002 c 311 § 1.]

**Effective date—2002 c 311 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1, 2002." [2002 c 311 § 3.]

**Legislative declaration:** "The preservation of the fishing industry and food fish and shellfish resources of the state of Washington is vital to the state's economy, and effective measures and remedies are necessary to prevent the depletion of these resources." [1973 1st ex.s. c 220 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.50.020 Limitations on commercial fishing for chinook or coho salmon in Pacific Ocean and Straits of Juan de Fuca.** (1) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for coho salmon in the Pacific Ocean and the Straits of Juan de Fuca only from June 16th through October 31st.

(2) The commission may authorize commercial fishing for chinook salmon in the Pacific Ocean and the Straits of Juan de Fuca only from March 15th through October 31st. [1998 c 190 § 76; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 26 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 48; 1955 c 12 § 75.18.020. Prior: 1953 c 147 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.12.015, 75.18.020.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.50.030 Salmon fishing gear.** (1) A person shall not use, operate, or maintain a gill net which exceeds one thousand five hundred feet in length or a drag seine in the waters of the Columbia river for catching salmon.

(2) A person shall not construct, install, use, operate, or maintain within state waters a pound net, round haul net, lampara net, fish trap, fish wheel, scow fish wheel, set net, weir, or fixed appliance for catching salmon or steelhead except under the authority of a trial or experimental fishery permit, when an emerging commercial fishery has been designated allowing use of one or more of these gear types. The director must consult with the commercial fishing interests that would be affected by the trial or experimental fishery permit. The director may authorize the use of this gear for scientific investigations.

(3) The department, in coordination with the Oregon department of fish and wildlife, shall adopt rules to regulate the use of monofilament in gill net webbing on the Columbia river. [2001 c 163 § 2; 1998 c 190 § 77; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 27; 1985 c 147 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 52; 1955 c 12 § 75.12.040. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 29; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-303. Formerly RCW 75.12.040.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.50.040 Commercial net fishing for salmon in tributaries of Columbia river—Boundaries defined.** (1) The commission shall adopt rules defining geographical boundaries of the following Columbia river tributaries and sloughs:

- (a) Washougal river;
- (b) Camas slough;

- (c) Lewis river;
- (d) Kalama river;
- (e) Cowlitz river;
- (f) Elokommin river;
- (g) Elokommin sloughs;
- (h) Skamokawa sloughs;
- (i) Grays river;
- (j) Deep river;
- (k) Grays bay.

(2) The commission may authorize commercial net fishing for salmon in the tributaries and sloughs from September 1st to November 30th only, if the time, areas, and level of effort are regulated in order to maximize the recreational fishing opportunity while minimizing excess returns of fish to hatcheries. The commission shall not authorize commercial net fishing if a significant catch of steelhead would occur. [1998 c 190 § 78; 1984 c 80 § 5; 1983 c 245 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.12.132.]

**77.50.050 Reef net salmon fishing gear—Reef net areas specified.** The commission shall not authorize use of reef net fishing gear except in the reef net areas described in this section.

(1) Point Roberts reef net fishing area includes those waters within 250 feet on each side of a line projected 129° true from a point at longitude 123° 01' 15" W. latitude 48° 58' 38" N. to a point one mile distant, as such description is shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6300, published September, 1941, in Washington, D.C., eleventh edition.

(2) Cherry Point reef net fishing area includes those waters inland and inside the 10-fathom line between lines projected 205° true from points on the mainland at longitude 122° 44' 54" latitude 48° 51' 48" and longitude 122° 44' 18" latitude 48° 51' 33", a [as] such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(3) Lummi Island reef net fishing area includes those waters inland and inside a line projected from Village Point 208° true to a point 900 yards distant, thence 129° true to the point of intersection with a line projected 259° true from the shore of Lummi Island 122° 40' 42" latitude 48° 41' 32", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition, revised 11-25-57, save and except that there shall be excluded therefrom all waters lying inside of a line projected 259° true from a point at 122° 40' 42" latitude 48° 41' 32" to a point 300 yards distant from high tide, thence in a northerly direction to the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey reference mark number 2, 1941-1950, located on that point on Lummi Island known as Lovers Point, as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map number 6380 as aforesaid. The term "Village Point" as used herein shall be construed to mean a point of location on Village Point, Lummi Island, at the mean high tide line on a true bearing of 43° 53' a distance of 457 feet to the center of the chimney of a wood frame house on the east side of the county road. Said chimney and house being described as Village

Point Chimney on page 612 of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey list of geographic positions No. G-5455, Rosario Strait.

(4) Sinclair Island reef net fishing area includes those waters inland and inside a line projected from the northern point of Sinclair Island to Boulder reef, thence 200° true to the northwesterly point of Sinclair Island, as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(5) Flat Point reef net fishing area includes those waters within a radius of 175 feet of a point off Lopez Island located at longitude 122° 55' 24" latitude 48° 32' 33", as such description is shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(6) Lopez Island reef net fishing area includes those waters within 400 yards of shore between lines projected true west from points on the shore of Lopez Island at longitude 122° 55' 04" latitude 48° 31' 59" and longitude 122° 55' 54" latitude 48° 30' 55", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(7) Iceberg Point reef net fishing area includes those waters inland and inside a line projected from Davis Point on Lopez Island to the west point of Long Island, thence to the southern point of Hall Island, thence to the eastern point at the entrance to Mackaye Harbor on Lopez Island; and those waters inland and inside a line projected 320° from Iceberg Point light on Lopez Island, a distance of 400 feet, thence easterly to the point on Lopez Island at longitude 122° 53' 00" latitude 48° 25' 39", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(8) Aleck Bay reef net fishing area includes those waters inland and inside a line projected from the southwestern point at the entrance to Aleck Bay on Lopez Island at longitude 122° 51' 11" latitude 48° 25' 14" southeasterly 800 yards to the submerged rock shown on U.S.G.S. map number 6380, thence northerly to the cove on Lopez Island at longitude 122° 50' 49" latitude 48° 25' 42", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(9) Shaw Island reef net fishing area number 1 includes those waters within 300 yards of shore between lines projected true south from points on Shaw Island at longitude 122° 56' 14" latitude 48° 33' 28" and longitude 122° 57' 29" latitude 48° 32' 58", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(10) Shaw Island reef net fishing area number 2 includes those waters inland and inside a line projected from Point George on Shaw Island to the westerly point of Neck Point on Shaw Island, as such description is shown upon the United

States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(11) Stuart Island reef net fishing area number 1 includes those waters within 600 feet of the shore of Stuart Island between lines projected true east from points at longitude 123° 10' 47" latitude 48° 39' 47" and longitude 123° 10' 47" latitude 48° 39' 33", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(12) Stuart Island reef net fishing area number 2 includes those waters within 250 feet of Gossip Island, also known as Happy Island, as such description is shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(13) Johns Island reef net fishing area includes those waters inland and inside a line projected from the eastern point of Johns Island to the northwestern point of Little Cactus Island, thence northwesterly to a point on Johns Island at longitude 123° 09' 24" latitude 48° 39' 59", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(14) Battleship Island reef net fishing area includes those waters lying within 350 feet of Battleship Island, as such description is shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(15) Open Bay reef net fishing area includes those waters lying within 150 feet of shore between lines projected true east from a point on Henry Island at longitude 123° 11' 34 1/2" latitude 48° 35' 27 1/2" at a point 250 feet south, as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(16) Mitchell Reef net fishing area includes those waters within a line beginning at the rock shown on U.S.G.S. map number 6380 at longitude 123° 10' 56" latitude 48° 34' 49 1/2", and projected 50 feet northwesterly, thence southwest-erly 250 feet, thence southeasterly 300 feet, thence northeast-erly 250 feet, thence to the point of beginning, as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(17) Smugglers Cove reef fishing area includes those waters within 200 feet of shore between lines projected true west from points on the shore of San Juan Island at longitude 123° 10' 29" latitude 48° 33' 50" and longitude 123° 10' 31" latitude 48° 33' 45", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(18) Andrews Bay reef net fishing area includes those waters lying within 300 feet of the shore of San Juan Island between a line projected true south from a point at the northern entrance of Andrews Bay at longitude 123° 09' 53 1/2" latitude 48° 33' 00" and the cable crossing sign in Andrews Bay, at longitude 123° 09' 45" latitude 48° 33' 04", as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and

Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition.

(19) Orcas Island reef net fishing area includes those waters inland and inside a line projected true west a distance of 1,000 yards from the shore of Orcas Island at longitude 122° 57' 40" latitude 48° 41' 06" thence northeasterly to a point 500 feet true west of Point Doughty, then true east to Point Doughty, as such descriptions are shown upon the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey map numbered 6380, published March, 1947, in Washington, D.C., eighth edition. [1998 c 190 § 79; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 59; 1965 c 64 § 1; 1961 c 236 § 1; 1959 c 309 § 1; 1955 c 276 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.12.140.]

**77.50.060 Unauthorized fishing vessels entering state waters.** In order to protect the welfare of the citizens of the state of Washington by protecting the natural resources of the state from illegal fishing in state waters, commercial fishing vessels which are not authorized by law to fish for salmon in Washington state waters cannot enter Washington state waters unless all salmon fishing gear is stowed below deck or placed in a position so that it is not readily available for fishing. [1987 c 262 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.12.155.]

**77.50.070 Limitation on salmon fishing gear in Pacific Ocean.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the commission shall not authorize gear other than troll gear or angling gear for taking salmon within the offshore waters or the waters of the Pacific Ocean over which the state has jurisdiction lying west of the following line: Commencing at the point of intersection of the international boundary line in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and a line drawn between the lighthouse on Tatoosh Island in Clallam County and Bonilla Point on Vancouver Island; thence southerly to the lighthouse on Tatoosh Island; thence southerly to the most westerly point of Cape Flattery; thence southerly along the state shoreline of the Pacific Ocean, crossing any river mouths at their most westerly points of land, to Point Brown at the entrance to Grays Harbor; thence southerly to Point Chehalis Light on Point Chehalis; thence southerly from Point Chehalis along the state shoreline of the Pacific Ocean to the Cape Shoalwater tower at the entrance to Willapa Bay; thence southerly to Leadbetter Point; thence southerly along the state shoreline of the Pacific Ocean to the inshore end of the North jetty at the entrance to the Columbia River; thence southerly to the knuckle of the South jetty at the entrance to said river.

(2) The commission may authorize the use of nets for taking salmon in the waters described in subsection (1) of this section for scientific investigations. [1998 c 190 § 80; 1993 c 20 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 60; 1957 c 108 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.12.210.]

**Purpose—1993 c 20:** "The purpose of this act is to correct references to a geographical landmark on Cape Shoalwater that no longer exists. Cape Shoalwater Light has been removed and a new tower has been constructed four hundred yards to the west. It is not intended that this act make any substantive change in the boundaries of the areas described in RCW 75.12.210 and 75.28.012 beyond the minor adjustment necessitated by the replacement of the landmark." [1993 c 20 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**77.50.080 Possession or transportation in Pacific Ocean of salmon taken by other than troll lines or angling gear.** Within the waters described in RCW 77.50.070, a person shall not transport or possess salmon on board a vessel carrying fishing gear of a type other than troll lines or angling gear, unless accompanied by a certificate issued by a state or country showing that the salmon have been lawfully taken within the territorial waters of the state or country. [2000 c 107 § 13; 1998 c 190 § 81; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 61; 1963 c 234 § 2; 1957 c 108 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.12.230.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.50.090 Bottom trawling not authorized—Areas specified.** The commission shall not authorize commercial bottom trawling for food fish and shellfish in all areas of Hood Canal south of a line projected from Tala Point to Foulweather Bluff and in Puget Sound south of a line projected from Foulweather Bluff to Double Bluff and including all marine waters east of Whidbey Island and Camano Island. [1998 c 190 § 82; 1989 c 172 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.12.390.]

**77.50.100 Hood Canal shrimp—Limitation on number of shrimp pots.** The commission shall not authorize any commercial fisher to use more than fifty shrimp pots while commercially fishing for shrimp in that portion of Hood Canal lying south of the Hood Canal floating bridge. [1998 c 190 § 83; 1993 c 340 § 50; 1989 c 316 § 9; 1983 1st ex.s. c 31 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.12.440, 75.28.134.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.50.110 Commercial salmon fishing—Unauthorized gear.** The commission shall not authorize angling gear or other personal use gear for commercial salmon fishing. [1998 c 190 § 84; 1996 c 267 § 24; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 69; 1969 ex.s. c 23 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.12.650.]

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.50.120 Maintaining consistent salmon harvest levels.** It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that a sustainable level of salmon is made available for harvest for commercial fishers in the state. Maintaining consistent harvest levels has become increasingly difficult with the listing of salmonid species under the federal endangered species act. Without a stable level of harvest, fishers cannot develop niche markets that maximize the economic value of the harvest. New tools and approaches are needed by fish managers to bring increased stability to the fishing industry.

In the short term, it is the legislature's intent to provide managers with tools to assure that commercial harvest of targeted stocks can continue and expand under the constraints of the federal endangered species act. There are experimental types of commercial fishing gear that could allow fishers to stabilize harvest levels by selectively targeting healthy salmon stocks.

For the longer term, the department of fish and wildlife shall proceed with changes to the operation of certain hatcheries in order to stabilize harvest levels by allowing naturally

spawning and hatchery origin fish to be managed as a single run. Scientific information from such hatcheries would guide the department's approach to reducing the need to mass mark hatchery origin salmon where appropriate. [2001 c 163 § 1.]

**77.50.900 Purpose—2000 c 107.** The purpose of chapter 107, Laws of 2000 is to recodify Titles 75 and 77 RCW into Title 77 RCW ensuant to the merger of the departments of wildlife and fisheries. [2000 c 107 § 1.]

### Chapter 77.55 RCW

#### CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN STATE WATERS

##### Sections

77.55.011	Definitions.
77.55.021	Permit.
77.55.031	Driving across established ford.
77.55.041	Derelict fishing, crab, and other shellfish gear—Removal.
77.55.051	Spartina/purple loosestrife—Removal or control.
77.55.061	Hazardous substance remedial actions—Procedural requirements not applicable.
77.55.081	Removal or control of aquatic noxious weeds—Rules—Pamphlet.
77.55.091	Small scale prospecting and mining—Rules.
77.55.101	Environmental excellence program agreements—Effect on chapter.
77.55.111	Habitat incentives agreement.
77.55.121	Habitat incentives program—Goal—Requirements of agreement—Application evaluation factors.
77.55.131	Dike vegetation management guidelines—Memorandum of agreement.
77.55.141	Marine beach front protective bulkheads or rockwalls.
77.55.151	Permit issued to a marina or marine terminal for regular maintenance activities.
77.55.161	Storm water discharges.
77.55.171	Watershed restoration projects—Permit processing.
77.55.181	Fish habitat enhancement project—Permit review and approval process.
77.55.191	Columbia river anadromous fish sanctuary—Restrictions.
77.55.201	Landscape management plan.
77.55.211	Informational brochure.
77.55.221	Flood damage repair and reduction activities—Five-year maintenance permit agreements.
77.55.231	Conditions imposed upon a permit—Reasonably related to project—Minor modifications to plans/work timing.
77.55.241	Off-site mitigation.
77.55.251	Mitigation plan review.
77.55.261	Placement of woody debris as condition of permit.
77.55.271	Sediment dredging or capping actions—Dredging of existing channels and berthing areas—Mitigation not required.
77.55.281	Fishways on certain agricultural drainage facilities.
77.55.291	Civil penalty.
77.55.321	Application fee for a hydraulic project permit or permit modification—Projects exempt from fees—Disposition of fees.
77.55.331	Hydraulic project approval account.
77.55.341	Department to prepare and distribute information to the public.
77.55.351	Department to develop system to provide access to hydraulic project approval applications.
77.55.361	Limitations of chapter to a forest practices hydraulic project—Adoption of rules for concurrent review process—Department's duties regarding chapter 76.09 RCW.
77.55.371	Memorandum of agreement to implement integration of hydraulic project approvals into forest practices applications—Interagency contract.

**77.55.011 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Bed" means the land below the ordinary high water lines of state waters. This definition does not include irrigation ditches, canals, storm water runoff devices, or other artificial watercourses except where they exist in a natural watercourse that has been altered artificially.

(2) "Board" means the pollution control hearings board created in chapter 43.21B RCW.

(3) "Commission" means the state fish and wildlife commission.

(4) "Date of receipt" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 43.21B.001.

(5) "Department" means the department of fish and wildlife.

(6) "Director" means the director of the department of fish and wildlife.

(7) "Emergency" means an immediate threat to life, the public, property, or of environmental degradation.

(8) "Emergency permit" means a verbal hydraulic project approval or the written follow-up to the verbal approval issued to a person under RCW 77.55.021(12).

(9) "Expedited permit" means a hydraulic project approval issued to a person under RCW 77.55.021 (14) and (16).

(10) "Forest practices hydraulic project" means a hydraulic project that requires a forest practices application or notification under chapter 76.09 RCW.

(11) "Hydraulic project" means the construction or performance of work that will use, divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed of any of the salt or freshwaters of the state.

(12) "Imminent danger" means a threat by weather, water flow, or other natural conditions that is likely to occur within sixty days of a request for a permit application.

(13) "Marina" means a public or private facility providing boat moorage space, fuel, or commercial services. Commercial services include but are not limited to overnight or live-aboard boating accommodations.

(14) "Marine terminal" means a public or private commercial wharf located in the navigable water of the state and used, or intended to be used, as a port or facility for the storing, handling, transferring, or transporting of goods to and from vessels.

(15) "Multiple site permit" means a hydraulic project approval issued to a person under RCW 77.55.021 for hydraulic projects occurring at more than one specific location and which includes site-specific requirements.

(16) "Ordinary high water line" means the mark on the shores of all water that will be found by examining the bed and banks and ascertaining where the presence and action of waters are so common and usual, and so long continued in ordinary years as to mark upon the soil or vegetation a character distinct from the abutting upland. Provided, that in any area where the ordinary high water line cannot be found, the ordinary high water line adjoining saltwater is the line of mean higher high water and the ordinary high water line adjoining freshwater is the elevation of the mean annual flood.

(17) "Pamphlet hydraulic project" means a hydraulic project for the removal or control of aquatic noxious weeds conducted under the aquatic plants and fish pamphlet authorized by RCW 77.55.081, or for mineral prospecting and mining conducted under the gold and fish pamphlet authorized by RCW 77.55.091.

(18) "Permit" means a hydraulic project approval permit issued under this chapter.

(19) "Permit modification" means a hydraulic project approval issued to a person under RCW 77.55.021 that extends, renews, or changes the conditions of a previously issued hydraulic project approval.

(20) "Sandbars" includes, but is not limited to, sand, gravel, rock, silt, and sediments.

(21) "Small scale prospecting and mining" means the use of only the following methods: Pans; nonmotorized sluice boxes; concentrators; and minirocker boxes for the discovery and recovery of minerals.

(22) "Spartina," "purple loosestrife," and "aquatic noxious weeds" have the same meanings as defined in RCW 17.26.020.

(23) "Streambank stabilization" means those projects that prevent or limit erosion, slippage, and mass wasting. These projects include, but are not limited to, bank resloping, log and debris relocation or removal, planting of woody vegetation, bank protection using rock or woody material or placement of jetties or groins, gravel removal, or erosion control.

(24) "Tide gate" means a one-way check valve that prevents the backflow of tidal water.

(25) "Waters of the state" and "state waters" means all salt and freshwaters waterward of the ordinary high water line and within the territorial boundary of the state. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 101. Prior: 2010 c 210 § 26; 2009 c 549 § 1028; 2005 c 146 § 101.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Finding—Intent—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** "The legislature finds that significant opportunities exist to modify programs that provide for management and protection of the state's natural resources, including the state's forests, fish, and wildlife, in order to streamline regulatory processes and achieve program efficiencies while at the same time increasing the sustainability of program funding and maintaining current levels of natural resource protection. The legislature intends to update provisions relating to natural resource management and regulatory programs including the hydraulic project approval program, forest practices act, and state environmental policy act, in order to achieve these opportunities." [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 1.]

**Limitation—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** "Nothing in this act affects any rules, processes, or procedures of the department of fish and wildlife and the department of natural resources existing on July 10, 2012, that provide for regulatory integration of hydraulic projects and forest practices for projects in nonfish-bearing waters." [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 216.]

**Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** "Nothing in this act authorizes the department of fish and wildlife to assume authority over approval, disapproval, conditioning, or enforcement of applications or notifications submitted under chapter 76.09 RCW." [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 217.]

**Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** "Nothing in this act affects the jurisdiction or other authority of a federally recognized Indian tribe within the boundary of its reservation or on other tribally owned lands." [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 218.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2005 c 146 § 1007.]

**77.55.021 Permit.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 77.55.031, 77.55.051, 77.55.041, and 77.55.361, in the event that any person or government agency desires to undertake a hydraulic project, the person or government agency shall, before commencing work thereon, secure the approval of the department in the form of a permit as to the adequacy of the means proposed for the protection of fish life.

(2) A complete written application for a permit may be submitted in person or by registered mail and must contain the following:

(a) General plans for the overall project;

(b) Complete plans and specifications of the proposed construction or work within the mean higher high water line in saltwater or within the ordinary high water line in freshwater;

(c) Complete plans and specifications for the proper protection of fish life;

(d) Notice of compliance with any applicable requirements of the state environmental policy act, unless otherwise provided for in this chapter; and

(e) Payment of all applicable application fees charged by the department under RCW 77.55.321.

(3) The department may establish direct billing accounts or other funds transfer methods with permit applicants to satisfy the fee payment requirements of RCW 77.55.321.

(4) The department may accept complete, written applications as provided in this section for multiple site permits and may issue these permits. For multiple site permits, each specific location must be identified.

(5) With the exception of emergency permits as provided in subsection (12) of this section, applications for permits must be submitted to the department's headquarters office in Olympia. Requests for emergency permits as provided in subsection (12) of this section may be made to the permitting biologist assigned to the location in which the emergency occurs, to the department's regional office in which the emergency occurs, or to the department's headquarters office.

(6) Except as provided for emergency permits in subsection (12) of this section, the department may not proceed with permit review until all fees are paid in full as required in RCW 77.55.321.

(7)(a) Protection of fish life is the only ground upon which approval of a permit may be denied or conditioned. Approval of a permit may not be unreasonably withheld or unreasonably conditioned.

(b) Except as provided in this subsection and subsections (12) through (14) and (16) of this section, the department has forty-five calendar days upon receipt of a complete application to grant or deny approval of a permit. The forty-five day requirement is suspended if:

(i) After ten working days of receipt of the application, the applicant remains unavailable or unable to arrange for a timely field evaluation of the proposed project;

(ii) The site is physically inaccessible for inspection;

(iii) The applicant requests a delay; or

(iv) The department is issuing a permit for a storm water discharge and is complying with the requirements of RCW 77.55.161(3)(b).

(c) Immediately upon determination that the forty-five day period is suspended under (b) of this subsection, the department shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the delay.

(d) The period of forty-five calendar days may be extended if the permit is part of a multiagency permit streamlining effort and all participating permitting agencies and the permit applicant agree to an extended timeline longer than forty-five calendar days.

(8) If the department denies approval of a permit, the department shall provide the applicant a written statement of the specific reasons why and how the proposed project would adversely affect fish life.

(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, issuance, denial, conditioning, or modification of a permit shall be appealable to the board within thirty days from the date of receipt of the decision as provided in RCW 43.21B.230.

(b) Issuance, denial, conditioning, or modification of a permit may be informally appealed to the department within thirty days from the date of receipt of the decision. Requests for informal appeals must be filed in the form and manner prescribed by the department by rule. A permit decision that has been informally appealed to the department is appealable to the board within thirty days from the date of receipt of the department's decision on the informal appeal.

(9)(a) The permittee must demonstrate substantial progress on construction of that portion of the project relating to the permit within two years of the date of issuance.

(b) Approval of a permit is valid for up to five years from the date of issuance, except as provided in (c) of this subsection and in RCW 77.55.151.

(c) A permit remains in effect without need for periodic renewal for hydraulic projects that divert water for agricultural irrigation or stock watering purposes and that involve seasonal construction or other work. A permit for streambank stabilization projects to protect farm and agricultural land as defined in RCW 84.34.020 remains in effect without need for periodic renewal if the problem causing the need for the streambank stabilization occurs on an annual or more frequent basis. The permittee must notify the appropriate agency before commencing the construction or other work within the area covered by the permit.

(10) The department may, after consultation with the permittee, modify a permit due to changed conditions. A modification under this subsection is not subject to the fees provided under RCW 77.55.321. The modification is appealable as provided in subsection (8) of this section. For a hydraulic project that diverts water for agricultural irrigation or stock watering purposes, when the hydraulic project or other work is associated with streambank stabilization to protect farm and agricultural land as defined in RCW 84.34.020, the burden is on the department to show that changed conditions warrant the modification in order to protect fish life.

(11) A permittee may request modification of a permit due to changed conditions. The request must be processed within forty-five calendar days of receipt of the written request and payment of applicable fees under RCW 77.55.321. A decision by the department is appealable as provided in subsection (8) of this section. For a hydraulic project that diverts water for agricultural irrigation or stock watering purposes, when the hydraulic project or other work is associated with streambank stabilization to protect farm and agricultural land as defined in RCW 84.34.020, the burden is on the permittee to show that changed conditions warrant the requested modification and that such a modification will not impair fish life.

(12)(a) The department, the county legislative authority, or the governor may declare and continue an emergency. If the county legislative authority declares an emergency under this subsection, it shall immediately notify the department. A

declared state of emergency by the governor under RCW 43.06.010 shall constitute a declaration under this subsection.

(b) The department, through its authorized representatives, shall issue immediately, upon request, verbal approval for a stream crossing, or work to remove any obstructions, repair existing structures, restore streambanks, protect fish life, or protect property threatened by the stream or a change in the stream flow without the necessity of obtaining a written permit prior to commencing work. Conditions of the emergency verbal permit must be reduced to writing within thirty days and complied with as provided for in this chapter.

(c) The department may not require the provisions of the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, to be met as a condition of issuing a permit under this subsection.

(d) The department may not charge a person requesting an emergency permit any of the fees authorized by RCW 77.55.321 until after the emergency permit is issued and reduced to writing.

(13) All state and local agencies with authority under this chapter to issue permits or other authorizations in connection with emergency water withdrawals and facilities authorized under RCW 43.83B.410 shall expedite the processing of such permits or authorizations in keeping with the emergency nature of such requests and shall provide a decision to the applicant within fifteen calendar days of the date of application.

(14) The department or the county legislative authority may determine an imminent danger exists. The county legislative authority shall notify the department, in writing, if it determines that an imminent danger exists. In cases of imminent danger, the department shall issue an expedited written permit, upon request, for work to remove any obstructions, repair existing structures, restore banks, protect fish resources, or protect property. Expedited permit requests require a complete written application as provided in subsection (2) of this section and must be issued within fifteen calendar days of the receipt of a complete written application. Approval of an expedited permit is valid for up to sixty days from the date of issuance. The department may not require the provisions of the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, to be met as a condition of issuing a permit under this subsection.

(15)(a) For any property, except for property located on a marine shoreline, that has experienced at least two consecutive years of flooding or erosion that has damaged or has threatened to damage a major structure, water supply system, septic system, or access to any road or highway, the county legislative authority may determine that a chronic danger exists. The county legislative authority shall notify the department, in writing, when it determines that a chronic danger exists. In cases of chronic danger, the department shall issue a permit, upon request, for work necessary to abate the chronic danger by removing any obstructions, repairing existing structures, restoring banks, restoring road or highway access, protecting fish resources, or protecting property. Permit requests must be made and processed in accordance with subsections (2) and (7) of this section.

(b) Any projects proposed to address a chronic danger identified under (a) of this subsection that satisfies the project description identified in RCW 77.55.181(1)(a)(ii) are not subject to the provisions of the state environmental policy

act, chapter 43.21C RCW. However, the project is subject to the review process established in RCW 77.55.181(3) as if it were a fish habitat improvement project.

(16) The department may issue an expedited written permit in those instances where normal permit processing would result in significant hardship for the applicant or unacceptable damage to the environment. Expedited permit requests require a complete written application as provided in subsection (2) of this section and must be issued within fifteen calendar days of the receipt of a complete written application. Approval of an expedited permit is valid for up to sixty days from the date of issuance. The department may not require the provisions of the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, to be met as a condition of issuing a permit under this subsection. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 102; 2010 c 210 § 27; 2008 c 272 § 1; 2005 c 146 § 201.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.031 Driving across established ford.** The act of driving across an established ford is exempt from a permit. Driving across streams or on wetted streambeds at areas other than established fords requires a permit. Work within the ordinary high water line of state waters to construct or repair a ford or crossing requires a permit. [2005 c 146 § 301.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.041 Derelict fishing, crab, and other shellfish gear—Removal.** (1) The removal of derelict fishing gear does not require a permit under this chapter if the gear is removed according to the guidelines described in RCW 77.12.865.

(2) The removal of crab and other shellfish gear does not require a permit under this chapter if the gear is removed under a permit issued pursuant to RCW 77.70.500. [2010 c 193 § 10; 2005 c 146 § 302; 2002 c 20 § 4. Formerly RCW 77.55.330.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Finding—Purpose—2002 c 20:** See note following RCW 77.12.865.

**77.55.051 Spartina/purple loosestrife—Removal or control.** (1) An activity conducted solely for the removal or control of spartina does not require a permit.

(2) An activity conducted solely for the removal or control of purple loosestrife and which is performed with handheld tools, handheld equipment, or equipment carried by a person does not require a permit. [2005 c 146 § 303.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.061 Hazardous substance remedial actions—Procedural requirements not applicable.** The procedural requirements of this chapter shall not apply to any person conducting a remedial action at a facility pursuant to a consent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant to chapter

(2012 Ed.)

70.105D RCW, or to the department of ecology when it conducts a remedial action under chapter 70.105D RCW. The department of ecology shall ensure compliance with the substantive requirements of this chapter through the consent decree, order, or agreed order issued pursuant to chapter 70.105D RCW, or during the department-conducted remedial action, through the procedures developed by the department pursuant to RCW 70.105D.090. [1994 c 257 § 18. Formerly RCW 77.55.030, 75.20.025.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.55.081 Removal or control of aquatic noxious weeds—Rules—Pamphlet.** (1) By June 30, 1997, the department shall develop rules for projects conducted solely for the removal or control of various aquatic noxious weeds other than spartina and purple loosestrife and for activities or hydraulic projects for controlling purple loosestrife not covered by RCW 77.55.051(2). Following the adoption of the rules, the department shall produce and distribute a pamphlet describing the methods of removing or controlling the aquatic noxious weeds that are approved under the rules. The pamphlet serves as the permit for any project that is conducted solely for the removal or control of such aquatic noxious weeds and that is conducted as described in the pamphlet. No further permit is required for such a project.

(2) From time to time as information becomes available, the department shall adopt similar rules for additional aquatic noxious weeds or additional activities for removing or controlling aquatic noxious weeds not governed by RCW 77.55.051 (1) and (2) and shall produce and distribute one or more pamphlets describing these methods of removal or control. Such a pamphlet serves as the permit for any project that is conducted solely for the removal or control of such aquatic noxious weeds and that is conducted as described in the pamphlet. No further permit is required for such a project.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the department from requiring a permit for those parts of hydraulic projects that are not specifically for the control or removal of spartina, purple loosestrife, or other aquatic noxious weeds. [2005 c 146 § 401; 1995 c 255 § 4. Formerly RCW 77.55.150, 75.20.108.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.55.091 Small scale prospecting and mining—Rules.** (1) Small scale prospecting and mining shall not require a permit under this chapter if the prospecting is conducted in accordance with rules established by the department.

(2) By December 31, 1998, the department shall adopt rules applicable to small scale prospecting and mining activities subject to this section. The department shall develop the rules in cooperation with the recreational mining community and other interested parties.

(3) Within two months of adoption of the rules, the department shall distribute an updated gold and fish pamphlet that describes methods of mineral prospecting that are consistent with the department's rule. The pamphlet shall be written to clearly indicate the prospecting methods that require a permit under this chapter and the prospecting methods that

require compliance with the pamphlet. To the extent possible, the department shall use the provisions of the gold and fish pamphlet to minimize the number of specific provisions of a written permit issued under this chapter. [2005 c 146 § 402; 1997 c 415 § 2. Formerly RCW 77.55.270, 75.20.330.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Findings—1997 c 415:** "The legislature finds that small scale prospecting and mining: (1) Is an important part of the heritage of the state; (2) provides economic benefits to the state; and (3) can be conducted in a manner that is beneficial to fish habitat and fish propagation. Now, therefore, the legislature declares that small scale prospecting and mining shall be regulated in the least burdensome manner that is consistent with the state's fish management objectives and the federal endangered species act." [1997 c 415 § 1.]

**77.55.101 Environmental excellence program agreements—Effect on chapter.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any legal requirement under this chapter, including any standard, limitation, rule, or order is superseded and replaced in accordance with the terms and provisions of an environmental excellence program agreement, entered into under chapter 43.21K RCW. [1997 c 381 § 25. Formerly RCW 77.55.020, 75.20.015.]

**Purpose—1997 c 381:** See RCW 43.21K.005.

**77.55.111 Habitat incentives agreement.** When a private landowner is applying for a permit under this chapter and that landowner has entered into a habitat incentives agreement with the department and the department of natural resources as provided in RCW 77.55.121, the department shall comply with the terms of that agreement when evaluating the request for a permit. [2005 c 146 § 403; 2001 c 253 § 54; 1997 c 425 § 4. Formerly RCW 77.55.280, 75.20.340.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Finding—Intent—1997 c 425:** See note following RCW 77.55.121.

**77.55.121 Habitat incentives program—Goal—Requirements of agreement—Application evaluation factors.** (1) Beginning in January 1998, the department and the department of natural resources shall implement a habitat incentives program based on the recommendations of federally recognized Indian tribes, landowners, the regional fisheries enhancement groups, the timber, fish, and wildlife cooperators, and other interested parties. The program shall allow a private landowner to enter into an agreement with the departments to enhance habitat on the landowner's property for food fish, game fish, or other wildlife species. In exchange, the landowner shall receive state regulatory certainty with regard to future applications for a permit or a forest practices permit on the property covered by the agreement. The overall goal of the program is to provide a mechanism that facilitates habitat development on private property while avoiding an adverse state regulatory impact to the landowner at some future date. A single agreement between the departments and a landowner may encompass up to one thousand acres. A landowner may enter into multiple agreements with the departments, provided that the total acreage covered by such agreements with a single landowner does not exceed ten thousand acres. The departments are not obligated to enter into an agreement unless the departments find that the

agreement is in the best interest of protecting fish or wildlife species or their habitat.

(2) A habitat incentives agreement shall be in writing and shall contain at least the following: (a) A description of the property covered by the agreement; (b) an expiration date; (c) a description of the condition of the property prior to the implementation of the agreement; and (d) other information needed by the landowner and the departments for future reference and decisions.

(3) As part of the agreement, the department may stipulate the factors that will be considered when the department evaluates a landowner's application for a permit on property covered by the agreement. The department's identification of these evaluation factors shall be in concurrence with the department of natural resources and affected federally recognized Indian tribes. In general, future decisions related to the issuance, conditioning, or denial of a permit must be based on the conditions present on the landowner's property at the time of the agreement, unless all parties agree otherwise.

(4) As part of the agreement, the department of natural resources may stipulate the factors that will be considered when the department of natural resources evaluates a landowner's application for a forest practices permit under chapter 76.09 RCW on property covered by the agreement. The department of natural resources' identification of these evaluation factors shall be in concurrence with the department and affected federally recognized Indian tribes. In general, future decisions related to the issuance, conditioning, or denial of forest practices permits shall be based on the conditions present on the landowner's property at the time of the agreement, unless all parties agree otherwise.

(5) The agreement is binding on and may be used by only the landowner who entered into the agreement with the department. The agreement shall not be appurtenant with the land. However, if a new landowner chooses to maintain the habitat enhancement efforts on the property, the new landowner and the department and the department of natural resources may jointly choose to retain the agreement on the property.

(6) If the department and the department of natural resources receive multiple requests for agreements with private landowners under the habitat incentives program, the departments shall prioritize these requests and shall enter into as many agreements as possible within available budgetary resources. [2005 c 146 § 404; 2000 c 107 § 229; 1997 c 425 § 3. Formerly RCW 77.55.300, 77.12.830.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Finding—Intent—1997 c 425:** "In an effort to increase the amount of habitat available for fish and wildlife, the legislature finds that it is desirable for the department of fish and wildlife, the department of natural resources, and other interested parties to work closely with private landowners to achieve habitat enhancements. In some instances, private landowners avoid enhancing habitat because of a concern that the presence of fish or wildlife may make future land management more difficult. It is the intent of this act to provide a mechanism that facilitates habitat development while avoiding an adverse impact on the landowner at a later date. The habitat incentives program is not intended to supersede any federal laws." [1997 c 425 § 1.]

**77.55.131 Dike vegetation management guidelines—Memorandum of agreement.** The department and the department of ecology will work cooperatively with the United States army corps of engineers to develop a memoran-

dum of agreement outlining dike vegetation management guidelines so that dike owners are eligible for coverage under P.L. 84-99, and state requirements established pursuant to RCW 77.55.021 are met. [2005 c 146 § 405; 2000 c 107 § 18; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 34; 1991 c 322 § 19. Formerly RCW 77.55.130, 75.20.1041.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Findings—Intent—1991 c 322:** See note following RCW 86.12.200.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.55.141 Marine beach front protective bulkheads or rockwalls.** (1) In order to protect the property of marine waterfront shoreline owners it is necessary to facilitate issuance of permits for bulkheads or rockwalls under certain conditions.

(2) The department shall issue a permit with or without conditions within forty-five days of receipt of a complete and accurate application which authorizes commencement of construction, replacement, or repair of a marine beach front protective bulkhead or rockwall for single-family type residences or property under the following conditions:

(a) The waterward face of a new bulkhead or rockwall shall be located only as far waterward as is necessary to excavate for footings or place base rock for the structure and under no conditions shall be located more than six feet waterward of the ordinary high water line;

(b) Any bulkhead or rockwall to replace or repair an existing bulkhead or rockwall shall be placed along the same alignment as the bulkhead or rockwall it is replacing. However, the replaced or repaired bulkhead or rockwall may be placed waterward of and directly abutting the existing structure only in cases where removal of the existing bulkhead or rockwall would result in environmental degradation or removal problems related to geological, engineering, or safety considerations; and

(c) Construction of a new bulkhead or rockwall, or replacement or repair of an existing bulkhead or rockwall waterward of the existing structure shall not result in the permanent loss of critical food fish or shellfish habitats; and

(d) Timing constraints shall be applied on a case-by-case basis for the protection of critical habitats, including but not limited to migration corridors, rearing and feeding areas, and spawning habitats, for the proper protection of fish life.

(3) Any bulkhead or rockwall construction, replacement, or repair not meeting the conditions in this section shall be processed under this chapter in the same manner as any other application.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the approval, denial, conditioning, or modification of a permit under this section may appeal the decision as provided in \*RCW 77.55.021(4). [2010 c 210 § 28; 2005 c 146 § 501; 1991 c 279 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.55.200, 75.20.160.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 77.55.021 was amended by 2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 102, changing subsection (4) to subsection (8).

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

(2012 Ed.)

**77.55.151 Permit issued to a marina or marine terminal for regular maintenance activities.** (1) Upon application under RCW 77.55.021, the department shall issue a renewable, five-year permit to a marina or marine terminal for its regular maintenance activities identified in the application.

(2) For the purposes of this section, regular maintenance activities may include, but are not limited to:

(a) Maintenance or repair of a boat ramp, launch, or float within the existing footprint;

(b) Maintenance or repair of an existing overwater structure within the existing footprint;

(c) Maintenance or repair of boat lifts or railway launches;

(d) Maintenance or repair of pilings, including the replacement of bumper pilings;

(e) Dredging of less than fifty cubic yards;

(f) Maintenance or repair of shoreline armoring or bank protection;

(g) Maintenance or repair of wetland, riparian, or estuarine habitat; and

(h) Maintenance or repair of an existing outfall.

(3) The five-year permit must include a requirement that a fourteen-day notice be given to the department before regular maintenance activities begin.

(4) A permit under this section is subject to the application fee provided in RCW 77.55.321. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 105; 2005 c 146 § 502; 2002 c 368 § 7; 1996 c 192 § 2. Formerly RCW 77.55.220, 75.20.180.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Finding—Intent—2002 c 368:** See note following RCW 77.55.340.

**Finding—Intent—1996 c 192:** "The legislature finds that initial construction of a marina and some maintenance activities change the natural flow or bed of the salt or freshwater body in which the marina is constructed. Because of this disturbance, it is appropriate that plans for initial marina construction as well as some maintenance activities undergo the hydraulic project review and approval process established in chapter 75.20 RCW.

It is the intent of the legislature that after a marina has received a hydraulic project approval and been constructed, a renewable, five-year hydraulic project approval be issued, upon request, for regular maintenance activities within the marina." [1996 c 192 § 1.]

**77.55.161 Storm water discharges.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, all permits related to storm water discharges must follow the provisions established in this section.

(2) Permits issued in locations covered by a national pollution discharge elimination system municipal storm water general permit may not be conditioned or denied for water quality or quantity impacts arising from storm water discharges. A permit is required only for the actual construction of any storm water outfall or associated structures pursuant to this chapter.

(3)(a) In locations not covered by a national pollution discharge elimination system municipal storm water general permit, the department may issue permits that contain provisions that protect fish life from adverse effects, such as scouring or erosion of the bed of the water body, resulting from the direct hydraulic impacts of the discharge.

(b) Prior to the issuance of a permit issued under this subsection (3), the department must:

(i) Make a finding that the discharge from the outfall will cause harmful effects to fish life;

(ii) Transmit the findings to the applicant and to the city or county where the project is being proposed; and

(iii) Allow the applicant an opportunity to use local ordinances or other mechanisms to avoid the adverse effects resulting from the direct hydraulic discharge. The forty-five day requirement for permit issuance under RCW 77.55.021 is suspended during the time period the department is meeting the requirements of this subsection (3)(b).

(c) After following the procedures set forth in (b) of this subsection, the department may issue a permit that prescribes the discharge rates from an outfall structure that will prevent adverse effects to the bed or flow of the waterway. The department may recommend, but not specify, the measures required to meet these discharge rates. The department may not require changes to the project design above the mean higher high water mark of marine waters, or the ordinary high water mark of freshwaters of the state. Nothing in this section alters any authority the department may have to regulate other types of projects under this chapter. [2005 c 146 § 503; 2002 c 368 § 4. Formerly RCW 77.55.340.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Finding—Intent—2002 c 368:** "The legislature finds that hydraulic project approvals should ensure that fish life is properly protected, but conditions attached to the approval of these permits must reasonably relate to the potential harm that the projects may produce. The legislature is particularly concerned over the current overlap of agency jurisdiction regarding storm water projects, and believes that there is an immediate need to address this issue to ensure that project applicants are not given conflicting directions over project design. Requiring a major redesign of a project results in major delays, produces exponentially rising costs for both public and private project applicants, and frequently produces only marginal benefits for fish.

The legislature recognizes that the department of ecology is primarily responsible for the approval of storm water projects. The legislature believes that once the department of ecology approves a proposed storm water project, it is inappropriate for the department of fish and wildlife to require a major redesign of that project in order for the applicant to obtain hydraulic project approval. The legislature further believes that it is more appropriate for the department of fish and wildlife to defer the design elements of a storm water project to the department of ecology and focus its own efforts on determining reasonable mitigation or conditions for the project based upon the project's potential harm to fish. It is the intent of the legislature to restore some balance over conditions attached to hydraulic permits, and to minimize overlapping state regulatory authority regarding storm water projects in order to reduce waste in both time and money while still providing ample protection for fish life." [2002 c 368 § 1.]

**77.55.171 Watershed restoration projects—Permit processing.** A permit required by the department for a watershed restoration project as defined in RCW 89.08.460 shall be processed in compliance with RCW 89.08.450 through 89.08.510. [2005 c 146 § 504; 1995 c 378 § 14. Formerly RCW 77.55.210, 75.20.170.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.181 Fish habitat enhancement project—Permit review and approval process.** (1) In order to receive the permit review and approval process created in this section, a fish habitat enhancement project must meet the criteria under (a) and (b) of this subsection:

(a) A fish habitat enhancement project must be a project to accomplish one or more of the following tasks:

(i) Elimination of human-made fish passage barriers, including culvert repair and replacement;

(ii) Restoration of an eroded or unstable streambank employing the principle of bioengineering, including limited use of rock as a stabilization only at the toe of the bank, and with primary emphasis on using native vegetation to control the erosive forces of flowing water; or

(iii) Placement of woody debris or other instream structures that benefit naturally reproducing fish stocks.

The department shall develop size or scale threshold tests to determine if projects accomplishing any of these tasks should be evaluated under the process created in this section or under other project review and approval processes. A project proposal shall not be reviewed under the process created in this section if the department determines that the scale of the project raises concerns regarding public health and safety; and

(b) A fish habitat enhancement project must be approved in one of the following ways:

(i) By the department pursuant to chapter 77.95 or 77.100 RCW;

(ii) By the sponsor of a watershed restoration plan as provided in chapter 89.08 RCW;

(iii) By the department as a department-sponsored fish habitat enhancement or restoration project;

(iv) Through the review and approval process for the jobs for the environment program;

(v) Through the review and approval process for conservation district-sponsored projects, where the project complies with design standards established by the conservation commission through interagency agreement with the United States fish and wildlife service and the natural resource conservation service;

(vi) Through a formal grant program established by the legislature or the department for fish habitat enhancement or restoration; and

(vii) Through other formal review and approval processes established by the legislature.

(2) Fish habitat enhancement projects meeting the criteria of subsection (1) of this section are expected to result in beneficial impacts to the environment. Decisions pertaining to fish habitat enhancement projects meeting the criteria of subsection (1) of this section and being reviewed and approved according to the provisions of this section are not subject to the requirements of RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c).

(3)(a) A permit is required for projects that meet the criteria of subsection (1) of this section and are being reviewed and approved under this section. An applicant shall use a joint aquatic resource permit application form developed by the office of regulatory assistance to apply for approval under this chapter. On the same day, the applicant shall provide copies of the completed application form to the department and to each appropriate local government. Local governments shall accept the application as notice of the proposed project. The department shall provide a fifteen-day comment period during which it will receive comments regarding environmental impacts. Within forty-five days, the department shall either issue a permit, with or without conditions, deny approval, or make a determination that the review and

approval process created by this section is not appropriate for the proposed project. The department shall base this determination on identification during the comment period of adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated by the conditioning of a permit. If the department determines that the review and approval process created by this section is not appropriate for the proposed project, the department shall notify the applicant and the appropriate local governments of its determination. The applicant may reapply for approval of the project under other review and approval processes.

(b) Any person aggrieved by the approval, denial, conditioning, or modification of a permit under this section may appeal the decision as provided in \*RCW 77.55.021(4).

(4) No local government may require permits or charge fees for fish habitat enhancement projects that meet the criteria of subsection (1) of this section and that are reviewed and approved according to the provisions of this section. [2010 c 210 § 29; 2005 c 146 § 505; 2001 c 253 § 55; 1998 c 249 § 3. Formerly RCW 77.55.290, 75.20.350.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 77.55.021 was amended by 2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 102, changing subsection (4) to subsection (8).

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Findings—Purpose—1998 c 249:** "The legislature finds that fish habitat enhancement projects play a key role in the state's salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. The legislature finds that there are over two thousand barriers to fish passage at road crossings throughout the state, blocking fish access to as much as three thousand miles of freshwater spawning and rearing habitat. The legislature further finds that removal of these barriers and completion of other fish habitat enhancement projects should be done in a cost-effective manner, which includes providing technical assistance and training to people who will undertake projects such as removal of barriers to salmon passage and minimizing the expense and delays of various permitting processes. The purpose of this act is to take immediate action to facilitate the review and approval of fish habitat enhancement projects, to encourage efforts that will continue to improve the process in the future, to address known fish passage barriers immediately, and to develop over time a comprehensive system to inventory and prioritize barriers on a statewide basis." [1998 c 249 § 1.]

**Finding—Report—1998 c 249:** "The legislature finds that, while the process created in this act can improve the speed with which fish habitat enhancement projects are put into place, additional efforts can improve the review and approval process for the future. The legislature directs the department of fish and wildlife, the conservation commission, local governments, fish habitat enhancement project applicants, and other interested parties to work together to continue to improve the permitting review and approval process. Specific efforts shall include the following:

(1) Development of common acceptable design standards, best management practices, and standardized hydraulic project approval conditions for each type of fish habitat enhancement project;

(2) An evaluation of the potential for using technical evaluation teams in evaluating specific project proposals or stream reaches;

(3) An evaluation of techniques appropriate for restoration and enhancement of pasture and crop land adjacent to riparian areas;

(4) A review of local government shoreline master plans to identify and correct instances where the local plan does not acknowledge potentially beneficial instream work;

(5) An evaluation of the potential for local governments to incorporate fish habitat enhancement projects into their comprehensive planning process; and

(6) Continued work with the federal government agencies on federal permitting for fish habitat enhancement projects.

The department of fish and wildlife shall coordinate this joint effort and shall report back to the legislature on the group's progress by December 1, 1998." [1998 c 249 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**77.55.191 Columbia river anadromous fish sanctuary—Restrictions.** (1) Except for the north fork of the Lewis river and the White Salmon river, all streams and rivers tributary to the Columbia river downstream from McNary dam are established as an anadromous fish sanctuary. This sanctuary is created to preserve and develop the food fish and game fish resources in these streams and rivers and to protect them against undue industrial encroachment.

(2) Within the sanctuary area:

(a) The department shall not issue a permit to construct a dam greater than twenty-five feet high within the migration range of anadromous fish as determined by the department.

(b) A person shall not divert water from rivers and streams in quantities that will reduce the respective stream flow below the annual average low flow, based upon data published in United States geological survey reports.

(3) The commission may acquire and abate a dam or other obstruction, or acquire any water right vested on a sanctuary stream or river, which is in conflict with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Subsection (2)(a) of this section does not apply to the sediment retention structure to be built on the North Fork Toutle river by the United States army corps of engineers. [2005 c 146 § 506; 1998 c 190 § 89; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 27 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 36; 1988 c 36 § 36; 1985 c 307 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 76; 1961 c 4 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 25, approved November 8, 1960). Formerly RCW 77.55.160, 75.20.110.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.55.201 Landscape management plan.** A landscape management plan approved by the department and the department of natural resources under RCW 76.09.350(2) shall serve as a permit for the life of the plan if fish are selected as one of the public resources for coverage under such a plan. [2005 c 146 § 507.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.211 Informational brochure.** The department, the department of ecology, and the department of natural resources shall jointly develop an informational brochure that describes when permits and any other authorizations are required for flood damage prevention and reduction projects, and recommends ways to best proceed through the various regulatory permitting processes. [2005 c 146 § 406; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 28; 1991 c 322 § 21. Formerly RCW 77.55.010, 75.20.005.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Findings—Intent—1991 c 322:** See note following RCW 86.12.200.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.55.221 Flood damage repair and reduction activities—Five-year maintenance permit agreements.** The department shall, at the request of a county, develop five-year maintenance permit agreements, consistent with comprehensive flood control management plans adopted under the

authority of RCW 86.12.200, or other watershed plan approved by a county legislative authority, to allow for work on public and private property for bank stabilization, bridge repair, removal of sandbars and debris, channel maintenance, and other flood damage repair and reduction activity under agreed-upon conditions and times without obtaining permits for specific projects. [2005 c 146 § 508.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.231 Conditions imposed upon a permit—Reasonably related to project—Minor modifications to plans/work timing.** (1) Conditions imposed upon a permit must be reasonably related to the project. The permit conditions must ensure that the project provides proper protection for fish life, but the department may not impose conditions that attempt to optimize conditions for fish life that are out of proportion to the impact of the proposed project.

(2) The permit must contain provisions allowing for minor modifications to the plans and specifications without requiring reissuance of the permit.

(3) The permit must contain provisions that allow for minor modifications to the required work timing without requiring the reissuance of the permit. "Minor modifications to the required work timing" means a minor deviation from the timing window set forth in the permit when there are no spawning or incubating fish present within the vicinity of the project. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 106; 2005 c 146 § 601; 2002 c 368 § 5. Formerly RCW 77.55.350.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Finding—Intent—2002 c 368:** See note following RCW 77.55.340.

**77.55.241 Off-site mitigation.** (1) The legislature finds that the construction of hydraulic projects may require mitigation for the protection of fish life, and that the mitigation may be most cost-effective and provide the most benefit to the fish resource if the mitigation is allowed to be applied in locations that are off-site of the hydraulic project location. The department may approve off-site mitigation plans that are submitted by permit applicants.

(2) If a permit applicant proposes off-site mitigation and the department does not approve the permit or conditions the permit in such a manner as to render off-site mitigation unpracticable, the project proponent may appeal the decision as provided in \*RCW 77.55.021(4). [2010 c 210 § 30; 2005 c 146 § 602; 1996 c 276 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.55.230, 75.20.190.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 77.55.021 was amended by 2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 102, changing subsection (4) to subsection (8).

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.251 Mitigation plan review.** When reviewing a mitigation plan under RCW 77.55.021, the department shall, at the request of the project proponent, follow the guidance contained in RCW 90.74.005 through 90.74.030. [2005 c

146 § 603; 2000 c 107 § 15; 1997 c 424 § 6. Formerly RCW 77.55.090, 75.20.098.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.261 Placement of woody debris as condition of permit.** Whenever the placement of woody debris is required as a condition of a permit issued under RCW 77.55.021, the department, upon request, shall invite comment regarding that placement from the local governmental authority, affected tribes, affected federal and state agencies, and the project applicant. [2005 c 146 § 604; 2000 c 107 § 17; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 33; 1991 c 322 § 18. Formerly RCW 77.55.120, 75.20.104.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Findings—Intent—1991 c 322:** See note following RCW 86.12.200.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.55.271 Sediment dredging or capping actions—Dredging of existing channels and berthing areas—Mitigation not required.** The department shall not require mitigation for sediment dredging or capping actions that result in a cleaner aquatic environment and equal or better habitat functions and values, if the actions are taken under a state or federal cleanup action.

This chapter shall not be construed to require habitat mitigation for navigation and maintenance dredging of existing channels and berthing areas. [1997 c 424 § 5. Formerly RCW 77.55.260, 75.20.325.]

**77.55.281 Fishways on certain agricultural drainage facilities.** (1) The department may not require a fishway on a tide gate, flood gate, or other associated man-made agricultural drainage facilities as a condition of a permit if such a fishway was not originally installed as part of an agricultural drainage system existing on or before May 20, 2003.

(2) Any condition requiring a self-regulating tide gate to achieve fish passage in an existing permit under this chapter may not be enforced. [2005 c 146 § 605.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.291 Civil penalty.** (1) The department may levy civil penalties of up to one hundred dollars per day for violation of any provisions of RCW 77.55.021. The penalty provided shall be imposed by notice in writing, either by certified mail or personal service to the person incurring the penalty, from the director or the director's designee describing the violation.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any person incurring any penalty under this chapter may appeal the same under chapter 34.05 RCW to the board. Appeals shall be filed within thirty days from the date of receipt of the penalty in accordance with RCW 43.21B.230.

(b) Issuance of a civil penalty may be informally appealed to the department within thirty days from the date of receipt of the penalty. Requests for informal appeal must be filed in the form and manner prescribed by the department by rule. A civil penalty that has been informally appealed to the department is appealable to the board within thirty days from

the date of receipt of the department's decision on the informal appeal.

(3) The penalty imposed shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of a notice imposing the penalty unless an appeal is filed. Whenever an appeal of any penalty incurred under this chapter is filed, the penalty shall become due and payable only upon completion of all review proceedings and the issuance of a final order confirming the penalty in whole or in part.

(4) If the amount of any penalty is not paid within thirty days after it becomes due and payable, the attorney general, upon the request of the director, shall bring an action in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county or of any county in which such violator may do business, to recover such penalty. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as an ordinary civil action. All penalties recovered under this section shall be paid into the state's general fund. [2010 c 210 § 31; 2005 c 146 § 701; 2000 c 107 § 19; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 35; 1988 c 36 § 35; 1986 c 173 § 6. Formerly RCW 77.55.140, 75.20.106.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.55.321 Application fee for a hydraulic project permit or permit modification—Projects exempt from fees—Disposition of fees. (Expires June 30, 2017.)** (1) The department shall charge an application fee of one hundred fifty dollars for a hydraulic project permit or permit modification issued under RCW 77.55.021 where the project is located at or below the ordinary high water line. The application fee established under this subsection may not be charged after June 30, 2017.

(2) The following hydraulic projects are exempt from all fees listed under this section:

(a) Hydraulic projects approved under applicant-funded contracts with the department that pay for the costs of processing those projects;

(b) If RCW 77.55.361, 76.09.490, and 76.09.040 are enacted into law by June 30, 2012, forest practices hydraulic projects;

(c) Pamphlet hydraulic projects;

(d) Mineral prospecting and mining activities; and

(e) Hydraulic projects occurring on farm and agricultural land, as that term is defined in RCW 84.34.020.

(3) All fees collected under this section must be deposited in the hydraulic project approval account created in RCW 77.55.331.

(4) The fee provisions contained in this section are prospective only. The department of fish and wildlife may not charge fees for hydraulic project permits issued under this title prior to July 10, 2012.

(5) This section expires June 30, 2017. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 103.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

(2012 Ed.)

**77.55.331 Hydraulic project approval account.** (1) The hydraulic project approval account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from application fees for hydraulic project approval applications collected under RCW 77.55.321 must be deposited into the account.

(2) Except for unanticipated receipts under RCW 43.79.260 through 43.79.282, moneys in the hydraulic project approval account may be spent only after appropriation.

(3) Expenditures from the hydraulic project approval account may be used only to fund department activities relating to implementing and operating the hydraulic project approval program. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 104.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.341 Department to prepare and distribute information to the public.** The department shall prepare and distribute technical and educational information to the general public to assist the public in complying with the requirements of this chapter, including the changes resulting from chapter 1, Laws of 2012 1st sp. sess. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 107.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.351 Department to develop system to provide access to hydraulic project approval applications.** The department shall develop a system to provide local governments, affected tribes, and other interested parties with access to hydraulic project approval applications. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 108.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.361 Limitations of chapter to a forest practices hydraulic project—Adoption of rules for concurrent review process—Department's duties regarding chapter 76.09 RCW.** (1) The requirements of this chapter do not apply to any forest practices hydraulic project, or to any activities that are associated with such a project, upon incorporation of fish protection standards adopted under this chapter into the forest practices rules and approval of technical guidance as required under RCW 76.09.040, at which time these projects are regulated under chapter 76.09 RCW.

(2) The department must continue to conduct regulatory and enforcement activities under this chapter for forest practices hydraulic projects until the forest practices board incorporates fish protection standards adopted under this chapter into the forest practices rules and approves technical guidance as required under RCW 76.09.040.

(3) By December 31, 2013, the department shall adopt rules establishing the procedures for the concurrence review process consistent with RCW 76.09.490. The concurrence review process must allow the department up to thirty days to review forest practices hydraulic projects meeting the criteria under RCW 76.09.490(2) (a) and (b) for consistency with fish protection standards.

(4) The department shall notify the department of natural resources prior to beginning a rule-making process that may affect activities regulated under chapter 76.09 RCW.

(5) The department shall act consistent with appendix M of the forest and fish report, as the term "forests and fish report" is defined in RCW 76.09.020, when modifying fish protection rules that may affect activities regulated under chapter 76.09 RCW.

(6) The department may review and provide comments on any forest practices application. The department shall review, and either verify that the review has occurred or comment on, forest practices applications that include a forest practices hydraulic project involving fish bearing waters or shorelines of the state, as that term is defined in RCW 90.58.030. Prior to commenting and whenever reasonably practicable, the department shall communicate with the applicant regarding the substance of the project.

(7) The department shall participate in effectiveness monitoring for forest practices hydraulic projects through its role in the review processes provided under WAC 222-08-160 as it existed on July 10, 2012. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 201.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.55.371 Memorandum of agreement to implement integration of hydraulic project approvals into forest practices applications—Interagency contract.** (1) The department and the department of natural resources shall enter into and maintain a memorandum of agreement between the two agencies that describes how to implement integration of hydraulic project approvals into forest practices applications consistent with chapter 1, Laws of 2012 1st sp. sess.

(2) The initial memorandum of agreement required under subsection (1) of this section between the two departments must be executed by December 31, 2012. The memorandum of agreement may be amended as agreed to by the two departments.

(3) The department and the department of natural resources shall enter into and maintain an interagency contract to ensure implementation of chapter 1, Laws of 2012 1st sp. sess. and the memorandum of agreement between the two agencies required under subsection (1) of this section. The contract must include funding provisions for the department's review of forest practices hydraulic projects. [2012 1st sp.s. c 1 § 204.]

**Finding—Intent—Limitation—Authority of department of fish and wildlife under act—Jurisdiction/authority of Indian tribe under act—2012 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 77.55.011.

## Chapter 77.57 RCW

### FISHWAYS, FLOW, AND SCREENING

#### Sections

77.57.010	Fish guards required on diversion devices—Penalties, remedies for failure.
77.57.020	Review of permit applications to divert or store water—Water flow policy.
77.57.030	Fishways required in dams, obstructions—Penalties, remedies for failure.
77.57.040	Director may modify inadequate fishways and fish guards.

77.57.050	If fishway is impractical, fish hatchery or cultural facility may be provided in lieu.
77.57.060	Director may modify inadequate fishways and protective devices.
77.57.070	Diversion of water—Screen, bypass required.
77.57.080	Operation and maintenance of fish collection facility on Toutle river.

**77.57.010 Fish guards required on diversion devices—Penalties, remedies for failure.** (1) A diversion device used for conducting water from a lake, river, or stream for any purpose shall be equipped with a fish guard approved by the director to prevent the passage of fish into the diversion device. The fish guard shall be maintained at all times when water is taken into the diversion device. The fish guards shall be installed at places and times prescribed by the director upon thirty days' notice to the owner of the diversion device.

(2) Each day the diversion device is not equipped with an approved fish guard is a separate offense. If within thirty days after notice to equip a diversion device the owner fails to do so, the director may take possession of the diversion device and close the device until it is properly equipped. Expenses incurred by the department constitute the value of a lien upon the diversion device and upon the real and personal property of the owner. Notice of the lien shall be filed and recorded in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the action is taken. [2005 c 146 § 901; 1998 c 190 § 85; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 70; 1955 c 12 § 75.20.040. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 45; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-319. Formerly RCW 77.55.040, 75.20.040.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**77.57.020 Review of permit applications to divert or store water—Water flow policy.** It is the policy of this state that a flow of water sufficient to support game fish and food fish populations be maintained at all times in the streams of this state.

The director of ecology shall give the director notice of each application for a permit to divert or store water. The director has thirty days after receiving the notice to state his or her objections to the application. The permit shall not be issued until the thirty-day period has elapsed.

The director of ecology may refuse to issue a permit if, in the opinion of the director of ecology, issuing the permit might result in lowering the flow of water in a stream below the flow necessary to adequately support food fish and game fish populations in the stream.

The provisions of this section shall in no way affect existing water rights. [2005 c 146 § 902; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 29; 1988 c 36 § 32; 1986 c 173 § 7; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 71; 1955 c 12 § 75.20.050. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 46; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-320. Formerly RCW 77.55.050, 75.20.050.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.57.030 Fishways required in dams, obstructions—Penalties, remedies for failure.** (1) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, a dam or other obstruction across or in a stream shall be provided with a durable and efficient fishway approved by the director. Plans and specifications shall be

provided to the department prior to the director's approval. The fishway shall be maintained in an effective condition and continuously supplied with sufficient water to freely pass fish.

(2)(a) If a person fails to construct and maintain a fishway or to remove the dam or obstruction in a manner satisfactory to the director, then within thirty days after written notice to comply has been served upon the owner, his or her agent, or the person in charge, the director may construct a fishway or remove the dam or obstruction. Expenses incurred by the department constitute the value of a lien upon the dam and upon the personal property of the person owning the dam. Notice of the lien shall be filed and recorded in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the dam or obstruction is situated. The lien may be foreclosed in an action brought in the name of the state.

(b) If, within thirty days after notice to construct a fishway or remove a dam or obstruction, the owner, his or her agent, or the person in charge fails to do so, the dam or obstruction is a public nuisance and the director may take possession of the dam or obstruction and destroy it. No liability shall attach for the destruction.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "other obstruction" does not include tide gates, flood gates, and associated man-made agricultural drainage facilities that were originally installed as part of an agricultural drainage system on or before May 20, 2003, or the repair, replacement, or improvement of such tide gates or flood gates. [2005 c 146 § 903; 2003 c 391 § 1; 1998 c 190 § 86; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 72; 1955 c 12 § 75.20.060. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 47; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-321. Formerly RCW 77.55.060, 75.20.060.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Severability—2003 c 391:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2003 c 391 § 8.]

**Effective date—2003 c 391:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 20, 2003]." [2003 c 391 § 9.]

**77.57.040 Director may modify inadequate fishways and fish guards.** If the director determines that a fishway or fish guard described in \*RCW 77.55.040 and 77.55.060 and in existence on September 1, 1963, is inadequate, in addition to other authority granted in this chapter, the director may remove, relocate, reconstruct, or modify the device, without cost to the owner. The director shall not materially modify the amount of flow of water through the device. After the department has completed the improvements, the fishways and fish guards shall be operated and maintained at the expense of the owner in accordance with \*RCW 77.55.040 and 77.55.060. [2000 c 107 § 14; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 73; 1963 c 153 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.55.070, 75.20.061.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 77.55.040 and 77.55.060 were recodified as RCW 77.57.010 and 77.57.030, respectively, pursuant to 2005 c 146 § 1002.

*Director of fish and wildlife may modify, etc., inadequate fishways and protective devices: RCW 77.57.060.*

**77.57.050 If fishway is impractical, fish hatchery or cultural facility may be provided in lieu.** Before a person

commences construction on a dam or other hydraulic project for which the director determines that a fishway is impractical, the person shall at the option of the director:

(1) Convey to the state a fish cultural facility on a site satisfactory to the director and constructed according to plans and specifications approved by the director, and enter into an agreement with the director secured by sufficient bond, to furnish water and electricity, without expense, and funds necessary to operate and maintain the facilities; or

(2) Enter into an agreement with the director secured by sufficient bond to make payments to the state as the director determines are necessary to expand, maintain, and operate additional facilities at existing hatcheries within a reasonable distance of the dam or other hydraulic work to compensate for the damages caused by the dam or other hydraulic work.

(3) A decision of the director under this section is subject to review in the superior court of the state for Thurston county. Each day that a person carries on construction work or operates a dam or hydraulic project without complying with this section is a separate offense. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 74; 1955 c 12 § 75.20.090. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 48; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-322. Formerly RCW 77.55.080, 75.20.090.]

**77.57.060 Director may modify inadequate fishways and protective devices.** The director may authorize removal, relocation, reconstruction, or other modification of an inadequate fishway or fish protective device required by \*RCW 77.55.320 which device was in existence on September 1, 1963, without cost to the owner for materials and labor. The modification may not materially alter the amount of water flowing through the fishway or fish protective device. Following modification, the fishway or fish protective device shall be maintained at the expense of the person or governmental agency owning the obstruction or water diversion device. [2001 c 253 § 21; 1980 c 78 § 90; 1963 c 152 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.55.310, 77.12.425, 77.16.221.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 77.55.320 was recodified as RCW 77.57.070 pursuant to 2005 c 146 § 1002.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

*Director of fish and wildlife may modify inadequate fishways and fish guards: RCW 77.57.040.*

**77.57.070 Diversion of water—Screen, bypass required.** (1) A person shall not divert water from a lake, river, or stream containing game fish unless the water diversion device is equipped at or near its intake with a fish guard or screen to prevent the passage of game fish into the device and, if necessary, with a means of returning game fish from immediately in front of the fish guard or screen to the waters of origin. A person who was, on June 11, 1947, otherwise lawfully diverting water from a lake, river, or stream shall not be deemed guilty of a violation of this section.

(2) Plans for the fish guard, screen, and bypass shall be approved by the director prior to construction. The installation shall be approved by the director prior to the diversion of water.

(3) The director or the director's designee may close a water diversion device operated in violation of this section and keep it closed until it is properly equipped with a fish

guard, screen, or bypass. [2005 c 146 § 904; 2001 c 253 § 48; 1998 c 190 § 122; 1980 c 78 § 89; 1955 c 36 § 77.16.220. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 61; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-70. Formerly RCW 77.55.320, 77.16.220.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.57.080 Operation and maintenance of fish collection facility on Toutle river.** The legislature recognizes the need to mitigate the effects of sedimentary build-up and resultant damage to fish population in the Toutle river resulting from the Mt. St. Helens eruption. The state has entered into a contractual agreement with the United States army corps of engineers designed to minimize fish habitat disruption created by the sediment retention structure on the Toutle river, under which the corps has agreed to construct a fish collection facility at the sediment retention structure site conditional upon the state assuming the maintenance and operation costs of the facility. The department shall operate and maintain a fish collection facility on the Toutle river. [1993 sp.s. c 2 § 39; 1988 c 36 § 39; 1987 c 506 § 101. Formerly RCW 77.55.240, 75.20.310.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 77.60 RCW

### SHELLFISH

#### Sections

77.60.010	State oyster reserves established.
77.60.020	Sale or lease of state oyster reserves.
77.60.030	State oyster reserves management policy—Personal use harvesting—Inventory—Management categories—Cultch permits.
77.60.040	Olympia oysters—Cultivation on reserves in Puget Sound.
77.60.050	Sale of shellfish from state oyster reserves.
77.60.060	Restricted shellfish areas—Infestations—Permit.
77.60.070	Geoduck clams, commercial harvesting—Unauthorized acts—Gear requirements.
77.60.080	Imported oyster seed—Permit and inspection required.
77.60.090	Imported oyster seed—Inspection—Costs.
77.60.100	Establishment of reserves on state shellfish lands.
77.60.110	Zebra mussels and European green crabs—Draft rules—Prevention of introduction and dispersal.
77.60.120	Infested waters—List published.
77.60.130	Aquatic nuisance species committee.
77.60.150	Oyster reserve land—Pilot project—Advisory committee—Lease administration.
77.60.160	Oyster reserve land account.
77.60.170	Shellfish—On-site sewage grant program—Priority areas—Memorandum of understanding.

**77.60.010 State oyster reserves established.** The following areas are the state oyster reserves and are more completely described in maps and plats on file in the office of the commissioner of public lands and in the office of the auditor of the county in which the reserve is located:

#### 1. PUGET SOUND OYSTER RESERVES:

- (a) Totten Inlet reserves (sometimes known as Oyster Bay reserves), located in Totten Inlet, Thurston county;
- (b) Eld Inlet reserves (sometimes known as Mud Bay reserves), located in Mud Bay, Thurston county;

(c) Oakland Bay reserves, located in Oakland Bay, Mason county;

(d) North Bay reserves (sometimes known as Case Inlet reserves), located in Case Inlet, Mason county.

#### 2. WILLAPA HARBOR OYSTER RESERVES:

(a) Nemah reserve, south and west sides of reserve located along Nemah River channel, Pacific county;

(b) Long Island reserve, located at south end and along west side of Long Island, Willapa Harbor, Pacific county;

(c) Long Island Slough reserve, located at south end and along east side of Long Island, Willapa Harbor, Pacific county;

(d) Bay Center reserve, located in the Palix River channel, extending from Palix River bridge to beyond Bay Center to north of Goose Point, Willapa Harbor, Pacific county;

(e) Willapa River reserve, located in the Willapa River channel extending west and up-river from a point approximately one-quarter mile from the blinker light marking the division of Willapa River channel and the North River channel, Willapa Harbor, Pacific county. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 78; 1955 c 12 § 75.24.010. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 54; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-01. Formerly RCW 75.24.010.]

**77.60.020 Sale or lease of state oyster reserves.** Only upon recommendation of the commission may the state oyster reserves be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of by the department of natural resources. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 28 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 79; 1955 c 12 § 75.24.030. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 55; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-402. Formerly RCW 75.24.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.60.030 State oyster reserves management policy—Personal use harvesting—Inventory—Management categories—Cultch permits.** It is the policy of the state to improve state oyster reserves so that they are productive and yield a revenue sufficient for their maintenance. In fixing the price of oysters and other shellfish sold from the reserves, the director shall take into consideration this policy. It is also the policy of the state to maintain the oyster reserves to furnish shellfish to growers and processors and to stock public beaches.

Shellfish may be harvested from state oyster reserves for personal use as prescribed by rule of the director.

The director shall periodically inventory the state oyster reserves and assign the reserve lands into management categories:

- (1) Native Olympia oyster broodstock reserves;
- (2) Commercial shellfish harvesting zones;
- (3) Commercial shellfish propagation zones designated for long-term leasing to private aquaculturists;
- (4) Public recreational shellfish harvesting zones;
- (5) Unproductive land.

The director shall manage each category of oyster reserve land to maximize the sustained yield production of shellfish consistent with the purpose for establishment of each management category.

The commission shall develop an oyster reserve management plan, to include recommendations for leasing

reserve lands, in coordination with the shellfish industry, by January 1, 1986.

The director shall protect, reseed, improve the habitat of, and replant state oyster reserves. The director shall also issue cultch permits and oyster reserve fishery licenses. [2000 c 107 § 22; 1998 c 245 § 152; 1985 c 256 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 81; 1969 ex.s. c 91 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.24.060. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 56; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-403. Formerly RCW 75.24.060.]

**77.60.040 Olympia oysters—Cultivation on reserves in Puget Sound.** The legislature finds that current environmental and economic conditions warrant a renewal of the state's historical practice of actively cultivating and managing its oyster reserves in Puget Sound to produce the state's native oyster, the Olympia oyster. The director shall reestablish dike cultivated production of Olympia oysters on such reserves on a trial basis as a tool for planning more comprehensive cultivation by the state. [2000 c 107 § 23; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 40; 1985 c 256 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.24.065.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.60.050 Sale of shellfish from state oyster reserves.** The director shall determine the time, place, and method of sale of oysters and other shellfish from state oyster reserves. Any person who commercially takes shellfish from state oyster reserves must possess an oyster reserve fishery license issued by the director pursuant to RCW 77.65.260. Any person engaged in the commercial cultching of oysters on state oyster reserves must possess an oyster cultch permit issued by the director pursuant to RCW 77.65.270.

To maintain local communities and industries and to restrain the formation of monopolies in the industry, the director shall determine the number of bushels which shall be sold to a person. When the shellfish are sold at public auction, the director may reject any and all bids. [2000 c 107 § 24; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 82; 1955 c 12 § 75.24.070. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 57; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-404. Formerly RCW 75.24.070.]

*Oyster reserve fishery license:* RCW 77.65.260.

**77.60.060 Restricted shellfish areas—Infestations—Permit.** The director may designate as "restricted shellfish areas" those areas in which infection or infestation of shellfish is present. A permit issued by the director is required to transplant or transport into or out of a restricted area shellfish or equipment used in culturing, taking, handling, or processing shellfish. [1998 c 190 § 90; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 83; 1955 c 12 § 75.24.080. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 59; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-406. Formerly RCW 75.24.080.]

**77.60.070 Geoduck clams, commercial harvesting—Unauthorized acts—Gear requirements.** (1) The director may not authorize a person to take geoduck clams for commercial purposes outside the harvest area designated in a current department of natural resources geoduck harvesting agreement issued under RCW 79.135.210. The director may not authorize commercial harvest of geoduck clams from bottoms that are shallower than eighteen feet below mean lower low water (0.0 ft.). Vessels conducting harvest operations must remain seaward of a line two hundred yards seaward

from and parallel to the line of ordinary high tide. This section does not apply to the harvest of private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020.

(2) Commercial geoduck harvesting shall be done with a hand-held, manually operated water jet or suction device guided and controlled from under water by a diver. Periodically, the director shall determine the effect of each type or unit of gear upon the geoduck population or the substrate they inhabit. The director may require modification of the gear or stop its use if it is being operated in a wasteful or destructive manner or if its operation may cause permanent damage to the bottom or adjacent shellfish populations. [2006 c 144 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 25; 1998 c 190 § 91; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 29 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 c 340 § 51; 1984 c 80 § 2. Prior: 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 85; 1983 c 3 § 193; 1979 ex.s. c 141 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 253 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.24.100.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

*Designation of aquatic lands for geoduck harvesting:* RCW 79.135.220.

*Diver license for harvesting geoducks:* RCW 77.65.410.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.60.080 Imported oyster seed—Permit and inspection required.** The department may not authorize a person to import oysters or oyster seed into this state for the purpose of planting them in state waters without a permit from the director. The director shall issue a permit only after an adequate inspection has been made and the oysters or oyster seed are found to be free of disease, pests, and other substances which might endanger oysters in state waters. [1998 c 190 § 92; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 87; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.054. Prior: 1951 c 271 § 42. Formerly RCW 75.24.110, 75.08.054.]

**77.60.090 Imported oyster seed—Inspection—Costs.** The director may require imported oyster seed to be inspected for diseases and pests. The director may specify the place of inspection. Persons importing oyster seed shall pay for the inspection costs excluding the inspector's salary. The cost shall be determined by the director and prorated among the importers according to the number of cases of oyster seeds each imports. The director shall specify the time and manner of payment. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 88; 1967 ex.s. c 38 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.056. Prior: 1951 c 271 § 43. Formerly RCW 75.24.120, 75.08.056.]

**77.60.100 Establishment of reserves on state shellfish lands.** The commission may examine the clam, mussel, and oyster beds located on aquatic lands belonging to the state and request the commissioner of public lands to withdraw these lands from sale and lease for the purpose of establishing reserves or public beaches. The director shall conserve, protect, and develop these reserves and the oyster, shrimp, clam, and mussel beds on state lands. [2000 c 107 § 26; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 30 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 89; 1955 c 12 § 75.08.060. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 7(5); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-206(5). Formerly RCW 75.24.130, 75.08.060.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.60.110 Zebra mussels and European green crabs—Draft rules—Prevention of introduction and dispersal.** To complement programs authorized by the federal aquatic nuisance species task force, the department of fish and wildlife is directed to develop draft rules for legislative consideration to prevent the introduction and dispersal of zebra mussels and European green crabs and to allow eradication of infestations that may occur. The department is authorized to display and distribute material and literature informing boaters and owners of airplanes that land on water of the problem and to publicize and maintain a telephone number available to the public to express concerns and report infestations. [1998 c 153 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.24.140.]

**Intent—1998 c 153:** "The unauthorized introduction of the zebra mussel and the European green crab into Washington state waters would pose a serious economic and environmental threat. The zebra mussel and European green crab have adverse impacts on fisheries, waterways, public and private facilities, and the functioning of natural ecosystems. The threat of zebra mussels and European green crabs requires a coordinated response. It is the intent of the legislature to prevent adverse economic and environmental impacts caused by zebra mussels and European green crabs in cooperation and coordination with local governments, the public, other states, and federal agencies." [1998 c 153 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.60.120 Infested waters—List published.** The department of fish and wildlife shall prepare, maintain, and publish a list of all lakes, ponds, or other waters of the state and other states infested with zebra mussels or European green crabs. The department may participate in regional or national groups addressing these species. [1998 c 153 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.24.150.]

**Intent—Effective date—1998 c 153:** See notes following RCW 77.60.110.

**77.60.130 Aquatic nuisance species committee.** (1) The aquatic nuisance species committee is created for the purpose of fostering state, federal, tribal, and private cooperation on aquatic nuisance species issues. The mission of the committee is to minimize the unauthorized or accidental introduction of nonnative aquatic species and give special emphasis to preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species. The term "aquatic nuisance species" means a nonnative aquatic plant or animal species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species, the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

(2) The committee consists of representatives from each of the following state agencies: Department of fish and wildlife, department of ecology, department of agriculture, department of health, department of natural resources, Puget Sound partnership, state patrol, state noxious weed control board, and Washington sea grant program. The committee shall encourage and solicit participation by: Federally recognized tribes of Washington, federal agencies, Washington conservation organizations, environmental groups, and representatives from industries that may either be affected by the introduction of an aquatic nuisance species or that may serve as a pathway for their introduction.

(3) The committee has the following duties:

(a) Periodically revise the state of Washington aquatic nuisance species management plan, originally published in June 1998;

(b) Make recommendations to the legislature on statutory provisions for classifying and regulating aquatic nuisance species;

(c) Recommend to the state noxious weed control board that a plant be classified under the process designated by RCW 17.10.080 as an aquatic noxious weed;

(d) Coordinate education, research, regulatory authorities, monitoring and control programs, and participate in regional and national efforts regarding aquatic nuisance species;

(e) Consult with representatives from industries and other activities that may serve as a pathway for the introduction of aquatic nuisance species to develop practical strategies that will minimize the risk of new introductions; and

(f) Prepare a biennial report to the legislature with the first report due by December 1, 2001, making recommendations for better accomplishing the purposes of this chapter, and listing the accomplishments of this chapter to date.

(4) The committee shall accomplish its duties through the authority and cooperation of its member agencies. Implementation of all plans and programs developed by the committee shall be through the member agencies and other cooperating organizations. [2007 c 341 § 59; 2000 c 149 § 1.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**77.60.150 Oyster reserve land—Pilot project—Advisory committee—Lease administration.** (1) The department shall initiate a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility and potential of intensively culturing shellfish on currently nonproductive oyster reserve land in Puget Sound. The pilot program shall include no fewer than three long-term lease agreements with commercial shellfish growers. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, revenues from the lease of such lands shall be deposited in the oyster reserve land account created in RCW 77.60.160.

(2) The department shall form one advisory committee each for the Willapa Bay oyster reserve lands and the Puget Sound oyster reserve lands. The advisory committees shall make recommendations on management practices to conserve, protect, and develop oyster reserve lands. The advisory committees may make recommendations regarding the management practices on oyster reserve lands, in particular to ensure that they are managed in a manner that will: (a) Increase revenue through production of high-value shellfish; (b) not be detrimental to the market for shellfish grown on nonreserve lands; and (c) avoid negative impacts to existing shellfish populations. The advisory committees may also make recommendation on the distribution of funds in RCW 77.60.160(2)(a). The department shall attempt to structure each advisory committee to include equal representation between shellfish growers that participate in reserve sales and shellfish growers that do not.

(3) The department of natural resources, in consultation with the department of fish and wildlife, shall administer the leases for oyster reserves entered into under this chapter. In administering the leases, the department of natural resources shall exercise its authority under RCW 79.135.300. Vacation of state oyster reserves by the department shall not be a requirement for the department of natural resources to lease any oyster reserves under this section. The department of

natural resources may recover reasonable costs directly associated with the administration of the leases for oyster reserves entered into under this chapter. All administrative fees collected by the department of natural resources pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the resource management cost account established in RCW 79.64.020. The department may not assess charges to recover the costs of consulting with the department of natural resources under this subsection.

(4) The Puget Sound pilot program shall not include the culture of geoduck. [2009 c 333 § 23; 2001 c 273 § 1.]

**77.60.160 Oyster reserve land account.** (1) The oyster reserve land account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from revenues from the lease of land or sale of shellfish from oyster reserve lands must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only as provided in this section.

(2) Funds in the account shall be used for the purposes provided for in this subsection:

(a) Up to forty percent for:

(i) The management expenses incurred by the department that are directly attributable to the management of the oyster reserve lands; and

(ii) The expenses associated with new bivalve shellfish research and development activities at the Pt. Whitney and Nahcotta shellfish laboratories managed by the department. As used in this subsection, "new research and development activities" includes an emphasis on the control of aquatic nuisance species and burrowing shrimp. New research and development activities must be identified by the department and the appropriate oyster reserve advisory committee;

(b) Up to ten percent may be deposited into the state general fund; and

(c) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, all remaining funds in the account shall be used for the shellfish—on-site sewage grant program established in RCW 77.60.170.

(3)(a) No later than January 1st of each year, the department shall transfer up to fifty percent of the annual revenues generated in the preceding year from the Willapa harbor oyster reserve to the on-site sewage grant program established under RCW 77.60.170 as necessary to achieve a fund balance of one hundred thousand dollars.

(b) All remaining revenues received from the Willapa harbor oyster reserve shall be used to fund research activities as specified in subsection (2)(a) of this section. [2008 c 202 § 2; 2007 c 341 § 44; 2001 c 273 § 2.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**77.60.170 Shellfish—On-site sewage grant program—Priority areas—Memorandum of understanding.** (1)(a) The department shall transfer the funds required by RCW 77.60.160 to the appropriate local governments. Pacific and Grays Harbor counties and Puget Sound shall manage their established shellfish—on-site sewage grant program. The local governments, in consultation with the department of health, shall use the provided funds as grants or loans to individuals for repairing or improving their on-site sewage systems. The grants or loans may be provided only in

(2012 Ed.)

areas that have the potential to adversely affect water quality in commercial and recreational shellfish growing areas.

(b) A recipient of a grant or loan shall enter into an agreement with the appropriate local government to maintain the improved on-site sewage system according to specifications required by the local government.

(c) The department shall work closely with local governments and it shall be the goal of the department to attain geographic equity between Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, and Puget Sound when making funds available under this program.

(d) For the purposes of this subsection, "geographic equity" means issuing on-site sewage grants or loans at a level that matches the funds generated from the oyster reserve lands in that area.

(2) In Puget Sound, the local governments shall give first priority to areas that are:

(a) Identified as "areas of special concern" under \*WAC 246-272-01001;

(b) Included within a shellfish protection district under chapter 90.72 RCW; or

(c) Identified as a marine recovery area under chapter 70.118A RCW.

(3) In Grays Harbor and Pacific counties, the local governments shall give first priority to preventing the deterioration of water quality in areas where commercial or recreational shellfish are grown.

(4) The department and each participating local government shall enter into a memorandum of understanding that will establish an applicant income eligibility requirement for individual grant applicants from within the jurisdiction and other mutually agreeable terms and conditions of the grant program.

(5) For the 2007-2009 biennium, from the funds received under this section, Pacific county shall transfer up to two hundred thousand dollars to the department. Upon receiving the funds from Pacific county, the department and the appropriate oyster reserve advisory committee under RCW 77.60.160 shall identify and execute specific research projects with those funds. [2008 c 202 § 1; 2007 c 341 § 43; 2001 c 273 § 3. Formerly RCW 70.118.140, 90.71.100.]

**\*Reviser's note:** WAC 246-272-01001 was repealed effective July 1, 2007. The term "areas of special concern" is defined in WAC 246-272B-01001.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

## Chapter 77.65 RCW

### FOOD FISH AND SHELLFISH— COMMERCIAL LICENSES

#### Sections

77.65.010	Commercial licenses and permits required—Exemption.
77.65.020	Transfer of licenses—Restrictions—Fees—Inheritability.
77.65.030	Commercial licenses and permits—Application deadline— Exception.
77.65.040	Commercial licenses—Qualifications—Limited-entry license—Nonsalmon delivery license.
77.65.050	Application for commercial licenses and permits—Replace- ment.
77.65.060	No commercial fishery during year—License requirement waived or license fees refunded.
77.65.070	Licenses subject to statute and rules—Licenses not subject to security interest or lien—Expiration and renewal of licenses.

- 77.65.080 License suspension—Noncompliance with support order—Reissuance.
- 77.65.090 Vessel substitution—Fees.
- 77.65.100 Vessel designation.
- 77.65.110 Alternate operator designation—Fees.
- 77.65.120 Sale or delivery of food fish or shellfish—Conditions—Charter boat operation.
- 77.65.130 Vessel operation—License designation—Alternate operator license required.
- 77.65.140 Alternate operators—Increase for certain licenses.
- 77.65.150 Charter licenses and angler permits—Fees—"Charter boat" defined—Oregon charter boats—Salmon charter license renewal.
- 77.65.160 Commercial salmon fishery licenses—Gear and geographic designations—Fees.
- 77.65.170 Salmon delivery license—Fees—Restrictions—Revocation.
- 77.65.180 Oregon, California harvested salmon—Landing in Washington ports encouraged.
- 77.65.190 Emergency salmon delivery license—Fees—Nontransferable, nonrenewable.
- 77.65.200 Commercial fishery licenses for food fish fisheries—Fees—Rules for species, gear, and areas.
- 77.65.210 Nonlimited entry delivery license—Limitations—Fees.
- 77.65.220 Commercial fishery licenses for shellfish fisheries—Fees—Rules for species, gear, and areas.
- 77.65.240 Surcharge on Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license and Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license—Coastal crab account.
- 77.65.250 Hardshell clam mechanical harvester fishery license.
- 77.65.260 State oyster reserves—Oyster reserve fishery license.
- 77.65.270 Oyster cultch permit.
- 77.65.280 Wholesale fish dealer's license—Fees—Exemption.
- 77.65.290 Wholesale fish dealer licenses—Display.
- 77.65.300 Wholesale fish dealer may be a fish buyer.
- 77.65.310 Wholesale fish dealers—Documentation of commercial harvest.
- 77.65.320 Wholesale fish dealers—Performance bond.
- 77.65.330 Wholesale fish dealers—Performance bond—Payment of liability.
- 77.65.340 Fish buyer's license—Fees.
- 77.65.350 Salmon charter crew member—Salmon roe license—Sale of salmon roe—Conditions.
- 77.65.360 License fee increases—Disposition.
- 77.65.370 Food fish guide license.
- 77.65.380 Ocean pink shrimp—Defined.
- 77.65.390 Ocean pink shrimp—Delivery license—Fees.
- 77.65.400 Emerging commercial fishery—Trial or experimental fishery—Licenses and permits.
- 77.65.410 Geoduck diver license.
- 77.65.420 Wild salmonid policy—Establishment.
- 77.65.430 Wild salmonid policy—Management strategies and gear types.
- 77.65.440 Alternate operator—Geoduck diver—Food fish guide—Fees.
- 77.65.450 Trapper's license—Fees.
- 77.65.460 Trapper's license—Training program or examination requisite for issuance to initial licensee.
- 77.65.480 Taxidermist, fur dealer, game fish guide, game farmer, anadromous game fish buyer—Licenses—Fees—Fish stocking and game contest permits.
- 77.65.490 Activities requiring license/permit.
- 77.65.500 Reports required from persons with licenses or permits under RCW 77.65.480.
- 77.65.510 Direct retail endorsement—Fees—Responsibilities of holder and alternate operators.
- 77.65.515 Direct retail endorsement—Requirements.
- 77.65.520 Direct retail endorsement—Compliance—Violations—Suspension.
- 77.65.530 Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license.
- 77.65.540 Coastal spot shrimp fishery—Report to the legislature.
- 77.65.900 Effective date—1989 c 316.

**77.65.010 Commercial licenses and permits required—Exemption.** (1) Except as otherwise provided by this title, a person must have a license or permit issued by the director in order to engage in any of the following activities:

(a) Commercially fish for or take food fish or shellfish;

(b) Deliver from a commercial fishing vessel food fish or shellfish taken for commercial purposes in offshore waters. As used in this subsection, "deliver" means arrival at a place

or port, and includes arrivals from offshore waters to waters within the state and arrivals from state or offshore waters;

(c) Operate a charter boat or commercial fishing vessel engaged in a fishery;

(d) Engage in processing or wholesaling food fish or shellfish; or

(e) Act as a food fish guide for personal use in freshwater rivers and streams, except that a charter boat license is required to operate a vessel from which a person may for a fee fish for food fish in state waters listed in RCW 77.65.150(4)(b).

(2) No person may engage in the activities described in subsection (1) of this section unless the licenses or permits required by this title are in the person's possession, and the person is the named license holder or an alternate operator designated on the license and the person's license is not suspended.

(3) A valid Oregon license that is equivalent to a license under this title is valid in the concurrent waters of the Columbia river if the state of Oregon recognizes as valid the equivalent Washington license. The director may identify by rule what Oregon licenses are equivalent.

(4) No license or permit is required for the production or harvesting of private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020 or for the delivery, processing, or wholesaling of such aquatic products. However, if a means of identifying such products is required by rules adopted under RCW 15.85.060, the exemption from licensing or permit requirements established by this subsection applies only if the aquatic products are identified in conformance with those rules. [2009 c 333 § 7; 2005 c 20 § 1; 1998 c 190 § 93; 1997 c 58 § 883; 1993 c 340 § 2; 1991 c 362 § 1; 1985 c 457 § 18; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 101; 1959 c 309 § 2; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.010. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 73; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-511. Formerly RCW 75.28.010.]

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

**Finding—Intent—1993 c 340:** "The legislature finds that the laws governing commercial fishing licensing in this state are highly complex and increasingly difficult to administer and enforce. The current laws governing commercial fishing licenses have evolved slowly, one section at a time, over decades of contention and changing technology, without general consideration for how the totality fits together. The result has been confusion and litigation among commercial fishers. Much of the confusion has arisen because the license holder in most cases is a vessel, not a person. The legislature intends by this act to standardize licensing criteria, clarify licensing requirements, reduce complexity, and remove inequities in commercial fishing licensing. The legislature intends that the license fees stated in this act shall be equivalent to those in effect on January 1, 1993, as adjusted under section 19, chapter 316, Laws of 1989." [1993 c 340 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.020 Transfer of licenses—Restrictions—Fees—Inheritability.** (1) Unless otherwise provided in this title, a license issued under this chapter is not transferable from the license holder to any other person.

(2) The following restrictions apply to transfers of commercial fishery licenses, salmon delivery licenses, and salmon charter licenses that are transferable between license holders:

(a) The license holder shall surrender the previously issued license to the department.

(b) The department shall complete no more than one transfer of the license in any seven-day period.

(c) The fee to transfer a license from one license holder to another is:

(i) The same as the resident license renewal fee if the license is not limited under chapter 77.70 RCW;

(ii) Three and one-half times the resident renewal fee if the license is not a commercial salmon license and the license is limited under chapter 77.70 RCW;

(iii) Fifty dollars if the license is a commercial salmon license and is limited under chapter 77.70 RCW;

(iv) Five hundred dollars if the license is a Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license; or

(v) If a license is transferred from a resident to a nonresident, an additional fee is assessed that is equal to the difference between the resident and nonresident license fees at the time of transfer, to be paid by the transferee.

(d) In addition to the fees under (c) of this subsection, an application fee of one hundred five dollars applies to all commercial license transfers.

(3) A commercial license that is transferable under this title survives the death of the holder. Though such licenses are not personal property, they shall be treated as analogous to personal property for purposes of inheritance and intestacy. Such licenses are subject to state laws governing wills, trusts, estates, intestate succession, and community property, except that such licenses are exempt from claims of creditors of the estate and tax liens. The surviving spouse, estate, or beneficiary of the estate may apply for a renewal of the license. There is no fee for transfer of a license from a license holder to the license holder's surviving spouse or estate, or to a beneficiary of the estate. [2011 c 339 § 15; 2000 c 107 § 28; 1997 c 418 § 1; 1995 c 228 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 34. Formerly RCW 75.28.011.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.030 Commercial licenses and permits—Application deadline—Exception.** The application deadline for a commercial license or permit established in this chapter is December 31st of the calendar year for which the license or permit is sought. The department shall accept no license or permit applications after December 31st of the calendar year for which the license or permit is sought. The application deadline in this section does not apply to a license or permit that has not been renewed because of the death or incapacity of the license or permit holder. The license or permit holder's surviving spouse, estate, estate beneficiary, attorney-in-fact, or guardian must be given an additional one hundred eighty days to renew the license or permit. [2003 c 386 § 5; 2001 c 244 § 2; 1993 c 340 § 3; 1986 c 198 § 8; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 103; 1981 c 201 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 57 § 1; 1959 c 309 § 4; 1957 c 171 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.28.014.]

**Effective date—2003 c 386 § 5:** "Section 5 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 20, 2003]." [2003 c 386 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 386:** See note following RCW 77.15.700.

(2012 Ed.)

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.65.040 Commercial licenses—Qualifications—Limited-entry license—Nonsalmon delivery license.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may hold a commercial license established by this chapter.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this title, an individual may hold a commercial license only if the individual is sixteen years of age or older and a bona fide resident of the United States.

(3) A corporation may hold a commercial license only if it is authorized to do business in this state.

(4) No person may hold a limited-entry license unless the person meets the qualifications that this title establishes for the license.

(5) The residency requirements in subsection (2) of this section do not apply to holders of nonsalmon delivery licenses. [2000 c 107 § 29; 1994 c 244 § 1; 1993 c 340 § 4; 1989 c 47 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 104; 1963 c 171 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.020. Prior: 1953 c 207 § 9; 1949 c 112 § 63; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-501. Formerly RCW 75.28.020.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.65.050 Application for commercial licenses and permits—Replacement.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the director shall issue commercial licenses and permits to a qualified person upon receiving a completed application accompanied by the required fee.

(2) An application submitted to the department under this chapter shall contain the name and address of the applicant and any other information required by the department or this title. An applicant for a commercial fishery license or delivery license may designate a vessel to be used with the license. An applicant for a commercial fishery license or delivery license may also designate up to two alternate operators.

(3) An application submitted to the department under this chapter shall contain the applicant's declaration under penalty of perjury that the information on the application is true and correct.

(4) Upon issuing a commercial license under this chapter, the director shall assign the license a unique number that the license shall retain upon renewal. The department shall use the number to record any commercial catch under the license. This does not preclude the department from using other, additional, catch record methods.

(5) The fee to replace a license that has been lost or destroyed is twenty dollars. [1998 c 267 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 44; (1993 c 340 § 5 repealed by 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 47); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 105; 1959 c 309 § 7; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.030. Prior: 1953 c 207 § 2; 1949 c 112 § 65; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-503. Formerly RCW 75.28.030.]

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.060 No commercial fishery during year—License requirement waived or license fees refunded.** If, for any reason, the department does not allow any opportu-

nity for a commercial fishery during a calendar year, the director shall either: (1) Waive the requirement to obtain a license for that commercial fishery for that year; or (2) refund applicable license fees upon return of the license. [2000 c 107 § 30; 1995 c 227 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.28.034.]

**77.65.070 Licensees subject to statute and rules—Licenses not subject to security interest or lien—Expiration and renewal of licenses.** (1) A commercial license issued under this chapter permits the license holder to engage in the activity for which the license is issued in accordance with this title and the rules of the department.

(2) No security interest or lien of any kind, including tax liens, may be created or enforced in a license issued under this chapter.

(3) Unless otherwise provided in this title or rules of the department, commercial licenses and permits issued under this chapter expire at midnight on December 31st of the calendar year for which they are issued. In accordance with this title, licenses may be renewed annually upon application and payment of the prescribed license fees. In accordance with RCW 77.65.030, the department must provide a license or permit holder's surviving spouse, estate, or estate beneficiary a reasonable opportunity to renew the license or permit. [2001 c 244 § 3; 1996 c 267 § 27; 1993 c 340 § 6; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 108; 1955 c 212 § 2; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.040. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 64; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-502. Formerly RCW 75.28.040.]

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.65.080 License suspension—Noncompliance with support order—Reissuance.** (1) The department shall immediately suspend the license of a person who has been certified pursuant to RCW 74.20A.320 by the department of social and health services as a person who is not in compliance with a support order.

(2) A listing on the department of licensing's database that an individual's license is currently suspended pursuant to RCW 46.20.291(8) shall be prima facie evidence that the individual is in noncompliance with a support order. Presentation of a written release issued by the department of social and health services or a court stating that the person is in compliance with an order shall serve as proof of compliance. [2000 c 107 § 31; 1997 c 58 § 882. Formerly RCW 75.28.042.]

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.090 Vessel substitution—Fees.** This section applies to all commercial fishery licenses, delivery licenses, and charter licenses, except for emergency salmon delivery licenses.

(1) The holder of a license subject to this section may substitute the vessel designated on the license or designate a vessel if none has previously been designated if the license holder:

(a) Surrenders the previously issued license to the department;

(b) Submits to the department an application that identifies the currently designated vessel, the vessel proposed to be designated, and any other information required by the department; and

(c) Pays to the department a fee of thirty-five dollars and an application fee of one hundred five dollars.

(2) Unless the license holder owns all vessels identified on the application described in subsection (1)(b) of this section or unless the vessel is designated on a Dungeness crab-coastal or a Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license, the following restrictions apply to changes in vessel designation:

(a) The department shall change the vessel designation on the license no more than four times per calendar year.

(b) The department shall change the vessel designation on the license no more than once in any seven-day period. [2011 c 339 § 16; 1994 c 260 § 11; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 45. Formerly RCW 75.28.044.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.100 Vessel designation.** This section applies to all commercial fishery licenses, delivery licenses, and charter licenses.

(1) An applicant for a license subject to this section may designate a vessel to be used with the license. Except for emergency salmon delivery licenses, the director may issue a license regardless of whether the applicant designates a vessel. An applicant may designate no more than one vessel on a license subject to this section.

(2) A license for a fishery that requires a vessel authorizes no taking or delivery of food fish or shellfish unless a vessel is designated on the license. A delivery license authorizes no delivery of food fish or shellfish unless a vessel is designated on the license.

(3) No vessel may be designated on more than one commercial fishery license unless the licenses are for different fisheries, except:

(a) The same vessel may be designated on two of the following licenses, provided the licenses are owned by the same licensee:

- (i) Shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license;
- (ii) Sea cucumber dive fishery license; and
- (iii) Sea urchin dive fishery license.

(b) The same vessel may be designated on two Puget Sound Dungeness crab fishery licenses, subject to the provision of RCW 77.65.130.

(4) No vessel may be designated on more than one delivery license, on more than one salmon charter license, or on more than one nonsalmon charter license. [2005 c 82 § 1; 2001 c 105 § 3; 1998 c 190 § 94; 1993 c 340 § 7. Formerly RCW 75.28.045.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.65.110 Alternate operator designation—Fees.**

This section applies to all commercial fishery licenses, charter boat licenses, and delivery licenses.

(1) A person designated as an alternate operator must possess an alternate operator license issued under RCW 77.65.130, and be designated on the license prior to engaging in the activities authorized by the license. The holder of the commercial fishery license, charter boat license, or delivery license may designate up to two alternate operators for the license, except:

(a) Whiting—Puget Sound fishery licensees may not designate alternate operators;

(b) Emergency salmon delivery licensees may not designate alternate operators;

(c) Shrimp pot—Puget Sound fishery licensees may designate no more than one alternate operator at a time; and

(d) Shrimp trawl—Puget Sound fishery licensees may designate no more than one alternate operator at a time.

(2) The fee to change the alternate operator designation is twenty-two dollars in addition to the application fee of one hundred five dollars. [2011 c 339 § 17; 2001 c 105 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 32; 1998 c 267 § 2; 1994 c 260 § 12; 1993 c 340 § 9. Formerly RCW 75.28.046.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.120 Sale or delivery of food fish or shellfish—Conditions—Charter boat operation.**

(1) Only the license holder and any alternate operators designated on the license may sell or deliver food fish or shellfish under a commercial fishery license or delivery license. A commercial fishery license or delivery license authorizes no taking or delivery of food fish or shellfish unless the license holder or an alternate operator designated on the license is present or aboard the vessel.

(2) Notwithstanding RCW 77.65.010(1)(c), an alternate operator license is not required for an individual to operate a vessel as a charter boat. [2000 c 107 § 33; 1998 c 267 § 3; 1993 c 340 § 10. Formerly RCW 75.28.047.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.130 Vessel operation—License designation—Alternate operator license required.**

(1) A person who holds a commercial fishery license or a delivery license may operate the vessel designated on the license. A person who is not the license holder may operate the vessel designated on the license only if:

(a) The person holds an alternate operator license issued by the director; and

(b) The person is designated as an alternate operator on the underlying commercial fishery license or delivery license under RCW 77.65.110.

(2) Only an individual at least sixteen years of age may hold an alternate operator license.

(3) No individual may hold more than one alternate operator license. An individual who holds an alternate operator license may be designated as an alternate operator on an unlimited number of commercial fishery licenses or delivery licenses under RCW 77.65.110.

(4) An individual who holds two Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery licenses may operate the licenses on one vessel if the license holder or alternate operator is on the vessel. The department shall allow a license holder to operate up to one hundred crab pots for each license.

(5) Two persons owning separate Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery licenses may operate both licenses on one vessel if the license holders or their alternate operators are on the vessel.

(6) As used in this section, to "operate" means to control the deployment or removal of fishing gear from state waters while aboard a vessel or to operate a vessel delivering food fish or shellfish taken in offshore waters to a port within the state. [2005 c 82 § 2; 2000 c 107 § 34; 1998 c 267 § 4; 1997 c 233 § 2; 1993 c 340 § 25. Formerly RCW 75.28.048.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.140 Alternate operators—Increase for certain licenses.**

The director may, by rule, increase the number of alternate operators beyond the level authorized by RCW 77.65.050 and 77.65.110 for a commercial fishery license, delivery license, or charter license. [2000 c 107 § 35; 1997 c 421 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.28.055.]

**77.65.150 Charter licenses and angler permits—Fees—"Charter boat" defined—Oregon charter boats—Salmon charter license renewal.**

(1) The director shall issue the charter licenses and angler permits listed in this section according to the requirements of this title. The licenses and permits and their annual license fees, application fees, and surcharges are:

License or Permit	Annual Fee		Application Fee	Governing Section
	(RCW 77.95.090 Surcharge)	(RCW 77.12.702 Surcharge)		
	Resident	Nonresident		
(a) Non-salmon charter	\$225 (plus \$35 for RCW 77.12.702 Surcharge)	\$375 (plus \$35 for RCW 77.12.702 Surcharge)	\$ 70	
(b) Salmon charter	\$380 (plus \$100) (plus \$35 for RCW 77.12.702 Surcharge)	\$685 (plus \$100) (plus \$35 for RCW 77.12.702 Surcharge)	\$105	RCW 77.70.050
(c) Salmon angler	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	RCW 77.70.060
(d) Salmon roe	\$ 95	\$ 95	\$ 70	RCW 77.65.350

(2) A salmon charter license designating a vessel is required to operate a charter boat from which persons may, for a fee, fish for salmon, other food fish, and shellfish. The

director may issue a salmon charter license only to a person who meets the qualifications of RCW 77.70.050.

(3) A nonsalmon charter license designating a vessel is required to operate a charter boat from which persons may, for a fee, fish for food fish other than salmon, albacore tuna, and shellfish.

(4)(a) "Charter boat" means a vessel from which persons may, for a fee, fish for food fish or shellfish for personal use in those state waters set forth in (b) of this subsection. "Charter boat" also means a vessel from which persons may, for a fee, fish for food fish or shellfish for personal use in offshore waters or in the waters of other states. The director may specify by rule when a vessel is a "charter boat" within this definition.

(b) A person may not operate a vessel from which persons may, for a fee, fish for food fish or shellfish in Puget Sound, Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Pacific Ocean waters, Lake Washington, or the Columbia river below the bridge at Longview unless the vessel is designated on a charter boat license.

(5) A charter boat licensed in Oregon may fish without a Washington charter license under the same rules as Washington charter boat operators in ocean waters within the jurisdiction of Washington state from the southern border of the state of Washington to Leadbetter Point, as long as the Oregon vessel does not take on or discharge passengers for any purpose from any Washington port, the Washington shore, or a dock, landing, or other point in Washington. The provisions of this subsection shall be in effect as long as the state of Oregon has reciprocal laws and regulations.

(6) A salmon charter license under subsection (1)(b) of this section may be renewed if the license holder notifies the department by May 1st of that year that he or she will not participate in the fishery during that calendar year. The license holder must pay the one hundred dollar enhancement surcharge, a thirty-five dollar surcharge to be deposited in the rockfish research account created in RCW 77.12.702, plus a one hundred five dollar application fee, in order to be considered a valid renewal and eligible to renew the license the following year. [2011 c 339 § 18; 2007 c 442 § 3; 2006 c 186 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 36; 1998 c 190 § 95; 1997 c 76 § 2; 1995 c 104 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 41. Prior: (1993 c 340 § 21 repealed by 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 47); 1989 c 316 § 2; 1989 c 147 § 1; 1989 c 47 § 2; 1988 c 9 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 112; 1979 c 60 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 327 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 283 § 15; 1969 c 90 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.28.095.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2007 c 442:** See notes following RCW 77.12.702.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

**Legislative intent—Funding of salmon enhancement facilities—Use of license fees—1977 ex.s. c 327:** "The long range economic development goals for the state of Washington shall include the restoration of salmon runs to provide an increased supply of this valuable renewable resource for the benefit of commercial and recreational users and the economic well-being of the state. For the purpose of providing funds for the planning, acquisition, construction, improvement, and operation of salmon enhancement facilities within the state it is the intent of the legislature that the revenues received from fees from the issuance of vessel delivery permits, charter boat licenses, trolling gear licenses, gill net gear licenses, purse seine gear licenses, reef net gear licenses, anadromous salmon angling licenses and all moneys received from all privilege fees and fish sales taxes collected on fresh or frozen

salmon or parts thereof be utilized to fund such costs.

The salmon enhancement program funded by commercial and recreational fishing fees and taxes shall be for the express benefit of all persons whose fishing activities fall under the management authority of the Washington department of fisheries and who actively participate in the funding of the enhancement costs through the fees and taxes set forth in chapters 75.28 and 82.27 RCW or through other adequate funding methods." [1980 c 98 § 8; 1977 ex.s. c 327 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.18.100.]

*Limitation on issuance of salmon charter boat licenses:* RCW 77.70.050.

*Salmon charter boats—Angler permit, when required:* RCW 77.70.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.160 Commercial salmon fishery licenses—Gear and geographic designations—Fees.** (1) The following commercial salmon fishery licenses are required for the license holder to use the specified gear to fish for salmon in state waters. Only a person who meets the qualifications of RCW 77.70.090 may hold a license listed in this subsection. The licenses and their annual license fees, application fees, and surcharges under RCW 77.95.090 are:

	Fishery License	Resident Fee	Nonresident Fee	Surcharge	Application Fee
(a)	Salmon Gill Net—Grays Harbor-Columbia river	\$380	\$685	plus \$100	\$105
(b)	Salmon Gill Net—Puget Sound	\$380	\$685	plus \$100	\$105
(c)	Salmon Gill Net—Willapa Bay-Columbia river	\$380	\$685	plus \$100	\$105
(d)	Salmon purse seine	\$530	\$985	plus \$100	\$105
(e)	Salmon reef net	\$380	\$685	plus \$100	\$105
(f)	Salmon troll	\$380	\$685	plus \$100	\$105

(2) A license issued under this section authorizes no taking or delivery of salmon or other food fish unless a vessel is designated under RCW 77.65.100.

(3) Holders of commercial salmon fishery licenses may retain incidentally caught food fish other than salmon, subject to rules of the department.

(4) A salmon troll license includes a salmon delivery license.

(5) A salmon gill net license authorizes the taking of salmon only in the geographical area for which the license is issued. The geographical designations in subsection (1) of this section have the following meanings:

(a) "Puget Sound" includes waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Georgia Strait, Puget Sound and all bays, inlets, canals, coves, sounds, and estuaries lying easterly and southerly of the international boundary line and a line at the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca projected northerly from Cape Flattery to the lighthouse on Tatoosh Island and then to Bonilla Point on Vancouver Island.

(b) "Grays Harbor-Columbia river" includes waters of Grays Harbor and tributary estuaries lying easterly of a line projected northerly from Point Chehalis Light to Point Brown and those waters of the Columbia river and tributary sloughs and estuaries easterly of a line at the entrance to the Columbia river projected southerly from the most westerly point of the North jetty to the most westerly point of the South jetty.

(c) "Willapa Bay-Columbia river" includes waters of Willapa Bay and tributary estuaries and easterly of a line projected northerly from Leadbetter Point to the Cape Shoalwa-

ter tower and those waters of the Columbia river and tributary sloughs described in (b) of this subsection.

(6) A commercial salmon troll fishery license may be renewed under this section if the license holder notifies the department by May 1st of that year that he or she will not participate in the fishery during that calendar year. A commercial salmon gill net, reef net, or seine fishery license may be renewed under this section if the license holder notifies the department before the third Monday in September of that year that he or she will not participate in the fishery during that calendar year. The license holder must pay the one hundred dollar enhancement surcharge, plus a one hundred five dollar application fee before the third Monday in September, in order to be considered a valid renewal and eligible to renew the license the following year.

(7) Notwithstanding the annual license fees and surcharges established in subsection (1) of this section, a person who holds a resident commercial salmon fishery license shall pay an annual license fee of one hundred dollars plus the surcharge and application fee if all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) The license holder is at least seventy-five years of age;
- (b) The license holder owns a fishing vessel and has fished with a resident commercial salmon fishery license for at least thirty years; and
- (c) The commercial salmon fishery license is for a geographical area other than the Puget Sound.

An alternate operator may not be designated for a license renewed at the one hundred dollar annual fee under this subsection (7). [2011 c 339 § 19; 2001 c 244 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 37; 1997 c 76 § 1; 1996 c 267 § 28; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 35; (1993 c 340 § 12 repealed by 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 47); 1989 c 316 § 3; 1985 c 107 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 113; 1965 ex.s. c 73 § 2; 1959 c 309 § 10; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.110. Prior: 1951 c 271 § 9; 1949 c 112 § 69(1); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-507(1). Formerly RCW 75.28.110.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

*Limitations on issuance of commercial salmon fishing licenses: RCW 77.70.090.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.170 Salmon delivery license—Fees—Restrictions—Revocation.** (1) A salmon delivery license is required for a commercial fishing vessel to deliver salmon taken for commercial purposes in offshore waters to a place or port in the state. As used in this section, "deliver" and "delivery" mean arrival at a place or port, and include arrivals from offshore waters to waters within the state and arrivals ashore from offshore waters. The annual fee for a salmon delivery license is three hundred eighty dollars for residents and six hundred eighty-five dollars for nonresidents. The application fee for a salmon delivery license is one hundred five dollars. The annual surcharge under RCW 77.95.090 is one hundred dollars for each license. Holders of nonlimited entry delivery licenses issued under RCW 77.65.210 may

(2012 Ed.)

apply the nonlimited entry delivery license fee against the salmon delivery license fee.

(2) Only a person who meets the qualifications established in RCW 77.70.090 may hold a salmon delivery license issued under this section.

(3) A salmon delivery license authorizes no taking of salmon or other food fish or shellfish from the waters of the state.

(4) If the director determines that the operation of a vessel under a salmon delivery license results in the depletion or destruction of the state's salmon resource or the delivery into this state of salmon products prohibited by law, the director may revoke the license under the procedures of chapter 34.05 RCW. [2011 c 339 § 20; 2005 c 20 § 2; 2000 c 107 § 38; 1998 c 190 § 96; 1994 c 260 § 22; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 36; (1993 c 340 § 13 repealed by 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 47); 1989 c 316 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 115; 1977 ex.s. c 327 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 283 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.18.080. Prior: 1953 c 147 § 9. Formerly RCW 75.28.113, 75.18.080.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

**Legislative intent—Funding of salmon enhancement facilities—Use of license fees—Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 327:** See notes following RCW 77.65.150.

*Limitations on issuance of salmon delivery licenses: RCW 77.70.090.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.180 Oregon, California harvested salmon—Landing in Washington ports encouraged.** (1) The legislature finds that landing salmon into the ports of Washington state, regardless of where such salmon have been harvested, is economically beneficial to those ports as well as to the citizens of the state of Washington. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to encourage this practice.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 77.65.010(1)(b) and 77.65.170, a Washington citizen who holds a valid Oregon or California salmon troll license may land salmon taken during lawful seasons in Oregon and California into Washington ports without obtaining a salmon delivery license. This exception is valid only when the salmon were taken in offshore waters south of Cape Falcon.

(3) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including rules identifying the appropriate methods for verifying that salmon were in fact taken south of Cape Falcon. [2000 c 107 § 39; 1999 c 103 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.28.114.]

**77.65.190 Emergency salmon delivery license—Fees—Nontransferable, nonrenewable.** A person who does not qualify for a license under RCW 77.70.090 shall obtain a nontransferable emergency salmon delivery license to make one delivery from a commercial fishing vessel of salmon taken for commercial purposes in offshore waters. As used in this section, "delivery" means arrival at a place or port, and include arrivals from offshore waters to waters within the state and arrivals ashore from offshore waters. The director shall not issue an emergency salmon delivery license unless, as determined by the director, a bona fide

emergency exists. The license fee is two hundred twenty-five dollars for residents and four hundred seventy-five dollars for nonresidents. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. An applicant for an emergency salmon delivery license shall designate no more than one vessel that will be used with the license. Alternate operator licenses are not required of persons delivering salmon under an emergency salmon delivery license. Emergency salmon delivery licenses are not renewable. [2011 c 339 § 21; 2005 c 20 § 3; 2000 c 107 § 40; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 37; (1993 c 340 § 14 repealed by 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 47); 1989 c 316 § 5; 1984 c 80 § 1. Prior: 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 116; 1983 c 297 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 327 § 4; 1974 ex.s. c 184 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.28.116, 75.28.460.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

**Legislative intent—Funding of salmon enhancement facilities—Use of license fees—Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 327:** See notes following RCW 77.65.150.

**Legislative intent—Severability—1974 ex.s. c 184:** See notes following RCW 77.70.090.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.200 Commercial fishery licenses for food fish fisheries—Fees—Rules for species, gear, and areas.** (1) This section establishes commercial fishery licenses required for food fish fisheries and the annual fees for those licenses. As used in this section, "food fish" does not include salmon. The director may issue a limited-entry commercial fishery license only to a person who meets the qualifications established in applicable governing sections of this title.

Fishery (Governing section(s))	Annual Fee		Application Fee	Vessel Required?	Limited Entry?
	Resident	Nonresident			
(a) Baitfish Lampara	\$185	\$295	\$ 70	Yes	No
(b) Baitfish purse seine	\$530	\$985	\$ 70	Yes	No
(c) Bottom fish jig	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(d) Bottom fish pot	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(e) Bottom fish troll	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(f) Carp	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	No	No
(g) Columbia river smelt	\$380	\$685	\$ 70	No	No
(h) Dog fish set net	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(i) Emerging commercial fishery (RCW 77.70.160 and 77.65.400)	\$185	\$295	\$105	Determined by rule	Determined by rule
(j) Food fish drag seine	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(k) Food fish set line	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(l) Food fish trawl- Non-Puget Sound	\$240	\$405	\$ 70	Yes	No
(m) Food fish trawl- Puget Sound	\$185	\$295	\$ 70	Yes	No
(n) Herring dip bag net (RCW 77.70.120)	\$175	\$275	\$ 70	Yes	Yes
(o) Herring drag seine (RCW 77.70.120)	\$175	\$275	\$ 70	Yes	Yes
(p) Herring gill net (RCW 77.70.120)	\$175	\$275	\$105	Yes	Yes
(q) Herring Lampara (RCW 77.70.120)	\$175	\$275	\$ 70	Yes	Yes
(r) Herring purse seine (RCW 77.70.120)	\$175	\$275	\$105	Yes	Yes
(s) Herring spawn-on-kelp (RCW 77.70.210)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
(t) Sardine purse seine (RCW 77.70.480)	\$185	\$295	\$105	Yes	Yes
(u) Sardine purse seine temporary (RCW 77.70.480)	\$185	\$295	\$105	Yes	No
(v) Smelt dip bag net	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	No	No
(w) Smelt gill net	\$380	\$685	\$ 70	Yes	No
(x) Whiting-Puget Sound (RCW 77.70.130)	\$295	\$520	\$105	Yes	Yes

(2) The director may by rule determine the species of food fish that may be taken with the commercial fishery licenses established in this section, the gear that may be used with the licenses, and the areas or waters in which the licenses may be used. Where a fishery license has been

established for a particular species, gear, geographical area, or combination thereof, a more general fishery license may not be used to take food fish in that fishery. [2011 c 339 § 22; 2009 c 331 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 41; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 38; (1993 c 340 § 15 repealed by 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 47); 1989 c 316 § 6;

1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 117; 1965 ex.s. c 73 § 3; 1959 c 309 § 11; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.120. Prior: 1951 c 271 § 10; 1949 c 112 § 69(2); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-507(2). Formerly RCW 75.28.120.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

*Limitation on commercial herring fishing:* RCW 77.70.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.210 Nonlimited entry delivery license—Limitations—Fees.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person may not use a commercial fishing vessel to deliver food fish or shellfish taken for commercial purposes in offshore waters to a port in the state without a nonlimited entry delivery license. As used in this section, "deliver" and "delivery" mean arrival at a place or port, and include arrivals from offshore waters to waters within the state and arrivals ashore from offshore waters. As used in this section, "food fish" does not include salmon. As used in this section, "shellfish" does not include ocean pink shrimp, coastal crab, coastal spot shrimp, or fish or shellfish taken under an emerging commercial fisheries license if taken from off-shore waters. The annual license fee for a nonlimited entry delivery license is one hundred ten dollars for residents and two hundred dollars for nonresidents, and an additional thirty-five dollar surcharge for both residents and nonresidents to be deposited in the rockfish research account created in RCW 77.12.702. The application fee for a nonlimited entry delivery license is one hundred five dollars.

(2) Holders of the following licenses may deliver food fish or shellfish taken in offshore waters without a nonlimited entry delivery license: Salmon troll fishery licenses issued under RCW 77.65.160; salmon delivery licenses issued under RCW 77.65.170; crab pot fishery licenses issued under RCW 77.65.220; food fish trawl—Non-Puget Sound fishery licenses, and emerging commercial fishery licenses issued

under RCW 77.65.200; Dungeness crab—coastal fishery licenses; ocean pink shrimp delivery licenses; shrimp trawl—Non-Puget Sound fishery licenses, Washington coastal spot shrimp pot fishery licenses issued under chapter 77.70 RCW; and emerging commercial fishery licenses issued under RCW 77.65.220.

(3) A nonlimited entry delivery license authorizes no taking of food fish or shellfish from state waters. [2011 c 339 § 23; 2011 c 147 § 3; 2007 c 442 § 4; 2005 c 20 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 42; 1998 c 190 § 97; 1994 c 260 § 21. Prior: 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 39; 1993 c 376 § 3; (1993 c 340 § 16 repealed by 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 47); 1989 c 316 § 7; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 119; 1971 ex.s. c 283 § 5; 1965 ex.s. c 73 § 1; 1959 c 309 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.28.125, 75.28.085.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 c 147 § 3 and by 2011 c 339 § 23, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2007 c 442:** See notes following RCW 77.12.702.

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 376:** See notes following RCW 77.65.380.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.220 Commercial fishery licenses for shellfish fisheries—Fees—Rules for species, gear, and areas.** (1) This section establishes commercial fishery licenses required for shellfish fisheries and the annual fees for those licenses. The director may issue a limited-entry commercial fishery license only to a person who meets the qualifications established in applicable governing sections of this title.

Fishery (Governing section(s))	Annual Fee		Application Fee	Vessel Required?	Limited Entry?
	Resident	Nonresident			
(a) Burrowing shrimp	\$185	\$295	\$105	Yes	No
(b) Crab ring net- Non-Puget Sound	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(c) Crab ring net- Puget Sound	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(d) Dungeness crab-coastal (RCW 77.70.280)	\$295	\$520	\$105	Yes	Yes
(e) Dungeness crab- coastal, class B (RCW 77.70.280)	\$295	\$520	\$105	Yes	Yes
(f) Dungeness crab- Puget Sound (RCW 77.70.110)	\$130	\$185	\$105	Yes	Yes
(g) Emerging commercial fishery (RCW 77.70.160 and 77.65.400)	\$185	\$295	\$105	Determined by rule	Determined by rule
(h) Geoduck (RCW 77.70.220)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 70	Yes	Yes
(i) Hardshell clam mechanical harvester (RCW 77.65.250)	\$530	\$985	\$ 70	Yes	No

(j) Oyster reserve (RCW 77.65.260)	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	No	No
(k) Razor clam	\$130	\$185	\$105	No	No
(l) Sea cucumber dive (RCW 77.70.190)	\$130	\$185	\$105	Yes	Yes
(m) Sea urchin dive (RCW 77.70.150)	\$130	\$185	\$105	Yes	Yes
(n) Shellfish dive	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(o) Shellfish pot	\$130	\$185	\$ 70	Yes	No
(p) Shrimp pot- Puget Sound (RCW 77.70.410)	\$185	\$295	\$105	Yes	Yes
(q) Shrimp trawl- Non-Puget Sound	\$240	\$405	\$105	Yes	No
(r) Shrimp trawl- Puget Sound (RCW 77.70.420)	\$185	\$295	\$105	Yes	Yes
(s) Spot shrimp-coastal	\$185	\$295		Yes	Yes
(t) Squid	\$185	\$295	\$ 70	Yes	No

(2) The director may by rule determine the species of shellfish that may be taken with the commercial fishery licenses established in this section, the gear that may be used with the licenses, and the areas or waters in which the licenses may be used. Where a fishery license has been established for a particular species, gear, geographical area, or combination thereof, a more general fishery license may not be used to take shellfish in that fishery. [2011 c 339 § 24; 2011 c 147 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 43; 1999 c 239 § 2; 1994 c 260 § 14; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 40; (1993 c 340 § 17 repealed by 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 47); 1989 c 316 § 8; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 120; 1977 ex.s. c 327 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 283 § 7; 1965 ex.s. c 73 § 4; 1959 c 309 § 12; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.130. Prior: 1951 c 271 § 11; 1949 c 112 § 69(3); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-507(3). Formerly RCW 75.28.130.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 c 147 § 4 and by 2011 c 339 § 24, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Purpose—Intent—1999 c 239:** "The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to convert the Puget Sound shrimp fishery from the status of an emerging fishery to that of a limited entry fishery. The purpose of this act is to initiate this conversion, recognizing that additional details associated with the shrimp fishery limited entry program will need to be developed. The legislature intends to complete the development of the laws associated with this limited entry fishery program during the next regular legislative session and will consider recommendations from the industry and the department during this program." [1999 c 239 § 1.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

*Dungeness crab-Puget Sound fishery license endorsement: RCW 77.70.110.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.240 Surcharge on Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license and Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license—Coastal crab account.** A surcharge of one hundred twenty dollars shall be collected with each Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license and with each Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license issued under RCW 77.65.220. Moneys collected under this section shall be placed in the coastal crab account created under RCW 77.70.320. [2000 c 107 § 45; 1997 c 418 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.28.133.]

**77.65.250 Hardshell clam mechanical harvester fishery license.** A hardshell clam mechanical harvester fishery license is required to operate a mechanical or hydraulic device for commercially harvesting clams, other than geoduck clams, unless the requirements of RCW 77.55.021 are fulfilled for the proposed activity. [2005 c 146 § 1005; 2000 c 107 § 46; 1993 c 340 § 19; 1989 c 316 § 12; 1985 c 457 § 19; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 125; 1979 ex.s. c 141 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 253 § 3; 1955 c 212 § 8; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.280. Prior: 1951 c 271 § 26; 1949 c 112 § 70; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-508. Formerly RCW 75.28.280.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 146:** See note following RCW 77.55.011.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.260 State oyster reserves—Oyster reserve fishery license.** A person who commercially takes shellfish from state oyster reserves under RCW 77.60.050 must have an oyster reserve fishery license. [2000 c 107 § 47; 1993 c 340 § 20; 1989 c 316 § 14; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 131; 1969 ex.s. c 91 § 2; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.290. Prior: 1951 c 271 § 27; 1949 c 112 § 71; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-509. Formerly RCW 75.28.290.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.65.270 Oyster cultch permit.** An oyster cultch permit is required for commercial cultching of oysters on state oyster reserves. The director shall require that ten percent of the cultch bags or other collecting materials be provided to the state after the oysters have set, for the purposes of increasing the supply of oysters on state oyster reserves and enhancing oyster supplies on public beaches. [1989 c 316 § 15. Formerly RCW 75.28.295.]

**77.65.280 Wholesale fish dealer's license—Fees—Exemption.** A wholesale fish dealer's license is required for:

(1) A business in the state to engage in the commercial processing of food fish or shellfish, including custom canning or processing of personal use food fish or shellfish.

(2) A business in the state to engage in the wholesale selling, buying, or brokering of food fish or shellfish. A

wholesale fish dealer's license is not required of those businesses which buy exclusively from Washington licensed wholesale dealers and sell solely at retail.

(3) Fishermen who land and sell their catch or harvest in the state to anyone other than a licensed wholesale dealer within or outside the state, unless the fisher has a direct retail endorsement.

(4) A business to engage in the commercial manufacture or preparation of fertilizer, oil, meal, caviar, fish bait, or other by-products from food fish or shellfish.

(5) A business employing a fish buyer as defined under RCW 77.65.340.

The annual license fee for a wholesale dealer is two hundred fifty dollars. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. A wholesale fish dealer's license is not required for persons engaged in the processing, wholesale selling, buying, or brokering of private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020. However, if a means of identifying such products is required by rules adopted under RCW 15.85.060, the exemption from licensing requirements established by this subsection applies only if the aquatic products are identified in conformance with those rules. [2011 c 339 § 25; 2002 c 301 § 5; 2000 c 107 § 48; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 43; 1989 c 316 § 16. Prior: 1985 c 457 § 20; 1985 c 248 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 132; 1979 c 66 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 28 § 1; 1955 c 212 § 11; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.300; prior: 1951 c 271 § 28; 1949 c 112 § 72(1); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-510(1). Formerly RCW 75.28.300.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 301:** See notes following RCW 77.65.510.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **77.65.290 Wholesale fish dealer licenses—Display.**

Wholesale fish dealer licenses shall be displayed at the business premises of the licensee. [1993 c 340 § 52; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 110; 1955 c 12 § 75.28.070. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 74, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-512, part. Formerly RCW 75.28.302, 75.28.070.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

#### **77.65.300 Wholesale fish dealer may be a fish buyer.**

A wholesale dealer who is an individual may be a fish buyer. [1985 c 248 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.28.305.]

#### **77.65.310 Wholesale fish dealers—Documentation of commercial harvest.**

Wholesale fish dealers are responsible for documenting the commercial harvest of food fish and shellfish according to the rules of the department. The director may allow only wholesale fish dealers or their designees to receive the forms necessary for the accounting of the commercial harvest of food fish and shellfish. [1996 c 267 § 29; 1985 c 248 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.28.315.]

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

#### **77.65.320 Wholesale fish dealers—Performance bond.** (1) A wholesale fish dealer shall not take possession

(2012 Ed.)

of food fish or shellfish until the dealer has deposited with the department an acceptable performance bond on forms prescribed and furnished by the department. This performance bond shall be a corporate surety bond executed in favor of the department by a corporation authorized to do business in the state of Washington under chapter 48.28 RCW and approved by the department. The bond shall be filed and maintained in an amount equal to one thousand dollars for each buyer engaged by the wholesale dealer. In no case shall the bond be less than two thousand dollars nor more than fifty thousand dollars.

(2) A wholesale dealer shall, within seven days of engaging additional fish buyers, notify the department and increase the amount of the bonding required in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The director may suspend and refuse to reissue a wholesale fish dealer's license of a dealer who has taken possession of food fish or shellfish without an acceptable performance bond on deposit with the department.

(4) The bond shall be conditioned upon the compliance with the requirements of this chapter and rules of the department relating to the payment of fines for violations of rules for the accounting of the commercial harvest of food fish or shellfish. In lieu of the surety bond required by this section the wholesale fish dealer may file with the department a cash deposit, negotiable securities acceptable to the department, or an assignment of a savings account or of a savings certificate in a Washington bank on an assignment form prescribed by the department.

(5) Liability under the bond shall be maintained as long as the wholesale fish dealer engages in activities under RCW 77.65.280 unless released. Liability under the bond may be released only upon written notification from the department. Notification shall be given upon acceptance by the department of a substitute bond or forty-five days after the expiration of the wholesale fish dealer's annual license. In no event shall the liability of the surety exceed the amount of the surety bond required under this chapter. [2000 c 107 § 49; 1996 c 267 § 30; 1985 c 248 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.28.323.]

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

#### **77.65.330 Wholesale fish dealers—Performance bond—Payment of liability.**

The director shall promptly notify by order a wholesale dealer and the appropriate surety when a violation of rules relating to the accounting of commercial harvest has occurred. The notification shall specify the type of violation, the liability to be imposed for damages caused by the violation, and a notice that the amount of liability is due and payable to the department by the wholesale fish dealer and the surety.

If the amount specified in the order is not paid within thirty days after receipt of the notice, the prosecuting attorney for any county in which the persons to whom the order is directed do business, or the attorney general upon request of the department, may bring an action on behalf of the state in the superior court for Thurston county or any county in which the persons to whom the order is directed do business to recover the amount specified in the final order of the department. The surety shall be liable to the state to the extent of the bond. [1985 c 248 § 7. Formerly RCW 75.28.328.]

**77.65.340 Fish buyer's license—Fees.** (1) A fish buyer's license is required of and shall be carried by each individual engaged by a wholesale fish dealer to purchase food fish or shellfish from a licensed commercial fisherman. A fish buyer may represent only one wholesale fish dealer.

(2) The annual fee for a fish buyer's license is ninety-five dollars. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. [2011 c 339 § 26; 2000 c 107 § 50; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 46; 1989 c 316 § 17; 1985 c 248 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.28.340.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.350 Salmon charter crew member—Salmon roe license—Sale of salmon roe—Conditions.** (1) A salmon roe license is required for a crew member on a boat designated on a salmon charter license to sell salmon roe as provided in subsection (2) of this section. An individual under sixteen years of age may hold a salmon roe license.

(2) A crew member on a boat designated on a salmon charter license may sell salmon roe taken from fish caught for personal use, subject to rules of the department and the following conditions:

(a) The salmon is taken by an angler fishing on the charter boat;

(b) The roe is the property of the angler until the roe is given to the crew member. The crew member shall notify the charter boat's passengers of this fact;

(c) The crew member sells the roe to a licensed wholesale dealer; and

(d) The crew member is licensed as provided in subsection (1) of this section and has the license in possession whenever the crew member sells salmon roe. [1996 c 267 § 31; 1993 c 340 § 22; 1989 c 316 § 18; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 137; 1981 c 227 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.28.690.]

**Intent—Effective date—1996 c 267:** See notes following RCW 77.12.177.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.65.360 License fee increases—Disposition.** All revenues generated from the license fee increases in chapter 316, Laws of 1989 shall be deposited in the general fund and shall be appropriated for the food fish and shellfish enhancement programs. [1989 c 316 § 20. Formerly RCW 75.28.700.]

**77.65.370 Food fish guide license.** (1) A person shall not offer or perform the services of a food fish guide without a food fish guide license in the taking of food fish for personal use in freshwater rivers and streams, except that a charter boat license is required to operate a vessel from which a person may for a fee fish for food fish in state waters listed in RCW 77.65.150(4)(b).

(2) Only an individual at least sixteen years of age may hold a food fish guide license. No individual may hold more than one food fish guide license. [2009 c 333 § 8; 1998 c 190 § 98; 1993 c 340 § 26; 1991 c 362 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.28.710.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

[Title 77 RCW—page 100]

**77.65.380 Ocean pink shrimp—Defined.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this chapter "ocean pink shrimp" means the species *Pandalus jordani*. [1993 c 376 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.28.720.]

**Findings—1993 c 376:** "The legislature finds that the offshore Washington, Oregon, and California commercial ocean pink shrimp fishery is composed of a mobile fleet, fishing the entire coast from Washington to California and landing its catch in the state nearest the area being fished. The legislature further finds that the ocean pink shrimp fishery currently uses the entire available resource, and has the potential to become overcapitalized. The legislature further finds that overcapitalization can lead to economic destabilization, and that reductions in fishing opportunities from licensing restrictions imposed for conservation needs and the economic well-being of the ocean pink shrimp industry creates uncertainty. The legislature further finds that it is [in] the best interest of the ocean pink shrimp resource, commercial ocean pink shrimp fishers, and ocean pink shrimp processors in the state, to limit the number of fishers who make landings of ocean pink shrimp into the state of Washington to those persons who have historically and continuously participated in the ocean pink shrimp fishery." [1993 c 376 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.390 Ocean pink shrimp—Delivery license—Fees.** An ocean pink shrimp delivery license is required for a commercial fishing vessel to deliver ocean pink shrimp taken for commercial purposes in offshore waters and delivered to a port in the state. As used in this section, "deliver" and "delivery" mean arrival at a place or port, and include arrivals from offshore waters to waters within the state and arrivals from state or offshore waters. The annual license fee is one hundred fifty dollars for residents and three hundred dollars for nonresidents. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. Ocean pink shrimp delivery licenses are transferable. [2011 c 339 § 27; 2005 c 20 § 5; 2000 c 107 § 51; 1993 c 376 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.28.730.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 376:** See notes following RCW 77.65.380.

**77.65.400 Emerging commercial fishery—Trial or experimental fishery—Licenses and permits.** (1) The director may by rule designate a fishery as an emerging commercial fishery. The director shall include in the designation whether the fishery is one that requires a vessel.

(2) "Emerging commercial fishery" means the commercial taking of a newly classified species of food fish or shellfish, the commercial taking of a classified species with gear not previously used for that species, or the commercial taking of a classified species in an area from which that species has not previously been commercially taken. Any species of food fish or shellfish commercially harvested in Washington state as of June 7, 1990, may be designated as a species in an emerging commercial fishery, except that no fishery subject to a license limitation program in chapter 77.70 RCW may be designated as an emerging commercial fishery.

(3) A person shall not take food fish or shellfish in a fishery designated as an emerging commercial fishery without an emerging commercial fishery license and a permit from the director. The director shall issue two types of permits to accompany emerging commercial fishery licenses: Trial fishery permits and experimental fishery permits. Trial fishery permits are governed by subsection (4) of this section. Experimental fishery permits are governed by RCW 77.70.160.

(2012 Ed.)

(4) The director shall issue trial fishery permits for a fishery designated as an emerging commercial fishery unless the director determines there is a need to limit the number of participants under RCW 77.70.160. A person who meets the qualifications of RCW 77.65.040 may hold a trial fishery permit. The holder of a trial fishery permit shall comply with the terms of the permit. Trial fishery permits are not transferable from the permit holder to any other person. [2000 c 107 § 52; 1998 c 190 § 99; 1993 c 340 § 18. Formerly RCW 75.28.740.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.65.410 Geoduck diver license.** Every diver engaged in the commercial harvest of geoduck clams shall obtain a nontransferable geoduck diver license. [1993 c 340 § 24; 1990 c 163 § 6; 1989 c 316 § 13; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 130; 1979 ex.s. c 141 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 253 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.28.750, 75.28.287.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

*Designation of aquatic lands for geoduck harvesting:* RCW 79.135.220.

*Geoducks, harvesting for commercial purposes—License:* RCW 77.60.070.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.420 Wild salmonid policy—Establishment.** By July 1, 1994, the commission jointly with the appropriate Indian tribes, shall each establish a wild salmonid policy. The policy shall ensure that department actions and programs are consistent with the goals of rebuilding wild stock populations to levels that permit commercial and recreational fishing opportunities. [2000 c 107 § 53; 1993 sp.s. c 4 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.28.760.]

**Findings—Grazing lands—1993 sp.s. c 4:** See RCW 79.13.600.

*Instream flows:* RCW 90.22.060.

*Salmon, impact of water diversion:* RCW 90.03.360.

**77.65.430 Wild salmonid policy—Management strategies and gear types.** The director shall evaluate and recommend, in consultation with the Indian tribes, salmon fishery management strategies and gear types, as well as a schedule for implementation, that will minimize the impact of commercial and recreational fishing in the mixed stock fishery on critical and depressed wild stocks of salmonids. As part of this evaluation, the director, in conjunction with the commercial and recreational fishing industries, shall evaluate commercial and recreational salmon fishing gear types developed by these industries. [2000 c 107 § 54; 1998 c 245 § 153; 1994 c 264 § 46; 1993 sp.s. c 4 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.28.770.]

**Findings—Grazing lands—1993 sp.s. c 4:** See RCW 79.13.600.

**77.65.440 Alternate operator—Geoduck diver—Food fish guide—Fees.** The director shall issue the personal licenses listed in this section according to the requirements of this title. The licenses and their annual fees are:

Personal License	Annual Fee (RCW 77.95.090 Surcharge)		Applica-tion Fee	Governing Section
	Resident	Nonresident		
(1) Alternate Operator	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 70	RCW 77.65.130

(2012 Ed.)

(2) Geoduck Diver	\$185	\$295	\$ 70	RCW 77.65.410
(3) Food Fish Guide	\$130	\$630	\$ 70	RCW 77.65.370
	(plus \$20)	(plus \$100)		

[2011 c 339 § 28; 2009 c 333 § 9; 2000 c 107 § 55; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 42. Formerly RCW 75.28.780.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.450 Trapper’s license—Fees.** A state trapping license allows the holder to trap fur-bearing animals throughout the state. However, a trapper may not place traps on private property without permission of the owner, lessee, or tenant where the land is improved and apparently used, or where the land is fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders or to indicate a property boundary line, or where notice is given by posting in a conspicuous manner. A state trapping license is void on April 1st following the date of issuance. The fee for this license is thirty-six dollars for residents sixteen years of age or older, fifteen dollars for residents under sixteen years of age, and one hundred eighty dollars for nonresidents. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. [2011 c 339 § 29; 1991 sp.s. c 7 § 3; 1987 c 372 § 3; 1985 c 464 § 4; 1981 c 310 § 23. Prior: 1980 c 78 § 113; 1980 c 24 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 15 § 28. Formerly RCW 77.32.191.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

*Traps placed on private property:* RCW 77.32.545, 77.15.191.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.460 Trapper’s license—Training program or examination requisite for issuance to initial licensee.** Persons purchasing a state trapping license for the first time shall present certification of completion of a course of instruction in safe, humane, and proper trapping techniques or pass an examination to establish that the applicant has the requisite knowledge.

The director shall establish a program for training persons in trapping techniques and responsibilities, including the use of trapping devices designed to painlessly capture or instantly kill. The director shall cooperate with national and state animal, humane, hunter education, and trapping organizations in the development of a curriculum. Upon successful completion of the course, trainees shall receive a trapper’s training certificate signed by an authorized instructor. This certificate is evidence of compliance with this section. [1987 c 506 § 82; 1981 c 310 § 24; 1980 c 78 § 114; 1977 c 43 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.32.197.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.65.480 Taxidermist, fur dealer, game fish guide, game farmer, anadromous game fish buyer—Licenses—Fees—Fish stocking and game contest permits.** (1) A taxidermy license allows the holder to practice taxidermy for commercial purposes, as that term is defined in RCW 77.15.110. The fee for this license is one hundred eighty dollars. The application fee is seventy dollars.

(2) A fur dealer's license allows the holder to purchase, receive, or resell raw furs for commercial purposes, as that term is defined in RCW 77.15.110. The fee for this license is one hundred eighty dollars. The application fee is seventy dollars.

(3) A game fish guide license allows the holder to offer or perform the services of a game fish guide in the taking of game fish. The fee for this license is one hundred eighty dollars for a resident and six hundred dollars for a nonresident. The application fee is seventy dollars.

(4) A game farm license allows the holder to operate a game farm to acquire, breed, grow, keep, and sell wildlife under conditions prescribed by the rules adopted pursuant to this title. The fee for this license is seventy-two dollars for the first year and forty-eight dollars for each following year. The application fee is seventy dollars.

(5) A game fish stocking permit allows the holder to release game fish into the waters of the state as prescribed by rule of the commission. The fee for this permit is twenty-four dollars. The application fee is seventy dollars.

(6) A fishing or field trial permit allows the holder to promote, conduct, hold, or sponsor a fishing or field trial contest in accordance with rules of the commission. The fee for a fishing contest permit is twenty-four dollars. The fee for a field trial contest permit is twenty-four dollars. The application fee is seventy dollars.

(7)(a) An anadromous game fish buyer's license allows the holder to purchase or sell steelhead trout and other anadromous game fish harvested by Indian fishers lawfully exercising fishing rights reserved by federal statute, treaty, or executive order, under conditions prescribed by rule of the director. The fee for this license is one hundred eighty dollars. The application fee is one hundred five dollars.

(b) An anadromous game fish buyer's license is not required for those businesses that buy steelhead trout and other anadromous game fish from Washington licensed game fish dealers and sell solely at retail. [2011 c 339 § 30; 2009 c 333 § 11; 1991 sp.s. c 7 § 4; 1987 c 506 § 83; 1985 c 464 § 5; 1983 c 284 § 3; 1981 c 310 § 25; 1980 c 78 § 115; 1975 1st ex.s. c 15 § 30. Formerly RCW 77.32.211.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Findings—Intent—1983 c 284:** See note following RCW 82.27.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.65.490 Activities requiring license/permit.** (1) A license issued by the director is required to:

- (a) Practice taxidermy for commercial purposes;
- (b) Deal in raw furs for commercial purposes;

(c) Act as a fishing guide;

(d) Operate a game farm; or

(e) Purchase or sell anadromous game fish.

(2) A permit issued by the director is required to:

(a) Conduct, hold, or sponsor hunting or fishing contests or competitive field trials using live wildlife;

(b) Collect wild animals, wild birds, game fish, food fish, shellfish, or protected wildlife for research or display;

(c) Stock game fish; or

(d) Conduct commercial activities on department-owned or controlled lands.

(3) Aquaculture as defined in RCW 15.85.020 is exempt from the requirements of this section, except when being stocked in public waters under contract with the department. [2001 c 253 § 56.]

**77.65.500 Reports required from persons with licenses or permits under RCW 77.65.480.** Licensed taxidermists, fur dealers, anadromous game fish buyers, fishing guides, game farmers, and persons stocking game fish or conducting a hunting, fishing, or field trial contest shall make reports as required by rules of the director. [1987 c 506 § 84; 1983 c 284 § 4; 1981 c 310 § 26; 1980 c 78 § 116; 1955 c 36 § 77.32.220. Prior: 1947 c 275 § 111; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5992-120. Formerly RCW 77.32.220.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Findings—Intent—1983 c 284:** See note following RCW 82.27.020.

**Effective dates—Legislative intent—1981 c 310:** See notes following RCW 77.12.170.

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.65.510 Direct retail endorsement—Fees—Responsibilities of holder and alternate operators.** (1) The department must establish and administer a direct retail endorsement to serve as a single license that permits a Washington license holder or alternate operator to commercially harvest retail-eligible species and to clean, dress, and sell his or her catch directly to consumers at retail, including over the internet. The direct retail endorsement must be issued as an optional addition to all holders of: (a) A commercial fishing license for retail-eligible species that the department offers under this chapter; and (b) an alternate operator license who are designated as an alternate operator on a commercial fishing license for retail eligible species.

(2) The direct retail endorsement must be offered at the time of application for the qualifying commercial fishing license. Individuals in possession of a qualifying commercial fishing license issued under this chapter, and alternate operators designated on such a license, may add a direct retail endorsement to their current license at any time. Individuals who do not have a commercial fishing license for retail-eligible species issued under this chapter, and who are not designated as alternate operators on such a license, may not receive a direct retail endorsement. The costs, conditions, responsibilities, and privileges associated with the endorsed commercial fishing license is not affected or altered in any way by the addition of a direct retail endorsement. These costs include the base cost of the license and any revenue and excise taxes.

(3) An individual need only add one direct retail endorsement to his or her license portfolio. If a direct retail endorsement is selected by an individual holding more than one commercial fishing license issued under this chapter, a single direct retail endorsement is considered to be added to all qualifying commercial fishing licenses held by that individual, and is the only license required for the individual to sell at retail any retail-eligible species permitted by all of the underlying endorsed licenses. If a direct retail endorsement is selected by an individual designated as an alternate operator on more than one commercial license issued under this chapter, a single direct retail endorsement is the only license required for the individual to sell at retail any retail-eligible species permitted by all of the underlying endorsed licenses on which the individual is designated as an alternate operator. The direct retail endorsement applies only to the Washington license holder or alternate operator obtaining the endorsement.

(4) In addition to any fees charged for the endorsed licenses and harvest documentation as required by this chapter or the rules of the department, the department may set a reasonable annual fee not to exceed the administrative costs to the department for a direct retail endorsement. The application fee is one hundred five dollars.

(5) The holder of a direct retail endorsement is responsible for documenting the commercial harvest of salmon and crab according to the provisions of this chapter, the rules of the department for a wholesale fish dealer, and the reporting requirements of the endorsed license. Any retail-eligible species caught by the holder of a direct retail endorsement must be documented on fish tickets.

(6) The direct retail endorsement must be displayed in a readily visible manner by the seller wherever and whenever a sale to someone other than a licensed wholesale dealer occurs. The commission may require that the holder of a direct retail endorsement notify the department up to eighteen hours before conducting an in-person sale of retail-eligible species, except for in-person sales that have a cumulative retail sales value of less than one hundred fifty dollars in a twenty-four hour period that are sold directly from the vessel. For sales occurring in a venue other than in person, such as over the internet, through a catalog, or on the phone, the direct retail endorsement number of the seller must be provided to the buyer both at the time of sale and the time of delivery. All internet sales must be conducted in accordance with federal laws and regulations.

(7) The direct retail endorsement is to be held by a natural person and is not transferrable or assignable. If the endorsed license is transferred, the direct retail endorsement immediately becomes void, and the transferor is not eligible for a full or prorated reimbursement of the annual fee paid for the direct retail endorsement. Upon becoming void, the holder of a direct retail endorsement must surrender the physical endorsement to the department.

(8) The holder of a direct retail endorsement must abide by the provisions of Title 69 RCW as they apply to the processing and retail sale of seafood. The department must distribute a pamphlet, provided by the department of agriculture, with the direct retail endorsement generally describing the labeling requirements set forth in chapter 69.04 RCW as they apply to seafood.

(9) The holder of a qualifying commercial fishing license issued under this chapter, or an alternate operator designated on such a license, must either possess a direct retail endorsement or a wholesale dealer license provided for in RCW 77.65.280 in order to lawfully sell their catch or harvest in the state to anyone other than a licensed wholesale dealer.

(10) The direct retail endorsement entitles the holder to sell a retail-eligible species only at a temporary food service establishment as that term is defined in RCW 69.06.045, or directly to a restaurant or other similar food service business. [2011 c 339 § 31; 2009 c 195 § 1; 2003 c 387 § 2; 2002 c 301 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding—2002 c 301:** "The legislature finds that commercial fishing is vitally important not just to the economy of Washington, but also to the cultural heritage of the maritime communities in the state. Fisher men and women have a long and proud history in the Pacific Northwest. State and local governments should seek out ways to enable and encourage these professionals to share the rewards of their craft with the nonfishing citizens of and visitors to the state of Washington by encouraging the exploration and development of new niche markets." [2002 c 301 § 1.]

**Effective date—2002 c 301:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2002." [2002 c 301 § 12.]

#### **77.65.515 Direct retail endorsement—Requirements.**

(1) Prior to being issued a direct retail endorsement, an individual must:

(a) Obtain and submit to the department a signed letter on appropriate letterhead from the health department of the county in which the individual makes his or her official residence or where the hailing port for any documented vessel owned by the individual is located as to the fulfillment of all requirements related to county health rules, including the payment of all required fees. The local health department generating the letter may charge a reasonable fee for any necessary inspections. The letter must certify that the methods used by the individual to transport, store, and display any fresh retail-eligible species meets that county's standards and the statewide standards adopted by the board of health for food service operations; and

(b) Submit proof to the department that the individual making the direct retail sales is in possession of a valid food and beverage service worker's permit, as provided for in chapter 69.06 RCW.

(2) The requirements of subsection (1) of this section must be completed each license year before a renewal direct retail endorsement can be issued.

(3) Any individual possessing a direct retail endorsement must notify the local health department of the county in which retail sales are to occur, except for the county that conducted the initial inspection, forty-eight hours before any transaction and make his or her facilities available for inspection by a fish and wildlife officer, the local health department of any county in which he or she sells any legally harvested retail-eligible species, and any designee of the department of health or the department of agriculture.

(4) Neither the department or a local health department may be held liable in any judicial proceeding alleging that consumption of or exposure to seafood sold by the holder of a direct retail endorsement resulted in a negative health consequence, as long as the department can show that the individual holding the direct retail endorsement complied with

the requirements of subsection (1) of this section prior to being issued his or her direct retail license, and neither the department nor a local health department acted in a reckless manner. For the purposes of this subsection, the department or a local health district shall not be deemed to be acting recklessly for not conducting a permissive inspection. [2003 c 387 § 3; 2002 c 301 § 3.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 301:** See notes following RCW 77.65.510.

**77.65.520 Direct retail endorsement—Compliance—Violations—Suspension.** (1) The direct retail endorsement is conditioned upon compliance:

(a) With the requirements of this chapter as they apply to wholesale fish dealers and to the rules of the department relating to the payment of fines for violations of rules for the accounting of the commercial harvest of retail-eligible species; and

(b) With the state board of health and local rules for food service establishments.

(2) Violations of the requirements and rules referenced in subsection (1) of this section may result in the suspension of the direct retail endorsement. The suspended individual must not be reimbursed for any portion of the suspended endorsement. Suspension of the direct retail endorsement may not occur unless and until:

(a) The director has notified by order the holder of the direct retail endorsement when a violation of subsection (1) of this section has occurred. The notification must specify the type of violation, the liability to be imposed for damages caused by the violation, a notice that the amount of liability is due and payable by the holder of the direct retail endorsement, and an explanation of the options available to satisfy the liability; and

(b) The holder of the direct retail endorsement has had at least ninety days after the notification provided in (a) of this subsection was received to either make full payment for all liabilities owed or enter into an agreement with the department to pay off all liabilities within a reasonable time.

(3)(a) If, within ninety days after receipt of the order provided in subsection (2)(a) of this section, the amount specified in the order is not paid or the holder of the direct retail endorsement has not entered into an agreement with the department to pay off all liabilities, the prosecuting attorney for any county in which the persons to whom the order is directed do business, or the attorney general upon request of the department, may bring an action on behalf of the state in the superior court for Thurston county, or any county in which the persons to whom the order is directed do business, to seek suspension of the individual's direct retail endorsement for up to five years.

(b) The department may temporarily suspend the privileges provided by the direct retail endorsement for up to one hundred twenty days following the receipt of the order provided in subsection (2)(a) of this section, unless the holder of the direct retail endorsement has deposited with the department an acceptable performance bond on forms prescribed and provided by the department. This performance bond must be a corporate surety bond executed in favor of the department by a corporation authorized to do business in the state of Washington under chapter 48.28 RCW and approved

by the department. The bond must be filed and maintained in an amount equal to one thousand dollars.

(4) For violations of state board of health and local rules under subsection (1)(b) of this section only, any person inspecting the facilities of a direct retail endorsement holder under RCW 77.65.515 may suspend the privileges granted by the endorsement for up to seven days. Within twenty-four hours of the discovery of the violation, the inspecting entity must notify the department of the violation. Upon notification, the department may proceed with the procedures outlined in this section for suspension of the endorsement. If the violation of a state board of health rule is discovered by a local health department, that local jurisdiction may fine the holder of the direct retail endorsement according to the local jurisdiction's rules as they apply to retail food operations.

(5) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to a holder of a direct retail endorsement that executes a surety bond and abides by the conditions established in RCW 77.65.320 and 77.65.330 as they apply to wholesale dealers. [2003 c 387 § 4; 2002 c 301 § 4.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 301:** See notes following RCW 77.65.510.

**77.65.530 Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license.** (1) A Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license is required to:

(a) Use spot shrimp pot gear to fish for spot shrimp;

(b) Possess spot shrimp; and

(c) Deliver spot shrimp.

(2) Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery licenses require vessel designation under RCW 77.65.100.

(3) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.500. [2011 c 147 § 1.]

**77.65.540 Coastal spot shrimp fishery—Report to the legislature. (Expires July 31, 2016.)** (1) The director shall provide a report to the legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, regarding the coastal spot shrimp fishery. The report must include any recommended changes to the licensing program created in RCW 77.65.530 deemed appropriate by the director. The report must take into consideration the status of the coastal spot shrimp population, the impact of the removal of coastal spot shrimp to the marine ecosystem, and the market for coastal spot shrimp.

(2) The report required by this section must be delivered by January 7, 2016.

(3) This section expires July 31, 2016. [2011 c 147 § 6.]

**77.65.900 Effective date—1989 c 316.** This act shall take effect on January 1, 1990. The \*director of fisheries may immediately take such steps as are necessary to ensure that this act is implemented on its effective date. [1989 c 316 § 22. Formerly RCW 75.28.900.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of fisheries and the department of wildlife were transferred to the department of fish and wildlife by 1993 sp.s. c 2, effective July 1, 1994.

## Chapter 77.70 RCW

## LICENSE LIMITATION PROGRAMS

## Sections

77.70.005	Definitions.
77.70.010	License renewed subject to RCW 77.65.080.
77.70.020	No harvest opportunity during year—License requirements waived—Effect on license limitation programs.
77.70.040	Administrative review of department's decision—Hearing—Procedures.
77.70.050	Salmon charter boats—Limitation on issuance of licenses—Renewal—Transfer.
77.70.060	Salmon charter boats—Angler permit, when required.
77.70.070	Salmon charter boats—Angler permit—Number of anglers.
77.70.080	Salmon charter boats—Angler permit—Total number of anglers limited—Permit transfer—Fees.
77.70.090	Commercial salmon fishing licenses and delivery licenses—Limitations—Transfer.
77.70.100	Commercial salmon fishery license or salmon delivery license—Reversion to department following government confiscation of vessel.
77.70.110	Dungeness crab-Puget Sound fishery license—Limitations—Qualifications.
77.70.120	Herring fishery license—Limitations on issuance.
77.70.130	Whiting-Puget Sound fishery license—Limitation on issuance.
77.70.140	Whiting-Puget Sound fishery license—Transferable to family members.
77.70.150	Sea urchin dive fishery license—Limitation on issuance—Surcharge—Sea urchin dive fishery account—Transfer of license—Issuance of new licenses.
77.70.160	Emerging commercial fishery designation—Experimental fishery permits.
77.70.170	Emerging commercial fishery designation—Legislative review.
77.70.180	Emerging commercial fishery—License status—Recommendations to legislature—Information included in report.
77.70.190	Sea cucumber dive fishery license—Limitation on issuance—Surcharge—Sea cucumber dive fishery account—Transfer of license—Fee—Issuance of new licenses.
77.70.200	Herring spawn on kelp fishery licenses—Number limited.
77.70.210	Herring spawn on kelp fishery license—Auction.
77.70.220	Geoduck fishery license—Fees—Conditions and limitations—OSHA regulations—Violations.
77.70.230	Ocean pink shrimp—Delivery license—Requirements and criteria—Continuous participation.
77.70.240	Ocean pink shrimp—Delivery license—Requirements and criteria—Historical participation.
77.70.250	Ocean pink shrimp—Delivery license—License transfer—License suspension.
77.70.260	Ocean pink shrimp—Single delivery license—Fees.
77.70.280	Crab fishery—License required—Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license—Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license—Coastal crab and replacement vessel defined—Federal fleet reduction program.
77.70.290	Crab taken in offshore waters—Criteria for landing in Washington state—Limitations.
77.70.300	Crab taken in offshore waters—Dungeness crab offshore delivery license—Fee.
77.70.310	Transfer of Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses—Fee.
77.70.320	Coastal crab account—Created—Revenues—Expenditures.
77.70.330	Coastal crab account expenditures—Management of coastal crab resource.
77.70.340	Criteria for nonresident Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license for Oregon residents—Section effective contingent upon reciprocal statutory authority in Oregon.
77.70.350	Restrictions on vessel designations and substitutions on Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses.
77.70.360	Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses—Limitation on new licenses—Requirements for renewal.
77.70.370	Limitation on taking crab in the exclusive economic zone of Oregon or California—Section effective contingent upon reciprocal legislation by both Oregon and California.
77.70.390	Reduction of landing requirements under RCW 77.70.280—Procedure.
77.70.400	Coastal Dungeness crab resource plan.
77.70.410	Shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery—Limited entry fishery—License analogous to personal property—Transferability—Alternate operator designation.
77.70.420	Shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery—Limited entry fishery—License analogous to personal property—Transferability—Alternate operator.

77.70.430	Puget Sound crab pot buoy tag program—Fee—Coastal crab pot buoy tag program—Fee—Review.
77.70.440	Puget Sound crab pot buoy tag account.
77.70.442	Washington coastal crab pot buoy tag account.
77.70.450	Commercial fisheries buyback account.
77.70.460	Collection of fee—Fee schedule—Deposit of moneys.
77.70.470	Ban on assessing fee under RCW 77.70.460.
77.70.480	Pacific sardines—Purse seine fishery license or temporary annual fishery permit required.
77.70.490	Pacific sardines—Purse seine fishery license—Fees—Adoption of rules regarding bycatch.
77.70.500	Crab pot removal permit—Shellfish pot removal permit—Rules—Penalty.
77.70.510	Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license.

**77.70.005 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter and related rules adopted by the department unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Deliver" or "delivery" means arrival at a place or port, and includes arrivals from offshore waters to waters within the state and arrivals ashore from offshore waters.

(2) "Pacific sardine" and "pilchard" means the species *Sardinops sagax*.

(3) "Spot shrimp" means the species *Pandalus platyceros*. [2011 c 147 § 5; 2009 c 331 § 1.]

**77.70.010 License renewed subject to RCW 77.65.080.** (1) A license renewed under the provisions of this chapter that has been suspended under RCW 77.65.080 shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) A license renewal fee shall be paid as a condition of maintaining a current license; and

(b) The department shall waive any other license requirements, unless the department determines that the license holder has had sufficient opportunity to meet these requirements.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall apply only to a license that has been suspended under RCW 77.65.080 for a period of twelve months or less. A license holder shall forfeit a license subject to this chapter and may not recover any license renewal fees previously paid if the license holder does not meet the requirements of \*RCW 74.20A.320(9) within twelve months of license suspension. [2001 c 253 § 57; 1997 c 58 § 884. Formerly RCW 75.30.015.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 74.20A.320 was amended by 2009 c 408 § 1, changing subsection (9) to subsection (3).

**Effective dates—Intent—1997 c 58:** See notes following RCW 74.20A.320.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.020 No harvest opportunity during year—License requirements waived—Effect on license limitation programs.** (1) The director shall waive license requirements, including landing or poundage requirements, if, during the calendar year that a license issued pursuant to chapter 77.65 RCW is valid, no harvest opportunity occurs in the fishery corresponding to the license.

(2) For each license limitation program, where the person failed to hold the license and failed to make landing or poundage requirements because of a license waiver by the director during the previous year, the person shall qualify for a license by establishing that the person held the license during the last year in which the license was not waived. [2000 c 107 § 56; 1995 c 227 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.021.]

**77.70.040 Administrative review of department's decision—Hearing—Procedures.** A person aggrieved by a decision of the department under this chapter may request administrative review under the informal procedure established by this section.

In an informal hearing before a review board, the rules of evidence do not apply. A record of the proceeding shall be kept as provided by chapter 34.05 RCW. After hearing the case the review board shall notify in writing the director and the initiating party whether the review board agrees or disagrees with the department's decision and the reasons for the review board's findings. Upon receipt of the review board's findings the director may order such relief as the director deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Nothing in this section: (1) Impairs an aggrieved person's right to proceed under chapter 34.05 RCW; or (2) imposes a liability on members of a review board for their actions under this section. [2000 c 107 § 58; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 32 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 139; 1977 ex.s. c 106 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.30.060.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 106:** See notes following RCW 77.70.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.050 Salmon charter boats—Limitation on issuance of licenses—Renewal—Transfer.** (1) After May 28, 1977, the director shall issue no new salmon charter licenses. A person may renew an existing salmon charter license only if the person held the license sought to be renewed during the previous year or acquired the license by transfer from someone who held it during the previous year, and if the person has not subsequently transferred the license to another person.

(2) Salmon charter licenses may be renewed each year. A salmon charter license which is not renewed each year shall not be renewed further.

(3) Subject to the restrictions in RCW 77.65.020, salmon charter licenses are transferrable from one license holder to another. [2000 c 107 § 59; 1993 c 340 § 28; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 141; 1981 c 202 § 1; 1979 c 101 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 106 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.065, 75.30.020.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Effective date—Intent—1979 c 101:** See notes following RCW 77.70.060.

**Legislative findings—1977 ex.s. c 106:** "The legislature finds that the wise management and economic health of the state's salmon fishery are of continued importance to the people of the state and to the economy of the state as a whole. The legislature finds that charter boats licensed by the state for use by the state's charter boat fishing industry have increased in quantity. The legislature finds that limitations on the number of licensed charter boats will tend to improve the management of the charter boat fishery and the economic health of the charter boat industry. The state therefore must use its authority to regulate the number of licensed boats in use by the state's charter boat industry in a manner provided in this chapter so that management and economic health of the salmon fishery may be improved." [1977 ex.s. c 106 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.30.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.060 Salmon charter boats—Angler permit, when required.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person shall not operate a vessel as a charter

boat from which salmon are taken in salt water without an angler permit. The angler permit shall specify the maximum number of persons that may fish from the charter boat per trip. The angler permit expires if the salmon charter license is not renewed.

(2) Only a person who holds a salmon charter license issued under RCW 77.65.150 and 77.70.050 may hold an angler permit.

(3) An angler permit shall not be required for charter boats licensed in Oregon and fishing in ocean waters within the jurisdiction of Washington state from the southern border of the state of Washington to Leadbetter Point under the same regulations as Washington charter boat operators, as long as the Oregon vessel does not land at any Washington port with the purpose of taking on or discharging passengers. The provisions of this subsection shall be in effect as long as the state of Oregon has reciprocal laws and regulations. [2000 c 107 § 60; 1998 c 190 § 100; 1993 c 340 § 29; 1989 c 147 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 142; 1979 c 101 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.070.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Intent—1979 c 101:** "The legislature finds that wise management of the state's salmon fishery is essential to the well-being of the state. The legislature recognizes that further restrictions on salmon fishing in the charter salmon industry are necessary and that a limitation on the number of persons fishing is preferable to reductions in the fishing season or daily bag limits, or increases in size limits." [1979 c 101 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.070 Salmon charter boats—Angler permit—Number of anglers.** A salmon charter boat may not carry more anglers than the number specified in the angler permit issued under RCW 77.70.060. Members of the crew may fish from the boat only to the extent that the number of anglers specified in the angler permit exceeds the number of noncrew passengers on the boat at that time. [2000 c 107 § 61; 1993 c 340 § 30; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 143; 1979 c 101 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.30.090.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Effective date—Intent—1979 c 101:** See notes following RCW 77.70.060.

**77.70.080 Salmon charter boats—Angler permit—Total number of anglers limited—Permit transfer—Fees.** (1) The total number of anglers authorized by the director shall not exceed the total number authorized for 1980.

(2) Angler permits issued under RCW 77.70.060 are transferable. All or a portion of the permit may be transferred to another salmon charter license holder.

(3) The angler permit holder and proposed transferee shall notify the department when transferring an angler permit, and the director shall issue a new angler permit certificate. If the original permit holder retains a portion of the permit, the director shall issue a new angler permit certificate reflecting the decrease in angler capacity.

(4) The department shall collect a fee of ten dollars for each certificate issued under subsection (3) of this section, plus an application fee of one hundred five dollars. [2011 c 339 § 32; 2000 c 107 § 62; 1993 c 340 § 31; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 144; 1979 c 101 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.30.100.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Effective date—Intent—1979 c 101:** See notes following RCW 77.70.060.

**77.70.090 Commercial salmon fishing licenses and delivery licenses—Limitations—Transfer.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, after May 6, 1974, the director shall issue no new commercial salmon fishery licenses or salmon delivery licenses. A person may renew an existing license only if the person held the license sought to be renewed during the previous year or acquired the license by transfer from someone who held it during the previous year, and if the person has not subsequently transferred the license to another person.

(2) Where the person failed to obtain the license during the previous year because of a license suspension, the person may qualify for a license by establishing that the person held such a license during the last year in which the license was not suspended.

(3) Subject to the restrictions in RCW 77.65.020, commercial salmon fishery licenses and salmon delivery licenses are transferable from one license holder to another. [2000 c 107 § 63; 1995 c 135 § 7. Prior: 1993 c 340 § 32; 1993 c 100 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 146; 1979 c 135 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 230 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 106 § 7; 1974 ex.s. c 184 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.120, 75.28.455.]

**Intent—1995 c 135:** See note following RCW 29A.08.760.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Legislative findings—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 106:** See notes following RCW 77.70.050.

**Legislative intent—1974 ex.s. c 184:** "The legislature finds that the protection, welfare, and economic good of the commercial salmon fishing industry is of paramount importance to the people of this state. Scientific advancement has increased the efficiency of salmon fishing gear. There presently exists an overabundance of commercial salmon fishing gear in our state waters which causes great pressure on the salmon fishery resource. This situation results in great economic waste to the state and prohibits conservation programs from achieving their goals. The public welfare requires that the number of commercial salmon fishing licenses and salmon delivery permits issued by the state be limited to insure that sound conservation programs can be scientifically carried out. It is the intention of the legislature to preserve this valuable natural resource so that our food supplies from such resource can continue to meet the ever increasing demands placed on it by the people of this state." [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 136; 1974 ex.s. c 184 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.28.450.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.100 Commercial salmon fishery license or salmon delivery license—Reversion to department following government confiscation of vessel.** Any commercial salmon fishery license issued under RCW 77.65.160 or salmon delivery license issued under RCW 77.65.170 shall revert to the department when any government confiscates and sells the vessel designated on the license. Upon application of the person named on the license as license holder and the approval of the director, the department shall transfer the license to the applicant. Application for transfer of the license must be made within the calendar year for which the license was issued. [2000 c 107 § 64; 1993 c 340 § 33; 1986 c 198 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.125.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.70.110 Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery license—Limitations—Qualifications.** (1) A person shall not commercially take Dungeness crab (*Cancer magister*) in Puget Sound without first obtaining a Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery license. As used in this section, "Puget Sound" has the meaning given in RCW 77.65.160(5)(a). A Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery license is not required to take other species of crab, including red rock crab (*Cancer productus*).

(2) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (6) of this section, after January 1, 1982, the director shall issue no new Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery licenses. Only a person who meets the following qualification may renew an existing license: The person shall have held the Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery license sought to be renewed during the previous year or acquired the license by transfer from someone who held it during the previous year, and shall not have subsequently transferred the license to another person.

(3) Where the person failed to obtain the license during the previous year because of a license suspension, the person may qualify for a license by establishing that the person held such a license during the last year in which the license was not suspended.

(4) This section does not restrict the issuance of commercial crab licenses for areas other than Puget Sound or for species other than Dungeness crab.

(5) Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery licenses are transferable from one license holder to another.

(6) If fewer than one hundred twenty-five persons are eligible for Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery licenses, the director may accept applications for new licenses. The director shall determine by random selection the successful applicants for the additional licenses. The number of additional licenses issued shall be sufficient to maintain one hundred twenty-five licenses in the Puget Sound Dungeness crab fishery. The director shall adopt rules governing the application, selection, and issuance procedures for new Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery licenses. [2000 c 107 § 65; 1999 c 151 § 1602; 1998 c 190 § 101. Prior: 1997 c 233 § 1; 1997 c 115 § 1; 1993 c 340 § 34; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 147; 1982 c 157 § 1; 1980 c 133 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.30.130, 75.28.275.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Legislative findings—1980 c 133:** "The legislature finds that a significant commercial crab fishery is developing within Puget Sound. The legislature further finds that the crab fishery in Puget Sound represents a separate and distinct fishery from that of the coastal waters and is limited in quantity and is in need of conservation. The potential for depletion of the crab stocks in these waters is increasing, particularly as crab fishing becomes an attractive alternative to fishermen facing increasing restrictions on commercial salmon fishing.

The legislature finds that the number of commercial fishermen engaged in crab fishing has steadily increased. This factor, combined with advances in fishing and marketing techniques, has resulted in strong pressures on the supply of crab, unnecessary waste of an important natural resource, and economic loss to the citizens of the state.

The legislature finds that increased regulation of commercial crab fishing is necessary to preserve and efficiently manage the commercial crab fishery in the waters of Puget Sound." [1980 c 133 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.120 Herring fishery license—Limitations on issuance.** (1) A person shall not fish commercially for herring in state waters without a herring fishery license. As used in this section, "herring fishery license" means any of the following commercial fishery licenses issued under RCW 77.65.200: Herring dip bag net; herring drag seine; herring gill net; herring lampara; herring purse seine.

(2) Except as provided in this section, a herring fishery license may be issued only to a person who held the license sought to be renewed during the previous year or acquired the license by transfer from someone who held it during the previous year, and if the person has not subsequently transferred the license to another person.

(3) Herring fishery licenses may be renewed each year. A herring fishery license that is not renewed each year shall not be renewed further.

(4) The director may issue additional herring fishery licenses if the stocks of herring will not be jeopardized by granting additional licenses.

(5) Subject to the restrictions of RCW 77.65.020, herring fishery licenses are transferable from one license holder to another. [2000 c 107 § 66; 1998 c 190 § 102; 1993 c 340 § 35; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 148; 1974 ex.s. c 104 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 173 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.30.140, 75.28.420.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Legislative findings—Purpose—1973 1st ex.s. c 173:** "The legislature finds that a significant commercial herring fishing industry is presently developing in the state of Washington under the careful guidance of the department of fisheries. The legislature further finds that the stocks of herring within the waters of this state are limited in extent and are in need of strict preservation.

In addition, the legislature finds that the number of commercial fishermen engaged in fishing for herring has steadily increased. This factor, combined with advances made in fishing and marketing techniques, has resulted in strong pressures on the supply of herring, unnecessary waste in one of Washington's valuable resources, and economic loss to the citizens of this state. Therefore, it is the purpose of RCW 75.30.140 to establish reasonable procedures for controlling the extent of commercial herring fishing." [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 135; 1973 1st ex.s. c 173 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.28.390 and 75.28.400.]

**77.70.130 Whiting-Puget Sound fishery license—Limitation on issuance.** (1) A person shall not commercially take whiting from areas that the department designates within the waters described in RCW 77.65.160(5)(a) without a whiting-Puget Sound fishery license.

(2) A whiting-Puget Sound fishery license may be issued only to an individual who:

(a) Delivered at least fifty thousand pounds of whiting during the period from January 1, 1981, through February 22, 1985, as verified by fish delivery tickets;

(b) Possessed, on January 1, 1986, all equipment necessary to fish for whiting; and

(c) Held a whiting-Puget Sound fishery license during the previous year or acquired such a license by transfer from someone who held it during the previous year.

(3) After January 1, 1995, the director shall issue no new whiting-Puget Sound fishery licenses. After January 1, 1995, only an individual who meets the following qualifications may renew an existing license: The individual shall have held the license sought to be renewed during the previous year or acquired the license by transfer from someone who

held it during the previous year, and shall not have subsequently transferred the license to another person.

(4) Whiting-Puget Sound fishery licenses may be renewed each year. A whiting-Puget Sound fishery license that is not renewed each year shall not be renewed further. [2000 c 107 § 67; 1993 c 340 § 39; 1986 c 198 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.30.170.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.70.140 Whiting-Puget Sound fishery license—Transferable to family members.** A whiting-Puget Sound fishery license may be transferred through gift, devise, bequest, or descent to members of the license holder's immediate family which shall be limited to spouse, children, or stepchildren. The holder of a whiting-Puget Sound fishery license shall be present on any vessel taking whiting under the license. In no instance may temporary permits be issued.

The director may adopt rules necessary to implement RCW 77.70.130 and 77.70.140. [2000 c 107 § 68; 1993 c 340 § 40; 1986 c 198 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.30.180.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.70.150 Sea urchin dive fishery license—Limitation on issuance—Surcharge—Sea urchin dive fishery account—Transfer of license—Issuance of new licenses.**

(1) A sea urchin dive fishery license is required to take sea urchins for commercial purposes. A sea urchin dive fishery license authorizes the use of only one diver in the water at any time during sea urchin harvest operations. If the same vessel has been designated on two sea urchin dive fishery licenses, two divers may be in the water. A natural person may not hold more than two sea urchin dive fishery licenses.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, the director shall issue no new sea urchin dive fishery licenses. For licenses issued for the year 2000 and thereafter, the director shall renew existing licenses only to a natural person who held the license at the end of the previous year. If a sea urchin dive fishery license is not held by a natural person as of December 31, 1999, it is not renewable. However, if the license is not held because of revocation or suspension of licensing privileges, the director shall renew the license in the name of a natural person at the end of the revocation or suspension if the license holder applies for renewal of the license before the end of the year in which the revocation or suspension ends.

(3) Where a licensee failed to obtain the license during the previous year because of a license suspension or revocation by the director or the court, the licensee may qualify for a license by establishing that the person held such a license during the last year in which the person was eligible.

(4) Surcharges as provided for in this section shall be collected and deposited into the sea urchin dive fishery account hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer. The collections and deposits must continue, as set forth in (a) and (b) of this subsection, through license year 2013, or until the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The sea urchin dive fishery account is subject to allotment procedures under

chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures. Expenditures from the account shall only be used to retire sea urchin licenses until the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, and thereafter shall only be used for sea urchin management and enforcement. The director or the director's designee shall notify the department of revenue within thirty days when the number of licenses is reduced to twenty.

(a) A surcharge of one hundred dollars shall be charged with each sea urchin dive fishery license renewal for licenses issued for license years 2000 through 2013, or until the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first.

(b) For licenses issued for license years 2000 through 2013, or until the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first, a surcharge shall be charged on the sea urchin dive fishery license for designating an alternate operator. The surcharge shall be as follows: Five hundred dollars for the first year or each of the first two consecutive years after 1999 that any alternate operator is designated and two thousand five hundred dollars each year thereafter that any alternate operator is designated.

(5) Sea urchin dive fishery licenses are transferable. For licenses issued for license years 2000 through 2013, or whenever the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first, there is a surcharge to transfer a sea urchin dive fishery license. The surcharge is five hundred dollars for the first transfer of a license valid for license year 2000, and two thousand five hundred dollars for any subsequent transfer, occurring in the license years 2000 through 2013, or whenever the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first. Notwithstanding this subsection, a one-time transfer exempt from surcharge applies for a transfer from the natural person licensed on January 1, 2000, to that person's spouse or child.

(6) If fewer than twenty natural persons are eligible for sea urchin dive fishery licenses, the director may accept applications for new licenses. The additional licenses may not cause more than twenty natural persons to be eligible for a sea urchin dive fishery license. New licenses issued under this section shall be distributed according to rules of the department that recover the value of such licensed privilege. [2010 c 193 § 14; 2005 c 110 § 1; 2001 c 253 § 58; 1999 c 126 § 1; 1998 c 190 § 104; 1993 c 340 § 41; 1990 c 62 § 2; 1989 c 37 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.210.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Legislative finding—1990 c 62; 1989 c 37:** "The legislature finds that a significant commercial sea urchin fishery is developing within state waters. The potential for depletion of the sea urchin stocks in these waters is increasing, particularly as the sea urchin fishery becomes an attractive alternative to fishermen facing increasing restrictions on other types of commercial fishery activities.

The legislature finds that the number of vessels engaged in commercial sea urchin fishing has steadily increased. This factor, combined with advances in marketing techniques, has resulted in strong pressures on the supply of sea urchins. The legislature desires to maintain the livelihood of those vessel owners who have historically and continuously participated in the sea urchin fishery. The legislature desires that the director have the authority to consider extenuating circumstances concerning failure to meet landing requirements for both initial endorsement issuance and endorsement renewal.

The legislature finds that increased regulation of commercial sea urchin fishing is necessary to preserve and efficiently manage the commercial sea urchin fishery in the waters of the state. The legislature is aware that

the continuing license provisions of the administrative procedure act, RCW 34.05.422(3) provide procedural safeguards, but finds that the pressure on the sea urchin resource endangers both the resource and the economic well-being of the sea urchin fishery, and desires, therefore, to exempt sea urchin endorsements from the continuing license provision." [1990 c 62 § 1; 1989 c 37 § 1.]

**77.70.160 Emerging commercial fishery designation—Experimental fishery permits.** (1) The director may issue experimental fishery permits for commercial harvest in an emerging commercial fishery for which the director has determined there is a need to limit the number of participants. The director shall determine by rule the number and qualifications of participants for such experimental fishery permits. Only a person who holds an emerging commercial fishery license issued under RCW 77.65.400 and who meets the qualifications established in those rules may hold an experimental fishery permit. The director shall limit the number of these permits to prevent habitat damage, ensure conservation of the resource, and prevent overharvesting. In developing rules for limiting participation in an emerging or expanding commercial fishery, the director shall appoint a five-person advisory board representative of the affected fishery industry. The advisory board shall review and make recommendations to the director on rules relating to the number and qualifications of the participants for such experimental fishery permits.

(2) RCW 34.05.422(3) does not apply to applications for new experimental fishery permits.

(3) Experimental fishery permits are not transferable from the permit holder to any other person. [2000 c 107 § 69; 1993 c 340 § 42; 1990 c 63 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.220.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Legislative finding—1990 c 63:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) A number of commercial fisheries have emerged or expanded in the past decade;

(2) Scientific information is critical to the proper management of an emerging or expanding commercial fishery; and

(3) The scientific information necessary to manage an emerging or expanding commercial fishery can best be obtained through the use of limited experimental fishery permits allowing harvest levels that will preserve and protect the state's food fish and shellfish resource." [1990 c 63 § 1.]

**77.70.170 Emerging commercial fishery designation—Legislative review.** Whenever the director promulgates a rule designating an emerging commercial fishery, the legislative standing committees of the house of representatives and senate dealing with fisheries issues shall be notified of the rule and its justification thirty days prior to the effective date of the rule. [1990 c 63 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.30.230.]

**77.70.180 Emerging commercial fishery—License status—Recommendations to legislature—Information included in report.** (1) Within five years after adopting rules to govern the number and qualifications of participants in an emerging commercial fishery, the director shall provide to the appropriate senate and house of representatives committees a report which outlines the status of the fishery and a recommendation as to whether a separate commercial fishery license, license fee, or limited harvest program should be established for that fishery.

(2) For any emerging commercial fishery designated under RCW 77.50.030, the report must also include:

(a) Information on the extent of the program, including to what degree mass marking and supplementation programs have been utilized in areas where emerging commercial fisheries using selective fishing gear have been authorized;

(b) Information on the benefit provided to commercial fishers including information on the effectiveness of emerging commercial fisheries using selective fishing gear in providing expanded fishing opportunity within mixed stocks of salmon;

(c) Information on the effectiveness of selective fishing gear in minimizing postrelease mortality for nontarget stocks, harvesting fish so that they are not damaged by the gear, and aiding the creation of niche markets; and

(d) Information on the department's efforts at operating hatcheries in an experimental fashion by managing wild and hatchery origin fish as a single run as an alternative to mass marking and the utilization of selective fishing gear. The department shall consult with commercial fishers, recreational fishers, federally recognized treaty tribes with a fishing right, regional fisheries enhancement groups, and other affected parties to obtain their input in preparing the report under this subsection (2). [2001 c 163 § 3; 1993 c 340 § 43; 1990 c 63 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.30.240.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.70.190 Sea cucumber dive fishery license—Limitation on issuance—Surcharge—Sea cucumber dive fishery account—Transfer of license—Fee—Issuance of new licenses.** (1) A sea cucumber dive fishery license is required to take sea cucumbers for commercial purposes. A sea cucumber dive fishery license authorizes the use of only one diver in the water at any time during sea cucumber harvest operations. If the same vessel has been designated on two sea cucumber dive fishery licenses, two divers may be in the water. A natural person may not hold more than two sea cucumber dive fishery licenses.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, the director shall issue no new sea cucumber dive fishery licenses. For licenses issued for the year 2000 and thereafter, the director shall renew existing licenses only to a natural person who held the license at the end of the previous year. If a sea cucumber dive fishery license is not held by a natural person as of December 31, 1999, it is not renewable. However, if the license is not held because of revocation or suspension of licensing privileges, the director shall renew the license in the name of a natural person at the end of the revocation or suspension if the license holder applies for renewal of the license before the end of the year in which the revocation or suspension ends.

(3) Where a licensee failed to obtain the license during either of the previous two years because of a license suspension by the director or the court, the licensee may qualify for a license by establishing that the person held such a license during the last year in which the person was eligible.

(4) Surcharges as provided for in this section shall be collected and deposited into the sea cucumber dive fishery account hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer. The collections and deposits must continue, as set forth in (a)

and (b) of this subsection, through license year 2013, or until the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The sea cucumber dive fishery account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures. Expenditures from the account shall only be used to retire sea cucumber licenses until the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, and thereafter shall only be used for sea cucumber management and enforcement. The director or the director's designee shall notify the department of revenue within thirty days when the number of licenses is reduced to twenty.

(a) A surcharge of one hundred dollars shall be charged with each sea cucumber dive fishery license renewal for licenses issued in 2000 through 2013, or until the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first.

(b) For licenses issued for license years 2000 through 2013, or until the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first, a surcharge shall be charged on the sea cucumber dive fishery license for designating an alternate operator. The surcharge shall be as follows: Five hundred dollars for the first year or each of the first two consecutive years after 1999 that any alternate operator is designated and two thousand five hundred dollars each year thereafter that any alternate operator is designated.

(5) Sea cucumber dive fishery licenses are transferable. For licenses issued for license years 2000 through 2013, or whenever the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first, there is a surcharge to transfer a sea cucumber dive fishery license. The surcharge is five hundred dollars for the first transfer of a license valid for license year 2000 and two thousand five hundred dollars for any subsequent transfer, occurring in the license years 2000 through 2013, or whenever the number of licenses is reduced to twenty, whichever occurs first. The application fee to transfer a sea cucumber dive fishery license is one hundred five dollars. Notwithstanding this subsection, a one-time transfer exempt from surcharge applies for a transfer from the natural person licensed on January 1, 2000, to that person's spouse or child.

(6) If fewer than twenty persons are eligible for sea cucumber dive fishery licenses, the director may accept applications for new licenses. The additional licenses may not cause more than twenty natural persons to be eligible for a sea cucumber dive fishery license. New licenses issued under this section shall be distributed according to rules of the department that recover the value of such licensed privilege. [2011 c 339 § 33; 2010 c 193 § 15; 2005 c 110 § 2; 2001 c 253 § 59; 1999 c 126 § 2; 1998 c 190 § 105; 1993 c 340 § 44; 1990 c 61 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.250.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Legislative findings—1990 c 61:** "The legislature finds that a significant commercial sea cucumber fishery is developing within state waters. The potential for depletion of the sea cucumber stocks in these waters is increasing, particularly as the sea cucumber fishery becomes an attractive alternative to commercial fishers who face increasing restrictions on other types of commercial fishery activities.

The legislature finds that the number of commercial fishers engaged in commercially harvesting sea cucumbers has rapidly increased. This factor,

combined with increases in market demand, has resulted in strong pressures on the supply of sea cucumbers.

The legislature finds that increased regulation of commercial sea cucumber fishing is necessary to preserve and efficiently manage the commercial sea cucumber fishery in the waters of the state.

The legislature finds that it is desirable in the long term to reduce the number of vessels participating in the commercial sea cucumber fishery to fifty vessels to preserve the sea cucumber resource, efficiently manage the commercial sea cucumber fishery in the waters of the state, and reduce conflict with upland owners.

The legislature finds that it is important to preserve the livelihood of those who have historically participated in the commercial sea cucumber fishery that began about 1970 and that the 1988 and 1989 seasons should be used to document historical participation." [1990 c 61 § 1.]

**77.70.200 Herring spawn on kelp fishery licenses—Number limited.** The legislature finds that the wise management of Washington state's herring resource is of paramount importance to the people of the state. The legislature finds that herring are an important part of the food chain for a number of the state's living marine resources. The legislature finds that both open and closed pond "spawn on kelp" harvesting techniques allow for an economic return to the state while at the same time providing for the proper management of the herring resource. The legislature finds that limitations on the number of herring harvesters tends to improve the management and economic health of the herring industry. The maximum number of herring spawn on kelp fishery licenses shall not exceed five annually. The state therefore must use its authority to regulate the number of herring spawn on kelp fishery licenses so that the management and economic health of the herring fishery may be improved. [1993 c 340 § 36; 1989 c 176 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.30.260, 75.28.235.]

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.70.210 Herring spawn on kelp fishery license—Auction.** (1) A herring spawn on kelp fishery license is required to commercially take herring eggs which have been deposited on vegetation of any type.

(2) A herring spawn on kelp fishery license may be issued only to a person who:

(a) Holds a herring fishery license issued under RCW 77.65.200 and 77.70.120; and

(b) Is the highest bidder in an auction conducted under subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The department shall sell herring spawn on kelp commercial fishery licenses at auction to the highest bidder. Bidders shall identify their sources of kelp. Kelp harvested from state-owned aquatic lands as defined in \*RCW 79.90.465 requires the written consent of the department of natural resources. The department shall give all holders of herring fishery licenses thirty days' notice of the auction. [2000 c 107 § 70; 1993 c 340 § 37; 1989 c 176 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.270, 75.28.245.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 79.90.465 was repealed by 2005 c 155 § 1013.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.70.220 Geoduck fishery license—Fees—Conditions and limitations—OSHA regulations—Violations.** (1) A person shall not harvest geoduck clams commercially without a geoduck fishery license. This section does not

apply to the harvest of private sector cultured aquatic products as defined in RCW 15.85.020. The application fee is seventy dollars.

(2) Only a person who has entered into a geoduck harvesting agreement with the department of natural resources under RCW 79.135.210 may hold a geoduck fishery license.

(3) A geoduck fishery license authorizes no taking of geoducks outside the boundaries of the public lands designated in the underlying harvesting agreement, or beyond the harvest ceiling set in the underlying harvesting agreement.

(4) A geoduck fishery license expires when the underlying geoduck harvesting agreement terminates.

(5) The director shall determine the number of geoduck fishery licenses that may be issued for each geoduck harvesting agreement, the number of units of gear whose use the license authorizes, and the type of gear that may be used, subject to RCW 77.60.070. In making those determinations, the director shall seek to conserve the geoduck resource and prevent damage to its habitat.

(6) The holder of a geoduck fishery license and the holder's agents and representatives shall comply with all applicable commercial diving safety regulations adopted by the federal occupational safety and health administration established under the federal occupational safety and health act of 1970 as such law exists on May 8, 1979, 84 Stat. 1590 et seq.; 29 U.S.C. Sec. 651 et seq. A violation of those regulations is a violation of this subsection. For the purposes of this section, persons who dive for geoducks are "employees" as defined by the federal occupational safety and health act. A violation of this subsection is grounds for suspension or revocation of a geoduck fishery license following a hearing under the procedures of chapter 34.05 RCW. The director shall not suspend or revoke a geoduck fishery license if the violation has been corrected within ten days of the date the license holder receives written notice of the violation. If there is a substantial probability that a violation of the commercial diving standards could result in death or serious physical harm to a person engaged in harvesting geoduck clams, the director shall suspend the license immediately until the violation has been corrected. If the license holder is not the operator of the harvest vessel and has contracted with another person for the harvesting of geoducks, the director shall not suspend or revoke the license if the license holder terminates its business relationship with that person until compliance with this subsection is secured.

(7) A person using a vessel in the geoduck fishery is required to apply for and obtain a vessel identification number from the department. The application fee for the vessel identification number is one hundred five dollars. [2011 c 339 § 34; 2000 c 107 § 71; 1998 c 190 § 106; 1993 c 340 § 46. Formerly RCW 75.30.280.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**77.70.230 Ocean pink shrimp—Delivery license—Requirements and criteria—Continuous participation.** A person shall not commercially deliver into any Washington state port ocean pink shrimp caught in offshore waters without an ocean pink shrimp delivery license issued under RCW 77.65.390, or an ocean pink shrimp single delivery license

issued under RCW 77.70.260. An ocean pink shrimp delivery license shall be issued to a vessel that:

(1) Landed a total of at least five thousand pounds of ocean pink shrimp in Washington in any single calendar year between January 1, 1983, and December 31, 1992, as documented by a valid shellfish receiving ticket; and

(2) Can show continuous participation in the Washington, Oregon, or California ocean pink shrimp fishery by being eligible to land ocean pink shrimp in either Washington, Oregon, or California each year since the landing made under subsection (1) of this section. Evidence of such eligibility shall be a certified statement from the relevant state licensing agency that the applicant for a Washington ocean pink shrimp delivery license held at least one of the following permits:

(a) For Washington: Possession of a delivery permit or delivery license issued under RCW 77.65.210;

(b) For Oregon: Possession of a vessel permit issued under Oregon Revised Statute 508.880; or

(c) For California: A trawl permit issued under California Fish and Game Code sec. 8842. [2000 c 107 § 72; 1998 c 190 § 107; 1993 c 376 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.30.290.]

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 376:** See notes following RCW 77.65.380.

**77.70.240 Ocean pink shrimp—Delivery license—Requirements and criteria—Historical participation.** An applicant who can show historical participation under RCW 77.70.230(1) but does not satisfy the continuous participation requirement of RCW 77.70.230(2) shall be issued an ocean pink shrimp delivery license if:

(1) The owner can prove that the owner was in the process on December 31, 1992, of constructing a vessel for the purpose of ocean pink shrimp harvest. For purposes of this section, "construction" means having the keel laid, and "for the purpose of ocean pink shrimp harvest" means the vessel is designed as a trawl vessel. An ocean pink shrimp delivery license issued to a vessel under construction is not renewable after December 31, 1994, unless the vessel lands a total of at least five thousand pounds of ocean pink shrimp into a Washington state port before December 31, 1994; or

(2) The applicant's vessel is a replacement for a vessel that is otherwise eligible for an ocean pink shrimp delivery license. [2000 c 107 § 73; 1993 c 376 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.30.300.]

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 376:** See notes following RCW 77.65.380.

**77.70.250 Ocean pink shrimp—Delivery license—License transfer—License suspension.** After December 31, 1994, an ocean pink shrimp delivery license may only be issued to a vessel that held an ocean pink shrimp delivery license in 1994, and each year thereafter. If the license is transferred to another vessel, the license history shall also be transferred to the transferee vessel.

Where the failure to hold the license in any given year was the result of a license suspension, the vessel may qualify if the vessel held an ocean pink shrimp delivery license in the year immediately preceding the year of the license suspension. [1993 c 376 § 7. Formerly RCW 75.30.310.]

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 376:** See notes following RCW 77.65.380.

**77.70.260 Ocean pink shrimp—Single delivery license—Fees.** The owner of an ocean pink shrimp fishing vessel that does not qualify for an ocean pink shrimp delivery license issued under RCW 77.65.390 shall obtain an ocean pink shrimp single delivery license in order to make a landing into a state port of ocean pink shrimp taken in offshore waters. The director shall not issue an ocean pink shrimp single delivery license unless, as determined by the director, a bona fide emergency exists. A maximum of six ocean pink shrimp single delivery licenses may be issued annually to any vessel. The fee for an ocean pink shrimp single delivery license is one hundred dollars. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. [2011 c 339 § 35; 2000 c 107 § 74; 1993 c 376 § 8. Formerly RCW 75.30.320.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 376:** See notes following RCW 77.65.380.

**77.70.280 Crab fishery—License required—Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license—Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license—Coastal crab and replacement vessel defined—Federal fleet reduction program.**

(1) A person shall not commercially fish for coastal crab in Washington state waters without a Dungeness crab—coastal or a Dungeness crab—coastal class B fishery license. Gear used must consist of one buoy attached to each crab pot. Each crab pot must be fished individually.

(2) A Dungeness crab—coastal fishery license is transferable. Except as provided in subsections (3) and (8) of this section, such a license shall only be issued to a person who proved active historical participation in the coastal crab fishery by having designated, after December 31, 1993, a vessel or a replacement vessel on the qualifying license that singly or in combination meets the following criteria:

(a) Made a minimum of eight coastal crab landings totaling a minimum of five thousand pounds per season in at least two of the four qualifying seasons identified in subsection (5) of this section, as documented by valid Washington state shellfish receiving tickets; and showed historical and continuous participation in the coastal crab fishery by having held one of the following licenses or their equivalents each calendar year beginning 1990 through 1993, and was designated on the qualifying license of the person who held one of the following licenses in 1994:

(i) Crab pot—Non-Puget Sound license, issued under RCW 77.65.220(1)(b);

(ii) Nonsalmon delivery license, issued under RCW 77.65.210;

(iii) Salmon troll license, issued under RCW 77.65.160;

(iv) Salmon delivery license, issued under RCW 77.65.170;

(v) Food fish trawl license, issued under RCW 77.65.200; or

(vi) Shrimp trawl license, issued under RCW 77.65.220; or

(b) Made a minimum of four Washington landings of coastal crab totaling two thousand pounds during the period from December 1, 1991, to March 20, 1992, and made a min-

imum of eight crab landings totaling a minimum of five thousand pounds of coastal crab during each of the following periods: December 1, 1991, to September 15, 1992; December 1, 1992, to September 15, 1993; and December 1, 1993, to September 15, 1994. For landings made after December 31, 1993, the vessel shall have been designated on the qualifying license of the person making the landings; or

(c) Made any number of coastal crab landings totaling a minimum of twenty thousand pounds per season in at least two of the four qualifying seasons identified in subsection (5) of this section, as documented by valid Washington state shellfish receiving tickets, showed historical and continuous participation in the coastal crab fishery by having held one of the qualifying licenses each calendar year beginning 1990 through 1993, and the vessel was designated on the qualifying license of the person who held that license in 1994.

(3) A Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license shall be issued to a person who had a new vessel under construction between December 1, 1988, and September 15, 1992, if the vessel made coastal crab landings totaling a minimum of five thousand pounds by September 15, 1993, and the new vessel was designated on the qualifying license of the person who held that license in 1994. All landings shall be documented by valid Washington state shellfish receiving tickets. License applications under this subsection may be subject to review by the advisory review board in accordance with \*RCW 77.70.030. For purposes of this subsection, "under construction" means either:

(a)(i) A contract for any part of the work was signed before September 15, 1992; and

(ii) The contract for the vessel under construction was not transferred or otherwise alienated from the contract holder between the date of the contract and the issuance of the Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license; and

(iii) Construction had not been completed before December 1, 1988; or

(b)(i) The keel was laid before September 15, 1992; and

(ii) Vessel ownership was not transferred or otherwise alienated from the owner between the time the keel was laid and the issuance of the Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license; and

(iii) Construction had not been completed before December 1, 1988.

(4) A Dungeness crab—coastal class B fishery license is not transferable. Such a license shall be issued to persons who do not meet the qualification criteria for a Dungeness crab—coastal fishery license, if the person has designated on a qualifying license after December 31, 1993, a vessel or replacement vessel that, singly or in combination, made a minimum of four landings totaling a minimum of two thousand pounds of coastal crab, documented by valid Washington state shellfish receiving tickets, during at least one of the four qualifying seasons, and if the person has participated continuously in the coastal crab fishery by having held or by having owned a vessel that held one or more of the licenses listed in subsection (2) of this section in each calendar year subsequent to the qualifying season in which qualifying landings were made through 1994. Dungeness crab—coastal class B fishery licenses cease to exist after December 31, 1999, and the continuing license provisions of RCW 34.05.422(3) are not applicable.

(2012 Ed.)

(5) The four qualifying seasons for purposes of this section are:

(a) December 1, 1988, through September 15, 1989;

(b) December 1, 1989, through September 15, 1990;

(c) December 1, 1990, through September 15, 1991; and

(d) December 1, 1991, through September 15, 1992.

(6) For purposes of this section and RCW 77.70.340, "coastal crab" means Dungeness crab (cancer magister) taken in all Washington territorial and offshore waters south of the United States-Canada boundary and west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line (a line from the western end of Cape Flattery to Tatoosh Island lighthouse, then to the buoy adjacent to Duntz Rock, then in a straight line to Bonilla Point of Vancouver island), Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, and the Columbia river.

(7) For purposes of this section, "replacement vessel" means a vessel used in the coastal crab fishery in 1994, and that replaces a vessel used in the coastal crab fishery during any period from 1988 through 1993, and which vessel's licensing and catch history, together with the licensing and catch history of the vessel it replaces, qualifies a single applicant for a Dungeness crab—coastal or Dungeness crab—coastal class B fishery license. A Dungeness crab—coastal or Dungeness crab—coastal class B fishery license may only be issued to a person who designated a vessel in the 1994 coastal crab fishery and who designated the same vessel in 1995.

(8) A Dungeness crab—coastal fishery license may not be issued to a person who participates in the federal fleet reduction program created in RCW 77.70.460 within ten years of that person's participation in the federal program, if reciprocal restrictions are imposed by the states of Oregon and California on persons participating in the federal fleet reduction program. [2003 c 174 § 5; 2000 c 107 § 76; 1998 c 190 § 108; 1995 c 252 § 1; 1994 c 260 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.30.350.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.70.030 was repealed by 2001 c 291 § 501, effective July 1, 2001.

**Finding—1994 c 260:** "The legislature finds that the commercial crab fishery in coastal and offshore waters is overcapitalized. The legislature further finds that this overcapitalization has led to the economic destabilization of the coastal crab industry, and can cause excessive harvesting pressures on the coastal crab resources of Washington state. In order to provide for the economic well-being of the Washington crab industry and to protect the livelihood of Washington crab fishers who have historically and continuously participated in the coastal crab fishery, the legislature finds that it is in the best interests of the economic well-being of the coastal crab industry to reduce the number of fishers taking crab in coastal waters, to reduce the number of vessels landing crab taken in offshore waters, to limit the number of future licenses, and to limit fleet capacity by limiting vessel size." [1994 c 260 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.290 Crab taken in offshore waters—Criteria for landing in Washington state—Limitations.** (1) The director shall allow the landing into Washington state of crab taken in offshore waters only if:

(a) The crab are legally caught and landed by fishers with a valid Washington state Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license or a valid Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license; or

(b)(i) The director determines that the landing of offshore Dungeness crab by fishers without a Washington state Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license or a valid Dungeness

crab-coastal class B fishery license is in the best interest of the coastal crab processing industry; (ii) the director has been requested to allow such landings by at least three Dungeness crab processors; (iii) the landings are permitted only between the dates of December 1st to February 15th inclusively; (iv) only crab fishers commercially licensed to fish by Oregon or California are permitted to land, if the crab was taken with gear that consisted of one buoy attached to each crab pot, and each crab pot was fished individually; (v) the fisher landing the crab has obtained a valid delivery license; and (vi) the decision is made on a case-by-case basis for the sole reason of improving the economic stability of the commercial crab fishery.

(2) Nothing in this section allows the commercial fishing of Dungeness crab in waters within three miles of Washington state by fishers who do not possess a valid Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license or a valid Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license. Landings of offshore Dungeness crab by fishers without a valid Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license or a valid Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license do not qualify the fisher for such licenses. [1997 c 418 § 2; 1994 c 260 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.30.360.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.300 Crab taken in offshore waters—Dungeness crab offshore delivery license—Fee.** A person commercially fishing for Dungeness crab in offshore waters outside of Washington state jurisdiction shall obtain a Dungeness crab offshore delivery license from the director if the person does not possess a valid Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license or a valid Dungeness crab-coastal class B fishery license and the person wishes to land Dungeness crab into a place or a port in the state. The annual fee for a Dungeness crab offshore delivery license is two hundred fifty dollars. The director may specify restrictions on landings of offshore Dungeness crab in Washington state as authorized in RCW 77.70.290.

Fees from the offshore Dungeness crab delivery license shall be placed in the coastal crab account created in RCW 77.70.320. [2000 c 107 § 77; 1994 c 260 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.30.370.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.310 Transfer of Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses—Fee.** Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses are freely transferable on a willing seller-willing buyer basis after paying the transfer fee in RCW 77.65.020. [2000 c 107 § 78; 1997 c 418 § 3; 1994 c 260 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.30.380.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.320 Coastal crab account—Created—Revenues—Expenditures.** The coastal crab account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The account shall consist of revenues from fees from the transfer of each Dungeness crab-

coastal fishery license assessed under RCW 77.65.020, delivery fees assessed under RCW 77.70.300, and the license surcharge under RCW 77.65.240. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW but no appropriation is required for expenditures. Funds may be used for coastal crab management activities as provided in RCW 77.70.330. [2000 c 107 § 79; 1997 c 418 § 4; 1994 c 260 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.30.390.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

**77.70.330 Coastal crab account expenditures—Management of coastal crab resource.** Expenditures from the coastal crab account may be made by the department for management of the coastal crab resource. Management activities may include studies of resource viability, interstate negotiations concerning regulation of the offshore crab resource, resource enhancement projects, or other activities as determined by the department. [1994 c 260 § 8. Formerly RCW 75.30.410.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.340 Criteria for nonresident Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license for Oregon residents—Section effective contingent upon reciprocal statutory authority in Oregon.** (1) An Oregon resident who can show historical and continuous participation in the Washington state coastal crab fishery by having held a nonresident non-Puget Sound crab pot license issued under RCW 77.65.220 each year from 1990 through 1994, and who has delivered a minimum of eight landings totaling five thousand pounds of crab into Oregon during any two of the four qualifying seasons as provided in RCW 77.70.280(5) as evidenced by valid Oregon fish receiving tickets, shall be issued a nonresident Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license valid for fishing in Washington state waters north from the Oregon-Washington boundary to United States latitude forty-six degrees thirty minutes north. Such license shall be issued upon application and submission of proof of delivery.

(2) This section shall become effective contingent upon reciprocal statutory authority in the state of Oregon providing for equal access for Washington state coastal crab fishers to Oregon territorial coastal waters north of United States latitude forty-five degrees fifty-eight minutes north, and Oregon waters of the Columbia river. [2000 c 107 § 80; 1994 c 260 § 9. Formerly RCW 75.30.420.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.350 Restrictions on vessel designations and substitutions on Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses.**

(1) The following restrictions apply to vessel designations and substitutions on Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses:

(a) The holder of the license may not:

(i) Designate on the license a vessel the hull length of which exceeds ninety-nine feet; or

(ii) Change vessel designation if the hull length of the vessel proposed to be designated exceeds the hull length designated on the license on June 7, 2006, by more than ten feet. However, if such vessel designation is the result of an emergency transfer, the applicable vessel length would be the most recent permanent vessel designation on the license prior to June 7, 2006;

(b) If the hull length of the vessel proposed to be designated is comparable to or exceeds by up to one foot the hull length of the currently designated vessel, the department may change the vessel designation no more than once in any one-year period, measured from September 15th to September 15th of the following year, unless the currently designated vessel is lost or in disrepair such that it does not safely operate, in which case the department may allow a change in vessel designation;

(c) If the hull length of the vessel proposed to be designated exceeds by between one and ten feet the hull length of the designated vessel on June 7, 2006, the department may change the vessel designation no more than once on or after June 7, 2006, unless a request is made by the license holder during a Washington state coastal crab season for an emergency change in vessel designation. If such an emergency request is made, the director may allow a temporary change in designation to another vessel, if the hull length of the other vessel does not exceed by more than ten feet the hull length of the currently designated vessel.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "hull length" means the length overall of a vessel's hull as shown by marine survey or by manufacturer's specifications.

(3) By December 31, 2010, the department must, in cooperation with the coastal crab fishing industry, evaluate the effectiveness of this section and, if necessary, recommend any statutory changes to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of representatives. [2010 c 193 § 13; 2006 c 159 § 1; 1994 c 260 § 10. Formerly RCW 75.30.430.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.360 Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses—Limitation on new licenses—Requirements for renewal.** Except as provided under \*RCW 77.70.380, the director shall issue no new Dungeness crab-coastal fishery licenses after December 31, 1995. A person may renew an existing license only if the person held the license sought to be renewed during the previous year or acquired the license by transfer from someone who held it during the previous year, and if the person has not subsequently transferred the license to another person. Where the person failed to obtain the license during the previous year because of a license suspension, the person may qualify for a license by establishing that the person held such a license during the last year in which the license was not suspended. [2000 c 107 § 81; 1994 c 260 § 13. Formerly RCW 75.30.440.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.70.380 was repealed by 2003 c 174 § 6.

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**77.70.370 Limitation on taking crab in the exclusive economic zone of Oregon or California—Section effective contingent upon reciprocal legislation by both Oregon and California.** (1) A Dungeness crab—coastal fishery licensee shall not take Dungeness crab in the waters of the exclusive economic zone westward of the states of Oregon or California and land crab taken in those waters into Washington state unless the licensee also holds the licenses, permits, or endorsements, required by Oregon or California to land crab into Oregon or California, respectively.

(2) This section becomes effective only upon reciprocal legislation being enacted by both the states of Oregon and California. For purposes of this section, "exclusive economic zone" means that zone defined in the federal fishery conservation and management act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1802) as of January 1, 1995, or as of a subsequent date adopted by rule of the director. [1998 c 190 § 109; 1994 c 260 § 16. Formerly RCW 75.30.450.]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.390 Reduction of landing requirements under RCW 77.70.280—Procedure.** The director may reduce the landing requirements established under RCW 77.70.280 upon the recommendation of an advisory review board established under \*RCW 77.70.030, but the director may not entirely waive the landing requirement. The advisory review board may recommend a reduction of the landing requirement in individual cases if in the advisory review board's judgment, extenuating circumstances prevented achievement of the landing requirement. The director shall adopt rules governing the operation of the advisory review board and defining "extenuating circumstances." Extenuating circumstances may include situations in which a person had a vessel under construction such that qualifying landings could not be made. In defining extenuating circumstances, special consideration shall be given to individuals who can provide evidence of lack of access to capital based on past discrimination due to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or disability. [2000 c 107 § 83; 1994 c 260 § 19. Formerly RCW 75.30.470.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.70.030 was repealed by 2001 c 291 § 501, effective July 1, 2001.

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.400 Coastal Dungeness crab resource plan.** The department, with input from Dungeness crab—coastal fishery licensees and processors, shall prepare a resource plan to achieve even-flow harvesting and long-term stability of the coastal Dungeness crab resource. The plan may include pot limits, further reduction in the number of vessels, individual quotas, trip limits, area quotas, or other measures as determined by the department. The provisions of such a resource plan that are designed to effect a gear reduction or effort reduction based upon historical landing criteria are subject to the provisions of RCW 77.70.390 with respect to the consideration of extenuating circumstances. [2001 c 228 § 1; 1998 c 245 § 154; 1994 c 260 § 20. Formerly RCW 75.30.480.]

[Title 77 RCW—page 115]

**Finding—Severability—1994 c 260:** See notes following RCW 77.70.280.

**77.70.410 Shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery—Limited entry fishery—License analogous to personal property—Transferability—Alternate operator designation.** (1) The shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery is a limited entry fishery and a person shall not fish for shrimp taken from Puget Sound for commercial purposes with shrimp pot gear except under the provisions of a shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license issued under RCW 77.65.220.

(2) A shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license shall only be issued to a natural person who held a shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery license during the previous year, except upon the death of the licensee the license shall be treated as analogous to personal property for purposes of inheritance and intestacy.

(3) No more than two shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery licenses may be owned by a licensee. The licensee must transfer the second license into the licensee's name, and designate on the second license the same vessel as is designated on the first license at the time of the transfer. Licensees who hold two shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery licenses may not transfer one of the two licenses for a twelve-month period beginning on the date the second license is transferred to the licensee, but the licensee may transfer both licenses to another natural person. The nontransferability provisions of this subsection start anew for the receiver of the two licenses. Licensees who hold two shrimp pot-Puget sound fishery licenses may fish one and one-half times the maximum number of pots allowed for Puget Sound shrimp, and may retain and land one and one-half times the maximum catch limits established for Puget Sound shrimp taken with shellfish pot gear.

(4) Through December 31, 2001, shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery licenses are transferable only to a current shrimp pot-Puget Sound fishery licensee, or upon death of the licensee. Beginning January 1, 2002, shrimp pot-Puget Sound commercial fishery licenses are transferable, except holders of two shrimp pot-Puget Sound licenses are subject to nontransferability provisions as provided for in this section.

(5) Through December 31, 2001, a shrimp pot-Puget Sound licensee may designate any natural person as the alternate operator for the license. Beginning January 1, 2002, a shrimp pot-Puget Sound licensee may designate only an immediate family member, as defined in RCW 77.12.047, as the alternate operator. A licensee with a bona fide medical emergency may designate a person other than an immediate family member as the alternate operator for a period not to exceed two years, provided the licensee documents the medical emergency with letters from two medical doctors describing the illness or condition that prevents the licensee from participating in the fishery. The two-year period may be extended by the director upon recommendation of a department-appointed Puget Sound shrimp advisory board. If the licensee has no immediate family member who is capable of operating the license, the licensee may make a request to the Puget Sound shrimp advisory board to designate an alternate operator who is not an immediate family member, and upon recommendation of the Puget Sound shrimp advisory board, the director may allow designation of an alternate operator

who is not an immediate family member. [2001 c 105 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 84; 1999 c 239 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.30.490.]

**Finding—Purpose—Intent—1999 c 239:** See note following RCW 77.65.220.

**77.70.420 Shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery—Limited entry fishery—License analogous to personal property—Transferability—Alternate operator.** (1) The shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery is a limited entry fishery and a person shall not fish for shrimp taken from Puget Sound for commercial purposes with shrimp trawl gear except under the provisions of a shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery license issued under RCW 77.65.220.

(2) A shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery license shall only be issued to a natural person who held a shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery license during the previous licensing year, except upon the death of the licensee the license shall be treated as analogous to personal property for purposes of inheritance and intestacy.

(3) No more than one shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery license may be owned by a licensee.

(4) Through December 31, 2001, shrimp trawl-Puget Sound fishery licenses are nontransferable, except upon death of the licensee. Beginning January 1, 2002, shrimp trawl-Puget Sound licenses are transferable.

(5) Through December 31, 2001, a shrimp trawl-Puget Sound licensee may designate any natural person as the alternate operator for the license. Beginning January 1, 2002, a shrimp trawl-Puget Sound licensee may designate only an immediate family member, as defined in RCW 77.12.047, as the alternate operator. A licensee with a bona fide medical emergency may designate a person other than an immediate family member as the alternate operator for a period not to exceed two years, provided the licensee documents the medical emergency with letters from two medical doctors describing the illness or condition that prevents the immediate family member from participating in the fishery. The two-year period may be extended by the director upon recommendation of a department-appointed Puget Sound shrimp advisory board. If the licensee has no immediate family member who is capable of operating the license, the licensee may make a request to the Puget Sound shrimp advisory board to designate an alternate operator who is not an immediate family member, and upon recommendation of the Puget Sound shrimp advisory board, the director may allow designation of an alternate operator who is not an immediate family member. [2001 c 105 § 2; 2000 c 107 § 85; 1999 c 239 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.30.500.]

**Finding—Purpose—Intent—1999 c 239:** See note following RCW 77.65.220.

**77.70.430 Puget Sound crab pot buoy tag program—Fee—Coastal crab pot buoy tag program—Fee—Review.** (1) In order to administer a Puget Sound crab pot buoy tag program, the department may charge a fee to holders of a Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery license to reimburse the department for the production of Puget Sound crab pot buoy tags and the administration of a Puget Sound crab pot buoy tag program.

(2) In order to administer a Washington coastal Dungeness crab pot buoy tag program, the department may charge a

fee to holders of a Dungeness crab—coastal or a Dungeness crab coastal class B fishery license and to holders of out-of-state licenses who are issued a pot certificate by the department to reimburse the department for the production of Washington coastal crab pot buoy tags and the administration of a Washington coastal crab pot buoy tag program.

(3) The department shall annually review the costs of crab pot buoy tag production under this section with the goal of minimizing the per tag production costs. Any savings in production costs shall be passed on to the fishers required to purchase crab pot buoy tags under this section in the form of a lower tag fee. [2006 c 143 § 1; 2005 c 395 § 1; 2001 c 234 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.440 Puget Sound crab pot buoy tag account.**

The Puget Sound crab pot buoy tag account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All revenues from fees from RCW 77.70.430(1) must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from this account may be used for the production of crab pot buoy tags and the administration of a Puget Sound crab pot buoy tag program. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW but no appropriation is required for expenditures. [2005 c 395 § 2; 2001 c 234 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.70.442 Washington coastal crab pot buoy tag account.** The Washington coastal crab pot buoy tag account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All revenues from fees from RCW 77.70.430(2) must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from this account may be used for the production of crab pot buoy tags and the administration of a Washington coastal crab pot buoy tag program. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW but no appropriation is required for expenditures. [2005 c 395 § 3.]

**77.70.450 Commercial fisheries buyback account.**

The commercial fisheries buyback account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from money collected by the commission under RCW 77.70.460, moneys appropriated for the purposes of this section, and other gifts, grants, or donations specifically made to the fund must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purpose of repaying moneys advanced by the federal government under a groundfish fleet reduction program established by the federal government, or for other fleet reduction efforts, commercial fishing license buyback programs, or similar programs designed to reduce the harvest capacity in a commercial fishery. Only the director of the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2003 c 174 § 1.]

**77.70.460 Collection of fee—Fee schedule—Deposit of moneys. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) The commis-

sion shall collect a fee upon all deliveries of fish or shellfish from persons holding: (a) A federal pacific groundfish limited entry permit with a trawl endorsement; (b) an ocean pink shrimp delivery license issued under RCW 77.65.390; (c) a Dungeness crab—coastal fishery license issued under RCW 77.70.280; (d) a food fish delivery license issued under RCW 77.65.200; or (e) a shrimp trawl license under RCW 77.65.220, to repay the federal government for moneys advanced by the federal government under a groundfish fleet reduction program established by the federal government.

(2) The commission shall adopt a fee schedule by rule for the collection of the fee required by subsection (1) of this section. The fee schedule adopted shall limit the total amount of moneys collected through the fee to the minimum amount necessary to repay the moneys advanced by the federal government, but be sufficient to repay the debt obligation of each fishery. The fee charged to the holders of a Dungeness crab—coastal fishery license may not exceed two percent of the total ex-vessel value of annual landings, and the fee charged to all other eligible license holders may not exceed five percent of the total ex-vessel value of annual landings. The commission may adjust the fee schedule as necessary to ensure that the funds collected are adequate to repay the debt obligation of each fishery.

(3) The commission shall deposit moneys collected under this section in the commercial fisheries buyback account created in RCW 77.70.450. [2003 c 174 § 2.]

**Contingent expiration date—2003 c 174 §§ 2 and 3:** "Sections 2 and 3 of this act expire January 1, 2033, or when the groundfish fleet reduction program referenced in section 2 of this act is completed, whichever is sooner." [2003 c 174 § 4.]

**77.70.470 Ban on assessing fee under RCW 77.70.460. (Contingent expiration date.)** The commission may not assess the fee specified under RCW 77.70.460 until after the federal government creates a groundfish fleet reduction program. [2003 c 174 § 3.]

**Contingent expiration date—2003 c 174 §§ 2 and 3:** See note following RCW 77.70.460.

**77.70.480 Pacific sardines—Purse seine fishery license or temporary annual fishery permit required.** (1) A Washington sardine purse seine fishery license or temporary annual fishery permit is required to use purse seine gear to fish for or possess Pacific sardines in offshore waters. This requirement does not affect persons authorized to fish for or possess sardines in offshore waters under a valid Oregon or California license or permit.

(2) A Washington sardine purse seine fishery license or temporary annual fishery permit is required to deliver Pacific sardines into the state.

(3) Washington sardine purse seine fishery licenses and temporary annual fishery permits require vessel designation under RCW 77.65.100.

(4) Pacific sardines may not be taken or retained in state waters except for incidental harvest authorized by rule of the department. [2009 c 331 § 2.]

**77.70.490 Pacific sardines—Purse seine fishery license—Fees—Adoption of rules regarding bycatch.** (1) A Washington Pacific sardine purse seine fishery license:

(a) May only be issued to a person that held a coastal pilchard experimental fishery permit in 2008, except as otherwise provided in this section;

(b) Must be renewed annually to remain active; and

(c) Subject to the restrictions of subsections (6) and (7) of this section and RCW 77.65.040, is transferable.

(2) A Washington Pacific sardine purse seine fishery license may be issued to any person that held a coastal pilchard experimental fishery permit in 2005, 2006, or 2007 and is precluded from qualifying under subsection (1) of this section because the vessel designated on the permit sank prior to 2008.

(3) Beginning in 2010, after taking into consideration the status of the Pacific sardine population, the impact of removal of sardines and other forage fish to the marine ecosystem, including the effect on endangered marine species, and the market for Pacific sardines in the state, the director may issue:

(a) A Washington Pacific sardine purse seine fishery license to any person provided that the issuance would not raise the number of licenses beyond the number initially issued in 2009;

(b) A Washington Pacific sardine purse seine temporary annual fishery permit to any person if the combined number of active Washington Pacific sardine purse seine fishery licenses and annual temporary permits already issued during the year is less than twenty-five.

(4) The annual fee for a Washington Pacific sardine purse seine fishery license is one hundred eighty-five dollars for residents and two hundred ninety-five dollars for nonresidents. The application fee is one hundred five dollars.

(5) The fee for a Washington Pacific sardine purse seine temporary annual fishery permit is one hundred eighty-five dollars for residents and two hundred ninety-five dollars for nonresidents. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. A temporary annual fishery permit expires at the end of the calendar year in which the permit is issued.

(6) Only a person who owns or operates the vessel designated on the license or permit may hold a Washington Pacific sardine purse seine fishery license or temporary annual fishery permit.

(7) A person may not own or hold an ownership interest in more than two Washington Pacific sardine purse seine fishery licenses.

(8) The director shall adopt rules that require a person fishing under a Washington Pacific sardine purse seine fishery license or a temporary annual permit to minimize bycatch, and to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, to minimize the mortality of such bycatch. [2011 c 339 § 36; 2009 c 331 § 3.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

**77.70.500 Crab pot removal permit—Shellfish pot removal permit—Rules—Penalty.** (1)(a) As part of a coastal commercial Dungeness crab pot removal program, the department shall issue a crab pot removal permit that allows the participants in the Dungeness crab-coastal fishery created in RCW 77.70.280 to remove crab pots belonging to state commercial licensed crab fisheries from coastal marine waters after the close of the primary commercial Dungeness

crab-coastal harvest season, regardless of whether the crab pot was originally set by the participant or not.

(b) Beginning fifteen days after the close of the primary commercial Dungeness crab-coastal harvest season, any individual with a current commercial Dungeness crab-coastal license and a valid crab pot removal permit issued by the department may remove a crab pot or crab pots used to harvest Dungeness crabs remaining in coastal marine waters after the close of the primary commercial Dungeness crab-coastal harvest season.

(c) In cooperation with individuals with a current commercial Dungeness crab-coastal license, the department may expand the coastal commercial Dungeness crab pot removal program to those areas closed to commercial Dungeness crab harvest prior to the end of the primary season.

(d) Nothing in this section prohibits the department from exempting certain crab pots from the coastal commercial Dungeness crab pot removal program or from restricting crab pot removal activities to specific geographic areas.

(2)(a) The department may expand the crab pot removal program to allow for the removal of shellfish pots belonging to state commercial or recreational licensed shellfish fisheries from Puget Sound waters during shellfish harvest closures, regardless of whether the shellfish pot was originally set by the permittee or not.

(b) If the department expands the program to Puget Sound waters, the department shall limit the program as necessary to streamline implementation, minimize the oversight burden on fish and wildlife enforcement officers, minimize interference with lawful fisheries and other user groups, minimize administrative overhead cost, and avoid the collection of shellfish pots that are not abandoned. The program may be limited as deemed appropriate by the department, including limitations on:

(i) The number of participants;

(ii) The eligible geographic areas in Puget Sound where shellfish pots may be recovered;

(iii) The types of shellfish pots that may be recovered;

(iv) The maximum or minimum depth where a shellfish pot must be located to be eligible for recovery; and

(v) The ports through which the vessels collecting the abandoned shellfish pots may operate.

(3) The department may adopt rules to implement subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(4)(a) The following are exempt from complying with the lost and found property provisions in chapter 63.21 RCW:

(i) An individual participating in permitted crab pot removal activities in coastal marine waters who has a valid crab pot removal permit, and who adheres to the provisions of the permit as they relate to crab pot removal; and

(ii) An individual participating in permitted shellfish pot removal activities in Puget Sound waters who has a valid shellfish pot removal permit and who adheres to the provisions of the permit as they relate to shellfish pot removal.

(b) The individual who removes a shellfish pot under a valid crab pot removal permit or a valid shellfish pot removal permit takes the property free and clear of all claims of the owner or previous holder and free and clear of all individuals claiming ownership under the previous owner.

(5) A violation of this section, or any rules or permit conditions provided under this section, is punishable as provided in RCW 77.15.750.

(6) Individuals who remove shellfish pots under a valid crab pot removal permit or a valid shellfish pot removal permit in accordance with this section are not subject to permitting under RCW 77.55.021. [2010 c 193 § 3; 2009 c 355 § 1.]

**77.70.510 Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license.** (1) A Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license:

(a) May only be issued to a natural person who held a coastal spot shrimp experimental emerging commercial fishery license and coastal spot shrimp fishery permit in 2010 or had the license transferred to him or her, under RCW 77.65.020 and 77.65.040, by a person who held a coastal spot shrimp experimental emerging commercial fishery license and coastal spot shrimp fishery permit in 2010;

(b) Must be renewed annually by December 31st of the calendar year to remain active; and

(c) Subject to the restrictions of subsection (7) of this section and to RCW 77.65.020 and 77.65.040, is transferable to a natural person beginning January 1, 2012.

(2) When a person fails to obtain a Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license during the previous year because of a license suspension, the person may qualify for a license by establishing that the person held such a license during the last year in which the license was not suspended.

(3) The annual fee for a Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license is as specified in RCW 77.65.220.

(4) Beginning in 2013, after taking into consideration the status of the coastal spot shrimp population, the market for spot shrimp, and the number of active fishers, both nontreaty and treaty, the director may issue a Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license to a natural person if the issuance would not raise the number of active spot shrimp pot fishery licenses to more than eight.

(5) Beginning 2012, a Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license holder is prohibited from designating, on the Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license:

(a) A vessel whose surveyed length overall is more than ten feet longer than the surveyed length overall of the vessel designated on the licensee's coastal spot shrimp experimental emerging commercial fishery license as of March 31, 2003; and

(b) A vessel whose surveyed length overall exceeds ninety feet.

(6) In the event the Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license is transferred by sale, lease, inheritance, or lottery, and pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, the vessel length restriction associated with that license must remain attached to the license.

(7) A natural person may not own or hold an ownership interest in more than one Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license at a time.

(8) Only a person who owns or is designated as an operator of the vessel designated on the license may hold a Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license.

(9) Nothing in this section:

(a) Requires the commission to open a commercial coastal spot shrimp fishery in any given year;

(2012 Ed.)

(b) Prohibits the commission from closing or limiting an opened commercial coastal spot shrimp fishery for any reason; or

(c) Confers any right of compensation to the holder of a Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license if the license is revoked, limited, or modified by the legislature.

(10) Issuance of a Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license does not create, and may not be construed to create, any right, title, or interest in the coastal spot shrimp resource.

(11) The legislature recognizes that Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery licenses may be revoked by future legislatures if the fishery is found to have jeopardized the sustainability of the coastal spot shrimp resource or the marine ecosystem. [2011 c 147 § 2.]

**Chapter 77.75 RCW**

**COMPACTS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS**

Sections

COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACT

- 77.75.010 Columbia River Compact—Provisions.
- 77.75.020 Columbia River Compact—Commission to represent state.

PACIFIC MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT

- 77.75.030 Pacific Marine Fisheries Compact—Provisions.
- 77.75.040 Pacific Marine Fisheries Compact—Representatives of state on Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission.

COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS COMPACT

- 77.75.050 Coastal ecosystems compact authorized.
- 77.75.060 Coastal ecosystems cooperative agreements authorized.

WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

- 77.75.070 Wildlife violator compact—Established.
- 77.75.080 Licensing authority defined.
- 77.75.090 Administration facilitation.

SNAKE RIVER BOUNDARY

- 77.75.100 Snake river boundary—Cooperation with Idaho for adoption and enforcement of rules regarding wildlife.
- 77.75.110 Snake river boundary—Concurrent jurisdiction of Idaho and Washington courts and law enforcement officers.
- 77.75.120 Snake river boundary—Honoring licenses to take wildlife of either state.
- 77.75.130 Snake river boundary—Purpose—Restrictions.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 77.75.140 Treaty between United States and Canada concerning Pacific salmon.
- 77.75.150 Wildlife restoration—Federal act.
- 77.75.160 Fish restoration and management projects—Federal act.

COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACT

**77.75.010 Columbia River Compact—Provisions.** There exists between the states of Washington and Oregon a definite compact and agreement as follows:

All laws and regulations now existing or which may be necessary for regulating, protecting or preserving fish in the waters of the Columbia river, or its tributaries, over which the states of Washington and Oregon have concurrent jurisdiction, or which would be affected by said concurrent jurisdiction, shall be made, changed, altered and amended in whole or in part, only with the mutual consent and approbation of both states. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 149; 1955 c 12 § 75.40.010.

Prior: 1949 c 112 § 80; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-701. Formerly RCW 75.40.010.]

**77.75.020 Columbia River Compact—Commission to represent state.** The commission may give to the state of Oregon such consent and approbation of the state of Washington as is necessary under the compact set out in RCW 77.75.010. For the purposes of RCW 77.75.010, the states of Washington and Oregon have concurrent jurisdiction in the concurrent waters of the Columbia river. [2000 c 107 § 86; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 19 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 150; 1955 c 12 § 75.40.020. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 81; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-702. Formerly RCW 75.40.020.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### PACIFIC MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT

**77.75.030 Pacific Marine Fisheries Compact—Provisions.** There exists between the states of Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington a definite compact and agreement as follows:

#### THE PACIFIC MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT

The contracting states do hereby agree as follows:

##### ARTICLE I.

The purposes of this compact are and shall be to promote the better utilization of fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, which are of mutual concern, and to develop a joint program of protection and prevention of physical waste of such fisheries in all of those areas of the Pacific Ocean and adjacent waters over which the compacting states jointly or separately now have or may hereafter acquire jurisdiction.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed so as to authorize the compacting states or any of them to limit the production of fish or fish products for the purpose of establishing or fixing the prices thereof or creating and perpetuating a monopoly.

##### ARTICLE II.

This agreement shall become operative immediately as to those states executing it whenever the compacting states have executed it in the form that is in accordance with the laws of the executing states and the congress has given its consent.

##### ARTICLE III.

Each state joining herein shall appoint, as determined by state statutes, one or more representatives to a commission hereby constituted and designated as The Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, of whom one shall be the administrative or other officer of the agency of such state charged with the conservation of the fisheries resources to which this compact pertains. This commission shall be a body with the powers and duties set forth herein.

The term of each commissioner of The Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission shall be four years. A commissioner shall hold office until his successor shall be appointed and qualified but such successor's term shall expire four years

from legal date of expiration of the term of his predecessor. Vacancies occurring in the office of such commissioner from any reason or cause shall be filled for the unexpired term, or a commissioner may be removed from office, as provided by the statutes of the state concerned. Each commissioner may delegate in writing from time to time to a deputy the power to be present and participate, including voting as his representative or substitute, at any meeting of or hearing by or other proceeding of the commission.

Voting powers under this compact shall be limited to one vote for each state regardless of the number of representatives.

#### ARTICLE IV.

The duty of the said commission shall be to make inquiry and ascertain from time to time such methods, practices, circumstances and conditions as may be disclosed for bringing about the conservation and the prevention of the depletion and physical waste of the fisheries, marine, shell, and anadromous in all of those areas of the Pacific Ocean over which the states signatory to this compact jointly or separately now have or may hereafter acquire jurisdiction. The commission shall have power to recommend the coordination of the exercise of the police powers of the several states within their respective jurisdictions and said conservation zones to promote the preservation of those fisheries and their protection against overfishing, waste, depletion or any abuse whatsoever and to assure a continuing yield from the fisheries resources of the signatory parties hereto.

To that end the commission shall draft and, after consultation with the advisory committee hereinafter authorized, recommend to the governors and legislative branches of the various signatory states hereto legislation dealing with the conservation of the marine, shell and anadromous fisheries in all of those areas of the Pacific Ocean and adjacent waters over which the signatory states jointly or separately now have or may hereafter acquire jurisdiction. The commission shall, more than one month prior to any regular meeting of the legislative branch in any state signatory hereto, present to the governor of such state its recommendations relating to enactments by the legislative branch of that state in furthering the intents and purposes of this compact.

The commission shall consult with and advise the pertinent administrative agencies in the signatory states with regard to problems connected with the fisheries and recommend the adoption of such regulations as it deems advisable and which lie within the jurisdiction of such agencies.

The commission shall have power to recommend to the states signatory hereto the stocking of the waters of such states with marine, shell, or anadromous fish and fish eggs or joint stocking by some or all of such states and when two or more of the said states shall jointly stock waters the commission shall act as the coordinating agency for such stocking.

#### ARTICLE V.

The commission shall elect from its number a chairman and a vice chairman and shall appoint and at its pleasure, remove or discharge such officers and employees as may be required to carry the provisions of this compact into effect and shall fix and determine their duties, qualifications and compensation. Said commission shall adopt rules and regula-

tions for the conduct of its business. It may establish and maintain one or more offices for the transaction of its business and may meet at any time or place within the territorial limits of the signatory states but must meet at least once a year.

ARTICLE VI.

No action shall be taken by the commission except by the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole number of compacting states represented at any meeting. No recommendation shall be made by the commission in regard to any species of fish except by the vote of a majority of the compacting states which have an interest in such species.

ARTICLE VII.

The fisheries research agencies of the signatory states shall act in collaboration as the official research agency of The Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission.

An advisory committee to be representative of the commercial fishermen, commercial fishing industry and such other interests of each state as the commission deems advisable shall be established by the commission as soon as practicable for the purpose of advising the commission upon such recommendations as it may desire to make.

ARTICLE VIII.

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit the powers of any state or to repeal or prevent the enactment of any legislation or the enforcement of any requirement by any state imposing additional conditions and restrictions to conserve its fisheries.

ARTICLE IX.

Continued absence of representation or of any representative on the commission from any state party hereto, shall be brought to the attention of the governor thereof.

ARTICLE X.

The states agree to make available annual funds for the support of the commission on the following basis:

Eighty percent of the annual budget shall be shared equally by those member states having as a boundary the Pacific Ocean; not less than five percent of the annual budget shall be contributed by any other member state; the balance of the annual budget shall be shared by those member states, having as a boundary the Pacific Ocean, in proportion to the primary market value of the products of their commercial fisheries on the basis of the latest five-year catch records.

The annual contribution of each member state shall be figured to the nearest one hundred dollars.

This amended article shall become effective upon its enactment by the states of Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington and upon ratification by congress by virtue of the authority vested in it under Article I, section 10 of the Constitution of the United States.

ARTICLE XI.

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each state until renounced by it. Renunciation of this compact must be preceded by sending six months' notice in

(2012 Ed.)

writing of intention to withdraw from the compact to the other parties hereto.

ARTICLE XII.

The states of Alaska or Hawaii, or any state having rivers or streams tributary to the Pacific Ocean may become a contracting state by enactment of The Pacific Marine Fisheries Compact. Upon admission of any new state to the compact, the purposes of the compact and the duties of the commission shall extend to the development of joint programs for the conservation, protection and prevention of physical waste of fisheries in which the contracting states are mutually concerned and to all waters of the newly admitted state necessary to develop such programs.

This article shall become effective upon its enactment by the states of Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington and upon ratification by congress by virtue of the authority vested in it under Article I, section 10, of the Constitution of the United States. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 151; 1969 ex.s. c 101 § 2; 1959 ex.s. c 7 § 1; 1955 c 12 § 75.40.030. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 82(1); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-703(1). Formerly RCW 75.40.030.]

**Reviser's note:** The 24th annual report (1971 p 40) of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Compact commission indicates congressional approval effective July 10, 1970, by P.L. 91-315, 91st congress; 84 Stat. 415.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.75.040 Pacific Marine Fisheries Compact—Representatives of state on Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission.** A member selected by or a designee of the fish and wildlife commission, ex officio, and two appointees of the governor representing the fishing industry shall act as the representatives of this state on the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission. The appointees of the governor are subject to confirmation by the state senate. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 20 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 152; 1963 c 171 § 2; 1955 c 12 § 75.40.040. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 82(2); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-703(2). Formerly RCW 75.40.040.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS COMPACT

**77.75.050 Coastal ecosystems compact authorized.** The state of Washington is authorized to enter into an interstate compact or compacts with all or any of the states of California, Idaho, and Oregon to protect and restore coastal ecosystems of these states to levels that will prevent the need for listing any native salmonid fish species under the federal endangered species act of 1973, as amended, or under any comparable state legislation. [1994 c 148 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.40.100.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.75.060 Coastal ecosystems cooperative agreements authorized.** Until such time as the agencies in California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington present a final proposed interstate compact for enactment by their respective legislative bodies, the governor may establish cooperative agreements with the states of California, Idaho, and Oregon that allow the states to coordinate their individual efforts in

developing state programs that further the region-wide goals set forth under RCW 77.75.050. [2000 c 107 § 87; 1994 c 148 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.40.110.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

### 77.75.070 Wildlife violator compact—Established.

The wildlife violator compact is hereby established in the form substantially as follows, and the Washington state department of fish and wildlife is authorized to enter into such compact on behalf of the state with all other jurisdictions legally joining therein:

#### ARTICLE I

#### FINDINGS, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND PURPOSE

(a) The party states find that:

(1) Wildlife resources are managed in trust by the respective states for the benefit of all residents and visitors.

(2) The protection of their respective wildlife resources can be materially affected by the degree of compliance with state statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule relating to the management of those resources.

(3) The preservation, protection, management, and restoration of wildlife contributes immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational, and economic aspects of these natural resources.

(4) Wildlife resources are valuable without regard to political boundaries, therefore, all persons should be required to comply with wildlife preservation, protection, management, and restoration laws, ordinances, and administrative rules and regulations of all party states as a condition precedent to the continuance or issuance of any license to hunt, fish, trap, or possess wildlife.

(5) Violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of wildlife resources and may endanger the safety of persons and property.

(6) The mobility of many wildlife law violators necessitates the maintenance of channels of communications among the various states.

(7) In most instances, a person who is cited for a wildlife violation in a state other than the person's home state:

(i) Must post collateral or bond to secure appearance for a trial at a later date; or

(ii) If unable to post collateral or bond, is taken into custody until the collateral or bond is posted; or

(iii) Is taken directly to court for an immediate appearance.

(8) The purpose of the enforcement practices described in paragraph (7) of this subdivision is to ensure compliance with the terms of a wildlife citation by the person who, if permitted to continue on the person's way after receiving the citation, could return to the person's home state and disregard the person's duty under the terms of the citation.

(9) In most instances, a person receiving a wildlife citation in the person's home state is permitted to accept the citation from the officer at the scene of the violation and to immediately continue on the person's way after agreeing or being instructed to comply with the terms of the citation.

(10) The practice described in paragraph (7) of this subdivision causes unnecessary inconvenience and, at times, a

hardship for the person who is unable at the time to post collateral, furnish a bond, stand trial, or pay the fine, and thus is compelled to remain in custody until some alternative arrangement can be made.

(11) The enforcement practices described in paragraph (7) of this subdivision consume an undue amount of law enforcement time.

(b) It is the policy of the party states to:

(1) Promote compliance with the statutes, laws, ordinances, regulations, and administrative rules relating to management of wildlife resources in their respective states.

(2) Recognize the suspension of wildlife license privileges of any person whose license privileges have been suspended by a party state and treat this suspension as if it had occurred in their state.

(3) Allow violators to accept a wildlife citation, except as provided in subdivision (b) of Article III, and proceed on the violator's way without delay whether or not the person is a resident in the state in which the citation was issued, provided that the violator's home state is party to this compact.

(4) Report to the appropriate party state, as provided in the compact manual, any conviction recorded against any person whose home state was not the issuing state.

(5) Allow the home state to recognize and treat convictions recorded for their residents which occurred in another party state as if they had occurred in the home state.

(6) Extend cooperation to its fullest extent among the party states for obtaining compliance with the terms of a wildlife citation issued in one party state to a resident of another party state.

(7) Maximize effective use of law enforcement personnel and information.

(8) Assist court systems in the efficient disposition of wildlife violations.

(c) The purpose of this compact is to:

(1) Provide a means through which the party states may participate in a reciprocal program to effectuate policies enumerated in subdivision (b) of this article in a uniform and orderly manner.

(2) Provide for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators operating within party states in recognition of the person's right of due process and the sovereign status of a party state.

#### ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS

Unless the context requires otherwise, the definitions in this article apply through this compact and are intended only for the implementation of this compact:

(a) "Citation" means any summons, complaint, ticket, penalty assessment, or other official document issued by a wildlife officer or other peace officer for a wildlife violation containing an order which requires the person to respond.

(b) "Collateral" means any cash or other security deposited to secure an appearance for trial, in connection with the issuance by a wildlife officer or other peace officer of a citation for a wildlife violation.

(c) "Compliance" with respect to a citation means the act of answering the citation through appearance at a court, a tribunal, or payment of fines, costs, and surcharges, if any, or both such appearance and payment.

(d) "Conviction" means a conviction, including any court conviction, of any offense related to the preservation, protection, management, or restoration of wildlife which is prohibited by state statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule, or a forfeiture of bail, bond, or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with having committed any such offense, or payment of a penalty assessment, or a plea of nolo contendere, or the imposition of a deferred or suspended sentence by the court.

(e) "Court" means a court of law, including Magistrate's Court and the Justice of the Peace Court.

(f) "Home state" means the state of primary residence of a person.

(g) "Issuing state" means the party state which issues a wildlife citation to the violator.

(h) "License" means any license, permit, or other public document which conveys to the person to whom it was issued the privilege of pursuing, possessing, or taking any wildlife regulated by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule of a party state.

(i) "Licensing authority" means the department or division within each party state which is authorized by law to issue or approve licenses or permits to hunt, fish, trap, or possess wildlife.

(j) "Party state" means any state which enacts legislation to become a member of this wildlife compact.

(k) "Personal recognizance" means an agreement by a person made at the time of issuance of the wildlife citation that the person will comply with the terms of that citation.

(l) "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Provinces of Canada, or other countries.

(m) "Suspension" means any revocation, denial, or withdrawal of any or all license privileges, including the privilege to apply for, purchase, or exercise the benefits conferred by any license.

(n) "Terms of the citation" means those conditions and options expressly stated upon the citation.

(o) "Wildlife" means all species of animals, including but not necessarily limited to mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans, which are defined as "wildlife" and are protected or otherwise regulated by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule in a party state. "Wildlife" also means food fish and shellfish as defined by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule in a party state. Species included in the definition of "wildlife" vary from state to state and determination of whether a species is "wildlife" for the purposes of this compact shall be based on local law.

(p) "Wildlife law" means any statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule developed and enacted to manage wildlife resources and the use thereof.

(q) "Wildlife officer" means any individual authorized by a party state to issue a citation for a wildlife violation.

(r) "Wildlife violation" means any cited violation of a statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule developed and enacted to manage wildlife resources and the use thereof.

(2012 Ed.)

ARTICLE III  
PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING STATE

(a) When issuing a citation for a wildlife violation, a wildlife officer shall issue a citation to any person whose primary residence is in a party state in the same manner as if the person were a resident of the home state and shall not require the person to post collateral to secure appearance, subject to the exceptions contained in subdivision (b) of this article, if the officer receives the person's personal recognizance that the person will comply with the terms of the citation.

(b) Personal recognizance is acceptable:

(1) If not prohibited by local law or the compact manual; and

(2) If the violator provides adequate proof of the violator's identification to the wildlife officer.

(c) Upon conviction or failure of a person to comply with the terms of a wildlife citation, the appropriate official shall report the conviction or failure to comply to the licensing authority of the party state in which the wildlife citation was issued. The report shall be made in accordance with procedures specified by the issuing state and shall contain the information specified in the compact manual as minimum requirements for effective processing by the home state.

(d) Upon receipt of the report of conviction or noncompliance required by subdivision (c) of this article, the licensing authority of the issuing state shall transmit to the licensing authority in the home state of the violator the information in a form and content as contained in the compact manual.

ARTICLE IV  
PROCEDURES FOR HOME STATE

(a) Upon receipt of a report of failure to comply with the terms of a citation from the licensing authority of the issuing state, the licensing authority of the home state shall notify the violator, shall initiate a suspension action in accordance with the home state's suspension procedures and shall suspend the violator's license privileges until satisfactory evidence of compliance with the terms of the wildlife citation has been furnished by the issuing state to the home state licensing authority. Due process safeguards will be accorded.

(b) Upon receipt of a report of conviction from the licensing authority of the issuing state, the licensing authority of the home state shall enter such conviction in its records and shall treat such conviction as if it occurred in the home state for the purposes of the suspension of license privileges.

(c) The licensing authority of the home state shall maintain a record of actions taken and make reports to issuing states as provided in the compact manual.

ARTICLE V  
RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF SUSPENSION

All party states shall recognize the suspension of license privileges of any person by any state as if the violation on which the suspension is based had in fact occurred in their state and could have been the basis for suspension of license privileges in their state.

ARTICLE VI  
APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS

Except as expressly required by provisions of this compact, nothing herein shall be construed to affect the right of any party state to apply any of its laws relating to license privileges to any person or circumstance, or to invalidate or prevent any agreement or other cooperative arrangements between a party state and a nonparty state concerning wildlife law enforcement.

ARTICLE VII  
COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR PROCEDURES

(a) For the purpose of administering the provisions of this compact and to serve as a governing body for the resolution of all matters relating to the operation of this compact, a board of compact administrators is established. The board shall be composed of one representative from each of the party states to be known as the compact administrator. The compact administrator shall be appointed by the head of the licensing authority of each party state and will serve and be subject to removal in accordance with the laws of the state the administrator represents. A compact administrator may provide for the discharge of the administrator's duties and the performance of the administrator's functions as a board member by an alternate. An alternate may not be entitled to serve unless written notification of the alternate's identity has been given to the board.

(b) Each member of the board of compact administrators shall be entitled to one vote. No action of the board shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority of the total number of votes on the board are cast in favor thereof. Action by the board shall be only at a meeting at which a majority of the party states are represented.

(c) The board shall elect annually, from its membership, a chairperson and vice chairperson.

(d) The board shall adopt bylaws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this compact or the laws of a party state, for the conduct of its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind its bylaws.

(e) The board may accept for any of its purposes and functions under this compact all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States, or any governmental agency, and may receive, utilize, and dispose of the same.

(f) The board may contract with or accept services or personnel from any governmental or intergovernmental agency, individual, firm, corporation, or any private non-profit organization or institution.

(g) The board shall formulate all necessary procedures and develop uniform forms and documents for administering the provisions of this compact. All procedures and forms adopted pursuant to board action shall be contained in the compact manual.

ARTICLE VIII  
ENTRY INTO COMPACT AND WITHDRAWAL

(a) This compact shall become effective when it has been adopted by at least two states.

(b)(1) Entry into the compact shall be made by resolution of ratification executed by the authorized officials of the applying state and submitted to the chairperson of the board.

(2) The resolution shall be in a form and content as provided in the compact manual and shall include statements that in substance are as follows:

(i) A citation of the authority by which the state is empowered to become a party to this compact;

(ii) Agreement to comply with the terms and provisions of the compact; and

(iii) That compact entry is with all states then party to the compact and with any state that legally becomes a party to the compact.

(3) The effective date of entry shall be specified by the applying state, but shall not be less than sixty days after notice has been given by the chairperson of the board of compact administrators or by the secretariat of the board to each party state that the resolution from the applying state has been received.

(c) A party state may withdraw from this compact by official written notice to the other party states, but a withdrawal shall not take effect until ninety days after notice of withdrawal is given. The notice shall be directed to the compact administrator of each member state. No withdrawal shall affect the validity of this compact as to the remaining party states.

ARTICLE IX  
AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPACT

(a) This compact may be amended from time to time. Amendments shall be presented in resolution form to the chairperson of the board of compact administrators and may be initiated by one or more party states.

(b) Adoption of an amendment shall require endorsement by all party states and shall become effective thirty days after the date of the last endorsement.

(c) Failure of a party state to respond to the compact chairperson within one hundred twenty days after receipt of the proposed amendment shall constitute endorsement.

ARTICLE X  
CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes stated herein. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, individual, or circumstance is held invalid, the compact shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any party state thereto, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

ARTICLE XI  
TITLE

This compact shall be known as the wildlife violator compact. [1994 c 264 § 55; 1993 c 82 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.17.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.75.080 Licensing authority defined.** For purposes of Article VII of RCW 77.75.070, the term "licensing authority," with reference to this state, means the department. The director is authorized to appoint a compact administrator. [2000 c 107 § 261; 1994 c 264 § 56; 1993 c 82 § 2. Formerly RCW 77.17.020.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.75.090 Administration facilitation.** The director shall furnish to the appropriate authorities of the participating states any information or documents reasonably necessary to facilitate the administration of the compact. [1994 c 264 § 57; 1993 c 82 § 3. Formerly RCW 77.17.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

SNAKE RIVER BOUNDARY

**77.75.100 Snake river boundary—Cooperation with Idaho for adoption and enforcement of rules regarding wildlife.** The commission may cooperate with the Idaho fish and game commission in the adoption and enforcement of rules regarding wildlife on that portion of the Snake river forming the boundary between Washington and Idaho. [1980 c 78 § 62; 1967 c 62 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.12.450.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.75.110 Snake river boundary—Concurrent jurisdiction of Idaho and Washington courts and law enforcement officers.** To enforce RCW 77.75.120 and 77.75.130, courts in the counties contiguous to the boundary waters, fish and wildlife officers, and ex officio fish and wildlife officers have jurisdiction over the boundary waters to the furthestmost shoreline. This jurisdiction is concurrent with the courts and law enforcement officers of Idaho. [2000 c 107 § 222; 1980 c 78 § 63; 1967 c 62 § 3. Formerly RCW 77.12.470.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.75.120 Snake river boundary—Honoring licenses to take wildlife of either state.** The taking of wildlife from the boundary waters or islands of the Snake river shall be in accordance with the wildlife laws of the respective states. Fish and wildlife officers and ex officio fish and wildlife officers shall honor the license of either state and the right of the holder to take wildlife from the boundary waters and islands in accordance with the laws of the state issuing the license. [2000 c 107 § 223; 1980 c 78 § 64; 1967 c 62 § 4. Formerly RCW 77.12.480.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.75.130 Snake river boundary—Purpose—Restrictions.** The purpose of RCW 77.75.100 through 77.75.130 is to avoid the conflict, confusion, and difficulty of locating the state boundary in or on the boundary waters and islands of the Snake river. These sections do not allow the holder of a Washington license to fish or hunt on the shoreline, sloughs, or tributaries on the Idaho side, nor allow the holder of an Idaho license to fish or hunt on the shoreline,

(2012 Ed.)

sloughs, or tributaries on the Washington side. [2000 c 107 § 224; 1980 c 78 § 65; 1967 c 62 § 5. Formerly RCW 77.12.490.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

MISCELLANEOUS

**77.75.140 Treaty between United States and Canada concerning Pacific salmon.** The commission may adopt and enforce the provisions of the treaty between the government of the United States and the government of Canada concerning Pacific salmon, treaty document number 99-2, entered into force March 18, 1985, at Quebec City, Canada, and the regulations of the commission adopted under authority of the treaty. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 21 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1989 c 130 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 153; 1955 c 12 § 75.40.060. Prior: 1949 c 112 § 83; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5780-704. Formerly RCW 75.40.060.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.75.150 Wildlife restoration—Federal act.** The state assents to the act of congress entitled: "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the states in wildlife restoration projects, and for other purposes," (50 Stat. 917; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669). The department shall establish and conduct cooperative wildlife restoration projects, as defined in the act, and shall comply with the act and related rules adopted by the secretary of agriculture. [1980 c 78 § 60; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.430. Prior: 1939 c 140 § 1; RRS § 5855-12. Formerly RCW 77.12.430.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

**77.75.160 Fish restoration and management projects—Federal act.** The state assents to the act of congress entitled: "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the states in fish restoration and management projects, and for other purposes," (64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 777). The department shall establish, conduct, and maintain fish restoration and management projects, as defined in the act, and shall comply with the act and related rules adopted by the secretary of the interior. [1993 sp.s. c 2 § 69; 1987 c 506 § 47; 1982 c 26 § 2; 1980 c 78 § 61; 1955 c 36 § 77.12.440. Prior: 1951 c 124 § 1. Formerly RCW 77.12.440.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

**Intent—1982 c 26:** "The legislature recognizes that funds from the federal Dingell-Johnson Act (64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 777) are derived from a tax imposed on the sale of recreational fishing tackle, and that these funds are granted to the state for fish restoration and management projects. The intent of this 1982 amendment to RCW 77.12.440 is to provide for the allocation of the Dingell-Johnson aid for fish restoration and management projects of the department of game and the department of fisheries. Such funds shall be subject to appropriation by the legislature." [1982 c 26 § 1.]

**Effective date—Intent, construction—Savings—Severability—1980 c 78:** See notes following RCW 77.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**Chapter 77.80 RCW**  
**PROGRAM TO PURCHASE**  
**FISHING VESSELS AND LICENSES**

## Sections

77.80.020	Program authorized—Conditions.
77.80.030	Determination of purchase price—Maximum price.
77.80.040	Disposition of vessels and gear—Prohibition against using purchased vessels for fishing purposes.
77.80.050	Rules—Administration of chapter.
77.80.060	Vessel, gear, license, and permit reduction fund.

**77.80.020 Program authorized—Conditions.** (1)(a) The department may purchase commercial fishing vessels and appurtenant gear, and the current state commercial fishing licenses, delivery permits, and charter boat licenses if the license or permit holder was substantially restricted in fishing as a result of compliance with *United States of America et al. v. State of Washington et al.*, Civil No. 9213, United States District Court for Western District of Washington, February 12, 1974, and *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Oregon, 1969), as amended, affirmed, and remanded 529 F. 2d 570 (9th Cir., 1976).

(b) The department may also make such purchases if the license or permit holder was substantially restricted in fishing as a result of compliance with *United States of America et al. v. State of Washington et al.*, 873 F. Supp. 1422 (W.D. Wash. 1994) as affirmed in part, reversed in part, and remanded 157 F.3d 630 (9th Cir., 1998), if the federal government provides funding to the state for the purpose of initiating these purchases.

(2) The department shall not purchase a vessel under this section without also purchasing all current Washington commercial fishing licenses and delivery permits and charter boat licenses issued to the vessel or its owner. The department may purchase current licenses and delivery permits without purchasing the vessel. [2008 c 252 § 2; 1984 c 67 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 156; 1979 ex.s. c 43 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 230 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 183 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.44.110, 75.28.510.]

**Legislative finding and intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 183:** "The legislature finds that the protection, welfare, and economic well-being of the commercial fishing industry is important to the people of this state. There presently exists an overabundance of commercial fishing gear in our state waters which causes great pressure on the fishing resources. This results in great economic waste to the state and prohibits conservation and harvesting programs from achieving their goals. This adverse situation has been compounded by the federal court decisions, *United States of America et al. v. State of Washington et al.*, Civil No. 9213, United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, February 12, 1974, and *Sohappy v. Smith*, 302 F. Supp. 899 (D. Oregon, 1969), as amended, affirmed, and remanded 529 F. 2d 570 (9th Cir., 1976). As a result, large numbers of commercial fishermen face personal economic hardship, and the state commercial fishing industry is confronted with economic difficulty. The public welfare requires that the state have the authority to purchase commercial fishing vessels, licenses, gear, and permits offered for sale, as appropriate, in a manner which will provide relief to the individual vessel owner, and which will effect a reduction in the amount of commercial fishing gear in use in the state so as to insure increased economic opportunity for those persons in the industry and to insure that sound scientific conservation and harvesting programs can be carried out. It is the intention of the legislature to provide relief to commercial fishermen adversely affected by the current economic situation in the state fishery and to preserve this valuable state industry and these natural resources." [1977 ex.s. c 230 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 183 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.28.500.]

**77.80.030 Determination of purchase price—Maximum price.** The purchase price of a vessel and appurtenant

gear shall be based on a survey conducted by a qualified marine surveyor. A license or delivery permit shall be valued separately.

The director may specify a maximum price to be paid for a vessel, gear, license, or delivery permit purchased under RCW 77.80.020. A license or delivery permit purchased under RCW 77.80.020 shall be permanently retired by the department. [2000 c 107 § 89; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 157; 1975 1st ex.s. c 183 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.44.120, 75.28.515.]

**Legislative finding and intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 183:** See note following RCW 77.80.020.

**77.80.040 Disposition of vessels and gear—Prohibition against using purchased vessels for fishing purposes.** The department may arrange for the insurance, storage, and resale or other disposition of vessels and gear purchased under RCW 77.80.020. Vessels shall not be resold by the department to the seller or the seller's immediate family. The vessels shall not be used by any owner or operator: (1) As a commercial fishing or charter vessel in state waters; or (2) to deliver fish to a place or port in the state. The department shall require that the purchasers and other users of vessels sold by the department execute suitable instruments to insure compliance with the requirements of this section. The director may commence suit or be sued on such an instrument in a state court of record or United States district court having jurisdiction. [2000 c 107 § 90; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 158; 1979 ex.s. c 43 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 183 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.44.130, 75.28.520.]

**Legislative finding and intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 183:** See note following RCW 77.80.020.

**77.80.050 Rules—Administration of chapter.** The director shall adopt rules for the administration of this chapter. To assist the department in the administration of this chapter, the director may contract with persons not employed by the state and may enlist the aid of other state agencies. [2008 c 252 § 3; 1995 c 269 § 3201; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 159; 1979 ex.s. c 43 § 4; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 172; 1975 1st ex.s. c 183 § 8. Formerly RCW 75.44.140, 75.28.530.]

**Legislative finding and intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 183:** See note following RCW 77.80.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.80.060 Vessel, gear, license, and permit reduction fund.** (1) The director is responsible for the administration and disbursement of all funds, goods, commodities, and services received by the state under this chapter.

(2) There is created within the state treasury a fund to be known as the "vessel, gear, license, and permit reduction fund". This fund shall be used for purchases under RCW 77.80.020 and for the administration of this chapter. This fund shall be credited with federal or other funds received to carry out the purposes of this chapter and the proceeds from the sale or other disposition of property purchased under RCW 77.80.020. [2008 c 252 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 91; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 160; 1977 ex.s. c 230 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 183 § 9. Formerly RCW 75.44.150, 75.28.535.]

**Legislative finding and intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 183:** See note following RCW 77.80.020.

**Chapter 77.85 RCW**  
**SALMON RECOVERY**

## Sections

77.85.005	Findings—Intent.
77.85.010	Definitions.
77.85.020	Consolidated report on salmon recovery and watershed health.
77.85.030	Governor's salmon recovery office—Purpose and duties.
77.85.040	Independent science panel on salmon recovery—Purpose.
77.85.050	Habitat project lists.
77.85.060	Critical pathways methodology—Habitat work schedule.
77.85.080	Sea grant program—Technical assistance authorized.
77.85.090	Southwest Washington salmon recovery region—Created— Recognition as a regional recovery organization—Puget Sound salmon recovery organizations.
77.85.110	Salmon recovery funding board—Creation—Membership.
77.85.120	Board responsibilities—Grants and loans administration assistance.
77.85.130	Allocation of funds—Procedures and criteria.
77.85.135	Habitat project funding—Statement of environmental benefits— Development of outcome-focused performance measures.
77.85.140	Habitat project lists—Tracking of funds.
77.85.150	Statewide salmon recovery strategy—Prospective application.
77.85.160	Salmon monitoring data, information.
77.85.170	Salmon recovery account.
77.85.180	Findings.
77.85.190	Federal assurances in forests and fish report—Events constituting failure of assurances—Governor's authority to negotiate.
77.85.200	Salmon and steelhead recovery program—Management board— Duties.
77.85.220	Salmon intertidal habitat restoration planning process—Task force— Reports.
77.85.230	Intertidal salmon enhancement plan—Elements—Initial and final plan.
77.85.240	Puget Sound partners.
77.85.900	Captions not law.

**77.85.005 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that repeated attempts to improve salmonid fish runs throughout the state of Washington have failed to avert listings of salmon and steelhead runs as threatened or endangered under the federal endangered species act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.). These listings threaten the sport, commercial, and tribal fishing industries as well as the economic well-being and vitality of vast areas of the state. It is the intent of the legislature to begin activities required for the recovery of salmon stocks as soon as possible, although the legislature understands that successful recovery efforts may not be realized for many years because of the life cycle of salmon and the complex array of natural and human-caused problems they face.

The legislature finds that it is in the interest of the citizens of the state of Washington for the state to retain primary responsibility for managing the natural resources of the state, rather than abdicate those responsibilities to the federal government, and that the state may best accomplish this objective by integrating local and regional recovery activities into a statewide strategy that can make the most effective use of provisions of federal laws allowing for a state lead in salmon recovery, delivered through implementation activities consistent with regional and watershed recovery plans. The legislature also finds that a statewide salmon recovery strategy must be developed and implemented through an active public involvement process in order to ensure public participation in, and support for, salmon recovery. The legislature also finds that there is a substantial link between the provisions of the federal endangered species act and the federal clean water act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq.). The legislature further finds that habitat restoration is a vital component of salmon

recovery efforts. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to specifically address salmon habitat restoration in a coordinated manner and to develop a structure that allows for the coordinated delivery of federal, state, and local assistance to communities for habitat projects that will assist in the recovery and enhancement of salmon stocks. A strong watershed-based locally implemented plan is essential for local, regional, and statewide salmon recovery.

The legislature also finds that credible scientific review and oversight is essential for any salmon recovery effort to be successful.

The legislature further finds that it is important to monitor the overall health of the salmon resource to determine if recovery efforts are providing expected returns. It is important to monitor salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities to determine their effectiveness in order to secure federal acceptance of the state's approach to salmon recovery. Adaptive management cannot exist without monitoring. For these reasons, the legislature believes that a coordinated and integrated monitoring system should be developed and implemented.

The legislature therefore finds that a coordinated framework for responding to the salmon crisis is needed immediately. To that end, the governor's salmon recovery office should be created to provide overall coordination of the state's response; an independent science panel is needed to provide scientific review and oversight; a coordinated state funding process should be established through a salmon recovery funding board; the appropriate local or tribal government should provide local leadership in identifying and sequencing habitat projects to be funded by state agencies; habitat projects should be implemented without delay; and a strong locally based effort to restore salmon habitat should be established by providing a framework to allow citizen volunteers to work effectively. [2009 c 345 § 9; 2005 c 309 § 1; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 1; 1998 c 246 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.46.005.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 345:** See notes following RCW 77.85.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Adaptive management" means reliance on scientific methods to test the results of actions taken so that the management and related policy can be changed promptly and appropriately.

(2) "Critical pathways methodology" means a project scheduling and management process for examining interactions between habitat projects and salmonid species, prioritizing habitat projects, and assuring positive benefits from habitat projects.

(3) "Habitat project list" is the list of projects resulting from the critical pathways methodology under RCW 77.85.060(2). Each project on the list must have a written agreement from the landowner on whose land the project will be implemented. Projects include habitat restoration projects, habitat protection projects, habitat projects that improve water quality, habitat projects that protect water quality, habitat-related mitigation projects, and habitat project maintenance and monitoring activities.

(4) "Habitat work schedule" means those projects from the habitat project list that will be implemented during the current funding cycle. The schedule shall also include a list of the entities and individuals implementing projects, the start date, duration, estimated date of completion, estimated cost, and funding sources for the projects.

(5) "Limiting factors" means conditions that limit the ability of habitat to fully sustain populations of salmon. These factors are primarily fish passage barriers and degraded estuarine areas, riparian corridors, stream channels, and wetlands.

(6) "Project sponsor" is a county, city, special district, tribal government, state agency, a combination of such governments through interlocal or interagency agreements, a nonprofit organization, regional fisheries enhancement group, or one or more private citizens. A project sponsored by a state agency may be funded by the board only if it is included on the habitat project list submitted by the lead entity for that area and the state agency has a local partner that would otherwise qualify as a project sponsor.

(7) "Regional recovery organization" or "regional salmon recovery organization" means an entity formed under RCW 77.85.090 for the purpose of recovering salmon, which is recognized in statute or by the governor's salmon recovery office created in RCW 77.85.030.

(8) "Salmon" includes all species of the family Salmonidae which are capable of self-sustaining, natural production.

(9) "Salmon recovery plan" means a state or regional plan developed in response to a proposed or actual listing under the federal endangered species act that addresses limiting factors including, but not limited to harvest, hatchery, hydropower, habitat, and other factors of decline.

(10) "Salmon recovery region" means geographic areas of the state identified or formed under RCW 77.85.090 that encompass groups of watersheds in the state with common stocks of salmon identified for recovery activities, and that generally are consistent with the geographic areas within the state identified by the national oceanic and atmospheric administration or the United States fish and wildlife service for activities under the federal endangered species act.

(11) "Salmon recovery strategy" means the strategy adopted under RCW 77.85.150 and includes the compilation of all subbasin and regional salmon recovery plans developed in response to a proposed or actual listing under the federal endangered species act with state hatchery, harvest, and hydropower plans compiled in accordance with RCW 77.85.150.

(12) "Tribe" or "tribes" means federally recognized Indian tribes.

(13) "WRIA" means a water resource inventory area established in chapter 173-500 WAC as it existed on January 1, 1997.

(14) "Owner" means the person holding title to the land or the person under contract with the owner to lease or manage the legal owner's property. [2007 c 444 § 1; 2005 c 309 § 2; 2002 c 210 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 92; 1998 c 246 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.46.010.]

**77.85.020 Consolidated report on salmon recovery and watershed health.** (1) Beginning December 2010, the

recreation and conservation office shall produce a biennial report on the statewide status of salmon recovery and watershed health, summarize projects and programs funded by the salmon recovery funding board, and summarize progress as measured by high-level indicators and state agency compliance with applicable protocols established by the forum for monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health. The report must be a consolidation of the current reporting activities, including the salmon recovery funding board and the forum on monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health, on the status of salmon recovery and watershed health in Washington state, in accordance with \*RCW 77.85.250(8). The report shall also include a high-level status report on watershed planning efforts under chapter 90.82 RCW as summarized by the department of ecology and on salmon recovery and watershed planning as summarized by the Puget Sound partnership. The report's introduction must include a list of high-level questions related to the status of watershed health and salmon recovery to help decision makers and the public respond to salmon recovery and watershed health management needs.

(2) The department, the department of ecology, the department of natural resources, and the state conservation commission shall provide to the recreation and conservation office information requested by the office necessary to prepare the consolidated report on salmon recovery and watershed health. [2009 c 345 § 4; 2007 c 444 § 2; 2005 c 309 § 3; 1998 c 246 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.46.030.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.85.250 expired June 30, 2011.

Finding—Intent—2009 c 345: See notes following RCW 77.85.030.

**77.85.030 Governor's salmon recovery office—Purpose and duties.** (1) The governor's salmon recovery office shall coordinate state strategy to allow for salmon recovery to healthy sustainable population levels with productive commercial and recreational fisheries. A primary purpose of the office is to coordinate and assist in the development, implementation, and revision of regional salmon recovery plans as an integral part of a statewide strategy developed consistent with the guiding principles and procedures under RCW 77.85.150.

(2) The governor's salmon recovery office is also responsible for maintaining the statewide salmon recovery strategy to reflect applicable provisions of regional recovery plans, habitat protection and restoration plans, water quality plans, and other private, local, regional, state agency and federal plans, projects, and activities that contribute to salmon recovery.

(3) The governor's salmon recovery office shall also work with regional salmon recovery organizations on salmon recovery issues in order to ensure a coordinated and consistent statewide approach to salmon recovery and shall work with federal agencies to accomplish implementation of federal commitments in the recovery plans.

(4) The governor's salmon recovery office may also:

(a) Assist state agencies, local governments, landowners, and other interested parties in obtaining federal assurances that plans, programs, or activities are consistent with fish recovery under the federal endangered species act;

(b) Act as liaison to local governments, the state congressional delegation, the United States congress, federally rec-

ognized tribes, and the federal executive branch agencies for issues related to the state's salmon recovery plans;

(c) Provide periodic reports pursuant to RCW 77.85.020;

(d) Provide, as appropriate, technical and administrative support to science panels on issues pertaining to salmon recovery;

(e) In cooperation with the regional recovery organizations, prepare a timeline and implementation plan that, together with a schedule and recommended budget, identifies specific actions in regional recovery plans for state agency actions and assistance necessary to implement local and regional recovery plans; and

(f) As necessary, provide recommendations to the legislature that would further the success of salmon recovery, including recommendations for state agency actions in the succeeding biennium and state financial and technical assistance for projects and activities to be undertaken in local and regional salmon recovery plans. The recommendations may include:

(i) The need to expand or improve nonregulatory programs and activities; and

(ii) The need for state funding assistance to recovery activities and projects.

(5) For administrative purposes, the governor's salmon recovery office is located within the recreation and conservation office. [2009 c 345 § 2; 2007 c 444 § 3; 2005 c 309 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 93; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 8; 1998 c 246 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.46.040.]

**Finding—2009 c 345:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Washington has made significant investments in watershed-based activities, including the establishment of water resource inventory area (WRIA) planning units and lead agencies, lead entities, and regional salmon recovery organizations across the state. Washington watersheds have developed subbasin plans under the Northwest power and conservation council and national oceanic and atmospheric administration-approved regional salmon recovery plans that include locally prioritized salmon recovery projects;

(2) The governor's salmon recovery office was established to support the development and implementation of regional salmon recovery plans, to assist local governments in obtaining federal assurances, and to issue a biennial state of the salmon report;

(3) The salmon recovery funding board provides grants for salmon recovery and the forum on monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health works to provide greater coordination on monitoring. Administrative support for the board and the forum are provided by the recreation and conservation office;

(4) Lead entity funding to support infrastructure and capacity needs is provided through the recreation and conservation office, which contracts with the department of fish and wildlife to implement the program. Funding for WRIA planning units and lead agencies to develop and implement watershed-based plans under RCW 90.82.040 is provided by the department of ecology; and

(5) Currently, state watershed and salmon recovery-based programs are split among several state agencies or offices. Efficient implementation of these efforts will be enhanced by promoting consolidation and integration of their activities and programs. In addition, consolidation of reporting benefits the public and decision makers regarding watershed health, which includes salmon recovery. It is also the intent of the legislature, in cooperation with local and regional officials, and respecting the ability of local citizens and officials to organize in ways best suited to address local needs, to encourage the development of incentives that consolidate existing processes and promote more effective implementation of salmon recovery plans and watershed planning and implementation." [2009 c 345 § 1.]

**Intent—2009 c 345:** "Nothing in this act is intended to amend chapter 90.71 RCW." [2009 c 345 § 14.]

**Effective date—2007 c 444 § 3:** "Section 3 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support

(2012 Ed.)

of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect June 30, 2007." [2007 c 444 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.040 Independent science panel on salmon recovery—Purpose.** (1) The governor may request the Washington academy of sciences, when organized pursuant to chapter 305, Laws of 2005, to impanel an independent science panel on salmon recovery to respond to requests for review pursuant to subsection (2) of this section. The panel shall reflect expertise in habitat requirements of salmon, protection and restoration of salmon populations, artificial propagation of salmon, hydrology, or geomorphology.

Based upon available funding, the governor's salmon recovery office may contract for services of the independent science panel for compensation under \*chapter 39.29 RCW.

(2) The independent science panel shall be governed by guidelines and practices governing the activities of the Washington academy of sciences. The purpose of the independent science panel is to help ensure that sound science is used in salmon recovery efforts. The governor's salmon recovery office may, during the time it is constituted, request that the panel review, investigate, and provide its findings on scientific questions relating to the state's salmon recovery efforts. The science panel does not have the authority to review individual projects or habitat project lists developed under RCW 77.85.050 or 77.85.060 or to make policy decisions. The panel shall submit its findings and recommendations under this subsection to the legislature and the governor. [2007 c 444 § 4; 2005 c 309 § 5; 2000 c 107 § 94; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 10; 1998 c 246 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.46.050.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 39.29 RCW was repealed by 2012 c 224 § 29, effective January 1, 2013. See chapter 39.26 RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.050 Habitat project lists.** (1)(a) Counties, cities, and tribal governments must jointly designate, by resolution or by letters of support, the area for which a habitat project list is to be developed and the lead entity that is to be responsible for submitting the habitat project list. No project included on a habitat project list shall be considered mandatory in nature and no private landowner may be forced or coerced into participation in any respect. The lead entity may be a county, city, conservation district, special district, tribal government, regional recovery organization, or other entity.

(b) The lead entity shall establish a committee that consists of representative interests of counties, cities, conservation districts, tribes, environmental groups, business interests, landowners, citizens, volunteer groups, regional fish enhancement groups, and other habitat interests. The purpose of the committee is to provide a citizen-based evaluation of the projects proposed to promote salmon habitat.

(c) The committee shall compile a list of habitat projects, establish priorities for individual projects, define the sequence for project implementation, and submit these activities as the habitat project list. The committee shall also identify potential federal, state, local, and private funding sources.

(2) The area covered by the habitat project list must be based, at a minimum, on a WRIA, combination of WRIs, or any other area as agreed to by the counties, cities, and tribes

in resolutions or in letters of support meeting the requirements of this subsection. Preference will be given to projects in an area that contain a salmon species that is listed or proposed for listing under the federal endangered species act.

(3) The lead entity shall submit the habitat project list to the salmon recovery funding board in accordance with procedures adopted by the board.

(4) The recreation and conservation office shall administer funding to support the functions of lead entities. [2009 c 345 § 3; 2009 c 333 § 25; 2005 c 309 § 6; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 11; 1998 c 246 § 7. Formerly RCW 75.46.060.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 333 § 25 and by 2009 c 345 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 345:** See notes following RCW 77.85.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.060 Critical pathways methodology—Habitat work schedule.** (1) Critical pathways methodology shall be used to develop a habitat project list and a habitat work schedule that ensures salmon habitat projects will be prioritized and implemented in a logical sequential manner that produces habitat capable of sustaining healthy populations of salmon.

(2) The critical pathways methodology shall:

(a) Include a limiting factors analysis for salmon in streams, rivers, tributaries, estuaries, and subbasins in the region. The technical advisory group shall have responsibility for the limiting factors analysis;

(b) Identify local habitat projects that sponsors are willing to undertake. The projects identified must have a written agreement from the landowner on which the project is to be implemented. Project sponsors shall have the lead responsibility for this task;

(c) Identify how projects will be monitored and evaluated. The project sponsor, in consultation with the technical advisory group and the appropriate landowner, shall have responsibility for this task;

(d) Include a review of monitoring data, evaluate project performance, and make recommendations to the committee established under RCW 77.85.050 and to the technical review team. The technical advisory group has responsibility for this task; and

(e) Describe the adaptive management strategy that will be used. The committee established under RCW 77.85.050 shall have responsibility for this task. If a committee has not been formed, the technical advisory group shall have the responsibility for this task.

(3) The habitat work schedule shall include all projects developed pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, and shall identify and coordinate with any other salmon habitat project implemented in the region, including habitat preservation projects funded through the Washington wildlife and recreation program, the conservation reserve enhancement program, and other conservancy programs. The habitat work schedule shall also include the start date, duration, estimated date of completion, estimated cost, and, if appropriate, the affected salmonid species of each project. Each schedule shall be updated on an annual basis to depict new activities.

[2000 c 107 § 95; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 12; 1998 c 246 § 8. Formerly RCW 75.46.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.080 Sea grant program—Technical assistance authorized.** The sea grant program at the University of Washington is authorized to provide technical assistance to volunteer groups and other project sponsors in designing and implementing habitat projects that address the limiting factors analysis required under RCW 77.85.060. The cost for such assistance may be covered on a fee-for-service basis. [2000 c 107 § 98; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 14; 1998 c 246 § 11. Formerly RCW 75.46.100.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.090 Southwest Washington salmon recovery region—Created—Recognition as a regional recovery organization—Puget Sound salmon recovery organizations.** (1) The southwest Washington salmon recovery region, whose boundaries are provided in chapter 60, Laws of 1998, is created.

(2) Lead entities within a salmon recovery region that agree to form a regional salmon recovery organization may be recognized by the governor's salmon recovery office created in RCW 77.85.030 as a regional recovery organization. The regional recovery organization may plan, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of a regional recovery plan in accordance with RCW 77.85.150. Regional recovery organizations existing as of July 24, 2005, that have developed draft recovery plans approved by the governor's salmon recovery office by July 1, 2005, may continue to plan, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of regional recovery plans.

(3) Beginning January 1, 2008, the leadership council, created under chapter 90.71 RCW, shall serve as the regional salmon recovery organization for Puget Sound salmon species, except for the program known as the Hood Canal summer chum evolutionarily significant unit area, which the Hood Canal coordinating council shall continue to administer under chapter 90.88 RCW. [2009 c 345 § 10. Prior: 2007 c 444 § 5; 2007 c 341 § 49; 2005 c 309 § 7; 2000 c 107 § 99; 1998 c 246 § 12. Formerly RCW 75.46.110.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 345:** See notes following RCW 77.85.030.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**77.85.110 Salmon recovery funding board—Creation—Membership.** (1) The salmon recovery funding board is created consisting of ten members.

(2) Five members of the board shall be voting members who are appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate. One of these voting members shall be a cabinet-level appointment as the governor's representative to the board. Board members who represent the general public shall not have a financial or regulatory interest in salmon recovery. The governor shall appoint one of the general public members of the board as the chair. The voting members of the board shall be appointed for terms of four years, except that two members initially shall be appointed for terms of two years and three members shall initially be appointed for terms of three years. In making the appointments, the governor shall seek a board membership that collectively provide the

expertise necessary to provide strong fiscal oversight of salmon recovery expenditures, and that provide extensive knowledge of local government processes and functions and an understanding of issues relevant to salmon recovery in Washington state. The governor shall appoint at least three of the voting members of the board no later than ninety days after July 1, 1999. Vacant positions on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. The governor may remove members of the board for good cause.

In addition to the five voting members of the board, the following five state officials shall serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the board: The director of the department of fish and wildlife, the executive director of the conservation commission, the secretary of transportation, the director of the department of ecology, and the commissioner of public lands. The state officials serving in an ex officio capacity may designate a representative of their respective agencies to serve on the board in their behalf. Such designations shall be made in writing and in such manner as is specified by the board.

(3) Staff support to the board shall be provided by the recreation and conservation office. For administrative purposes, the board shall be located with the recreation and conservation office.

(4) Members of the board who do not represent state agencies shall be compensated as provided by RCW 43.03.250. Members of the board shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided by RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [2007 c 241 § 20; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.46.150.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.120 Board responsibilities—Grants and loans administration assistance.** (1) The salmon recovery funding board is responsible for making grants and loans for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities from the amounts appropriated to the board for this purpose. To accomplish this purpose the board may:

(a) Provide assistance to grant applicants regarding the procedures and criteria for grant and loan awards;

(b) Make and execute all manner of contracts and agreements with public and private parties as the board deems necessary, consistent with the purposes of this chapter;

(c) Accept any gifts, grants, or loans of funds, property, or financial or other aid in any form from any other source on any terms that are not in conflict with this chapter;

(d) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and

(e) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly granted or implied under this chapter.

(2) The recreation and conservation office shall provide all necessary grants and loans administration assistance to the board, and shall distribute funds as provided by the board in RCW 77.85.130. [2007 c 241 § 21; 2000 c 107 § 101; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.46.160.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**77.85.130 Allocation of funds—Procedures and criteria.** (1) The salmon recovery funding board shall develop procedures and criteria for allocation of funds for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities on a statewide basis to address the highest priorities for salmon habitat protection and restoration. To the extent practicable the board shall adopt an annual allocation of funding. The allocation should address both protection and restoration of habitat, and should recognize the varying needs in each area of the state on an equitable basis. The board has the discretion to partially fund, or to fund in phases, salmon habitat projects. The board may annually establish a maximum amount of funding available for any individual project, subject to available funding. No projects required solely as a mitigation or a condition of permitting are eligible for funding.

(2)(a) In evaluating, ranking, and awarding funds for projects and activities the board shall give preference to projects that:

(i) Are based upon the limiting factors analysis identified under RCW 77.85.060;

(ii) Provide a greater benefit to salmon recovery based upon the stock status information contained in the department of fish and wildlife salmonid stock inventory (SASSI), the salmon and steelhead habitat inventory and assessment project (SSHIAP), and any comparable science-based assessment when available;

(iii) Will benefit listed species and other fish species;

(iv) Will preserve high quality salmonid habitat;

(v) Are included in a regional or watershed-based salmon recovery plan that accords the project, action, or area a high priority for funding;

(vi) Are, except as provided in RCW 77.85.240, sponsored by an entity that is a Puget Sound partner, as defined in RCW 90.71.010; and

(vii) Are projects referenced in the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310.

(b) In evaluating, ranking, and awarding funds for projects and activities the board shall also give consideration to projects that:

(i) Are the most cost-effective;

(ii) Have the greatest matched or in-kind funding;

(iii) Will be implemented by a sponsor with a successful record of project implementation;

(iv) Involve members of the Washington conservation corps established in chapter 43.220 RCW or the veterans conservation corps established in RCW 43.60A.150; and

(v) Are part of a regionwide list developed by lead entities.

(3) The board may reject, but not add, projects from a habitat project list submitted by a lead entity for funding.

(4) The board shall establish criteria for determining when block grants may be made to a lead entity. The board may provide block grants to the lead entity to implement habitat project lists developed under RCW 77.85.050, subject to available funding. The board shall determine an equitable minimum amount of project funds for each recovery region, and shall distribute the remainder of funds on a competitive basis. The board may also provide block grants to the lead entity or regional recovery organization to assist in carrying out functions described under this chapter. Block grants must be expended consistent with the priorities established for the

board in subsection (2) of this section. Lead entities or regional recovery organizations receiving block grants under this subsection shall provide an annual report to the board summarizing how funds were expended for activities consistent with this chapter, including the types of projects funded, project outcomes, monitoring results, and administrative costs.

(5) The board may waive or modify portions of the allocation procedures and standards adopted under this section in the award of grants or loans to conform to legislative appropriations directing an alternative award procedure or when the funds to be awarded are from federal or other sources requiring other allocation procedures or standards as a condition of the board's receipt of the funds. The board shall develop an integrated process to manage the allocation of funding from federal and state sources to minimize delays in the award of funding while recognizing the differences in state and legislative appropriation timing.

(6) The board may award a grant or loan for a salmon recovery project on private or public land when the landowner has a legal obligation under local, state, or federal law to perform the project, when expedited action provides a clear benefit to salmon recovery, and there will be harm to salmon recovery if the project is delayed. For purposes of this subsection, a legal obligation does not include a project required solely as a mitigation or a condition of permitting.

(7) Property acquired or improved by a project sponsor may be conveyed to a federal agency if: (a) The agency agrees to comply with all terms of the grant or loan to which the project sponsor was obligated; or (b) the board approves: (i) Changes in the terms of the grant or loan, and the revision or removal of binding deed of right instruments; and (ii) a memorandum of understanding or similar document ensuring that the facility or property will retain, to the extent feasible, adequate habitat protections; and (c) the appropriate legislative authority of the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area approves the transfer and provides notification to the board.

(8) Any project sponsor receiving funding from the salmon recovery funding board that is not subject to disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW must, as a mandatory contractual prerequisite to receiving the funding, agree to disclose any information in regards to the expenditure of that funding as if the project sponsor was subject to the requirements of chapter 42.56 RCW.

(9) After January 1, 2010, any project designed to address the restoration of Puget Sound may be funded under this chapter only if the project is not in conflict with the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310. [2011 c 20 § 16. Prior: 2007 c 341 § 36; 2007 c 257 § 1; prior: 2005 c 309 § 8; 2005 c 271 § 1; 2005 c 257 § 3; prior: 2000 c 107 § 102; 2000 c 15 § 1; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.46.170.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 20:** See note following RCW 43.220.020.

**Intent—Application—2011 c 20:** See RCW 43.220.905.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**Findings—Purpose—2005 c 257:** See note following RCW 43.60A.150.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.135 Habitat project funding—Statement of environmental benefits—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.** In providing funding for habitat projects, the salmon recovery funding board shall require recipients to incorporate the environmental benefits of the project into their grant applications, and the board shall utilize the statement of environmental benefits in its prioritization and selection process. The board shall also develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the grant program. To the extent possible, the board should coordinate its performance measure system with other natural resource-related agencies as defined in RCW 43.41.270. The board shall consult with affected interest groups in implementing this section. [2001 c 227 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—2001 c 227:** See note following RCW 43.41.270.

**77.85.140 Habitat project lists—Tracking of funds.**

(1) Habitat project lists shall be submitted to the salmon recovery funding board for funding at least once a year on a schedule established by the board. The board shall provide the legislature with a list of the proposed projects and a list of the projects funded by October 1st of each year for informational purposes. Project sponsors who complete salmon habitat projects approved for funding from habitat project lists and have met grant application deadlines will be paid by the salmon recovery funding board within thirty days of project completion.

(2) The recreation and conservation office shall track all funds allocated for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities on behalf of the board, including both funds allocated by the board and funds allocated by other state or federal agencies for salmon recovery or water quality improvement. [2009 c 518 § 9; 2009 c 345 § 8; 2007 c 241 § 22; 2001 c 303 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 103; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.46.180.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 345 § 8 and by 2009 c 518 § 9, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 345:** See notes following RCW 77.85.030.

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.150 Statewide salmon recovery strategy—Prospective application.** (1) The governor shall, with the assistance of the governor's salmon recovery office, maintain and revise, as appropriate, a statewide salmon recovery strategy.

(2) The governor and the governor's salmon recovery office shall be guided by the following considerations in maintaining and revising the strategy:

(a) The strategy should identify statewide initiatives and responsibilities with regional recovery plans and local watershed initiatives as the principal means for implementing the strategy;

(b) The strategy should emphasize collaborative, incentive-based approaches;

(c) The strategy should address all factors limiting the recovery of Washington's listed salmon stocks, including habitat and water quality degradation, harvest and hatchery management, inadequate streamflows, and other barriers to

fish passage. Where other limiting factors are beyond the state's jurisdictional authorities to respond to, such as some natural predators and high seas fishing, the strategy shall include the state's requests for federal action to effectively address these factors;

(d) The strategy should identify immediate actions necessary to prevent extinction of a listed salmon stock, establish performance measures to determine if restoration efforts are working, recommend effective monitoring and data management, and recommend to the legislature clear and certain measures to be implemented if performance goals are not met;

(e) The strategy shall rely on the best scientific information available and provide for incorporation of new information as it is obtained;

(f) The strategy should seek a fair allocation of the burdens and costs upon economic and social sectors of the state whose activities may contribute to limiting the recovery of salmon; and

(g) The strategy should seek clear measures and procedures from the appropriate federal agencies for removing Washington's salmon stocks from listing under the federal act.

(3) If the strategy is updated, an active and thorough public involvement process, including early and meaningful opportunity for public comment, must be utilized. In obtaining public comment, the governor's salmon recovery office shall work with regional salmon recovery organizations throughout the state and shall encourage regional and local recovery planning efforts to ensure an active public involvement process.

(4) This section shall apply prospectively only and not retroactively. Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate actions taken in recovery planning at the local, regional, or state level prior to July 1, 1999. [2009 c 345 § 11; 2007 c 444 § 6; 2005 c 309 § 9; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 9. Formerly RCW 75.46.190.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 345:** See notes following RCW 77.85.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **77.85.160 Salmon monitoring data, information.**

State salmon monitoring data provided by lead entities, regional fisheries enhancement groups, and others shall be included in the database of SASSI [salmon and steelhead stock inventory] and SSHIAP [salmon and steelhead habitat inventory assessment project]. Information pertaining to habitat preservation projects funded through the Washington wildlife and recreation program, the conservation reserve enhancement program, and other conservancy programs related to salmon habitat shall be included in the SSHIAP database. [1999 sp.s. c 13 § 13. Formerly RCW 75.46.200.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.170 Salmon recovery account.** The salmon recovery account is created in the state treasury. To the account shall be deposited such funds as the legislature directs or appropriates to the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used for salmon recovery. [1999 sp.s. c 13 § 16. Formerly RCW 75.46.210.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.180 Findings.** (1) The legislature finds that the forests and fish report as defined in RCW 76.09.020 was developed through extensive negotiations with the federal agencies responsible for administering the endangered species act and the clean water act. The legislature further finds that the forestry industry, small landowners, tribal governments, state and federal agencies, and counties have worked diligently for nearly two years to reach agreement on scientifically based changes to the forest practices rules, set forth in the forests and fish report as defined in RCW 76.09.020. The legislature further finds that if existing forest practices rules are amended as proposed in the forests and fish report as defined in RCW 76.09.020, the resulting changes in forest practices (a) will lead to: (i) Salmon habitat that meets riparian functions vital to the long-term recovery of salmon on more than sixty thousand miles of streams in this state; (ii) identification of forest roads contributing to habitat degradation and corrective action to remedy those problems to protect salmon habitat; (iii) increased protection of steep and unstable slopes; and (iv) the implementation of scientifically based adaptive management and monitoring processes for evaluating the impacts of forest practices on aquatic resources, as defined in RCW 76.09.020, and a process for amending the forest practices rules to incorporate new information as it becomes available; (b) will lead to the protection of aquatic resources to the maximum extent practicable consistent with maintaining commercial forest management as an economically viable use of lands suitable for that purpose; and (c) will provide a regulatory climate and structure more likely to keep landowners from converting forest lands to other uses that would be less desirable for salmon recovery.

(2) The legislature further finds that the changes in laws and rules contemplated by chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess., taken as a whole, constitute a comprehensive and coordinated program to provide substantial and sufficient contributions to salmon recovery and water quality enhancement in areas impacted by forest practices and are intended to fully satisfy the requirements of the endangered species act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.) with respect to incidental take of salmon and other aquatic resources and the clean water act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq.) with respect to nonpoint source pollution attributable to forest practices.

(3) The legislature finds that coordination is needed between the laws relating to forestry in chapter 76.09 RCW and the state salmon recovery strategy being developed under this chapter. The coordination should ensure that nonfederal forest lands are managed in ways that make appropriate contributions to the recovery of salmonid fish, water quality, and related environmental amenities while encouraging continued investments in those lands for commercial forestry purposes. Specifically, the legislature finds that forest practices rules relating to water quality, salmon, certain other species of fish, certain species of stream-associated amphibians, and their respective habitats should be coordinated with the rules and policies relating to other land uses through the statewide salmon recovery planning process. The legislature further finds that this subchapter is but one part of a comprehensive salmon strategy as required in this chapter, and this investment in salmon habitat will be of little value if a comprehensive state plan is not completed and fully implemented.

(4) The legislature recognizes that the adoption of forest practices rules consistent with the forests and fish report as defined in RCW 76.09.020 will impose substantial financial burdens on forest landowners which, if not partially offset through other changes in the laws and rules governing forestry, could lead to significantly reduced silvicultural investments on nonfederal lands, deterioration in the quality, condition, and amounts of forests on those lands, and long-term adverse effects on fish and wildlife habitat and other environmental amenities associated with well managed forests. Moreover, as the benefits of the proposed revisions to the forest practices rules will benefit the general public, chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. suggests that some of these costs be shared with the general public.

(5) As an integral part of implementing the salmon recovery strategy, chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. (a) provides direction to the forest practices board, the department of natural resources, and the department of ecology with respect to the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of rules relating to forest practices and the protection of aquatic resources; (b) provides additional enforcement tools to the department of natural resources to enforce the forest practices rules; (c) anticipates the need for adequate and consistent funding for the various programmatic elements necessary to fully implement the strategy over time and derive the long-term benefits; (d) provides for the acquisition by the state of forest lands within certain stream channel migration zones where timber harvest will not be allowed; (e) provides for small landowners to have costs shared for a portion of any extraordinary economic losses attributable to the revisions to the forest practices rules required by chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess.; and (f) amends other existing laws to aid in the implementation of the recommendations set forth in the forests and fish report as defined in RCW 76.09.020. [1999 sp.s. c 4 § 101. Formerly RCW 75.46.300.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.190 Federal assurances in forests and fish report—Events constituting failure of assurances—Governor's authority to negotiate.** (1) Chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. has been enacted on the assumption that the federal assurances described in the forests and fish report as defined in RCW 76.09.020 will be obtained and that forest practices conducted in accordance with chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. and the rules adopted under chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. will not be subject to additional regulations or restrictions for aquatic resources except as provided in the forests and fish report.

(2) The occurrence of any of the following events shall constitute a failure of assurances:

(a) Either (i) the national marine fisheries service or the United States fish and wildlife service fails to promulgate an effective rule under 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1533(d) covering each aquatic resource that is listed as threatened under the endangered species act within two years after the date on which the aquatic resource is so listed or, in the case of bull trout, within two years after August 18, 1999; or (ii) any such rule fails to permit any incidental take that would occur from the conduct of forest practices in compliance with the rules adopted under chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. or fails to confirm that such forest practices would not otherwise be in violation of the

endangered species act and the regulations promulgated under that act. However, this subsection (2)(a) is not applicable to any aquatic resource covered by an incidental take permit described in (c) of this subsection;

(b) Either the national marine fisheries service or the United States fish and wildlife service shall promulgate an effective rule under 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1533(d) covering any aquatic resource that would preclude the conduct of forest practices consistent with the prescriptions outlined in the forests and fish report. However, this subsection (2)(b) is not applicable to any aquatic resource covered by an incidental take permit described in (c) of this subsection;

(c) Either the secretary of the interior or the secretary of commerce fails to issue an acceptable incidental take permit under 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1539(a) covering all fish and wildlife species included within aquatic resources on or before June 30, 2005. An acceptable incidental take permit will (i) permit the incidental take, if any, of all fish and wildlife species included within aquatic resources resulting from the conduct of forest practices in compliance with the prescriptions outlined in the forests and fish report; (ii) provide protection to the state of Washington and its subdivisions and to landowners and operators; (iii) not require the commitment of additional resources beyond those required to be committed under the forests and fish report; and (iv) provide "no-surprises" protection as described in 50 C.F.R. Parts 17 and 222 (1998);

(d) Either the national marine fisheries service or the United States fish and wildlife service fails to promulgate an effective rule under 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1533(d) within five years after the date on which a fish species is listed as threatened or endangered under the endangered species act which prohibits actions listed under 16 U.S.C. 1538;

(e) The environmental protection agency or department of ecology fails to provide the clean water act assurances described in appendix M to the forests and fish report; or

(f) The assurances described in (a) through (e) of this subsection are reversed or otherwise rendered ineffective by subsequent federal legislation or rule making or by final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction.

Upon the occurrence of a failure of assurances, any agency, tribe, or other interested person including, without limitation, any forest landowner, may provide written notice of the occurrence of such failure of assurances to the legislature and to the office of the governor. Promptly upon receipt of such a notice, the governor shall review relevant information and if he or she determines that a failure of assurances has occurred, the governor shall make such a finding in a written report with recommendations and deliver such report to the legislature. Upon notice of the occurrence of a failure of assurances, the legislature shall review chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess., all rules adopted by the forest practices board, the department of ecology, or the department of fish and wildlife at any time after January 1, 1999, that were adopted primarily for the protection of one or more aquatic resources and affect forest practices and the terms of the forests and fish report, and shall take such action, including the termination of funding or the modification of other statutes, as it deems appropriate.

(3) The governor may negotiate with federal officials, directly or through designated representatives, on behalf of the state and its agencies and subdivisions, to obtain assur-

ances from federal agencies to the effect that compliance with the forest practices rules as amended under chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. and implementation of the recommendations in the forests and fish report will satisfy federal requirements under the endangered species act and the clean water act and related regulations, including the negotiation of a rule adopted under section 4(d) of the endangered species act, entering into implementation agreements and receiving incidental take permits under section 10 of the endangered species act or entering into other intergovernmental agreements.

(4)(a) It is expressly understood that the state will pursue a rule delineating federal assurances under 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1533(d) and may concurrently develop a Sec. 10(a) habitat conservation plan by June 2005. The department of natural resources must report regularly to the house of representatives and senate natural resources committees on the progress of the program, and on any technical or legal issues that may arise.

(b) The forest and fish agreement as embodied in chapter 4, Laws of 1999 sp. sess. and this chapter, the rules adopted by the forest practices board to implement this chapter, and all protections for small forest landowners, are reaffirmed as part of the extension of time granted in chapter 228, Laws of 2002 and will be collectively included in the federal assurances sought by the state of Washington. [2002 c 228 § 1; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 1301. Formerly RCW 75.46.350.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.200 Salmon and steelhead recovery program—Management board—Duties.** (1) A program for salmon and steelhead recovery is established in Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties within the habitat areas classified as the lower Columbia evolutionarily significant units by the federal national marine fisheries service. The management board created under subsection (2) of this section is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of the habitat portion of the salmon and steelhead recovery plan and is empowered to receive and disburse funds for the salmon and steelhead recovery initiatives. The management board created pursuant to this section shall constitute the lead entity and the committee established under RCW 77.85.050 responsible for fulfilling the requirements and exercising powers under this chapter.

(2) A management board consisting of fifteen voting members is created within the lower Columbia evolutionarily significant units. The members shall consist of one county commissioner or designee from each of the five participating counties selected by each county legislative authority; one member representing the cities contained within the lower Columbia evolutionarily significant units as a voting member selected by the cities in the lower Columbia evolutionarily significant units; a representative of the Cowlitz Tribe appointed by the tribe; one state legislator elected from one of the legislative districts contained within the lower Columbia evolutionarily significant units selected by that group of state legislators representing the area; five representatives to include at least one member who represents private property interests appointed by the five county commissioners or designees; one hydro utility representative nominated by hydro utilities and appointed by the five county commissioners or designees; and one representative nominated from the envi-

ronmental community who resides in the lower Columbia evolutionarily significant units appointed by the five county commissioners or designees. The board shall appoint and consult a technical advisory committee, which shall include four representatives of state agencies one each appointed by the directors of the departments of ecology, fish and wildlife, and transportation, and the commissioner of public lands. The board may also appoint additional persons to the technical advisory committee as needed. The chair of the board shall be selected from among the members of the management board by the five county commissioners or designees and the legislator on the board. In making appointments under this subsection, the county commissioners shall consider recommendations of interested parties. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were selected. No action may be brought or maintained against any management board member, the management board, or any of its agents, officers, or employees for any noncontractual acts or omissions in carrying out the purposes of this section.

(3)(a) The management board shall participate in the development of a habitat recovery plan to implement its responsibilities under (b) of this subsection. The management board shall consider local watershed efforts and activities as well as habitat conservation plans in the development and implementation of the recovery plan. Any of the participating counties may continue its own efforts for restoring steelhead habitat. Nothing in this section limits the authority of units of local government to enter into interlocal agreements under chapter 39.34 RCW or any other provision of law.

(b) The management board is responsible for the development of a lower Columbia salmon and steelhead habitat recovery plan and for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the plan. The management board will submit all future plans and amendments to plans to the governor's salmon recovery office for the incorporation of hatchery, harvest, and hydropower components of the statewide salmon recovery strategy for all submissions to the national marine fisheries service. In developing and implementing the habitat recovery plan, the management board will work with appropriate federal and state agencies, tribal governments, local governments, and the public to make sure hatchery, harvest, and hydropower components receive consideration in context with the habitat component. The management board may work in cooperation with the state and the national marine fisheries service to modify the plan, or to address habitat for other aquatic species that may be subsequently listed under the federal endangered species act. The management board may not exercise authority over land or water within the individual counties or otherwise preempt the authority of any units of local government.

(c) The management board shall prioritize as appropriate and approve projects and programs related to the recovery of lower Columbia river salmon and steelhead runs, including the funding of those projects and programs, and coordinate local government efforts as prescribed in the recovery plan. The management board shall establish criteria for funding projects and programs based upon their likely value in salmon and steelhead recovery. The management board may consider local economic impact among the criteria, but juris-

dictional boundaries and factors related to jurisdictional population may not be considered as part of the criteria.

(d) The management board shall assess the factors for decline along each tributary basin in the lower Columbia. The management board is encouraged to take a stream-by-stream approach in conducting the assessment which utilizes state and local expertise, including volunteer groups, interest groups, and affected units of local government.

(4) The management board has the authority to hire and fire staff, including an executive director, enter into contracts, accept grants and other moneys, disburse funds, make recommendations to cities and counties about potential code changes and the development of programs and incentives upon request, pay all necessary expenses, and may choose a fiduciary agent. The management board shall report on its progress on a biennial basis to the legislative bodies of the five participating counties and the state natural resource-related agencies. The management board shall prepare a final report at the conclusion of the program describing its efforts and successes in developing and implementing the lower Columbia salmon and steelhead recovery plan. The final report shall be transmitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature, the legislative bodies of the participating counties, and the state natural resource-related agencies.

(5) For purposes of this section, "evolutionarily significant unit" means the habitat area identified for an evolutionarily significant unit of an aquatic species listed or proposed for listing as a threatened or endangered species under the federal endangered species act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.). [2009 c 199 § 1; 2005 c 308 § 1; 2001 c 135 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 121; 1998 c 60 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.56.050.]

**Finding—Intent—1998 c 60:** "The legislature recognizes the need to address listings that are made under the federal endangered species act (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.) in a way that will make the most efficient use of existing efforts. The legislature finds that the principle of adaptive management requires that different models should be tried so that the lessons learned from these models can be put to use throughout the state. It is the intent of the legislature to create a program for southwestern Washington to address the recent steelhead listings and which takes full advantage of all state and local efforts at habitat restoration in that area to date." [2001 c 135 § 2; 1998 c 60 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.85.220 Salmon intertidal habitat restoration planning process—Task force—Reports.** (1) If a limiting factors analysis has been conducted under this chapter for a specific geographic area and that analysis shows insufficient intertidal salmon habitat, the department of fish and wildlife and the county legislative authorities of the affected counties may jointly initiate a salmon intertidal habitat restoration planning process to develop a plan that addresses the intertidal habitat goals contained in the limiting factors analysis. The fish and wildlife commission and the county legislative authorities of the geographic area shall jointly appoint a task force composed of the following members:

(a) One representative of the fish and wildlife commission, appointed by the chair of the commission;

(b) Two representatives of the agricultural industry familiar with agricultural issues in the geographic area, one appointed by an organization active in the geographic area and one appointed by a statewide organization representing the industry;

(c) Two representatives of environmental interest organizations with familiarity and expertise of salmon habitat, one appointed by an organization in the geographic area and one appointed by a statewide organization representing environmental interests;

(d) One representative of a diking and drainage district, appointed by the individual districts in the geographic area or by an association of diking and drainage districts;

(e) One representative of the lead entity for salmon recovery in the geographic area, appointed by the lead entity;

(f) One representative of each county in the geographic area, appointed by the respective county legislative authorities; and

(g) One representative from the office of the governor.

(2) Representatives of the United States environmental protection agency, the United States natural resources conservation service, federal fishery agencies, as appointed by their regional director, and tribes with interests in the geographic area shall be invited and encouraged to participate as members of the task force.

(3) The task force shall elect a chair and adopt rules for conducting the business of the task force. Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the Washington state conservation commission.

(4) The task force shall:

(a) Review and analyze the limiting factors analysis for the geographic area;

(b) Initiate and oversee intertidal salmon habitat studies for enhancement of the intertidal area as provided in RCW 77.85.230;

(c) Review and analyze the completed assessments listed in RCW 77.85.230;

(d) Develop and draft an overall plan that addresses identified intertidal salmon habitat goals that has public support; and

(e) Identify appropriate demonstration projects and early implementation projects that are of high priority and should commence immediately within the geographic area.

(5) The task force may request briefings as needed on legal issues that may need to be considered when developing or implementing various plan options.

(6) Members of the task force shall be reimbursed by the conservation commission for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(7) The task force shall provide annual reports that provide an update on its activities to the fish and wildlife commission, to the involved county legislative authorities, and to the lead entity formed under this chapter. [2003 c 391 § 4.]

**Initiation of process—2003 c 391 §§ 4 and 5:** "The process established in sections 4 and 5 of this act shall be initiated as soon as practicable in Skagit county." [2003 c 391 § 7.]

**Severability—Effective date—2003 c 391:** See notes following RCW 77.57.030.

**77.85.230 Intertidal salmon enhancement plan—Elements—Initial and final plan.** (1) In consultation with the appropriate task force formed under RCW 77.85.220, the conservation commission may contract with universities, private consultants, nonprofit groups, or other entities to assist it in developing a plan incorporating the following elements:

(a) An inventory of existing tide gates located on streams in the county. The inventory shall include location, age, type, and maintenance history of the tide gates and other factors as determined by the appropriate task force in consultation with the county and diking and drainage districts;

(b) An assessment of the role of tide gates located on streams in the county; the role of intertidal fish habitat for various life stages of salmon; the quantity and characterization of intertidal fish habitat currently accessible to fish; the quantity and characterization of the present intertidal fish habitat created at the time the dikes and outlets were constructed; the quantity of potential intertidal fish habitat on public lands and alternatives to enhance this habitat; the effects of saltwater intrusion on agricultural land, including the effects of backfeeding of saltwater through the underground drainage system; the role of tide gates in drainage systems, including relieving excess water from saturated soil and providing reservoir functions between tides; the effect of saturated soils on production of crops; the characteristics of properly functioning intertidal fish habitat; a map of agricultural lands designated by the county as having long-term commercial significance and the effect of that designation; and the economic impacts to existing land uses for various alternatives for tide gate alteration; and

(c) A long-term plan for intertidal salmon habitat enhancement to meet the goals of salmon recovery and protection of agricultural lands. The proposal shall consider all other means to achieve salmon recovery without converting farmland. The proposal shall include methods to increase fish passage and otherwise enhance intertidal habitat on public lands pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, voluntary methods to increase fish passage on private lands, a priority list of intertidal salmon enhancement projects, and recommendations for funding of high priority projects. The task force also may propose pilot projects that will be designed to test and measure the success of various proposed strategies.

(2) In conjunction with other public landowners and the appropriate task force formed under RCW 77.85.220, the department shall develop an initial salmon intertidal habitat enhancement plan for public lands in the county. The initial plan shall include a list of public properties in the intertidal zone that could be enhanced for salmon, a description of how those properties could be altered to support salmon, a description of costs and sources of funds to enhance the property, and a strategy and schedule for prioritizing the enhancement of public lands for intertidal salmon habitat. This initial plan shall be submitted to the appropriate task force at least six months before the deadline established in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The final intertidal salmon enhancement plan shall be completed within two years from the date the task force is formed under RCW 77.85.220 and funding has been secured. A final plan shall be submitted by the appropriate task force to the lead entity for the geographic area established under this chapter. [2009 c 333 § 24; 2003 c 391 § 5.]

**Initiation of process—2003 c 391 §§ 4 and 5:** See note following RCW 77.85.220.

**Severability—Effective date—2003 c 391:** See notes following RCW 77.57.030.

(2012 Ed.)

**77.85.240 Puget Sound partners.** When administering funds under this chapter, the board shall give preference only to Puget Sound partners, as defined in RCW 90.71.010, in comparison to other entities that are eligible to be included in the definition of Puget Sound partner. Entities that are not eligible to be a Puget Sound partner due to geographic location, composition, exclusion from the scope of the Puget Sound action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310, or for any other reason, shall not be given less preferential treatment than Puget Sound partners. [2007 c 341 § 37.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**77.85.900 Captions not law.** Captions used in this chapter are not any part of the law. [1998 c 246 § 18. Formerly RCW 75.46.900.]

### Chapter 77.90 RCW SALMON ENHANCEMENT FACILITIES— BOND ISSUE

#### Sections

77.90.010	General obligation bonds authorized—Purpose—Terms—Appropriation required.
77.90.020	Administration of proceeds.
77.90.030	"Facilities" defined.
77.90.040	Form, terms, conditions, etc., of bonds.
77.90.050	Anticipation notes—Authorized—Payment of principal and interest on bonds and notes.
77.90.060	Salmon enhancement construction bond retirement fund—Created—Purpose.
77.90.070	Availability of sufficient revenue required before bonds issued.
77.90.080	Bonds legal investment for public funds.

**77.90.010 General obligation bonds authorized—Purpose—Terms—Appropriation required.** For the purpose of providing funds for the planning, acquisition, construction, and improvement of salmon hatcheries, other salmon propagation facilities including natural production sites, and necessary supporting facilities within the state, the state finance committee may issue general obligation bonds of the state of Washington in the sum of twenty-nine million two hundred thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be required to finance the improvements defined in this chapter and all costs incidental thereto. These bonds shall be paid and discharged within thirty years. No bonds authorized by this chapter may be offered for sale without prior legislative appropriation of the proceeds of such bonds to be sold. [1990 1st ex.s. c 15 § 10. Prior: 1989 1st ex.s. c 14 § 15; 1989 c 136 § 8; 1985 ex.s. c 4 § 10; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 162; 1981 c 261 § 1; 1980 c 15 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 308 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.48.020.]

**Intent—1989 c 136:** See note following RCW 43.83A.020.

**Legislative finding—1977 ex.s. c 308:** "The long range economic development goals for the state of Washington must include the restoration of salmon runs to provide an increased supply of this renewable resource for the benefit of commercial and recreational users and the economic well-being of the state." [1977 ex.s. c 308 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.48.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.90.020 Administration of proceeds.** The proceeds from the sale of the bonds deposited in the salmon enhancement construction account of the general fund under the

terms of this chapter shall be administered by the department subject to legislative appropriation. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 164; 1977 ex.s. c 308 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.48.040.]

**77.90.030 "Facilities" defined.** As used in this chapter, "facilities" means salmon propagation facilities including, but not limited to, all equipment, utilities, structures, real property, and interests in and improvements on real property, as well as stream bed clearing, for or incidental to the acquisition, construction, or development of salmon propagation facilities. Specifically, the term includes a spawning channel on the Skagit river. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 165; 1981 c 261 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 308 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.48.050.]

**77.90.040 Form, terms, conditions, etc., of bonds.** The state finance committee may prescribe the form, terms, conditions, and covenants of the bonds, the time or times of sale of all or any portion of them, and the conditions and manner of their sale and issuance. [1989 c 136 § 9; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 166; 1977 ex.s. c 308 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.48.060.]

**Intent—1989 c 136:** See note following RCW 43.83A.020.

**77.90.050 Anticipation notes—Authorized—Payment of principal and interest on bonds and notes.** When the state finance committee has decided to issue the bonds or a portion thereof, it may, pending the issuing of the bonds, issue, in the name of the state, temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived from the sale of the bonds, which notes shall be designated as "anticipation notes". The portion of the proceeds of the sale of the bonds as may be required for the purpose shall be applied to the payment of the principal of and interest on the anticipation notes which have been issued. The bonds and notes shall pledge the full faith and credit of the state of Washington and shall contain an unconditional promise to pay the principal and interest when due. The state finance committee may authorize the use of a printed facsimile of the seal of the state of Washington in the issuance of the bonds and notes. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 167; 1977 ex.s. c 308 § 7. Formerly RCW 75.48.070.]

**77.90.060 Salmon enhancement construction bond retirement fund—Created—Purpose.** The salmon enhancement construction bond retirement fund is created in the state treasury. This fund shall be exclusively devoted to the payment of interest on and retirement of the bonds authorized by this chapter. The state finance committee shall, on or before June 30th of each year, certify to the state treasurer the amount required in the next succeeding twelve months for the payment of the principal of and the interest coming due on the bonds. Not less than thirty days prior to the date on which the interest or principal and interest payment is due, the state treasurer shall withdraw from any general state revenues received in the state treasury and deposit in the salmon enhancement construction bond retirement fund an amount equal to the amount certified by the state finance committee to be due on such payment date. The owner and holder of each of the bonds or the trustee for any of the bonds may by mandamus or other appropriate proceeding require the transfer and payment of funds as directed herein. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 168; 1977 ex.s. c 308 § 8. Formerly RCW 75.48.080.]

**77.90.070 Availability of sufficient revenue required before bonds issued.** The bonds authorized by this chapter shall be issued only after the director has certified, based upon reasonable estimates and data provided to the department, that sufficient revenues will be available from sport and commercial salmon license sales and from salmon fees and taxes to meet the requirements of RCW 77.90.060 during the life of the bonds. [2000 c 107 § 104; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 170; 1977 ex.s. c 308 § 10. Formerly RCW 75.48.100.]

**77.90.080 Bonds legal investment for public funds.** The bonds authorized in this chapter are a legal investment for all state funds or for funds under state control and for all funds of any other public body. [1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 171; 1977 ex.s. c 308 § 11. Formerly RCW 75.48.110.]

## Chapter 77.95 RCW SALMON ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

### Sections

77.95.010	Legislative findings.
77.95.020	Long-term regional policy statements.
77.95.030	Salmon enhancement plan—Enhancement projects.
77.95.040	Commission to monitor enhancement projects and enhancement plan.
77.95.050	"Enhancement project" defined.
77.95.060	Regional fisheries enhancement group authorized.
77.95.070	Regional fisheries enhancement groups—Goals.
77.95.080	Regional fisheries enhancement groups—Incorporation prerequisites.
77.95.090	Regional fisheries enhancement group account—Revenue sources, uses, and limitations.
77.95.100	Regional fisheries enhancement groups—Start-up funds.
77.95.130	Regional fisheries enhancement salmonid recovery account—Created.
77.95.140	Skagit river salmon recovery plan.
77.95.150	Coordination with regional enhancement groups—Findings.
77.95.160	Fish passage barrier removal task force—Membership—Recommendations.
77.95.170	Salmonid fish passage—Removing impediments—Grant program—Administration—Database directory.
77.95.180	Fish passage barrier removal program.
77.95.190	Field testing of remote site incubators.
77.95.200	Remote site incubator program—Reports to the fish and wildlife commission.
77.95.210	Sale of surplus salmon eggs—Order of priority.
77.95.220	Legislative finding.
77.95.230	Director's determination of salmon production costs.
77.95.240	State purchase of private salmon smolts.
77.95.250	State purchase of private salmon smolts—Bids.
77.95.260	State purchase of private salmon smolts—Private ocean ranching not authorized.
77.95.270	State purchase of private salmon smolts—Availability of excess salmon eggs.
77.95.280	Chinook and coho salmon—External marking of hatchery-produced fish—Findings.
77.95.290	Chinook and coho salmon—External marking of hatchery-produced fish—Program.
77.95.300	Chinook and coho salmon—External marking of hatchery-produced fish—Rules.
77.95.310	Report identifying total salmon and steelhead harvest.
77.95.320	Program utilizing department-partnership agreements to operate and manage certain hatcheries—Selection of partners—Partnership agreements.
77.95.330	Powers and authorities conferred by chapter to be construed as in addition and supplemental.
77.95.900	Severability—1985 c 458.

**77.95.010 Legislative findings.** Currently, many of the salmon stocks of Washington state are critically reduced from their sustainable level. The best interests of all fishing groups and the citizens as a whole are served by a stable and productive salmon resource. Immediate action is needed to reverse the severe decline of the resource and to insure its

very survival. The legislature finds a state of emergency exists and that immediate action is required to restore its fishery.

Disagreement and strife have dominated the salmon fisheries for many years. Conflicts among the various fishing interests have only served to erode the resource. It is time for the state of Washington to make a major commitment to increasing productivity of the resource and to move forward with an effective rehabilitation and enhancement program. The commission is directed to dedicate its efforts and the efforts of the department to seek resolution to the many conflicts that involve the resource.

Success of the enhancement program can only occur if projects efficiently produce salmon or restore habitat. The expectation of the program is to optimize the efficient use of funding on projects that will increase artificially and naturally produced salmon, restore and improve habitat, or identify ways to increase the survival of salmon. The full utilization of state resources and cooperative efforts with interested groups are essential to the success of the program. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 33 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 45; 1985 c 458 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.50.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.020 Long-term regional policy statements.** (1)

The commission shall develop long-term regional policy statements regarding the salmon fishery resources before December 1, 1985. The commission shall consider the following in formulating and updating regional policy statements:

- (a) Existing resource needs;
- (b) Potential for creation of new resources;
- (c) Successful existing programs, both within and outside the state;
- (d) Balanced utilization of natural and hatchery production;
- (e) Desires of the fishing interest;
- (f) Need for additional data or research;
- (g) Federal court orders; and
- (h) Salmon advisory council recommendations.

(2) The commission shall review and update each policy statement at least once each year. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 34 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1985 c 458 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.50.020.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.030 Salmon enhancement plan—Enhancement projects.** (1) The commission shall develop a detailed salmon enhancement plan with proposed enhancement projects. The plan and the regional policy statements shall be submitted to the secretary of the senate and chief clerk of the house of representatives for legislative distribution by June 30, 1986. The enhancement plan and regional policy statements shall be provided by June 30, 1986, to the natural resources committees of the house of representatives and the senate. The commission shall provide a maximum opportunity for the public to participate in the development of the salmon enhancement plan. To insure full participation by all interested parties, the commission shall solicit and consider enhancement project proposals from Indian tribes, sports

(2012 Ed.)

fishermen, commercial fishermen, private aquaculturists, and other interested groups or individuals for potential inclusion in the salmon enhancement plan. Joint or cooperative enhancement projects shall be considered for funding.

(2) The following criteria shall be used by the commission in formulating the project proposals:

- (a) Compatibility with the long-term policy statement;
- (b) Benefit/cost analysis;
- (c) Needs of all fishing interests;
- (d) Compatibility with regional plans, including harvest management plans;
- (e) Likely increase in resource productivity;
- (f) Direct applicability of any research;
- (g) Salmon advisory council recommendations;
- (h) Compatibility with federal court orders;
- (i) Coordination with the salmon and steelhead advisory commission program;
- (j) Economic impact to the state;
- (k) Technical feasibility; and
- (l) Preservation of native salmon runs.

(3) The commission shall not approve projects that serve as replacement funding for projects that exist prior to May 21, 1985, unless no other sources of funds are available.

(4) The commission shall prioritize various projects and establish a recommended implementation time schedule. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 35 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1985 c 458 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.50.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.040 Commission to monitor enhancement projects and enhancement plan.** Upon approval by the legislature of funds for its implementation, the commission shall monitor the progress of projects detailed in the salmon enhancement plan.

The commission shall be responsible for establishing criteria which shall be used to measure the success of each project in the salmon enhancement plan. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 36 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1985 c 458 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.50.040.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.050 "Enhancement project" defined.** As used in this chapter, "enhancement project" means salmon propagation activities including, but not limited to, hatcheries, spawning channels, rearing ponds, egg boxes, fishways, fish screens, stream bed clearing, erosion control, habitat restoration, net pens, applied research projects, and any equipment, real property, or other interest necessary to the proper operation thereof. [1985 c 458 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.50.060.]

**77.95.060 Regional fisheries enhancement group authorized.** The legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the salmon resource of the state to encourage the development of regional fisheries enhancement groups. The accomplishments of one existing group, the Grays Harbor fisheries enhancement task force, have been widely recognized as being exemplary. The legislature recognizes the potential benefits to the state that would occur if each region of the state had a similar group of dedicated citizens working to enhance the salmon resource.

The legislature authorizes the formation of regional fisheries enhancement groups. These groups shall be eligible for state financial support and shall be actively supported by the commission and the department. The regional groups shall be operated on a strictly nonprofit basis, and shall seek to maximize the efforts of volunteer and private donations to improve the salmon resource for all citizens of the state. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 38 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 46; 1989 c 426 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.50.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.070 Regional fisheries enhancement groups—Goals.** Regional fisheries enhancement groups, consistent with the long-term regional policy statements developed under RCW 77.95.020, shall seek to:

(1) Enhance the salmon and steelhead resources of the state;

(2) Maximize volunteer efforts and private donations to improve the salmon and steelhead resources for all citizens;

(3) Assist the department in achieving the goal to double the statewide salmon and steelhead catch by the year 2000; and

(4) Develop projects designed to supplement the fishery enhancement capability of the department. [2000 c 107 § 105; 1997 c 389 § 5; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 47; 1989 c 426 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.50.080.]

**Findings—1997 c 389:** See note following RCW 77.95.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.080 Regional fisheries enhancement groups—Incorporation prerequisites.** Each regional fisheries enhancement group shall be incorporated pursuant to Title 24 RCW. Any interested person or group shall be permitted to join. It is desirable for the group to have representation from all categories of fishers and other parties that have interest in salmon within the region, as well as the general public. [1990 c 58 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.50.090.]

**Findings—1990 c 58:** "The legislature finds that: (1) It is in the best interest of the state to encourage nonprofit regional fisheries enhancement groups authorized in RCW 75.50.070 to participate in enhancing the state's salmon population including, but not limited to, salmon research, increased natural and artificial production, and through habitat improvement; (2) such regional fisheries enhancement groups interested in improving salmon habitat and rearing salmon shall be eligible for financial assistance; (3) such regional fisheries enhancement groups should seek to maximize the efforts of volunteer personnel and private donations; (4) this program will assist the state in its goal to double the salmon catch by the year 2000; (5) this program will benefit both commercial and recreational fisheries and improve cooperative efforts to increase salmon production through a coordinated approach with similar programs in other states and Canada; and (6) the Grays Harbor fisheries enhancement task force's exemplary performance in salmon enhancement provides a model for establishing regional fisheries enhancement groups by rule adopted under RCW 75.50.070, 75.50.080, and 75.50.090 through 75.50.110." [1990 c 58 § 1.]

**77.95.090 Regional fisheries enhancement group account—Revenue sources, uses, and limitations.** The dedicated regional fisheries enhancement group account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. Only the commission or the commission's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

[Title 77 RCW—page 140]

A portion of each recreational fishing license fee shall be used as provided in RCW 77.32.440. A surcharge of one hundred dollars shall be collected on each commercial salmon fishery license, each salmon delivery license, and each salmon charter license sold in the state. All receipts shall be placed in the regional fisheries enhancement group account and shall be used exclusively for regional fisheries enhancement group projects for the purposes of \*RCW 77.95.110. Except as provided in RCW 77.95.320, funds from the regional fisheries enhancement group account shall not serve as replacement funding for department operated salmon projects that exist on January 1, 1991.

All revenue from the department's sale of salmon carcasses and eggs that return to group facilities shall be deposited in the regional fisheries enhancement group account for use by the regional fisheries enhancement group that produced the surplus. The commission shall adopt rules to implement this section pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. [2009 c 340 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 106. Prior: 1998 c 245 § 155; 1998 c 191 § 27; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 39 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); prior: 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 11; 1993 c 340 § 53; 1990 c 58 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.50.100.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 77.95.110 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 81.

**Findings—2009 c 340:** See note following RCW 77.95.320.

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

**Finding, intent—Captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1993 c 340:** See notes following RCW 77.65.010.

**Findings—1990 c 58:** See note following RCW 77.95.080.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.100 Regional fisheries enhancement groups—Start-up funds.** The department may provide start-up funds to regional fisheries enhancement groups for costs associated with any enhancement project. The commission shall develop guidelines for providing funds to the regional fisheries enhancement groups. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 82; 2000 c 107 § 107; 1997 c 389 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.50.105.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**Findings—1997 c 389:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Currently, many of the salmon stocks on the Washington coast and in Puget Sound are severely depressed and may soon be listed under the federal endangered species act.

(b) Immediate action is needed to reverse the severe decline of this resource and ensure its very survival.

(c) The cooperation and participation of private landowners is crucial in efforts to restore and enhance salmon populations.

(d) Regional fisheries enhancement groups have been exceptionally successful in their efforts to work with private landowners to restore and enhance salmon habitat on private lands.

(e) State funding for regional fisheries enhancement groups has been declining and is a significant limitation to current fisheries enhancement and habitat restoration efforts.

(f) Therefore, a stable funding source is essential to the success of the regional enhancement groups and their efforts to work cooperatively with private landowners to restore salmon resources.

(2) The legislature further finds that:

(a) The increasing population and continued development throughout the state, and the transportation system needed to serve this growth, have exacerbated problems associated with culverts, creating barriers to fish passage.

(b) These barriers obstruct habitat and have resulted in reduced production and survival of anadromous and resident fish at a time when salmonid stocks continue to decline.

(c) Current state laws do not appropriately direct resources for the correction of fish passage obstructions related to transportation facilities.

(d) Current fish passage management efforts related to transportation projects lack necessary coordination on a watershed, regional, and statewide basis, have inadequate funding, and fail to maximize use of available resources.

(e) Therefore, the legislature finds that the department of transportation and the department of fish and wildlife should work with state, tribal, local government, and volunteer entities to develop a coordinated, watershed-based fish passage barrier removal program." [1997 c 389 § 1.]

**77.95.130 Regional fisheries enhancement salmonid recovery account—Created.** The regional fisheries enhancement salmonid recovery account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from federal sources and moneys from state sources specified by law must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used for the sole purpose of fisheries enhancement and habitat restoration by regional fisheries enhancement groups. [1997 c 389 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.50.125.]

**Findings—1997 c 389:** See note following RCW 77.95.100.

**77.95.140 Skagit river salmon recovery plan.** The commission shall prepare a salmon recovery plan for the Skagit river. The plan shall include strategies for employing displaced timber workers to conduct salmon restoration and other tasks identified in the plan. The plan shall incorporate the best available technology in order to achieve maximum restoration of depressed salmon stocks. The plan must encourage the restoration of natural spawning areas and natural rearing of salmon but must not preclude the development of an active hatchery program. [1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 41 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 48; 1992 c 88 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.50.130.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.150 Coordination with regional enhancement groups—Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Regional enhancement groups are a valuable resource for anadromous fish recovery. They improve critical fish habitat and directly contribute to anadromous fish populations through fish restoration technology.

(2) Due to a decrease in recreational and commercial salmon license sales, regional enhancement groups are receiving fewer financial resources at a time when recovery efforts are needed most.

(3) To maintain regional enhancement groups as an effective enhancement resource, technical assets of state agencies must be coordinated and utilized to maximize the financial resources of regional enhancement groups and overall fish recovery efforts. [1995 c 367 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.50.150.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.160 Fish passage barrier removal task force—Membership—Recommendations.** The department and the department of transportation shall convene a fish passage barrier removal task force. The task force shall consist of one representative each from the department, the department of transportation, the department of ecology, tribes, cities, counties, a business organization, an environmental organization, regional fisheries enhancement groups, and other interested

(2012 Ed.)

entities as deemed appropriate by the cochairs. The persons representing the department and the department of transportation shall serve as cochairs of the task force and shall appoint members to the task force. The task force shall make recommendations to expand the program in RCW 77.95.180 to identify and expedite the removal of human-made or caused impediments to anadromous fish passage in the most efficient manner practical. Program recommendations shall include a funding mechanism and other necessary mechanisms to coordinate and prioritize state, tribal, local, and volunteer efforts within each water resource inventory area. A priority shall be given to projects that immediately increase access to available and improved spawning and rearing habitat for depressed, threatened, and endangered stocks. The department or the department of transportation may contract with cities and counties to assist in the identification and removal of impediments to anadromous fish passage. [2000 c 107 § 110; 1997 c 389 § 6; 1995 c 367 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.50.160.]

**Findings—1997 c 389:** See note following RCW 77.95.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.170 Salmonid fish passage—Removing impediments—Grant program—Administration—Database directory.** (1) The department of transportation and the department of fish and wildlife may administer and coordinate all state grant programs specifically designed to assist state agencies, local governments, private landowners, tribes, organizations, and volunteer groups in identifying and removing impediments to salmonid fish passage. The transportation improvement board may administer all grant programs specifically designed to assist cities, counties, and local governments with fish passage barrier corrections associated with transportation projects. All grant programs must be administered and be consistent with the following:

(a) Salmonid-related corrective projects, inventory, assessment, and prioritization efforts;

(b) Salmonid projects subject to a competitive application process; and

(c) A minimum dollar match rate that is consistent with the funding authority's criteria. If no funding match is specified, a match amount of at least twenty-five percent per project is required. For local, private, and volunteer projects, in-kind contributions may be counted toward the match requirement.

(2) Priority shall be given to projects that immediately increase access to available and improved spawning and rearing habitat for depressed, threatened, and endangered stocks. Priority shall also be given to project applications that are coordinated with other efforts within a watershed.

(3) Except for projects administered by the transportation improvement board, all projects shall be reviewed and approved by the fish passage barrier removal task force or an alternative oversight committee designated by the state legislature.

(4) Other agencies that administer natural resource based grant programs that may include fish passage barrier removal projects shall use fish passage selection criteria that are consistent with this section.

(5) The departments of transportation and fish and wildlife shall establish a centralized database directory of all fish

passage barrier information. The database directory must include, but is not limited to, existing fish passage inventories, fish passage projects, grant program applications, and other databases. These data must be used to coordinate and assist in habitat recovery and project mitigation projects. [1999 c 242 § 4; 1998 c 249 § 16. Formerly RCW 75.50.165.]

**Findings—Purpose—Report—Effective date—1998 c 249:** See notes following RCW 77.55.181.

**77.95.180 Fish passage barrier removal program.** To maximize available state resources, the department and the department of transportation shall work in partnership to identify cooperative projects to eliminate fish passage barriers caused by state roads and highways. The department of transportation shall provide engineering and other technical services to assist regional fisheries enhancement groups with fish passage barrier removal projects, provided that the barrier removal projects have been identified as a priority by the department of fish and wildlife and the department of transportation has received an appropriation to continue the fish barrier removal program. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 83; 1995 c 367 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.50.170.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.190 Field testing of remote site incubators.** The department shall field test coho and chinook salmon remote site incubators. The purpose of field testing efforts shall be to gather conclusive scientific data on the effectiveness of coho and chinook remote site incubators. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 84; 1995 c 367 § 10. Formerly RCW 75.50.180.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.200 Remote site incubator program—Reports to the fish and wildlife commission.** (1) The department shall develop and implement a program utilizing remote site incubators in Washington state. The program shall identify sites in tributaries that are suitable for reestablishing self-sustaining, locally adapted populations of coho, chum, or chinook salmon. The initial selection of sites shall be updated annually.

(2) The department may only approve a remote site incubator project if the department deems it is consistent with the conservation of wild salmon and trout. The department shall only utilize appropriate salmonid eggs in remote site incubators, and may acquire eggs by gift or purchase.

(3) The department shall depend chiefly upon volunteer efforts to implement the remote site incubator program through volunteer cooperative projects and the regional fisheries enhancement groups. The department may prioritize remote site incubator projects within regional enhancement areas.

(4) The department may purchase remote site incubators and may use agency employees to construct remote site incubators.

(5) The department shall investigate the use of the remote site incubator technology for the production of warm water fish.

(6) Annual reports on the progress of the program shall be provided to the fish and wildlife commission. [2009 c 333 § 29; 1998 c 251 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.50.190.]

**Finding—1998 c 251:** "The legislature finds that trout and salmon populations are depleted in many state waters. Restoration of these populations to a healthy status requires improved protection of these species and their habitats. However, in some instances restoration of self-sustaining populations also requires the reintroduction of the fish into their native habitat.

Remote site incubators have been shown to be a cost-effective means of bypassing the early period of high mortality experienced by salmonid eggs that are naturally spawned in streams. In addition, remote site incubators provide an efficient method for reintroduction of fish into areas that are not seeded by natural spawning. The technology for remote site incubators is well developed, and their application is easily accomplished in a wide variety of habitat by persons with a moderate level of training.

It is a goal of the remote site incubator program to assist the reestablishment of wild salmon and trout populations that are self-sustaining through natural spawning. In other cases, where the habitat has been permanently damaged and natural populations cannot sustain themselves, the remote site incubator program may become a cost-effective long-term solution for supplementation of fish populations." [1998 c 251 § 1.]

**77.95.210 Sale of surplus salmon eggs—Order of priority.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the department may supply, at a reasonable charge, surplus salmon eggs to a person for use in the cultivation of salmon. The department shall not intentionally create a surplus of salmon to provide eggs for sale. The department shall only sell salmon eggs from stocks that are not suitable for salmon population rehabilitation or enhancement in state waters in Washington after the salmon harvest on surplus salmon has been first maximized by both commercial and recreational fishers.

(2) The department shall not destroy hatchery origin salmon for the purposes of destroying viable eggs that would otherwise be useful for propagation or salmon recovery purposes, as determined by the department and Indian tribes with treaty fishing rights in a collaborative manner, for replenishing fish runs. Eggs deemed surplus by the state must be provided, in the following order of priority, to:

(a) Voluntary cooperative salmon culture programs under the supervision of the department under chapter 77.100 RCW;

(b) Regional fisheries enhancement group salmon culture programs under the supervision of the department under this chapter;

(c) Salmon culture programs requested by lead entities and approved by the salmon funding recovery board under chapter 77.85 RCW;

(d) Hatcheries of federally approved tribes in Washington to whom eggs are moved, not sold, under the interlocal cooperation act, chapter 39.34 RCW; and

(e) Governmental hatcheries in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

The order of priority established in this subsection for distributing surplus eggs does not apply when there is a shortfall in the supply of eggs.

(3) All sales, provisions, distributions, or transfers shall be consistent with the department's egg transfer and aquaculture disease control regulations as now existing or hereafter amended. Prior to department determination that eggs of a salmon stock are surplus and available for sale, the department shall assess the productivity of each watershed that is suitable for receiving eggs. [2001 c 337 § 1; 2000 c 107 § 11;

1988 c 115 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 25; 1974 ex.s. c 23 § 1; 1971 c 35 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.08.245, 75.16.120.]

*Sale of surplus salmon eggs and carcasses by volunteer cooperative fish projects: RCW 77.100.040.*

**77.95.220 Legislative finding.** The legislature finds that:

(1) The fishery resources of Washington are critical to the social and economic needs of the citizens of the state;

(2) Salmon production is dependent on both wild and artificial production;

(3) The department is directed to enhance Washington's salmon runs; and

(4) Full utilization of the state's salmon rearing facilities is necessary to enhance commercial and recreational fisheries. [1993 sp.s. c 2 § 24; 1989 c 336 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.08.400.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.230 Director's determination of salmon production costs.** The director shall determine the cost of operating all state-funded salmon production facilities at full capacity and shall provide this information with the department's biennial budget request. [1989 c 336 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.08.410.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.240 State purchase of private salmon smolts.** The director may contract with cooperatives or private aquaculturists for the purchase of quality salmon smolts for release into public waters if all department fish rearing facilities are operating at full capacity. The intent of cooperative and private sector contracting is to explore the opportunities of cooperatively producing more salmon for the public fisheries without incurring additional capital expense for the department. [1989 c 336 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.08.420.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.250 State purchase of private salmon smolts—Bids.** If the director elects to contract with cooperatives or private aquaculturists for the purpose of purchasing quality salmon smolts, contracting shall be done by a competitive bid process. In awarding contracts to private contractors, the director shall give preference to nonprofit corporations. The director shall establish the criteria for the contract, which shall include but not be limited to species, size of smolt, stock composition, quantity, quality, rearing location, release location, and other pertinent factors. [1989 c 336 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.08.430.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.260 State purchase of private salmon smolts—Private ocean ranching not authorized.** Nothing in chapter 336, Laws of 1989 shall authorize the practice of private ocean ranching. Privately contracted smolts become the property of the state at the time of release. [1989 c 336 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.08.440.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.270 State purchase of private salmon smolts—Availability of excess salmon eggs.** Except as provided in

(2012 Ed.)

RCW 77.95.210, the department may make available to private contractors salmon eggs in excess of department hatchery needs for the purpose of contract rearing to release the smolts into public waters. However, providing salmon eggs as specified in RCW 77.95.210(2) has the highest priority. The priority of providing eggs surplus after meeting the requirements of RCW 77.95.210(2) to contract rearing is a higher priority than providing eggs to aquaculture purposes that are not destined for release into Washington public waters. [2001 c 337 § 2; 1989 c 336 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.08.450.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.95.280 Chinook and coho salmon—External marking of hatchery-produced fish—Findings.** The legislature declares that the state has a vital interest in the continuation of recreational fisheries for chinook salmon and coho salmon in mixed stock areas, and that the harvest of hatchery origin salmon should be encouraged while wild salmon should be afforded additional protection when required. A program of selective harvest shall be developed utilizing hatchery salmon that are externally marked in a conspicuous manner, regulations that promote the unharmed release of unmarked fish, when and where appropriate, and a public information program that educates the public about the need to protect depressed stocks of wild salmon.

The legislature further declares that the establishment of other incentives for commercial fishing and fish processing in Washington will complement the program of selective harvest in mixed stock fisheries anticipated by this legislation. [1995 c 372 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.08.500.]

**77.95.290 Chinook and coho salmon—External marking of hatchery-produced fish—Program.** The department shall mark appropriate coho salmon that are released from department operated hatcheries and rearing ponds in such a manner that the fish are externally recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by fishers for the purpose of maximized catch while sustaining wild and hatchery reproduction.

The department shall mark all appropriate chinook salmon targeted for contribution to the Washington catch that are released from department operated hatcheries and rearing ponds in such a manner that the fish are externally recognizable as hatchery origin salmon by fishers.

The goal of the marking program is: (1) The annual marking by June 30, 1997, of all appropriate hatchery origin coho salmon produced by the department with marking to begin with the 1994 Puget Sound coho brood; and (2) the annual marking by June 30, 1999, of all appropriate hatchery origin chinook salmon produced by the department with marking to begin with the 1998 chinook brood. The department may experiment with different methods for marking hatchery salmon with the primary objective of maximum survival of hatchery marked fish, maximum contribution to fisheries, and minimum cost consistent with the other goals.

The department shall coordinate with other entities that are producing hatchery chinook and coho salmon for release into public waters to enable the broadest application of the marking program to all hatchery produced chinook and coho salmon. The department shall work with the treaty Indian

tribes in order to reach mutual agreement on the implementation of the mass marking program. The ultimate goal of the program is the coast-wide marking of appropriate hatchery origin chinook and coho salmon, and the protection of all wild chinook and coho salmon, where appropriate. [1999 c 372 § 15; 1998 c 250 § 2; 1995 c 372 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.08.510.]

**Findings—Intent—1998 c 250:** "The legislature finds that mass marking of hatchery-raised salmon is an effective tool for implementing selective salmon fisheries in this state. Mass marking of coho salmon is currently underway and holds great promise for maintaining both recreational and commercial fishing opportunities while protecting wild stocks. In view of the anticipated listing of Puget Sound chinook salmon as endangered under the federal endangered species act, the legislature finds that it is essential to expeditiously proceed with implementing a mass marking program for chinook salmon in Puget Sound and elsewhere in the state.

Through a cooperative effort by state and federal agencies and private enterprise, appropriate technologies have been developed for marking chinook salmon. It is the intent of the legislature to use these newly developed tools to implement chinook salmon mass marking beginning in April 1999." [1998 c 250 § 1.]

**77.95.300 Chinook and coho salmon—External marking of hatchery-produced fish—Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to control the mixed stock chinook and coho fisheries of the state so as to sustain healthy stocks of wild salmon, allow the maximum survival of wild salmon, allow for spatially separated fisheries that target on hatchery stocks, foster the best techniques for releasing wild chinook and coho salmon, and contribute to the economic viability of the fishing businesses of the state. [1995 c 372 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.08.520.]

**77.95.310 Report identifying total salmon and steelhead harvest.** (1) The department shall maintain a report identifying total salmon and steelhead harvest. This report shall include the final commercial harvests and recreational harvests. At a minimum, the report shall clearly identify:

(a) The total treaty tribal and nontribal harvests by species and by management unit;

(b) Where and why the nontribal harvest does not meet the full allocation allowed under *United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 312 (1974) (Boldt I) including a summary of the key policies within the management plan that result in a less than full nontribal allocation; and

(c) The location and quantity of salmon and steelhead harvested under the wastage provisions of *United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 312 (1974).

(2) Upon request, the department shall present the report required to be maintained under this section to the appropriate committees of the legislature. [2009 c 333 § 30; 1997 c 414 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.08.530.]

**77.95.320 Program utilizing department-partnership agreements to operate and manage certain hatcheries—Selection of partners—Partnership agreements.** (1) The department shall establish a program that utilizes department-partner agreements for the resumption or continued operation and management of state-owned salmonid hatcheries now closed or scheduled for closure during the 2009-2011 biennium. To implement the program, the department shall accept and review applications to determine the appropriateness of the partner to manage and operate selected salmonid

hatcheries. The department shall accelerate the application process relating to any hatchery currently in operation to avoid cessation of ongoing salmon production.

(2)(a) To select a partner, the department shall develop and apply criteria identifying the appropriateness of a potential partner. The criteria must seek to ensure that the partner has a long-range business plan, which may include the sale of hatchery surplus salmon, including eggs and carcasses, to ensure the long-range future solvency of the partnership.

(b) Partners under this section must be:

(i) Qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code;

(ii) A for-profit private entity; or

(iii) A federally recognized tribe.

(3) The department shall place a higher priority on applications from partners that provide for the maximum resumption or continuation of existing hatchery production in a manner consistent with the mandate contained in RCW 77.04.012 to maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry.

(4) Agreements entered into with partners under this section must be consistent with existing state laws, agency rules, collective bargaining agreements, hatchery management policy involving species listed under the federal endangered species act, or, in the case of a tribal partner, any applicable tribal hatchery management policy or recreational and commercial harvest policy. Agreements under this section must also require that partners conducting hatchery operations maintain staff with comparable qualifications to those identified in the class specifications for the department's fish hatchery personnel.

(5) All partnership agreements entered into under this section must contain a provision that requires the partner to hold harmless the department and the state for any civil liability arising from the partner's participation in the agreement or activities at the subject hatchery or hatcheries.

(6) All partnership agreements entered into under this section must identify any maintenance or improvements to be made to the hatchery facility, and the source of funding for such maintenance or improvements. If funding for the maintenance or improvements is to come from state funds or revenue sources previously received by the department, the work must be performed either by employees in the classified service or in compliance with the contracting procedures set forth in RCW 41.06.142. [2009 c 340 § 2.]

**Findings—2009 c 340:** "The legislature finds: (1) The full utilization of state salmonid hatcheries is vital to the recreational and commercial fisheries and related economic development and employment; and (2) effective measures are necessary to maintain all hatchery operations that are consistent with conservation of wild salmon populations and support sustainable fisheries." [2009 c 340 § 1.]

**77.95.330 Powers and authorities conferred by chapter to be construed as in addition and supplemental.** The powers and authority conferred by this chapter must be construed as in addition and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law and nothing contained in this chapter may be construed as limiting any other powers or authority of the department. [2009 c 340 § 3.]

**Findings—2009 c 340:** See note following RCW 77.95.320.

**77.95.900 Severability—1985 c 458.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1985 c 458 § 12. Formerly RCW 75.50.900.]

**Chapter 77.100 RCW  
VOLUNTEER FISH AND WILDLIFE  
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Sections

77.100.010	Legislative findings—Department to administer cooperative enhancement program.
77.100.020	Definitions.
77.100.030	Cooperative projects—Types.
77.100.040	Cooperative projects—Sale of surplus salmon eggs and carcasses.
77.100.050	Duties of department.
77.100.060	Commission to establish rules—Subjects.
77.100.070	Agreements for cooperative projects—Duration.
77.100.080	Duties of volunteer group.
77.100.090	Application of chapter.
77.100.100	Cedar river spawning channel.
77.100.110	Cedar river spawning channel—Technical committee—Policy committee.
77.100.120	Cedar river spawning channel—Specifications.
77.100.130	Cedar river spawning channel—Funding.
77.100.150	Cedar river spawning channel—Legislative declaration.
77.100.160	Cedar river spawning channel—Mitigation of water diversion projects.
77.100.170	Fish hatcheries—Volunteer group projects.
77.100.900	Severability—1984 c 72.

**77.100.010 Legislative findings—Department to administer cooperative enhancement program.** The fish and wildlife resources of the state benefit by the contribution of volunteer recreational and commercial fishing organizations, schools, and other volunteer groups in cooperative projects under agreement with the department. These projects provide educational opportunities, improve the communication between the natural resources agencies and the public, and increase the fish and game resources of the state. In an effort to increase these benefits and realize the full potential of cooperative projects, the department shall administer a cooperative fish and wildlife enhancement program and enter agreements with volunteer groups relating to the operation of cooperative projects. [1993 sp.s. c 2 § 49; 1988 c 36 § 41; 1984 c 72 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.52.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.100.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Volunteer group" means any person or group of persons interested in or party to an agreement with the department relating to a cooperative fish or wildlife project.

(2) "Cooperative project" means a project conducted by a volunteer group that will benefit the fish, shellfish, game bird, nongame wildlife, or game animal resources of the state and for which the benefits of the project, including fish and wildlife reared and released, are available to all citizens of the state. Indian tribes may elect to participate in cooperative fish and wildlife projects with the department. [2000 c 107 § 111; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 50; 1988 c 36 § 42; 1984 c 72 § 2. Formerly RCW 75.52.020.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**77.100.030 Cooperative projects—Types.** The department shall encourage and support the development and operation of cooperative projects of the following types:

(1) Cooperative food fish and game fish rearing projects, including but not limited to egg planting, egg boxes, juvenile planting, pen rearing, pond rearing, raceway rearing, and egg taking;

(2) Cooperative fish habitat improvement projects, including but not limited to fish migration improvement, spawning bed rehabilitation, habitat restoration, reef construction, lake fertilization, pond construction, pollution abatement, and endangered stock protection;

(3) Cooperative fish or game research projects if the project is clearly of a research nature and if the results are readily available to the public;

(4) Cooperative game bird and game animal projects, including but not limited to habitat improvement and restoration, replanting and transplanting, nest box installation, pen rearing, game protection, and supplemental feeding;

(5) Cooperative nongame wildlife projects, including but not limited to habitat improvement and restoration, nest box installation, establishment of wildlife interpretive areas or facilities, pollution abatement, supplemental feeding, and endangered species preservation and enhancement; and

(6) Cooperative information and education projects, including but not limited to landowner relations, outdoor ethics, natural history of Washington's fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and outdoor survival. [1984 c 72 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.52.030.]

**77.100.040 Cooperative projects—Sale of surplus salmon eggs and carcasses.** The department may authorize the sale of surplus salmon eggs and carcasses by permitted cooperative projects for the purposes of defraying the expenses of the cooperative project. In no instance shall the department allow a profit to be realized through such sales. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. [1993 sp.s. c 2 § 51; 1987 c 48 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.52.035.]

*Sale of surplus salmon eggs by department: RCW 77.95.210.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.100.050 Duties of department.** (1) The department shall:

(a) Encourage and support the establishment of cooperative agreements for the development and operation of cooperative food fish, shellfish, game fish, game bird, game animal, and nongame wildlife projects, and projects which provide an opportunity for volunteer groups to become involved in resource and habitat-oriented activities. All cooperative projects shall be fairly considered in the approval of cooperative agreements;

(b) Identify regions and species or activities that would be particularly suitable for cooperative projects providing benefits compatible with department goals;

(c) Determine the availability of rearing space at operating facilities or of net pens, egg boxes, portable rearing containers, incubators, and any other rearing facilities for use in cooperative projects, and allocate them to volunteer groups as fairly as possible;

(d) Make viable eggs available for replenishing fish runs, and salmon carcasses for nutrient enhancement of streams. If a regional fisheries enhancement group, lead entity, volunteer cooperative group, federally approved tribe in Washington, or a governmental hatchery in Washington, Oregon, or Idaho requests the department for viable eggs, the department must include the request within the brood stock document prepared for review by the regional offices. The eggs shall be distributed in accordance with the priority established in RCW 77.95.210 if they are available. A request for viable eggs may only be denied if the eggs would not be useful for propagation or salmon recovery purposes, as determined under RCW 77.95.210;

(e) Exempt volunteer groups from payment of fees to the department for activities related to the project;

(f) Publicize the cooperative program;

(g) Not substitute a new cooperative project for any part of the department's program unless mutually agreeable to the department and volunteer group;

(h) Not approve agreements that are incompatible with legally existing land, water, or property rights.

(2) The department may, when requested, provide to volunteer groups its available professional expertise and assist the volunteer group to evaluate its project. The department must conduct annual workshops in each administrative region of the department that has fish stocks listed as threatened or endangered under the federal endangered species act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq., in order to assist volunteer groups with egg rearing, share information on successful salmon recovery projects accomplished by volunteers within the state, and provide basic training on monitoring efforts that can be accomplished by volunteers in order to help determine if their efforts are successful. [2001 c 337 § 3; 1987 c 505 § 73; 1984 c 72 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.52.040.]

#### **77.100.060 Commission to establish rules—Subjects.**

The commission shall establish by rule:

(1) The procedure for entering a cooperative agreement and the application forms for a permit to release fish or wildlife required by \*RCW 77.12.457. The procedure shall indicate the information required from the volunteer group as well as the process of review by the department. The process of review shall include the means to coordinate with other agencies and Indian tribes when appropriate and to coordinate the review of any necessary hydraulic permit approval applications.

(2) The procedure for providing within forty-five days of receipt of a proposal a written response to the volunteer group indicating the date by which an acceptance or rejection of the proposal can be expected, the reason why the date was selected, and a written summary of the process of review. The response should also include any suggested modifications to the proposal which would increase its likelihood of approval and the date by which such modified proposal could be expected to be accepted. If the proposal is rejected, the department must provide in writing the reasons for rejection. The volunteer group may request the director or the director's designee to review information provided in the response.

(3) The priority of the uses to which eggs, seed, juveniles, or brood stock are put. Use by cooperative projects shall be second in priority only to the needs of programs of

the department or of other public agencies within the territorial boundaries of the state. Sales of eggs, seed, juveniles, or brood stock have a lower priority than use for cooperative projects. The rules must identify and implement appropriate protocols for brood stock handling, including the outplanting of adult fish, spawning, incubation, rearing, and release and establish a prioritized schedule for implementation of chapter 337, Laws of 2001, and shall include directives for allowing more hatchery salmon to spawn naturally in areas where progeny of hatchery fish have spawned, including the outplanting of adult fish, in order to increase the number of viable salmon eggs and restore healthy numbers of fish within the state.

(4) The procedure for the director to notify a volunteer group that the agreement for the project is being revoked for cause and the procedure for revocation. Revocation shall be documented in writing to the volunteer group. Cause for revocation may include: (a) The unavailability of adequate biological or financial resources; (b) the development of unacceptable biological or resource management conflicts; or (c) a violation of agreement provisions. Notice of cause to revoke for a violation of agreement provisions may specify a reasonable period of time within which the volunteer group must comply with any violated provisions of the agreement.

(5) An appropriate method of distributing among volunteer groups fish, bird, or animal food or other supplies available for the program. [2001 c 337 § 4; 2000 c 107 § 112; 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 § 42 (Referendum Bill No. 45, approved November 7, 1995); 1984 c 72 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.52.050.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 77.12.457 was repealed by 2001 c 253 § 62.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **77.100.070 Agreements for cooperative projects—**

**Duration.** Agreements under this chapter may be for up to five years, with the department attempting to maximize the duration of each cooperative agreement. The duration of the agreement should reflect the financial and volunteer commitment and the stability of the volunteer group as well as the department's expectation of resource availability and project contributions to the resource. [1984 c 72 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.52.060.]

**77.100.080 Duties of volunteer group.** (1) The volunteer group shall:

(a) Provide care and diligence in conducting the cooperative project; and

(b) Maintain accurately the required records of the project on forms provided by the department.

(2) The volunteer group shall acknowledge that fish and game reared in cooperative projects are public property and must be handled and released for the benefit of all citizens of the state. The fish and game are to remain public property until reduced to private ownership under rules of the commission. [2000 c 107 § 113; 1984 c 72 § 7. Formerly RCW 75.52.070.]

**77.100.090 Application of chapter.** This chapter applies to cooperative projects which were in existence on June 7, 1984, or which require no further funding. Implementation of this chapter for new projects requiring funding shall

be to the extent that funds are available from the aquatic land enhancement account. [1984 c 72 § 8. Formerly RCW 75.52.080.]

**77.100.100 Cedar river spawning channel.** A salmon spawning channel shall be constructed on the Cedar river with the assistance and cooperation of the department. The department shall use existing personnel and the volunteer fisheries enhancement program outlined under chapter 77.100 RCW to assist in the planning, construction, and operation of the spawning channel. [2000 c 107 § 114; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 52; 1989 c 85 § 3. Formerly RCW 75.52.100.]

**Legislative finding—1989 c 85:** "The legislature recognizes that King county has a unique urban setting for a recreational fishery and that Lake Washington and the rivers flowing into it should be developed for greater salmon production. A Lake Washington fishery is accessible to fifty percent of the state's citizens by automobile in less than one hour. There has been extensive sockeye fishing success in Lake Washington, primarily from fish originating in the Cedar river. The legislature intends to enhance the Cedar river fishery by active state and local management and intends to maximize the Lake Washington sockeye salmon runs for recreational fishing for all of the citizens of the state. A sockeye enhancement program could produce two to three times the current numbers of returning adults. A sockeye enhancement project would increase the public's appreciation of our state's fisheries, would demonstrate the role of a clean environment, and would show that positive cooperation can exist between local and state government in planning and executing programs that directly serve the public. A spawning channel in the Cedar river has been identified as an excellent way to enhance the Lake Washington sockeye run. A public utility currently diverting water from the Cedar river for beneficial public use has expressed willingness to fund the planning, design, evaluation, construction, and operation of a spawning channel on the Cedar river." [1989 c 85 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.100.110 Cedar river spawning channel—Technical committee—Policy committee.** The department shall chair a technical committee, which shall review the preparation of enhancement plans and construction designs for a Cedar river sockeye spawning channel. The technical committee shall consist of not more than eight members: One representative each from the department, national marine fisheries service, United States fish and wildlife service, and Muckleshoot Indian tribe; and four representatives from the public utility described in RCW 77.100.130. The technical committee will be guided by a policy committee, also to be chaired by the department, which shall consist of not more than six members: One representative from the department, one from the Muckleshoot Indian tribe, and one from either the national marine fisheries service or the United States fish and wildlife service; and three representatives from the public utility described in RCW 77.100.130. The policy committee shall oversee the operation and evaluation of the spawning channel. The policy committee will continue its oversight until the policy committee concludes that the channel is meeting the production goals specified in RCW 77.100.120. [2000 c 107 § 115; 1998 c 245 § 156; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 53; 1989 c 85 § 4. Formerly RCW 75.52.110.]

**Project designation—Legislative finding—Severability—1989 c 85:** See notes following RCW 77.100.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.100.120 Cedar river spawning channel—Specifications.** The channel shall be designed to produce, at a minimum, fry comparable in quality to those produced in the Cedar river and equal in number to what could be produced

naturally by the estimated two hundred sixty-two thousand adults that could have spawned upstream of the Landsburg diversion. Construction of the spawning channel shall commence no later than September 1, 1990. Initial construction size shall be adequate to produce fifty percent or more of the production goal specified in this section. [1989 c 85 § 5. Formerly RCW 75.52.120.]

**Project designation—Legislative finding—Severability—1989 c 85:** See notes following RCW 77.100.100.

**77.100.130 Cedar river spawning channel—Funding.** The legislature recognizes that, if funding for planning, design, evaluation, construction, and operating expenses is provided by a public utility that diverts water for beneficial public use, and if the performance of the spawning channel meets the production goals described in RCW 77.100.120, the spawning channel project will serve, at a minimum, as compensation for lost sockeye salmon spawning habitat upstream of the Landsburg diversion. The amount of funding to be supplied by the utility will fully fund the total cost of planning, design, evaluation, and construction of the spawning channel. [2000 c 107 § 116; 1989 c 85 § 6. Formerly RCW 75.52.130.]

**Project designation—Legislative finding—Severability—1989 c 85:** See notes following RCW 77.100.100.

**77.100.150 Cedar river spawning channel—Legislative declaration.** The legislature hereby declares that the construction of the Cedar river sockeye spawning channel is in the best interests of the state of Washington. [1989 c 85 § 9. Formerly RCW 75.52.150.]

**Project designation—Legislative finding—Severability—1989 c 85:** See notes following RCW 77.100.100.

**77.100.160 Cedar river spawning channel—Mitigation of water diversion projects.** Should the requirements of RCW 77.100.100 through 77.100.160 not be met, the department shall seek immediate legal clarification of the steps which must be taken to fully mitigate water diversion projects on the Cedar river. [2000 c 107 § 118; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 54; 1989 c 85 § 10. Formerly RCW 75.52.160.]

**Project designation—Legislative finding—Severability—1989 c 85:** See notes following RCW 77.100.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.100.170 Fish hatcheries—Volunteer group projects.** The manager of a state fish hatchery operated by the department of fish and wildlife may allow nonprofit volunteer groups affiliated with the hatchery to undertake projects to raise donations, gifts, and grants that enhance support for the hatchery or activities in the surrounding watershed that benefit the hatchery. The manager may provide agency personnel and services, if available, to assist in the projects and may allow the volunteer groups to conduct activities on the grounds of the hatchery.

The director of the department of fish and wildlife shall encourage and facilitate arrangements between hatchery managers and nonprofit volunteer groups and may establish guidelines for such arrangements. [1995 c 224 § 1. Formerly RCW 75.08.047.]

**77.100.900 Severability—1984 c 72.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1984 c 72 § 9. Formerly RCW 75.52.900.]

### Chapter 77.105 RCW

## RECREATIONAL SALMON AND MARINE FISH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

### Sections

77.105.005	Findings—Intent.
77.105.010	Program created—Coordinator.
77.105.020	Department responsibilities—Report to the legislature.
77.105.030	Planning and operation of programs—Assistance from nondepartmental sources.
77.105.050	Marine bottomfish species—Research, methods, and programs for artificial rearing.
77.105.140	Saltwater, combination fishing license—Disposition of fee.
77.105.150	Recreational fisheries enhancement account.
77.105.160	Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement oversight committee—Created—Duties—Report to the legislature.
77.105.170	Managing salmon to increase recreational angling opportunities in Puget Sound.
77.105.900	Effective date—1993 sp.s. c 2 §§ 7, 60, 80, and 82-100.

**77.105.005 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds the sheltered waters of Puget Sound (waters east of the Sekiu river) have historically provided the citizens of the state with the safest and most convenient access to productive marine recreational fishing.

(2) The legislature further recognizes the economic value in restoring and rebuilding the recreational fishing opportunities in Puget Sound for salmon and marine bottomfish, and that these opportunities have declined in the past two decades. Investments made in recreational fishing programs will repay the people of the state many times over in increased economic activity and in an improved quality of life.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature to improve recreational fishing opportunities in Puget Sound and Lake Washington from current levels and increase the economic benefits from the fishery, particularly recognizing the unique recreational experience provided by the winter salmon fishery. In addition, the legislature has determined that the number of angler trips expended in these waters is the measure of fishing opportunity. [2011 c 266 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 82. Formerly RCW 75.54.005.]

**77.105.010 Program created—Coordinator.** There is created within the department of fish and wildlife the Puget Sound recreational salmon and marine fish enhancement program. The department of fish and wildlife shall identify a coordinator for the program who shall act as spokesperson for the program and shall:

(1) Coordinate the activities of the Puget Sound recreational salmon and marine fish enhancement program, including the Lake Washington salmon fishery; and

(2) Work within and outside of the department to achieve the goals stated in this chapter, including coordinating with the Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement oversight committee established in RCW 77.105.160. [2003 c 173 § 1; 1998 c 245 § 157; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 83. Formerly RCW 75.54.010.]

**77.105.020 Department responsibilities—Report to the legislature.** (1) Consistent with available revenue, commission policies, tribal comanager agreements, and limitations of the endangered species act, the department, in consultation with the oversight committee created in RCW 77.105.160, shall adaptively manage the Puget Sound recreational salmon and marine fish enhancement program to maximize the benefits to the Puget Sound recreational fishery.

(2) The department has the following duties:

(a) The department shall utilize a program of hatchery-based salmon enhancement and solicit support from cooperative projects, regional enhancement groups, and other supporting organizations to improve recreational salmon fishing in Puget Sound.

(b) The department may conduct comprehensive research on resident and migratory salmon production opportunities on marine bottomfish production limitations, and on methods for artificial propagation of depleted marine bottomfish.

(c) The program must facilitate continued and improved recreational fishing opportunities in Puget Sound and Lake Washington as measured by increased angler trips of participation. The coordinator, as identified in RCW 77.105.010, shall assist the oversight committee with development of recommendations for outcome-based goals and objectives to assess the effectiveness of the program.

(d) The director shall meet with the oversight committee each year to review and approve these goals and objectives.

(e) The director and oversight committee shall report annually to the commission on the goals of the program and the effectiveness of the program in meeting those goals. Objectives include, but are not limited to, an increase in salmon and bottomfish angler trips.

(f) The department and the oversight committee shall seek to reach consensus regarding program activities and expenditures. The department shall provide the oversight committee with a written explanation when the department expends funds from the recreational fisheries enhancement account that differs substantially from oversight committee recommendations.

(g) Consistent with RCW 43.01.036, the department and oversight committee shall make a joint report to the legislature on the effectiveness of this program in biennial reports. Reports must include the goals and objectives of the previous biennium and a determination of whether the goals and objectives were met and an explanation if the department did not meet these specific objectives. [2011 c 266 § 2; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 84. Formerly RCW 75.54.020.]

**77.105.030 Planning and operation of programs—Assistance from nondepartmental sources.** The department may seek recommendations from persons who are expert on the planning and operation of programs for enhancement of recreational fisheries. The department may use the expertise of the University of Washington school of aquatic and fishery sciences and the sea grant program to develop research and enhancement programs. [2011 c 266 § 3; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 85. Formerly RCW 75.54.030.]

**77.105.050 Marine bottomfish species—Research, methods, and programs for artificial rearing.** The department may conduct research, develop methods, and implement programs for the artificial rearing and release of marine bottomfish species. Marine bottomfish species of importance in the recreational fishery are the primary emphasis. The department may use artificial habitats to restore and mitigate for degraded rockfish habitats and enhance recreational opportunities. [2011 c 266 § 5; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 87. Formerly RCW 75.54.050.]

**77.105.140 Saltwater, combination fishing license—Disposition of fee.** As provided in RCW 77.32.440, a portion of each saltwater and combination fishing license fee shall be deposited in the recreational fisheries enhancement account created in RCW 77.105.150. [2000 c 107 § 119; 1998 c 191 § 28; 1997 c 197 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 97. Formerly RCW 75.54.140.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**77.105.150 Recreational fisheries enhancement account.** The recreational fisheries enhancement account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from RCW 77.105.140 shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for recreational fisheries enhancement programs identified in this chapter. Under no circumstances may moneys from the account be used to backfill shortfalls in other state funding sources. [2003 c 173 § 3; 2000 c 107 § 120; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 98. Formerly RCW 75.54.150.]

**77.105.160 Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement oversight committee—Created—Duties—Report to the legislature.** (1) The Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement oversight committee is created. The director shall appoint at least seven members representing sport fishing interests to the committee from a list of applicants, ensuring broad representation from the sport fishing community. Each member shall serve for a term of two years, and may be reappointed for subsequent two-year terms at the discretion of the director. Members of the committee serve without compensation.

(2) The Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement oversight committee has the following duties:

(a) Advise the department on all aspects of the Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement program;

(b) Develop recommendations, with assistance from the coordinator, for outcome-based goals and objectives to assess the effectiveness of the program;

(c) Meet with the director each year to review these goals and objectives;

(d) Report annually with the director to the commission on the goals of the program and the effectiveness of the program in meeting those goals;

(e) Review and provide guidance on the annual budget for the recreational fisheries enhancement account;

(f) Select a chair of the committee. It is the chair's duty to coordinate with the department on all issues related to the Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement program;

(2012 Ed.)

(g) Meet at least quarterly with the department's coordinator as identified in RCW 77.105.010 of the Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement program;

(h) Review and comment on program documents and proposed production of salmon and other species;

(i) Address other issues related to the purposes of the Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement program that are of interest to recreational fishers in Puget Sound; and

(j) Consistent with RCW 43.01.036, make a joint report with the department to the legislature each biennium on the status of the program. [2011 c 266 § 6; 2003 c 173 § 2.]

**77.105.170 Managing salmon to increase recreational angling opportunities in Puget Sound.** The department shall utilize artificial rearing of salmon to improve recreational salmon fishing in Puget Sound. In managing salmon, the department shall seek to develop and implement methods that will increase recreational angling opportunities. These methods may include, but are not limited to, the following tools:

(1) Utilization of salmon artificial rearing techniques that contribute to the recreational fisheries in Puget Sound, especially winter salmon fishing.

(2) Optimum use of hatchery salmon through expanded recreational mark-selective fisheries.

(3) Utilization of recreational salmon and marine fish enhancement program funds for catch monitoring when required to increase recreational mark-selective fisheries.

(4) Consideration of new catch and release recreational fisheries utilizing gear and methods known to minimize hooking mortality.

(5) Providing public information regarding angling opportunities and fishing methods. [2011 c 266 § 4.]

**77.105.900 Effective date—1993 sp.s. c 2 §§ 7, 60, 80, and 82-100.** Sections 7, 60, 80, and 82 through 100 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1993. [1993 sp.s. c 2 § 105. Formerly RCW 75.54.900.]

## Chapter 77.110 RCW

### SALMON AND STEELHEAD TROUT— MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

#### Sections

77.110.010	Declaration.
77.110.020	Petition to congress.
77.110.030	Management of natural resources—State policy.
77.110.040	Declaration—Denial of rights based on race, sex, origin, or cultural heritage.
77.110.900	Transmittal of act to president and congress—1985 c 1.
77.110.901	Severability—1985 c 1.

**77.110.010 Declaration.** The people of the state of Washington declare that an emergency exists in the management of salmon and steelhead trout resources such that both are in great peril. An immediate resolution of this crisis is essential to perpetuating and enhancing these resources. [1985 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 456, approved November 6, 1984). Formerly RCW 75.56.010.]

**77.110.020 Petition to congress.** The people of the state of Washington petition the United States Congress to immediately make the steelhead trout a national game fish protected under the Black Bass Act. [1985 c 1 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 456, approved November 6, 1984). Formerly RCW 75.56.020.]

**77.110.030 Management of natural resources—State policy.** The people of the state of Washington declare that conservation, enhancement, and proper utilization of the state's natural resources, including but not limited to lands, waters, timber, fish, and game are responsibilities of the state of Washington and shall remain within the express domain of the state of Washington.

While fully respecting private property rights, all resources in the state's domain shall be managed by the state alone such that conservation, enhancement, and proper utilization are the primary considerations. No citizen shall be denied equal access to and use of any resource on the basis of race, sex, origin, cultural heritage, or by and through any treaty based upon the same. [1985 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 456, approved November 6, 1984). Formerly RCW 75.56.030.]

**77.110.040 Declaration—Denial of rights based on race, sex, origin, or cultural heritage.** The people of the state of Washington declare that under the Indians Citizens Act of 1924, all Indians became citizens of the United States and subject to the Constitution and laws of the United States and state in which they reside. The people further declare that any special off-reservation legal rights or privileges of Indians established through treaties that are denied to other citizens were terminated by that 1924 enactment, and any denial of rights to any citizen based upon race, sex, origin, cultural heritage, or by and through any treaty based upon the same is unconstitutional.

No rights, privileges, or immunities shall be denied to any citizen upon the basis of race, sex, origin, cultural heritage, or by and through any treaty based upon the same. [1985 c 1 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 456, approved November 6, 1984). Formerly RCW 75.56.040.]

**77.110.900 Transmittal of act to president and congress—1985 c 1.** The secretary of state shall transmit copies of this act to the president of the United States senate, the speaker of the United States house of representatives, and each member of congress. [1985 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 456, approved November 6, 1984). Formerly RCW 75.56.900.]

**77.110.901 Severability—1985 c 1.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1985 c 1 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 456, approved November 6, 1984). Formerly RCW 75.56.905.]

## Chapter 77.115 RCW AQUACULTURE DISEASE CONTROL

### Sections

- 77.115.010 Disease inspection and control for aquatic farmers—Development of program—Elements—Rules—Violations.
- 77.115.030 Consultation required—Agreements for diagnostic field services authorized—Roster of biologists.
- 77.115.040 Registration of aquatic farmers—Fee.

**77.115.010 Disease inspection and control for aquatic farmers—Development of program—Elements—Rules—Violations.** (1) The director of agriculture and the director shall jointly develop a program of disease inspection and control for aquatic farmers as defined in RCW 15.85.020. The program shall be administered by the department under rules established under this section. The purpose of the program is to protect the aquaculture industry and wildstock fisheries from a loss of productivity due to aquatic diseases or maladies. As used in this section "diseases" means, in addition to its ordinary meaning, infestations of parasites or pests. The disease program may include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- (a) Disease diagnosis;
- (b) Import and transfer requirements;
- (c) Provision for certification of stocks;
- (d) Classification of diseases by severity;
- (e) Provision for treatment of selected high-risk diseases;
- (f) Provision for containment and eradication of high-risk diseases;
- (g) Provision for destruction of diseased cultured aquatic products;
- (h) Provision for quarantine of diseased cultured aquatic products;
- (i) Provision for coordination with state and federal agencies;
- (j) Provision for development of preventative or control measures;
- (k) Provision for cooperative consultation service to aquatic farmers; and
- (l) Provision for disease history records.

(2) The commission shall adopt rules implementing this section. However, such rules shall have the prior approval of the director of agriculture and shall provide therein that the director of agriculture has provided such approval. The director of agriculture or the director's designee shall attend the rule-making hearings conducted under chapter 34.05 RCW and shall assist in conducting those hearings. The authorities granted the department by these rules and by RCW 77.12.047(1)(g), 77.60.060, 77.60.080, 77.65.210, \*77.115.020, 77.115.030, and 77.115.040 constitute the only authorities of the department to regulate private sector cultured aquatic products and aquatic farmers as defined in RCW 15.85.020. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, no action may be taken against any person to enforce these rules unless the department has first provided the person an opportunity for a hearing. In such a case, if the hearing is requested, no enforcement action may be taken before the conclusion of that hearing.

(3) The rules adopted under this section shall specify the emergency enforcement actions that may be taken by the department, and the circumstances under which they may be

taken, without first providing the affected party with an opportunity for a hearing. Neither the provisions of this subsection nor the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall preclude the department from requesting the initiation of criminal proceedings for violations of the disease inspection and control rules.

(4) A person shall not violate the rules adopted under subsection (2) or (3) of this section or violate RCW 77.115.040.

(5) In administering the program established under this section, the department shall use the services of a pathologist licensed to practice veterinary medicine.

(6) The director in administering the program shall not place constraints on or take enforcement actions in respect to the aquaculture industry that are more rigorous than those placed on the department or other fish-rearing entities. [2000 c 107 § 122; 1998 c 190 § 110; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 55; 1988 c 36 § 43; 1985 c 457 § 8. Formerly RCW 75.58.010.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 75.58.020 was recodified as RCW 77.115.020 and also repealed by 2000 c 150 § 2, effective July 1, 2001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **77.115.030 Consultation required—Agreements for diagnostic field services authorized—Roster of biologists.**

(1) The director shall consult regarding the disease inspection and control program established under RCW 77.115.010 with federal agencies and Indian tribes to assure protection of state, federal, and tribal aquatic resources and to protect private sector cultured aquatic products from disease that could originate from waters or facilities managed by those agencies.

(2) With regard to the program, the director may enter into contracts or interagency agreements for diagnostic field services with government agencies and institutions of higher education and private industry.

(3) The director shall provide for the creation and distribution of a roster of biologists having a specialty in the diagnosis or treatment of diseases of fish or shellfish. The director shall adopt rules specifying the qualifications which a person must have in order to be placed on the roster. [2000 c 107 § 124; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 57; 1988 c 36 § 44; 1985 c 457 § 10. Formerly RCW 75.58.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **77.115.040 Registration of aquatic farmers—Fee.** (1)

All aquatic farmers, as defined in RCW 15.85.020, shall register with the department. The application fee is one hundred five dollars. The director shall assign each aquatic farm a unique registration number and develop and maintain in an electronic database a registration list of all aquaculture farms. The department shall establish procedures to annually update the aquatic farmer information contained in the registration list. The department shall coordinate with the department of health using shellfish growing area certification data when updating the registration list.

(2) Registered aquaculture farms shall provide the department with the following information:

- (a) The name of the aquatic farmer;
- (b) The address of the aquatic farmer;
- (c) Contact information such as telephone, fax, web site, and e-mail address, if available;

(2012 Ed.)

(d) The number and location of acres under cultivation, including a map displaying the location of the cultivated acres;

(e) The name of the landowner of the property being cultivated or otherwise used in the aquatic farming operation;

(f) The private sector cultured aquatic product being propagated, farmed, or cultivated; and

(g) Statistical production data.

(3) The state veterinarian shall be provided with registration and statistical data by the department. [2011 c 339 § 37; 2007 c 216 § 6; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 58; 1988 c 36 § 45; 1985 c 457 § 11. Formerly RCW 75.58.040.]

**Effective date—2011 c 339:** See note following RCW 43.84.092.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## **Chapter 77.120 RCW BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT**

### Sections

77.120.005	Findings.
77.120.010	Definitions.
77.120.020	Application of chapter.
77.120.030	Authorized ballast water discharge—Adoption of standards by rule.
77.120.040	Reporting and sampling requirements.
77.120.050	Pilot project—Private sector ballast water treatment operation.
77.120.070	Violation of chapter—Penalties—Rules.
77.120.100	Department may assess fee for exemptions—Rules.
77.120.110	Ballast water management account.
77.120.120	Special operating authorization—Rules.
77.120.900	Severability—2000 c 108.

**77.120.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that some nonindigenous species have the potential to cause economic and environmental damage to the state and that current efforts to stop the introduction of nonindigenous species from shipping vessels do not adequately reduce the risk of new introductions into Washington waters.

The legislature recognizes the international ramifications and the rapidly changing dimensions of this issue, the lack of currently available treatment technologies, and the difficulty that any one state has in either legally or practically managing this issue. Recognizing the possible limits of state jurisdiction over international issues, the state declares its support for the international maritime organization and United States coast guard efforts, and the state intends to complement, to the extent its powers allow it, the United States coast guard's ballast water management program. [2004 c 227 § 1; 2000 c 108 § 1.]

**77.120.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Ballast tank" means any tank or hold on a vessel used for carrying ballast water, whether or not the tank or hold was designed for that purpose.

(2) "Ballast water" means any water and matter taken on board a vessel to control or maintain trim, draft, stability, or stresses of the vessel, without regard to the manner in which it is carried.

(3) "Empty/refill exchange" means to pump out, until the tank is empty or as close to empty as the master or operator determines is safe, the ballast water taken on in ports, estua-

rine, or territorial waters, and then refilling the tank with open sea waters.

(4) "Exchange" means to replace the water in a ballast tank using either flow through exchange, empty/refill exchange, or other exchange methodology recommended or required by the United States coast guard.

(5) "Flow through exchange" means to flush out ballast water by pumping in midocean water at the bottom of the tank and continuously overflowing the tank from the top until three full volumes of water have been changed to minimize the number of original organisms remaining in the tank.

(6) "Nonindigenous species" means any species or other viable biological material that enters an ecosystem beyond its natural range.

(7) "Open sea exchange" means an exchange that occurs fifty or more nautical miles offshore. If the United States coast guard requires a vessel to conduct an exchange further offshore, then that distance is the required distance for purposes of compliance with this chapter.

(8) "Recognized marine trade association" means those trade associations in Washington state that promote improved ballast water management practices by educating their members on the provisions of this chapter, participating in regional ballast water coordination through the Pacific ballast water group, assisting the department in the collection of ballast water exchange forms, and the monitoring of ballast water. This includes members of the Puget Sound marine committee for Puget Sound and the Columbia river steamship operators association for the Columbia river.

(9) "Sediments" means any matter settled out of ballast water within a vessel.

(10) "Untreated ballast water" includes exchanged or unexchanged ballast water that has not undergone treatment.

(11) "Vessel" means a ship, boat, barge, or other floating craft of three hundred gross tons or more, United States and foreign, carrying, or capable of carrying, ballast water into the coastal waters of the state after operating outside of the coastal waters of the state, except those vessels described in RCW 77.120.020.

(12) "Voyage" means any transit by a vessel destined for any Washington port.

(13) "Waters of the state" means any surface waters, including internal waters contiguous to state shorelines within the boundaries of the state. [2007 c 350 § 8; 2000 c 108 § 2.]

**77.120.020 Application of chapter.** (1) This chapter applies to all vessels transiting into the waters of the state from a voyage, except:

(a) A vessel of the United States department of defense or United States coast guard subject to the requirements of section 1103 of the national invasive species act of 1996, or any vessel of the armed forces, as defined in 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1322(a)(14), that is subject to the uniform national discharge standards for vessels of the armed forces under 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1322(n);

(b) A vessel that discharges ballast water or sediments only at the location where the ballast water or sediments originated, if the ballast water or sediments do not mix with ballast water or sediments from areas other than open sea waters; and

(c) A vessel in innocent passage, merely traversing the territorial sea of the United States and not entering or departing a United States port, or not navigating the internal waters of the United States, and that does not discharge ballast water into the waters of the state.

(2) This chapter does not authorize the discharge of oil or noxious liquid substances in a manner prohibited by state, federal, or international laws or regulations. Ballast water containing oil, noxious liquid substances, or any other pollutant shall be discharged in accordance with the applicable requirements.

(3) The master or operator in charge of a vessel is responsible for the safety of the vessel, its crew, and its passengers. Nothing in this chapter relieves the master or operator in charge of a vessel of the responsibility for ensuring the safety and stability of the vessel or the safety of the crew and passengers. [2007 c 350 § 9; 2000 c 108 § 3.]

**77.120.030 Authorized ballast water discharge—Adoption of standards by rule.** (1) The owner or operator in charge of any vessel covered by this chapter is required to ensure that the vessel under their ownership or control does not discharge ballast water into the waters of the state except as authorized by this section.

(2) Discharge of ballast water into waters of the state is authorized only if there has been an open sea exchange, or if the vessel has treated its ballast water, to meet standards set by the department consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

(3) The department, in consultation with a collaborative forum, shall adopt by rule standards for the discharge of ballast water into the waters of the state and their implementation timelines. The standards are intended to ensure that the discharge of ballast water poses minimal risk of introducing nonindigenous species. In developing these standards, the department shall consider the extent to which the requirement is technologically and practically feasible. Where practical and appropriate, the standards must be compatible with standards set by the United States coast guard, the federal clean water act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251-1387), or the international maritime organization.

(4) The master, operator, or person in charge of a vessel is not required to conduct an open sea exchange or treatment of ballast water if the master, operator, or person in charge of a vessel determines that the operation would threaten the safety of the vessel, its crew, or its passengers, because of adverse weather, vessel design limitations, equipment failure, or any other extraordinary conditions. A master, operator, or person in charge of a vessel who relies on this exemption must file documentation defined by the department, subject to: (a) Payment of a fee not to exceed five thousand dollars; (b) discharging only the minimal amount of ballast water operationally necessary; (c) ensuring that ballast water records accurately reflect any reasons for not complying with the mandatory requirements; and (d) any other requirements identified by the department by rule as provided in subsections (3) and (6) of this section.

(5) For treatment technologies requiring shipyard modification, the department may enter into a compliance plan with the vessel owner. The compliance plan must include a timeline consistent with drydock and shipyard schedules for

completion of the modification. The department shall adopt rules for compliance plans under this subsection.

(6) For an exemption claimed in subsection (4) of this section, the department shall adopt rules for defining exemption conditions, requirements, compliance plans, or alternative ballast water management strategies to meet the intent of this section.

(7) The department shall make every effort to align ballast water standards with adopted international and federal standards while ensuring that the goals of this chapter are met.

(8) The requirements of this section do not apply to a vessel discharging ballast water or sediments that originated solely within the waters of Washington, the Columbia river system, or the internal waters of British Columbia south of latitude fifty degrees north, including the waters of the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca.

(9) Open sea exchange is an exchange that occurs fifty or more nautical miles offshore. If the United States coast guard requires a vessel to conduct an exchange further offshore, then that distance is the required distance for purposes of compliance with this chapter. [2009 c 333 § 26; 2007 c 350 § 10; 2004 c 227 § 3; 2002 c 282 § 2; 2000 c 108 § 4.]

#### **77.120.040 Reporting and sampling requirements.**

The owner or operator in charge of any vessel covered by this chapter is required to ensure that the vessel under their ownership or control complies with the reporting and sampling requirements of this section.

(1) Vessels covered by this chapter must report ballast water management information to the department using ballast water management forms that are acceptable to the United States coast guard. The frequency, manner, and form of such reporting shall be established by the department by rule. Any vessel may rely on a recognized marine trade association to collect and forward this information to the department.

(2) In order to monitor the effectiveness of national and international efforts to prevent the introduction of nonindigenous species, all vessels covered by this chapter must submit nonindigenous species ballast water monitoring data. The monitoring, sampling, testing protocols, and methods of identifying nonindigenous species in ballast water shall be determined by the department by rule. A vessel covered by this chapter may contract with a recognized marine trade association to randomly sample vessels within that association's membership, and provide data to the department.

(3) Vessels that do not belong to a recognized marine trade association must submit individual ballast tank sample data to the department for each voyage.

(4) All data submitted to the department under subsection (2) of this section shall be consistent with sampling and testing protocols as adopted by the department by rule.

(5) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules and recommendations shall be developed in consultation with advisors from regulated industries and the potentially affected parties, including but not limited to shipping interests, ports, shellfish growers, fisheries, environmental interests, interested citizens who have knowledge of the issues, and appropriate governmental representatives including the United States coast guard. In recognition of the

need to have a coordinated response to ballast water management for the Columbia river system, the department must consider rules adopted by the state of Oregon when adopting rules under this section for ballast water management in the navigable waters of the Columbia river system.

(a) The department shall set standards for the discharge of treated ballast water into the waters of the state. The rules are intended to ensure that the discharge of treated ballast water poses minimal risk of introducing nonindigenous species. In developing this standard, the department shall consider the extent to which the requirement is technologically and practically feasible. Where practical and appropriate, the standards shall be compatible with standards set by the United States coast guard and shall be developed in consultation with federal and state agencies to ensure consistency with the federal clean water act, 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251-1387.

(b) The department shall adopt ballast water sampling and testing protocols for monitoring the biological components of ballast water that may be discharged into the waters of the state under this chapter. Monitoring data is intended to assist the department in evaluating the risk of new, nonindigenous species introductions from the discharge of ballast water, and to evaluate the accuracy of ballast water exchange practices. The sampling and testing protocols must consist of cost-effective, scientifically verifiable methods that, to the extent practical and without compromising the purposes of this chapter, utilize easily measured indices, such as salinity, or check for species that indicate the potential presence of nonindigenous species or pathogenic species. The department shall specify appropriate quality assurance and quality control for the sampling and testing protocols. [2002 c 282 § 3; 2000 c 108 § 5.]

**77.120.050 Pilot project—Private sector ballast water treatment operation.** The shipping vessel industry, the public ports, and the department shall promote the creation of a pilot project to establish a private sector ballast water treatment operation that is capable of servicing vessels at all Washington ports. Federal and state agencies and private industries shall be invited to participate. The project will develop equipment or methods to treat ballast water and establish operational methods that do not increase the cost of ballast water treatment at smaller ports. The legislature intends that the cost of treatment required by this chapter is substantially equivalent among large and small ports in Washington. [2000 c 108 § 6.]

#### **77.120.070 Violation of chapter—Penalties—Rules.**

(1) The department may establish by rule schedules for any penalty allowed in this chapter. The schedules may provide for the incremental assessment of a penalty based on criteria established by rule.

(2) The director or the director's designee may impose a civil penalty or warning for a violation of the requirements of this chapter on the owner or operator in charge of a vessel who fails to comply with the requirements imposed under RCW 77.120.030 and 77.120.040. The penalty shall not exceed twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars for each day of a continuing violation. In determining the amount of a civil penalty, the department shall set standards by rule that consider if the violation was intentional, negligent, or without

any fault, and shall consider the quality and nature of risks created by the violation. The owner or operator subject to such a penalty may contest the determination by requesting an adjudicative proceeding within twenty days. Any determination not timely contested is final and may be reduced to a judgment enforceable in any court with jurisdiction. If the department prevails using any judicial process to collect a penalty under this section, the department shall also be awarded its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

(3) The department, in cooperation with the United States coast guard, may enforce the requirements of this chapter. [2007 c 350 § 12; 2000 c 108 § 8.]

**77.120.100 Department may assess fee for exemptions—Rules.** The department may assess a fee for any exemptions allowed under this chapter. Such a fee may not exceed five thousand dollars. The department may establish by rule schedules for any fee allowed in this chapter. The schedules may provide for the incremental assessment of a penalty based on criteria established by rule. [2007 c 350 § 13.]

**77.120.110 Ballast water management account.** (1) The ballast water management account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from legislative appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, penalties, and fees received under this chapter must be deposited into the account.

(2) Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only to carry out the purposes of this chapter or support the goals of this chapter through research and monitoring except:

(a) Expenditures may not be used for the salaries of permanent department employees; and

(b) Penalties deposited into the account may be used only to support basic and applied research and carry out education and outreach related to the state's ballast water management. [2009 c 333 § 27; 2007 c 350 § 14.]

**77.120.120 Special operating authorization—Rules.** The department may issue a special operating authorization for passenger vessels conducting or assisting in research and testing activities to determine the presence of invasive species in ballast water collected in the waters of southeast Alaska north of latitude fifty-four degrees thirty minutes north to sixty-one degrees ten minutes north, extending to longitude one hundred forty-nine degrees thirty minutes west. The department may adopt rules for defining special operating authorization conditions, requirements, limitations, and fees as necessary to implement this section, consistent with the intent of this chapter. [2009 c 333 § 28; 2007 c 350 § 15.]

**77.120.900 Severability—2000 c 108.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2000 c 108 § 11.]

## Chapter 77.125 RCW

### MARINE FIN FISH AQUACULTURE PROGRAMS

#### Sections

77.125.010	Accidental Atlantic salmon release—Prevention measures.
77.125.020	Marine aquatic farming location—Defined.
77.125.030	Development of proposed rules—Elements.
77.125.040	Report to the legislature.

**77.125.010 Accidental Atlantic salmon release—Prevention measures.** Marine aquaculture net pen facilities in Washington state have accidentally released Atlantic salmon into Puget Sound. It is necessary to minimize escapes through the implementation of statewide prevention measures. [2001 c 86 § 1.]

**77.125.020 Marine aquatic farming location—Defined.** For the purposes of this chapter, "marine aquatic farming location" means a complete complex that may be composed of various marine enclosures, net pens, or other rearing vessels, food handling facilities, or other facilities related to the rearing of Atlantic salmon or other fin fish in marine waters. A marine aquatic farming location is distinguished from the individual facilities that collectively compose the location. [2001 c 86 § 2.]

**77.125.030 Development of proposed rules—Elements.** The director, in cooperation with the marine fin fish aquatic farmers, shall develop proposed rules for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of marine fin fish aquaculture programs. In developing such proposed rules, the director must use a negotiated rule-making process pursuant to RCW 34.05.310. The proposed rules shall be submitted to the appropriate legislative committees by January 1, 2002, to allow for legislative review of the proposed rules. The proposed rules shall include the following elements:

(1) Provisions for the prevention of escapes of cultured marine fin fish aquaculture products from enclosures, net pens, or other rearing vessels;

(2) Provisions for the development and implementation of management plans to facilitate the most rapid recapture of live marine fin fish aquaculture products that have escaped from enclosures, net pens, or other rearing vessels, and to prevent the spread or permanent escape of these products;

(3) Provisions for the development of management practices based on the latest available science, to include:

(a) Procedures for inspections of marine aquatic farming locations on a regular basis to determine conformity with law and the rules of the department relating to the operation of marine aquatic farming locations; and

(b) Operating procedures at marine aquatic farming locations to prevent the escape of marine fin fish, to include the use of net antifoulants;

(4) Provisions for the eradication of those cultured marine fin fish aquaculture products that have escaped from enclosures, net pens, or other rearing vessels found spawning in state waters;

(5) Provisions for the determination of appropriate species, stocks, and races of marine fin fish aquaculture products allowed to be cultured at specific locations and sites;

(6) Provisions for the development of an Atlantic salmon watch program similar to the one in operation in British

Columbia, Canada. The program must provide for the monitoring of escapes of Atlantic salmon from marine aquatic farming locations, monitor the occurrence of naturally produced Atlantic salmon, determine the impact of Atlantic salmon on naturally produced and cultured fin fish stocks, provide a focal point for consolidation of scientific information, and provide a forum for interaction and education of the public; and

(7) Provisions for the development of an education program to assist marine aquatic farmers so that they operate in an environmentally sound manner. [2001 c 86 § 3.]

**77.125.040 Report to the legislature.** Rules to implement this chapter shall be adopted no sooner than thirty days following the end of the 2002 regular legislative session. The director shall provide a written report to the appropriate legislative committees by January 1, 2003, on the progress of the program. [2001 c 86 § 4.]

## Chapter 77.130 RCW

### DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

#### Sections

77.130.010	Unclaimed personal property—Disposition—Firearms.
77.130.020	Notice of sale.
77.130.030	Use of money from sales under this chapter.
77.130.040	Property owner entitled to receive money.
77.130.050	Application of chapters 63.24 and 63.29 RCW.
77.130.060	Donation of unclaimed personal property.

**77.130.010 Unclaimed personal property—Disposition—Firearms.** Whenever any personal property comes into the possession of the officers of the department in connection with the official performance of their duties and the personal property remains unclaimed or not taken away for a period of sixty days from the date of written notice to the owner thereof, if known, which notice shall inform the owner of the disposition that may be made of the property under this section and the time that the owner has to claim the property and in all other cases for a period of sixty days from the time the property came into the possession of the department, unless the property has been held as evidence in any court, then, in that event, after sixty days from date when the case has been finally disposed of and the property released as evidence by order of the court, the department may:

(1) At any time thereafter sell the personal property at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash in the manner hereinafter provided;

(2) Retain the property for the use of the department subject to giving notice in the manner prescribed in RCW 63.35.030 and the right of the owner, or the owner's legal representative, to reclaim the property within one year after receipt of notice, without compensation for ordinary wear and tear if, in the opinion of the director, the property consists of firearms or other items specifically usable in law enforcement work. At the end of each calendar year during which there has been such a retention, the department shall provide the office of financial management and retain for public inspection a list of such retained items and an estimation of each item's replacement value;

(2012 Ed.)

(3) Destroy an item of personal property at the discretion of the director if the director determines that the following circumstances have occurred:

(a) The property has no substantial commercial value or the probable cost of sale exceeds the value of the property;

(b) The item has been unclaimed by any person after notice procedures have been met, as prescribed in this section; and

(c) The director has determined that the item is illegal to possess or sell or unsafe and unable to be made safe for use by any member of the general public;

(4) If the item is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, such item, after satisfying the notice requirements as prescribed in this section may be offered by the director to bona fide dealers, in trade for law enforcement equipment, which equipment must be treated as retained property for the purpose of annual listing requirements of subsection (2) of this section; or

(5) At the end of one year, any unclaimed firearm must be disposed of pursuant to RCW 9.41.098(2). Any other item that is not unsafe or illegal to possess or sell, but has been, or may be used, in the judgment of the director, in a manner that is illegal, may be destroyed. [2009 c 333 § 44.]

**77.130.020 Notice of sale.** Before the personal property shall be sold, a notice of such a sale fixing the time and place thereof which shall be at a suitable place, which will be noted in the advertisement for sale, and containing a description of the property to be sold must be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the property is to be sold at least ten days prior to the date fixed for the auction. The notice must be signed by the director. If the owner fails to reclaim the property prior to the time fixed for the sale in such a notice, the director shall conduct the sale and sell the property described in the notice at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, and upon payment of the amount of the bid shall deliver the property to the bidder. [2009 c 333 § 45.]

**77.130.030 Use of money from sales under this chapter.** The moneys arising from sales under the provisions of this chapter must be first applied to the payment of the costs and expenses of the sale and then to the payment of lawful charges and expenses for the keep of the personal property and the balance, if any, must be forwarded to the state treasurer to be deposited into the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account under RCW 77.15.425. [2009 c 333 § 46.]

**77.130.040 Property owner entitled to receive money.** If the owner of the personal property so sold, or the owner's legal representative, shall, at any time within three years after the money has been deposited in the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account, furnish satisfactory evidence to the state treasurer of the ownership of the personal property, the owner or the owner's legal representative is entitled to receive from the fish and wildlife enforcement reward account the amount so deposited, with interest. [2009 c 333 § 47.]

**77.130.050 Application of chapters 63.24 and 63.29 RCW.** (1) Chapter 63.24 RCW, unclaimed property in hands

of bailee, does not apply to personal property in the possession of the department.

(2) The uniform unclaimed property act, chapter 63.29 RCW, does not apply to personal property in the possession of the department. [2009 c 333 § 48.]

**77.130.060 Donation of unclaimed personal property.** In addition to any other method of disposition of unclaimed property provided under this chapter, the department may donate unclaimed personal property to nonprofit charitable organizations. A nonprofit charitable organization receiving personal property donated under this section must use the property, or its proceeds, to benefit needy persons. The charitable organization must qualify for tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code. [2009 c 333 § 49.]

# Title 78

## MINES, MINERALS, AND PETROLEUM

### Chapters

- 78.04 Mining corporations.**
- 78.06 Mining claims—Survey reports.**
- 78.08 Location of mining claims.**
- 78.12 Abandoned shafts and excavations.**
- 78.16 Mineral and petroleum leases on county lands.**
- 78.22 Extinguishment of unused mineral rights.**
- 78.44 Surface mining.**
- 78.52 Oil and gas conservation.**
- 78.56 Metals mining and milling operations.**
- 78.60 Geothermal resources.**

*Appropriation of water for industrial purposes:* RCW 90.16.020.

*Assay—Altering or making false sample or certificate:* RCW 9.45.210, 9.45.220.

*Boilers and unfired pressure vessels:* Chapter 70.79 RCW.

*Bureau of statistics:* Chapter 43.07 RCW.

*Department of natural resources:* Chapter 43.30 RCW.

*Department of commerce:* Chapter 43.330 RCW.

*Explosives:* Chapter 70.74 RCW.

*Franchises on county roads and bridges:* Chapter 36.55 RCW.

*Geological survey:* RCW 43.27A.130, chapter 43.92 RCW.

*Geology supervisor:* RCW 43.30.600 and 43.27A.130.

*Industrial safety and health:* Chapter 49.17 RCW.

*Labor liens on franchises, earnings, and property of certain companies:* Chapter 60.32 RCW.

*Measurement of oil, gas, coal products, fraud, penalty:* RCW 9.45.122 through 9.45.126.

*Operating engine or boiler without spark arrester:* RCW 9.40.040.

*Pipelines, hazardous liquid and gas:* Chapter 81.88 RCW.

*Private ways of necessity:* Chapter 8.24 RCW.

*Protection of employees:* State Constitution Art. 2 § 35.

#### Public lands

*applications for federal certification that lands are nonmineral:* RCW 79.02.110.

*relinquishment to United States in certain cases of reserved mineral rights:* RCW 79.11.220.

*sales and leases, reservation in contract:* RCW 79.11.210.

*Public utilities, gas, electrical and water companies:* Chapter 80.28 RCW.

*Supervisor of industrial safety and health:* RCW 43.22.040.

*Underground storage of natural gas:* Chapter 80.40 RCW.

*Use of waters for irrigation, mining, manufacturing, deemed a public use:* State Constitution Art. 21.

### Chapter 78.04 RCW MINING CORPORATIONS

#### Sections

- 78.04.010 Right of eminent domain.
- 78.04.015 Right of entry.
- 78.04.020 Manner of exercising right of eminent domain.
- 78.04.030 No stock subscription necessary.
- 78.04.040 Right of stockholder to enter and examine property.
- 78.04.050 Penalty for violations under RCW 78.04.040.

**78.04.010 Right of eminent domain.** The right of eminent domain is hereby extended to all corporations incorpo-

rated or that may hereafter be incorporated under the laws of this state or any state or territory of the United States, and doing business in this state, for the purpose of acquiring, owning or operating mines, mills or reduction works, or mining or milling gold and silver or other minerals, which may desire to erect and operate surface tramways or elevated cable tramways for the purpose of carrying, conveying or transporting the products of such mines, mills or reduction works. [1897 c 60 § 1; RRS § 8608. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1897 c 60 § 2; RRS § 8609 now codified as RCW 78.04.015.]

*Water rights—Appropriation for industrial (mining) purposes:* RCW 90.16.020 and 90.16.030.

**78.04.015 Right of entry.** Every corporation incorporated or that may hereafter be incorporated under the laws of this state or any state or territory of the United States, and doing business in this state, for the purpose of acquiring, owning or operating mines, mills or reduction works, or mining or milling gold and silver or other minerals, which may desire to erect and operate surface tramways or elevated cable tramways for the purpose of carrying, conveying or transporting the products of such mines, mills or reduction works, shall have the right to enter upon any land between the termini of the proposed lines for the purpose of examining, locating and surveying such lines, doing no unnecessary damage thereby. [1897 c 60 § 2; RRS § 8609. Formerly RCW 87.04.010, part.]

**78.04.020 Manner of exercising right of eminent domain.** Every such corporation shall have the right to appropriate real estate or other property for right-of-way in the same manner and under the same procedure as now is or may be hereafter provided by the law in the case of other corporations authorized by the laws of this state to exercise the right of eminent domain. [1897 c 60 § 3; RRS § 8610.]

*Eminent domain by corporations:* Chapter 8.20 RCW.

**78.04.030 No stock subscription necessary.** In incorporations already formed, or which may hereafter be formed under \*this chapter, where the amount of the capital stock of such corporation consists of the aggregate valuation of the whole number of feet, shares, or interest in any mining claim in this state, for the working and development of which such corporation shall be or have been formed, no actual subscription to the capital stock of such corporation shall be necessary; but each owner in said mining claim shall be deemed to have subscribed such an amount to the capital stock of such corporation as under its bylaws will represent the value of so much of his interest in said mining claim, the legal title to which he may by deed, deed of trust or other instrument vest, or have vested in such corporation for mining purposes; such subscription to be deemed to have been made on the execution and delivery to such corporation of such deed, deed of trust, or other instrument; nor shall the validity of any assess-

ment levied by the board of trustees of such corporation be affected by the reason of the fact that the full amount of the capital stock of such corporation, as mentioned in its certificate of incorporation, shall not have been subscribed as provided in this section: PROVIDED, That the greater portion of said amount of capital stock shall have been so subscribed: AND, PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section shall not be so construed as to prohibit the stockholders of any corporation formed, or which may be formed, for mining purposes as provided in this section, from regulating the mode of making subscriptions to its capital stock and calling in the same by bylaws or express contract. [Code 1881 § 2446; 1873 p 407 § 26; 1869 p 339 § 28; 1866 p 65 § 28; RRS § 8611.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The two remaining sections of "this chapter" (Code 1881 c CLXXXV) are codified in RCW 78.04.030 above and RCW 90.16.010.

**78.04.040 Right of stockholder to enter and examine property.** Any owner of stock to the amount of one thousand shares, in any corporation doing business under the laws of the state of Washington for the purposes of mining, shall, at all hours of business or labor on or about the premises or property of such corporation, have the right to enter upon such property and examine the same, either on the surface or underground. And it is hereby made the duty of any and all officers, managers, agents, superintendents, or persons in charge, to allow any such stockholder to enter upon and examine any of the property of such corporation at any time during the hours of business or labor; and the presentation of certificates of stock in the corporation of the amount of one thousand shares, to the officer or person in charge, shall be prima facie evidence of ownership and right to enter upon or into, and make examinations of the property of the corporation. [1901 c 120 § 1; RRS § 8612.]

**78.04.050 Penalty for violations under RCW 78.04.040.** Any violation of any of the provisions of RCW 78.04.040 by any officer or agent of such corporation shall constitute a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof every such officer or agent shall be fined in a sum not greater than two hundred dollars for each offense. [1901 c 120 § 2; RRS § 8613.]

### Chapter 78.06 RCW

#### MINING CLAIMS—SURVEY REPORTS

##### Sections

78.06.010	Definitions.
78.06.020	Duplicate survey reports to be filed with county auditor—Contents.
78.06.030	Auditor to forward survey reports to department of natural resources.

*Holding claim by geological, etc., survey—Reports: RCW 78.08.072.*

**78.06.010 Definitions.** Words or terms used herein have the following meanings:

(1) "Geological surveys" means surveys on the ground for mineral deposits by the proper application of the principles and techniques of the science of geology as they relate to the search for and discovery of mineral deposits.

(2) "Geochemical surveys" means surveys on the ground for mineral deposits by the proper application of the princi-

ples and techniques of the science of chemistry as they relate to the search for and discovery of mineral deposits.

(3) "Geophysical surveys" means surveys on the ground for mineral deposits through the employment of generally recognized equipment and methods for measuring physical differences between rock types or discontinuities in geological formations. [1959 c 119 § 1.]

**78.06.020 Duplicate survey reports to be filed with county auditor—Contents.** All reports of geological, geophysical, or geochemical surveys on mining claims which may be filed with the auditor of any county in this state pursuant to United States Public Law 85-876 or amendments or revisions thereto shall be so filed in duplicate, and shall set forth fully:

(1) The location of the survey performed in relation to the point of discovery and boundaries of the claim.

(2) The nature, extent, and cost of the survey.

(3) The date the survey was commenced and the date completed.

(4) The basic findings therefrom.

(5) The name, address, and professional background of the person or persons performing or conducting the survey. [1959 c 119 § 2.]

**78.06.030 Auditor to forward survey reports to department of natural resources.** All county auditors receiving for filing duplicate copies of geological, geochemical, and geophysical survey reports on mining claims shall forward, monthly, one copy of each report received to the department of natural resources. [1988 c 127 § 31; 1959 c 119 § 3.]

### Chapter 78.08 RCW

#### LOCATION OF MINING CLAIMS

##### Sections

##### 1887 ACT

78.08.005	Prior claims, how governed.
78.08.020	Extent of lode claims.
78.08.030	Rights of locators.
78.08.040	Recording instruments affecting claim.

##### 1899 AND LATER ACTS

78.08.050	Location notices—Contents—Recording.
78.08.060	Staking of claim—Requisites—Right of person diligently engaged in search.
78.08.070	Cut, excavation, tunnel or test hole in lieu of discovery shaft.
78.08.072	Holding claim by geological, etc., survey—Report of survey.
78.08.075	"Lode" defined.
78.08.080	Amended certificate of location.
78.08.081	Assessment work, affidavit of work performed or affidavit of fees paid.
78.08.082	Affidavit is prima facie evidence.
78.08.090	Relocating abandoned claim.
78.08.100	Location of placer claims.
78.08.110	Affidavit as proof.
78.08.115	Application of RCW 78.08.050 through 78.08.115.

##### 1887 ACT

**78.08.005 Prior claims, how governed.** All mining claims upon veins or lodes of quartz or other rock in place, bearing gold, silver or other valuable mineral deposits heretofore located, shall be governed as to length along the vein or

lode by the customs, regulations and laws in force at the date of such location. [1887 c 87 § 1; RRS § 8615.]

*For earlier acts on this subject, see: 1867 pp 146-147, 1869 pp 386-388, 1873 pp 444-446, 1875 pp 126-127, 1877 pp 335-336. See also, act of congress, May 10, 1872.*

**78.08.020 Extent of lode claims.** A mining claim located upon any vein or lode of quartz or other rock in place, bearing gold, silver or other valuable mineral deposits, after the approval of \*this act by the governor, whether located by one or more persons, may equal, but shall not exceed, one thousand five hundred feet in length along the vein or lode; but no location of a mining claim shall be made until the discovery of the vein or lode within the limits of the claims located. No claims shall extend more than three hundred feet on each side of the middle of the vein at the surface, nor shall any claims be limited by any mining regulation to less than fifty feet of surface on each side of the middle of such vein or lode at the surface, excepting where adverse rights, existing at the date of the approval of this act, shall make such limitation necessary. The end lines of each claim shall be parallel to each other. [1887 c 87 § 2; RRS § 8616.]

\*Reviser's note: "this act" [1887 c 87], is codified in RCW 78.08.005 through 78.08.040; "date of the approval of this act" was February 2, 1888.

**78.08.030 Rights of locators.** The locators of all mining locations heretofore made or hereafter made under the provisions of RCW 78.08.005 through 78.08.040, on any mineral vein, lode or ledge on the public domain, and their heirs and assigns so long as they comply with the laws of the United States and the state and local laws relating thereto, shall have the exclusive right to the possession and enjoyment of all surface included within the lines of their location, and of all veins, lodes and ledges throughout their entire depth, and the top or apex of which lies within the surface lines of such location, extending downward vertically, although such veins, lodes or ledges may so far depart from the perpendicular in their course downward as to extend outside of the vertical side line of said surface location. [1887 c 87 § 3; RRS § 8617.]

**78.08.040 Recording instruments affecting claim.** All location notices, bonds, assignments and transfers of mining claims shall be recorded in the office of the county auditor of the county where the same is situated within thirty days after the execution thereof. [1979 ex.s. c 30 § 15; 1887 c 87 § 7; RRS § 8621.]

#### 1899 AND LATER ACTS

**78.08.050 Location notices—Contents—Recording.** The discoverer of a lode shall within ninety days from the date of discovery, record in the office of the auditor of the county in which such lode is found, a notice containing the name or names of the locators, the date of the location, the number of feet in length claimed on each side of the discovery, the general course of the lode and such a description of the claim or claims located by reference to some natural object or permanent monument as will identify the claim. [1899 c 45 § 1; RRS § 8622.]

(2012 Ed.)

*For earlier acts on this subject, see: 1867 pp 146-147, 1869 pp 386-388, 1873 pp 444-446, 1875 pp 126-127, 1877 pp 335-336, 1887 c 87; see also, act of congress, May 10, 1872.*

**78.08.060 Staking of claim—Requisites—Right of person diligently engaged in search.** (1) Before filing such notice for record, the discoverer shall locate his or her claim by posting at the discovery at the time of discovery a notice containing the name of the lode, the name of the locator or locators, and the date of discovery, and marking the surface boundaries of the claim by placing substantial posts or stone monuments bearing the name of the lode and date of location; one post or monument must appear at each corner of such claim; such posts or monuments must be not less than three feet high; if posts are used they shall be not less than four inches in diameter and shall be set in the ground in a substantial manner. If any such claim be located on ground that is covered wholly or in part with brush or trees, such brush shall be cut and trees be marked or blazed along the lines of such claim to indicate the location of such lines.

(2) Prior to valid discovery the actual possession and right of possession of one diligently engaged in the search for minerals shall be exclusive as regards prospecting during continuance of such possession and diligent search. As used in this section, "diligently engaged" shall mean performing not less than one hundred dollars worth of annual assessment work on or for the benefit of the claim or paying any fee or fees in lieu of assessment work in such year or years it is required under federal law, or any larger amount that may be designated now or later by the federal government for annual assessment work. [1995 c 114 § 1; 1965 c 151 § 1; 1963 c 64 § 1; 1949 c 12 § 1; 1899 c 45 § 2; RRS § 8623.]

**78.08.070 Cut, excavation, tunnel or test hole in lieu of discovery shaft.** Any open cut, excavation or tunnel which cuts or exposes a lode and from which a total of two hundred cubic feet of material has been removed or in lieu thereof a test hole drilled on the lode to a minimum depth of twenty feet from the collar, shall hold the lode the same as if a discovery shaft were sunk thereon, and shall be equivalent thereto. [1955 c 357 § 1; 1899 c 45 § 3; RRS § 8624.]

**78.08.072 Holding claim by geological, etc., survey—Report of survey.** Any geological, geochemical, or geophysical survey which reasonably involves a direct expenditure on or for the benefit of each claim of not less than the one hundred dollars worth of annual assessment work required under federal statute or regulations shall hold such claim for not more than two consecutive years or more than a total of five years: PROVIDED, That a written report of such survey shall be filed with the county auditor at the time annual assessment work is recorded as required under federal statute, and said written report shall set forth fully:

- (1) The location of the survey performed in relation to the point of discovery or location notice and boundaries of the claim.
- (2) The nature, extent, and cost of the survey.
- (3) The date the survey was commenced and the date completed.
- (4) The basic findings therefrom.

(5) The name, address, and professional background of the person or persons performing or conducting the survey. [1965 c 151 § 2; 1963 c 64 § 2; 1959 c 114 § 1.]

*Reports of geological, etc., surveys: Chapter 78.06 RCW.*

**78.08.075 "Lode" defined.** The term "lode" as used in RCW 78.08.050 through 78.08.115 shall be construed to mean ledge, vein or deposit. [1983 c 3 § 197; 1899 c 45 § 4; RRS § 8625. Formerly RCW 78.08.010.]

**78.08.080 Amended certificate of location.** If at any time the locator of any quartz or lode mining claim heretofore or hereafter located, or his assigns, shall learn that his original certificate was defective or that the requirements of the law had not been complied with before filing, or shall be desirous of changing his surface boundaries or of taking in any additional ground which is subject to location, or in any case the original certificate was made prior to the \*passage of this law, and he shall be desirous of securing the benefits of RCW 78.08.050 through 78.08.115, such locator or his assigns may file an amended certificate of location, subject to the provisions of RCW 78.08.050 through 78.08.115, regarding the making of new locations. [1983 c 3 § 198; 1899 c 45 § 5; RRS § 8626.]

\*Reviser's note: "passage of this law": 1899 c 45 (H.B. 272) passed the house, February 27, 1899; passed the senate, March 7, 1899, and was approved by the governor March 8, 1899.

**78.08.081 Assessment work, affidavit of work performed or affidavit of fees paid.** Within thirty days after the expiration of the period of time fixed for the performance of annual labor or the making of improvements upon any quartz or lode mining claim or premises, the person in whose behalf such work or improvement was made or some person for him or her knowing the facts, shall make and record in the office of the county auditor of the county wherein such claims are situate either an affidavit or oath of labor performed on such claim, or affidavit or oath of fee or fees paid to the federal government in lieu of the annual labor requirement. Such affidavit shall state the exact amount of fee or fees paid, or the kind of labor, including the number of feet of shaft, tunnel or open cut made on such claim, or any other kind of improvements allowed by law made thereon. When both fee and labor requirements have been waived by the federal government, such affidavit will contain a statement to that effect and the state shall not require labor to be performed. Such affidavit shall contain the section, township and range in which such lode is located if the location be in a surveyed area. [1995 c 114 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 30 § 16; 1955 c 357 § 3; 1899 c 45 § 6; RRS § 8627.]

**78.08.082 Affidavit is prima facie evidence.** Such affidavit when so recorded shall be prima facie evidence of the performance of such labor or the making of such improvements, and such original affidavit after it has been recorded, or a certified copy of record of same, shall be received as evidence accordingly by all the courts of this state. [1899 c 45 § 7; RRS § 8628.]

**78.08.090 Relocating abandoned claim.** The relocation of a forfeited or abandoned quartz or lode claim shall

only be made by sinking a new discovery shaft, or in lieu thereof performing at least an equal amount of development work within the borders of the claim, and fixing new boundaries in the same manner and to the same extent as is required in making a new location, or the relocater may sink the original discovery shaft ten feet deeper than it was at the date of commencement of such relocation, and shall erect new, or make the old monuments the same as originally required; in either case a new location monument shall be erected. [1949 c 12 § 2; 1899 c 45 § 8; RRS § 8629.]

**78.08.100 Location of placer claims.** The discoverer of placers or other forms of deposits subject to location and appropriation under mining laws applicable to placers shall locate his claim in the following manner:

First. He must immediately post in a conspicuous place at the point of discovery thereon, a notice or certificate of location thereof, containing (1) the name of the claim; (2) the name of the locator or locators; (3) the date of discovery and posting of the notice hereinbefore provided for, which shall be considered as the date of the location; (4) a description of the claim by reference to legal subdivisions of sections, if the location is made in conformity with the public surveys, otherwise, a description with reference to some natural object or permanent monuments as will identify the claim; and where such claim is located by legal subdivisions of the public surveys, such location shall, notwithstanding that fact, be marked by the locator upon the ground the same as other locations.

Second. Within thirty days from the date of such discovery he must record such notice or certificate of location in the office of the auditor of the county in which such discovery is made, and so distinctly mark his location on the ground that its boundaries may be readily traced.

Third. Within sixty days from the date of discovery, the discoverer shall perform labor upon such location or claim in developing the same to an amount which shall be equivalent in the aggregate to at least ten dollars worth of such labor for each twenty acres, or fractional part thereof, contained in such location or claim: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing in this subdivision shall be held to apply to lands located under the laws of the United States as placer claims for the purpose of the development of petroleum and natural gas and other natural oil products.

Fourth. Such locator shall, upon the performance of such labor, file with the auditor of the county an affidavit showing such performance and generally the nature and kind of work so done. [1901 c 137 § 1; 1899 c 45 § 10; RRS § 8631.]

**78.08.110 Affidavit as proof.** The affidavit provided for in the last section, and the aforesaid placer notice or certificate of location when filed for record, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein recited. A copy of such certificate, notice or affidavit certified by the county auditor shall be admitted in evidence in all actions or proceeding with the same effect as the original and the provisions of RCW 78.08.081 and 78.08.082 shall apply to placer claims as well as lode claims. [1899 c 45 § 11; RRS § 8632.]

**78.08.115 Application of RCW 78.08.050 through 78.08.115.** All locations of quartz or placer formations or

deposits hereafter made shall conform to the requirements of RCW 78.08.050 through 78.08.115 insofar as the same are respectively applicable thereto. [1983 c 3 § 199; 1899 c 45 § 12; RRS § 8633.]

### Chapter 78.12 RCW

#### ABANDONED SHAFTS AND EXCAVATIONS

##### Sections

78.12.010	Shafts, excavations to be fenced.
78.12.020	Complaint—Contents.
78.12.030	Order to serve notice.
78.12.040	Notice—Contents—Civil and criminal penalties.
78.12.050	Suit in name of state—Disposition of proceeds.
78.12.060	Procedure when shaft unclaimed.
78.12.061	Safety cage in mining shaft—Regulations.
78.12.070	Damage actions preserved.

**78.12.010 Shafts, excavations to be fenced.** Any person or persons, company, or corporation who shall hereafter dig, sink or excavate, or cause the same to be done, or being the owner or owners, or in the possession, under any lease or contract, of any shaft, excavation or hole, whether used for mining or otherwise, or whether dug, sunk or excavated for the purpose of mining, to obtain water, or for any other purpose, within this state, shall, during the time they may be employed in digging, sinking or excavating, or after they have ceased work upon or abandoned the same, erect, or cause to be erected, good and substantial fences or other safeguards, and keep the same in good repair around such works or shafts sufficient to securely guard against danger to persons and animals from falling into such shafts or excavations. [1890 p 121 § 1; RRS § 8857.]

**78.12.020 Complaint—Contents.** Three persons being residents of the county, and knowing or having reason to believe that the provisions of RCW 78.12.010 are being or have been violated within such county, may file a notice with any district or municipal court therein, which notice shall be in writing, and shall state—First, the location, as near as may be, of the hole, excavation or shaft. Second, that the same is dangerous to persons or animals, and has been left or is being worked contrary to the provisions of this chapter. Third, the name of the person or persons, company or corporation who is or are the owners of the same, if known, or if unknown, the persons who were known to be employed therein. Fourth, if abandoned and no claimant; and Fifth, the estimated cost of fencing or otherwise securing the same against any avoidable accidents. [1987 c 202 § 231; 1987 c 3 § 19; 1890 p 121 § 2; RRS § 8858.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.12.030 Order to serve notice.** Upon the filing of the notice, as provided in RCW 78.12.020, the district or municipal court shall issue an order, directed to the sheriff of the county or to any constable or city marshal therein, directing such officer to serve a notice in manner and form as is prescribed by law for service of summons upon any person or persons or the authorized agent or agents of any company or corporation named in the notice on file, as provided in RCW 78.12.020. [1984 c 258 § 139; 1890 p 121 § 3; RRS 8859.]

(2012 Ed.)

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.12.040 Notice—Contents—Civil and criminal penalties.** The notice thus served shall require the said persons to appear before the judge issuing the same, at a time to be stated therein, not more than ten nor less than three days from the service of said notice, and show to the satisfaction of the court that the provisions of this chapter have been complied with; or if said person or persons fail to appear, judgment will be entered against said person or persons for double the amount stated in the notice on file; and all proceedings had therein shall be as prescribed by law in civil cases; and such persons, in addition to any judgment that may be rendered against them, shall be liable and subject to a fine not exceeding the sum of one hundred dollars for each and every violation of the provisions of this chapter, which judgments and fines shall be adjudged and collected as provided for by law. [1987 c 202 § 232; 1890 p 122 § 4; RRS § 8860.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**78.12.050 Suit in name of state—Disposition of proceeds.** Suits commenced under the provisions of this chapter shall be in the name of the state of Washington, and all judgments and fines collected shall be paid into the county treasury for county purposes: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. [1987 c 202 § 233; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 34; 1890 p 122 § 5; RRS § 8861.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

*Disposition of costs, fines, fees, penalties, and forfeitures:* RCW 10.82.070.

**78.12.060 Procedure when shaft unclaimed.** If the notice filed with the district or municipal court, as aforesaid, shall state that the excavation, shaft or hole has been abandoned, and no person claims the ownership thereof, the court shall notify the county legislative authority of the location of the same, and they shall, as soon as possible thereafter, cause the same to be so fenced, or otherwise guarded, as to prevent accidents to persons or animals; and all expenses thus incurred shall be paid as other county expenses: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to compel the county commissioners to fill up, fence or otherwise guard any shaft, excavation or hole, unless in their discretion, the same may be considered dangerous to persons or animals. [1987 c 202 § 234; 1987 c 3 § 20; 1890 p 122 § 6; RRS § 8862.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.12.061 Safety cage in mining shaft—Regulations.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, company or companies, corporation or corporations, to sink or work through any vertical shaft at a greater depth than one hundred and fifty feet, unless the shaft shall be provided with an iron-bonneted safety cage, to be used in the lowering and hoisting of the employees of such person or persons, company or companies, corporation or corporations. The safety apparatus, whether consisting of eccentrics, springs or other device, shall be securely fastened to the cage, and shall be of suffi-

cient strength to hold the cage loaded at any depth to which the shaft may be sunk, provided the cable shall break. The iron bonnet shall be made of boiler sheet iron of a good quality, of at least three-sixteenths of an inch in thickness, and shall cover the top of the cage in such manner as to afford the greatest protection to life and limb from any matter falling down the shaft.

(2) Any person or persons, company or companies, or corporation or corporations, who shall neglect, fail, or refuse to comply with this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars. [2003 c 53 § 377; 1890 p 123 § 7; RRS § 8863. Formerly RCW 78.36.850, part.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**78.12.070 Damage actions preserved.** Nothing contained in this chapter shall be so construed as to prevent recovery being had in a suit for damages for injuries sustained by the party so injured, or his heirs or administrator or administratrix, or anyone else now competent to sue in an action of such character. [1890 p 123 § 9; RRS § 8865.]

### Chapter 78.16 RCW MINERAL AND PETROLEUM LEASES ON COUNTY LANDS

#### Sections

78.16.010	Leases authorized.
78.16.020	Order for lease—Terms—Option to purchase.
78.16.030	Sale and conveyance.
78.16.040	Option to surrender lands.
78.16.050	Disposition of royalties and rentals.
78.16.060	Surface rights.
78.16.070	Damages to owner.

**78.16.010 Leases authorized.** Whenever it shall appear to the board of county commissioners of any county in this state that it is for the best interests of said county and the taxing districts and the people thereof, that any mining claims, reserved mineral rights, or any other county owned or tax acquired property owned by the county, either absolutely or as trustee, should be leased for the purpose of exploration, development, and removal of any minerals, oil, gas and other petroleum products therefrom, said board of county commissioners is hereby authorized to enter into written leases, under the terms of which any county owned lands or county owned mineral rights, or reserved mineral rights, are leased for the aforementioned purpose, with or without an option to purchase. Any such lease shall be upon terms and conditions as said county commissioners may deem for the best interests of said county and the taxing districts, and as in this chapter provided, and may be for such primary term as said board may determine and as long thereafter as minerals, including oil, and/or gas, may be produced therefrom. [1945 c 93 § 1; 1907 c 38 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11312.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.16.020 Order for lease—Terms—Option to purchase.** When said commissioners, in their discretion, decide to lease said claims or properties as provided in RCW 78.16.010, they shall enter an order to that effect upon their

records and shall fix the duration and terms and conditions of said lease, and in case an option to purchase is given shall fix the purchase price, which shall not be less than the total amount of the taxes, interest and penalties due at the time the property was acquired by the county, and may provide that any royalties paid shall apply and be credited on the purchase price, and said lease or lease and option shall be signed and executed on behalf of said county by said commissioners, or a majority of them. [1907 c 38 § 2; RRS § 11313.]

**78.16.030 Sale and conveyance.** Upon payment of the full purchase price, in cases where an option to purchase is given, a conveyance shall be executed to the purchaser by the chairman of the board of county commissioners. Such conveyance shall refer to the order of the board authorizing such leasing with the option to purchase, and shall be deemed to convey all the estate, right, title and interest of the county in and to the property sold; and such conveyance, when executed, shall be conclusive evidence of the regularity and validity of all proceedings hereunder. [1907 c 38 § 3; RRS § 11314.]

**78.16.040 Option to surrender lands.** The lessee under any such petroleum lease shall have the option of surrendering any of the lands included in said lease at any time, and shall thereby be relieved of all liability with respect to such lands except the payment of accrued royalties as provided in said lease. Upon such surrender, the lessee shall have the right for a period of one hundred twenty days following the date of such surrender, to remove all improvements placed by him on the lands which have been surrendered. [1945 c 93 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11314-1.]

**78.16.050 Disposition of royalties and rentals.** Any royalties or rentals received by the said county under any lease entered into under the provisions of this chapter, shall be divided among the various taxing districts entitled thereto, in the same proportion and manner as the purchase money for said lands would have been divided in the event the said properties had been sold. [1945 c 93 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11314-2.]

**78.16.060 Surface rights.** Nothing in this chapter contained shall be construed as giving the county commissioners the right to lease the surface rights of tax acquired property, except that the lease of any property as in this chapter provided shall give the lessee the right to use such portions of the surface on said land as may be necessary or desirable to it in its business. [1945 c 93 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11314-3.]

**78.16.070 Damages to owner.** In the event said lease shall be for reserved mineral rights on lands previously sold by said county with mineral rights reserved, as provided in RCW 36.34.010, said lease shall contain a provision that no rights shall be exercised under said lease by the lessee, his or her heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns, until provision has been made by the lessee, his or her heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns to pay to the owner of the land upon which the rights reserved to the county are sought to be exercised, full payment for all damages to said owner by reason of entering upon said land; said

rights to be determined as provided for in RCW 36.34.010: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in the event of litigation to determine such damage, the primary term of such lease shall be extended for a period equal to the time required for such litigation, but not to exceed three years. [2000 c 11 § 20; 1945 c 93 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11314-4.]

**Chapter 78.22 RCW  
EXTINGUISHMENT OF  
UNUSED MINERAL RIGHTS**

Sections

78.22.010 Extinguishment of unused mineral rights authorized.  
 78.22.020 "Mineral interest" defined.  
 78.22.030 Acts constituting use of mineral interest.  
 78.22.040 Statement of claim—Contents—Fees—Filing.  
 78.22.050 Extinguishment of mineral interest—Procedure.  
 78.22.060 Presumption of extinguishment—Conditions—Statement of claim—Filing, recording, indexing.  
 78.22.070 Statement of claim—Notice and affidavit of publication—Auditor's duties.  
 78.22.080 Exemptions from claim of abandonment and extinguishment.  
 78.22.090 Waiver prohibited.

**78.22.010 Extinguishment of unused mineral rights authorized.** Any mineral interest, if unused for a period of twenty years, may be extinguished by the surface owner as set forth in RCW 78.22.050 and 78.22.060. [1984 c 252 § 1.]

**78.22.020 "Mineral interest" defined.** A mineral interest means the interest which is created by an instrument transferring, either by grant, assignment, or reservation, or otherwise an interest, of any kind, in any subsurface mineral. [1984 c 252 § 2.]

**78.22.030 Acts constituting use of mineral interest.** A mineral interest is used if:

- (1) Any minerals produced have been in connection with the mineral interest;
- (2) Operations for injection, withdrawal, storage or disposal of water, gas, or other fluid substances have been conducted in connection with the mineral interest;
- (3) Rents or royalties have been paid for the purpose of delaying or enjoying the use or exercise of the mineral interest;
- (4) The use or the exercise of the mineral interest has been carried out on any tract with which the mineral interest may be unitized or pooled for production purposes;
- (5) In the case of coal or other solid minerals, minerals have been produced from a common vein or seam;
- (6) Taxes have been paid on such mineral interest;
- (7) Any use pursuant to or authorized by the instrument creating such mineral interest has been taken;
- (8) A sale, lease, mortgage, or other transfer of the mineral interest has been recorded in the county auditor's office in the county in which the land affected by the mineral interest is located prior to the end of the twenty-year period set forth in RCW 78.22.010 or within two years after June 7, 1984, whichever is later; or
- (9) A statement of claim has been filed by the owner of the mineral interest in the manner set forth in RCW 78.22.040 or 78.22.060. [1984 c 252 § 3.]

**78.22.040 Statement of claim—Contents—Fees—Filing.** The statement of claim referred to in RCW 78.22.030(9) shall be filed by the current owner of the mineral interest prior to the end of the twenty-year period set forth in RCW 78.22.010 or within two years after June 7, 1984, whichever is later. The statement of claim shall contain the name and address of the current owner of such interest, and the name of the original holder of the mineral interest substantially as that name is shown on the instrument that originally created the mineral interest and shall be accompanied by payment of the fees provided in RCW 36.18.010.

The statement of claim shall be filed in the county auditor's office in the county in which such land affected by the mineral interest is located. [1984 c 252 § 4.]

**78.22.050 Extinguishment of mineral interest—Procedure.** (1) After the later of the expiration of the twenty-year period set forth in RCW 78.22.010 or two years after June 7, 1984, the surface owner may extinguish the mineral interest held by another person and acquire ownership of that interest by providing sixty days notice of intention to file a claim of abandonment and extinguishment of the mineral interest upon the current mineral interest owner. Notice shall be served by personal service or by mailing the notice by registered mail to the last known address of the current mineral interest owner. The county treasurer shall supply the name and address of the current mineral interest owner as they appear on the county property tax records to the surface owner without charge. If the current mineral interest owner is unknown to the county treasurer, and the current mineral interest owner cannot be determined after due diligence, the surface owner may serve the notice upon the current mineral interest owner by publishing the notice at least once each week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which the property interest is located, and if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, then in a newspaper of general circulation published in an adjoining county, and if there is no such newspaper in an adjoining county, then in a newspaper of general circulation published at the capital of the state.

(2) The notice of intention to file a claim of abandonment and extinguishment shall contain:

- (a) The name and address, if known, of the holder of the mineral interest, as shown of record;
- (b) A reference to the instrument originally creating the mineral interest, including where it is recorded;
- (c) A description of the lands affected by the mineral interest;
- (d) The name and address of the person giving notice;
- (e) The date of the first publication of the notice if notice is by publication; and
- (f) A statement that a claim of abandonment and extinguishment of the mineral interest will be filed upon the expiration of a period of sixty days after the date of the last publication or the date service was perfected by personal service or registered mail on the current mineral interest owner, unless the current mineral interest owner files a statement of claim of mineral interest in the form prescribed in RCW 78.22.040.

(3) A copy of the notice of intention to file a claim of abandonment and extinguishment and an affidavit of publication shall be submitted to the county auditor within fifteen

days after the date of the last publication or the date service was perfected by personal service or registered mail on the current mineral interest owner.

(4) The affidavit of publication shall contain either:

(a) A statement that a copy of the notice has been personally served upon or mailed to the owner of the current mineral interest and the address to which it was mailed; or

(b) If a copy of the notice was not mailed, a detailed description, including dates, of the efforts made to determine with due diligence the address of the current owner of the mineral interest. [1984 c 252 § 5.]

**78.22.060 Presumption of extinguishment—Conditions—Statement of claim—Filing, recording, indexing.** Upon payment of fees provided in RCW 36.18.010, and if the surface owner files the claim of abandonment and extinguishment, together with a copy of the notice and the affidavit of publication, as required in RCW 78.22.050, in the county auditor's office for the county where such interest is located then the mineral interest shall be conclusively presumed to be extinguished.

If a statement of claim of mineral interest is filed by the current mineral interest owner within the sixty-day period provided in RCW 78.22.050, together with payment of fees provided in RCW 36.18.010, the county auditor shall record, index, and make special notation in the index of the filing. [1984 c 252 § 6.]

**78.22.070 Statement of claim—Notice and affidavit of publication—Auditor's duties.** Upon receipt, the county auditor shall record a statement of claim or a notice and affidavit of publication in the dormant mineral interest index. When possible, the auditor shall also indicate by marginal notation on the instrument originally creating the mineral interest the recording of the statement of claim or notice and affidavit of publication. The county auditor shall record a statement of claim by cross-referencing in the dormant mineral interest index the name of the current owner of the mineral interest and the name of the original holder of the mineral interest as set out in the statement of claim. [1984 c 252 § 7.]

**78.22.080 Exemptions from claim of abandonment and extinguishment.** Mineral interests retained or owned by any public entity or mineral interests resulting from land exchanges between public and private owners shall not be subject to a claim of abandonment and extinguishment. [1984 c 252 § 8.]

**78.22.090 Waiver prohibited.** The provisions of this chapter may not be waived at any time prior to the expiration of the twenty-year period under RCW 78.22.010. [1984 c 252 § 9.]

## Chapter 78.44 RCW SURFACE MINING

### Sections

78.44.010	Legislative finding.
78.44.011	Intent.
78.44.020	Purposes.
78.44.031	Definitions.
78.44.040	Administration of chapter—Rule-making authority.

78.44.045	Surface mining reclamation account.
78.44.050	Exclusive authority to regulate reclamation—Department may delegate enforcement authority to counties, cities, towns—Other laws not affected.
78.44.055	Surface mining of coal—Preemption of chapter by federal laws, programs.
78.44.060	Investigations, research, etc.—Dissemination of information.
78.44.070	Cooperation with other agencies—Receipt and expenditure of funds.
78.44.081	Reclamation permits required—Applications.
78.44.083	Reclamation permit—Refusal to issue.
78.44.085	Application fee—Annual permit fee—Confidential records—Appeals—Collection of fees.
78.44.087	Performance security required—Department authority.
78.44.091	Reclamation plans—Approval process.
78.44.101	Joint reclamation plans may be required.
78.44.111	Segmental reclamation—Primary objective.
78.44.121	Reclamation setbacks—Exemption.
78.44.131	Reclamation specifics—Basic objective—Modifications for metals mining and milling operations—Timeline.
78.44.141	Reclamation—Minimum standards—Waiver.
78.44.151	Reclamation plans—Modification, when required—SEPA.
78.44.161	Reclamation compliance—Inspection of disturbed area—Special inspection requirements for metals mining and milling operations.
78.44.171	Reclamation—Transfer of permits.
78.44.181	Reclamation—Report by permit holder on anniversary date.
78.44.190	Deficiencies—Order to rectify—Time extension.
78.44.200	Immediate danger—Emergency notice and order to rectify deficiencies—Emergency order to suspend surface mining.
78.44.210	Suspension of a reclamation permit.
78.44.220	Declaration of abandonment—Reclamation—Subsequent miner.
78.44.230	Abandonment—Cancellation of the reclamation permit.
78.44.240	Reclamation by the department—Order to submit performance security—Cost recovery.
78.44.250	Fines—Civil penalties—Damage recovery.
78.44.260	Operating without permit—Penalty.
78.44.270	Appeals—Standing.
78.44.280	Underground operation—Surface disturbances subject to chapter.
78.44.300	Reclamation awards—Recognition of excellence.
78.44.310	Reclamation consulting—No cost service.
78.44.320	Definitions applicable to RCW 78.44.330.
78.44.330	Mineral trespass—Penalty.
78.44.340	Mineral trespass—Limitation on application.
78.44.350	Blanket performance security.
78.44.360	Performance security insufficient to cover cost of reclamation—Lien established in favor of department.
78.44.370	Notice of correction.
78.44.380	Stop work orders.
78.44.390	Cancellation of a reclamation permit.
78.44.910	Previously mined land.
78.44.920	Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 64.
78.44.930	Severability—1970 ex.s. c 64.

**78.44.010 Legislative finding.** The legislature recognizes that the extraction of minerals by surface mining is an essential activity making an important contribution to the economic well-being of the state and nation. It is not possible to extract minerals without producing some environmental impacts. At the same time, comprehensive regulation of mining and thorough reclamation of mined lands is necessary to prevent or mitigate conditions that would be detrimental to the environment and to protect the general welfare, health, safety, and property rights of the citizens of the state. Surface mining takes place in diverse areas where the geologic, topographic, climatic, biologic, and social conditions are significantly different, and reclamation specifications must vary accordingly. Therefore, the legislature finds that a balance between appropriate environmental regulation and the production and conservation of minerals is in the best interests of the citizens of the state. [1993 c 518 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.011 Intent.** The legislature recognizes that the extraction of minerals through surface mining has historically included regulatory involvement by both state and local governments.

It is the intent of the legislature to clarify that surface mining is an appropriate land use, subject to reclamation authority exercised by the department of natural resources and land use and operation regulatory authority by counties, cities, and towns. [1993 c 518 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.020 Purposes.** The purposes of this chapter are to:

(1) Provide that the usefulness, productivity, and scenic values of all lands and waters involved in surface mining within the state will receive the greatest practical degree of protection and reclamation at the earliest opportunity following completion of surface mining;

(2) Provide for the greatest practical degree of statewide consistency in the regulation of surface mines;

(3) Apportion regulatory authority between state and local governments in order to minimize redundant regulation of mining; and

(4) Ensure that reclamation is consistent with local land use plans. [2000 c 11 § 21; 1993 c 518 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.031 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Approved subsequent use" means the post surface-mining land use contained in an approved reclamation plan and approved by the local land use authority.

(2) "Completion of surface mining" means the cessation of mining and directly related activities in any segment of a surface mine that occurs when essentially all minerals that can be taken under the terms of the reclamation permit have been depleted except minerals required to accomplish reclamation according to the approved reclamation plan.

(3) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(4) "Determination" means any action by the department including permit issuance, reporting, reclamation plan approval or modification, permit transfers, orders, fines, or refusal to issue permits.

(5) "Disturbed area" means any place where activities clearly in preparation for, or during, surface mining have physically disrupted, covered, compacted, moved, or otherwise altered the characteristics of soil, bedrock, vegetation, or topography that existed prior to such activity. Disturbed areas may include but are not limited to: Working faces, water bodies created by mine-related excavation, pit floors, the land beneath processing plant and stock pile sites, spoil pile sites, and equipment staging areas. Disturbed areas shall also include aboveground waste rock sites and tailing facilities, and other surface manifestations of underground mines.

Disturbed areas do not include:

(a) Surface mine access roads unless these have characteristics of topography, drainage, slope stability, or owner-

(2012 Ed.)

ship that, in the opinion of the department, make reclamation necessary;

(b) Lands that have been reclaimed to all standards outlined in this chapter, rules of the department, any applicable SEPA document, and the approved reclamation plan; and

(c) Subsurface aspects of underground mines, such as portals, tunnels, shafts, pillars, and stopes.

(6) "Miner" means any person or persons, any partnership, limited partnership, or corporation, or any association of persons, including every public or governmental agency engaged in surface mining.

(7) "Minerals" means clay, coal, gravel, industrial minerals, metallic substances, peat, sand, stone, topsoil, and any other similar solid material or substance to be excavated from natural deposits on or in the earth for commercial, industrial, or construction use.

(8) "Operations" means all mine-related activities, exclusive of reclamation, that include, but are not limited to activities that affect noise generation, air quality, surface and ground water quality, quantity, and flow, glare, pollution, traffic safety, ground vibrations, and/or significant or substantial impacts commonly regulated under provisions of land use or other permits of local government and local ordinances, or other state laws.

Operations specifically include:

(a) The mining or extraction of rock, stone, gravel, sand, earth, and other minerals;

(b) Blasting, equipment maintenance, sorting, crushing, and loading;

(c) On-site mineral processing including asphalt or concrete batching, concrete recycling, and other aggregate recycling;

(d) Transporting minerals to and from the mine, on site road maintenance, road maintenance for roads used extensively for surface mining activities, traffic safety, and traffic control.

(9) "Overburden" means the earth, rock, soil, and topsoil that lie above mineral deposits.

(10) "Permit holder" means any person or persons, any partnership, limited partnership, or corporation, or any association of persons, either natural or artificial, including every public or governmental agency engaged in surface mining and/or the operation of surface mines, whether individually, jointly, or through subsidiaries, agents, employees, operators, or contractors who holds a state reclamation permit.

(11) "Reclamation" means rehabilitation for the appropriate future use of disturbed areas resulting from surface mining including areas under associated mineral processing equipment, areas under stockpiled materials, and aboveground waste rock and tailing facilities, and all other surface disturbances associated with underground mines. Although both the need for and the practicability of reclamation will control the type and degree of reclamation in any specific surface mine, the basic objective shall be to reestablish on a perpetual basis the vegetative cover, soil stability, and water conditions appropriate to the approved subsequent use of the surface mine and to prevent or mitigate future environmental degradation.

(12) "Reclamation setbacks" include those lands along the margins of surface mines wherein minerals and overburden shall be preserved in sufficient volumes to accomplish

reclamation according to the approved plan and the minimum reclamation standards. Maintenance of reclamation setbacks may not preclude other mine-related activities within the reclamation setback.

(13) "Recycling" means the reuse of minerals or rock products.

(14) "Screening" consists of vegetation, berms or other topography, fencing, and/or other screens that may be required to mitigate impacts of surface mining on adjacent properties and/or the environment.

(15) "Segment" means any portion of the surface mine that, in the opinion of the department:

(a) Has characteristics of topography, drainage, slope stability, ownership, mining development, or mineral distribution, that make reclamation necessary;

(b) Is not in use as part of surface mining and/or related activities; and

(c) Is larger than seven acres and has more than five hundred linear feet of working face except as provided in a segmental reclamation agreement approved by the department.

(16) "SEPA" means the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW and rules adopted thereunder.

(17)(a) "Surface mine" means any area or areas in close proximity to each other, as determined by the department, where extraction of minerals results in:

(i) More than three acres of disturbed area;

(ii) Surface mined slopes greater than thirty feet high and steeper than 1.0 foot horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical; or

(iii) More than one acre of disturbed area within an eight acre area, when the disturbed area results from mineral prospecting or exploration activities.

(b) Surface mines include areas where mineral extraction from the surface or subsurface occurs by the auger method or by reworking mine refuse or tailings, when the disturbed area exceeds the size or height thresholds listed in (a) of this subsection.

(c) Surface mining occurs when operations have created or are intended to create a surface mine as defined by this subsection.

(d) Surface mining shall exclude excavations or grading used:

(i) Primarily for on-site construction, on-site road maintenance, or on-site landfill construction;

(ii) For the purpose of public safety or restoring the land following a natural disaster;

(iii) For the purpose of removing stockpiles;

(iv) For forest or farm road construction or maintenance on site or on contiguous lands;

(v) Primarily for public works projects if the mines are owned or primarily operated by counties with 1993 populations of less than twenty thousand persons, and if each mine has less than seven acres of disturbed area; and

(vi) For sand authorized by RCW 79A.05.630.

(18) "Topsoil" means the naturally occurring upper part of a soil profile, including the soil horizon that is rich in humus and capable of supporting vegetation together with other sediments within four vertical feet of the ground surface. [2000 c 11 § 22; 1999 c 252 § 1; 1997 c 142 § 1; 1993 c 518 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.040 Administration of chapter—Rule-making authority.** The department of natural resources is charged with the administration of reclamation under this chapter. In order to implement and enforce this chapter, the department, under the administrative procedure act (chapter 34.05 RCW), may from time to time adopt those rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1993 c 518 § 6; 1984 c 215 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.045 Surface mining reclamation account.** (1) The surface mining reclamation account is created in the state treasury. Annual mining fees, funds received by the department from state, local, or federal agencies for research purposes, as well as other mine-related funds and fines received by the department shall be deposited into this account. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the surface mine [mining] reclamation account may be used by the department only to:

(a) Administer its regulatory program pursuant to this chapter;

(b) Undertake research relating to surface mine regulation, reclamation of surface mine lands, and related issues; and

(c) Cover costs arising from appeals from determinations made under this chapter.

(2) At the end of each fiscal biennium, any money collected from fees charged under RCW 78.44.085 that was not used for the administration and enforcement of surface mining regulation under this chapter must be used by the department for surveying and mapping sand and gravel sites in the state.

(3) Fines, interest, and other penalties collected by the department under the provisions of this chapter shall be used to reclaim surface mines abandoned prior to 1971. [2006 c 341 § 2; 1993 c 518 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.050 Exclusive authority to regulate reclamation—Department may delegate enforcement authority to counties, cities, towns—Other laws not affected.** The department shall have the exclusive authority to regulate surface mine reclamation. No county, city, or town may require for its review or approval a separate reclamation plan or application. The department may, however, delegate some or all of its enforcement authority by contractual agreement to a county, city, or town that employs personnel who are, in the opinion of the department, qualified to enforce plans approved by the department. All counties, cities, or towns shall have the authority to zone surface mines and adopt ordinances regulating operations as provided in this chapter, except that county, city, or town operations ordinances may be preempted by the department during the emergencies outlined in RCW 78.44.200 and related rules.

This chapter shall not alter or preempt any provisions of the state water allocation and use laws (chapters 90.03 and 90.44 RCW), the state water pollution control laws (chapter 90.48 RCW), the state fish and wildlife laws (Title 77 RCW), state noise laws or air quality laws (Title 70 RCW), shoreline management (chapter 90.58 RCW), the state environmental policy act (chapter 43.21C RCW), state growth management

(chapter 36.70A RCW), state drinking water laws (chapters 43.20 and 70.119A RCW), or any other state statutes. [2003 c 39 § 39; 1997 c 185 § 1; 1993 c 518 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.055 Surface mining of coal—Preemption of chapter by federal laws, programs.** In the event state law is preempted under federal surface mining laws relating to surface mining of coal or the department of natural resources determines that a federal program and its rules and regulations relating to the surface mining of coal are as stringent and effective as the provisions of this chapter, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to such surface mining for which federal permits are issued until such preemption ceases or the department determines such chapter should apply. [1984 c 215 § 8. Formerly RCW 78.44.175.]

**78.44.060 Investigations, research, etc.—Dissemination of information.** The department shall have the authority to conduct, authorize, and/or participate in investigations, research, experiments, and demonstrations, and to collect and disseminate information relating to surface mining and reclamation of surface mined lands. [1993 c 518 § 8; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.070 Cooperation with other agencies—Receipt and expenditure of funds.** The department may cooperate with other governmental and private agencies and agencies of the federal government, and may reasonably reimburse them for any services the department requests that they provide. The department may also receive any federal funds, state funds and any other funds and expend them for reclamation of land affected by surface mining and for purposes enumerated in RCW 78.44.060. [1993 c 518 § 9; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.081 Reclamation permits required—Applications.** After July 1, 1993, no miner or permit holder may engage in surface mining without having first obtained a reclamation permit from the department. Operating permits issued by the department between January 1, 1971, and June 30, 1993, shall be considered reclamation permits. A separate permit shall be required for each noncontiguous surface mine. The reclamation permit shall consist of the permit forms and any exhibits attached thereto. The permit holder shall comply with the provisions of the reclamation permit unless waived and explained in writing by the department.

Prior to receiving a reclamation permit, an applicant must submit an application on forms provided by the department that shall contain the following information and shall be considered part of the reclamation permit:

- (1) Name and address of the legal landowner, or purchaser of the land under a real estate contract;
- (2) The name of the applicant and, if the applicants are corporations or other business entities, the names and addresses of their principal officers and resident agent for service of process;
- (3) A reasonably accurate description of the minerals to be surface mined;

(2012 Ed.)

- (4) Type of surface mining to be performed;
- (5) Estimated starting date, date of completion, and date of completed reclamation of surface mining;
- (6) Size and legal description of the permit area and maximum lateral and vertical extent of the disturbed area;
- (7) Expected area to be disturbed by surface mining during (a) the next twelve months, and (b) the following twenty-four months;
- (8) Any applicable SEPA documents; and
- (9) Other pertinent data as required by the department.

The reclamation permit shall be granted for the period required to deplete essentially all minerals identified in the reclamation permit on the land covered by the reclamation plan. The reclamation permit shall be valid until the reclamation is complete unless the permit is canceled by the department. [1997 c 192 § 1; 1993 c 518 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.083 Reclamation permit—Refusal to issue.** The department shall refuse to issue a reclamation permit if it is determined during the SEPA process that the impacts of a proposed surface mine cannot be adequately mitigated.

The department or county, city, or town may refuse to issue any other permit at any other location to any miner or permit holder who fails to rectify deficiencies set forth in an order of the department within the requisite time schedule. However, the department or county, city, or town shall issue all appropriate permits when all deficiencies are corrected at each surface mining site. [1993 c 518 § 33.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.085 Application fee—Annual permit fee—Confidential records—Appeals—Collection of fees.** (1) An applicant for an expansion of a permitted surface mine, a new reclamation permit under RCW 78.44.081, or for combining existing public or private reclamation permits, shall pay a nonrefundable application fee to the department before being granted the requested permit or permit expansion. The amount of the application fee shall be two thousand five hundred dollars.

(2) Permit holders submitting a revision to an application for an existing reclamation plan that is not an expansion shall pay a nonrefundable reclamation plan revision fee of one thousand dollars.

(3) After June 30, 2006, each public or private permit holder shall pay an annual permit fee in an amount pursuant to this section. The annual permit fee shall be payable to the department prior to the reclamation permit being issued and on the anniversary of the permit date each year thereafter.

(4)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, each public or private permit holder must pay an annual fee under this section based on the categories of aggregate or mineral mined or extracted during the previous twelve months, as follows:

- (i) Zero to fifty thousand tons: A fee of one thousand two hundred fifty dollars;
- (ii) More than fifty thousand tons to three hundred fifty thousand tons: A fee of two thousand five hundred dollars;
- (iii) More than three hundred fifty thousand tons: A fee of three thousand five hundred dollars.

(b) Annual fees paid by a county for mines used exclusively for public works projects and having less than seven acres of disturbed area per mine shall not exceed one thousand dollars.

(c) Annual fees are waived for all mines used primarily for public works projects if the mines are owned and primarily operated by counties with 1993 populations of less than twenty thousand persons, and if each mine has less than seven acres of disturbed area.

(5) Any production records, mineral assessments, and trade secrets submitted by a permit holder, mine operator, or landowner to the department are to be held as confidential and not released as part of a public records request under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(6) Appeals from any determination of the department shall not stay the requirement to pay any annual permit fee. Failure to pay the annual fees may constitute grounds for an order to suspend surface mining, pay fines, or cancel the reclamation permit as provided in this chapter.

(7) All fees collected by the department shall be deposited into the surface mining reclamation account created in RCW 78.44.045.

(8) If the department delegates enforcement responsibilities to a county, city, or town, the department may allocate funds collected under this section to the county, city, or town.

(9) Within sixty days after receipt of an application for a new or expanded permit, the department shall advise applicants of any information necessary to successfully complete the application.

(10) In addition to other enforcement authority, the department may refer matters to a collection agency licensed under chapter 19.16 RCW when permit fees or fines are past due. The collection agency may impose its own fees for collecting delinquent permit fees or fines. [2006 c 341 § 1; 2001 1st sp.s. c 5 § 1; 1997 c 413 § 1; 1996 c 70 § 1; 1993 c 518 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.087 Performance security required—Department authority.** (1) The department should ensure that a sufficient performance security is available to reclaim each surface mine permitted under this chapter. To ensure sufficient funds are available:

(a) The department shall not issue a reclamation permit, except to public or governmental agencies, until the applicant has either deposited with the department an acceptable performance security on forms prescribed by the department that is deemed adequate by the department to cover reclamation costs or has complied with the blanket performance security option in RCW 78.44.350. A public or governmental agency shall not be required to post performance security.

(b) No person may create a disturbed area that meets or exceeds the minimum threshold for a reclamation permit without first submitting an adequate and acceptable performance security to the department and complying with all requirements of this chapter.

(2) The department may refuse to accept any performance security that the department, for any reason, deems to be inadequate to cover reclamation costs or is not in a form that is acceptable to the department.

(3) Acceptable forms of performance security are:

(a) Bank letters of credit acceptable to the department or irrevocable bank letters of credit from a bank or financial institution or organization authorized to transact business in the United States;

(b) A cash deposit;

(c) Other forms of performance securities acceptable to the department as determined by rule;

(d) An assignment of a savings account;

(e) A savings certificate in a Washington bank on an assignment form prescribed by the department;

(f) Approved participants in a state security pool if one is established; or

(g) A corporate surety bond executed in favor of the department by a corporation authorized to do business in the state of Washington under Title 48 RCW and authorized by the department.

(4) The performance security shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the requirements set forth in this chapter, the rules adopted under it, and the reclamation permit.

(5)(a) The department must determine the amount of the performance security as prescribed by this subsection.

(b) The department may determine the amount of the performance security based on the estimated cost of: (i) Completing reclamation according to the requirements of this chapter; or (ii) the reclamation permit for the area to be surface mined during the upcoming thirty-six months and any previously disturbed areas that have not been reclaimed.

(c) The department may determine the amount of the performance security based on an engineering cost estimate for reclamation that is provided by the permit holder. The engineering cost estimate must be prepared using engineering principles and methods that are acceptable to the department. If the department does not approve the engineering cost estimate, the department shall determine the amount of the performance security using a standardized performance security formula developed by the department by rule.

(6) The department may recalculate a surface mine's performance security based on subsection (5) of this section. When the department recalculates a performance security, the new calculation will not be prejudiced by the existence of any previous calculation. A new performance security must be submitted to the department within thirty days of the department's written request.

(7) Liability under the performance security and the permit holder's obligation to maintain the calculated performance security amount shall be maintained until the surface mine is reclaimed, unless released as hereinafter provided. Partial drawings will proportionately reduce the value of a performance security but will not extinguish the remaining value. Liability under the performance security may be released only when the surface mine is reclaimed as evidenced by the department in writing or after the department receives and approves a substitute performance security. The department will notify the permit holder, and surety if applicable, when reclamation is accepted by the department as complete or upon the department's acceptance of an alternate security. The liability of the surety shall not exceed the amount of security required by this section and the department's reasonable legal fees to recover the security.

(8) Any interest or appreciation on the performance security shall be held by the department until the surface mine is reclaimed. The department may collect and use appreciation or interest accrued on a performance security to the same extent as for the underlying performance security. If the permit holder meets its obligations under this chapter, rules adopted under this chapter, and its approved reclamation permit and plan by completing reclamation, the department will return any unused performance security and accrued interest or appreciation.

(9) No other state agency or local government other than the department shall require performance security for the purposes of surface mine reclamation. However, nothing in this section prohibits a state agency or local government from requiring a performance security when the state agency or local government is acting in its capacity as a landowner and contracting for extraction-related activities on state or local government property.

(10) The department may enter into written agreements with federal agencies in order to avoid redundant bonding of any surface mine that is located on both federal and nonfederal lands in Washington state. [2006 c 341 § 3; 1997 c 186 § 1; 1995 c 223 § 3; 1994 c 232 § 23; 1993 c 518 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **78.44.091 Reclamation plans—Approval process.**

An applicant shall provide a reclamation plan and copies acceptable to the department prior to obtaining a reclamation permit. The department shall have the sole authority to approve reclamation plans. Reclamation plans or modified reclamation plans submitted to the department after June 30, 1993, shall meet or exceed the minimum reclamation standards set forth in this chapter and by the department in rule. Each applicant shall also supply copies of the proposed plans and final reclamation plan approved by the department to the county, city, or town in which the mine will be located. The department shall solicit comment from local government prior to approving a reclamation plan. The reclamation plan shall include:

(1) A written narrative describing the proposed mining and reclamation scheme with:

(a) A statement of a proposed subsequent use of the land after reclamation that is consistent with the local land use designation. Approval of the reclamation plan shall not vest the proposed subsequent use of the land;

(b) If the permit holder is not the sole landowner, a copy of the conveyance or a written statement that expressly grants or reserves the right to extract minerals by surface mining methods;

(c) A simple and accurate legal description of the permit area and disturbed areas;

(d) The maximum depth of mining;

(e) A reasonably accurate description of the minerals to be mined;

(f) A description of the method of mining;

(g) A description of the sequence of mining that will provide, within limits of normal procedures of the industry, for completion of surface mining and associated disturbance on each portion of the permit area so that reclamation can be initiated at the earliest possible time on each segment of the mine;

(h) A schedule for progressive reclamation of each segment of the mine;

(i) Where mining on floodplains or in river or stream channels is contemplated, a thoroughly documented hydrogeologic evaluation that will outline measures that would protect against or would mitigate avulsion and erosion as determined by the department;

(j) Where mining is contemplated within critical aquifer recharge areas, special protection areas as defined by chapter 90.48 RCW and implementing rules, public water supply watersheds, sole source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and designated aquifer protection areas as set forth in chapter 36.36 RCW, a thoroughly documented hydrogeologic analysis of the reclamation plan may be required; and

(k) Additional information as required by the department including but not limited to: The positions of reclamation setbacks and screening, conservation of topsoil, interim reclamation, revegetation, postmining erosion control, drainage control, slope stability, disposal of mine wastes, control of fill material, development of wetlands, ponds, lakes, and impoundments, and rehabilitation of topography.

(2) Maps of the surface mine showing:

(a) All applicable data required in the narrative portion of the reclamation plan;

(b) Existing topographic contours;

(c) Contours depicting specifications for surface gradient restoration appropriate to the proposed subsequent use of the land and meeting the minimum reclamation standards;

(d) Locations and names of all roads, railroads, and utility lines on or adjacent to the area;

(e) Locations and types of proposed access roads to be built in conjunction with the surface mining;

(f) Detailed and accurate boundaries of the permit area, screening, reclamation setbacks, and maximum extent of the disturbed area; and

(g) Estimated depth to groundwater and the locations of surface water bodies and wetlands both prior to and after mining.

(3) At least two cross sections of the mine including all applicable data required in the narrative and map portions of the reclamation plan.

(4) Evidence that the proposed surface mine has been approved under local zoning and land use regulations.

(5) Written approval of the reclamation plan by the landowner for mines permitted after June 30, 1993.

(6) Other supporting data and documents regarding the surface mine as reasonably required by the department.

If the department refuses to approve a reclamation plan in the form submitted by an applicant or permit holder, it shall notify the applicant or permit holder stating the reasons for its determination and describe such additional requirements to the applicant or permit holder's reclamation plan as are necessary for the approval of the plan by the department. If the department refuses to approve a complete reclamation plan within one hundred twenty days, the miner or permit holder may appeal this determination under the provisions of this chapter.

Only insignificant deviations may occur from the approved reclamation plan without prior written approval by the department for the proposed change. [1997 c 192 § 2; 1993 c 518 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.101 Joint reclamation plans may be required.**

Where two or more surface mines join along a common boundary, the department may require submission of a joint reclamation plan in order to provide for optimum reclamation or to avoid waste of mineral resources. Such joint reclamation plans may be in the form of a single collaborative plan submitted by all affected permit holders or as individual reclamation plans in which the schedule of reclamation, finished contours, and revegetation match reclamation plans of adjacent permit holders. [1993 c 518 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.111 Segmental reclamation—Primary objective.** The permit holder shall reclaim each segment of the mine within two years of completion of surface mining on that segment except as provided in a segmental reclamation agreement approved in writing by the department. The primary objective of a segmental reclamation agreement should be to enhance final reclamation. [1993 c 518 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.121 Reclamation setbacks—Exemption.** Reclamation setbacks shall be as follows unless waived by the department:

(1) The reclamation setback for unconsolidated deposits within mines permitted after June 30, 1993, shall be equal to the maximum anticipated height of the adjacent working face or as determined by the department. Setbacks and buffers may be destroyed as part of final reclamation of each segment if approved by the department.

(2) The minimum reclamation setback for consolidated materials within mines permitted after June 30, 1993, shall be thirty feet or as determined by the department.

(3) An exemption from this section may be granted by the department following a written request. The department may consider submission of a plan for backfilling acceptable to the department, a geotechnical slope-stability study, proof of a dedicated source of fill materials, written approval of contiguous landowners, and other information before granting an exemption. [1993 c 518 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.131 Reclamation specifics—Basic objective—Modifications for metals mining and milling operations—Timeline.** The need for, and the practicability of, reclamation shall control the type and degree of reclamation in any specific instance. However, the basic objective of reclamation is to reestablish on a continuing basis the vegetative cover, slope stability, water conditions, and safety conditions suitable to the proposed subsequent use consistent with local land use plans for the surface mine site.

Each permit holder shall comply with the minimum reclamation standards in effect on the date the permit was issued and any additional reclamation standards set forth in the approved reclamation plan. The department may modify, on a site specific basis, the minimum reclamation standards for metals mining and milling operations regulated under chapter 232, Laws of 1994 in order to achieve the reclamation and closure objectives of that chapter. The basic objective of rec-

lamation for these operations is the reestablishment on a continuing basis of vegetative cover, slope stability, water conditions, and safety conditions.

Reclamation activities, particularly those relating to control of erosion and mitigation of impacts of mining to adjacent areas, shall, to the extent feasible, be conducted simultaneously with surface mining, and in any case shall be initiated at the earliest possible time after completion of surface mining on any segment of the permit area.

All reclamation activities shall be completed not more than two years after completion or abandonment of surface mining on each segment of the area for which a reclamation permit is in force.

The department may by contract delegate enforcement of provisions of reclamation plans to counties, cities, and towns. A county, city, or town performing enforcement functions may not impose any additional fees on permit holders. [1994 c 232 § 24; 1993 c 518 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.141 Reclamation—Minimum standards—Waiver.** Reclamation of surface mines permitted after June 30, 1993, and reclamation of surface mine segments addressed by reclamation plans modified after June 30, 1994, shall meet the following minimum standards except as waived in writing by the department.

(1) Prior to surface mining, permit holders shall carefully stockpile all topsoil on the site for use in reclamation, or immediately move topsoil to reclaim adjacent segments, except when the approved subsequent use does not require replacing the topsoil. Topsoil needed for reclamation shall not be sold as a mineral nor mixed with sterile soils. Stockpiled materials used as screening shall not be used for reclamation until such time as the appropriate county or municipal government has given its approval.

(2) The department may require that clearly visible, permanent monuments delineating the permit boundaries and maximum extent of the disturbed area be set at appropriate places around the mine site. The permit holder shall maintain the monuments until termination of the reclamation permit.

(3) All minimum reclamation standards may be waived in writing by the department in order to accommodate unique and beneficial reclamation schemes such as parks, swimming facilities, buildings, and wildlife reserves. Such waivers shall be granted only after written approval by the department of a reclamation plan describing the variances to the minimum reclamation standards, receipt of documentation of SEPA compliance, and written approvals from the landowner and by the local land use authority.

(4) All surface-mined slopes shall be reclaimed to the following minimum standards:

(a) In surface mines in soil, sand, gravel, and other unconsolidated materials, all reclaimed slopes shall:

(i) Have varied steepness;

(ii) Have a sinuous appearance in both profile and plan view;

(iii) Have no large rectilinear topographic elements;

(iv) Generally have slopes of between 2.0 and 3.0 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical or flatter except in limited areas where steeper slopes are necessary in order to create sinuous topography and to control drainage;

(v) Not exceed 1.5 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical except as necessary to blend with adjacent natural slopes;

(vi) Be compacted if significant backfilling is required to produce the final reclaimed slopes and if the department determines that compaction is necessary.

(b) Slopes in consolidated materials shall have no prescribed slope angle or height, but where a severely hazardous condition is created by mining and that is not indigenous to the immediate area, the slopes shall not exceed 2.0 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical. Steeper slopes shall be acceptable in areas where evidence is submitted that demonstrates that the geologic or topographic characteristics of the site preclude reclamation of slopes to such angle or height or that such slopes constitute an acceptable subsequent use under local land use regulations.

(c) Surface mines in which the seasonal or permanent water tables have been penetrated, thereby creating swamps, ponds, or lakes useful for recreational, wildlife habitat, water quality control, or other beneficial wetland purposes shall be reclaimed in the following manner:

(i) For slopes that are below the permanent water table in soil, sand, gravel, and other unconsolidated materials, the slope angle shall be no steeper than 1.5 feet horizontal to 1.0 foot vertical;

(ii) Generally, solid rock banks shall be shaped so that a person can escape from the water, however steeper slopes and lack of water egress shall be acceptable in rural, forest, or mountainous areas or where evidence is provided that such slopes would constitute an acceptable subsequent use under local land use regulations;

(iii) Both standpipes and armored spillways or other measures to prevent undesirable overflow or seepage shall be provided to stabilize all such water bodies within the disturbed area; and

(iv) Where lakes, ponds, or swamps are created, the permit holder shall provide measures to establish a beneficial wetland by developing natural wildlife habitat and incorporating such measures as irregular shoreline configurations, sinuous bathymetry and shorelines, varied water depths, peninsulas, islands, and subaqueous areas less than 1.5 foot deep during summer low-water levels. Clay-bearing material placed below water level may be required to avoid creating sterile wetlands.

(d) Final topography shall generally comprise sinuous contours, chutes and buttresses, spurs, and rolling mounds and hills, all of which shall blend with adjacent topography to a reasonable extent. Straight planar slopes and right angles should be avoided.

(e) The floors of mines shall generally grade gently into postmining drainages to preclude sheet-wash erosion during intense precipitation, except where backgrading is appropriate for drainage control, to establish wetlands, or to trap sediment.

(f) Topsoil shall be restored as necessary to promote effective revegetation and to stabilize slopes and mine floors. Where limited topsoil is available, topsoil shall be placed and revegetated in such a way as to ensure that little topsoil is lost to erosion.

(g) Where surface mining has exposed natural materials that may create polluting conditions, including but not limited to acid-forming coals and metalliferous rock or soil, such

conditions shall be addressed according to a method approved by the department. The final ground surface shall be graded so that surface water drains away from these materials.

(h) All grading and backfilling shall be made with non-noxious, noncombustible, and relatively incompactible solids unless the permit holder provides:

(i) Written approval from all appropriate solid waste regulatory agencies; and

(ii) Any and all revisions to such written approval during the entire time the reclamation permit is in force.

(i) Final reclaimed slopes should be left roughly graded, preserving equipment tracks, depressions, and small mounds to trap clay-bearing soil and promote natural revegetation. Where reasonable, final equipment tracks should be oriented in order to trap soil and seeds and to inhibit erosion.

(j) Pit floors should be bulldozed or ripped to foster revegetation.

(5) Drainages shall be graded and contain adequate energy dissipation devices so that essentially natural conditions of water velocity, volume, and turbidity are reestablished within six months of reclamation of each segment of the mine. Ditches and other artificial drainages shall be constructed on each reclaimed segment to control surface water, erosion, and siltation and to direct runoff to a safe outlet. Diversion ditches including but not limited to channels, flumes, tightlines and retention ponds shall be capable of carrying the peak flow at the mine site that has the probable recurrence frequency of once in twenty-five years as determined from data for the twenty-five year, twenty-four hour precipitation event published by the national oceanic and atmospheric administration. The grade of such ditches and channels shall be constructed to limit erosion and siltation. Natural and other drainage channels shall be kept free of equipment, wastes, stockpiles, and overburden.

(6) Impoundment of water shall be an acceptable reclamation technique provided that approvals of other agencies with jurisdiction are obtained and:

(a) Proper measures are taken to prevent undesirable seepage that could cause flooding outside the permitted area or adversely affect the stability of impoundment dikes or adjacent slopes;

(b) Both standpipes and armored spillways or other measures necessary to control overflow are provided.

(7) Revegetation shall be required as appropriate to stabilize slopes, generate new topsoil, reduce erosion and turbidity, mask rectilinear contours, and restore the scenic value of the land to the extent feasible as appropriate to the approved subsequent use. Although the scope of and necessity for revegetation will vary according to the geography, precipitation, and approved subsequent use of the site, the objective of segmental revegetation is to reestablish self-sustaining vegetation and conditions of slope stability, surface water quality, and appearance before release of the reclamation permit. Revegetation shall normally meet the following standards:

(a) Revegetation shall commence during the first proper growing season following restoration of slopes on each segment unless the department has granted the permit holder a written time extension.

(b) In eastern Washington, the permit holder may not be able to achieve continuous ground cover owing to arid conditions or sparse topsoil. However, revegetation shall be as continuous as reasonably possible as determined by the department.

(c) Revegetation generally shall include but not be limited to diverse evergreen and deciduous trees, shrubs, grasses, and deep-rooted ground cover.

(i) For western Washington, nitrogen-fixing species including but not limited to alder, white clover, and lupine should be included in dry areas. In wet areas, tubers, sedges, wetland grasses, willow, cottonwood, cedar, and alder are appropriate.

(ii) In eastern Washington, lupine, white clover, Russian olive, black locust, junipers, and pines are among appropriate plants. In wet areas, cottonwood, tubers, and sedges are appropriate.

(d) The requirements for revegetation may be reduced or waived by the department where erosion will not be a problem in rural areas where precipitation exceeds thirty inches per annum, or where revegetation is inappropriate for the approved subsequent use of the surface mine.

(e) In areas where revegetation is critical and conditions are harsh, the department may require irrigation, fertilization, and importation of clay or humus-bearing soils to establish effective vegetation.

(f) The department may refuse to release a reclamation permit or performance security until it deems that effective revegetation has commenced. [1993 c 518 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.151 Reclamation plans—Modification, when required—SEPA.** (1) The permit holder may modify the reclamation plan at any time during the term of the permit provided that the modified reclamation plan meets the protections, mitigations, and reclamation goals of RCW 78.44.091, 78.44.131, and 78.44.141.

(2) The department may require a permit holder to modify the reclamation plan if the department determines:

(a) That the previously approved reclamation plan has not been modified during the past ten years; or

(b) That the permit holder has violated or is not substantially following the previously approved reclamation plan.

(3) Modified reclamation plans shall be reviewed by the department as lead agency under SEPA. Such SEPA analyses shall consider only those impacts relating directly to the proposed modifications. Copies of proposed and approved modifications shall be sent to the appropriate county, city, or town. [1997 c 192 § 3; 1993 c 518 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.161 Reclamation compliance—Inspection of disturbed area—Special inspection requirements for metals mining and milling operations.** The department may order at any time an inspection of the disturbed area to determine if the miner or permit holder has complied with the reclamation permit, rules, and this chapter.

The department shall have special inspection requirements for metals mining and milling operations regulated under chapter 232, Laws of 1994. The department shall inspect these mining operations at least quarterly, unless pre-

vented by inclement weather conditions, in order to ensure that the permit holder is in compliance with the reclamation permit, rules, and this chapter. The department shall conduct additional inspections as needed during the construction phase of these mining operations in order to ensure compliance with the reclamation permit, rules, and this chapter. [1994 c 232 § 22; 1993 c 518 § 25.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.171 Reclamation—Transfer of permits.** Reclamation permits shall be transferred to a subsequent permit holder and the department shall release the former permit holder from the duties imposed by this chapter if:

(1) Both permit holders comply with all rules of the department addressing requirements for transferring a permit; and

(2) Unless waived by the department, the mine and all others operated by both the former and subsequent permit holders and their principal officers or owners are in compliance with this chapter and rules. [1993 c 518 § 22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.181 Reclamation—Report by permit holder on anniversary date.** On the anniversary date of the reclamation permit and each year thereafter until reclamation is completed and approved, the permit holder shall file a report of activities completed during the preceding year. The report shall be on a form prescribed by the department. [1993 c 518 § 24.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.190 Deficiencies—Order to rectify—Time extension.** (1) The department may issue an order to rectify deficiencies to the following: (a) Any permit holder, miner, or other person who authorizes, directs, violates, or who directly benefits by contracting with or employing another to violate this chapter, the rules adopted by the department, a reclamation permit, or a reclamation plan; or (b) a permit holder whose surface mine is out of compliance with the provisions of this chapter, the rules adopted by the department, or the permit holder's current and valid reclamation permit or reclamation plan.

(2) The order shall describe the deficiencies and shall initially require the order recipient to correct all deficiencies by a date that is no later than sixty days after the department's issuance of the order. The department may extend the period to correct deficiencies for delays clearly beyond the order recipient's control, but only when the person is, in the opinion of the department, making every reasonable effort to comply. This order becomes final and effective after being upheld upon completion of all administrative and judicial review proceedings or following notice and a failure to timely request a hearing. [2007 c 192 § 2; 1993 c 518 § 26.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.200 Immediate danger—Emergency notice and order to rectify deficiencies—Emergency order to suspend surface mining.** When the department finds that a permit holder is conducting surface mining in any manner not authorized by:

(1) This chapter;

- (2) The rules adopted by the department;
- (3) The approved reclamation plan; or
- (4) The reclamation permit;

and that activity has created a situation involving an immediate danger to the public health, safety, welfare, or environment requiring immediate action, the department may issue an emergency notice and order to rectify deficiencies, and/or an emergency order to suspend surface mining. These orders shall be effective when entered. The department may take such action as is necessary to prevent or avoid the danger to the public health, safety, welfare, or environment that justifies use of emergency adjudication. The department shall give such notice as is practicable to the permit holder or miner who is required to comply with the order. The order shall comply with the requirements of the administrative procedure act.

Regulations of surface mining operations administered by other state and local agencies shall be preempted by this section to the extent that the time schedule and procedures necessary to rectify the emergency situation, as determined by the department, conflict with such local regulation. [1993 c 518 § 27.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.210 Suspension of a reclamation permit.** The department, through the state geologist or assistant state geologist, may suspend a reclamation permit whenever a permit holder or surface mine is out of compliance with a final department order. The suspension order must be served on the permit holder by certified mail with return receipt requested or by personal service. The order must specify the final order alleged to be violated, the facts upon which the conclusion of violation is based, and the conclusions of law. This order becomes final and effective after being upheld upon completion of all administrative review proceedings or following notice and a failure to timely request a hearing. No surface mining or reclamation may occur while a permit is suspended unless under the express written authority of the department. [2007 c 192 § 5; 1993 c 518 § 28.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.220 Declaration of abandonment—Reclamation—Subsequent miner.** The department may issue a declaration of abandonment when it determines that all surface mining has ceased for a period of one hundred eighty consecutive days not set forth in the permit holder's reclamation plan or when, by reason of inspection of the permit area, or by any other means, the department determines that the mine has in fact been abandoned by the permit holder except that abandonment shall not include normal interruptions of surface mining resulting from labor disputes, economic conditions associated with lack of smelting capacity or availability of appropriate transportation, war, social unrest, demand for minerals, maintenance and repairs, and acts of God.

Following a declaration of abandonment, the department shall require the permit holder to complete reclamation in accordance with this chapter. If the permit holder fails to do so, the department shall proceed to do the necessary reclamation work pursuant to RCW 78.44.240.

If another miner applies for a permit on a site that has been declared abandoned, the department may, in its discre-

(2012 Ed.)

tion, cancel the reclamation permit of the permit holder and issue a new reclamation permit to the applicant. The department shall not issue a new permit unless it determines that such issuance will be an effective means of assuring that the site will ultimately be reclaimed. The applicant must agree to assume the reclamation responsibilities left unfinished by the first miner, in addition to meeting all requirements for issuance of a new permit. [1993 c 518 § 29.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.230 Abandonment—Cancellation of the reclamation permit.** When the department determines that a surface mine has been abandoned, it may cancel the reclamation permit. The permit holder shall be informed of such actions by a department notification of illegal abandonment and cancellation of the reclamation permit. [1993 c 518 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.240 Reclamation by the department—Order to submit performance security—Cost recovery.** The department may, with the staff, equipment, and material under its control, or by contract with others, reclaim the disturbed areas when it finds that reclamation has not occurred in any segment of a surface mine within two years of completion of mining or of declaration of abandonment and the permit holder is not actively pursuing reclamation.

If the department intends to undertake the reclamation, the department shall issue an order to submit performance security requiring the permit holder or surety to submit to the department the amount of moneys posted pursuant to RCW 78.44.087. If the amount specified in the order to submit performance security is not paid within twenty days after issuance of the notice, the attorney general upon request of the department shall bring an action on behalf of the state in a superior court to recover the amount specified and associated legal fees.

The department may proceed at any time after issuing the order to submit performance security with reclamation of the site according to the approved reclamation plan or according to a plan developed by the department that meets the minimum reclamation standards.

The department shall keep a record of all expenses incurred in carrying out any reclamation project or activity authorized under this section, including:

- (1) Reclamation;
- (2) A reasonable charge for the services performed by the state's personnel and the state's equipment and materials utilized; and
- (3) Administrative and legal expenses related to reclamation of the surface mine.

The department shall refund to the surety or permit holder all amounts received in excess of the amount of expenses incurred. If the amount received is less than the expenses incurred, the attorney general, upon request of the department, may bring an action against the permit holder on behalf of the state in the superior court to recover the remaining costs listed in this section. [1993 c 518 § 31.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.250 Fines—Civil penalties—Damage recovery.** Each order of the department may impose a fine or fines in

the event that a miner or permit holder fails to obey the order of the department. When a miner or permit holder fails to comply with an order of the department, the miner or permit holder shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation plus interest based upon a schedule of fines set forth by the department in rule. Procedures for imposing a penalty and setting the amount of the penalty shall be as provided in RCW 90.48.144. Each day on which a miner or permit holder continues to disobey any order of the department shall constitute a separate violation. If the penalty and interest is not paid to the department after it becomes due and payable, the attorney general, upon the request of the department, may bring an action in the name of the state of Washington to recover the penalty, interest, mitigation for environmental damages, and associated legal fees. Decisions of the department are subject to review by the pollution control hearings board.

All fines, interest, penalties, and other damage recovery costs from mines regulated by the department shall be credited to the surface mining reclamation account. [1993 c 518 § 32.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.260 Operating without permit—Penalty.** Any miner or permit holder conducting surface mining within the state of Washington without a valid reclamation permit shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. Surface mining outside of the permitted area shall constitute illegal mining without a valid reclamation permit. Each day of mining without a valid reclamation permit shall constitute a separate offense. [1993 c 518 § 34; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 16. Formerly RCW 78.44.150.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.270 Appeals—Standing.** Department determinations under this chapter may be appealed to the pollution control hearings board as provided in RCW 43.21B.230. Only a person aggrieved within the meaning of RCW 34.05.530 has standing and can file an appeal. [2010 c 210 § 32; 1993 c 518 § 35; 1989 c 175 § 166; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 18. Formerly RCW 78.44.170.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.280 Underground operation—Surface disturbances subject to chapter.** Surface disturbances caused by an underground metals mining and milling operation are subject to the requirements of this chapter if the operation is proposed after June 30, 1999. An operation is proposed when an agency is presented with an application for an operation or expansion of an existing operation having a probable significant adverse environmental impact under chapter 43.21C RCW. The department of ecology shall retain authority for reclamation of surface disturbances caused by an underground operation operating at any time prior to June 30, 1999, unless the operator requests that authority for reclamation of surface disturbances caused by such operation be transferred to the department under the requirements of this chapter. [1999 c 252 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.300 Reclamation awards—Recognition of excellence.** The department shall create reclamation awards in recognition of excellence in reclamation or reclamation research. Such awards shall be presented to individuals, miners, operators, companies, or government agencies performing exemplary surface mining reclamation in the state of Washington. The department shall designate a percent of the state annual fees as funding of the awards. [1993 c 518 § 37.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.310 Reclamation consulting—No cost service.** The department shall establish a no-cost consulting service within the department to assist miners, permit holders, local government, and the public in technical matters related to mine regulation, mine operations, and reclamation. The department shall prepare concise, printed information for the public explaining surface mining activities, timelines for permits and reviews, laws, and the role of governmental agencies involved in surface mining, including how to contact all regulators. The department shall not be held liable for any negligent advice. [1997 c 184 § 1; 1993 c 518 § 38.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.320 Definitions applicable to RCW 78.44.330.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 78.44.330 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Bedrock sluice" means a wood or metal flume or trough that is permanently attached to the bedrock of the creek and is equipped with transverse riffles across the bottom of the unit and used to recover heavy mineral sands.

(2) "Dredge" means a subsurface hose from one and one-half to ten inches in diameter that is powered by an engine and is used to draw up auriferous material that is then separated in the sluice portion of the unit.

(3) "Flume" means a trough used to convey water.

(4) "Mining claim" means a portion of the public lands claimed for the valuable minerals occurring in those lands and for which the mineral rights are obtained under federal law or a right that is recognized by the United States bureau of land management and given an identification number.

(5) "Quartz mill" means a facility for processing ores or gravel.

(6) "Rocker box" means a unit constructed of a short trough attached to curved supports that allow the unit to be rocked from side to side.

(7) "Sluice box" means a portable unit constructed of a wood or metal flume or trough equipped with transverse riffles across the bottom of the unit and that is used to recover heavy mineral sands. [2003 c 335 § 1.]

**78.44.330 Mineral trespass—Penalty.** (1) A person commits the crime of mineral trespass if the person intentionally and without the permission of the claim holder or person conducting the mining operation:

(a) Interferes with a lawful mining operation or stops, or causes to be stopped, a lawful mining operation;

(b) Enters a mining claim posted as required in chapter 78.08 RCW and disturbs, removes, or attempts to remove any mineral from the claim site;

(c) Tampers with or disturbs a flume, rocker box, bed-rock sluice, sluice box, dredge, quartz mill, or other mining equipment at a posted mining claim; or

(d) Defaces a location stake, side post, corner post, landmark, monument, or posted written notice within a posted mining claim.

(2) Mineral trespass is a class C felony. [2003 c 335 § 2.]

**78.44.340 Mineral trespass—Limitation on application.** (1) RCW 78.44.330 does not apply to conduct that would otherwise constitute an offense when it is required or authorized by law or judicial decree or is performed by a public servant in the reasonable exercise of official powers, duties, or functions.

(2) As used in subsection (1) of this section, "laws or judicial decrees" includes but is not limited to:

(a) Laws defining duties and functions of public servants;

(b) Laws defining duties of private citizens to assist public servants in the performance of certain of their functions; and

(c) Judgments and orders of courts. [2003 c 335 § 3.]

**78.44.350 Blanket performance security.** (1) A permit holder, in lieu of an individual performance security for each mining site, may file a blanket performance security with the department for their group of permits.

(2) The department may reduce the required performance security calculated from its standard method prescribed in RCW 78.44.087, to an amount not to exceed the sum of reclamation security calculated by the department for the two surface mines with the largest performance security obligations, for nonmetal and nonfuel surface mines that meet the following conditions:

(a) The permit holder has had a valid reclamation permit for more than ten years and can demonstrate exemplary mining and reclamation practices that have been accepted by the department;

(b) The landowner agrees to allow the permit holder to hold a blanket security. The department must include, on forms to be signed by the landowner, notice of the risk of a lien on the landowner's lands; and

(c) The permit holder can demonstrate substantial financial ability to perform the reclamation in the approved reclamation plan and permit.

(3) Permit holders are not eligible for blanket securities if they are in violation of a final order of the department.

(4) The department must consider the compliance history and the state of the existing surface mines of the permit holder before approving any blanket performance security.

(5) Lands covered by a blanket performance security are subject to a lien placed by the department in the event of abandonment.

(6) In lieu of the performance security required of the permit holder, the department may accept a similar security from the landowner, equal to the estimated cost of reclamation as determined by the department. [2006 c 341 § 4.]

**78.44.360 Performance security insufficient to cover cost of reclamation—Lien established in favor of department.** (1) To the extent a performance security is insufficient

to cover the cost of reclamation performed by the department, a lien shall be established in favor of the department upon all of the permit holder's real and personal property.

(2) The lien attaches upon the filing of a notice of claim of lien with the county clerk of the county in which the property is located. The notice of lien claim must contain a true statement of the demand, the insufficiency of the performance security to compensate the department, and the failure of the permit holder to perform the reclamation required.

(3) The lien becomes effective when filed.

(4) The lien created by this section may be foreclosed by a suit in the superior court in the manner provided by law for the foreclosure of other liens on real or personal property. [2006 c 341 § 5.]

**78.44.370 Notice of correction.** (1) The department may issue a notice of correction to the following: (a) Any permit holder, miner, or other person who authorizes, directs, violates, or who directly benefits by contracting with or employing another to violate this chapter, the rules adopted by the department, a reclamation permit, or a reclamation plan; or (b) a permit holder whose surface mine is out of compliance with the provisions of this chapter, the rules adopted by the department, or the permit holder's current or valid reclamation permit or reclamation plan. The department's authority to issue or its issuance of a notice of correction does not limit the department's authority to pursue enforcement actions, except as stated in other laws.

(2) The notice of correction must describe the items that need correction and must provide a reasonable time for the recipient to make corrections. The notice of correction must identify when, where, and to whom a request to extend the time to achieve compliance may be filed. The department may grant an extension when there is good cause for the request. This notice of correction is not an enforcement action and is not subject to administrative or judicial appeal. [2007 c 192 § 1.]

**78.44.380 Stop work orders.** (1) The department may issue an order to stop all surface mining to any permit holder, miner, or other person who authorizes, directs, or conducts such activities without a valid surface mine reclamation permit. This order is effective upon issuance unless otherwise stated in the order. Administrative appeal of the order to stop work does not stay the stop work requirement. The department shall notify the local jurisdiction of record when a stop work order has been issued for operating without a valid reclamation permit.

(2) The department may issue an order to stop surface mining occurring outside of any permit area to a permit holder that does not have a legal right to occupy the affected area. This order is effective upon issuance unless otherwise stated in the order. An administrative appeal of the order to stop work does not stay the stop work requirement.

(3) Where a permit holder is conducting surface mining activities outside of its permit boundary, but within land that it has the right to occupy, the department may issue an order to stop surface mining or mining-related activities occurring outside of the authorized area after the permit holder fails to comply with a notice of correction. The notice of correction must specify the corrections necessary as per the violation

and provide a reasonable time to do so. This order is effective upon issuance unless otherwise stated in the order. An administrative appeal of the order to stop work does not stay the stop work requirement.

(4) Stop work orders must be in writing, delivered by United States certified mail with return receipt requested, facsimile, or by hand to the permit holder of record. The order must state the facts supporting the violation, the law being violated, and the specific activities being stopped. Stop work orders must be signed by the state geologist or an assistant state geologist. The pollution control hearings board shall proceed as quickly as feasible to complete any requested adjudicative proceedings unless the parties stipulate to an appeal timeline or the department's stop work order states that it is not effective until after the administrative review process. If the recipient appeals the order, the recipient may file a motion for stay with the presiding officer, which will be reviewed under RCW 43.21B.320. [2010 c 210 § 33; 2007 c 192 § 3.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

#### 78.44.390 Cancellation of a reclamation permit. (1)

In addition to the department's other authority to cancel a reclamation permit, a permit holder may seek cancellation of its reclamation permit in favor of a local development or construction permit. A permit holder may request cancellation of its reclamation permit and release of its performance security when:

(a) The permit holder has received an approved development or construction permit covering all of the existing permit area from a local jurisdiction;

(b) The local jurisdiction and the landowner agree with the permit holder's request to cancel the reclamation permit and to release the performance security; and

(c) The local jurisdiction provides assurance in writing that the construction or development permit is being actively implemented by the permit holder.

(2) The department is not responsible for overseeing a site's development or reclamation when a reclamation permit is cancelled under this section. [2007 c 192 § 4.]

**78.44.910 Previously mined land.** Miners and permit holders shall not be required to reclaim any segment where all surface mining was completed prior to January 1, 1971. However, the department shall make an effort to reclaim previously abandoned or completed surface mining segments. [1993 c 518 § 36; 1970 ex.s. c 64 § 22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.44.920 Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 64.** This act shall become effective January 1, 1971. [1970 ex.s. c 64 § 23.]

**78.44.930 Severability—1970 ex.s. c 64.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected. [1970 ex.s. c 64 § 24.]

## Chapter 78.52 RCW OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION

### Sections

78.52.001	Declaration of purpose.
78.52.010	Definitions.
78.52.025	Hearings and meetings of department.
78.52.030	Employment of personnel.
78.52.031	Conduct of hearings—Evidence.
78.52.032	Hearing examiners.
78.52.033	Failure of witness to attend or testify—Contempt.
78.52.035	Attorney for department.
78.52.037	State oil and gas supervisor—Deputy supervisors—Employment of personnel.
78.52.040	Duty and powers of department—In general.
78.52.050	Rules, regulations, and orders—Time and place of hearing—Notices.
78.52.070	Hearing upon petition—Time for action.
78.52.100	Records—Copies as evidence—Copies to be furnished.
78.52.120	Drilling permit required—Notice.
78.52.125	Environmental impact statement required when drilling affects surface waters of the state—Drilling may be denied, when.
78.52.130	Waste prohibited.
78.52.140	Carbon black and carbon products—Permit required.
78.52.150	Investigations authorized.
78.52.155	Investigations—Powers and duties.
78.52.200	Development units authorized for known pools.
78.52.205	Development units to be prescribed for pool after discovery—Temporary development units.
78.52.210	Development units—Size and shape.
78.52.220	Development units—Location of well.
78.52.230	Development units—Order must cover entire pool—Modifications.
78.52.240	Development units—Pooling of interests.
78.52.245	Pooling order—Allocation of production.
78.52.250	Poolled interests in well in development unit—Allocation of costs—Rights of owners.
78.52.253	Pooling agreement, offer to pool, pooling order—Fairness to nonconsenting, unleased owners.
78.52.255	Operations on development unit deemed operations on each tract—Production allocated to tract deemed produced from each tract—Shut-in well considered on each tract—Lease on part of tract excluded from unit.
78.52.257	Dissolution of pooling order—Interests covered by terminated lease—Modification or termination of pooling order—Extension of dissolution of pooling order.
78.52.260	"Wildcat" or "exploratory" well data confidential.
78.52.270	Limitation of production to "oil allowable"—Proration.
78.52.280	Determining market demand—No undue discrimination in proration of "allowable."
78.52.290	Limitation of production to "gas allowable"—Proration.
78.52.300	Limitation of gas production from one pool.
78.52.310	Proration of allowable production in pool—Publication of orders—Emergency orders.
78.52.320	Compliance with limitation or proration required.
78.52.330	Unit operation of separately owned tracts.
78.52.335	Unit operation of pools.
78.52.345	Ratable purchase of oil from owners or operators of pool required.
78.52.355	Ratable purchase of gas from owners or operators of pool required.
78.52.365	Enforcement of RCW 78.52.345 and 78.52.355.
78.52.450	Participation of public lands in unit plan.
78.52.460	Unit plan not deemed monopolistic.
78.52.463	Suspension of operations for violation—Notice—Order—Hearing—Stay of order.
78.52.467	Illegal oil, gas, or product—Sale, purchase, etc., prohibited—Seizure and sale—Deposit of proceeds.
78.52.470	Objections to order—Hearing required—Modification of order.
78.52.480	Appeal from order or decision—Rights of department.
78.52.490	Appeal—How taken.
78.52.530	Violations—Injunctions.
78.52.540	Violations—Injunctions by private party.
78.52.550	Violations—Penalty.
78.52.900	Short title.
78.52.910	Construction—1951 c 146.
78.52.920	Severability—1951 c 146.
78.52.921	Severability—1983 c 253.

*Franchises on county roads and bridges: Chapter 36.55 RCW.*

*Gas and hazardous liquid pipelines: Chapter 81.88 RCW.*

*Interstate oil compact commission, governor may join: RCW 43.06.015.*

*Oil or natural gas exploration in marine waters: RCW 90.58.550.*

**78.52.001 Declaration of purpose.** It is hereby declared to be in the public interest to foster, encourage, and promote the exploration, development, production, and utilization of oil and gas in the state in such manner as will prevent waste; to authorize and to provide for the operation and development of oil and gas properties in such manner as to assure that the maximum economic recovery of oil and gas may be obtained and the rights of owners thereof fully protected; to conduct such oil and gas operations in a manner that will maintain a safe and healthful environment for the people of Washington and protect the state's natural resources; and to encourage, authorize, and provide for cycling, recycling, pressure maintenance and secondary recovery operations in order that the maximum economic recovery of oil and gas may be obtained to the end that landowners, royalty owners, producers, and the general public may realize and enjoy the greatest possible benefits from these vital resources. [1983 c 253 § 1; 1951 c 146 § 1.]

**78.52.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter, unless the text otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Certificate of clearance" means a permit prescribed by the department for the transportation or the delivery of oil, gas, or product.

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(3) "Development unit" means the maximum area of a pool which may be drained efficiently and economically by one well.

(4) "Division order" means an instrument showing percentage of royalty or rental divisions among royalty owners.

(5) "Fair and reasonable share of the production" means, as to each separately-owned tract or combination of tracts, that part of the authorized production from a pool that is substantially in the proportion that the amount of recoverable oil or gas under the development unit of that separately-owned tract or tracts bears to the recoverable oil or gas or both in the total of the development units in the pool.

(6) "Field" means the general area which is underlaid by at least one pool and includes the underground reservoir or reservoirs containing oil or gas, or both. The words "field" and "pool" mean the same thing when only one underground reservoir is involved; however, "field," unlike "pool," may relate to two or more pools.

(7) "Gas" means all natural gas, all gaseous substances, and all other fluid or gaseous hydrocarbons not defined as oil in subsection (12) of this section, including but not limited to wet gas, dry gas, residue gas, condensate, and distillate, as those terms are generally understood in the petroleum industry.

(8) "Illegal oil" or "illegal gas" means oil or gas that has been produced from any well within the state in violation of this chapter or any rule or order of the department.

(9) "Illegal product" means any product derived in whole or part from illegal oil or illegal gas.

(10) "Interested person" means a person with an ownership, basic royalty, or leasehold interest in oil or gas within an existing or proposed development unit or unitized pool.

(11) "Lessee" means the lessee under an oil and gas lease, or the owner of any land or mineral rights who has the right to conduct or carry on any oil and gas development, exploration and operation thereon, or any person so operating for himself, herself, or others.

(12) "Oil" means crude petroleum, oil, and all hydrocarbons, regardless of gravity, that are in the liquid phase in the original reservoir conditions and are produced and recovered at the wellhead in liquid form.

(13) "Operator" means the person who operates a well or unit or who has been designated or accepted by the owners to operate the well or unit, and who is responsible for compliance with the department's rules and policies.

(14) "Owner" means the person who has the right to develop, operate, drill into, and produce from a pool and to appropriate the oil or gas that he or she produces therefrom, either for that person or for that person and others.

(15) "Person" means any natural person, corporation, association, partnership, receiver, trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, fiduciary, or representative of any kind and includes any governmental or political subdivision or any agency thereof.

(16) "Pool" means an underground reservoir containing a common accumulation of oil or gas, or both. Each zone of a structure which is completely separated from any other zone in the same structure such that the accumulations of oil or gas are not common with each other is considered a separate pool and is covered by the term "pool" as used in this chapter.

(17) "Pooling" means the integration or combination of two or more tracts into an area sufficient to constitute a development unit of the size for one well as prescribed by the department.

(18) "Product" means any commodity made from oil or gas.

(19) "Protect correlative rights" means that the action or regulation by the department should afford a reasonable opportunity to each person entitled thereto to recover or receive without causing waste his or her fair and reasonable share of the oil and gas in this tract or tracts or its equivalent.

(20) "Royalty" means a right to or interest in oil or gas or the value from or attributable to production, other than the right or interest of a lessee, owner, or operator, as defined herein. Royalty includes, but is not limited to the basic royalty in a lease, overriding royalty, and production payments. Any such interest may be referred to in this chapter as "royalty" or "royalty interest." As used in this chapter "basic royalty" means the royalty reserved in a lease. "Royalty owner" means a person who owns a royalty interest.

(21) "Supervisor" means the state oil and gas supervisor.

(22) "Unitization" means the operation of all or part of a field or reservoir as a single entity for operating purposes.

(23) "Waste" in addition to its ordinary meaning, means and includes:

(a) "Physical waste" as that term is generally understood in the petroleum industry;

(b) The inefficient, excessive, or improper use of, or unnecessary dissipation of, reservoir energy, and the locating, spacing, drilling, equipping, operating, or producing of any oil or gas well in a manner which results or is probable to result in reducing the quantity of oil or gas to be recovered from any pool in this state under operations conducted in

accordance with prudent and proper practices or that causes or tends to cause unnecessary wells to be drilled;

(c) The inefficient above-ground storage of oil, and the locating, spacing, drilling, equipping, operating, or producing of any oil or gas well in a manner causing or tending to cause unnecessary or excessive surface loss or destruction of oil or gas;

(d) The production of oil or gas in such manner as to cause unnecessary water channeling, or coning;

(e) The operation of an oil well with an inefficient gas-oil ratio;

(f) The drowning with water of any pool or part thereof capable of producing oil or gas, except insofar as and to the extent authorized by the department;

(g) Underground waste;

(h) The creation of unnecessary fire hazards;

(i) The escape into the open air, from a well producing oil or gas, of gas in excess of the amount which is reasonably necessary in the efficient development or production of the well;

(j) The use of gas for the manufacture of carbon black, except as provided in RCW 78.52.140;

(k) Production of oil and gas in excess of the reasonable market demand;

(l) The flaring of gas from gas wells except that which is necessary for the drilling, completing, or testing of the well; and

(m) The unreasonable damage to natural resources including but not limited to the destruction of the surface, soils, wildlife, fish, or aquatic life from or by oil and gas operations. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 809; 1983 c 253 § 2; 1951 c 146 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.025 Hearings and meetings of department.** The department shall hold hearings or meetings at such times and places as may be found by the department to be necessary to carry out its duties. The department may establish its own rules for the conduct of public hearings or meetings consistent with other applicable law. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 810; 1983 c 253 § 3; 1951 c 146 § 5. Formerly RCW 78.52.060.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.030 Employment of personnel.** The department shall employ all personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 811; 1951 c 146 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.031 Conduct of hearings—Evidence.** The department may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and require the production of records, books, and documents for examination at any hearing or investigation conducted by it. No person shall be excused from attending and testifying, or from producing books, papers, and records before the department or a court, or from obedience to the subpoena of the department or a court, on the ground or for the reason that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of the person may tend to incriminate the person or subject the person to a penalty or forfeiture: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed as requiring any person to produce any books, papers, or records, or to testify in

response to any inquiry not pertinent to some question lawfully before the department or court for determination. No person shall be subjected to criminal prosecution or to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing concerning which, in spite of his or her objection, he or she may be required to testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise before the department or court, or in obedience to its subpoena: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no person testifying shall be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed in so testifying. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 812; 1983 c 253 § 5; 1951 c 146 § 7. Formerly RCW 78.52.080.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.032 Hearing examiners.** In addition to the powers and authority, either express or implied, granted to the department by virtue of the laws of this state, the department may, in prescribing its rules of order or procedure in connection with hearings or other proceedings before the department, provide for the appointment of one or more examiners to conduct a hearing or hearings with respect to any matter properly coming before the department and to make reports and recommendations to the department with respect thereto. Any employee of the department or any other person designated by the commissioner of public lands, or the supervisor when this power is so delegated, may serve as an examiner. The department shall adopt rules governing hearings to be conducted before examiners. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 813; 1983 c 253 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.033 Failure of witness to attend or testify—Contempt.** In case of failure or refusal on the part of any person to comply with a subpoena issued by the department or in case of the refusal of any witness to testify as to any matter regarding which the witness may be interrogated, any superior court in the state, upon the application of the department, may compel the person to comply with such subpoena, and to attend before the department and produce such records, books, and documents for examination, and to give his or her testimony and shall have the power to punish for contempt as in the case of disobedience to a like subpoena issued by the court, or for refusal to testify therein. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 814; 1951 c 146 § 8. Formerly RCW 78.52.090.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.035 Attorney for department.** The attorney general shall be the attorney for the department, but in cases of emergency, the department may call upon the prosecuting attorney of the county where the action is to be brought, or defended, to represent the department until such time as the attorney general may take charge of the litigation. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 815; 1951 c 146 § 9. Formerly RCW 78.52.110.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.037 State oil and gas supervisor—Deputy supervisors—Employment of personnel.** The department shall designate a state oil and gas supervisor who shall be charged with duties as may be delegated by the department. The department may designate one or more deputy supervisors and employ all personnel necessary including the

appointment of examiners as provided in RCW 78.52.032 to carry out this chapter and the rules and orders of the department. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 816; 1983 c 253 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.040 Duty and powers of department—In general.** The department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter by the adoption of policies, and all rules, regulations, and orders promulgated hereunder, and the department has jurisdiction, power, and authority, over all persons and property, public and private, necessary to enforce effectively such duty. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 817; 1983 c 253 § 6; 1951 c 146 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.050 Rules, regulations, and orders—Time and place of hearing—Notices.** The department may make such reasonable rules, regulations, and orders as may be necessary from time to time for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter. Unless otherwise required by law or by this chapter or by rules of procedure made under this chapter, the department may make such rules, regulations, and orders, after notice, as the basis therefor. The notice may be given by publication in some newspaper of general circulation in the state in a manner and form which may be prescribed by the department by general rule. The public hearing shall be at the time and in the manner and at the place prescribed by the department, and any person having any interest in the subject matter of the hearing shall be entitled to be heard. In addition, written notice shall be mailed to all interested persons who have requested, in writing, notice of department hearings, rulings, policies, and orders. The department shall establish and maintain a mailing list for this purpose. Substantial compliance with these mailing requirements is deemed compliance with this section. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 818; 1983 c 253 § 7; 1951 c 146 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.070 Hearing upon petition—Time for action.** Any interested person shall have the right to have the department call a hearing for the purpose of taking action with respect to any matter within the jurisdiction of the department by filing a verified written petition therefor, which shall state in substance the matter and reasons for and nature of the action requested. Upon receipt of any such request the department, if in its judgment a hearing is warranted and justifiable, shall promptly call a hearing thereon, and after such hearing, and with all convenient speed, and in any event within twenty days after the conclusion of such hearing, shall take such action with regard to the subject matter thereof as it may deem appropriate. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 819; 1951 c 146 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.100 Records—Copies as evidence—Copies to be furnished.** All rules, regulations, policies, and orders of the department, all petitions, copies of all notices and actions with affidavits of posting, mailing, or publications pertaining thereto, all findings of fact, and transcripts of all hearings shall be in writing and shall be entered in full by the department in the permanent official records of the office of the commissioner of public lands and shall be open for inspection

at all times during reasonable office hours. A copy of any rule, regulation, policy, order, or other official records of the department, certified by the commissioner of public lands, shall be received in evidence in all courts of this state with the same effect as the original. The department is hereby required to furnish to any person upon request, copies of all rules, regulations, policies, orders, and amendments thereof. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 820; 1983 c 253 § 8; 1951 c 146 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.120 Drilling permit required—Notice.** Any person desiring or proposing to drill any well in search of oil or gas, before commencing the drilling of any such well, shall apply to the department upon such form as the department may prescribe, and shall pay to the state treasurer a fee of the following amounts for each application:

- (1) For each well the estimated depth of which is three thousand five hundred feet or less, two hundred fifty dollars;
- (2) From three thousand five hundred one feet to seven thousand feet, five hundred dollars;
- (3) From seven thousand one feet to twelve thousand feet, seven hundred fifty dollars; and
- (4) From twelve thousand one feet and deeper, one thousand dollars.

In addition, as pertains to the tract upon which the well is proposed to be located, the applicant must notify the surface landowner, the landowner's tenant, and other surface users in the manner provided by regulations of the department that a drilling permit has been applied for by furnishing each such surface landowner, tenant, and other users with a copy of the application concurrent with the filing of the application. Within fifteen days of receipt of the application, each such surface landowner, the landowner's tenant, and other surface users have the right to inform the department of objections or comments as to the proposed use of the surface by the applicant, and the department shall consider the objections or comments.

The drilling of any well is prohibited until a permit is given and such fee has been paid as provided in this section. The department may prescribe that the said form indicate the exact location of such well, the name and address of the owner, operator, contractor, driller, and any other person responsible for the conduct of drilling operations, the proposed depth of the well, the elevation of the well above sea level, and such other relevant and reasonable information as the department may deem necessary or convenient to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

The department shall issue a permit if it finds that the proposed drilling will be consistent with this chapter, the rules and orders adopted under it, and is not detrimental to the public interest. The department shall impose conditions and restrictions as necessary to protect the public interest and to ensure compliance with this chapter, and the rules and orders adopted by the department. A person shall not apply to drill a well in search of oil or gas unless that person holds an ownership or contractual right to locate and operate the drilling operations upon the proposed drilling site. A person shall not be issued a permit unless that person prima facie holds an ownership or contractual right to drill to the proposed depth, or proposed horizon. Proof of prima facie ownership shall be

presented to the department. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 821; 1983 c 253 § 11; 1951 c 146 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.125 Environmental impact statement required when drilling affects surface waters of the state—Drilling may be denied, when.** Any person desiring or proposing to drill any well in search of oil or gas, when such drilling would be conducted through or under any surface waters of the state, shall prepare and submit an environmental impact statement upon such form as the department of ecology shall prescribe at least one hundred and twenty days prior to commencing the drilling of any such well. Within ninety days after receipt of such environmental statement the department of ecology shall prepare and submit to the department of natural resources a report examining the potential environmental impact of the proposed well and recommendations for department action thereon. If after consideration of the report the department determines that the proposed well is likely to have a substantial environmental impact the drilling permit for such well may be denied.

The department shall require sufficient safeguards to minimize the hazards of pollution of all surface and ground waters of the state. If safeguards acceptable to the department cannot be provided the drilling permit shall be denied. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 822; 1971 ex.s. c 180 § 8.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions of RCW 90.56.010 apply to this section. Funds for the purposes of carrying out this section are provided from the coastal protection fund, RCW 90.48.390 and 90.48.400. The authority and enforcement of rules pertaining to this section are covered in RCW 90.56.050 and 90.56.900.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.130 Waste prohibited.** Waste of oil and gas, as defined in this chapter, is prohibited. [1951 c 146 § 15.]

**78.52.140 Carbon black and carbon products—Permit required.** The use of gas from a well producing gas only, or from a well which is primarily a gas well, for the manufacture of carbon black or similar products predominantly carbon, is declared to constitute waste prima facie, and such gas well shall not be used for any such purpose unless it is clearly shown, at a public hearing to be held by the department, on application of the person desiring to use such gas, that waste would not take place by the use of such gas for the purpose or purposes applied for, and that gas which would otherwise be lost is not available for such purpose or purposes, and that the gas to be used cannot be used for a more beneficial purpose, such as for light or fuel purposes, except at prohibitive cost, and that it would be in the public interest to grant such permit. If the department finds that the applicant has clearly shown a right to use such gas for the purpose or purposes applied for, it shall issue a permit upon such terms and conditions as may be found necessary in order to permit the use of the gas, and at the same time require compliance with the intent of this section. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 823; 1951 c 146 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.150 Investigations authorized.** The department shall make such investigations as it may deem proper to

determine whether waste exists or is imminent or whether other facts exist which justify action by the department. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 824; 1951 c 146 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.155 Investigations—Powers and duties.** (1) The department shall make investigations as necessary to carry out this chapter.

(2) The department shall require:

(a) Identification of ownership of oil or gas wells, producing leases, tanks, plants, structures, and facilities for the transportation or refining of oil or gas;

(b) The making and filing of well logs, core samples, directional surveys, and reports on well locations, drilling, and production;

(c) The testing of oil and gas wells;

(d) The drilling, casing, operating, and plugging of wells in such a manner as to prevent the escape of oil or gas out of the casings, or out of one pool into another, the intrusion of water into an oil or gas pool, and the pollution of freshwater supplies by oil, gas, or saltwater and to prevent blowouts, cavings, see pages, and fires;

(e) The furnishing of adequate security acceptable to the department, conditioned on the performance of the duty to plug each dry or abandoned well, the duty to reclaim and clean-up well drilling sites, the duty to repair wells causing waste, the duty to comply with all applicable laws and rules adopted by the department, orders of the department, all permit conditions, and this chapter;

(f) The operation of wells with efficient gas-oil and water-oil ratios and may fix these ratios and limit production from wells with inefficient gas-oil or water-oil ratios;

(g) The production of oil and gas from wells be accurately measured by means and upon standards prescribed by the department, and that every person who produces, sells, purchases, acquires, stores, transports, treats, or processes oil or gas in this state keeps and maintains for a period of five years within this state complete and accurate records thereof, which records shall be available for examination by the department or its agents at all reasonable times, and that every person file with the department such reports as it may prescribe with respect to the oil or gas; and

(h) Compliance with all applicable laws and rules of this state.

(3) The department shall regulate:

(a) The drilling, producing, locating, spacing, and plugging of wells and all other operations for the production of oil or gas;

(b) The physical, mechanical, and chemical treatment of wells, and the perforation of wells;

(c) Operations to increase ultimate recovery such as cycling of gas, the maintenance of pressure, and the introduction of gas, water, or other substances into producing formations;

(d) Disposal of saltwater and oil field brines;

(e) The storage, processing, and treatment of natural gas and oil produced within this state; and

(f) Reclamation and clean-up of all well sites and any areas directly affected by the drilling, production, operation, and plugging of oil and gas wells.

(4) The department may limit and prorate oil and gas produced in this state and may restrict future production of oil and gas from any pool in such amounts as will offset and compensate for any production determined by the department to be in excess of or in violation of "oil allowable" or "gas allowable."

(5) The department shall classify wells as oil or gas wells for purposes material to the interpretation or enforcement of this chapter.

(6) The department shall regulate oil and gas exploration and drilling activities so as to prevent or remedy unreasonable or excessive waste or surface destruction. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 825; 1983 c 253 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.200 Development units authorized for known pools.** When necessary to prevent waste, to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, or to protect correlative rights including those of royalty owners, the department, upon its own motion or upon application of interested persons, shall establish development units covering any known pool. Development units shall be of uniform size and shape for the entire pool unless the department finds that it must make an exception due to geologic, geographic, or other factors. When necessary, the department may divide any pool into zones and establish development units for each zone, which units may differ in size and shape from those established in any other zone. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 826; 1983 c 253 § 12; 1951 c 146 § 22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.205 Development units to be prescribed for pool after discovery—Temporary development units.** Within sixty days after the discovery of oil or gas in a pool not then covered by an order of the department, a hearing shall be held and the department shall issue an order prescribing development units for the pool. If sufficient geological or other scientific data from drilling operations or other evidence is not available to determine the maximum area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one well, the department may establish temporary development units to ensure the orderly development of the pool pending availability of the necessary data. A temporary order shall continue in force for a period of not more than twenty-four months at the expiration of which time, or upon the petition of an affected person, the department shall require the presentation of such geological, scientific, drilling, or other evidence as will enable it to determine the proper development units in the pool. During the interim period between the discovery and the issuance of the temporary order, permits shall not be issued for the drilling of direct offsets to a discovery well. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 827; 1983 c 253 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.210 Development units—Size and shape.** (1) The size and the shape of any development units shall be such as will result in the efficient and economical development of the pool as a whole, and the size shall not be smaller than the maximum area that can be efficiently and economically drained by one well as determined by competent geological, geophysical, engineering, drilling, or other scientific testi-

mony, data, and evidence. The department shall fix a development unit of not more than one hundred sixty acres for any pool deemed by the department to be an oil reservoir, or of six hundred forty acres for any pool deemed by the department to be a gas reservoir, plus a ten percent tolerance in either case to allow for irregular sections. The department may, at its discretion, after notice and hearing, establish development units for oil and gas in variance of these limitations when competent geological, geophysical, engineering, drilling, or other scientific testimony, data, and evidence is presented and upon a finding that one well can efficiently and economically drain a larger or smaller area and is justified because of technical, economic, environmental, or safety considerations.

(2) The department may establish development units of different sizes or shapes for different parts of a pool or may grant exceptions to the size or shapes of any development unit or units. Where development units of different sizes or shapes exist in a pool, the department shall, if necessary, make such adjustments to the allowable production from the well or wells drilled thereon so that each operator in each development unit will have a reasonable opportunity to produce or receive his or her just and equitable share of the production. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 828; 1983 c 253 § 14; 1951 c 146 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.220 Development units—Location of well.** An order establishing development units for a pool shall specify the size and shape of each area and the location of the permitted well thereon in accordance with a reasonable uniform spacing plan. Upon application and after notice and a hearing, if the department finds that a well drilled at the prescribed location would not produce in paying quantities, or that surface conditions would substantially add to the burden or hazard of drilling such well, the department may enter an order permitting the well to be drilled pursuant to permit at a location other than that prescribed by such development order; however, the department shall include in the order suitable provisions to prevent the production from the development unit of more than its just and equitable share of the oil and gas in the pool. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 829; 1983 c 253 § 15; 1951 c 146 § 24.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.230 Development units—Order must cover entire pool—Modifications.** An order establishing development units for a pool shall cover all lands determined or believed to be underlain by such pool, and may be modified by the department from time to time to include additional areas determined to be underlain by such pool. When the department determines that it is necessary for the prevention of waste, or to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, or to protect correlative rights, an order establishing development units in a pool may be modified by the department to increase or decrease the size of development units in the pool or to permit the drilling of additional wells on a reasonably uniform plan in the pool. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 830; 1983 c 253 § 16; 1951 c 146 § 25.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.240 Development units—Pooling of interests.**

When two or more separately-owned tracts are embraced within a development unit, or when there are separately owned interests in all or a part of the development unit, then the owners and lessees thereof may pool their interests for the development and operation of the development unit. In the absence of this voluntary pooling, the department, upon the application of any interested person, shall enter an order pooling all interests, including royalty interests, in the development unit for the development and operation thereof. Each such pooling order shall be made after notice and hearing. The applicant or applicants shall have the burden of proving that all reasonable efforts have been made to obtain the consent of, or to reach agreement with, other owners. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 831; 1983 c 253 § 17; 1951 c 146 § 26.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.245 Pooling order—Allocation of production.**

A pooling order shall be upon terms and conditions that are fair and reasonable and that afford to each owner and royalty owner his or her fair and reasonable share of production. Production shall be allocated as follows:

(1) For the purpose of determining the portions of production owned by the persons owning interests in the pooled unit, the production shall be allocated to the respective tracts within the unit in the proportion that the surface acres in each tract bear to the number of surface acres included in the entire unit.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if the department finds that allocation on a surface acreage basis does not allocate to each tract its fair share, the department shall allocate the production so that each tract will receive its fair share. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 832; 1983 c 253 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.250 Pooled interests in well in development unit—Allocation of costs—Rights of owners.** (1) Each such pooling order shall make provision for the drilling and operation of a well on the development unit, and for the payment of the reasonable actual cost thereof by the owners of interests required to pay such costs in the development unit, plus a reasonable charge for supervision and storage facilities. Costs associated with production from the pooled unit shall be allocated in the same manner as is production in RCW 78.52.245. In the event of any dispute as to such costs the department shall determine the proper costs.

(2) As to each owner who fails or refuses to agree to bear his or her proportionate share of the costs of the drilling and operation of the well, the order shall provide for reimbursement of those persons paying for the drilling and operation of the well of the nonconsenting owner's share of the costs from, and only from, production from the unit representing that person's interest, excluding royalty or other interests not obligated to pay any part of the cost thereof. The department may provide that the consenting owners shall own and be entitled to receive all production from the well after payment of the royalty as provided in the lease, if any, applicable to each tract or interest, and obligations payable from production, until the consenting owners have been paid the amount due under the terms of the pooling order or order settling any dispute.

The order shall determine the interest of each owner in the unit and shall provide that each consenting owner is entitled to receive, subject to royalty or similar obligations, the share of the production of the well applicable to the owner's interest in the unit, and, unless the owner has agreed otherwise, his or her proportionate part of the nonconsenting owner's share of the production until costs are recovered as provided in this subsection. Each nonconsenting owner is entitled to receive, subject to royalty or similar obligations, the share of production from the well applicable to the owner's interest in the unit after the consenting owners have recovered from the nonconsenting owner's share of production the following:

(a) In respect to every such well, one hundred percent of the nonconsenting owner's share of the cost of surface equipment beyond the wellhead connections, including but not limited to, stock tanks, separators, treaters, pumping equipment, and piping, plus one hundred percent of the nonconsenting owner's share of the cost of operation of the well, commencing with first production and continuing until the consenting owners have recovered these costs, with the intent that the nonconsenting owner's share of these costs and equipment will be that interest which would have been chargeable to the nonconsenting owner had he or she initially agreed to pay his or her share of the costs of the well from the beginning of the operation;

(b) One hundred fifty percent of that portion of the costs and expenses of staking the location, well site preparation, rights-of-way, rigging-up, drilling, reworking, deepening or plugging back, testing, and completing, after deducting any cash contributions received by the consenting owners, and also one hundred fifty percent of that portion of the cost of equipment in the well, up to and including the wellhead connections; and

(c) If there is a dispute regarding the costs, the department shall determine the proper costs and their allocation among working interest owners after due notice to interested parties and a hearing on the costs.

(3) The operator of a well under a pooling order in which there are nonconsenting owners shall furnish the nonconsenting owners with monthly statements of all costs incurred, together with the quantity of oil or gas produced, and the amount of proceeds realized from the sale of this production during the preceding month. If and when the consenting owners recover from a nonconsenting owner's relinquished interest the amounts provided for in subsection (2) of this section, the relinquished interest of the nonconsenting owner shall automatically revert to him or her, and the nonconsenting owner shall own the same interest in the well and the production from it and be liable for the further costs of the operation as if he or she had participated in the initial drilling and operation.

(4) A nonconsenting owner of a tract in a development unit which is not subject to any lease or other contract for the development thereof for oil and gas shall elect within fifteen days of the issuance of the pooling order or such further time as the department shall, in the order, allow:

(a) To be treated as a nonconsenting owner as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and is deemed to have a basic landowners' royalty of one-eighth, or twelve and one-half percent, of the production allocated to the tract,

unless a higher basic royalty has been established in the development unit. If a higher royalty has been established, then the nonconsenting owner of a nonleased tract shall receive the higher basic royalty. This presumed royalty shall exist only during the time that costs and expenses are being recovered under subsection (2) of this section, and is intended to assure that the owner of a nonleased tract receive a basic royalty free of all costs at all times. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the owner shall at all times retain his or her entire ownership of the property, including the right to execute an oil and gas lease on any terms negotiated, and be entitled to all production subject to subsection (2) of this section; or

(b) To grant a lease to the operator at the current fair market value for that interest for comparable leases or interests at the time of the commencement of drilling; or

(c) To pay his or her pro rata share of the costs of the well or wells in the development unit and receive his or her pro rata share of production, if any.

A nonconsenting owner who does not make an election as provided in this subsection is deemed to have elected to be treated under (a) of this subsection. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 833; 1983 c 253 § 19; 1951 c 146 § 27.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.253 Pooling agreement, offer to pool, pooling order—Fairness to nonconsenting, unleased owners.** A pooling agreement, offer to pool, or pooling order is not considered fair and reasonable as applied to nonconsenting, unleased owners only, if it provides for an operating agreement containing any of the following provisions:

(1) Preferential right of the operator to purchase mineral interests in the unit;

(2) A call on or option to purchase production from the unit;

(3) Operating charges that include any part of district or central office expense other than reasonable overhead charges; or

(4) Prohibition against nonoperators questioning the operation of the unit. [1983 c 253 § 20.]

**78.52.255 Operations on development unit deemed operations on each tract—Production allocated to tract deemed produced from each tract—Shut-in well considered on each tract—Lease on part of tract excluded from unit.** (1) Operations incident to the drilling of a well upon any portion of a development unit covered by a pooling order shall be deemed, for all purposes, the conduct of such operations upon each separately-owned tract in the development unit by the several owners thereof. That portion of the production allocated to each separately-owned tract included in a development unit covered by a pooling order shall, when produced, be deemed for all purposes, including the payment of royalty, to have been produced from each separately-owned tract by a well drilled thereon. If an oil or gas well on a pooled unit is shut-in, it shall be considered that the shut-in well is on each separately-owned tract in the pooled unit.

(2) If only part of the tract is included in the unit, operations on, production from, or a shut-in well on the unit shall maintain an oil and gas lease on the tract as to the part excluded from the unit only if the lease would be maintained

had the unit been created voluntarily under the lease. [1983 c 253 § 21.]

**78.52.257 Dissolution of pooling order—Interests covered by terminated lease—Modification or termination of pooling order—Extension of dissolution of pooling order.** (1) An order pooling a development unit shall automatically dissolve:

(a) One year after its effective date if there has been no production of commercial quantities or drilling operations on lands within the unit;

(b) Six months after completion of a dry hole on the unit; or

(c) Six months after cessation of production of commercial quantities from the unit, unless, prior to the expiration of such six-month period, the operator shall, in good faith, commence drilling or reworking operations in an effort to restore production.

(2) Upon the termination of a lease pooled by order of the department under authority granted in this chapter, interests covered by the lease are considered pooled as unleased mineral interests.

(3) Any party to a pooling order is entitled, after due notice to all parties, to a hearing to modify or terminate a previously entered pooling order upon presenting new evidence showing that the previous determination of reservoir conclusions are substantially incorrect.

(4) The department, after notice and hearing, may grant additional time, for good cause shown, before a pooling order is automatically dissolved as provided in subsection (1) of this section. In no case may such an extension be longer than six months. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 834; 1983 c 253 § 22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.260 "Wildcat" or "exploratory" well data confidential.** Whenever the department requires the making and filing of well logs, directional surveys, or reports on the drilling of, subsurface conditions found in, or reports with respect to the substance produced, or capable of being produced from, a "wildcat" or "exploratory" well, as those terms are used in the petroleum industry, such logs, surveys, reports, or information shall be kept confidential by the department for a period of one year, if at the time of filing such logs, surveys, reports, or other information, the owner, lessee, or operator of such well requests that such information be kept confidential: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the department may divulge or use such information in a public hearing or suit when it is necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter or any rule, regulation, or order made hereunder. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 835; 1951 c 146 § 28.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.270 Limitation of production to "oil allowable"—Proration.** Whenever the total amount of oil which all of the pools in this state can currently produce in accordance with good operating practices, exceeds the amount reasonably required to meet the reasonable market demand, the department shall limit the oil which may be currently produced in this state to an amount, designated the "oil allowable." The department shall then prorate this "oil allowable" among the pools on a reasonable basis, avoiding undue dis-

crimination among the pools, and so that waste will be prevented. In determining the "oil allowable," and in prorating such "oil allowable" among the pools in the state, the department shall take into account the producing conditions and other relevant facts with respect to such pools, including the separate needs for oil and gas, and separate needs for oil of particular kinds or qualities, and shall formulate rules setting forth standards or a program for the determination of the "oil allowable," and shall prorate the "oil allowable" in accordance with such standards or program, and where conditions in one pool or area are substantially similar to those in another pool or area, then the same standards or program shall be applied to such pools or areas so that as far as practicable a uniform program will be followed: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if the amount prorated to a pool as its share of the "oil allowable" is in excess of the amount which the pool can efficiently produce currently, then the department shall prorate to such pool the maximum amount which can be efficiently produced currently without waste. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 836; 1951 c 146 § 29.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.280 Determining market demand—No undue discrimination in proration of "allowable."** The department shall not be required to determine the reasonable market demand applicable to any single pool of oil except in relation to all pools producing oil of similar kind and quality and in relation to the reasonable market demand. The department shall prorate the "allowable" in such manner as will prevent undue discrimination against any pool or area in favor of another or others resulting from selective buying or nomination by purchasers. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 837; 1951 c 146 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.290 Limitation of production to "gas allowable"—Proration.** Whenever the total amount of gas which all of the pools in this state can currently produce in accordance with good operating practice exceeds the amount reasonably required to meet the reasonable market demand, the department shall limit the gas which may be currently produced to an amount, designated as the "gas allowable," which will not exceed the reasonable market demand for gas. The department shall then prorate the "gas allowable" among the pools on a reasonable basis, avoiding undue discrimination among the pools, and so that waste will be prevented, giving due consideration to location of pipe lines, cost of interconnecting such pipe lines, and other pertinent factors, and insofar as applicable, the provisions of RCW 78.52.270 shall be followed in determining the "gas allowable" and in prorating such "gas allowable" among the pools therein: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in determining the reasonable market demand for gas as between pools, the department shall give due regard to the fact that gas produced from oil pools is to be regulated in a manner which will protect the reasonable use of gas energy for oil production and promote the most or maximum efficient recovery of oil from such pools. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 838; 1951 c 146 § 31.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.300 Limitation of gas production from one pool.** Whenever the total amount of gas which may be cur-

rently produced from all of the pools in this state has not been limited as hereinabove provided, and the available production from any one pool containing gas only is in excess of the reasonable market demand or available transportation facilities for gas from such pool, the department shall limit the production of gas from such pool to that amount which does not exceed the reasonable market demand or transportation facilities for gas from such pool. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 839; 1951 c 146 § 32.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.310 Proration of allowable production in pool—Publication of orders—Emergency orders.** Whenever the department limits the total amount of oil or gas which may be produced from any pool to an amount less than that which the pool could produce if no restrictions were imposed (whether incidental to, or without, a limitation of the total amount of oil which may be produced in the state) the department shall prorate the allowable production for the pool among the producers in the pool on a reasonable basis, so that each producer will have opportunity to produce or receive his or her just and equitable share, subject to the reasonable necessities for the prevention of waste, giving where reasonable, under the circumstances, to each pool with small wells of settled production, allowable production which prevents the premature abandonment of wells in the pool.

All orders establishing the "oil allowable" and "gas allowable" for this state, and all orders prorating such allowables as herein provided, and any changes thereof, for any month or period shall be issued by the department on or before the fifteenth day of the month preceding the month for which such orders are to be effective, and such orders shall be immediately published in some newspaper of general circulation printed in Olympia, Washington. No orders establishing such allowables, or prorating such allowables, or any changes thereof, shall be issued without first having a hearing, after notice, as provided in this chapter: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, When in the judgment of the department, an emergency requiring immediate action is found to exist, the department may issue an emergency order under this section which shall have the same effect and validity as if a hearing with respect to the same had been held after due notice. The emergency order permitted by this section shall remain in force no longer than thirty days, and in any event it shall expire when the order made after due notice and hearing with respect to the subject matter of the emergency order becomes effective. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 840; 1951 c 146 § 33.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.320 Compliance with limitation or proration required.** Whenever the production of oil or gas in this state or any pool therein is limited and the "oil allowable" or "gas allowable" is established and prorated by the department as provided in RCW 78.52.310, no person shall thereafter produce from any well, pool, lease, or property more than the production which is prorated thereto. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 841; 1951 c 146 § 34.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.330 Unit operation of separately owned tracts.** To assist in the development of oil and gas in this state and to

further the purposes of this chapter, the persons owning interests in separate tracts of land, may validly agree to integrate their interests and manage, operate, and develop their land as a unit, subject to the approval of the department. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 842; 1951 c 146 § 35.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.335 Unit operation of pools.** (1) The department shall upon the application of any interested person, or upon its own motion, hold a hearing to consider the need for the operation as a unit of one or more pools or parts of them in a field.

(2) The department may enter an order providing for the unit operations if it finds that:

(a) The unit operations are necessary for secondary recovery or enhanced recovery purposes. For purposes of this chapter secondary or enhanced recovery means that oil or gas or both are recovered by any method, artificial flowing or pumping, that may be employed to produce oil or gas, or both, through the joint use of two or more wells with an application of energy extrinsic to the pool or pools. This includes pressuring, cycling, pressure maintenance, or injections into the pool or pools of a substance or form of energy: PROVIDED, That this does not include the injection in a well of a substance or form of energy for the sole purpose of (i) aiding in the lifting of fluids in the well, or (ii) stimulation of the reservoir at or near the well by mechanical, chemical, thermal, or explosive means;

(b) The unit operations will protect correlative rights;

(c) The operations will increase the ultimate recovery of oil or gas, or will prevent waste, or will prevent the drilling of unnecessary wells; and

(d) The value of the estimated additional recovery of oil and/or gas exceeds the estimated additional cost incident to conducting these operations.

(3) The department may also enter an order providing for unit operations, after notice and hearing, only if the department finds that there is clear and convincing evidence that all of the following conditions are met:

(a) In the absence of unitization, the ultimate recovery of oil or gas, or both, will be substantially decreased because normal production techniques and methods are not feasible and will not result in the maximum efficient and economic recovery of oil or gas, or both;

(b) The unit operations will protect correlative rights;

(c) The unit operations will prevent waste, or will prevent the drilling of unnecessary wells;

(d) There has been a discovery of a commercial oil or gas field; and

(e) There has been sufficient exploration, drilling activity, and development to properly define the one or more pools or parts of them in a field proposed to be unitized.

(4) Notwithstanding any of the above, nothing in this chapter may be construed to prevent the voluntary agreement of all interested persons to any plan of unit operations. The department shall approve operations upon making a finding consistent with subsection (2) (b) and (c) of this section.

(5) The order shall be upon terms and conditions that are fair and reasonable and shall prescribe a plan for unit operations that includes:

(a) A description of the pool or pools or parts thereof to be so operated, termed the unitized area;

(b) A statement of the nature of the operations contemplated;

(c) An allocation of production and costs to the separately-owned tracts in the unitized area. The allocation shall be in accord with the agreement, if any, of the interested parties. If there is no agreement, production shall be allocated in a manner calculated to ensure that each owner's correlative rights are protected, and each separately-owned tract or combination of tracts receives its fair and reasonable share of production. Costs shall be allocated on a fair and reasonable basis;

(d) A provision, if necessary, prescribing fair, reasonable, and equitable terms and conditions as to time and rate of interest for carrying or otherwise financing any person who is unable to promptly meet his or her financial obligations in connection with the unit, such carrying and interest charges to be paid as provided by the department from the person's prorated share of production;

(e) A provision for the supervision and conduct of the unit operations, in respect to which each owner shall have a vote with a value corresponding to the percentage of the costs of unit operations chargeable against the owner's interest;

(f) The time when the unit operations shall commence, the timetable for development, and the manner and circumstances under which the unit operations shall terminate; and

(g) Additional provisions which are found to be appropriate for carrying out the unit operations and for the protection of correlative rights.

(6) No order of the department providing for unit operations may become effective until:

(a) The plan for unit operations approved by the department has been approved in writing by those persons who, under the department's order, will be required to pay at least seventy-five percent of the costs of unit operations;

(b) The plan has been approved in writing by those persons such as royalty owners, overriding royalty owners, and production payment owners, who own at least seventy-five percent of the production or proceeds thereof that will be credited to interests that are free of costs; and

(c) The department has made a finding, either in the order providing for unit operations or in a supplemental order, that the plan for unit operations has been so approved. If the plan for unit operations has not been so approved at the time the order providing for unit operations is made, the department shall upon application and notice hold such supplemental hearings as may be required to determine if and when the plan for unit operations has been so approved. If the persons owning required percentages of interest in the unitized area do not approve the plan for unit operations within a period of six months from the date on which the order providing for unit operations is made, or within such additional period or periods of time as the department prescribes, the order will become unenforceable and shall be vacated by the department.

(7) An order providing for unit operations may be amended by an order made by the department in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as an original order, except as provided in subsection (8) of this section, providing for unit operations, but (a) if such an amendment

affects only the rights and interests of the owners, the approval of the amendment by those persons who own interests that are free of costs is not required, and (b) no such amending order may change the percentage for the allocation of oil and gas as established for any separately-owned tract or combination of tracts by the original order, except with the consent of all persons owning oil and gas rights in the tract, and no such order may change the percentage for the allocation of cost as established for any separately-owned tract or combination of tracts by the original order, except with the consent of all persons owning an interest in the tract or combination of tracts. An amendment that provides for the expansion of the unit area shall comply with subsection (8) of this section.

(8) The department, by order, may provide for the unit operation of a reservoir or reservoirs or parts thereof that include a unitized area established by a previous order of the department. The order, in providing for the allocation of unit production, shall first treat the unitized area previously established as a single tract and the portion of the new unit production allocated thereto shall then be allocated among the separately-owned tracts included in the previously established unit area in the same proportions as those specified in the previous order.

(9) After the date designated by the department the unit plan shall be effective, oil and gas leases within the unit area, or other contracts pertaining to the development thereof, shall be changed only to the extent necessary to meet the requirements of the unit plan, and otherwise shall remain in full force. Operations carried on under and in accordance with the unit plan shall be regarded and considered as fulfillment of and compliance with all of the provisions, covenants, and conditions, expressed or implied, of the several oil and gas leases upon lands within the unit area, or other contracts pertaining to the development thereof, insofar as the leases or other contracts may relate to the pool or field subject to the unit plan. The amount of production apportioned and allocated under the unit plan to each separately-owned tract within the unit area, and only that amount, regardless of the location of the well within the unit area from which it may be produced, and regardless of whether it is more or less than the amount of production from the well, if any, on each separately-owned tract, shall for all purposes be regarded as production from the separately-owned tract. Lessees shall not be obligated to pay royalties or make other payments, required by the oil and gas leases or other contracts affecting each such separately-owned tract, on production in excess of that amount apportioned and allocated to the separately-owned tract under the unit plan.

(10) The portion of the unit production allocated to any tract and the proceeds from its sale are the property and income of the several persons to whom, or to whose credit, the portion and proceeds are allocated or payable under the order providing for unit operations.

(11) No division order or other contract relating to the sale, purchase, or production from a separately-owned tract or combination of tracts may be terminated by the order providing for unit operations but shall remain in force and shall apply to oil and gas allocated to the tract until terminated by an amended division order or contract in accordance with the order.

(12) Except to the extent that parties affected so agree, an order providing for unit operations shall not be construed to result in a transfer of all or any part of the title of any person to the oil and gas rights in any tract in the unit area. All property, whether real or personal, that may be acquired in the conduct of unit operations hereunder shall be acquired for the account of the owners within the unit area, and shall be the property of those owners in the proportion that the expenses of unit operations are charged.

(13) After the date designated by the order of the department that a unit plan shall become effective, the designation of one or more unit operators shall be by vote of the lessees of land in the unit area, in a manner to be provided in the unit plan, and any operations in conflict with such unit plan shall be unlawful and are prohibited.

(14) A certified copy of any order of the department entered under this section is entitled to be recorded in the auditor's office in the county or counties wherein all or any portion of the unit area is located and, if recorded, constitute notice thereof to all persons. A copy of this order shall be mailed by certified mail to all interested persons.

(15) No order for unitization may be construed to allow the drilling of a well on a tract within the unit which is not leased or under contract for oil and gas exploration or production. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 843; 1983 c 253 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.345 Ratable purchase of oil from owners or operators of pool required.** Each person now or hereafter purchasing or taking for transportation oil from any owner or producer shall purchase or take ratably without discrimination in favor of any owner or operator over any other owner or producer in the same pool offering to sell his or her oil produced therefrom to that person. If the person purchasing or taking for transportation oil does not have need for all such oil lawfully produced within a pool, or if for any reason is unable to purchase all of the oil, then it shall purchase from each operator in a pool ratably, taking and purchasing the same quantity of oil from each well to the extent that each well is capable of producing its ratable portion without waste. Nothing in this section may be construed to require any owner or operator to sell his or her product to only one purchaser or to require more than one pipeline connection for each producing well. If any such purchaser or person taking oil for transportation is likewise an operator or owner, the purchaser or person is prohibited from discriminating in favor of his or her own production, or production in which he or she may be interested, and his or her own production shall be treated as that of any other operator or owner. [1983 c 253 § 24.]

**78.52.355 Ratable purchase of gas from owners or operators of pool required.** Each person now or hereafter purchasing or taking for transportation gas produced from gas wells or from oil wells from any owner or operator shall purchase or take ratably without discrimination in favor of any owner or operator, over any other owner or operator in a pool. The person shall not discriminate in the quantities purchased, the basis of measurement, or the gas transportation facilities afforded for gas of like quantity, quality, and pressure available from such wells. For the purpose of this section

and RCW 78.52.345, reasonable differences in quantity taken or facilities afforded do not constitute unreasonable discrimination if the differences bear a fair relationship to differences in quality, quantity, or pressure of the gas available or the acreage attributable to the well, market requirements, or to the relative lengths of time during which the gas will be available to the purchaser. If the purchaser or person taking gas for transportation is likewise an operator or owner, the purchaser or person is prohibited from discriminating in favor of quantities taken or facilities in which he or she may be interested, and his or her own production shall be treated as that of any other operator or owner producing from gas wells in the same pool. [1983 c 253 § 25.]

**78.52.365 Enforcement of RCW 78.52.345 and 78.52.355.** The department may administer and enforce RCW 78.52.345 and 78.52.355 in accordance with the procedures in this chapter for its enforcement and with the rules and orders of the department. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 844; 1983 c 253 § 26.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.450 Participation of public lands in unit plan.** The commissioner of public lands, or other officer or board having the control and management of state land, and the proper board or officer of any political, municipal, or other subdivision or agency of the state having control and management of public lands, may, on behalf of the state or of such political, municipal, or other subdivision or agency thereof, with respect to land and oil and gas rights subject to the control and management of such respective body, board or officer, consent to and participate in any unit plan. [1951 c 146 § 48.]

**78.52.460 Unit plan not deemed monopolistic.** No plan for the operation of a field or pool of oil or gas as a unit, either whole or in part, created or approved by the department under this chapter may be held to violate any of the statutes of this state prohibiting monopolies or acts, arrangements, agreements, contracts, combinations, or conspiracies in restraint of trade or commerce. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 845; 1951 c 146 § 49.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.463 Suspension of operations for violation—Notice—Order—Hearing—Stay of order.** (1) Any operation or activity that is in violation of applicable laws, rules, orders, or permit conditions is subject to suspension by order of the department. The order may suspend the operations authorized in the permit in whole or in part. The order may be issued only after the department has first notified the operator or owner of the violations and the operator or owner has failed to comply with the directions contained in the notification within ten days of service of the notice: PROVIDED, That the department may issue the suspension order immediately without notice if the violations are or may cause substantial harm to adjacent property, persons, or public resources, or has or may result in the pollution of waters in violation of any state or federal law or rule. A suspension shall remain in effect until the violations are corrected or other directives are complied with unless declared invalid by

(2012 Ed.)

the department after hearing or an appeal. The suspension order and notification, where applicable, shall specify the violations and the actions required to be undertaken to be in compliance with such laws, rules, orders, or permit conditions. The order and notification may also require remedial actions to be undertaken to restore, prevent, or correct activities or conditions which have resulted from the violations. The order and notification may be directed to the operator or owner or both.

(2) The suspension order constitutes a final and binding order unless the owner or operator to whom the order is directed requests a hearing before the department within fifteen days after service of the order. Such a request shall not in itself stay or suspend the order and the operator or owner shall comply with the order immediately upon service. The department may stay or suspend in whole or in part the suspension order pending a hearing if so requested. The hearing shall constitute an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 846; 1989 c 175 § 167; 1983 c 253 § 29.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.467 Illegal oil, gas, or product—Sale, purchase, etc., prohibited—Seizure and sale—Deposit of proceeds.**

(1) The sale, purchase, acquisition, transportation, refining, processing, or handling of illegal oil, gas, or product is prohibited. However, no penalty by way of fine may be imposed upon a person who sells, purchases, acquires, transports, refines, processes, or handles illegal oil, gas, or product unless (a) the person knows, or is put on notice of, facts indicating that illegal oil, illegal gas, or illegal product is involved, or (b) the person fails to obtain a certificate of clearance with respect to the oil, gas, or product if prescribed by rule or order of the department, or fails to follow any other method prescribed by an order of the department for the identification of the oil, gas, or product.

(2) Illegal oil, illegal gas, and illegal product are declared to be contraband and are subject to seizure and sale as provided in this section. Seizure and sale shall be in addition to all other remedies and penalties provided in this chapter for violations relating to illegal oil, illegal gas, or illegal product. If the department believes that any oil, gas, or product is illegal, the department acting through the attorney general, shall bring a civil action in rem in the superior court of the county in which the oil, gas, or product is found, to seize and sell the same, or the department may include such an action in rem in any suit brought for an injunction or penalty involving illegal oil, illegal gas, or illegal product. A person claiming an interest in oil, gas, or product affected by an action in rem has the right to intervene as an interested party.

(3) Actions for the seizure and sale of illegal oil, illegal gas, or illegal product shall be strictly in rem and shall proceed in the name of the state as plaintiff against the oil, gas, or product as defendant. No bond or similar undertaking may be required of the plaintiff. Upon the filing of the petition for seizure and sale, the clerk of the court shall issue a summons, with a copy of the petition attached thereto, directed to the sheriff of the county or to another officer or person whom the court may designate, for service upon all persons having or claiming any interest in the oil, gas, or product described in the petition. The summons shall command these persons to

appear and answer within twenty days after the issuance and service of the summons. These persons need not be named or otherwise identified in the summons, and the summons shall be served by posting a copy of the summons, with a copy of the petition attached, on any public bulletin board or at the courthouse of a county where the oil, gas, or product involved is located, and by posting another copy at or near the place where the oil, gas, or product is located. The posting constitutes notice of the action to all persons having or claiming any interest in the oil, gas, or product described in the petition. In addition, if the court, on a properly verified petition, or affidavit or affidavits, or oral testimony, finds that grounds for seizure and for sale exist, the court shall issue an immediate order of seizure, describing the oil, gas, or product to be seized, and directing the sheriff of the county to take the oil, gas, or product into the sheriff's actual or constructive custody and to hold the same subject to further orders of the court. The court, in the order of seizure, may direct the sheriff to deliver the oil, gas, or product seized by him or her under the order to a court-appointed agent. The agent shall give bond in an amount and with such surety as the court may direct, conditioned upon compliance with the orders of the court concerning the custody and disposition of the oil, gas, or product.

(4) Any person having an interest in oil, gas, or product described in order of seizure and contesting the right of the state to seize and sell the oil, gas, or product may obtain its release prior to sale upon furnishing to the sheriff a bond approved by the court. The bond shall be in an amount equal to one hundred fifty percent of the market value of the oil, gas, or product to be released and shall be conditioned upon either redelivery to the sheriff of the released commodity or payment to the sheriff of its market value, if and when ordered by the court, and upon full compliance with further orders of the court.

(5) If the court, after a hearing upon a petition for the seizure and sale of oil, gas, or product, finds that the oil, gas, or product is contraband, the court shall order its sale by the sheriff in the same manner and upon the same notice of sale as provided by law for the sale of personal property on execution of judgment entered in a civil action, except that the court may order that the oil, gas, or product be sold in specified lots or portions and at specified intervals. Upon sale, title to the oil, gas, or product sold shall vest in the purchaser free of all claims, and it shall be legal oil, legal gas, or legal product in the hands of the purchaser.

(6) All proceeds, less costs of suit and expenses of sale, which are derived from the sale of illegal oil, illegal gas, or illegal product, and all amounts paid as penalties provided for by this chapter, shall be paid into the state treasury for the use of the department in defraying its expenses in the same manner as other funds provided by law for the use of the department. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 847; 1983 c 253 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.470 Objections to order—Hearing required—Modification of order.** Any person adversely affected by any order of the department may, within thirty days from the effective date of such order, apply for a hearing with respect to any matter determined therein. No cause for action arising out of any order of the department accrues in any court to any

person unless the person makes application for a hearing as provided in this section. Such application shall set forth specifically the ground on which the applicant considers the order to be unlawful or unreasonable. No party shall, in any court, urge or rely upon any ground not set forth in said application. An order made in conformity to a decision resulting from a hearing which abrogates, changes, or modifies the original order shall have the same force and effect as an original. Such hearing shall constitute an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act, and shall be conducted in accordance with its provisions. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 848; 1989 c 175 § 168; 1983 c 253 § 27; 1951 c 146 § 50.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.480 Appeal from order or decision—Rights of department.** In proceedings for review of an order or decision of the department, the department shall be a party to the proceedings and shall have all rights and privileges granted by this chapter to any other party to such proceedings. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 849; 1983 c 253 § 28; 1951 c 146 § 51.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.490 Appeal—How taken.** Within thirty days after the application for a hearing is denied, or if the application is granted, then within thirty days after the rendition of the decision on the hearing, the applicant may apply to the superior court, at the petitioner's option, for (a) Thurston county, (b) the county of petitioner's residence or place of business, or (c) in any county where the property or property rights owned by the petitioner is located for a review of such rule, regulation, order, or decision. The application for review shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the superior court of Thurston county and shall specifically state the grounds for review upon which the applicant relies and shall designate the rule, regulation, order, or decision sought to be reviewed. The applicant shall immediately serve a certified copy of said application upon the commissioner of public lands who shall immediately notify all parties who appeared in the proceedings before the department that such application for review has been filed. In the event the court determines the review is solely for the purpose of determining the validity of a rule or regulation of general applicability the court shall transfer venue to Thurston county for a review of such rule or regulation in the manner provided for in RCW 34.05.570. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 850; 1983 c 253 § 32; 1951 c 146 § 52.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.530 Violations—Injunctions.** Whenever it shall appear that any person is violating any provisions of this chapter, or any rule, regulation, or order made by the department under this chapter, and if the department cannot, without litigation, effectively prevent further violation, the department may bring suit in the name of the state against such person in the superior court in the county of the residence of the defendant, or in the county of the residence of any defendant if there be more than one defendant, or in the county where the violation is alleged to have occurred, to restrain such person from continuing such violation. In such suit the department may without bond obtain injunctions pro-

hibitory and mandatory, including temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions, as the facts may warrant. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 851; 1951 c 146 § 56.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### 78.52.540 Violations—Injunctions by private party.

If the department fails to bring suit within thirty days to enjoin any apparent violation of this chapter, or of any rule, regulation, or order made by the department under this chapter, then any person or party in interest adversely affected by such violation, who has requested the department in writing to sue, may, to prevent any or further violation, bring suit for that purpose in the superior court of any county where the department could have instituted such suit. If, in such suit, the court should hold that injunctive relief should be granted, then the state shall be made a party and shall be substituted for the person who brought the suit, and the injunction shall be issued as if the state had at all times been the complainant. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 852; 1951 c 146 § 57.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.52.550 Violations—Penalty.** Every person who shall violate or knowingly aid and abet the violation of this chapter or any valid orders, rules and regulations issued thereunder, or who fails to perform any act which is herein made his duty to perform, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1951 c 146 § 58.]

**78.52.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known as the "Oil and Gas Conservation Act." [1951 c 146 § 2.]

**78.52.910 Construction—1951 c 146.** It is intended that the provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purposes authorized and provided for, or intended to be provided for by this chapter. [1951 c 146 § 59.]

**78.52.920 Severability—1951 c 146.** If any part or parts of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances be held to be unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter, or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances. The legislature hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this chapter if it had known that said invalid part or parts thereof would be declared unconstitutional. [1951 c 146 § 60.]

**78.52.921 Severability—1983 c 253.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1983 c 253 § 34.]

### Chapter 78.56 RCW

#### METALS MINING AND MILLING OPERATIONS

##### Sections

78.56.010	Intent.
78.56.020	Definitions.
78.56.030	Operations subject to this chapter and other requirements.
78.56.040	Disclosures required with state environmental policy act checklist—Public inspection of information.

78.56.050	Environmental impact statement required—Mitigation measures to be part of permit requirements—Department of ecology to cooperate with affected local governments.
78.56.060	Metals mining coordinator to be appointed—Duties.
78.56.070	Quarterly inspections by responsible state agencies required—Cross-training and coordination of inspections encouraged.
78.56.080	Estimate of costs by department of ecology and department of natural resources—Fee on operations to be established by department of ecology.
78.56.090	Initial waste discharge permits for tailings facilities—Siting criteria—Primary screening process—Technical site investigation—Site selection report.
78.56.100	Waste discharge permits for metals mining and milling operations tailing facilities—Pollution control standards—Waste rock management plan—Citizen observation and verification of water samples—Voluntary reduction plan—Application of this section.
78.56.110	Performance security required—Conditions—Department of ecology authority to adopt requirements—Liability under performance security.
78.56.120	Remediation or mitigation by department of ecology—Order to submit performance security.
78.56.130	Legislative finding—Impact analysis required for large-scale operations—Impact fees by county legislative authority—Application of this section—Application of chapter 82.02 RCW.
78.56.140	Citizen action suits.
78.56.150	Application of requirements to milling facilities not adjacent to mining operation.
78.56.160	Moratorium on use of heap leach extraction process—Joint review by department of ecology and department of natural resources—Permanent prohibition of in situ extraction.
78.56.900	Severability—1994 c 232.
78.56.901	Effective date—1994 c 232 §§ 1-5, 9-17, and 23-29.
78.56.902	Effective date—1994 c 232 §§ 6-8 and 18-22.

**78.56.010 Intent.** It is in the best interests of the citizens of the state of Washington to insure the highest degree of environmental protection while allowing the proper development and use of its natural resources, including its mineral resources. Metals mining can have significant positive and adverse impacts on the state and on local communities. The purpose of this chapter is to assure that metals mineral mining or milling operations are designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that promotes both economic opportunities and environmental and public health safeguards for the citizens of the state. It is the intent of the legislature to create a regulatory framework which yields, to the greatest extent possible, a metals mining industry that is compatible with these policies. [1994 c 232 § 1.]

**78.56.020 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Metals mining and milling operation" means a mining operation extracting from the earth precious or base metal ore and processing the ore by treatment or concentration in a milling facility. It also refers to an expansion of an existing operation or any new metals mining operation if the expansion or new mining operation is likely to result in a significant, adverse environmental impact pursuant to the provisions of chapter 43.21C RCW. The extraction of dolomite, sand, gravel, aggregate, limestone, magnesite, silica rock, and zeolite or other nonmetallic minerals; and placer mining; and the smelting of aluminum are not metals mining and milling operations regulated under this chapter.

(2) "Milling" means the process of grinding or crushing ore and extracting the base or precious metal by chemical solution, electro winning, or flotation processes.

(3) "Heap leach extraction process" means the process of extracting base or precious metal ore by percolating solutions

through ore in an open system and includes reprocessing of previously milled ore. The heap leach extraction process does not include leaching in a vat or tank.

(4) "In situ extraction" means the process of dissolving base or precious metals from their natural place in the geological setting and retrieving the solutions from which metals can be recovered.

(5) "Regulated substances" means any materials regulated under a waste discharge permit pursuant to the requirements of chapter 90.48 RCW and/or a permit issued pursuant to chapter 70.94 RCW.

(6) "To mitigate" means: (a) To avoid the adverse impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (b) to minimize adverse impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using appropriate technology or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts; (c) to rectify adverse impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (d) to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; (e) to compensate for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; or (f) to monitor the adverse impact and take appropriate corrective measures. [1994 c 232 § 2.]

**78.56.030 Operations subject to this chapter and other requirements.** Metals mining and milling operations are subject to the requirements of this chapter in addition to the requirements established in other statutes and rules. [1994 c 232 § 3.]

**78.56.040 Disclosures required with state environmental policy act checklist—Public inspection of information.** The department of ecology shall require each applicant submitting a checklist pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW for a metals mining and milling operation to disclose the ownership and each controlling interest in the proposed operation. The applicant shall also disclose all other mining operations within the United States which the applicant operates or in which the applicant has an ownership or controlling interest. In addition, the applicant shall disclose and may enumerate and describe the circumstances of: (1) Any past or present bankruptcies involving the ownerships and their subsidiaries, (2) any abandonment of sites regulated by the model toxics control act, chapter 70.105D RCW, or other similar state remedial cleanup programs, or the federal comprehensive environmental response, compensation, and liability act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601 et seq., as amended, (3) any penalties in excess of ten thousand dollars assessed for violations of the provisions of 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq. or 42 U.S.C. Sec. 7401 et seq., and (4) any previous forfeitures of financial assurance due to noncompliance with reclamation or remediation requirements. This information shall be available for public inspection and copying at the department of ecology. Ownership or control of less than ten percent of the stock of a corporation shall not by itself constitute ownership or a controlling interest under this section. [1994 c 232 § 4.]

**78.56.050 Environmental impact statement required—Mitigation measures to be part of permit requirements—Department of ecology to cooperate with**

**affected local governments.** (1) An environmental impact statement must be prepared for any proposed metals mining and milling operation. The department of ecology shall be the lead agency in coordinating the environmental review process under chapter 43.21C RCW and in preparing the environmental impact statement, except for uranium and thorium operations regulated under Title 70 RCW.

(2) As part of the environmental review of metals mining and milling operations regulated under this chapter, the applicant shall provide baseline data adequate to document the premining conditions at the proposed site of the metals mining and milling operation. The baseline data shall contain information on the elements of the natural environment identified in rules adopted pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW.

(3) The department of ecology, after consultation with the department of fish and wildlife, shall incorporate measures to mitigate significant probable adverse impacts to fish and wildlife as part of the department of ecology's permit requirements for the proposed operation.

(4) In conducting the environmental review and preparing the environmental impact statement, the department of ecology shall cooperate with all affected local governments to the fullest extent practicable. [1994 c 232 § 5.]

**78.56.060 Metals mining coordinator to be appointed—Duties.** The department of ecology will appoint a metals mining coordinator. The coordinator will maintain current information on the status of any metals mining and milling operation regulated under this chapter from the preparation of the environmental impact statement through the permitting, construction, operation, and reclamation phases of the project or until the proposal is no longer active. The coordinator shall also maintain current information on post-closure activities. The coordinator will act as a contact person for the applicant, the operator, and interested members of the public. The coordinator may also assist agencies with coordination of their inspection and monitoring responsibilities. [1994 c 232 § 6.]

**78.56.070 Quarterly inspections by responsible state agencies required—Cross-training and coordination of inspections encouraged.** (1) State agencies with the responsibility for inspecting metals mining and milling operations regulated under this chapter shall conduct such inspections at least quarterly: PROVIDED, That the inspections are not prevented by inclement weather conditions.

(2) The legislature encourages state agencies with inspection responsibilities for metals mining and milling operations regulated under this chapter to explore opportunities for cross-training of inspectors among state agencies and programs. This cross-training would be for the purpose of meeting the inspection responsibilities of these agencies in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. If doing so would be more efficient and cost-effective, state agency inspectors are also encouraged to coordinate inspections with federal and local government inspectors as well as with one another. [1994 c 232 § 7.]

**78.56.080 Estimate of costs by department of ecology and department of natural resources—Fee on operations to be established by department of ecology.** (1)(a) As part

of its normal budget development process and in consultation with the metals mining industry, the department of ecology shall estimate the costs required for the department to meet its obligations for the additional inspections of metals mining and milling operations required by chapter 232, Laws of 1994. The department shall also estimate the cost of employing the metals mining coordinator established in RCW 78.56.060.

(b) As part of its normal budget development process and in consultation with the metals mining industry, the department of natural resources shall estimate the costs required for the department to meet its obligations for the additional inspections of metals mining and milling operations required by chapter 232, Laws of 1994.

(2) Based on the cost estimates generated by the department of ecology and the department of natural resources, the department of ecology shall establish the amount of a fee to be paid by each active metals mining and milling operation regulated under this chapter. The fee shall be established at a level to fully recover the direct and indirect costs of the agency responsibilities identified in subsection (1) of this section. The amount of the fee for each operation shall be proportional to the number of visits required per site. Each applicant for a metals mining and milling operation shall also be assessed the fee based on the same criterion. The department of ecology may adjust the fees established in this subsection if unanticipated activity in the industry increases or decreases the amount of funding necessary to meet agencies' inspection responsibilities.

(3) The department of ecology shall collect the fees established in subsection (2) of this section. All moneys from these fees shall be deposited into the general fund. [2012 c 198 § 15; 1997 c 170 § 1; 1994 c 232 § 8.]

**Effective date—2012 c 198:** See note following RCW 70.94.6532.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.56.090 Initial waste discharge permits for tailings facilities—Siting criteria—Primary screening process—Technical site investigation—Site selection report.** (1) In the processing of an application for an initial waste discharge permit for a tailings facility pursuant to the requirements of chapter 90.48 RCW, the department of ecology shall consider site-specific criteria in determining a preferred location of tailings facilities of metals mining and milling operations and incorporate the requirements of all known available and reasonable methods in order to maintain the highest possible standards to insure the purity of all waters of the state in accordance with the public policy identified by RCW 90.48.010.

In implementing the siting criteria, the department shall take into account the objectives of the proponent's application relating to mining and milling operations. These objectives shall consist of, but not be limited to (a) operational feasibility, (b) compatibility with optimum tailings placement methods, (c) adequate volume capacity, (d) availability of construction materials, and (e) an optimized embankment volume.

(2) To meet the mandate of subsection (1) of this section, siting of tailings facilities shall be accomplished through a two-stage process that consists of a primary alternatives

screening phase, and a secondary technical site investigation phase.

(3) The primary screening phase will consist of, but not be limited to, siting criteria based on considerations as to location as follows:

(a) Proximity to the one hundred year floodplain, as indicated in the most recent federal emergency management agency maps;

(b) Proximity to surface and ground water;

(c) Topographic setting;

(d) Identifiable adverse geologic conditions, such as landslides and active faults; and

(e) Visibility impacts of the public generally and residents more particularly.

(4) The department of ecology, through the primary screening process, shall reduce the available tailings facility sites to one or more feasible locations whereupon a technical site investigation phase shall be conducted by the department for the purpose of verifying the adequacy of the remaining potential sites. The technical site investigations phase shall consist of, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Soil characteristics;

(b) Hydrologic characteristics;

(c) A local and structural geology evaluation, including seismic conditions and related geotechnical investigations;

(d) A surface water control analysis; and

(e) A slope stability analysis.

(5) Upon completion of the two phase evaluation process set forth in this section, the department of ecology shall issue a site selection report on the preferred location. This report shall address the above criteria as well as analyze the feasibility of reclamation and stabilization of the tailings facility. The siting report may recommend mitigation or engineering factors to address siting concerns. The report shall be developed in conjunction with the preparation of and contained in an environmental impact statement prepared pursuant to chapter 43.21C RCW. The report may be utilized by the department of ecology for the purpose of providing information related to the suitability of the site and for ruling on an application for a waste discharge permit.

(6) The department of ecology may, at its discretion, require the applicant to provide the information required in either phase one or phase two as described in subsections (3) and (4) of this section. [1994 c 232 § 9.]

**78.56.100 Waste discharge permits for metals mining and milling operations tailing facilities—Pollution control standards—Waste rock management plan—Citizen observation and verification of water samples—Voluntary reduction plan—Application of this section.** (1) In order to receive a waste discharge permit from the department of ecology pursuant to the requirements of chapter 90.48 RCW or in order to operate a metals mining and milling tailing facility, an applicant proposing a metals mining and milling operation regulated under this chapter must meet the following additional requirements:

(a) Any tailings facility shall be designed and operated to prevent the release of pollution and must meet the following standards:

(i) Operators shall apply all known available and reasonable technology to limit the concentration of potentially toxic

materials in the tailings facility to assure the protection of wildlife and human health;

(ii) The tailings facility shall have a containment system that includes an engineered liner system, leak detection and leak collection elements, and a seepage collection impoundment to assure that a leak of any regulated substance under chapter 90.48 RCW will be detected before escaping from the containment system. The design and management of the facility must ensure that any leaks from the tailings facility are detected in a manner which allows for remediation pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW. The applicant shall prepare a detailed engineering report setting forth the facility design and construction. The applicant shall submit the report to the department of ecology for its review and approval of a design as determined by the department. Natural conditions, such as depth to groundwater or net rainfall, shall be taken into account in the facility design, but not in lieu of the protection required by the engineered liner system;

(iii) The toxicity of mine or mill tailings and the potential for long-term release of regulated substances from mine or mill tailings shall be reduced to the greatest extent practicable through stabilization, removal, or reuse of the substances; and

(iv) The closure of the tailings facility shall provide for isolation or containment of potentially toxic materials and shall be designed to prevent future release of regulated substances contained in the impoundment;

(b) The applicant must develop a waste rock management plan approved by the department of ecology and the department of natural resources which emphasizes pollution prevention. At a minimum, the plan must contain the following elements:

(i) An accurate identification of the acid generating properties of the waste rock;

(ii) A strategy for encapsulating potentially toxic material from the environment, when appropriate, in order to prevent the release of heavy metals and acidic drainage; and

(iii) A plan for reclaiming and closing waste rock sites which minimizes infiltration of precipitation and runoff into the waste rock and which is designed to prevent future releases of regulated substances contained within the waste rock;

(c) If an interested citizen or citizen group so requests of the department of ecology, the metals mining and milling operator or applicant shall work with the department of ecology and the interested party to make arrangements for citizen observation and verification in the taking of required water samples. While it is the intent of this subsection to provide for citizen observation and verification of water sampling activities, it is not the intent of this subsection to require additional water sampling and analysis on the part of the mining and milling operation or the department. The citizen observation and verification program shall be incorporated into the applicant's, operator's, or department's normal sampling regimen and shall occur at least once every six months. There is no duty of care on the part of the state or its employees to any person who participates in the citizen observation and verification of water sampling under chapter 232, Laws of 1994 and the state and its employees shall be immune from any civil lawsuit based on any injuries to or claims made by any person as a result of that person's participation in such obser-

vation and verification of water sampling activities. The metals mining and milling operator or applicant shall not be liable for any injuries to or claims made by any person which result from that person coming onto the property of the metals mining and milling operator or applicant as an observer pursuant to chapter 232, Laws of 1994. The results from these and all other relevant water sampling activities shall be kept on file with the relevant county and shall be available for public inspection during normal working hours; and

(d) An operator or applicant for a metals mining and milling operation must complete a voluntary reduction plan in accordance with RCW 70.95C.200.

(2) Only those tailings facilities constructed after April 1, 1994, must meet the requirement established in subsection (1)(a) of this section. Only those waste rock holdings constructed after April 1, 1994, must meet the requirement established in subsection (1)(b) of this section. [1994 c 232 § 10.]

**78.56.110 Performance security required—Conditions—Department of ecology authority to adopt requirements—Liability under performance security.** (1) The department of ecology shall not issue necessary permits to an applicant for a metals mining and milling operation until the applicant has deposited with the department of ecology a performance security which is acceptable to the department of ecology based on the requirements of subsection (2) of this section. This performance security may be:

(a) Bank letters of credit;

(b) A cash deposit;

(c) Negotiable securities;

(d) An assignment of a savings account;

(e) A savings certificate in a Washington bank; or

(f) A corporate surety bond executed in favor of the department of ecology by a corporation authorized to do business in the state of Washington under Title 48 RCW.

The department of ecology may, for any reason, refuse any performance security not deemed adequate.

(2) The performance security shall be conditioned on the faithful performance of the applicant or operator in meeting the following obligations:

(a) Compliance with the environmental protection laws of the state of Washington administered by the department of ecology, or permit conditions administered by the department of ecology, associated with the construction, operation, and closure pertaining to metals mining and milling operations, and with the related environmental protection ordinances and permit conditions established by local government when requested by local government;

(b) Reclamation of metals mining and milling operations that do not meet the threshold of surface mining as defined by RCW 78.44.031(17);

(c) Postclosure environmental monitoring as determined by the department of ecology; and

(d) Provision of sufficient funding as determined by the department of ecology for cleanup of potential problems revealed during or after closure.

(3) The department of ecology may, if it deems appropriate, adopt rules for determining the amount of the performance security, requirements for the performance security, requirements for the issuer of the performance security, and

any other requirements necessary for the implementation of this section.

(4) The department of ecology may increase or decrease the amount of the performance security at any time to compensate for any alteration in the operation that affects meeting the obligations in subsection (2) of this section. At a minimum, the department shall review the adequacy of the performance security every two years.

(5) Liability under the performance security shall be maintained until the obligations in subsection (2) of this section are met to the satisfaction of the department of ecology. Liability under the performance security may be released only upon written notification by the department of ecology.

(6) Any interest or appreciation on the performance security shall be held by the department of ecology until the obligations in subsection (2) of this section have been met to the satisfaction of the department of ecology. At such time, the interest shall be remitted to the applicant or operator. However, if the applicant or operator fails to comply with the obligations of subsection (2) of this section, the interest or appreciation may be used by the department of ecology to comply with the obligations.

(7) Only one agency may require a performance security to satisfy the deposit requirements of RCW 78.44.087, and only one agency may require a performance security to satisfy the deposit requirements of this section. However, a single performance security, when acceptable to both the department of ecology and the department of natural resources, may be utilized by both agencies to satisfy the requirements of this section and RCW 78.44.087. [1995 c 223 § 1; 1994 c 232 § 11.]

**78.56.120 Remediation or mitigation by department of ecology—Order to submit performance security.** The department of ecology may, with staff, equipment, and material under its control, or by contract with others, remediate or mitigate any impact of a metals mining and milling operation when it finds that the operator or permit holder has failed to comply with relevant statutes, rules, or permits, and the operator or permit holder has failed to take adequate or timely action to rectify these impacts.

If the department intends to remediate or mitigate such impacts, the department shall issue an order to submit performance security requiring the permit holder or surety to submit to the department the amount of moneys posted pursuant to RCW 78.56.110. If the amount specified in the order to submit performance security is not paid within twenty days after issuance of the notice, the attorney general upon request of the department shall bring an action on behalf of the state in a superior court to recover the amount specified and associated legal fees.

The department may proceed at any time after issuing the order to submit performance security to remediate or mitigate adverse impacts.

The department shall keep a record of all expenses incurred in carrying out any remediation or mitigation activities authorized under this section, including:

- (1) Remediation or mitigation;
- (2) A reasonable charge for the services performed by the state's personnel and the state's equipment and materials utilized; and

(3) Administrative and legal expenses related to remediation or mitigation.

The department shall refund to the surety or permit holder all amounts received in excess of the amount of expenses incurred. If the amount received is less than the expenses incurred, the attorney general, upon request of the department of ecology, may bring an action against the permit holder on behalf of the state in the superior court to recover the remaining costs listed in this section. [1995 c 223 § 2; 1994 c 232 § 12.]

**78.56.130 Legislative finding—Impact analysis required for large-scale operations—Impact fees by county legislative authority—Application of this section—Application of chapter 82.02 RCW.** (1) The legislature finds that the construction and operation of large-scale metals mining and milling facilities may create new job opportunities and enhance local tax revenues. However, the legislature also finds that such operations may also result in new demands on public facilities owned and operated by local government entities, such as public streets and roads; publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities; school facilities; and fire protection facilities in jurisdictions that are not part of a fire district. It is important for these economic impacts to be identified as part of any proposal for a large-scale metals mining and milling operation. It is then appropriate for the county legislative authority to balance expected revenues, including revenues derived from taxes paid by the owner of such an operation, and costs associated with the operation to determine to what degree any new costs require mitigation by the metals mining applicant.

(2) An applicant for a large-scale metals mining and milling operation regulated under this chapter must submit to the relevant county legislative authority an impact analysis describing the economic impact of the proposed mining operation on local governmental units. For the purposes of this section, a metals mining operation is large-scale if, in the construction or operation of the mine and the associated milling facility, the applicant and contractors at the site employ more than thirty-five persons during any consecutive six-month period. The relevant county is the county in which the mine and mill are to be sited, unless the economic impacts to local governmental units are projected to substantially affect more than one county. In that case, the impact plan must be submitted to the legislative authority of all affected counties. Local governmental units include counties, cities, towns, school districts, and special purpose districts.

(3) The economic impact analysis shall include at least the following information:

(a) A timetable for development of the mining operation, including the opening date of the operation and the estimated closing date;

(b) The estimated number of persons coming into the impacted area as a result of the development of the mining operation;

(c) An estimate of the increased capital and operating costs to local governmental units for providing services necessary as a result of the development of the mining operation; and

(d) An estimate of the increased tax or other revenues accruing to local governmental units as a result of development of the mining and milling operation.

(4) The county legislative authority of a county planning under chapter 36.70A RCW may assess impact fees under chapter 82.02 RCW to address economic impacts associated with development of the mining operation. The county legislative authority shall hold at least one public hearing on the economic impact analysis and any proposed mitigation measures.

(5) The county legislative authority of a county which is not planning under chapter 36.70A RCW may negotiate with the applicant on a strategy to address economic impacts associated with development of the mining operation. The county legislative authority shall hold at least one public hearing on the economic impact analysis and any proposed mitigation measures.

(6) The county legislative authority must approve or disapprove the impact analysis and any associated proposals from the applicant to address economic impacts to local governmental units resulting from development of the mining operation. If the applicant does not submit an adequate impact analysis to the relevant county legislative authority or if the county legislative authority does not find the applicant's proposals to be acceptable because of their failure to adequately mitigate adverse economic impacts, the county legislative authority shall refuse to issue any permits under its jurisdiction necessary for the construction or operation of the mine and associated mill.

(7) The requirements established in this section apply to metals mining operations under construction or constructed after April 1, 1994.

(8) The provisions of chapter 82.02 RCW shall apply to new mining and milling operations. [1994 c 232 § 13.]

**78.56.140 Citizen action suits.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (5) of this section, any aggrieved person may commence a civil action on his or her own behalf:

(a) Against any person, including any state agency or local government agency, who is alleged to be in violation of a law, rule, order, or permit pertaining to metals mining and milling operations regulated under chapter 232, Laws of 1994;

(b) Against a state agency if there is alleged a failure of the agency to perform any nondiscretionary act or duty under state laws pertaining to metals mining and milling operations; or

(c) Against any person who constructs a metals mining and milling operation without the permits and authorizations required by state law.

The superior courts shall have jurisdiction to enforce metals mining laws, rules, orders, and permit conditions, or to order the state to perform such act or duty, as the case may be. In addition to injunctive relief, a superior court may award a civil penalty when deemed appropriate in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars per violation per day, payable to the state of Washington.

(2) No action may be commenced:

(a) Under subsection (1)(a) of this section:

(i) Prior to sixty days after the plaintiff has given notice of the alleged violation to the state, and to any alleged viola-

tor of a metals mining and milling law, rule, order, or permit condition; or

(ii) If the state has commenced and is diligently prosecuting a civil action in a court of the state or of the United States or is diligently pursuing authorized administrative enforcement action to require compliance with the law, rule, order, or permit. To preclude a civil action, the enforcement action must contain specific, aggressive, and enforceable timelines for compliance and must provide for public notice of and reasonable opportunity for public comment on the enforcement action. In any such court action, any aggrieved person may intervene as a matter of right; or

(b) Under subsection (1)(b) of this section prior to sixty days after the plaintiff has given notice of such action to the state.

(3)(a) Any action respecting a violation of a law, rule, order, or permit condition pertaining to metals mining and milling operations may be brought in the judicial district in which such operation is located or proposed.

(b) In such action under this section, the state, if not a party, may intervene as a matter of right.

(4) The court, in issuing any final order in any action brought pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, may award costs of litigation, including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees, to any prevailing party, wherever the court determines such award is appropriate. The court may, if a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction is sought, require the filing of a bond or equivalent security in accordance with the rules of civil procedure.

(5) A civil action to enforce compliance with a law, rule, order, or permit may not be brought under this section if any other statute, or the common law, provides authority for the plaintiff to bring a civil action and, in such action, obtain the same relief, as authorized under this section, for enforcement of such law, rule, order, or permit. Nothing in this section restricts any right which any person, or class of persons, may have under any statute or common law to seek any relief, including relief against the state or a state agency. [1994 c 232 § 14.]

**78.56.150 Application of requirements to milling facilities not adjacent to mining operation.** A milling facility which is not adjacent to or in the vicinity of the metals mining operation producing the ore to be milled and which processes precious or base metal ore by treatment or concentration is subject to the provisions of RCW 78.56.010 through 78.56.090, 78.56.100(1) (a), (c), and (d), 78.56.110 through 78.56.140, 70.94.620, and 70.105.300 and chapters 70.94, 70.105, 90.03, and 90.48 RCW and all other applicable laws. The smelting of aluminum does not constitute a metals milling operation under this section. [1994 c 232 § 15.]

**78.56.160 Moratorium on use of heap leach extraction process—Joint review by department of ecology and department of natural resources—Permanent prohibition of in situ extraction.** (1) Until June 30, 1996, there shall be a moratorium on metals mining and milling operations using the heap leach extraction process. The department of natural resources and the department of ecology shall jointly review the existing laws and regulations pertaining to the

heap leach extraction process for their adequacy in safeguarding the environment.

(2) Metals mining using the process of in situ extraction is permanently prohibited in the state of Washington. [1998 c 245 § 161; 1994 c 232 § 16.]

**78.56.900 Severability—1994 c 232.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1994 c 232 § 29.]

**78.56.901 Effective date—1994 c 232 §§ 1-5, 9-17, and 23-29.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and, with the exception of sections 6 through 8 and 18 through 22 of this act, shall take effect immediately [April 1, 1994]. [1994 c 232 § 30.]

**78.56.902 Effective date—1994 c 232 §§ 6-8 and 18-22.** Sections 6 through 8 and 18 through 22 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1995. [1994 c 232 § 31.]

**Chapter 78.60 RCW  
GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES**

Sections

78.60.010 Legislative declaration.  
 78.60.020 Short title.  
 78.60.030 Definitions.  
 78.60.040 Geothermal resources deemed sui generis.  
 78.60.050 Administration of chapter.  
 78.60.060 Scope of chapter.  
 78.60.070 Drilling permits—Applications—Hearing—Fees.  
 78.60.080 Drilling permits—Criteria for granting.  
 78.60.090 Casing requirements.  
 78.60.100 Plugging and abandonment of wells or core holes—Transfer of jurisdiction to department of ecology.  
 78.60.110 Suspension of drilling, shut-in or removal of equipment for authorized period—Unlawful abandonment.  
 78.60.120 Notification of abandonment or suspension of operations—Required—Procedure.  
 78.60.130 Performance bond or other security—Required.  
 78.60.140 Termination or cancellation of bond or change in other security, when.  
 78.60.150 Notification of sale, exchange, etc.  
 78.60.160 Combining orders, unitization programs and well spacing—Authority of department.  
 78.60.170 Designation of resident agent for service of process.  
 78.60.180 General authority of department.  
 78.60.190 Employment of personnel.  
 78.60.200 Drilling records, etc., to be maintained—Inspection—Filing.  
 78.60.210 Filing of logs and surveys with department upon completion, plugging, abandonment, or suspension of operations.  
 78.60.220 Statement of geothermal resources produced—Filing.  
 78.60.230 Confidentiality of records—Preservation in an electronic data system.  
 78.60.240 Removal, destruction, alteration, etc., of records prohibited.  
 78.60.250 Violations—Modification of permit, when necessary—Departmental order—Issuance—Appeal.  
 78.60.260 Liability in damages for violations—Procedure.  
 78.60.270 Injunctions—Restraining orders.  
 78.60.280 Judicial review.  
 78.60.290 Violations—Penalty.  
 78.60.300 Aiding or abetting violations.  
 78.60.900 Severability—1974 ex.s. c 43.

**78.60.010 Legislative declaration.** The public has a direct interest in the safe, orderly and nearly pollution-free development of the geothermal resources of the state, as here-

inafter in \*RCW 79.76.030(1) defined. The legislature hereby declares that it is in the best interests of the state to further the development of geothermal resources for the benefit of all of the citizens of the state while at the same time fully providing for the protection of the environment. The development of geothermal resources shall be so conducted as to protect the rights of landowners, other owners of interests therein, and the general public. In providing for such development, it is the purpose of this chapter to provide for the orderly exploration, safe drilling, production and proper abandonment of geothermal resources in the state of Washington. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.76.010.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 79.76.030 was recodified as RCW 78.60.030 pursuant to 2003 c 334 § 567.

**78.60.020 Short title.** This chapter shall be known as the Geothermal Resources Act. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.76.020.]

**78.60.030 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter, unless the text otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Geothermal resources" means only that natural heat energy of the earth from which it is technologically practical to produce electricity commercially and the medium by which such heat energy is extracted from the earth, including liquids or gases, as well as any minerals contained in any natural or injected fluids, brines and associated gas, but excluding oil, hydrocarbon gas and other hydrocarbon substances.

(2) "Waste", in addition to its ordinary meaning, shall mean "physical waste" as that term is generally understood and shall include:

(a) The inefficient, excessive, or improper use of, or unnecessary dissipation of, reservoir energy; or the locating, spacing, drilling, equipping, operating or producing of any geothermal energy well in a manner which results, or tends to result, in reducing the quantity of geothermal energy to be recovered from any geothermal area in this state;

(b) The inefficient above-ground transporting or storage of geothermal energy; or the locating, spacing, drilling, equipping, operating, or producing of any geothermal well in a manner causing, or tending to cause, unnecessary excessive surface loss or destruction of geothermal energy;

(c) The escape into the open air, from a well of steam or hot water, in excess of what is reasonably necessary in the efficient development or production of a geothermal well.

(3) "Geothermal area" means any land that is, or reasonably appears to be, underlain by geothermal resources.

(4) "Energy transfer system" means the structures and enclosed fluids which facilitate the utilization of geothermal energy. The system includes the geothermal wells, cooling towers, reinjection wells, equipment directly involved in converting the heat energy associated with geothermal resources to mechanical or electrical energy or in transferring it to another fluid, the closed piping between such equipment, wells and towers and that portion of the earth which facilitates the transfer of a fluid from reinjection wells to geothermal wells: PROVIDED, That the system shall not include any geothermal resources which have escaped into or have been released into the nongeothermal ground or surface waters from either man-made containers or through leaks in

the structure of the earth caused by or to which access was made possible by any drilling, redrilling, reworking or operating of a geothermal or reinjection well.

(5) "Operator" means the person supervising or in control of the operation of a geothermal resource well, whether or not such person is the owner of the well.

(6) "Owner" means the person who possesses the legal right to drill, convert or operate any well or other facility subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(7) "Person" means any individual, corporation, company, association of individuals, joint venture, partnership, receiver, trustee, guardian, executor, administrator, personal representative, or public agency that is the subject of legal rights and duties.

(8) "Pollution" means any damage or injury to ground or surface waters, soil or air resulting from the unauthorized loss, escape, or disposal of any substances at any well subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(9) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(10) "Well" means any excavation made for the discovery or production of geothermal resources, or any special facility, converted producing facility, or reactivated or converted abandoned facility used for the reinjection of geothermal resources, or the residue thereof underground.

(11) "Core holes" are holes drilled or excavations made expressly for the acquisition of geological or geophysical data for the purpose of finding and delineating a favorable geothermal area prior to the drilling of a well.

(12) A "completed well" is a well that has been drilled to its total depth, has been adequately cased, and is ready to be either plugged and abandoned, shut-in, or put into production.

(13) "Plug and abandon" means to place permanent plugs in the well in such a way and at such intervals as are necessary to prevent future leakage of fluid from the well to the surface or from one zone in the well to the other, and to remove all drilling and production equipment from the site, and to restore the surface of the site to its natural condition or contour or to such condition as may be prescribed by the department.

(14) "Shut-in" means to adequately cap or seal a well to control the contained geothermal resources for an interim period. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.76.030.]

#### **78.60.040 Geothermal resources deemed sui generis.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, geothermal resources are found and hereby determined to be sui generis, being neither a mineral resource nor a water resource and as such are hereby declared to be the private property of the holder of the title to the surface land above the resource. [1979 ex.s. c 2 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.76.040.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**78.60.050 Administration of chapter.** (1) The department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and the rules, regulations, and orders relating to the drilling, operation, maintenance, abandonment and restoration of geothermal areas, to prevent damage to and waste from underground geothermal deposits, and to prevent damage to

underground and surface waters, land or air that may result from improper drilling, operation, maintenance or abandonment of geothermal resource wells.

(2) In order to implement the terms and provisions of this chapter, the department under the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, may from time to time promulgate those rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including but not restricted to defining geothermal areas; establishing security requirements, which may include bonding; providing for liens against production; providing for casing and safety device requirements; providing for site restoration plans to be completed prior to abandonment; and providing for abandonment requirements. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.76.050.]

**78.60.060 Scope of chapter.** This chapter is intended to preempt local regulation of the drilling and operation of wells for geothermal resources but shall not be construed to permit the locating of any well or drilling when such well or drilling is prohibited under state or local land use law or regulations promulgated thereunder. Geothermal resources, by-products and/or waste products which have escaped or been released from the energy transfer system and/or a mineral recovery process shall be subject to provisions of state law relating to the pollution of ground or surface waters (Title 90 RCW), provisions of the state fisheries law and the state game laws (Title 77 RCW), and any other state environmental pollution control laws. Authorization for use of by-product water resources for all beneficial uses, including but not limited to greenhouse heating, warm water fish propagation, space heating plants, irrigation, swimming pools, and hot springs baths, shall be subject to the appropriation procedure as provided in Title 90 RCW. [2003 c 39 § 40; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.76.060.]

**78.60.070 Drilling permits—Applications—Hearings—Fees.** (1) Any person proposing to drill a well or redrill an abandoned well for geothermal resources shall file with the department a written application for a permit to commence such drilling or redrilling on a form prescribed by the department accompanied by a permit fee of two hundred dollars. The department shall forward a duplicate copy to the department of ecology within ten days of filing.

(2) Upon receipt of a proper application relating to drilling or redrilling the department shall set a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the application, which hearing shall be in the county in which the drilling or redrilling is proposed to be made, and shall instruct the applicant to publish notices of such application and hearing by such means and within such time as the department shall prescribe. The department shall require that the notice so prescribed shall be published twice in a newspaper of general circulation within the county in which the drilling or redrilling is proposed to be made and in such other appropriate information media as the department may direct.

(3) Any person proposing to drill a core hole for the purpose of gathering geothermal data, including but not restricted to heat flow, temperature gradients, and rock conductivity, shall be required to obtain a single permit for each core hole according to subsection (1) of this section, includ-

ing a permit fee for each core hole, but no notice need be published, and no hearing need be held. Such core holes that penetrate more than seven hundred and fifty feet into bedrock shall be deemed geothermal test wells and subject to the payment of a permit fee and to the requirement in subsection (2) of this section for public notices and hearing. In the event geothermal energy is discovered in a core hole, the hole shall be deemed a geothermal well and subject to the permit fee, notices, and hearing. Such core holes as described by this subsection are subject to all other provisions of this chapter, including a bond or other security as specified in RCW 78.60.130.

(4) All moneys paid to the department under this section shall be deposited with the state treasurer for credit to the general fund. [2007 c 338 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.76.070.]

**78.60.080 Drilling permits—Criteria for granting.** A permit shall be granted only if the department is satisfied that the area is suitable for the activities applied for; that the applicant will be able to comply with the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations enacted hereunder; and that a permit would be in the best interests of the state.

The department shall not allow operation of a well under permit if it finds that the operation of any well will unreasonably decrease groundwater available for prior water rights in any aquifer or other groundwater source for water for beneficial uses, unless such affected water rights are acquired by condemnation, purchase or other means.

The department shall have the authority to condition the permit as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including but not limited to conditions to reduce any environmental impact.

The department shall forward a copy of the permit to the department of ecology within five days of issuance. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.76.080.]

**78.60.090 Casing requirements.** Any operator engaged in drilling or operating a well for geothermal resources shall equip such well with casing of sufficient strength and with such safety devices as may be necessary, in accordance with methods approved by the department.

No person shall remove a casing, or any portion thereof, from any well without prior approval of the department. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.76.090.]

**78.60.100 Plugging and abandonment of wells or core holes—Transfer of jurisdiction to department of ecology.** Any well or core hole drilled under authority of this chapter from which:

(1) It is not technologically practical to derive the energy to produce electricity commercially, or the owner or operator has no intention of deriving energy to produce electricity commercially, and

(2) Usable minerals cannot be derived, or the owner or operator has no intention of deriving usable minerals, shall be plugged and abandoned as provided in this chapter or, upon the owner's or operator's written application to the department of natural resources and with the concurrence and approval of the department of ecology, jurisdiction over the well may be transferred to the department of ecology and, in

such case, the well shall no longer be subject to the provisions of this chapter but shall be subject to any applicable laws and rules relating to wells drilled for appropriation and use of groundwaters. If an application is made to transfer jurisdiction, a copy of all logs, records, histories, and descriptions shall be provided to the department of ecology by the applicant. [2007 c 338 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.76.100.]

**78.60.110 Suspension of drilling, shut-in or removal of equipment for authorized period—Unlawful abandonment.**

(1) The department may authorize the operator to suspend drilling operations, shut-in a completed well, or remove equipment from a well for the period stated in the department's written authorization. The period of suspension may be extended by the department upon the operator showing good cause for the granting of such extension.

(2) If drilling operations are not resumed by the operator, or the well is not put into production, upon expiration of the suspension or shut-in permit, an intention to unlawfully abandon shall be presumed.

(3) A well shall also be deemed unlawfully abandoned if, without written approval from the department, drilling equipment is removed.

(4) An unlawful abandonment under this chapter shall be entered in the department records and written notice thereof shall be mailed by registered mail both to such operator at his last known address as disclosed by records of the department and to the operator's surety. The department may thereafter proceed against the operator and his surety. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 11. Formerly RCW 79.76.110.]

**78.60.120 Notification of abandonment or suspension of operations—Required—Procedure.**

(1) Before any operation to plug and abandon or suspend the operation of any well is commenced, the owner or operator shall submit in writing a notification of abandonment or suspension of operations to the department for approval. No operation to abandon or suspend the operation of a well shall commence without approval by the department. The department shall respond to such notification in writing within ten working days following receipt of the notification.

(2) Failure to abandon or suspend operations in accordance with the method approved by the department shall constitute a violation of this chapter, and the department shall take appropriate action under the provisions of \*RCW 79.76.270. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 12. Formerly RCW 79.76.120.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 79.76.270 was recodified as RCW 78.60.270 pursuant to 2003 c 334 § 567.

**78.60.130 Performance bond or other security—**

**Required.** Every operator who engages in the drilling, redrilling, or deepening of any well or core hole shall file with the department a reasonable bond or bonds with good and sufficient surety, or the equivalent thereof, acceptable to the department, conditioned on compliance with the provisions of this chapter and all rules and permit conditions adopted pursuant to this chapter. This performance bond shall be executed in favor of and approved by the department.

In lieu of a bond the operator may file with the department a cash deposit, negotiable securities acceptable to the department, or an assignment of a savings account in a Washington bank on an assignment form prescribed by the department. The department, in its discretion, may accept a single surety or security arrangement covering more than one well or core hole. [2007 c 338 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 13. Formerly RCW 79.76.130.]

**78.60.140 Termination or cancellation of bond or change in other security, when.** The department shall not consent to the termination and cancellation of any bond by the operator, or change as to other security given, until the well or wells for which it has been issued have been properly abandoned or another valid bond for such well has been submitted and approved by the department. A well is properly abandoned when abandonment has been approved by the department. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 14. Formerly RCW 79.76.140.]

**78.60.150 Notification of sale, exchange, etc.** The owner or operator of a well shall notify the department in writing within ten days of any sale, assignment, conveyance, exchange, or transfer of any nature which results in any change or addition in the owner or operator of the well on such forms with such information as may be prescribed by the department. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 15. Formerly RCW 79.76.150.]

**78.60.160 Combining orders, unitization programs and well spacing—Authority of department.** The department has the authority, through rules and regulations, to promulgate combining orders, unitization programs, and well spacing, and establish proportionate costs among owners or operators for the operation of such units as the result of said combining orders, if good and sufficient reason is demonstrated that such measures are necessary to prevent the waste of geothermal resources. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 16. Formerly RCW 79.76.160.]

**78.60.170 Designation of resident agent for service of process.** Each owner or operator of a well shall designate a person who resides in this state as his agent upon whom may be served all legal processes, orders, notices, and directives of the department or any court. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 17. Formerly RCW 79.76.170.]

**78.60.180 General authority of department.** The department shall have the authority to conduct or authorize investigations, research, experiments, and demonstrations, cooperate with other governmental and private agencies in making investigations, receive any federal funds, state funds, and other funds and expend them on research programs concerning geothermal resources and their potential development within the state, and to collect and disseminate information relating to geothermal resources in the state: PROVIDED, That the department shall not construct or operate commercial geothermal facilities. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 18. Formerly RCW 79.76.180.]

**78.60.190 Employment of personnel.** The department shall have the authority, and it shall be its duty, to employ all personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter pursuant to chapter 41.06 RCW. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 19. Formerly RCW 79.76.190.]

**78.60.200 Drilling records, etc., to be maintained—Inspection—Filing.** (1) The owner or operator of any well or core hole shall keep or cause to be kept careful and accurate logs, including but not restricted to heat flow, temperature gradients, and rock conductivity logs, records, descriptions, and histories of the drilling, re-drilling, or deepening of the well.

(2) All logs, including but not restricted to heat flow, temperature gradients, and rock conductivity logs, records, histories, and descriptions referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be kept in the local office of the owner or operator, and together with other reports of the owner or operator shall be subject during business hours to inspection by the department. Each owner or operator, upon written request from the department, shall file with the department one paper and one electronic copy of the logs, including but not restricted to heat flow, temperature gradients, and rock conductivity logs, records, histories, descriptions, or other records or portions thereof pertaining to the geothermal drilling or operation underway or suspended. [2007 c 338 § 4; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 20. Formerly RCW 79.76.200.]

**78.60.210 Filing of logs and surveys with department upon completion, plugging, abandonment, or suspension of operations.** Upon completion or plugging and abandonment of any well or core hole or upon the suspension of operations conducted with respect to any well or core hole for a period of at least six months, one paper and one electronic copy of logs, including but not restricted to heat flow, temperature gradients, and rock conductivity logs, core, electric log, history, and all other logs and surveys that may have been run on the well, shall be filed with the department within thirty days after such completion, plugging and abandonment, or six months' suspension. [2007 c 338 § 5; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 21. Formerly RCW 79.76.210.]

**78.60.220 Statement of geothermal resources produced—Filing.** The owner or operator of any well producing geothermal resources shall file with the department a statement of the geothermal resources produced. Such report shall be submitted on such forms and in such manner as may be prescribed by the department. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 22. Formerly RCW 79.76.220.]

**78.60.230 Confidentiality of records—Preservation in an electronic data system.** (1) The records of any owner or operator, when filed with the department as provided in this chapter, shall be confidential and shall be open to inspection only to personnel of the department for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter and to those authorized in writing by such owner or operator, until the expiration of a twenty-four month confidential period to begin at the date of commencement of production or of abandonment of the well or core hole. After expiration of the twenty-four month confidential period, the department shall ensure all

logs and surveys that may have been run on the well or core hole are preserved in an electronic data system and made available to the public.

(2) Such records shall in no case, except as provided in this chapter, be available as evidence in court proceedings. No officer, employee, or member of the department shall be allowed to give testimony as to the contents of such records, except as provided in this chapter for the review of a decision of the department or in any proceeding initiated for the enforcement of an order of the department, for the enforcement of a lien created by the enforcement of this chapter, or for use as evidence in criminal proceedings arising out of such records or the statements upon which they are based. [2007 c 338 § 6; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.76.230.]

**78.60.240 Removal, destruction, alteration, etc., of records prohibited.** No person shall, for the purpose of evading the provision of this chapter or any rule, regulation or order of the department made thereunder, remove from this state, or destroy, mutilate, alter or falsify any such record, account, or writing. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 24. Formerly RCW 79.76.240.]

**78.60.250 Violations—Modification of permit, when necessary—Departmental order—Issuance—Appeal.** Whenever it appears with probable cause to the department that:

(1) A violation of any provision of this chapter, regulation adopted pursuant thereto, or condition of a permit issued pursuant to this chapter has occurred or is about to occur, or

(2) That a modification of a permit is deemed necessary to carry out the purpose of this chapter, the department shall issue a written order in person to the operator or his employees or agents, or by certified mail, concerning the drilling, testing, or other operation conducted with respect to any well drilled, in the process of being drilled, or in the process of being abandoned or in the process of reclamation or restoration, and the operator, owner, or designated agent of either shall comply with the terms of the order and may appeal from the order in the manner provided for in \*RCW 79.76.280. When the department deems necessary the order may include a shutdown order to remain in effect until the deficiency is corrected. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 25. Formerly RCW 79.76.250.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.76.280 was recodified as RCW 78.60.280 pursuant to 2003 c 334 § 567.

**78.60.260 Liability in damages for violations—Procedure.** Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter, or fails to perform any duty imposed by this chapter, or violates an order or other determination of the department made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, and in the course thereof causes the death of, or injury to, fish, animals, vegetation or other resources of the state, shall be liable to pay the state damages including an amount equal to the sum of money necessary to restock such waters, replenish such resources, and otherwise restore the stream, lake, other water source, or land to its condition prior to the injury, as such condition is determined by the department. Such damages shall be recoverable in an action brought by the

(2012 Ed.)

attorney general on behalf of the people of the state of Washington in the superior court of the county in which such damages occurred: PROVIDED, That if damages occurred in more than one county the attorney general may bring action in any of the counties where the damage occurred. Any monies so recovered by the attorney general shall be transferred to the department under whose jurisdiction the damaged resource occurs, for the purposes of restoring the resource. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 26. Formerly RCW 79.76.260.]

**78.60.270 Injunctions—Restraining orders.** Whenever it shall appear that any person is violating any provision of this chapter, or any rule, regulation, or order made by the department hereunder, and if the department cannot, without litigation, effectively prevent further violation, the department may bring suit in the name of the state against such person in the court in the county of the residence of the defendant, or in the county of the residence of any defendant if there be more than one defendant, or in the county where the violation is alleged to have occurred, to restrain such person from continuing such violation. In such suit the department may, without bond, obtain injunctions prohibitory and mandatory, including temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions, as the facts may warrant. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 27. Formerly RCW 79.76.270.]

**78.60.280 Judicial review.** (1) Any person adversely affected by any rule, regulation, order, or permit entered by the department pursuant to this chapter may obtain judicial review thereof in accordance with the applicable provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2) The court having jurisdiction, insofar as is practicable, shall give precedence to proceedings for judicial review brought under this chapter. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 28. Formerly RCW 79.76.280.]

**78.60.290 Violations—Penalty.** Violation of any provision of this chapter or of any rule, regulation, order of the department, or condition of any permit made hereunder is a gross misdemeanor punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or both. [2003 c 53 § 381; 1974 ex.s. c 43 § 29. Formerly RCW 79.76.290.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**78.60.300 Aiding or abetting violations.** No person shall knowingly aid or abet any other person in the violation of any provision of this chapter or of any rule, regulation or order of the department made hereunder. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 30. Formerly RCW 79.76.300.]

**78.60.900 Severability—1974 ex.s. c 43.** If any provision of this 1974 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1974 ex.s. c 43 § 32. Formerly RCW 79.76.900.]



# Title 79

## PUBLIC LANDS

### Chapters

- 79.02 Public lands management—General.**
- 79.10 Land management authorities and policies.**
- 79.11 State land sales.**
- 79.13 Land leases.**
- 79.14 Mineral, coal, oil, and gas leases.**
- 79.15 Sale of valuable materials.**
- 79.17 Land transfers.**
- 79.19 Land bank.**
- 79.22 Acquisition, management, and disposition of state forest lands.**
- 79.24 Capitol building lands.**
- 79.36 Easements over public lands.**
- 79.38 Access roads.**
- 79.44 Assessments and charges against lands of the state.**
- 79.64 Funds for managing and administering lands.**
- 79.70 Natural area preserves.**
- 79.71 Washington natural resources conservation areas.**
- 79.73 Milwaukee road corridor.**
- 79.100 Derelict vessels.**
- 79.105 Aquatic lands—General.**
- 79.110 Aquatic lands—Easements and rights-of-way.**
- 79.115 Aquatic lands—Harbor areas.**
- 79.120 Aquatic lands—Waterways and streets.**
- 79.125 Aquatic lands—Tidelands and shorelands.**
- 79.130 Aquatic lands—Beds of navigable waters.**
- 79.135 Aquatic lands—Oysters, geoducks, shellfish, other aquacultural uses, and marine aquatic plants.**
- 79.140 Aquatic lands—Valuable materials.**
- 79.145 Marine plastic debris.**
- 79.150 Forest biomass materials located on state lands.**
- 79.155 Community forest trusts.**

*Access to state timber:* RCW 79.36.310 through 79.36.340.  
*Acquisition, disposition of state highway property:* Chapter 47.12 RCW.  
*Bridges, obstructions in navigable waters:* Chapter 88.28 RCW.  
*Commissioner of public lands:* State Constitution Art. 3 §§ 23, 25; chapter 43.12 RCW.  
*Compact with the United States:* State Constitution Art. 26.  
*Contracts with United States as to highway property:* Chapter 47.08 RCW.  
*Conveyance of real property by public bodies—Recording:* RCW 65.08.095.  
*County lands, generally:* Chapter 36.34 RCW.  
*Diking and drainage, improvement districts, benefit to public land:* RCW 85.08.370.  
*Donation law, conflicting claims:* RCW 7.28.280.  
*Ejectment, quiet title:* Chapter 7.28 RCW.  
*Eminent domain:* State Constitution Art. 1 § 16.  
*Eminent domain by state:* Chapter 8.04 RCW.  
*Extensions of streets over tidelands:* State Constitution Art. 15 § 3.  
*Facilitating recovery from Mt. St. Helens eruption—Scope of state agency action:* RCW 43.01.210.  
*Federal areas, jurisdiction:* Chapters 37.04 and 37.08 RCW.  
*Federal funds for forest management:* RCW 43.30.340, 43.30.345.

*Firewood on state lands:* RCW 79.15.400 through 79.15.440.  
*Flood control districts may include public lands:* Chapter 86.09 RCW.  
*Forest roads, county:* RCW 36.82.140.  
*Funds for the support of common schools, source:* State Constitution Art. 9 § 3.  
*Governmental lands, exemption from taxation:* State Constitution Art. 7 § 1.  
*Harbor line commission:* State Constitution Art. 15 § 1.  
*Harbor lines, relocation:* RCW 79.115.020.  
*Improvement district, benefit to public land:* RCW 85.08.370.  
*Indians and Indian lands:* Chapter 37.12 RCW.  
*Infractions:* Chapter 7.84 RCW.  
*Insect pests and plant diseases:* Chapter 17.24 RCW.  
*Intergovernmental disposition of property:* Chapter 39.33 RCW.  
*Irrigation districts may include public land:* Chapter 87.03 RCW.  
*Lease of unnecessary lands by director of agriculture:* RCW 15.04.090.  
*Leases of public lands for underground storage of natural gas:* RCW 80.40.060.  
*Marine recreation land act:* Chapter 79A.25 RCW.  
*Oil and gas unit plan, participation of public lands:* RCW 78.52.450.  
*Parks and recreation:* Chapter 79A.05 RCW.  
*Permanent school fund, investment:* State Constitution Art. 16 § 5.  
*Pest districts may include public lands:* Chapter 17.12 RCW.  
*Public lands, authority of United States over certain areas:* State Constitution Art. 25 § 1.  
*Public shooting grounds:* Chapter 77.12 RCW.  
*Public waterways may include public lands:* Chapter 91.08 RCW.  
*Reclamation by state:* Chapter 89.16 RCW.  
*Reclamation districts may include public lands:* RCW 89.30.016.  
*right-of-way across state land:* RCW 89.30.223.  
*Restraint on disposition of certain areas bordering harbor lines:* State Constitution Art. 15 § 1.  
*River, harbor improvements:* Chapter 88.32 RCW.  
*Sale of other than state forest lands:* RCW 79.11.005.  
*School and granted lands amount offered, platting:* State Constitution Art. 16 § 4.  
*disposition:* State Constitution Art. 16 § 1.  
*limitations on sales:* State Constitution Art. 16 § 3.  
*manner and terms of sale:* State Constitution Art. 16 § 2.  
*State agency for surveys and maps:* Chapter 58.24 RCW.  
*State boundaries:* State Constitution Art. 24 § 1.  
*State lands subject to easements for removal of materials:* RCW 79.36.370, 79.36.590.  
*Streets over tidelands:* RCW 35.21.230 through 35.21.250.  
*Tidelands declaration of state ownership:* State Constitution Art. 17 § 1.  
*disclaimer of certain lands by state:* State Constitution Art. 17 § 2.  
*Trespass:* Chapter 64.12 RCW.  
*United States reclamation areas, state lands in:* Chapter 89.12 RCW.  
*Use of state land for game purposes:* RCW 77.12.360.

Washington coordinate system: Chapter 58.20 RCW.

Waste: Chapter 64.12 RCW.

Weed districts may include public lands: Chapter 17.04 RCW.

Wharves, docks, leasing and maintenance: State Constitution Art. 15 § 2.

Wharves and landings: Chapter 88.24 RCW.

**INDEX OF PUBLIC LAND ACTS OF SPECIAL OR HISTORICAL NATURE NOT CODIFIED IN RCW**

Subject	Year	Chapter
Aberdeen	1901	141
	1915	78
Adams County	{ 1941	211
	1907	191
American Lake	{ 1907	197
Auburn game farm, transfer to parks and recreation commission	1981	49
Barthen, Lenore	1951	59
Behme, C.R.	1927	247
Bentley, W.C.	1921	38
	1961	59
Benton County, state patrol land	{ 1977 ex.s.	191
Benton County, University of Washington land		
	1965 ex.s.	5
Benton County, WSU land	1961	76
Blaine	1917	144
Bremerton	1947	207
Camp Murray, conveyance for aerospace science and modeling center	1969 ex.s.	85
Canyon Lakes	{ 1986	7
	1893	83 <sup>1</sup>
	1893	138
	1901	45
	1909 ex.s.	20
	1911	59 <sup>2</sup>
Capitol Buildings	{ 1913	50
	1915	191
	1917	167
	1925	27
	1927	225
	1945	47
Capitol Place	1937	160
Centralia	1949	38
Centralia, city of, easement for street	1963	81
Chehalis	{ 1945	124
	1935	50
Chelan County	{ 1935	52
	1935	53
Cheney	1949	35
Christenson, Ruby	1935	51
	1931	92
Clallam County	{ 1941	94
	1945	207
Clallam County, county park purposes	1965 ex.s.	51
Clapp, Helen A.	1941	121
Clark County, state school for the deaf, conveyance of portion	1969 ex.s.	62
Clark County, Whipple Creek, exchange	1967	219
	1919	75
Clarkston	{ 1957	148
	1905	28
Columbia River	{ 1915	145
	1937	86
Colville	{ 1939	144
Commercial Trust Co.	1907	197
Conconully Lake, lake in Okanogan County designated as	1965	104
	1915	157
Cowlitz County	{ 1951	134

Cowlitz County, exchange of state forest lands for lands adjacent to Seaquest State Park	1971 ex.s.	158
Deno, Louis	1931	51
Deschutes Basin	1937	159
Deschutes Waterway	1939	76
Douglas County	1941	117
Drainage Ditches	1893	88
Eastern Washington College of Ed.	{ 1949	35
	1959	128
Echo Glenn	1986	7
Everett, Port	1943	272
Fairmont Cemetery Association	1939	20
Ferry County, Curlew	1917	86
Feureur, Louis	1901	163
Firecrest	1986	7
Fort Worden, department of institutions land	1965 ex.s.	66
Franklin County	1931	100
Game department, tidelands in Clark County	1959	249
Game Farm	1929	173
Grays Harbor County	1955	281
	1913	27
Grays Harbor, Port	{ 1957	40
	1935	50
	1935	52
Great Northern RR	{ 1935	53
	1939	159
	1941	117
Harbor lines at Anacortes, Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Cosmopolis, Bellingham, Port Angeles, Renton, Lake Forest Park, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Kalama, Bremerton, Port Orchard, Vancouver, Port Townsend, La Conner, Everett, relocation	{ 1963	139
Harbor lines in Lake Union, Salmon Bay, Union Bay, Commencement Bay, relocation	1967 ex.s.	24
Hollingsworth, Howard C.	1949	23
Holman Waterway	1919	198
	1919	198
Ilwaco	{ 1929	222
	1947	101
Ilwaco, Port	{ 1957	85
Island County	{ 1931	12
	1941	94
Jefferson County	{ 1941	121
Keystone Water Users Ass'n	1915	78
	1933	77
	1933	99
King County	{ 1935	49
	1935	51
	1939	8
	1945	119
King County, University of Washington land	1967 ex.s.	116
King County, unplatted tidelands deeded to state board for community college education; reversion	{ 1971 ex.s.	241
	1927	262
Kitsap County	{ 1931	86
	1941	106
	1947	207
Kitsap County, sewer disposal plant to county sewer district No. 5	1965 ex.s.	95
Kitsap County, Washington Veterans' Home land to department of game	1965 ex.s.	94
Kitsap County, transfer of land from state for recreational purposes	1975 1st ex.s.	27
	1945	185
Klickitat County	{ 1951	73
La Conner	1939	101
Lake Spokane, Long Lake redesignated as	1965	104

Lake Washington	1911	94	Skagit County, sale or exchange of University of Washington land	1971	ex.s.	228
Land Commission	1889-90	125	Skamania County	1937		91
Lewis County, department of natural resources, revesting Liberty Bay, relocation of harbor lines	1961	22	Slininger, H.A.	1957		118
	1919	44		1909		126
Mason County	1935	104	Snohomish County	1933		90
	1949	132		1937		7
Mason County, Cemetery District No. 1, deeding of authorized	1971	ex.s.	90	Snohomish County, reconveyance, county park	1967	18
Mason County, exchange of forest trust land	1973	26	Soap Lake	1949		147
McCroskey, Milton P.	1947	26		1913		40
Medical Lake	1889-90	...	Spokane	1937		85
Military department, lands in				1955		374
Seattle	1959	181	Spokane County	1921		98
Montesano	1933	ex.s.		1939		20
Mt. Spokane State Park	1947	237		1943		273
Mulinowski, A.M.	1955	281	State Lands	1951		25
Northern State Hospital at Sedro Woolley, disposition of property	1974	ex.s.		1909		75
Okanogan County	1939	159		1909		216
	1907	17	State parks, Ike Kinswas State Park—Recreation area	1921		57
	1917	144		1935		56
Olympia	1947	65	State parks, land in Douglas county	1971		50
	1949	87	State parks, land on Whidbey Island	1959		72
	1949	96	State parks, Mayfield Lake State Park, name changed	1959		63
Olympia, Port	1953	92	State parks, Wallace Falls State Park	1971		50
Olympic National Park	1955	231		1965		146
Olympic National Park, exchange of standing timber for lands	1963	53	State Timber	1933		106
Oregon-Wash. RR and Nav. Co.	1931	50		1941		135
Pacific Highway	1929	215	State Training School	1911		27
Payne, J.H.	1935	49	Steilacoom	1931		94
Peninsula, Port	1953	283	Strobach, Richard	1957		131
People's Water & Gas Co.	1937	163	Sunde, Olive	1929		201
	1917	31	Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce	1935		51
	1929	173	Tacoma	1959		180
	1933	99	Tacoma Scouts	1907		16
	1949	37	Tidelands	1907		123
Port of Seattle	1959	158		1935		104
Port Orchard	1951	95		1897		27
Port Townsend	1907	117		1913		68
Pullman	1947	48		1919		51
Riverside State Park	1939	19	United States	1919		161
Rohrbach, F.L.	1939	19		1931		86
Sager, Frank T.	1951	59		1937		91
San Juan Island National Historical Park	1967	94		1945		79
	1883	...		1955		231
	1890	...		1891		125
School Lands	1917	46	University of Washington	1893		122
	1923	61		1903		91
	1939	129		1907		3
	1897	28		1909		30
	1905	76	University of Washington, R.H. Thomson expressway	1911		94
	1907	3		1967		116
	1909	30	University of Washington, sale or exchange of land in Skagit county	1971	ex.s.	228
	1909	221	Unplatted Ballard tidelands deeded to state board for community college education; reversion	1971	ex.s.	241
	1913	59		1901		88
	1915	115	Vancouver	1909		95
Seattle	1925	ex.s.		1933	ex.s.	42
	1927	267		1937		163
	1929	177	Vancouver, Port	1919		68
	1931	33	Varney-Sunnyside Packing Co.	1955		130
	1939	77	Walla Walla County	1913		141
	1949	81	Walla Walla County, department of institutions land, conveyance of	1955		376
	1957	81		1965		115
	1957	252				
	1981	1st ex.s.				
Skagit County	1951	83				
Skagit County port, conveyance of tidelands to	1969	127				

Washington State College . . . . .	}	1947	48
		1949	23
		1949	24
		1949	25
		1949	207
		1955	261
		1959	59
		1959	89
Washington State University, exchanges, leases . . . . .		1961	76
Washington State University, sale or exchange of land in Whitman county . . . . .		1971 ex.s.	228
		1909	183
Washington Veterans' Home . . . . .	}	1945	79
		1917	17
Wenatchee . . . . .	}	1947	43
		1955	359
		1931	50
Whitman County . . . . .		1947	26
Whitman County, sale or exchange of WSU land . . . . .	}	1971 ex.s.	228
		1961	76
Whitman County, WSU land . . . . .	}	1963	78
		1965	90
		1967	116
		1967 ex.s.	78
		1969 ex.s.	28
Willapa Bay . . . . .	}	1927	231
		1931	25
Willapa-Grays Harbor Highway . . . . .		1933	121
Willapa Harbor, Port . . . . .		1933	19
Woodinville . . . . .		1986	7
Yakima County . . . . .		1949	207
Yakima County, fairground . . . . .		1955	257

<sup>1</sup>Section 1 is codified as RCW 79.24.020; section 10 as RCW 79.24.090, repealed by 1959 c 257 § 48.  
<sup>2</sup>Section 9 is codified as RCW 79.24.040, repealed by 1959 c 257 § 48; section 10 as RCW 79.24.060; section 11 as RCW 79.24.070, repealed by 1959 c 257 § 48; and section 12 as RCW 79.24.030.

**Chapter 79.02 RCW  
PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT—GENERAL**

Sections

**PART 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

79.02.010	Definitions.
79.02.020	Witnesses—Compelling attendance.
79.02.030	Court review of actions.
79.02.040	Reconsideration of official acts.
79.02.050	Effect of mistake or fraud.
79.02.060	Scope of provisions of chapter 199, Laws of 2004.
79.02.080	Rewards for information regarding violations.
79.02.090	Transfer of county auditor's duties.
79.02.095	Statutes not applicable to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters.

**PART 2  
FEDERAL LAND GRANTS**

79.02.100	Appearance by commissioner before United States land offices.
79.02.110	Applications for federal certification that lands are non-mineral.
79.02.120	Lieu lands—Selection agreements authorized.
79.02.130	Lieu lands—Examination and appraisal.
79.02.140	Lieu lands—Transfer of title to lands relinquished.
79.02.150	Selection to complete uncompleted grants.
79.02.160	Relinquishment on failure or rejection of selection.

**PART 3  
CONTRACTS/RECORDS/FEEES/APPLICATIONS**

79.02.200	Abstracts of public lands.
-----------	----------------------------

79.02.210	Maps and plats—Record and index—Public inspection.
79.02.220	Seal.
79.02.230	Blank forms of applications for appraisal, transfer, sale, and lease of state lands, valuable materials.
79.02.240	Fees.
79.02.250	Reasonable fees—Disposition.
79.02.260	Fee book.
79.02.270	Deed.
79.02.280	Assignment of contracts or leases.
79.02.290	Subdivision of contracts or leases—Fee.

**PART 4  
TRESPASS/REGULATIONS/PENALTIES**

79.02.300	Trespass, waste, damages—Prosecutions.
79.02.310	Trespasser guilty of theft, when.
79.02.320	Removal of timber—Treble damages.
79.02.330	Lessee or contract holder guilty of misdemeanor.
79.02.370	Protection against cedar theft.

**PART 5  
OTHER TRUST/GRANT/FOREST RESERVE LANDS**

79.02.400	Charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory real property—Inventory—Transfer.
79.02.410	Charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory real property—High economic return potential—Income.
79.02.420	Finding—Intent—Community and technical college forest reserve land base—Management—Disposition of revenue.

**PART 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**79.02.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this title unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Aquatic lands" means all state-owned tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters as defined in RCW 79.105.060 that are administered by the department.

(2) "Board" means the board of natural resources.

(3) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public lands.

(4) "Community and technical college forest reserve lands" means lands managed under RCW 79.02.420.

(5) "Community forest trust lands" means those lands acquired and managed under the provisions of chapter 79.155 RCW.

(6) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(7)(a) "Forest biomass" means the by-products of: Current forest management activities; current forest protection treatments prescribed or permitted under chapter 76.04 RCW; or the by-products of forest health treatment prescribed or permitted under chapter 76.06 RCW.

(b) "Forest biomass" does not include wood pieces that have been treated with chemical preservatives such as: Creosote, pentachlorophenol, or copper-chrome-arsenic; wood from existing old growth forests; wood required to be left on-site under chapter 76.09 RCW, the state forest practices act; and implementing rules, and other legal and contractual requirements; or municipal solid waste.

(8) "Improvements" means anything considered a fixture in law placed upon or attached to lands administered by the department that has changed the value of the lands or any changes in the previous condition of the fixtures that changes the value of the lands.

(9) "Land bank lands" means lands acquired under RCW 79.19.020.

(10) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, organization, cooperative, public or municipal corporation, or agency of a federal, state, or local government unit, however designated.

(11) "Public lands" means lands of the state of Washington administered by the department including but not limited to state lands, state forest lands, lands included in a state forest land pool, and aquatic lands.

(12) "State forest land pool" or "land pool" means state forest lands acquired and managed under RCW 79.22.140.

(13) "State forest lands" means lands acquired under RCW 79.22.010, 79.22.040, and 79.22.020.

(14) "State lands" includes:

(a) School lands, that is, lands held in trust for the support of the common schools;

(b) University lands, that is, lands held in trust for university purposes;

(c) Agricultural college lands, that is, lands held in trust for the use and support of agricultural colleges;

(d) Scientific school lands, that is, lands held in trust for the establishment and maintenance of a scientific school;

(e) Normal school lands, that is, lands held in trust for state normal schools;

(f) Capitol building lands, that is, lands held in trust for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the state capital for legislative, executive, and judicial purposes;

(g) Institutional lands, that is, lands held in trust for state charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institutions; and

(h) Land bank, escheat, donations, and all other lands, except aquatic lands, administered by the department that are not devoted to or reserved for a particular use by law.

(15) "Valuable materials" means any product or material on the lands, such as forest products, forage or agricultural crops, stone, gravel, sand, peat, and all other materials of value except: (a) Mineral, coal, petroleum, and gas as provided for under chapter 79.14 RCW; and (b) forest biomass as provided for under chapter 79.150 RCW. [2012 c 166 § 2; 2011 c 216 § 17. Prior: 2010 c 126 § 6; 2004 c 199 § 201; 2003 c 334 § 301; 1927 c 255 § 1; RRS § 7797-1; prior: 1911 c 36 § 1; 1907 c 256 § 1; 1897 c 89 §§ 4, 5; 1895 c 178 §§ 1, 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.004, 79.04.010.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Findings—Intent—2012 c 166:** "(1) The legislature finds:

(a) Compliance with the federal endangered species act on state forest lands within small, timber-dependent counties in southwest Washington is disproportionately burdensome when compared to the total budget in these counties;

(b) When compared to other forested parts of the state, there is a relatively small federal land base in these counties, which has resulted in substantial responsibility for endangered species act-related habitat conservation being borne by state forest lands;

(c) Within these counties, there is limited availability of private working forest land available for use as a replacement for encumbered state forest lands;

(d) Currently, county beneficiaries may not receive revenue derived from state forest lands located in any counties other than their own;

(e) Through the passing of chapter 354, Laws of 2009, the legislature established the need to relieve the impact of long-term endangered species-related encumbrances on state forest lands in small, timber-dependent counties in Washington;

(f) As a result of the implementation of chapter 354, Laws of 2009, replacement lands are to be purchased to maintain the land base and productivity of state forest lands in these counties;

(2012 Ed.)

(g) There is a need for timely reinvestment in the land base of state forest lands by replacing those transferred encumbered lands with new, productive, unencumbered forest land;

(h) The maintenance of a productive state forest land base in these counties is vital to maintaining a stable, viable natural resource economy that supports rural communities and creates local natural resource-based jobs; and

(i) These counties have articulated the need to reestablish sustainable long-term revenue from state forest lands through the acquisition of productive timber land beyond what will be funded by the land value of transferred encumbered lands under chapter 354, Laws of 2009.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to authorize the board of natural resources to establish a state forest land pool for small, timber-dependent southwest Washington counties. This action allows the board of natural resources, if deemed appropriate after a required analysis, to use revenue designated for replacement of encumbered state forest land in one county to be pooled with other counties' land replacement funds to purchase forest land within any of the participating counties. This forest land would be managed as state forest land for the benefit of all counties participating in the pool, proportionate to their contribution of asset value to the land pool, according to a set of policy, administrative, and financial structures developed by the department of natural resources and adopted by the board of natural resources.

(3) It is the further intent of the legislature that the replacement forest lands purchased to be part of the land pool are to be maintained as working forest lands. For purposes of the land pool, the department of natural resources should seek out land threatened by encroaching development and land not likely to become further encumbered in an effort to preserve working forest land to the maximum extent possible." [2012 c 166 § 1.]

**Part headings—2004 c 199:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2004 c 199 § 302.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** "This act is intended to make technical amendments to certain codified statutes that deal with the department of natural resources. Any statutory changes made by this act should be interpreted as technical in nature and not be interpreted to have any substantive, policy implications." [2003 c 334 § 616.]

#### 79.02.020 Witnesses—Compelling attendance. (1)

The board or the commissioner has the power to compel through subpoena the attendance of witnesses and production of records for:

(a) Hearings pertaining to public lands as provided by this title;

(b) Determining the value and character of land, valuable materials, or improvements; and

(c) Determining waste or damage to the land.

(2) A subpoena may be served by any person authorized by law to serve process.

(3) Each witness subpoenaed is allowed the same fees and mileage as paid witnesses in courts of records in this state. The department shall pay these fees and mileage from its general fund appropriation.

(4) Any witness failing to comply with a subpoena, without legal excuse, is considered in contempt.

(a) The board or commissioner shall certify the facts to the court of the county in which the witness resides for contempt of court proceedings as provided in chapter 7.21 RCW.

(b) The certificate of the board or commissioner must be considered by the court as prima facie evidence of the guilt of the witness.

(c) Upon legal proof of the facts, the witness is subject to the same penalties as provided in like cases for contempt of court. [2003 c 334 § 302.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.030 Court review of actions.** Any applicant to purchase, or lease, any public lands of the state, or any valu-

able materials thereon, and any person whose property rights or interests will be affected by such sale or lease, feeling aggrieved by any order or decision of the board, or the commissioner, concerning the same, may appeal therefrom to the superior court of the county in which such lands or materials are situated, by serving upon all parties who have appeared in the proceedings in which the order or decision was made, or their attorneys, a written notice of appeal, and filing such notice, with proof, or admission, of service, with the board, or the commissioner, within thirty days from the date of the order or decision appealed from, and at the time of filing the notice, or within five days thereafter, filing a bond to the state, in the penal sum of two hundred dollars, with sufficient sureties, to be approved by the secretary of the board, or the commissioner, conditioned that the appellant shall pay all costs that may be awarded against the appellant on appeal, or the dismissal thereof. Within thirty days after the filing of notice of appeal, the secretary of the board, or the commissioner, shall certify, under official seal, a transcript of all entries in the records of the board, or the commissioner, together with all processes, pleadings and other papers relating to and on file in the case, except evidence used in such proceedings, and file such transcript and papers, at the expense of the applicant, with the clerk of the court to which the appeal is taken. The hearing and trial of said appeal in the superior court shall be de novo before the court, without a jury, upon the pleadings and papers so certified, but the court may order the pleadings to be amended, or new and further pleadings to be filed. Costs on appeal shall be awarded to the prevailing party as in actions commenced in the superior court, but no costs shall be awarded against the state, the board, or the commissioner. Should judgment be rendered against the appellant, the costs shall be taxed against the appellant and the appellant's sureties on the appeal bond, except when the state is the only adverse party, and shall be included in the judgment, upon which execution may issue as in other cases. Any party feeling aggrieved by the judgment of the superior court may seek appellate review as in other civil cases. Unless appellate review of the judgment of the superior court is sought, the clerk of said court shall, on demand, certify, under the clerk's hand and the seal of the court, a true copy of the judgment, to the board, or the commissioner, which judgment shall thereupon have the same force and effect as if rendered by the board, or the commissioner. In all cases of appeals from orders or decisions of the commissioner involving the prior right to purchase tidelands of the first class, if the appeal is not prosecuted, heard and determined, within two years from the date of the appeal, the attorney general shall, after thirty days' notice to the appellant of the attorney general's intention so to do, move the court for a dismissal of the appeal, but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the dismissal of such appeal at any time in the manner provided by law. [2003 c 334 § 397. Prior: 1988 c 202 § 59; 1988 c 128 § 56; 1971 c 81 § 139; 1927 c 255 § 125; RRS § 7797-125; prior: 1901 c 62 §§ 1 through 7; 1897 c 89 § 52; 1895 c 178 § 82. Formerly RCW 79.01.500, 79.08.030.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.040 Reconsideration of official acts.** The department may review and reconsider any of its official acts relating to public lands until such time as a lease, contract, or deed shall have been made, executed, and finally issued, and the department may recall any lease, contract, or deed issued for the purpose of correcting mistakes or errors, or supplying omissions. [2004 c 199 § 202; 2003 c 334 § 432; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 177; 1927 c 255 § 195; RRS § 7797-195. Formerly RCW 79.01.740, 43.65.080.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.050 Effect of mistake or fraud.** (1) Any sale, transfer, or lease in which the purchaser, transfer recipient, or lessee obtains the sale or lease by fraud or misrepresentation is void, and the contract of purchase or lease shall be of no effect. In the event of fraud, the contract, transferred property, or lease must be surrendered to the department, but the purchaser, transfer recipient, or lessee may not be refunded any money paid on account of the surrendered contract, transfer, or lease.

(2) In the event that a mistake is discovered in the sale or lease, or in the sale of valuable materials, the department may take action to correct the mistake in accordance with RCW 79.02.040 if maintaining the corrected contract, transfer, or lease is in the best interests of the affected trust or trusts. [2004 c 199 § 203; 2003 c 334 § 365; 2001 c 250 § 11; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 164; 1959 c 257 § 28; 1927 c 255 § 60; RRS § 7797-60. Prior: 1903 c 79 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.240, 79.12.280.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.060 Scope of provisions of chapter 199, Laws of 2004.** The provisions of chapter 199, Laws of 2004 are not intended to affect the trust responsibilities or trust management by the department for any trust lands granted by the federal government or legislatively created trusts. The trust obligations relating to federally granted lands, state forest lands, community and technical college forest reserve lands, and university repayment lands shall not be altered by the definition clarifications contained in chapter 199, Laws of 2004. The rights, privileges, and prerogatives of the public shall not be altered in any way by chapter 199, Laws of 2004, and no additional or changed authority or power is granted to any person, corporation, or entity. [2004 c 199 § 301.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.080 Rewards for information regarding violations.** The department is authorized to offer and pay a reward not to exceed ten thousand dollars in each case for information regarding violations of any statute or rule relating to the state's public lands and natural resources on those lands, except forest practices under chapter 76.09 RCW. No reward may be paid to any federal, state, or local government or agency employees for information obtained by them in the

normal course of their employment. The department is authorized to adopt rules in pursuit of its authority under this section to determine the appropriate account or fund from which to pay the reward. The department is also authorized to adopt rules establishing the criteria for paying a reward and the amount to be paid. No appropriation shall be required for disbursement. [2003 c 334 § 436; 1994 c 56 § 1; 1990 c 163 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.01.765.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.090 Transfer of county auditor's duties.** The duties of the county auditor in each county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more, with regard to sales and leases dealt with under this title except RCW 79.11.250, 79.11.260, and \*79.94.040, are transferred to the county treasurer. [2003 c 334 § 451; 1991 c 363 § 152; 1983 c 3 § 201; 1955 c 184 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.08.170.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.94.040 was recodified as RCW 79.125.040 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1008.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**79.02.095 Statutes not applicable to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters.** RCW 79.11.080, 79.11.010, 79.11.110, \*79.01.140, 79.11.160, 79.10.125, 79.13.130, \*79.01.252, \*79.01.256, \*79.01.260, \*79.01.264, 79.13.180, 79.02.260, 79.13.320, 79.13.410, 79.13.010, and \*79.01.277 do not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. [2003 c 334 § 317; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 22. Formerly RCW 79.01.093.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 79.01.140, 79.01.252, 79.01.256, 79.01.260, 79.01.264, and 79.01.277 were repealed by 2003 c 334 § 551.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## PART 2 FEDERAL LAND GRANTS

**79.02.100 Appearance by commissioner before United States land offices.** The commissioner of public lands is authorized and directed to appear before the United States land offices in all cases involving the validity of the selections of any lands granted to the state, and to summon witnesses and pay necessary witness fees and stenographer fees in such contested cases. [1927 c 255 § 193; RRS § 7797-193. Formerly RCW 79.01.732, 43.12.070.]

**79.02.110 Applications for federal certification that lands are nonmineral.** The commissioner of public lands is authorized and directed to make applications, and to cause publication of notices of applications, to the interior department of the United States for certification that any land granted to the state is nonmineral in character, in accordance with the rules of the general land office of the United States. [1927 c 255 § 77; RRS § 7797-77. Prior: 1897 c 89 § 33. Formerly RCW 79.01.308, 79.08.130.]

**79.02.120 Lieu lands—Selection agreements authorized.** For the purpose of obtaining from the United States

indemnity or lieu lands for such lands granted to the state for common schools, educational, penal, reformatory, charitable, capitol building, or other purposes, as have been or may be lost to the state, or the title to or use or possession of which is claimed by the United States or by others claiming by, through or under the United States, by reason of any of the causes entitling the state to select other lands in lieu thereof, the inclusion of the same in any reservation by or under authority of the United States, or any other appropriation or disposition of the same by the United States, whether such lands are now surveyed or unsurveyed, the department, with the advice and approval of the attorney general, is authorized and empowered to enter into an agreement or agreements, on behalf of the state, with the proper officer or officers of the United States for the relinquishment of any such lands and the selection in lieu thereof, under the provisions of RCW 79.02.120 through 79.02.140, of lands of the United States of equal area and value. [2003 c 334 § 488; 1988 c 128 § 63; 1913 c 102 § 1; RRS § 7824. Formerly RCW 79.28.010.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.130 Lieu lands—Examination and appraisal.** Upon the making of any such agreement, the board shall be empowered and it shall be its duty to cause such examination and appraisal to be made as will determine the area and value, as nearly as may be, of the lands lost to the state, or the title to, use or possession of which is claimed by the United States by reason of the causes mentioned in RCW 79.02.120, and proposed to be relinquished to the United States, and shall cause an examination and appraisal to be made of any lands which may be designated by the officers of the United States as subject to selection by the state in lieu of the lands aforesaid, to the end that the state shall obtain lands in lieu thereof of equal area and value. [2003 c 334 § 489; 1988 c 128 § 64; 1913 c 102 § 2; RRS § 7825. Formerly RCW 79.28.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.140 Lieu lands—Transfer of title to lands relinquished.** Whenever the title to any lands selected under the provisions of RCW 79.02.120 through 79.02.140 shall become vested in the state of Washington by the acceptance and approval of the lists of lands so selected, or other proper action of the United States, the governor, on behalf of the state of Washington, shall execute and deliver to the United States a deed of conveyance of the lands of the state relinquished under the provisions of RCW 79.02.120 through 79.02.140, which deed shall convey to and vest in the United States all the right, title and interest of the state of Washington therein. [2003 c 334 § 490; 1913 c 102 § 3; RRS § 7826. Formerly RCW 79.28.030.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.150 Selection to complete uncompleted grants.** So long as any grant of lands by the United States to the state of Washington, for any purpose, or as lieu or indemnity lands therefor, remains incomplete, the commissioner of public lands shall, from time to time, cause the records in his office and in the United States land offices, to be examined for the purpose of ascertaining what of the unappropriated lands of the United States are open to selection, and whether any thereof may be of sufficient value and so situated as to war-

rant their selection as state lands, and in that case may cause the same to be inspected and appraised by one or more state land inspectors, and a full report made thereon by the smallest legal subdivisions of forty acres each, classifying such lands into grazing, farming and timbered lands, and estimating the value of each tract inspected and the quantity and value of all valuable material thereon, and in the case of timbered lands the amount and value of the standing timber thereon, and the estimated value of such lands after the timber is removed, which report shall be made as amply and expeditiously as possible on blanks to be furnished by the commissioner of public lands for that purpose, under the oath of the inspector to the effect that he has personally examined the tracts mentioned in each forty acres thereof, and that said report and appraisal is made from such personal examination, and is, to the best of affiant's knowledge and belief, true and correct, and that the lands are not occupied by any bona fide settler.

The commissioner of public lands shall select such unappropriated lands as he shall deem advisable, and do all things necessary under the laws of the United States to vest title thereto in the state, and shall assign lands of equal value, as near as may be, to the various uncompleted grants. [1927 c 255 § 19; RRS § 7797-19. Prior: 1897 c 89 §§ 5, 7, 9, 10. Formerly RCW 79.01.076, 79.08.050.]

*Lieu lands: Chapter 79.02 RCW.*

**79.02.160 Relinquishment on failure or rejection of selection.** In case any person interested in any tract of land heretofore selected by the territory of Washington or any officer, board, or agent thereof or by the state of Washington or any officer, board, or agent thereof or which may be hereafter selected by the state of Washington or the department, in pursuance to any grant of lands made by the United States to the territory or state of Washington for any purpose or upon any trust whatever, the selection of which has failed or been rejected or shall fail or shall be rejected for any reason, shall request it, the department shall have the authority and power on behalf of the state to relinquish to the United States such tract of land. [2004 c 199 § 204; 2003 c 334 § 308; 1927 c 255 § 20; RRS § 7797-20. Prior: 1899 c 63 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.080, 79.08.060.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

### PART 3

#### CONTRACTS/RECORDS/FEES/APPLICATIONS

**79.02.200 Abstracts of public lands.** The department shall cause full and correct abstracts of all the public lands to be made and kept in suitable and well bound books, and other suitable records. Such abstracts shall show in proper columns and pages the section or part of section, lot or block, township and range in which each tract is situated, whether timber or prairie, improved or unimproved, the appraised value per acre, the value of improvements and the value of damages, and the total value, the several values of timber, stone, gravel, or other valuable materials thereon, the date of sale, the name of purchaser, sale price per acre, the date of lease, the name of lessee, the term of the lease, the annual

rental, amount of cash paid, amount unpaid and when due, amount of annual interest, and in proper columns such other facts as may be necessary to show a full and complete abstract of the conditions and circumstances of each tract or parcel of land from the time the title was acquired by the state until the issuance of a deed or other disposition of the land by the state. [2003 c 334 § 382; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 166; 1927 c 255 § 76; RRS § 7797-76. Prior: (i) 1897 c 89 § 32; RRS § 7823. (ii) 1911 c 59 § 9; RRS § 7899. Formerly RCW 79.01.304, 43.12.080.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.210 Maps and plats—Record and index—Public inspection.** All maps, plats, and field notes of surveys, required to be made by this title shall, after approval by the department, be deposited and filed in the office of the department, which shall keep a careful and complete record and index of all maps, plats, and field notes of surveys in its possession, in well bound books, which shall at all times be open to public inspection. [2003 c 334 § 426; 1988 c 128 § 57; 1927 c 255 § 187; RRS § 7797-187. Formerly RCW 79.01.708, 43.12.110.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.220 Seal.** All notices, orders, contracts, certificates, rules and regulations, or other documents or papers made and issued by or on behalf of the department, or the commissioner, as provided in this title, shall be authenticated by a seal whereon shall be the vignette of George Washington, with the words "Seal of the commissioner of public lands, State of Washington." [2003 c 334 § 427; 1988 c 128 § 58; 1927 c 255 § 188; RRS § 7797-188. Formerly RCW 79.01.712, 43.65.070.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.230 Blank forms of applications for appraisal, transfer, sale, and lease of state lands, valuable materials.** The department shall cause to be prepared, and furnish to applicants, blank forms of applications for the appraisal, transfer, and purchase of any state lands and the purchase of valuable materials situated thereon, and for the lease of state lands. These forms shall contain instructions to inform and aid applicants. [2003 c 334 § 310; 2001 c 250 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 150; 1959 c 257 § 2; 1927 c 255 § 21; RRS § 7797-21. Prior: 1909 c 223 § 2; 1907 c 256 § 5; 1903 c 74 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 11; 1895 c 178 §§ 17, 18. Formerly RCW 79.01.084, 79.08.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.240 Fees.** The department may charge and collect fees as determined by the board for each category of services performed based on costs incurred. [2003 c 334 § 428; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 18; 1959 c 153 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 190; RRS § 7797-190. Formerly RCW 79.01.720, 43.12.120.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.250 Reasonable fees—Disposition.** (1) Applications for the purchase or use of lands and the sale of valuable materials by the department shall be accompanied by reasonable fees to be prescribed by the board in an amount sufficient to defray the cost of performing or otherwise providing for the processing, review, or inspection of the applications or activities permitted pursuant to the applications for each category of services performed.

(2) Fees shall be credited to the resource management cost account fund as established under RCW 79.64.020, the forest development account fund as established under RCW 79.64.100, or the agricultural college trust management account fund as established under RCW 79.64.090, as applicable. [2003 c 334 § 313.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.260 Fee book.** The department shall keep a fee book, in which shall be entered all fees received, with the date paid and the name of the person paying the same, and the nature of the services rendered for which the fee is charged, which book shall be verified monthly by affidavit entered therein. All fees collected by the department shall be paid into the state treasury, as applicable, to the resource management cost account created in RCW 79.64.020, the forest development account created in RCW 79.64.100, or the agricultural college trust management account fund as established under RCW 79.64.090, and the receipt of the state treasurer taken and retained in the department's Olympia office as a voucher. [2003 c 334 § 429; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 19; 1927 c 255 § 191; RRS § 7797-191. Formerly RCW 79.01.724, 43.12.130.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.270 Deed.** When the entire purchase price of any state lands shall have been fully paid, the commissioner shall certify such fact to the governor, and shall cause a quitclaim deed signed by the governor and attested by the secretary of state, with the seal of the state attached thereto, to be issued to the purchaser and to be recorded in the department's Olympia office. No fee is required for any deed of land issued by the governor other than the fee provided for in this title. [2003 c 334 § 360; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 160; 1959 c 257 § 25; 1927 c 255 § 55; RRS § 7797-55. Prior: 1917 c 149 § 1; 1915 c 147 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 3; 1897 c 89 § 16; 1895 c 178 §§ 25, 29. Formerly RCW 79.01.220, 79.12.390.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.280 Assignment of contracts or leases.** All contracts of purchase or leases issued by the department shall be assignable in writing by the contract holder or lessee and the assignee shall be subject to and governed by the provisions of law applicable to the assignor and shall have the same rights in all respects as the original purchaser, or lessee, of the lands, provided the assignment is approved by the department and entered of record in its office. [2004 c 199 § 205; 2003 c 334 § 377; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 165; 1927 c 255 § 73; RRS §

(2012 Ed.)

7797-73. Prior: 1903 c 79 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.01.292, 79.12.270.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.02.290 Subdivision of contracts or leases—Fee.** Whenever the holder of a contract of purchase or the holder of any lease, except for mining of valuable minerals or coal, or extraction of petroleum or gas, shall surrender the same to the department with the request to have it divided into two or more contracts, or leases, the department may divide the same and issue new contracts, or leases, but no new contract, or lease, shall issue while there is due and unpaid any interest, rental, or taxes or assessments on the land held under such contract or lease, nor in any case where the department is of the opinion that the state's security would be impaired or endangered by the proposed division. For all such new contracts, or leases, a fee as provided under this chapter, shall be paid by the applicant. [2004 c 199 § 206; 2003 c 334 § 363; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 163; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 8; 1959 c 257 § 27; 1955 c 394 § 2; 1927 c 255 § 59; RRS § 7797-59. Prior: 1903 c 79 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.236, 79.12.260.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### PART 4

#### TRESPASS/REGULATIONS/PENALTIES

#### **79.02.300 Trespass, waste, damages—Prosecutions.**

(1) Every person who, without authorization, uses or occupies public lands, removes any valuable material as defined in RCW 79.02.010 from public lands, or causes waste or damage to public lands, or injures publicly owned personal property or publicly owned improvements to real property on public lands, is liable to the state for treble the amount of the damages. However, liability shall be for single damages if the department determines, or the person proves upon trial, that the person, at time of the unauthorized act or acts, did not know, or have reason to know, that he or she lacked authorization. Damages recoverable under this section include, but are not limited to, the market value of the use, occupancy, or things removed, had the use, occupancy, or removal been authorized; and any damages caused by injury to the land, publicly owned personal property or publicly owned improvement, including the costs of restoration. In addition, the person is liable for reimbursing the state for its reasonable costs including, but not limited to, its administrative costs, survey costs to the extent they are not included in damages awarded for restoration costs, and its reasonable attorneys' fees and other legal costs.

(2) This section does not apply in any case where liability for damages is provided under RCW 4.24.630, 64.12.030, or 79.02.320.

(3) The department is authorized and directed to investigate all trespasses and wastes upon, and damages to, public lands of the state, and to cause prosecutions for, and/or actions for the recovery of the same, to be commenced as pro-

vided by law. [2009 c 349 § 1; 2004 c 199 § 207; 2003 c 334 § 435; 1994 c 280 § 2; 1993 c 266 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 200; RRS § 7797-200. Prior: 1897 c 89 § 64; 1895 c 178 § 99. Formerly RCW 79.01.760, 79.40.040.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Waste and trespass: Chapter 64.12 RCW.*

**79.02.310 Trespasser guilty of theft, when.** Every person who willfully commits any trespass upon any public lands of the state and cuts down, destroys, or injures any timber, or any tree, including a Christmas tree as defined in \*RCW 76.48.020, standing or growing thereon, or takes, or removes, or causes to be taken, or removed, therefrom any wood or timber lying thereon, or maliciously injures or severs anything attached thereto, or the produce thereof, or digs, quarries, mines, takes or removes therefrom any earth, soil, stone, mineral, clay, sand, gravel, or any valuable materials, is guilty of theft under chapter 9A.56 RCW. [2009 c 349 § 2; 2003 c 53 § 379; 1927 c 255 § 197; RRS § 7797-197. Prior: 1889-90 pp 124-125 §§ 1, 4. Formerly RCW 79.01.748, 79.40.010.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 76.48.020 was recodified as RCW 76.48.021 pursuant to 2009 c 245 § 29.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**79.02.320 Removal of timber—Treble damages.** Every person who shall cut or remove, or cause to be cut or removed, any timber growing or being upon any public lands of the state, including a Christmas tree as defined in \*RCW 76.48.020, or who shall manufacture the same into logs, bolts, shingles, lumber or other articles of use or commerce, unless expressly authorized so to do by a bill of sale from the state, or by a lease or contract from the state under which he or she holds possession of such lands, or by provisions of law under which the bill of sale, lease or contract was issued, shall be liable to the state for treble the value of the timber or other articles cut, removed, or manufactured, to be recovered in a civil action, and shall forfeit to the state all interest in any article into which the timber is manufactured. [2009 c 349 § 3; 1927 c 255 § 199; RRS § 7797-199. Prior: 1897 c 89 § 66; 1895 c 178 § 101. Formerly RCW 79.01.756, 79.40.030.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 76.48.020 was recodified as RCW 76.48.021 pursuant to 2009 c 245 § 29.

*Firewood on state lands: Chapter 79.15 RCW.*

*Injunction to prevent waste on public land: RCW 64.12.050.*

*Injury to or removing trees, etc.—Damages: RCW 64.12.030.*

*Penalty for destroying native flora: RCW 47.40.080.*

**79.02.330 Lessee or contract holder guilty of misdemeanor.** Every person being in lawful possession of any public lands of the state, under and by virtue of any lease or contract of purchase from the state, cuts down, destroys, or injures, or causes to be cut down, destroyed, or injured, any timber standing or growing thereon, or takes or removes, or causes to be taken or removed, therefrom, any wood or timber lying thereon, or maliciously injures or severs anything attached thereto, or the produce thereof, or digs, quarries, mines, takes, or removes therefrom, any earth, soil, clay,

sand, gravel, stone, mineral, or other valuable material, or causes the same to be done, or otherwise injures, defaces, or damages, or causes to be injured, defaced, or damaged, any such lands unless expressly authorized so to do by the lease or contract under which possession of such lands is held, or by the provisions of law under and by virtue of which such lease or contract was issued, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [2003 c 334 § 434; 1927 c 255 § 198; RRS § 7797-198. Prior: 1899 c 34 §§ 1 through 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.752, 79.40.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.370 Protection against cedar theft.** The board must establish procedures to protect against cedar theft and to ensure adequate notice is given for persons interested in purchasing cedar. [2003 c 334 § 333.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## PART 5

### OTHER TRUST/GRANT/FOREST RESERVE LANDS

**79.02.400 Charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory real property—Inventory—Transfer.** (1) Every five years the department of social and health services and other state agencies that operate institutions shall conduct an inventory of all real property subject to the charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institution account and other real property acquired for institutional purposes or for the benefit of the blind, deaf, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or otherwise disabled. The inventory shall identify which of those real properties are not needed for state-provided residential care, custody, or treatment. By December 1, 1992, and every five years thereafter the department shall report the results of the inventory to the house of representatives committee on capital facilities and financing, the senate committee on ways and means, and the joint legislative audit and review committee.

(2) Real property identified as not needed for state-provided residential care, custody, or treatment shall be transferred to the corpus of the charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institution account. This subsection shall not apply to leases of real property to a consortium of three or more counties in order for the counties to construct or otherwise acquire correctional facilities for juveniles or adults or to real property subject to binding conditions that conflict with the other provisions of this subsection.

(3) The department of natural resources shall manage all property subject to the charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institution account and, in consultation with the department of social and health services and other affected agencies, shall adopt a plan for the management of real property subject to the account and other real property acquired for institutional purposes or for the benefit of the blind, deaf, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or otherwise disabled.

(a) The plan shall be consistent with state trust land policies and shall be compatible with the needs of institutions adjacent to real property subject to the plan.

(b) The plan may be modified as necessary to ensure the quality of future management and to address the acquisition of additional real property. [1996 c 288 § 51; 1996 c 261 § 1; 1991 c 204 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.006.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1996 c 261 § 1 and by 1996 c 288 § 51, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

*Department of social and health services duty: RCW 43.20A.035.*

**79.02.410 Charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory real property—High economic return potential—Income.** Where charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institutions land has the potential for lease for commercial, industrial, or residential uses or other uses with the potential for high economic return and is within urban or suburban areas, the department shall make every effort consistent with trust land management principles and all other provisions of law to lease the lands for such purposes, unless the land is subject to a lease to a state agency operating an existing state institution. The department is authorized, subject to approval by the board and only if a higher return can be realized, to exchange such lands for lands of at least equal value and to sell such lands and use the proceeds to acquire replacement lands. The department shall report to the appropriate legislative committees all charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institutions land purchased, sold, or exchanged. Income from the leases shall be deposited in the charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institutions account. The legislature shall give priority consideration to appropriating one-half of the money derived from lease income to providing community housing for persons who are mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or youth who are blind, deaf, or otherwise disabled. [2003 c 334 § 303; 1991 c 204 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.007.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.02.420 Finding—Intent—Community and technical college forest reserve land base—Management—Disposition of revenue.** (1) The legislature finds that the state's community and technical colleges need a dedicated source of revenue to augment other sources of capital improvement funding. The intent of this section is to ensure that the forest land purchased under section 310, chapter 16, Laws of 1990 1st ex. sess. and known as the community and technical college forest reserve land base, is managed in perpetuity and in the same manner as state forest lands for sustainable commercial forestry and multiple use of lands consistent with RCW 79.10.120. These lands will also be managed to provide an outdoor education and experience area for organized groups. The lands will provide a source of revenue for the long-term capital improvement needs of the state community and technical college system.

(2) There has been increasing pressure to convert forest lands within areas of the state subject to population growth. Loss of forest land in urbanizing areas reduces the production of forest products and the available supply of open space, watershed protection, habitat, and recreational opportunities. The land known as the community and technical college forest reserve land base is forever reserved from sale. However, the timber and other products on the land may be sold, or the land may be leased in the same manner and for the same purposes as authorized for state granted lands if the department finds the sale or lease to be in the best interest of this forest

reserve land base and approves the terms and conditions of the sale or lease.

(3) The land exchange and acquisition powers provided in RCW 79.17.020 may be used by the department to reposition land within the community and technical college forest reserve land base consistent with subsection (1) of this section.

(4) Up to twenty-five percent of the revenue from these lands, as determined by the board, will be deposited in the forest development account to reimburse the forest development account for expenditures from the account for management of these lands.

(5) The community college forest reserve account, created under section 310, chapter 16, Laws of 1990 1st ex. sess., is renamed the community and technical college forest reserve account. The remainder of the revenue from these lands must be deposited in the community and technical college forest reserve account. Money in the account may be appropriated by the legislature for the capital improvement needs of the state community and technical college system or to acquire additional forest reserve lands. [2003 c 334 § 225; 1996 c 264 § 1. Formerly RCW 76.12.240.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## Chapter 79.10 RCW LAND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES AND POLICIES

### Sections

#### PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

79.10.010	Reports.
79.10.020	Department authority to accept land.
79.10.030	Management of acquired lands—Land acquired by escheat suitable for park purposes.
79.10.040	Gifts of land for offices.
79.10.050	Gifts of county or city land for offices, warehouses, etc.—Use of lands authorized.
79.10.060	Compliance with local ordinances, when.
79.10.070	Management of public lands within watershed area providing water supply for city or town—Lake Whatcom municipal watershed pilot project—Report—Exclusive method of condemnation by city or town for watershed purposes.
79.10.080	Classification of land after timber removed.
79.10.090	Economic analysis of state lands held in trust—Scope—Use.

#### PART 2 MULTIPLE USE

79.10.100	Concept to be utilized, when.
79.10.110	"Multiple use" defined.
79.10.120	Multiple uses compatible with financial obligations of trust management—Other uses permitted, when.
79.10.125	Land open to public for fishing, hunting, and nonconsumptive wildlife activities.
79.10.130	Scope of department's authorized activities.
79.10.140	Outdoor recreation—Construction, operation, and maintenance of primitive facilities—Right-of-way and public access—Use of state and federal outdoor recreation funds.
79.10.200	Multiple use land resource allocation plan—Adoption—Factors considered.
79.10.210	Public lands identified and withdrawn.
79.10.220	Conferring with other agencies.
79.10.240	Department's existing authority and powers preserved.
79.10.250	Existing withdrawals for state park and state game purposes preserved.
79.10.280	Land use data bank—Contents, source.

#### PART 3 SUSTAINABLE HARVEST

79.10.300	Definitions.
79.10.310	"Sustained yield plans" defined.

- 79.10.320 Sustainable harvest program.
- 79.10.330 Arrearages—End of decade.
- 79.10.340 Sustainable harvest sale.

## PART 4

## COOPERATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

- 79.10.400 Cooperative agreements.
- 79.10.410 Cooperative units.
- 79.10.420 Limitations on agreements.
- 79.10.430 Easements—Life of agreements.
- 79.10.440 Sale agreements.
- 79.10.450 Minimum price.
- 79.10.460 Contracts—Requirements.
- 79.10.470 Transfer or assignment of contracts.
- 79.10.480 Performance bond—Cash deposit.

## PART 1

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**79.10.010 Reports.** (1) It shall be the duty of the department to report, and recommend, to each session of the legislature, any changes in the law relating to the methods of handling the public lands of the state that the department may deem advisable.

(2) The department shall provide a comprehensive biennial report to reflect the previous fiscal period. The report shall include, but not be limited to, descriptions of all department activities including: Revenues generated, program costs, capital expenditures, personnel, special projects, new and ongoing research, environmental controls, cooperative projects, intergovernmental agreements, the adopted sustainable harvest compared to the sales program, and outlines of ongoing litigation, recent court decisions, and orders on major issues with the potential for state liability. The report shall describe the status of the resources managed and the recreational and commercial utilization. The report must be delivered to the appropriate committees of the legislature and made available to the public.

(3) The department shall provide annual reports to the respective trust beneficiaries, including each county. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Acres sold, acres harvested, volume from those acres, acres planted, number of stems per acre, acres precommercially thinned, acres commercially thinned, acres partially cut, acres clear cut, age of final rotation for acres clear cut, and the total number of acres off base for harvest and an explanation of why those acres are off base for harvest. [2003 c 334 § 433; 1997 c 448 § 3; 1987 c 505 § 76; 1985 c 93 § 3; 1927 c 255 § 196; RRS § 7797-196. Prior: 1907 c 114 § 1; RRS § 7801. Formerly RCW 79.01.744, 43.12.150.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.020 Department authority to accept land.** The department is hereby authorized, when in its judgment it appears advisable, to accept on behalf of the state, any grant of land within the state which shall then become a part of the state forests. No grant may be accepted until the title has been examined and approved by the attorney general of the state and a report made to the board of natural resources of the result of the examination. [1986 c 100 § 48. Formerly RCW 79.01.074.]

**79.10.030 Management of acquired lands—Land acquired by escheat suitable for park purposes.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the

department shall manage and control all lands acquired by the state by escheat or under RCW 79.19.010 through 79.19.110 and all lands acquired by the state by deed of sale or gift or by devise, except such lands which are conveyed or devised to the state to be used for a particular purpose.

(2) When land is acquired by the state by escheat which because of its location or features may be suitable for park purposes, the department shall notify the state parks and recreation commission. The department and the commission shall jointly evaluate the land for its suitability for park purposes, based upon the features of the land and the need for park facilities in the vicinity. Where the department and commission determine that such land is suitable for park purposes, it shall be offered for transfer to the commission, or, in the event that the commission declines to accept the land, to the local jurisdiction providing park facilities in that area. When so offered, the payment required by the recipient agency shall not exceed the costs incurred by the department in managing and protecting the land since receipt by the state.

(3) The department may review lands acquired by escheat since January 1, 1983, for their suitability for park purposes, and apply the evaluation and transfer procedures authorized by subsection (2) of this section. [2003 c 334 § 398; 1993 c 49 § 1; 1984 c 222 § 13; 1927 c 255 § 154; RRS § 7797-154. Formerly RCW 79.01.612, 43.12.100.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Real property distributed to state by probate court decree, jurisdiction of commissioner of public lands over: RCW 11.08.220.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.10.040 Gifts of land for offices.** Any county, city or town is authorized and empowered to convey to the state of Washington any lands owned by such county, city or town upon the selection of such lands by the department and the department is hereby authorized to select and accept conveyances of lands from such counties, cities or towns, suitable for use by the department as locations for offices, warehouses and machinery storage buildings in the administration of the forestry laws and lands of the state of Washington: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, No consideration shall be paid by the state nor by the department for the conveyance of such lands by such county, city or town. [1988 c 128 § 25; 1937 c 125 § 1; RRS § 5812-3c. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1937 c 125 § 2 now codified as RCW 76.12.045. Formerly RCW 76.12.040.]

**79.10.050 Gifts of county or city land for offices, warehouses, etc.—Use of lands authorized.** The department is authorized to use such lands for the purposes hereinbefore expressed and to improve said lands and build thereon any necessary structures for the purposes hereinbefore expressed and expend in so doing such funds as may be authorized by law therefor. [1988 c 128 § 26; 1937 c 125 § 2; RRS § 5812-3d. Formerly RCW 76.12.045, 76.12.040.]

**79.10.060 Compliance with local ordinances, when.** The department may comply with county or municipal zoning ordinances, laws, rules, or regulations affecting the use of public lands where such regulations are consistent with the treatment of similar private lands. [2004 c 199 § 209; 2003 c 334 § 544; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 13. Formerly RCW 79.68.110.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.070 Management of public lands within watershed area providing water supply for city or town—Lake Whatcom municipal watershed pilot project—Report—Exclusive method of condemnation by city or town for watershed purposes.** (1) In the management of public lands lying within the limits of any watershed over and through which is derived the water supply of any city or town, the department may alter its land management practices to provide water with qualities exceeding standards established for intrastate and interstate waters by the department of ecology. However, if such alterations of management by the department reduce revenues from, increase costs of management of, or reduce the market value of public lands the city or town requesting such alterations shall fully compensate the department.

(2) The department shall initiate a pilot project for the municipal watershed delineated by the Lake Whatcom hydrographic boundaries to determine what factors need to be considered to achieve water quality standards beyond those required under chapter 90.48 RCW and what additional management actions can be taken on state trust lands that can contribute to such higher water quality standards. The department shall establish an advisory committee consisting of a representative each of the city of Bellingham, Whatcom county, the Whatcom county water district 10, the department of ecology, the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of health, and three general citizen members to assist in this pilot project. In the event of differences of opinion among the members of the advisory committee, the committee shall attempt to resolve these differences through various means, including the retention of facilitation or mediation services.

(3) The pilot project in subsection (2) of this section shall be completed by June 30, 2000. The department shall defer all timber sales in the Lake Whatcom hydrographic boundaries until the pilot project is complete.

(4) Upon completion of the study, the department shall provide a report to the natural resources committee of the house of representatives and to the natural resources, parks, and recreation committee of the senate summarizing the results of the study.

(5) The exclusive manner, notwithstanding any provisions of the law to the contrary, for any city or town to acquire by condemnation ownership or rights in public lands for watershed purposes within the limits of any watershed over or through which is derived the water supply of any city or town shall be to petition the legislature for such authority. Nothing in RCW 79.44.003 and this chapter shall be construed to affect any existing rights held by third parties in the lands applied for. [2003 c 334 § 332; 1999 c 257 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 11; 1927 c 255 § 32; RRS § 7797-32. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 2; 1909 c 223 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 6; 1901 c 148 § 1; 1899 c 129 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 12; 1895 c 178 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.01.128, 79.12.110.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Condemnation proceedings where state land involved: RCW 8.28.010.*

(2012 Ed.)

*Municipal corporation in adjoining state may condemn watershed property: RCW 8.28.050.*

**79.10.080 Classification of land after timber removed.** When the merchantable timber has been sold and actually removed from any state lands, the department may classify the land, and may reserve from any future sale such portions thereof as may be found suitable for reforestation, and in such case, shall enter such reservation in its records. All lands reserved shall not be subject to sale or lease. The commissioner shall certify all such reservations for reforestation so made, to the board. It shall be the duty of the department to protect such lands, and the remaining timber thereon, from fire and to reforest the same. [2003 c 334 § 340; 1959 c 257 § 16; 1927 c 255 § 41; RRS § 7797-41. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 2; 1909 c 223 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 6; 1901 c 148 § 1; 1899 c 129 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 12; 1895 c 178 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.01.164, 79.12.200.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Acquisition, management, and disposition of state forest lands: Chapter 79.22 RCW.*

**79.10.090 Economic analysis of state lands held in trust—Scope—Use.** Periodically at intervals to be determined by the board, the department shall cause an economic analysis to be made of those state lands held in trust, where the nature of the trust makes maximization of the economic return to the beneficiaries of income from state lands the prime objective. The analysis shall be by specific tracts, or where such tracts are of similar economic characteristics, by groupings of such tracts.

The most recently made analysis shall be considered by the department in making decisions as to whether to sell or lease state lands, standing timber or crops thereon, or minerals therein, including but not limited to oil and gas and other hydrocarbons, rocks, gravel, and sand.

The economic analysis shall include, but shall not be limited to the following criteria: (1) Present and potential sale value; (2) present and probable future returns on the investment of permanent state funds; (3) probable future inflationary or deflationary trends; (4) present and probable future income from leases or the sale of land products; and (5) present and probable future tax income derivable therefrom specifically including additional state, local, and other tax revenues from potential private development of land currently used primarily for grazing and other similar low priority use; such private development would include, but not be limited to, development as irrigated agricultural land. [2003 c 334 § 320; 1969 ex.s. c 131 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.095.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## PART 2 MULTIPLE USE

**79.10.100 Concept to be utilized, when.** The legislature hereby directs that a multiple use concept be utilized by the department in the administration of public lands where such a concept is in the best interests of the state and the general welfare of the citizens thereof, and is consistent with the applicable provisions of the various lands involved. [2004 c

199 § 210; 2003 c 334 § 534; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.68.010.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.110 "Multiple use" defined.** "Multiple use" as used in RCW 79.10.070, 79.44.003, and this chapter shall mean the management and administration of state-owned lands under the jurisdiction of the department to provide for several uses simultaneously on a single tract and/or planned rotation of one or more uses on and between specific portions of the total ownership consistent with the provisions of RCW 79.10.100. [2003 c 334 § 535; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.68.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.120 Multiple uses compatible with financial obligations of trust management—Other uses permitted, when.** Multiple uses additional to and compatible with those basic activities necessary to fulfill the financial obligations of trust management may include but are not limited to:

- (1) Recreational areas;
- (2) Recreational trails for both vehicular and nonvehicular uses;
- (3) Special educational or scientific studies;
- (4) Experimental programs by the various public agencies;
- (5) Special events;
- (6) Hunting and fishing and other sports activities;
- (7) Nonconsumptive wildlife activities as defined by the board of natural resources;
- (8) Maintenance of scenic areas;
- (9) Maintenance of historical sites;
- (10) Municipal or other public watershed protection;
- (11) Greenbelt areas;
- (12) Public rights-of-way;
- (13) Other uses or activities by public agencies;

If such additional uses are not compatible with the financial obligations in the management of trust land they may be permitted only if there is compensation from such uses satisfying the financial obligations. [2003 c 182 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.68.050.]

**79.10.125 Land open to public for fishing, hunting, and nonconsumptive wildlife activities.** All state lands hereafter leased for grazing or agricultural purposes shall be open and available to the public for purposes of hunting and fishing, and for nonconsumptive wildlife activities, as defined by the board of natural resources, unless closed to public entry because of fire hazard or unless the department gives prior written approval and the area is lawfully posted by lessee to prohibit hunting and fishing, and nonconsumptive wildlife activities, thereon in order to prevent damage to crops or other land cover, to improvements on the land, to livestock, to the lessee, or to the general public, or closure is necessary to avoid undue interference with carrying forward a departmental or agency program. In the event any such lands are so posted it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt or fish, or pursue nonconsumptive wildlife activities, on any such posted lands. Such lands shall not be open and available

for wildlife activities when access could endanger crops on the land or when access could endanger the person accessing the land.

The department shall insert the provisions of this section in all new grazing and agricultural leases. [2003 c 334 § 371; 2003 c 182 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 46 § 1; 1959 c 257 § 29; 1947 c 171 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 61; RRS § 7797-61. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 4; 1903 c 79 § 4; 1897 c 89 § 19; 1895 c 178 § 32. Formerly RCW 79.01.244, 79.12.430.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

(2) This section was amended by 2003 c 182 § 1 and by 2003 c 334 § 371, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.10.130 Scope of department's authorized activities.** The department is hereby authorized to carry out all activities necessary to achieve the purposes of RCW 79.10.060, 79.10.070, 79.10.100 through 79.10.120, 79.10.130, 79.10.200 through 79.10.330, 79.44.003, and \*79.90.456, including, but not limited to:

(1) Planning, construction, and operation of conservation, recreational sites, areas, roads, and trails, by itself or in conjunction with any public agency;

(2) Planning, construction, and operation of special facilities for educational, scientific, conservation, or experimental purposes by itself or in conjunction with any other public or private agency;

(3) Improvement of any lands to achieve the purposes of RCW 79.10.060, 79.10.070, 79.10.100 through 79.10.120, 79.10.130, 79.10.200 through 79.10.330, 79.44.003, and \*79.90.456;

(4) Cooperation with public and private agencies in the utilization of such lands for watershed purposes;

(5) The authority to make such leases, contracts, agreements, or other arrangements as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of RCW 79.10.060, 79.10.070, 79.10.100 through 79.10.120, 79.10.130, 79.10.200 through 79.10.330, 79.44.003, and \*79.90.456. However, nothing in this section shall affect any existing requirements for public bidding or auction with private agencies or parties, except that agreements or other arrangements may be made with public schools, colleges, universities, governmental agencies, and nonprofit scientific and educational associations. [2003 c 334 § 540; 1987 c 472 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.68.070.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.90.456 was recodified as RCW 79.105.050 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1003.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.10.140 Outdoor recreation—Construction, operation, and maintenance of primitive facilities—Right-of-way and public access—Use of state and federal outdoor recreation funds.** The department is authorized:

(1) To construct, operate, and maintain primitive outdoor recreation and conservation facilities on lands under its jurisdiction which are of primitive character when deemed necessary by the department to achieve maximum effective devel-

opment of such lands and resources consistent with the purposes for which the lands are held. This authority shall be exercised only after review by the recreation and conservation funding board and determination by the recreation and conservation funding board that the department is the most appropriate agency to undertake such construction, operation, and maintenance. Such review is not required for campgrounds designated and prepared or approved by the department;

(2) To acquire right-of-way and develop public access to lands under the jurisdiction of the department and suitable for public outdoor recreation and conservation purposes;

(3) To receive and expend funds from federal and state outdoor recreation funding measures for the purposes of this section and RCW 79A.50.110. [2007 c 241 § 23; 2003 c 334 § 122; 1987 c 472 § 13; 1986 c 100 § 51; 1967 ex.s. c 64 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.30.300.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Exchange of lands to secure private lands for parks and recreation purposes:* RCW 79A.50.110.

*Recreation and conservation funding board:* Chapter 79A.25 RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.10.200 Multiple use land resource allocation plan—Adoption—Factors considered.** The department may adopt a multiple use land resource allocation plan for all or portions of the lands under its jurisdiction providing for the identification and establishment of areas of land uses and identifying those uses which are best suited to achieve the purposes of RCW 79.10.060, 79.10.070, 79.10.100 through 79.10.120, 79.10.130, 79.10.200 through 79.10.330, 79.44.003, and \*79.90.456. Such plans shall take into consideration the various ecological conditions, elevations, soils, natural features, vegetative cover, climate, geographical location, values, public use potential, accessibility, economic uses, recreational potentials, local and regional land use plans or zones, local, regional, state, and federal comprehensive land use plans or studies, and all other factors necessary to achieve the purposes of RCW 79.10.060, 79.10.070, 79.10.100 through 79.10.120, 79.10.130, 79.10.200 through 79.10.330, 79.44.003, and \*79.90.456. [2003 c 334 § 542; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.68.090.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.90.456 was recodified as RCW 79.105.050 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1003.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.210 Public lands identified and withdrawn.** For the purpose of providing increased continuity in the management of public lands and of facilitating long range planning by interested agencies, the department is authorized to identify and to withdraw from all conflicting uses at such times and for such periods as it shall determine appropriate, limited acreages of public lands under its jurisdiction. Acreages so withdrawn shall be maintained for the benefit of the public and, in particular, of the public schools, colleges, and universities, as areas in which may be observed, studied, enjoyed, or otherwise utilized the natural ecological systems thereon, whether such systems be unique or typical to the state of Washington. Nothing herein is intended to or shall

(2012 Ed.)

modify the department's obligation to manage the land under its jurisdiction in the best interests of the beneficiaries of granted trust lands. [2003 c 334 § 539; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.68.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.220 Conferring with other agencies.** The department may confer with other public and private agencies to facilitate the formulation of policies and/or plans providing for multiple use concepts. The department is empowered to hold public hearings from time to time to assist in achieving the purposes of RCW 79.10.060, 79.10.070, 79.10.100 through 79.10.120, 79.10.130, 79.10.200 through 79.10.330, 79.44.003, and \*79.90.456. [2003 c 334 § 543; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.68.100.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.90.456 was recodified as RCW 79.105.050 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1003.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.240 Department's existing authority and powers preserved.** Nothing in RCW 79.10.060, 79.10.070, 79.10.100 through 79.10.120, 79.10.130, 79.10.200 through 79.10.330, 79.44.003, and \*79.90.456 shall be construed to affect or repeal any existing authority or powers of the department in the management or administration of the lands under its jurisdiction. [2003 c 334 § 546; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 12. Formerly RCW 79.68.900.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.90.456 was recodified as RCW 79.105.050 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1003.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.250 Existing withdrawals for state park and state game purposes preserved.** Nothing in RCW 79.10.060, 79.10.070, 79.10.100 through 79.10.120, 79.10.130, 79.10.200 through 79.10.330, 79.44.003, and \*79.90.456 shall be construed to affect, amend, or repeal any existing withdrawal of public lands for state park or state game purposes. [2003 c 334 § 547; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 15. Formerly RCW 79.68.910.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.90.456 was recodified as RCW 79.105.050 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1003.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.280 Land use data bank—Contents, source.** (1) The department shall design expansion of its land use data bank to include additional information that will assist in the formulation, evaluation, and updating of intermediate and long-range goals and policies for land use, population growth and distribution, urban expansion, open space, resource preservation and utilization, and other factors which shape statewide development patterns and significantly influence the quality of the state's environment. The system shall be designed to permit inclusion of other lands in the state and will do so as financing and time permit.

(2) Such data bank shall contain any information relevant to the future growth of agriculture, forestry, industry, business, residential communities, and recreation; the wise use of land and other natural resources which are in accordance with their character and adaptability; the conservation and protection of the soil, air, water, and forest resources; the

protection of the beauty of the landscape; and the promotion of the efficient and economical uses of public resources.

The information shall be assembled from all possible sources, including but not limited to, the federal government and its agencies, all state agencies, all political subdivisions of the state, all state operated universities and colleges, and any source in the private sector. All state agencies, all political subdivisions of the state, and all state universities and colleges are directed to cooperate to the fullest extent in the collection of data in their possession. Information shall be collected on all areas of the state but collection may emphasize one region at a time.

(3) The data bank shall make maximum use of computerized or other advanced data storage and retrieval methods. The department is authorized to engage consultants in data processing to ensure that the data bank will be as complete and efficient as possible.

(4) The data shall be made available for use by any governmental agency, research organization, university or college, private organization, or private person as a tool to evaluate the range of alternatives in land and resource planning in the state. [2003 c 334 § 545; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 16. Formerly RCW 79.68.120.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

### PART 3 SUSTAINABLE HARVEST

**79.10.300 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 79.10.310, 79.10.320, and 79.10.330.

(1) "Arrearage" means the summation of the annual sustainable harvest timber volume since July 1, 1979, less the sum of state timber sales contract default volume and the state timber sales volume deficit since July 1, 1979.

(2) "Default" means the volume of timber remaining when a contractor fails to meet the terms of the sales contract on the completion date of the contract or any extension thereof and timber returned to the state under \*RCW 79.01.1335.

(3) "Deficit" means the summation of the difference between the department's annual planned sales program volume and the actual timber volume sold.

(4) "Planning decade" means the ten-year period covered in the forest land management plan adopted by the board.

(5) "Sustainable harvest level" means the volume of timber scheduled for sale from state-owned lands during a planning decade as calculated by the department and approved by the board. [2003 c 334 § 537; 1987 c 159 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.68.035.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 79.01.1335 expired December 31, 1984.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Legislative findings—1987 c 159:** "Adequately funding construction of the state's educational facilities represents one of the highest priority uses of state-owned lands. Many existing facilities need replacement and many additional facilities will be needed by the year 2000 to house students entering the educational system. The sale of timber from state-owned lands plays a key role in supporting the construction of school facilities. Currently and in the future, demands for school construction funds are expected to exceed available revenues.

The department of natural resources sells timber on a sustained yield basis. Since 1980, purchasers defaulted on sales contracts affecting over one billion one hundred million board feet of timber. Between 1981 and 1983,

the department sold six hundred million board feet of timber less than the sustainable harvest level. As a consequence of the two actions, the department entered their 1984-1993 planning decade with a timber sale arrearage which could be sold without adversely affecting the continued productivity of the state-owned forests." [1987 c 159 § 1.]

**79.10.310 "Sustained yield plans" defined.** "Sustained yield plans" as used in RCW 79.10.070, 79.44.003, and this chapter shall mean management of the forest to provide harvesting on a continuing basis without major prolonged curtailment or cessation of harvest. [2003 c 334 § 536; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.68.030.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.320 Sustainable harvest program.** The department shall manage the state-owned lands under its jurisdiction which are primarily valuable for the purpose of growing forest crops on a sustained yield basis insofar as compatible with other statutory directives. To this end, the department shall periodically adjust the acreages designated for inclusion in the sustained yield management program and calculate a sustainable harvest level. [2003 c 334 § 538; 1987 c 159 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.68.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Legislative findings—1987 c 159:** See note following RCW 79.10.300.

**79.10.330 Arrearages—End of decade.** If an arrearage exists at the end of any planning decade, the department shall conduct an analysis of alternatives to determine the course of action regarding the arrearage which provides the greatest return to the trusts based upon economic conditions then existing and forecast, as well as impacts on the environment of harvesting the additional timber. The department shall offer for sale the arrearage in addition to the sustainable harvest level adopted by the board of natural resources for the next planning decade if the analysis determined doing so will provide the greatest return to the trusts. [1987 c 159 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.68.045.]

**Legislative findings—1987 c 159:** See note following RCW 79.10.300.

**79.10.340 Sustainable harvest sale.** The board of natural resources shall offer for sale the sustainable harvest as identified in the 1984-1993 forest land management program, or as subsequently revised. In the event that decisions made by entities other than the department cause a decrease in the sustainable harvest the department shall offer additional timber sales from state-managed lands. [1989 c 424 § 9. Formerly RCW 43.30.390.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### PART 4 COOPERATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

**79.10.400 Cooperative agreements.** The department with regard to state forest lands and state lands is hereby authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the United States of America, Indian tribes, and private owners of timber land providing for coordinated forest management, including time, rate, and method of cutting timber and

method of silvicultural practice on a sustained yield unit. [2003 c 334 § 510; 1988 c 128 § 67; 1941 c 123 § 1; 1939 c 130 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7879-11. Formerly RCW 79.60.010, 79.52.070.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.410 Cooperative units.** The department is hereby authorized and directed to determine, define, and declare informally the establishment of a sustained yield unit, comprising the land area to be covered by any such cooperative agreement and include therein such other lands as may be later acquired by the department and included under the cooperative agreement. [2003 c 334 § 511; 1988 c 128 § 68; 1939 c 130 § 2; RRS § 7879-12. Formerly RCW 79.60.020, 79.52.080.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.420 Limitations on agreements.** The department shall agree that the cutting from combined national forest lands, state forest lands, and state lands will be limited to the sustained yield capacity of these lands in the management unit as determined by the contracting parties and approved by the board for state forest lands and by the department for state lands. Cooperation with the private contracting party or parties shall be contingent on limitation of production to a specified amount as determined by the contracting parties and approved by the board for state forest lands and by the department for state lands and shall comply with the other conditions and requirements of such cooperative agreement. [2003 c 334 § 512; 1988 c 128 § 69; 1939 c 130 § 3; RRS § 7879-13. Formerly RCW 79.60.030, 79.52.090.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.430 Easements—Life of agreements.** The private contracting party or parties shall enjoy the right of easement over state forest lands and state lands included under said cooperative agreement for railway, road, and other uses necessary to the carrying out of the agreement. This easement shall be only for the life of the cooperative agreement and shall be granted without charge with the provision that payment shall be made for all merchantable timber cut, removed, or damaged in the use of such easement, payment to be based on the contract stumpage price for timber of like value and species and to be made within thirty days from date of cutting, removal, and/or damage of such timber and appraisal thereof by the department. [2003 c 334 § 513; 1988 c 128 § 70; 1941 c 123 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7879-13a. Formerly RCW 79.60.040, 79.52.110.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.440 Sale agreements.** During the period when any such cooperative agreement is in effect, the timber on the state forest lands and state lands which the department determines shall be included in the sustained yield unit may, from time to time, be sold at not less than its appraised value as approved by the department for state lands and the board for state forest lands, due consideration being given to existing forest conditions on all lands included in the cooperative management unit and such sales may be made in the discretion of the department and the contracting party or parties in the cooperative sustained yield agreement. These sale agree-

ments shall contain such provisions as are necessary to effectually permit the department to carry out the purpose of this section and in other ways afford adequate protection to the public interests involved. [2003 c 334 § 514; 1988 c 128 § 71; 1939 c 130 § 4; RRS § 7879-14. Formerly RCW 79.60.050, 79.52.100.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.450 Minimum price.** The sale of timber upon state forest land and state land within such sustained yield unit or units shall be made for not less than the appraised value thereof as heretofore provided for the sale of timber on state lands. However, if in the judgment of the department, it is to the best interests of the state to do so, the timber or any such sustained yield unit or units may be sold on a stumpage or scale basis for a price per thousand not less than the appraised value thereof. The department shall reserve the right to reject any and all bids if the intent of this chapter will not be carried out. Permanency of local communities and industries, prospects of fulfillment of contract requirements, and financial position of the bidder shall all be factors included in this decision. [2003 c 334 § 515; 1988 c 128 § 72; 1939 c 130 § 5; RRS § 7879-15. Formerly RCW 79.60.060, 79.52.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.460 Contracts—Requirements.** A written contract shall be entered into with the successful bidder which shall fix the time when logging operations shall be commenced and concluded and require monthly payments for timber removed as soon as scale sheets have been tabulated and the amount of timber removed during the month determined, or require payments monthly in advance at the discretion of the board or the department. The board and the department shall designate the price per thousand to be paid for each species of timber and shall provide for supervision of logging operations, the methods of scaling and report, and shall require the purchaser to comply with all laws of the state of Washington with respect to fire protection and logging operation of the timber purchased; and shall contain such other provisions as may be deemed advisable. [2003 c 334 § 516; 1939 c 130 § 6; RRS § 7879-16. Formerly RCW 79.60.070, 79.52.050, part.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.470 Transfer or assignment of contracts.** No transfer or assignment by the purchaser shall be valid unless the transferee or assignee is acceptable to the department and the transfer or assignment approved by it in writing. [2003 c 334 § 517; 1988 c 128 § 73; 1941 c 123 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7879-16a. Formerly RCW 79.60.080, 79.52.120.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.10.480 Performance bond—Cash deposit.** The purchaser shall, at the time of executing the contract, deliver a performance bond or sureties acceptable in regard to terms and amount to the department, but such performance bond or sureties shall not exceed ten percent of the estimated value of the timber purchased computed at the stumpage price and at no time shall exceed a total of fifty thousand dollars. The purchaser shall also be required to make a cash deposit equal

to twenty percent of the estimated value of the timber purchased, computed at the stumpage bid. Upon failure of the purchaser to comply with the terms of the contract, the performance bond or sureties may be forfeited to the state upon order of the department.

At no time shall the amount due the state for timber actually cut and removed exceed the amount of the deposit as set forth in this section. The amount of the deposit shall be returned to the purchaser upon completion and full compliance with the contract by the purchaser, or it may, at the discretion of the purchaser, be applied on final payment on the contract. [2003 c 334 § 518; 1988 c 128 § 74; 1941 c 123 § 4; 1939 c 130 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7879-17. Formerly RCW 79.60.090, 79.52.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## Chapter 79.11 RCW STATE LAND SALES

### Sections

#### PART 1 SALE PROCEDURES

79.11.005	Sale of administrative sites.
79.11.010	Maximum and minimum acreage subject to sale—Exception—Approval by legislature or regents.
79.11.020	Powers/duties of department.
79.11.030	Terms of sale.
79.11.040	Who may purchase—Application—Fees.
79.11.060	Entire section may be inspected.
79.11.070	Survey to determine area subject to sale.
79.11.080	Inspection and appraisal.
79.11.090	Sales by public auction—Appraised value.
79.11.100	Date of sale limited by time of appraisal—Purchasers required to make independent appraisals.
79.11.110	Separate appraisal of improvements.
79.11.120	Sale procedure—Fixing date, place, and time of sale.
79.11.130	Notice—Pamphlet—List of lands to be sold—Certain valuable materials exempt.
79.11.135	Notification requirements.
79.11.140	Additional advertising.
79.11.150	Conduct of sales.
79.11.160	Deposit by purchaser to cover value of improvements.
79.11.165	Reoffer.
79.11.175	Confirmation of sale.
79.11.190	Readvertisement of lands not sold.
79.11.200	Form of contract—Rate of interest.
79.11.210	Reservation in contract.
79.11.220	Relinquishment to United States, in certain cases of reserved mineral rights.

#### PART 2 PLATTING

79.11.250	Lands subject to platting.
79.11.260	Vacation—Vested rights.
79.11.270	Vacation—Preference right to purchase.

#### PART 3 OTHER SALE PROVISIONS

79.11.290	Leased lands reserved from sale.
79.11.310	Sale of lands with low-income potential.
79.11.320	Assessments added to purchase price.
79.11.340	Sale of acquired lands.

#### PART 1 SALE PROCEDURES

**79.11.005 Sale of administrative sites.** (1) The department is authorized to sell any real property not designated or acquired as state forest lands, but acquired by the state, either in the name of the forest board, the forestry board, or the division of forestry, for administrative sites, lien foreclosures, or

other purposes whenever it shall determine that the lands are no longer or not necessary for public use.

(2) The sale may be made after public notice to the highest bidder for such a price as approved by the governor, but not less than the fair market value of the real property, plus the value of improvements thereon. Any instruments necessary to convey title must be executed by the governor in a form approved by the attorney general.

(3) All amounts received from the sale must be credited to the fund of the department of government that is responsible for the acquisition and maintenance of the property sold. [2003 c 334 § 201; 1988 c 128 § 12; 1955 c 121 § 1. Formerly RCW 76.01.010.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

#### **79.11.010 Maximum and minimum acreage subject to sale—Exception—Approval by legislature or regents.**

(1) Not more than one hundred and sixty acres of any land granted to the state by the United States shall be offered for sale in one parcel and no university lands shall be offered for sale except by legislative directive or with the consent of the board of regents of the University of Washington.

(2) Any land granted to the state by the United States may be sold for any lawful purpose in such minimum acreage as may be fixed by the department. [2003 c 334 § 321; 1982 c 54 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 200 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 46 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 78 § 1; 1959 c 257 § 5; 1955 c 394 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 24; RRS § 7797-24. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 15; 1909 p 256 § 4; 1907 c 256 § 5; 1903 c 91 § 3; 1897 c 89 § 11. Formerly RCW 79.01.096, 79.12.030.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Public lands, funds for support of common school fund: State Constitution Art. 9 § 3.*

*School and granted lands: State Constitution Art. 16.*

*University of Washington: Chapter 28B.20 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.020 Powers/duties of department.** The department shall exercise general supervision and control over the sale for any purpose of land granted to the state for educational purposes. It shall be the duty of the department to prepare all reports, data, and information in its records pertaining to any such proposed sale. The department shall have power, if it deems it advisable, to order that any particular sale of such land be held in abeyance pending further inspection and report. The department may cause such further inspection and report of land involved in any proposed sale to be made and for that purpose shall have power to employ its own inspectors, cruisers, and other technical assistants. Upon the basis of such further inspection and report the department shall determine whether or not, and the terms upon which, the proposed sale shall be consummated. [2003 c 334 § 318; 1988 c 128 § 54; 1941 c 217 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7797-23A. Formerly RCW 79.01.094, 43.65.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.11.030 Terms of sale.** All state lands shall be sold on terms and conditions established by the board in light of market conditions. Sales by real estate contract or for cash

may be authorized. All deferred payments shall draw interest at such rate as may be fixed, from time to time, by rule adopted by the board, and the rate of interest, as so fixed at the date of each sale, shall be stated in all advertising for and notice of sale and in the contract of sale. All remittances for payment of either principal or interest shall be forwarded to the department. [2003 c 334 § 359; 1984 c 222 § 11; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 159; 1969 ex.s. c 267 § 1; 1959 c 257 § 24; 1927 c 255 § 54; RRS § 7797-54. Prior: 1917 c 149 § 1; 1915 c 147 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 3; 1897 c 89 § 16; 1895 c 178 §§ 25, 29. Formerly RCW 79.01.216, 79.12.380.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **79.11.040 Who may purchase—Application—Fees.**

Any person desiring to purchase any state lands shall file an application on the forms provided by the department and accompanied by the fees authorized under RCW 79.02.250. [2003 c 334 § 311; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 151; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 2; 1967 c 163 § 4; 1959 c 257 § 3; 1927 c 255 § 22; RRS § 7797-22. Prior: 1909 c 223 § 2; 1907 c 256 § 5; 1903 c 74 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 11; 1895 c 178 §§ 17, 18. Formerly RCW 79.01.088, 79.12.010.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.060 Entire section may be inspected.** Whenever application is made to purchase less than a section of unplatted state lands, the department may order the inspection of the entire section or sections of which the lands applied for form a part. [2003 c 334 § 327; 1959 c 257 § 9; 1927 c 255 § 28; RRS § 7797-28. Prior: 1909 c 223 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.112, 79.12.070.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

#### **79.11.070 Survey to determine area subject to sale.**

The department may cause any state lands to be surveyed for the purpose of ascertaining and determining the area subject to sale. [2003 c 334 § 330; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 153; 1959 c 257 § 11; 1927 c 255 § 30; RRS § 7797-30. Prior: 1909 c 223 § 2; 1907 c 256 § 5; 1903 c 74 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 11; 1895 c 178 §§ 17, 18. Formerly RCW 79.01.120, 79.12.090.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.080 Inspection and appraisal.** When in the judgment of the department, there is sufficient interest for the appraisal and sale of state lands, the department shall cause each tract of land to be inspected as to its topography, development potential, forestry, agricultural, and grazing qualities, coal, mineral, stone, gravel, or other valuable material, the distance from any city or town, railroad, river, irrigation canal, ditch, or other waterway, and location of utilities. In case of an application to purchase land granted to the state for educational purposes, the department shall submit a report to the board, which board shall fix the value per acre of each lot, block, subdivision, or tract proposed to be sold in one parcel, which value shall be not less than ten dollars per acre. In case of applications to purchase state lands, other than lands granted to the state for educational purposes and capitol

(2012 Ed.)

building lands, the department shall appraise and fix the value thereof. [2003 c 334 § 314; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 78 § 3; 1959 c 257 § 4; 1941 c 217 § 2; 1935 c 136 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 23; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7797-23. Prior: 1909 c 223 § 2; 1907 c 256 § 5; 1903 c 74 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 11; 1895 c 178 §§ 17, 18. Formerly RCW 79.01.092, 79.12.020.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **79.11.090 Sales by public auction—Appraised value.**

Except as provided in RCW 79.11.340, all sales of land under this chapter shall be at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms prescribed by law and as specified in the notice provided under RCW 79.11.120, and no land shall be sold for less than its appraised value. [2003 c 334 § 352; (2003 c 381 § 3 repealed by 2006 c 42 § 3); 1989 c 148 § 3; 1988 c 136 § 1; 1979 c 54 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 45 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 123 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 14 § 4; 1961 c 73 § 3; 1959 c 257 § 21; 1933 c 66 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 50; RRS § 7797-50. Prior: 1923 c 19 § 1; 1913 c 36 § 1; 1909 c 223 § 4; 1907 c 152 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 14; 1895 c 178 § 28. Formerly RCW 79.01.200, 79.12.340.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

#### **79.11.100 Date of sale limited by time of appraisal—Purchasers required to make independent appraisals.**

In no case shall any lands granted to the state be offered for sale under this chapter unless the same shall have been appraised by the board within ninety days prior to the date fixed for the sale. A purchaser of state lands may not rely upon the appraisal prepared by the department or made by the board for purposes of deciding whether to make a purchase from the department. All purchasers are required to make their own independent appraisals. [2004 c 199 § 211; 2003 c 334 § 328; 2001 c 250 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 152; 1959 c 257 § 10; 1935 c 55 § 1 (adding section 29 to 1927 c 255 in lieu of original section 29 which was vetoed); RRS § 7797-29. Prior: 1909 c 223 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.116, 79.12.080.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **79.11.110 Separate appraisal of improvements.**

Before any state lands are offered for sale, the department may establish the fair market value of those authorized improvements not owned by the state. [2003 c 334 § 336; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 5; 1959 c 257 § 14; 1927 c 255 § 34; RRS § 7797-34. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 2; 1909 c 223 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 6; 1901 c 148 § 1; 1899 c 129 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 12; 1895 c 178 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.01.136, 79.12.130.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.120 Sale procedure—Fixing date, place, and time of sale.** When the department decides to sell any state lands, or with the consent of the board of regents of the University of Washington, or by legislative directive, decides to

sell any lot, block, tract, or tracts of university lands, it is the duty of the department to fix the date, place, and time of sale.

(1) No sale may be conducted on any day that is a legal holiday.

(2) Sales must be held between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. If all sales cannot be offered within this time period, the sale must continue on the following day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

(3) Sales must take place:

(a) At the department's regional office administering the respective sale; or

(b) On county property designated by the board of county commissioners or county legislative authority of the county in which the whole or majority of state lands are situated. [2003 c 334 § 344; (2003 c 381 § 2 repealed by 2006 c 42 § 3); 2001 c 250 § 6; 1997 c 116 § 2; 1989 c 148 § 2; 1988 c 136 § 3; 1983 c 2 § 17. Prior: 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 156; 1982 c 27 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 123 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 14 § 3; 1959 c 257 § 18; 1927 c 255 § 46; RRS § 7797-46; prior: 1923 c 19 § 1; 1913 c 36 § 1; 1909 c 223 § 4; 1907 c 152 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 14; 1895 c 178 § 28. Formerly RCW 79.01.184, 79.12.300.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*County auditor, transfer of duties:* RCW 79.02.090.

*School and granted lands, manner and terms of sale:* State Constitution Art. 16 § 2.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.130 Notice—Pamphlet—List of lands to be sold—Certain valuable materials exempt.** (1) The department shall give notice of the sale by advertisement published not fewer than two times during a four-week period prior to the time of sale in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the whole, or any part of any lot, block, or tract of land to be sold is situated, and by posting a copy of the notice in a conspicuous place in the department's Olympia office, the region headquarters administering such sale, and in the office of the county auditor of such county. The notice shall specify the place, date, and time of sale, the appraised value of the land, describe with particularity each parcel of land to be sold, and specify that the terms of sale will be available in the region headquarters and the department's Olympia office.

(2) The advertisement is for informational purposes only, and under no circumstances does the information in the notice of sale constitute a warranty that the purchaser will receive the stated values, volumes, or acreage. All purchasers are expected to make their own measurements, evaluations, and appraisals.

(3) The department shall print a list of all public lands and the appraised value thereof, that are to be sold. This list should be published in a pamphlet form to be issued at least four weeks prior to the date of any sale of the lands. The list should be organized by county and by alphabetical order, and provide sale information to prospective buyers. The department shall retain for free distribution in the Olympia office and the region offices sufficient copies of the pamphlet, to be kept in a conspicuous place, and, when requested so to do, shall mail copies of the pamphlet as issued to any requesting applicant. The department may seek additional means of

publishing the information in the pamphlet, such as on the internet, to increase the number of prospective buyers.

(4) The sale of valuable materials appraised at an amount not exceeding two hundred fifty thousand dollars, as described in \*RCW 79.01.200 and as authorized by the board of natural resources, are exempt from the requirements of subsection (3) of this section. [2003 c 381 § 4; 2003 c 334 § 346; 2001 c 250 § 7; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 157; 1959 c 257 § 19; 1927 c 255 § 47; RRS § 7797-47. Prior: 1923 c 19 § 1; 1913 c 36 § 1; 1909 c 223 § 4; 1907 c 152 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 14; 1895 c 178 § 28. Formerly RCW 79.01.188, 79.12.310.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 79.01.200 was recodified as RCW 79.11.090 pursuant to 2003 c 334 § 556.

(2) This section was amended by 2003 c 334 § 346 and by 2003 c 381 § 4, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*County auditor, transfer of duties:* RCW 79.02.090.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.135 Notification requirements.** Actions under this chapter are subject to the notification requirements of RCW 43.17.400. [2007 c 62 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—2007 c 62:** See notes following RCW 43.17.400.

**79.11.140 Additional advertising.** The department is authorized to expend any sum in additional advertising of such sale as it determines to be for the best interest of the state. [2003 c 334 § 348; 1927 c 255 § 48; RRS § 7797-48. Prior: 1923 c 19 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 14. Formerly codified as RCW 79.01.192, 79.12.320.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.11.150 Conduct of sales.** Sales by public auction under this chapter shall be conducted under the direction of the department or its authorized representative. The department or department's representative are hereinafter referred to as auctioneers. On or before the time specified in the notice of sale each bidder shall deposit with the auctioneer, in cash or by certified check, cashier's check, money order payable to the order of the department of natural resources, or by bid guarantee in the form of bid bond acceptable to the department, an amount equal to the deposit specified in the notice of sale. The deposit shall include a specified amount of the appraised price for the land offered for sale, together with any fee required by law for the issuance of contracts, deeds, or bills of sale. The deposit may, when prescribed in notice of sale, be considered an opening bid of an amount not less than the minimum appraised price established in the notice of sale. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained by the auctioneer and the difference, if any, between the deposit and the total amount due shall on the day of the sale be paid in cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, or money order, made payable to the department. If a bid bond is used, the share of the total deposit due guaranteed by the bid bond shall, within ten days of the day of sale, be paid in cash, certified check, cashier's check, money order, or other acceptable payment method payable to the department. Other deposits, if any, shall be returned to the respective bidders at the conclusion of each sale. The auctioneer shall

deliver to the purchaser a memorandum of his or her purchase containing a description of the land or materials purchased, the price bid, and the terms of the sale. The auctioneer shall at once send to the department the cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, money order, bid guarantee, or other acceptable payment method received from the purchaser, and a copy of the memorandum delivered to the purchaser, together with such additional report of the proceedings with reference to such sales as may be required by the department. [2003 c 334 § 354; 2001 c 250 § 8; 1982 c 27 § 2; 1979 c 54 § 3; 1961 c 73 § 4; 1959 c 257 § 22; 1927 c 255 § 51; RRS § 7797-51. Prior: 1923 c 19 § 1; 1913 c 36 § 1; 1909 c 223 § 4; 1907 c 152 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 14; 1895 c 178 § 28. Formerly RCW 79.01.204, 79.12.350.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.11.160 Deposit by purchaser to cover value of improvements.** A purchaser of state lands who is not the owner of the authorized improvements thereon shall deposit with the auctioneer making the sale, at the time of the sale, the appraised value of such improvements. The department shall pay to the owner of the improvements the sum deposited. However, when the improvements are owned by the state in accordance with the provisions of this chapter or have been acquired by the state by escheat or operation of law, the purchaser may pay for such improvements in equal annual installments at the same time, and with the same rate of interest, as the installments of the purchase price of the land are paid, and under such rules regarding use and care of the improvements as may be fixed by the department. [2003 c 334 § 338; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 7; 1935 c 57 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 37; RRS § 7797-37. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 2; 1909 c 223 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 6; 1901 c 148 § 1; 1899 c 129 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 12; 1895 c 178 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.01.148, 79.12.160.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.165 Reoffer.** Any sale which has been offered, and for which there are no bids received shall not be reoffered until it has been readvertised as specified in RCW 79.11.130 and 79.11.140. If all sales cannot be offered within the specified time on the advertised date, the sale shall continue on the following day between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. [2003 c 334 § 349; 1965 ex.s. c 23 § 3; 1959 c 257 § 20; 1927 c 255 § 49; RRS § 7797-49. Prior: 1923 c 19 § 1; 1913 c 36 § 1; 1909 c 223 § 4; 1907 c 152 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 14; 1895 c 178 § 28. Formerly RCW 79.01.196, 79.12.330.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.11.175 Confirmation of sale.** The department shall enter upon its records a confirmation of sale and issue to the purchaser a contract of sale if the following conditions have been met:

- (1) No fewer than ten days have passed since the auctioneer's report has been filed;
- (2) No affidavit is filed with the department showing that the interests of the state in the sale was injuriously affected by fraud or collusion;
- (3) It appears from the auctioneer's report that:

- (a) The sale was fairly conducted; and
- (b) The purchaser was the highest bidder and the bid was not less than the appraised value of the land sold;
- (4) The department is satisfied that the land sold would not, upon being readvertised and offered for sale, sell for at least ten percent more than the price bid by the purchaser;
- (5) The payment required by law to be made at the time of making the sale has been made;
- (6) The department determines the best interests of the state will be served by confirming the sale. [2003 c 334 § 357; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 158; 1959 c 257 § 23; 1927 c 255 § 53; RRS § 7797-53. Prior: 1907 c 256 § 7; 1903 c 79 § 2; 1897 c 89 § 15; 1895 c 178 § 29. Formerly RCW 79.01.212, 79.12.370.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*County auditor, transfer of duties:* RCW 79.02.090.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.190 Readvertisement of lands not sold.** If any land offered for sale is not sold, it may again be advertised for sale, as provided in this chapter, whenever in the opinion of the commissioner it shall be expedient to do so. Whenever any person applies to the department in writing to have such land offered for sale, agrees to pay at least the appraised value thereof and deposits with the department at the time of making such application a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of advertising such sale, the land shall again be advertised and offered for sale as provided in this chapter. [2003 c 334 § 356; 1927 c 255 § 52; RRS § 7797-52. Prior: 1923 c 19 § 1; 1913 c 36 § 1; 1909 c 223 § 4; 1907 c 152 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 14; 1895 c 178 § 24. Formerly RCW 79.01.208, 79.12.360.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.11.200 Form of contract—Rate of interest.** The purchaser of state lands under the provisions of this chapter, except in cases where the full purchase price is paid at the time of the purchase, shall enter into and sign a contract with the state, to be signed by the commissioner on behalf of the state, with the seal of the commissioner's office attached, and in a form to be prescribed by the attorney general, in which the purchaser shall covenant to make the payments of principal and interest, computed from the date the contract is issued, when due, and that the purchaser will pay all taxes and assessments that may be levied or assessed on such land, and that on failure to make the payments as prescribed in this chapter when due all rights of the purchaser under said contract may, at the election of the commissioner, acting for the state, be forfeited, and that when forfeited the state shall be released from all obligation to convey the land. The purchaser's rights under the real estate contract shall not be forfeited except as provided in chapter 61.30 RCW.

The contract provided for in this section shall be executed in duplicate, and one copy shall be retained by the purchaser and the other shall be filed in the department's Olympia office.

The commissioner may, as deemed advisable, extend the time for payment of principal and interest on contracts heretofore issued, and contracts to be issued under this chapter.

The department shall notify the purchaser of any state lands in each instance when payment on the purchaser's contract is overdue, and that the purchaser is liable to forfeiture if

payment is not made when due. [2003 c 334 § 361; 1985 c 237 § 18; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 162; 1959 c 257 § 26; 1927 c 255 § 57; RRS § 7797-57. Prior: 1897 c 89 §§ 17, 18, 27; 1895 c 178 §§ 30, 31. Formerly RCW 79.01.228, 79.12.400.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.210 Reservation in contract.** Each and every contract for the sale of, and each deed to, state lands shall contain the following reservation: "The party of the first part hereby expressly saves, excepts, and reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself and its successors and assigns forever, all oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals, and fossils of every name, kind, or description, and which may be in or upon said lands above described, or any part thereof, and the right to explore the same for such oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals, and fossils; and it also hereby expressly saves and reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself and its successors and assigns forever, the right to enter by itself or its agents, attorneys, and servants upon said lands, or any part or parts thereof, at any and all times, for the purpose of opening, developing, and working mines thereon, and taking out and removing therefrom all such oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals, and fossils, and to that end it further expressly reserves out of the grant hereby made, unto itself its successors and assigns, forever, the right by its or their agents, servants, and attorneys at any and all times to erect, construct, maintain, and use all such buildings, machinery, roads, and railroads, sink such shafts, remove such soil, and to remain on said lands or any part thereof for the business of mining and to occupy as much of said lands as may be necessary or convenient for the successful prosecution of such mining business, hereby expressly reserving to itself and its successors and assigns, as aforesaid, generally, all rights and powers in, to, and over said land, whether herein expressed or not, reasonably necessary or convenient to render beneficial and efficient the complete enjoyment of the property and the rights hereby expressly reserved.

No rights shall be exercised under the foregoing reservation, by the state or its successors or assigns, until provision has been made by the state or its successors or assigns, to pay to the owner of the land upon which the rights reserved under this section to the state or its successors or assigns, are sought to be exercised, full payment for all damages sustained by said owner, by reason of entering upon said land: PROVIDED, That if said owner from any cause whatever refuses or neglects to settle said damages, then the state or its successors or assigns, or any applicant for a lease or contract from the state for the purpose of prospecting for or mining valuable minerals, or option contract, or lease, for mining coal, or lease for extracting petroleum or natural gas, shall have the right to institute such legal proceedings in the superior court of the county wherein the land is situate, as may be necessary to determine the damages which said owner of said land may suffer." [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 161; 1927 c 255 § 56; RRS § 7797-56. Prior: 1917 c 149 § 1; 1915 c 147 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 3; 1897 c 89 § 16; 1895 c 178 §§ 25, 29. Formerly RCW 79.01.224, 79.12.410.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.11.220 Relinquishment to United States, in certain cases of reserved mineral rights.** Whenever the state shall have heretofore sold or may hereafter sell any state lands and issued a contract of purchase or executed a deed of conveyance therefor, in which there is a reservation of all oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals, and fossils of every kind and of rights in connection therewith, and the United States of America shall have acquired for governmental purposes and uses all right, title, claim, and interest of the purchaser, or grantee, or his or her successors in interest or assigns, in or to the contract or the land described therein, except such reserved rights, and no oils, gases, coal, ores, minerals, or fossils of any kind have been discovered or are known to exist in or upon such lands, the commissioner may, if it is advisable, cause to be prepared a deed of conveyance to the United States of America of such reserved rights, and certify the same to the governor in the manner provided by law for deeds to state lands, and the governor shall be, and hereby is authorized to execute, and the secretary of state to attest, a deed of conveyance for such reserved rights to the United States of America. [2003 c 334 § 449; 1931 c 105 § 1; RRS § 8124-1. Formerly RCW 79.08.110.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Certification of deed to governor:* RCW 79.02.270.

## PART 2 PLATTING

**79.11.250 Lands subject to platting.** The department shall cause all unplatted state lands, within the limits of any incorporated city or town, or within two miles of the boundary thereof, where the valuation of such lands is found by appraisal to exceed one hundred dollars per acre, to be platted into lots and blocks, of not more than five acres in a block, before the same are offered for sale, and not more than one block shall be offered for sale in one parcel. The department may designate or describe any such plat by name, or numeral, or as an addition to such city or town, and, upon the filing of any such plat, it shall be sufficient to describe the lands, or any portion thereof, embraced in such plat, according to the designation prescribed by the department. Such plats shall be made in duplicate, and when properly authenticated by the department, one copy thereof shall be filed in the office of the department and one copy in the office of the county auditor in which the lands are situated, and the auditor shall receive and file such plats without compensation or fees and make record thereof in the same manner as required by law for the filing and recording of other plats in the auditor's office.

In selling lands subject to the provisions of Article 16, section 4, of the state Constitution, the department will be permitted to sell the land within the required land subdivision without being required to complete the construction of streets, utilities, and such similar things as may be required by any local government entity in the instance of the platting of private or other property within their area of jurisdiction. However, no construction will be permitted on lands so sold until the purchaser or purchasers collectively comply with all of the normal requirements for platting. [2003 c 334 § 324; 1967 ex.s. c 78 § 4; 1959 c 257 § 6; 1927 c 255 § 25; RRS § 7797-25. Prior: 1909 c 223 § 2; 1907 c 256 § 5; 1903 c 74 §

1; 1897 c 89 § 11; 1895 c 178 §§ 17, 18. Formerly RCW 79.01.100, 79.12.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Platting: State Constitution Art. 16 § 4.*

*Recording—Duties of county auditor: Chapter 65.04 RCW.*

**79.11.260 Vacation—Vested rights.** When, in the judgment of the department the best interest of the state will be thereby promoted, the department may vacate any plat or plats covering state lands, and vacate any street, alley, or other public place therein situated. The vacation of any such plat shall not affect the vested rights of any person or persons theretofore acquired therein. In the exercise of this authority to vacate the department shall enter an order in the records of its office and at once forward a certified copy thereof to the county auditor of the county wherein the platted lands are located. The auditor shall cause the same to be recorded in the miscellaneous records of the auditor's office and noted on the plat by reference to the volume and page of the record. [2003 c 334 § 325; 1959 c 257 § 7; 1927 c 255 § 26; RRS § 7797-26. Prior: 1903 c 127 §§ 1, 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.104, 79.12.050.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.11.270 Vacation—Preference right to purchase.** Whenever all the owners and other persons having a vested interest in the lands abutting on any street, alley, or other public place, or any portion thereof, in any plat of state lands, lying outside the limits of any incorporated city or town, petition the department, the department may vacate any such tract, alley, or public place or part thereof and in such case all such streets, alleys, or other public places or portions thereof so vacated shall be platted, appraised, and sold or leased in the manner provided for the platting, appraisal, and sale or lease of similar lands. However, where the area vacated can be determined from the plat already filed it shall not be necessary to survey such area before platting the same. The owner or owners, or other persons having a vested interest in the lands abutting on any of the lots, blocks, or other parcels platted upon the lands embraced within any area vacated as provided in this section, shall have a preference right for the period of sixty days from the date of filing with the department such plat and the appraisal of such lots, blocks, or other parcels of land, to purchase the same at the appraised value thereof. [2003 c 334 § 326; 1959 c 257 § 8; 1927 c 255 § 27; RRS § 7797-27. Prior: 1903 c 127 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.108, 79.12.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

### PART 3 OTHER SALE PROVISIONS

**79.11.290 Leased lands reserved from sale.** State lands held under lease as provided in RCW 79.13.370 shall not be offered for sale, or sold, during the life of the lease, except upon application of the lessee. [2003 c 334 § 380; 1927 c 255 § 75; RRS § 7797-75. Prior: 1897 c 89 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.01.300, 79.12.560.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

(2012 Ed.)

### 79.11.310 Sale of lands with low-income potential.

(1) The purpose of this section is to provide revenues to the state and its various taxing districts through the sale of public lands which are currently used primarily for grazing and similar low priority purposes, by enabling their development as irrigated agricultural lands.

(2) All applications for the purchase of lands of the foregoing character, when accompanied by a proposed plan of development of the lands for a higher priority use, shall be individually reviewed by the board. The board shall thereupon determine whether the sale of the lands is in the public interest and upon an affirmative finding shall offer such lands for sale. However, any such parcel of land shall be sold to the highest bidder but only at a bid equal to or higher than the last appraised valuation thereof as established by appraisers for the department for any such parcel of land. Further, any lands lying within United States reclamation areas, the sale price of which is limited or otherwise regulated pursuant to federal reclamation laws or regulations thereunder, need not be offered for sale so long as such limitations or regulations are applicable thereto.

(3) The department shall adopt appropriate rules defining properties of such irrigated agricultural potential and shall take into account the economic benefits to the locality in classifying such properties for sale. [2003 c 334 § 381; 1967 ex.s. c 78 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.301.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

### 79.11.320 Assessments added to purchase price.

(1) When any public land of the state is offered for sale and the state has paid assessments for local improvements, or benefits, to any municipal corporation authorized by law to assess the same, the amount of the assessments paid by the state shall be added to the appraised value of such land.

(2) The amount of assessments paid by the state shall be paid by the purchaser in addition to the amount due the state for the land.

(3) In case of sale by contract under RCW 79.11.220 the purchaser may pay the assessments in equal annual installments at the same time, and with the same rate of interest upon deferred payments, as the installments of the purchase price for the land are paid.

(4) No deed shall be executed until such assessments have been paid. [2003 c 334 § 430; 1927 c 255 § 192; RRS § 7797-192. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 180 § 1; 1909 c 154 § 7; 1907 c 73 § 3; 1905 c 144 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.728, 79.44.110.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Assessments paid by state to be added to purchase price of land: RCW 79.44.095.*

**79.11.340 Sale of acquired lands.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 79.10.030(2), the department shall manage and control all lands acquired by the state by escheat, deed of sale, gift, devise, or under RCW 79.19.010 through 79.19.110, except such lands that are conveyed or devised to the state for a particular purpose.

(2) When the department determines to sell the lands, they shall initially be offered for sale either at public auction or direct sale to public agencies as provided in this chapter.

(3) If the lands are not sold at public auction, the department may, with approval of the board, market the lands through persons licensed under chapter 18.85 RCW or through other commercially feasible means at a price not lower than the land's appraised value.

(4) Necessary marketing costs may be paid from the sale proceeds. For the purpose of this subsection, necessary marketing costs include reasonable costs associated with advertising the property and paying commissions.

(5) Proceeds of the sale shall be deposited into the appropriate fund in the state treasury unless the grantor in any deed or the testator in case of a devise specifies that the proceeds of the sale be devoted to a particular purpose. [2003 c 334 § 399.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## Chapter 79.13 RCW LAND LEASES

### Sections

#### PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

79.13.010	Lease of state lands—General.
79.13.020	Who may lease.
79.13.030	Lease contents.
79.13.040	Inspections—Surveys.
79.13.050	Improvements.
79.13.060	Lease terms.
79.13.070	Forfeiture.
79.13.080	Disposition of crops on forfeited land.
79.13.090	Leases to United States for national defense.
79.13.100	Battery charging, battery exchange, and rapid charging stations.

#### PART 2 LEASE PROCEDURE

79.13.110	Types of lease authorization.
79.13.120	Notice of leasing.
79.13.130	Lease procedure—Scheduling auctions.
79.13.140	Public auction procedure.
79.13.150	Lease/rent of acquired lands.
79.13.160	Appraisalment of improvement before lease.
79.13.170	Water right for irrigation as improvement.
79.13.180	Record of leases.

#### PART 3 AGRICULTURAL/GRAZING LEASES

79.13.320	Share crop leases authorized.
79.13.330	Harvest, storage of crop—Notice—Warehouse receipt.
79.13.340	Sale, storage, or other disposition of crops.
79.13.350	Insurance of crop—Division of cost.
79.13.360	Application of other provisions to share crop leases.
79.13.370	Grazing leases—Restrictions.
79.13.380	Livestock grazing on lieu lands.
79.13.390	Grazing permits—United States government.
79.13.400	Improvement of grazing ranges—Agreements.
79.13.410	Improvement of grazing ranges—Extension of permit.

#### PART 4 OTHER LEASES

79.13.500	Amateur radio repeater stations—Legislative intent.
79.13.510	Amateur radio electronic repeater sites and units—Reduced rental rates—Frequencies.
79.13.520	Nonprofit television reception improvements districts—Rental of public lands—Intent.
79.13.530	Geothermal resources—Guidelines for development.

#### PART 5 ECOSYSTEM STANDARDS

79.13.600	Findings—Salmon stocks—Grazing lands—Coordinated resource management plans.
-----------	---

79.13.610	Grazing lands—Fish and wildlife goals—Technical advisory committee—Implementation.
79.13.620	Purpose—Ecosystem standards.

## PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

**79.13.010 Lease of state lands—General.** (1) Subject to other provisions of this chapter and subject to rules adopted by the board, the department may lease state lands for purposes it deems advisable, including, but not limited to, commercial, industrial, residential, agricultural, and recreational purposes in order to obtain a fair market rental return to the state or the appropriate constitutional or statutory trust, and if the lease is in the best interest of the state or affected trust.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision in this chapter to the contrary, in leases for residential purposes, the board may waive or modify any conditions of the lease if the waiver or modification is necessary to enable any federal agency or lending institution authorized to do business in this state or elsewhere in the United States to participate in any loan secured by a security interest in a leasehold interest.

(3) Any land granted to the state by the United States may be leased for any lawful purpose in such minimum acreage as may be fixed by the department.

(4) The department shall exercise general supervision and control over the lease of state lands for any lawful purpose.

(5) State lands leased or for which permits are issued or contracts are entered into for the prospecting and extraction of valuable materials, coal, oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons are subject to the provisions of chapter 79.14 RCW.

(6) The department may also lease or lease development rights on state lands held for the benefit of the common schools to public agencies, as defined in RCW 79.17.200. [2007 c 504 § 1; 2003 c 334 § 366; 1984 c 222 § 12; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.01.242.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Savings—2007 c 504:** "This act does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended or under any rule or order adopted under those sections, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under those sections." [2007 c 504 § 4.]

**Severability—2007 c 504:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2007 c 504 § 5.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.13.020 Who may lease.** Any person desiring to lease any state lands for any purpose not prohibited by law may make application to the department on forms provided by the department and accompanied by the fee provided under RCW 79.02.250. [2003 c 334 § 370.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.030 Lease contents.** Every lease issued by the department must contain:

- (1) The specific use or uses to which the land is to be employed;
- (2) The improvements required, if any;

(3) Provisions providing that the rent is payable in advance in quarterly, semiannual, or annual payments as determined by the department, or as agreed upon by the lessee and the department;

(4) Other terms and conditions as the department deems advisable, subject to review by the board, to achieve the purposes of the state Constitution and this chapter. [2003 c 334 § 367.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.040 Inspections—Surveys.** (1) When in the judgment of the department there is sufficient interest for the lease of state lands, it must inspect each tract of land as to its topography, development potential, forestry, agricultural, and grazing qualities; the presence of coal, mineral, stone, gravel, or other valuable materials; the distance from any city or town, railroad, river, irrigation canal, ditch, or other waterway; and location of utilities.

(2) The department may survey any state lands to determine the area subject to lease.

(3) It is the duty of the department to prepare all reports, data, and information in its records pertaining to any proposed lease.

(4) The department may order that any particular application for a lease be held in abeyance pending further inspection and report by the department. Based on the further inspection and report, the department must determine whether or not, and the terms upon which, the proposed lease is consummated. [2003 c 334 § 316.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.050 Improvements.** (1) Only improvements authorized in writing by the department or consistent with the approved plan of development may be placed on the state lands under lease. Improvements are subject to the following conditions:

(a) A minimum reasonable time must be allowed for completion of the improvements;

(b) Improvements become the property of the state at the expiration or termination of the lease unless otherwise agreed upon under the terms of the lease; and

(c) The department may require improvements to be removed at the end of the lease term at the lessee's expense.

(2) Any improvements placed upon any state lands without the written authority of the department become the property of the state and are considered part of the land, unless required to be removed by the lessee under subsection (1)(c) of this section. [2003 c 334 § 315.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.060 Lease terms.** (1) State lands may be leased not to exceed ten years with the following exceptions:

(a) The lands may be leased for agricultural purposes not to exceed twenty-five years, except:

(i) Leases that authorize tree fruit or grape production may be for up to fifty-five years;

(ii) Share crop leases may not exceed ten years;

(b) The lands may be leased for commercial, industrial, business, or recreational purposes not to exceed fifty-five years;

(2012 Ed.)

(c) The lands may be leased for public school, college, or university purposes not to exceed seventy-five years;

(d) The lands may be leased for residential purposes not to exceed ninety-nine years; and

(e) The lands and development rights on state lands held for the benefit of the common schools may be leased to public agencies, as defined in RCW 79.17.200, not to exceed ninety-nine years. The leases may include provisions for renewal of lease terms.

(2) No lessee of state lands may remain in possession of the land after the termination or expiration of the lease without the written consent of the department.

(a) The department may authorize a lease extension for a specific period beyond the term of the lease for cropping improvements for the purpose of crop rotation. These improvements shall be deemed authorized improvements under RCW 79.13.030.

(b) Upon expiration of the lease term, the department may allow the lessee to continue to hold the land for a period not exceeding one year upon such rent, terms, and conditions as the department may prescribe, if the leased land is not otherwise utilized.

(c) Upon expiration of the one-year lease extension, the department may issue a temporary permit to the lessee upon terms and conditions it prescribes if the department has not yet determined the disposition of the land for other purposes.

(d) The temporary permit shall not extend beyond a five-year period.

(3) If during the term of the lease of any state lands for agricultural, grazing, commercial, residential, business, or recreational purposes, in the opinion of the department it is in the best interest of the state so to do, the department may, on the application of the lessee and in agreement with the lessee, alter and amend the terms and conditions of the lease. The sum total of the original lease term and any extension thereof shall not exceed the limits provided in this section. [2007 c 504 § 2; 2003 c 334 § 323.]

**Savings—Severability—2007 c 504:** See notes following RCW 79.13.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.070 Forfeiture.** If any rental is not paid on or before its due date according to the terms of the lease, the department must declare a forfeiture, cancel the lease, and eject the lessee from the land. The department may extend the time for payment of annual rental when in its judgment the interests of the state will not be prejudiced by the extension. [2003 c 334 § 375.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.080 Disposition of crops on forfeited land.** Whenever the state of Washington shall become the owner of any growing crop, or crop grown upon, any state lands, by reason of the forfeiture, cancellation, or termination of any contract or lease of state lands, or from any other cause, the department is authorized to arrange for the harvesting, sale, or other disposition of such crop in such manner as the department deems for the best interest of the state, and shall pay the proceeds of any such sale into the state treasury to be credited to the same fund as the rental of the lands upon which the crop was grown would be credited. [2003 c 334 §

342; 1927 c 255 § 43; RRS § 7797-43. Prior: 1915 c 89 §§ 1, 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.172, 79.12.240.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.090 Leases to United States for national defense.** State lands may be leased to the United States for national defense purposes at the fair rental value thereof as determined by the department, for a period of five years or less. Such leases may be made without competitive bidding at public auction and without payment in advance by the United States government of the first year's rental. Such leases otherwise shall be negotiated and arranged in the same manner as other leases of state lands. [2003 c 334 § 450; 1941 c 66 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8122-1. Formerly RCW 79.08.120.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.100 Battery charging, battery exchange, and rapid charging stations.** (1) The state and any local government, including any housing authority, is authorized to lease land owned by such an entity to any person for purposes of installing, maintaining, and operating a battery charging station, a battery exchange station, or a rapid charging station, for a term not in excess of fifty years, for rent of not less than one dollar per year, and with such other terms as the public entity's governing body determines in its sole discretion.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Battery charging station" means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(b) "Battery exchange station" means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(c) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

(d) "Rapid charging station" means an industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster recharging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540. [2009 c 459 § 6.]

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW 47.80.090.

*Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW 47.80.090.*

## PART 2 LEASE PROCEDURE

**79.13.110 Types of lease authorization.** (1) The department may authorize the use of state land by lease at

[Title 79 RCW—page 26]

state auction for initial leases or by negotiation for existing leases.

(2) Leases that authorize commercial, industrial, or residential uses may be entered into by public auction or negotiations at the option of the department. Negotiations are subject to rules approved by the board.

(3) Leases to public agencies, as defined in RCW 79.17.200, may be entered into by negotiations. Property subject to lease agreements under this section must be appraised at fair market value. The leases may allow for a lump sum payment for the entire term of the lease at the beginning of the lease. The department shall calculate lump sum payments using professional appraisal standards. Renewal terms for the leases must include provisions for calculating appropriate payments upon renewal. [2007 c 504 § 3; 2003 c 334 § 368.]

**Savings—Severability—2007 c 504:** See notes following RCW 79.13.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.120 Notice of leasing.** (1) The department must give thirty days' notice of leasing by public auction. The notice must:

(a) Specify the place and time of auction, bid deposit if any, the appraised value, describe each parcel to be leased, and the terms and conditions of the lease;

(b) Be posted in some conspicuous place in the county auditor's office and the department's regional headquarters administering the lease; and

(c) Be published in at least two newspapers of general circulation in the area where the state land subject to public auction leasing is located.

(2) Notice of intent to lease by negotiation must be published in at least two newspapers of general circulation in the area where the state land subject to lease negotiation is located. The notice must be published within the ninety days preceding commencement of negotiations.

(3) The department is authorized to conduct any additional advertising that it determines to be in the best interest of the state. [2003 c 334 § 369.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.130 Lease procedure—Scheduling auctions.** (1) When the department decides to lease any state lands at public auction it is the duty of the department to fix the date, place, and time when such lands shall be offered for lease.

(2) The auction must be conducted between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

(3) The auction must take place:

(a) At the department's regional office administering the lease; or

(b) When leases are auctioned by the county auditor, in the county where the state land to be leased is situated at such place as specified in the notice. [2003 c 334 § 372; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 11; 1927 c 255 § 62; RRS § 7797-62. Prior: 1897 c 89 § 20. Formerly RCW 79.01.248, 79.12.440.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**79.13.140 Public auction procedure.** (1) All leasing by public auction shall be by oral or by sealed bid. Leases will be awarded to the highest bidder on the terms prescribed by law and as specified in the notice of leasing described in RCW 79.13.120. No lease may be awarded for less than the appraised value.

(2) The public auction must be conducted under the direction of the department or by the auditor for the county in which the land to be leased is located. The person conducting the auction is called the auctioneer.

(3) The person to whom a lease of state lands is awarded shall pay the rental in accordance with that person's bid to the auctioneer in cash or by certified check or accepted draft on any bank in this state.

(4) The auctioneer shall send to the department such cash, certified check, draft, or money order received from the successful bidder, together with any additional report of the auction proceeding as may be required by the department.

(5) The department may reject any and all bids when the interests of the state justify it. If the department rejects a bid, it must refund any rental and bid deposit to the bidder upon return of the receipts issued.

(6) If the department approves any leasing made by the auctioneer, it must proceed to issue a lease to the successful bidder upon a form approved by the attorney general.

(a) All leases must be in duplicate and both copies signed by the lessee and the department.

(b) One signed copy must be forwarded to the lessee and one signed copy must be kept in the office of the department. [2003 c 334 § 373.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.150 Lease/rent of acquired lands.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 79.10.030(2), the department shall manage and control all lands acquired by the state through escheat, deed of sale, gift, devise, or under RCW 79.19.010 through 79.19.110, except lands that are conveyed or devised to the state for a particular purpose.

(2) The department shall lease the lands in the same manner as school lands.

(3) The department may employ agents to rent any escheated, deeded, or devised lands, or lands acquired under RCW 79.19.010 through 79.19.110 for such rental, time, and manner as the department directs.

(a) The agent shall not rent the property for a period longer than one year.

(b) No tenant is entitled to compensation for any improvement that he or she makes on the property.

(c) The agent shall cause repairs to be made to the property as the department directs.

(d) Rental shall be transmitted monthly to the department. The agent shall deduct the cost of any repairs made under (c) of this subsection, together with such compensation and commission as the department authorizes from the rental.

(4) Proceeds of any lease or rental shall be deposited into the appropriate fund in the state treasury. If the grantor in any deed or the testator in case of a devise specifies that the proceeds be devoted to a particular purpose, such proceeds shall be so applied. [2003 c 334 § 400.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

(2012 Ed.)

**79.13.160 Appraisal of improvement before lease.** Before any state lands are offered for lease, or are assigned, the department may establish the fair market value of those authorized improvements not owned by the state. In the event that agreement cannot be reached between the state and the lessee on the fair market value, such valuation shall be submitted to a review board of appraisers. The board is comprised of the following members: One member to be selected by the lessee and that person's expenses shall be borne by the lessee; one member selected by the state and that person's expenses shall be borne by the state; these members so selected shall mutually select a third member and that person's expenses shall be shared equally by the lessee and the state. The majority decision of this appraisal review board shall be binding on both parties. For this purpose, "fair market value" is defined as: The highest price in terms of money that a property will bring in a competitive and open market under all conditions of a fair sale, the buyer and seller, each prudently knowledgeable and assuming the price is not affected by undue stimulus. All damages and wastes committed upon such lands and other obligations due from the lessee shall be deducted from the appraised value of the improvements. However, the department on behalf of the respective trust may purchase at fair market value those improvements if it appears to be in the best interest of the state from the resource management cost account created in RCW 79.64.020. [2003 c 334 § 337.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.170 Water right for irrigation as improvement.** At any time during the existence of any lease of state lands, except lands leased for the purpose of mining of valuable minerals, or coal, or extraction of petroleum or gas, the lessee with the consent of the department, first obtained, by written application, showing the cost and benefits to be derived thereby, may purchase or acquire a water right appurtenant to and in order to irrigate the land leased. If such water right shall become a valuable and permanent improvement to the lands, then, in case of the sale or lease of such lands to other parties, the lessee acquiring such water right shall be entitled to receive the value thereof as in case of other improvements which have been placed upon the land by the lessee. [2003 c 334 § 376; 1959 c 257 § 32; 1927 c 255 § 71; RRS § 7797-71. Prior: 1903 c 79 § 7; 1897 c 89 § 31; 1895 c 178 § 41. Formerly RCW 79.01.284, 79.12.530.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.180 Record of leases.** The department shall keep a full and complete record of all leases issued under the provisions of the preceding sections and the payments made thereon. [2003 c 334 § 374; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 16; 1933 c 139 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 67; RRS § 7797-67. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 6; 1909 c 223 § 5; 1897 c 89 § 25. Formerly RCW 79.01.268, 79.12.490.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

PART 3  
AGRICULTURAL/GRAZING LEASES

**79.13.320 Share crop leases authorized.** The department may lease state lands on a share crop basis. Upon receipt of a written application to lease state lands, the department shall make such investigations as it deems necessary. If the department finds that such a lease would be advantageous to the state, it may proceed with the leasing of such lands on such terms and conditions as other state lands are leased. [2003 c 334 § 466; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 20; 1961 c 73 § 10; 1949 c 203 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7895-1. Formerly RCW 79.12.570.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.13.330 Harvest, storage of crop—Notice—Warehouse receipt.** When crops that are covered by a share crop lease are harvested, the lessee shall give written notice to the department that the crop is being harvested, and shall also give to the department the name and address of the warehouse or elevator to which such crops are sold or in which such crops will be stored. The lessee shall also serve on the owner of such warehouse or elevator a written copy of so much of the lease as shall show the percentage of division of the proceeds of such crop as between lessee and lessor. The owner of such warehouse or elevator shall make out a warehouse receipt, which receipt may be negotiable or nonnegotiable as directed by the state, showing the percentage of crops belonging to the state, and the respective gross and net amounts, grade, and location thereof, and shall deliver to the department the receipt for the state's percentage of such crops within ten days after the owner has received such instructions. [2003 c 334 § 467; 2000 c 18 § 1; 1949 c 203 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7895-4. Formerly RCW 79.12.600.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.340 Sale, storage, or other disposition of crops.** The department shall sell the crops covered by the warehouse receipt required in RCW 79.13.330 and may comply with the provisions of any federal act or the regulation of any federal agency with relation to the storage or disposition of the crop. [2003 c 334 § 468; 1977 c 20 § 1; 1949 c 203 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7895-5. Formerly RCW 79.12.610.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.350 Insurance of crop—Division of cost.** The lessee under any share crop lease issued by the department shall notify the department as soon as an estimated yield of the crop can be obtained. The estimate must be immediately submitted to the department, which is hereby authorized to insure the crop from loss by fire or hail. The cost of such insurance shall be paid by the state and lessee on the same basis as the crop returns to which each is entitled. [2003 c 334 § 469; 1949 c 203 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7895-6. Formerly RCW 79.12.620.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.360 Application of other provisions to share crop leases.** RCW 79.13.320 through 79.13.360 shall not repeal the provisions of the general leasing statutes of the state of Washington and all of the general provisions of such statutes with reference to filing of applications, deposits required therewith, forfeiture of deposits, cancellation of leases for noncompliance and general procedures shall apply to all leases issued under the provisions of RCW 79.13.320 through 79.13.360. [2003 c 334 § 470; 1949 c 203 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7895-7. Formerly RCW 79.12.630.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.370 Grazing leases—Restrictions.** The lessee, or assignee of any lease leased for grazing purposes, shall not use the land for any other purpose than that expressed in the lease. However, the lessee, or assignee, may surrender the lease to the department and request the department to issue an agricultural lease in lieu of the original lease. The department is authorized to issue a new lieu lease for the unexpired portion of the term of the lease surrendered upon payment of the fixed rental based on an appraisal of the land for agricultural purposes. Under the lieu lease the lessee shall be permitted to clear, plow, and cultivate the lands as in the case of an original lease for agricultural purposes. [2003 c 334 § 379; 1959 c 257 § 34; 1927 c 255 § 74; RRS § 7797-74. Prior: 1903 c 79 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.01.296, 79.12.550.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.380 Livestock grazing on lieu lands.** The department has the power, and it is its duty, to adopt, from time to time, reasonable rules for the grazing of livestock on such tracts and areas of the indemnity or lieu lands of the state contiguous to national forests and suitable for grazing purposes, as have been, or shall be, obtained from the United States under the provisions of RCW 79.02.120. [2004 c 199 § 212; 2003 c 334 § 491; 1923 c 85 § 1; RRS § 7826-1. Formerly RCW 79.28.040.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.390 Grazing permits—United States government.** The department may issue permits for the grazing of livestock on the lands described in RCW 79.13.380 in such manner and upon such terms, as near as may be, as permits are, or shall be, issued by the United States for the grazing of livestock on national forest lands. The department may charge such fees as it deems adequate and advisable. The department may cooperate with the United States for the protection and preservation of the grazing areas on the state lands contiguous to national forests and for the administration of the provisions of RCW 79.13.380 and 79.13.390. [2003 c 334 § 492; 1983 c 3 § 202; 1923 c 85 § 2; RRS § 7826-2. Formerly RCW 79.28.050.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.400 Improvement of grazing ranges—Agreements.** The department is hereby authorized on behalf of the state of Washington to enter into cooperative agreements with any person as defined in RCW 1.16.080 for the improvement of the state's grazing ranges by the clearing of debris,

maintenance of trails and water holes, and other requirements for the general improvement of the grazing ranges. [2003 c 334 § 493; 1963 c 99 § 1; 1955 c 324 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.28.070.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.410 Improvement of grazing ranges—Extension of permit.** In order to encourage the improvement of grazing ranges by holders of grazing permits, the department shall consider (1) extension of grazing permit periods to a maximum of ten years; and (2) reduction of grazing fees, in situations where the permittee contributes or agrees to contribute to the improvement of the range, financially, by labor, or otherwise. [2003 c 334 § 494; 1985 c 197 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 109 § 21; 1955 c 324 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.28.080.]

**Reviser's note:** This section does not apply to state tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. See RCW 79.02.095.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### PART 4 OTHER LEASES

**79.13.500 Amateur radio repeater stations—Legislative intent.** The department leases state lands and space on towers located on state lands to amateur radio operators for their repeater stations. These sites are necessary to maintain emergency communications for public safety and for use in disaster relief and search and rescue support.

The licensed amateur radio operators of the state provide thousands of hours of public communications service to the state every year. Their communication network spans the entire state, based in individual residences and linked across the state through a series of mountain-top repeater stations. The amateur radio operators install and maintain their radios and the electronic repeater stations at their own expense. The amateur radio operators who use their equipment to perform public services should not bear the sole responsibility for supporting the electronic repeater stations.

In recognition of the essential role performed by the amateur radio operators in emergency communications, the legislature intends to reduce the rental fee paid by the amateur radio operators while assuring the department full market rental for the use of state-owned property. [2003 c 334 § 461; 1988 c 209 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.12.015.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.510 Amateur radio electronic repeater sites and units—Reduced rental rates—Frequencies.** The department shall determine the lease rate for amateur radio electronic repeater sites and units available for public service communication. For the amateur operator to qualify for a rent of one hundred dollars per year per site, the amateur operator shall do one of the following: (1) Register and remain in good standing with the state's radio amateur civil emergency services and amateur radio emergency services organizations, or (2) if an amateur group, sign a statement of public service developed by the department.

The legislature's biennial appropriations shall account for the estimated difference between the one hundred dollar per year, per site, per lessee paid by the qualified amateur

operators and the fair market amateur rent, as established by the department.

The amateur radio regulatory authority approved by the federal communication commission shall assign the radio frequencies used by amateur radio lessees. The department shall develop guidelines to determine which lessees are to receive reduced rental fees as moneys are available by legislative appropriation to pay a portion of the rent for electronic repeaters operated by amateur radio operators. [2003 c 334 § 462; 1995 c 105 § 1; 1988 c 209 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.12.025.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.13.520 Nonprofit television reception improvements districts—Rental of public lands—Intent.** The department shall determine the fair market rental rate for leases to nonprofit television reception improvement districts. It is the intent of the legislature to appropriate general funds to pay a portion of the rent charged to nonprofit television reception improvement districts. It is the further intent of the legislature that such a lessee pay an annual lease rent of fifty percent of the fair market rental rate, as long as there is a general fund appropriation to compensate the trusts for the remainder of the fair market rental rate. [2003 c 334 § 464; 1994 c 294 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.12.055.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.13.530 Geothermal resources—Guidelines for development.** In an effort to increase potential revenue to the geothermal account, the department shall, by December 1, 1991, adopt rules providing guidelines and procedures for leasing state-owned land for the development of geothermal resources. [2003 c 334 § 465; 1991 c 76 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.12.095.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Geothermal account: Chapter 43.140 RCW.*

#### PART 5 ECOSYSTEM STANDARDS

**79.13.600 Findings—Salmon stocks—Grazing lands—Coordinated resource management plans.** The legislature finds that many wild stocks of salmonids in the state of Washington are in a state of decline. Stocks of salmon on the Columbia and Snake rivers have been listed under the federal endangered species act, and the bull trout has been petitioned for listing. Some scientists believe that numerous other stocks of salmonids in the Pacific Northwest are in decline or possibly extinct. The legislature declares that to lose wild stocks is detrimental to the genetic diversity of the fisheries resource and the economy, and will represent the loss of a vital component of Washington's aquatic ecosystems. The legislature further finds that there is a continuing loss of habitat for fish and wildlife. The legislature declares that steps must be taken in the areas of wildlife and fish habitat management, water conservation, wild salmonid stock protection, and education to prevent further losses of Washington's fish and wildlife heritage from a number of causes including urban and rural subdivisions, shopping centers, industrial park, and other land use activities.

The legislature finds that the maintenance and restoration of Washington's rangelands and shrub-steppe vegetation is vital to the long-term benefit of the people of the state. The legislature finds that approximately one-fourth of the state is open range or open-canopied grazable woodland. The legislature finds that these lands provide forage for livestock, habitat for wildlife, and innumerable recreational opportunities including hunting, hiking, and fishing.

The legislature finds that the development of coordinated resource management plans, that take into consideration the needs of wildlife, fish, livestock, timber production, water quality protection, and rangeland conservation on all state-owned grazing lands will improve the stewardship of these lands and allow for the increased development and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and other multipurpose benefits the public derives from these lands.

The legislature finds that the state currently provides insufficient technical support for coordinated resource management plans to be developed for all state-owned lands and for many of the private lands desiring to develop such plans. As a consequence of this lack of technical assistance, our state grazing lands, including fish and wildlife habitat and other resources provided by these lands, are not achieving their potential. The legislature also finds that with many state lands being intermixed with private grazing lands, development of coordinated resource management plans on state-owned and managed lands provides an opportunity to improve the management and enhance the conditions of adjacent private lands.

A purpose of chapter 4, Laws of 1993 sp. sess. is to establish state grazing lands as the model in the state for the development and implementation of standards that can be used in coordinated resource management plans and to thereby assist the timely development of coordinated resource management plans for all state-owned grazing lands. Every lessee of state lands who wishes to participate in the development and implementation of a coordinated resource management plan shall have the opportunity to do so. [1996 c 163 § 2. Prior: 1993 sp.s. c 4 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.2951.]

**79.13.610 Grazing lands—Fish and wildlife goals—Technical advisory committee—Implementation.** (1) By December 31, 1993, the department of fish and wildlife shall develop goals for the wildlife and fish that this agency manages, to preserve, protect, and perpetuate wildlife and fish on shrub steppe habitat or on lands that are presently agricultural lands, rangelands, or grazable woodlands. These goals shall be consistent with the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem.

(2) By July 31, 1993, the conservation commission shall appoint a technical advisory committee to develop standards that achieve the goals developed in subsection (1) of this section. The committee members shall include but not be limited to technical experts representing the following interests: Agriculture, academia, range management, utilities, environmental groups, commercial and recreational fishing interests, the Washington rangelands committee, Indian tribes, the department of fish and wildlife, the department of natural resources, the department of ecology, conservation districts, and the department of agriculture. A member of the conservation commission shall chair the committee.

(3) By December 31, 1994, the committee shall develop standards to meet the goals developed under subsection (1) of this section. These standards shall not conflict with the recovery of wildlife or fish species that are listed or proposed for listing under the federal endangered species act. These standards shall be utilized to the extent possible in development of coordinated resource management plans to provide a level of management that sustains and perpetuates renewable resources, including fish and wildlife, riparian areas, soil, water, timber, and forage for livestock and wildlife. Furthermore, the standards are recommended for application to model watersheds designated by the Northwest power planning council in conjunction with the conservation commission. The maintenance and restoration of sufficient habitat to preserve, protect, and perpetuate wildlife and fish shall be a major component included in the standards and coordinated resource management plans. Application of standards to privately owned lands is voluntary and may be dependent on funds to provide technical assistance through conservation districts.

(4) The conservation commission shall approve the standards and shall provide them to the departments of natural resources and fish and wildlife, each of the conservation districts, and Washington State University cooperative extension service. The conservation districts shall make these standards available to the public and for coordinated resource management planning. Application to private lands is voluntary.

(5) The department of natural resources shall implement practices necessary to meet the standards developed pursuant to this section on department managed agricultural and grazing lands, consistent with the trust mandate of the Washington state Constitution and Title 79 RCW. The standards may be modified on a site-specific basis as needed to achieve the fish and wildlife goals, and as determined by the department of fish and wildlife, and the department of natural resources. Existing lessees shall be provided an opportunity to participate in any site-specific field review. Department agricultural and grazing leases issued after December 31, 1994, shall be subject to practices to achieve the standards that meet those developed pursuant to this section. [1998 c 245 § 162; 1993 sp.s. c 4 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.295.]

**Findings—Grazing lands—1993 sp.s. c 4:** See RCW 79.13.600.

**79.13.620 Purpose—Ecosystem standards.** (1) It is the purpose of chapter 163, Laws of 1996 that all state agricultural lands, grazing lands, and grazeable woodlands shall be managed in keeping with the statutory and constitutional mandates under which each agency operates. Chapter 163, Laws of 1996 is consistent with section 1, chapter 4, Laws of 1993 sp. sess.

(2) The ecosystem standards developed under chapter 4, Laws of 1993 sp. sess. for state-owned agricultural and grazing lands are defined as desired ecological conditions. The standards are not intended to prescribe practices. For this reason, land managers are encouraged to use an adaptive management approach in selecting and implementing practices that work towards meeting the standards based on the best available science and evaluation tools.

(3) For as long as the chapter 4, Laws of 1993 sp. sess. ecosystem standards remain in effect, they shall be applied

through a collaborative process that incorporates the following principles:

(a) The land manager and lessee or permittee shall look at the land together and make every effort to reach agreement on management and resource objectives for the land under consideration;

(b) They will then discuss management options and make every effort to reach agreement on which of the available options will be used to achieve the agreed-upon objectives;

(c) No land manager or owner ever gives up his or her management prerogative;

(d) Efforts will be made to make land management plans economically feasible for landowners, managers, and lessees and to make the land management plan compatible with the lessee's entire operation;

(e) Coordinated resource management planning is encouraged where either multiple ownerships, or management practices, or both, are involved;

(f) The department of fish and wildlife shall consider multiple use, including grazing, on lands owned or managed by the department of fish and wildlife where it is compatible with the management objectives of the land; and

(g) The department shall allow multiple use on lands owned or managed by the department where multiple use can be demonstrated to be compatible with RCW 79.10.100, 79.10.110, and 79.10.120.

(4) The ecosystem standards are to be achieved by applying appropriate land management practices on riparian lands and on the uplands in order to reach the desired ecological conditions.

(5) The legislature urges that state agencies that manage grazing lands make planning and implementation of chapter 163, Laws of 1996, using the coordinated resource management and planning process, a high priority, especially where either multiple ownerships, or multiple use resources objectives, or both, are involved. In all cases, the choice of using the coordinated resource management planning process will be a voluntary decision by all concerned parties including agencies, private landowners, lessees, permittees, and other interests. [2003 c 334 § 378; 1996 c 163 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.2955.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Chapter 79.14 RCW**

**MINERAL, COAL, OIL, AND GAS LEASES**

(Formerly: Oil and gas leases on state lands)

Sections

**PART 1  
OIL AND GAS**

- 79.14.010 Definitions.
- 79.14.020 Leases authorized—Terms—Duration.
- 79.14.030 Rental fees—Minimum royalties.
- 79.14.040 Compensation to owners of private rights and to state for surface damage.
- 79.14.050 Drilling operations beyond lease term—Lease provisions.
- 79.14.060 Surrender of lease—Liability.
- 79.14.070 Royalties.
- 79.14.080 Leases of land within a geologic structure.
- 79.14.090 Cancellation or forfeiture of leases—New leases.
- 79.14.100 Cooperative or unit plans—Communization or drilling agreements.
- 79.14.110 Customary provisions in leases.

(2012 Ed.)

- 79.14.120 Rules.
- 79.14.130 Wells to be located minimum distance from boundaries—Exception.
- 79.14.140 Rights-of-way over public lands—Payment for timber.
- 79.14.150 Sales of timber—Rules.
- 79.14.160 Development after discovery.
- 79.14.170 Spacing and offsetting of wells.
- 79.14.180 Lands may be withheld from leasing.
- 79.14.190 Payment of royalty share—Royalty in kind.
- 79.14.200 Prior permits validated—Relinquishment for new leases.
- 79.14.210 Assignments and subleases of leases.
- 79.14.220 Appeal from rulings of commissioner.

**PART 2  
PROSPECTING AND MINING**

- 79.14.300 Prospecting and mining contracts—Authority.
- 79.14.310 Prospecting and mining—Public auction of mining contracts.
- 79.14.315 Recreational prospecting permits.
- 79.14.320 Department may adopt rules.
- 79.14.330 Prospecting lease—Application fee.
- 79.14.340 Compensation for loss or damage to surface rights.
- 79.14.350 Prospecting leases—Term—Rent—Conditions.
- 79.14.360 Conversion to mining contract.
- 79.14.370 Prospecting and mining—Lessee's rights and duties.
- 79.14.380 Prospecting and mining—Termination for default.
- 79.14.390 Prospecting leases and mining contracts—Form, terms, conditions.
- 79.14.400 Prospecting and mining—Reclamation of premises.
- 79.14.410 Prospecting and mining—Minimum royalty.
- 79.14.420 Mining contracts—Renewal of contract.
- 79.14.430 Prospecting and mining—Consolidation.
- 79.14.440 Prospecting and mining—Disclosure of information.
- 79.14.450 Prospecting and mining—Disposition of materials not covered by lease or contract.

**PART 3  
COAL MINING**

- 79.14.470 Leases and option contracts authorized.
- 79.14.480 Application for option contract—Fee.
- 79.14.490 Investigation and issue of option contract.
- 79.14.500 Damage to surface owner or lessee.
- 79.14.510 Lease—Application, terms, royalties.
- 79.14.520 Lease without option contract.
- 79.14.530 Confidential information.
- 79.14.540 Use and sale of materials from land.
- 79.14.550 Suspension of mining—Termination of lease.
- 79.14.560 Condition of premises on termination.
- 79.14.570 Re-lease—Procedure—Preference rights.
- 79.14.580 Waste prohibited.
- 79.14.900 Severability—1955 c 131.

*Franchises on county roads and bridges: Chapter 36.55 RCW.*

*Gas and hazardous liquid pipelines: Chapter 81.88 RCW.*

*Interstate oil compact commission, governor may join: RCW 43.06.015.*

*Oil and gas conservation: Chapter 78.52 RCW.*

**PART 1  
OIL AND GAS**

**79.14.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, "public lands" means lands and areas belonging to or held in trust by the state, including tide and submerged lands of the Pacific Ocean or any arm thereof and lands of every kind and nature including mineral rights reserved to the state. [2003 c 334 § 471; 1967 c 163 § 6; 1955 c 131 § 1. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 1. Formerly RCW 78.28.280.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.14.020 Leases authorized—Terms—Duration.** The department is authorized to lease public lands for the purpose of prospecting for, developing, and producing oil, gas, or other hydrocarbon substances. Each such lease is to be composed of not more than six hundred forty acres or an entire government surveyed section, except a lease on river

bed, lake bed, tide and submerged lands which is to be composed of not more than one thousand nine hundred twenty acres. All leases shall contain such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the rules adopted by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Leases may be for an initial term of from five up to ten years and shall be extended for so long thereafter as lessee shall comply with one of the following conditions: (1) Prosecute development on the leased land with the due diligence of a prudent operator upon encountering oil, gas, or other hydrocarbon substances; (2) produce any of said substances from the leased lands; (3) engage in drilling, deepening, repairing, or re-drilling any well thereon; or (4) participate in a unit plan to which the commissioner has consented under RCW 78.52.450. [2003 c 334 § 472; 1986 c 34 § 1; 1985 c 459 § 2; 1955 c 131 § 2. Prior: 1937 c 161 §§ 2, 3; 1927 c 255 §§ 175, 176. Formerly RCW 78.28.290.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.14.030 Rental fees—Minimum royalties.** The department shall require as a prerequisite to the issuing of any lease a rental as set by the board but not less than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre or such prorated share of the rental per acre as the state's mineral rights ownership for the first year of such lease, payable in advance to the department at the time the lease is awarded and a like rental annually in advance thereafter so long as such lease remains in force. However, the rental shall cease at such time as royalty accrues to the state from production from such lease. Commencing with the lease year beginning on or after oil, gas, or other hydrocarbon substances are first produced in quantities deemed paying quantities by lessee on the land subject to such lease, lessee shall pay a minimum royalty as set by the board but not less than five dollars per acre or fraction thereof or such prorated share of the rental per acre as the state's mineral rights ownership at the expiration of each year. Royalties payable by the lessee shall be the royalties from production as provided for in RCW 79.14.070 or the minimum royalty provided herein, whichever is greater. However, if such a lease is unitized, the minimum royalty shall be payable only on the leased acreage after production is obtained in such paying quantities from such lease. [2003 c 334 § 473; 1985 c 459 § 3; 1980 c 151 § 1; 1955 c 131 § 3. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 4; 1927 c 255 § 176. Formerly RCW 78.28.300.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.14.040 Compensation to owners of private rights and to state for surface damage.** No lessee shall commence any operation upon lands covered by the lease until such lessee has provided for compensation to owners of private rights therein according to law, or in lieu thereof, filed a surety bond with the department in an amount sufficient in the opinion of the commissioner to cover such compensation until the amount of compensation is determined by agreement, arbitration, or judicial decision and has provided for compensation to the state of Washington for damage to the surface rights of the state in accordance with the rules adopted by the department. [2003 c 334 § 474; 1955 c 131 § 4. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 6; 1927 c 255 § 175. Formerly RCW 78.28.310.]

[Title 79 RCW—page 32]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.050 Drilling operations beyond lease term—Lease provisions.** All leases shall provide that if oil, gas or other hydrocarbon substances are not encountered on or before the end of the initial term, the lease shall not terminate if the lessee is then prosecuting drilling operations on the leased lands with due diligence, in which event the same shall remain in force so long as lessee shall keep one string of tools in operation on the leased lands, allowing not to exceed ninety days between the completion of one well and the commencement of the next until such substances are encountered in quantities deemed paying quantities by lessee. All leases shall further provide that if oil, gas or other hydrocarbon substances in paying quantities shall have been discovered on the leased lands prior to the expiration of the initial term, then in the event at any time after the expiration of the initial term production on the leased land shall cease from any cause, the lease shall not terminate provided lessee resumes operations for the drilling of a well or the restoration of production within ninety days from such cessation. The lease shall remain in force during the prosecution of such operations, and if production results therefrom, then so long as production continues. [1985 c 459 § 4; 1955 c 131 § 5. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 7; 1927 c 255 § 180. Formerly RCW 78.28.320.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.14.060 Surrender of lease—Liability.** Every lessee shall have the option of surrendering his lease as to all or any portion or portions of the land covered thereby at any time and shall be relieved of all liability thereunder with respect to the land so surrendered except for monetary payments therefor accrued and except for physical damage to the premises embraced by his lease which have been occasioned by his operations. [1955 c 131 § 6. Prior: 1937 c 161 §§ 8, 10. Formerly RCW 78.28.330.]

**79.14.070 Royalties.** All oil and gas leases issued pursuant to this chapter shall be upon a royalty of not less than twelve and one-half percent of the gross production of all oil, gas or other hydrocarbons produced and saved from the lands covered by such lease. [1955 c 131 § 7. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 9; 1927 c 255 § 176. Formerly RCW 78.28.340.]

**79.14.080 Leases of land within a geologic structure.** Oil and gas leases shall not be issued on unleased lands which have been classified by the department as being within a known geologic structure of a producing oil or gas field, except as follows: Upon application of any person, the department shall lease in areas not exceeding six hundred forty acres, at public auction, any or all unleased lands within such geologic structure to the person offering the greatest cash bonus therefor at such auction. Notice of the offer of such lands for lease will be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Olympia, Washington, and in such other publications as the department may authorize. The first publication shall be at least thirty days prior to the date of sale. [2003 c 334 § 475; 1955 c 131 § 8. Prior: 1937 c 161 §§ 5, 11. Formerly RCW 78.28.350.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

(2012 Ed.)

**79.14.090 Cancellation or forfeiture of leases—New leases.** The department is authorized to cancel any lease issued as provided in this section for nonpayment of rentals or royalties or nonperformance by the lessee of any provision or requirement of the lease. However, before any such cancellation is made, the department shall mail to the lessee by registered mail, addressed to the post office address of such lessee shown by the records of the department, a notice of intention to cancel such lease specifying the default for which the lease is subject to cancellation. If lessee shall, within thirty days after the mailing of said notice to the lessee, commence and thereafter diligently and in good faith prosecute the remedying of the default specified in such notice, then no cancellation of the lease shall be entered by the department. Otherwise, the cancellation shall be made and all rights of the lessee under the lease shall automatically terminate, except that lessee shall retain the right to continue its possession and operation of any well or wells in regard to which lessee is not in default. Further, failure to pay rental and royalty required under leases within the time prescribed therein shall automatically and without notice work a forfeiture of such leases and of all rights thereunder. Upon the expiration, forfeiture, or surrender of any lease, no new lease covering the lands or any of them embraced by such expired, forfeited, or surrendered lease, shall be issued for a period of ten days following the date of such expiration, forfeiture, or surrender. If more than one application for a lease covering such lands or any of them shall be made during such ten-day period the department shall issue a lease to such lands or any of them to the person offering the greatest cash bonus for such lease at a public auction to be held at the time and place and in the manner as the department shall adopt by rule. [2003 c 334 § 476; 1955 c 131 § 9. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 12; 1927 c 255 § 179. Formerly RCW 78.28.360.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.100 Cooperative or unit plans—Communization or drilling agreements.** For the purpose of more properly conserving the natural resources of any oil or gas pool, field, or like area, lessees thereon and their representatives may unite with each other, or jointly or separately with others, in collectively adopting and operating under a cooperative or unit plan of development or operation of such pool, field, or like area, or any part thereof, whenever determined and certified by the department to be necessary or advisable in the public interest. The department is authorized, in its discretion, with the consent of the holders of leases involved, in order to conform with the terms and conditions of any such cooperative or unit plan to establish, alter, change, or revoke exploration, drilling, producing, rental, and royalty requirements of such leases with like consent on the part of the lessees, in connection with the institution and operation of any such cooperative or unit plan as the department may deem necessary or proper to secure the proper protection of the public interest.

When separate tracts cannot be independently developed and operated in conformity with an established well spacing or development program, any lease or any portion thereof may be pooled with other lands, whether or not owned by the state of Washington under a communization or drilling agreement providing for an apportionment of production or royal-

ties among the separate tracts of land comprising the drilling or spacing unit when determined by the department to be in the public interest, and operations or production pursuant to such an agreement shall be deemed to be operations or production as to each such lease committed thereto.

The term of any lease that has become the subject of any cooperative or unit plan of development or operation of a pool, field, or like area, which plan has the approval of the department, shall continue in force until the termination of such plan, and in the event such plan is terminated prior to the expiration of any such lease, the original term of such lease shall continue. Any lease under this chapter hereinafter committed to any such plan embracing lands that are in part within and in part outside of the area covered by any such plan, shall be segregated in separate leases as to the lands committed and the land not committed as of the effective date of unitization. [2003 c 334 § 477; 1955 c 131 § 10. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 14. Formerly RCW 78.28.370.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.110 Customary provisions in leases.** The department is authorized to insert in any lease issued under the provisions of this chapter such terms as are customary and proper for the protection of the rights of the state and of the lessee and of the owners of the surface of the leased lands not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter. [2003 c 334 § 478; 1955 c 131 § 11. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 15; 1927 c 255 § 178. Formerly RCW 78.28.380.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.120 Rules.** The department is required to adopt and publish, for the information of the public, all reasonable rules necessary for carrying out the provisions of this chapter. The department may amend or rescind any rule adopted under the authority contained in this section. However, no rule or amendment of the same or any order rescinding any rule shall become effective until after thirty days from the adoption of the same by publication in a newspaper of general circulation published at the state capitol and shall take effect and be in force at times specified therein. All rules of the department and all amendments or revocations of existing rules shall be recorded in an appropriate book or books, shall be adequately indexed, and shall be kept in the office of the department and shall constitute a public record. Such rules of the department shall be printed in pamphlet form and furnished to the public free of cost. [2003 c 334 § 479; 1955 c 131 § 12. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 16; 1927 c 255 § 178. Formerly RCW 78.28.390.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.130 Wells to be located minimum distance from boundaries—Exception.** Each lease issued under this chapter shall provide that without the approval of the department, no well shall be drilled on the lands demised thereby in such manner or at such location that the producing interval thereof shall be less than three hundred thirty feet from any of the outer boundaries of the demised lands, except that if the right to oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons underlying adjoining lands be vested in private ownership, such approval shall not be required. [2003 c 334 § 480; 1955 c 131 § 13. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 17. Formerly RCW 78.28.400.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.140 Rights-of-way over public lands—Payment for timber.** Any person granted a lease under the provisions of this chapter shall have a right-of-way over public lands, as provided by law, when necessary, for the drilling, recovering, saving, and marketing of oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons. Before any such right-of-way grant shall become effective, a written application for, and a plat showing the location of such a right-of-way and the land necessary for the well site and drilling operations, with reference to adjoining lands, shall be filed with the department. All timber on the right-of-way and the land necessary for the drilling operation, shall be appraised by the commissioner and paid for in money by the person to whom the lease is granted. [2003 c 334 § 481; 1955 c 131 § 14. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 18. Formerly RCW 78.28.410.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.150 Sales of timber—Rules.** All sales of timber, as prescribed in this chapter, shall be made subject to the right, power, and authority of the department to adopt rules governing the manner of the removal of the merchantable timber upon any lands embraced within any lease with the view of protecting the same and other timber against destruction or injury by fire or from other causes. The rules shall be binding upon the lessee, his or her successors in interest, and shall be enforced by the department. [2003 c 334 § 482; 1955 c 131 § 15. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 19. Formerly RCW 78.28.420.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.160 Development after discovery.** After the discovery of oil, gas or other hydrocarbons in paying quantities, lessee shall proceed to develop the oil, gas or other hydrocarbons in the lands covered thereby through the drilling of such wells as will efficiently extract the oil, gas or other hydrocarbons therefrom and such development shall take into account the productiveness of the producing horizon, the depth at which it occurs, the average cost of wells, the market requirements obtaining at any given time, and the maintenance of proper oil and gas ratios. [1955 c 131 § 16. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 20. Formerly RCW 78.28.430.]

**79.14.170 Spacing and offsetting of wells.** All leases shall contain such terms, conditions, and provisions as will protect the interests of the state with reference to spacing of wells for the purpose of offsetting any wells on privately owned lands. [1955 c 131 § 17. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 21. Formerly RCW 78.28.440.]

**79.14.180 Lands may be withheld from leasing.** Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as requiring the department to offer any tract or tracts of land for lease; but the department shall have power to withhold any tract or tracts from leasing for oil, gas, or other hydrocarbons, if, in its judgment, the best interest of the state will be served by so doing. [2003 c 334 § 483; 1955 c 131 § 18. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 24. Formerly RCW 78.28.450.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.190 Payment of royalty share—Royalty in kind.** The lessee shall pay to the department the market value at the well of the state's royalty share of oil and other hydrocarbons except gas produced and saved and delivered by lessee from the lease. In lieu of receiving payment for the market value of the state's royalty share of oil, the department may elect that such royalty share of oil be delivered in kind at the mouth of the wells into tanks provided by the department. Lessee shall pay to the department the state's royalty share of the sale price received by the lessee for gas produced and saved and sold from the lease. If such gas is not sold but is used by lessee for the manufacture of gasoline or other products, lessee shall pay to the department the market value of the state's royalty share of the residue gas and other products, less a proper allowance for extraction costs. [2003 c 334 § 484; 1955 c 131 § 19. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 25. Formerly RCW 78.28.460.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.200 Prior permits validated—Relinquishment for new leases.** All exploration permits issued by the department prior to June 9, 1955, which have not expired or been legally canceled for nonperformance by the permittees, are hereby declared to be valid and existing contracts with the state of Washington, according to their terms and provisions. The obligation of the state to conform to the terms and provisions of such permits is hereby recognized, and the department is directed to accept and recognize all such permits according to their express terms and provisions. No repeal or amendment made by this chapter shall affect any right acquired under the law as it existed prior to such repeal or amendment, and such right shall be governed by the law in effect at time of its acquisition. Any permit recognized and confirmed by this section may be relinquished to the state by the permittee, and a new lease or, if such permit contains more than six hundred forty acres, new leases in the form provided for in this chapter, shall be issued in lieu of same and without bonus therefor; but the new lease or leases so issued shall be as provided for in this chapter and governed by the applicable provisions of this chapter instead of by the law in effect prior thereto. [2003 c 334 § 485; 1955 c 131 § 20. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 26. Formerly RCW 78.28.470.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.210 Assignments and subleases of leases.** Any oil or gas lease issued under the authority of this chapter may be assigned or subleased as to all or part of the acreage included therein, subject to final approval by the department, and as to either a divided or undivided interest therein to any person. Any assignment or sublease shall take effect as of the first day of the lease month following the date of filing with the department. However, at the department's discretion, it may disapprove an assignment of a separate zone or deposit under any lease or of a part of a legal subdivision. Upon approval of any assignment or sublease, the assignee or sublessee shall be bound by the terms of the lease to the same extent as if such assignee or sublessee were the original lessee, any conditions in the assignment or sublease to the contrary notwithstanding. Any partial assignment of any lease shall segregate the assigned and retained portions thereof, and upon approval of such assignment by the department, the

assignor shall be released and discharged from all obligations thereafter accruing with respect to the assigned lands. [2003 c 334 § 486; 1955 c 131 § 21. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 27. Formerly RCW 78.28.480.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.220 Appeal from rulings of commissioner.** Any applicant for a lease under this chapter, feeling aggrieved by any order, decision, or rule of the commissioner, concerning the same, may appeal therefrom to the superior court of the county wherein such lands are situated, as provided by RCW 79.02.030. [2003 c 334 § 487; 1955 c 131 § 22. Prior: 1937 c 161 § 28. Formerly RCW 78.28.490.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## PART 2 PROSPECTING AND MINING

**79.14.300 Prospecting and mining contracts—Authority.** The department may issue permits and leases for prospecting, and contracts for the mining of valuable minerals and specified materials, except rock, gravel, sand, silt, coal, or hydrocarbons, upon and from any public lands belonging to or held in trust by the state, or which have been sold and the minerals thereon reserved by the state in tracts not to exceed six hundred forty acres or an entire government-surveyed section. [2003 c 334 § 401; 1987 c 20 § 1; 1965 c 56 § 2; 1927 c 255 § 155; RRS § 7797-155. Prior: 1917 c 148 § 1; 1915 c 152 § 1; 1897 c 102 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.616, 78.20.010, part, and 78.20.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.310 Prospecting and mining—Public auction of mining contracts.** The department may offer nonrenewable placer mining contracts by public auction for the mining of gold under terms set by the department. In the case of lands known to contain valuable minerals or specified materials in commercially significant quantities, the department may offer mining contracts by public auction. [2003 c 334 § 402; 1987 c 20 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.617.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.315 Recreational prospecting permits.** The department may issue permits for recreational mineral prospecting in designated areas containing noneconomic mineral deposits. The term of a permit shall not exceed one year. Designated areas, equipment allowed, methods of prospecting, as well as other appropriate permit conditions, shall be set in rules adopted by the department. Fees shall be set by the board of natural resources. [1987 c 20 § 15. Formerly RCW 79.01.651.]

**79.14.320 Department may adopt rules.** The department may adopt rules necessary for carrying out the mineral leasing, contracting, and permitting provisions of RCW 79.14.300 through 79.14.450. Such rules shall be enacted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The department may amend or rescind any rules adopted under this section. The department shall publish these rules in pamphlet form for the information of the public. [2003 c 334 § 403; 1987 c 20 § 3; 1983 c 3 § 200; 1965 c 56 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.618.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.330 Prospecting lease—Application fee.** Any person desiring to obtain a lease for mineral prospecting purposes upon any lands in which the mineral rights are owned or administered by the department, shall file in the proper office of the department an application or applications therefor, upon the prescribed form, together with application fees. The department may reject an application for a mineral prospecting lease when the department determines rejection to be in the best interests of the state, and in such case shall inform the applicant of the reason for rejection and refund the application fee. The department may also reject the application and declare the application fee forfeited should the applicant fail to execute the lease. [2003 c 334 § 404; 1987 c 20 § 4; 1965 c 56 § 4; 1927 c 255 § 156; RRS § 7797-156. Prior: 1917 c 148 § 2; 1901 c 151 §§ 1, 2; 1897 c 102 §§ 2, 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.620, 78.20.010, part, and RCW 78.20.030.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.340 Compensation for loss or damage to surface rights.** Where the surface rights are held by a third party, the lessee shall not exercise the rights reserved by the state upon lands covered by the lessee's lease or contract until the lessee has provided the department with satisfactory evidence of compliance with the requirements of the state's mineral rights reservations. Where the surface rights are held by the state, the lessee shall not exercise its mineral rights upon lands covered by the lessee's lease or contract until the lessee has made satisfactory arrangements with the department to compensate the state for loss or damage to the state's surface rights. [1987 c 20 § 5; 1965 c 56 § 5; 1927 c 255 § 157; RRS § 7797-157. Prior: 1917 c 148 § 3; 1899 c 147 § 1; 1897 c 102 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.01.624, 78.20.040.]

**79.14.350 Prospecting leases—Term—Rent—Conditions.** Leases for prospecting purposes may be for a term of up to seven years from the date of the lease. The lessee shall pay an annual lease rental as set by the board of natural resources. The annual lease rental shall be paid in advance. The lessee shall not have the right to extract and remove for commercial sale or use from the leased premises any minerals or specified materials found on the premises except upon obtaining a mining contract. The lessee shall perform annual prospecting work in cost amounts as set by the board of natural resources. The lessee may make payment to the department in lieu of the performance of annual prospecting work for up to three years during the term of the lease. Prospecting work performed must contribute to the mineral evaluation of the leased premises.

The lessee may at any time give notice of intent to terminate the lease if all of the covenants of the lease including reclamation are met. The notice of termination of lease shall be made by giving written notice together with copies of all information obtained from the premises. The lease shall terminate sixty days thereafter if all arrears and sums which are due under the lease up to the time of termination have been paid. [1987 c 20 § 6; 1965 c 56 § 6; 1945 c 103 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 158; RRS § 7797-158. Prior: 1897 c 102 §§ 4, 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.628, 78.20.050.]

**79.14.360 Conversion to mining contract.** The holder of any prospecting lease shall have a preference right to a mining contract on the premises described in the lease if application therefor is made to the department at least one hundred eighty days prior to the expiration of the prospecting lease.

A lessee applying for a mining contract shall furnish plans for development leading toward production. The plans shall address the reclamation of the property. A mining contract shall be for a term of twenty years.

The first year of the contract and each year thereafter, the lessee shall perform development work in cost amounts as set by the board. The lessee may make payment to the department in lieu of development work.

The lessee may at any time give notice of intent to terminate the contract if all of the covenants of the contract including reclamation are met. The notice of termination of contract shall be made by giving written notice together with copies of all information obtained from the premises. The contract shall terminate sixty days thereafter if all arrears and sums which are due under the contract up to the time of termination have been paid.

The lessee shall have sixty days from the termination date of the contract in which to remove improvements, except those necessary for the safety and maintenance of mine workings, from the premises without material damage to the land or subsurface covered by the contract. However, the lessee shall upon written request to the department be granted an extension where forces beyond the control of the lessee prevent removal of the improvements within sixty days.

Any lessee not converting a prospecting lease to a mining contract shall not be entitled to a new prospecting lease on the lease premises for one year from the expiration date of the prior lease. Such lands included in the prospecting lease shall be open to application by any person other than the prior lessee, and the lessee's agents or associates during the year period described above. [2003 c 334 § 405; 1987 c 20 § 7; 1965 c 56 § 7; 1927 c 255 § 159; RRS § 7797-159. Prior: 1901 c 151 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.01.632, 78.20.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.370 Prospecting and mining—Lessee's rights and duties.** Where the surface rights have been sold and the minerals retained by the state, the state's right of entry to these lands is transferred and assigned to the lessee during the life of the lease or contract. No lessee shall commence any operation upon lands covered by his or her lease or contract until the lessee has complied with RCW 79.14.340. [2003 c 334 § 406; 1987 c 20 § 8; 1965 c 56 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.01.633.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.380 Prospecting and mining—Termination for default.** The department shall terminate and cancel a prospecting lease or mining contract upon failure of the lessee to make payment of the annual rental or royalties or comply with the terms and conditions of the lease or contract upon the date such payments and compliances are due. The lessee shall be notified of such termination and cancellation, said notice to be mailed to the last known address of the lessee. Termination and cancellation shall become effective thirty

days from the date of mailing the notice. However, the department may, upon written request from the lessee, grant an extension of time in which to make such payment or comply with the terms and conditions. [2003 c 334 § 407; 1987 c 20 § 9; 1965 c 56 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.01.634.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.390 Prospecting leases and mining contracts—Form, terms, conditions.** Prospecting leases or mining contracts referred to in chapter 79.14 RCW shall be as prescribed by, and in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

The department may include in any mineral prospecting lease or mining contract to be issued under this chapter such terms and conditions as are customary and proper for the protection of the rights of the state and of the lessee not in conflict with this chapter, or rules adopted by the department.

Any lessee shall have the right to contract with others to work or operate the leased premises or any part thereof or to subcontract the same and the use of the land or any part thereof for the purpose of mining for valuable minerals or specified materials, with the same rights and privileges granted to the lessee. Notice of such contracting or subcontracting with others to work or operate the property shall be made in writing to the department. [2003 c 334 § 408; 1987 c 20 § 10; 1965 c 56 § 11; 1927 c 255 § 161; RRS § 7797-161. Prior: 1917 c 148 § 3; 1899 c 147 § 1; 1897 c 102 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.01.640, 78.20.080.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.400 Prospecting and mining—Reclamation of premises.** At time of termination for any mineral prospecting lease, permit, mining contract, or placer mining contract, the premises shall be reclaimed in accordance with plans approved by the department. [1987 c 20 § 11. Formerly RCW 79.01.642.]

**79.14.410 Prospecting and mining—Minimum royalty.** Mining contracts entered into as provided in chapter 79.14 RCW shall provide for the payment to the state of production royalties as set by the board. A lessee shall pay in advance annually a minimum royalty which shall be set by the board. The minimum royalty shall be allowed as a credit against production royalties due during the contract year. [2003 c 334 § 409; 1987 c 20 § 12; 1965 c 56 § 12; 1959 c 257 § 38; 1945 c 103 § 2; 1927 c 255 § 162; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-162. Prior: 1917 c 148 § 4; 1901 c 151 § 3; 1897 c 89 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.01.644, 78.20.090.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.420 Mining contracts—Renewal of contract.** The lessee may apply for the renewal of a mining contract, except placer mining contracts issued pursuant to RCW 79.14.310, to the department within ninety days before the expiration of the contract. Upon receipt of the application, the department shall make the necessary investigation to determine whether the terms of the contract have been complied with, and if the department finds they have been complied with in good faith, the department shall renew the contract. The terms and conditions of the renewal contract shall remain the same except for royalty rates, which shall be

determined by reference to then existing law. [2003 c 334 § 410; 1987 c 20 § 13. Formerly RCW 79.01.645.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

#### **79.14.430 Prospecting and mining—Consolidation.**

The holders of two or more mining contracts may consolidate the contracts under a common management to permit proper operation of large scale developments. Notification of such consolidation shall be made to the department, together with a statement of plans of operation and proposed consolidation. The department may thereafter make examinations and investigations and if it finds that such consolidation is not in the best interest of the state, it shall disapprove such consolidated operation. [2003 c 334 § 411; 1965 c 56 § 13; 1945 c 103 § 3 (adding a new section to 1927 c 255, section 162-1); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-162a. Formerly RCW 79.01.648, 78.20.100.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.440 Prospecting and mining—Disclosure of information.** Any person designated by the department shall have the right at any time to enter upon the lands and inspect and examine the structures, works, and mines situated thereon, and shall also have the right to examine such books, records, and accounts of the lessee as are directly connected with the determination of royalties on the property under lease from the state but it shall be unlawful for any person so appointed to disclose any information thus obtained to any person other than the departmental officials and employees, except the attorney general and prosecuting attorneys of the state. [2003 c 334 § 412; 1965 c 56 § 14. Formerly RCW 79.01.649.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.450 Prospecting and mining—Disposition of materials not covered by lease or contract.** The state shall have the right to sell or otherwise dispose of any surface resource, timber, rock, gravel, sand, silt, coal, or hydrocarbons, except minerals or materials specifically covered by a mineral prospecting lease or mining contract, found upon the land during the period covered by the lease or contract. The state shall also have the right to enter upon such land and remove same, and shall not be obliged to withhold from any sale any timber for prospecting or mining purposes. The lessee shall, upon payment to the department, have the right to cut and use timber found on the leased premises for mining purposes as provided in rules adopted by the department. [2003 c 334 § 413; 1987 c 20 § 14; 1965 c 56 § 15. Formerly RCW 79.01.650.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

### PART 3 COAL MINING

#### **79.14.470 Leases and option contracts authorized.**

The department is authorized to execute option contracts and leases for the mining and extraction of coal from any public lands of the state, or to which it may hereafter acquire title, or from any lands sold or leased by the state the minerals of which have been reserved by the state. [2003 c 334 § 414;

1927 c 255 § 163; RRS § 7797-163. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.652, 78.24.010.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.480 Application for option contract—Fee.** Any citizen of the United States believing coal to exist upon any of the lands described in RCW 79.14.470 may apply to the department for an option contract for any amount not exceeding one section for prospecting purposes, such application to be made by legal subdivision according to the public land surveys. The applicant shall pay to the department, at the time of filing the application, the sum of one dollar an acre for the lands applied for, but in no case less than fifty dollars. In case of the refusal of the department to execute an option contract for the lands, any remainder of the sum so paid, after deducting the expense incurred by the department in investigating the character of the land, shall be returned to the applicant. [2003 c 334 § 415; 1927 c 255 § 164; RRS § 7797-164. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.656, 78.24.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

#### **79.14.490 Investigation and issue of option contract.**

(1) Upon the filing of any such application, the department shall forthwith investigate the character of the lands applied for, and if, from such investigation, it deems it to be in the best interests of the state, it shall enter into an option contract with the applicant.

(2) The holder of any option contract shall be entitled, during the period of one year from the date thereof, to:

(a) Enter upon the lands and carry on such work of exploration, examination, and prospecting for coal as may be necessary to determine the presence of coal upon the lands and the feasibility of mining the same; and

(b) Use such timber found upon the lands and owned by the state as may be necessary for steam purposes and timbering in the examination and prospecting of such lands. However, this provision shall not be construed to require the state to withhold any such timber from sale.

(3) No coal shall be removed from such lands during the period of such option contract except for samples and testing.

(4) At the expiration of the option contract, the applicant shall fill or cover in a substantial manner all prospect holes and shafts, or surround the same with substantial fences, and shall file with the department a report showing in detail the result of the applicant's investigation and prospecting. [2003 c 334 § 416; 1927 c 255 § 165; RRS § 7797-165. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.660, 78.24.030.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.500 Damage to surface owner or lessee.** In the case of lands which the state may have sold or leased and reserved the mineral rights therein, if the holder of any option contract or lease is unable to agree with the owner or prior lessee of the lands, the holder shall have a right of action in the superior court of the county in which the land is situated to ascertain and determine the amount of damages which will accrue to such owner or lessee of the land by reason of the entry thereon and prospecting for or mining coal, as the case may be. In the event of any such action, the term of the option contract or lease shall begin thirty days after the entry

of the final judgment in such action. [2003 c 334 § 417; 1927 c 255 § 166; RRS § 7797-166. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.01.664, 78.24.070.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.510 Lease—Application, terms, royalties.** At any time during the life of the option contract, the holder thereof may apply to the department for a coal mining lease of the lands included therein, or such portion thereof as the holder may specify, for the purpose of mining and extraction of coal therefrom. Such coal mining lease shall be for such term, not more than twenty years, and in such form as may be prescribed by the department, shall entitle the lessee to mine and sell and dispose of all coal underlying said lands and to occupy and use so much of the surface thereof as may be necessary for bunkers and other outside works, and for railroads, buildings, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with the mining operations. Such lease shall provide for the payment to the state of a royalty, according to the grade of coal, for each ton of two thousand pounds of merchantable coal taken from the lands, as follows: For lignite coal of the class commonly found in Lewis and Thurston counties, not less than ten cents per ton; for subbituminous coal, not less than fifteen cents per ton; for high grade bituminous and coking coals, not less than twenty cents per ton; but such lease shall provide for the payment each year of a minimum royalty of not less than one nor more than ten dollars an acre for the lands covered thereby. However, the department may agree with the lessee that said minimum royalty shall be graduated for the different years of said lease so that a lower minimum royalty shall be paid during the earlier years of the term. The minimum royalty fixed in the lease shall be paid in advance each year, and the lessee, at stated periods during the term of the lease, fixed by the department, shall furnish to the department a written report under oath showing the amount of merchantable coal taken from the land during the period covered by such report and shall remit therewith such sum in excess of the minimum royalty theretofore paid for the current year as may be payable as royalty for the period covered by such report.

The department shall incorporate in every lease such provisions and conditions not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter and not inconsistent with good coal mining practice as it deems necessary and proper for the protection of the state, and, in addition thereto, the department is empowered to adopt such rules, not inconsistent with this chapter and not inconsistent with good mining practice, governing the manner and methods of mining as in its judgment are necessary and proper. [2003 c 334 § 418; 1985 c 459 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 167; RRS § 7797-167. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.668, 78.24.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.14.520 Lease without option contract.** In the case of lands known to contain workable coal, the department may, in its discretion, issue coal mining leases under the provisions of RCW 79.14.510 although no option contract has been theretofore issued for such lands. [2003 c 334 § 419; 1927 c 255 § 168; RRS § 7797-168. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.01.672, 78.24.050.]

[Title 79 RCW—page 38]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.530 Confidential information.** The commissioner or any person designated by the commissioner has the right at any time to enter upon the lands and inspect and examine the structures, works, and mines situated thereon, and also has the right to examine such books, records, and accounts of the lessee as are directly connected with the operation of the mine on the property under lease from the state; but it shall be unlawful for the commissioner or any person so appointed to disclose any information thus obtained to any person other than the commissioner or an employee of the department, except the attorney general and prosecuting attorneys of the state. [2003 c 334 § 420; 1927 c 255 § 169; RRS § 7797-169. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.01.676, 78.24.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.540 Use and sale of materials from land.** The state shall have the right to sell or otherwise dispose of any timber, stone, or other valuable materials, except coal, found upon the land during the period covered by any option contract, or lease issued under the foregoing provisions, with the right to enter upon such lands and cut and remove the same, and shall not be obliged to withhold from sale any timber for coal mining or prospecting purposes. However, the lessee shall be permitted to use in mining operations any timber found upon the land, first paying therefor to the department the value thereof as fixed by the department. Further, any bill of sale for the removal of timber, stone, or other material given subsequent to the coal lease shall contain provisions preventing any interference with the operations of the coal lease. [2003 c 334 § 421; 1927 c 255 § 170; RRS § 7797-170. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.01.680, 78.24.080.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.550 Suspension of mining—Termination of lease.** Should the lessee for any reason, except strikes or inability to mine or dispose of output without loss, suspend mining operations upon the lands included in a lease, or upon any contiguous lands operated by the lessee in connection therewith, for a period of six months, or should the lessee for any reason suspend mining operations upon the lands included in a lease or in such contiguous lands for a period of twelve months, the department may, at its option, cancel the lease, first giving thirty days' notice in writing to the lessee.

The lessee shall have the right to terminate the lease after thirty days' written notice to the department and the payment of all royalties and rentals then due. [2003 c 334 § 422; 1927 c 255 § 171; RRS § 7797-171. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.01.684, 78.24.090.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.560 Condition of premises on termination.** Upon the termination of any lease issued under the foregoing provisions, the lessee shall surrender the lands and premises and leave in good order and repair all shafts, slopes, airways, tunnels, and watercourses then in use. Unless the coal therein is exhausted, the lessee shall also, as far as it is reasonably practicable so to do, leave open to the face all main entries

(2012 Ed.)

then in use so that the work of further development and operation may not be unnecessarily hampered. The lessee shall also leave on the premises all buildings and other structures, but shall have the right to, without damage to such buildings and structures, remove all tracks, machinery, and other personal property. [2003 c 334 § 423; 1927 c 255 § 172; RRS § 7797-172. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.01.688, 78.24.100.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.570 Re-lease—Procedure—Preference rights.**

If at the expiration of any lease for the mining and extraction of coal or any renewal thereof the lessee desires to re-lease the lands covered thereby, the lessee may make application to the department for a re-lease. Such application shall be in writing and under oath, setting forth the extent, character, and value of all improvements, development work, and structures existing upon the land. The department may on the filing of such application cause the lands to be inspected, and if the department deems it for the best interests of the state to re-lease said lands, it shall fix the royalties for the ensuing term in accordance with the foregoing provisions relating to original leases, and issue to the applicant a renewal lease for a further term; such application for a release when received from the lessee, or successor of any lessee, who has in good faith developed and improved the property in a substantial manner during the original lease to be given preference on equal terms against the application of any new applicant. [2003 c 334 § 424; 1927 c 255 § 173; RRS § 7797-173. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 11. Formerly RCW 79.01.692, 78.24.110.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.580 Waste prohibited.** It shall be unlawful for the holder of any coal mining option contract, or any lessee, to commit any waste upon the lands embraced therein, except as may be incident to the work of prospecting or mining by the option contract holder or lessee. [2003 c 334 § 425; 1927 c 255 § 174; RRS § 7797-174. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 155 § 12. Formerly RCW 79.01.696, 78.24.120.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.14.900 Severability—1955 c 131.** If any provision or section of this chapter shall be adjudicated to be unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of this chapter as a whole or any part thereof not adjudicated unconstitutional. If any provision of this chapter, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances is held unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this chapter or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected thereby. [1955 c 131 § 23. Formerly RCW 78.28.900.]

**Chapter 79.15 RCW  
SALE OF VALUABLE MATERIALS**

Sections

**PART 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 79.15.010 Valuable materials sold separately.
- 79.15.020 Duties of department.

(2012 Ed.)

- 79.15.030 Rules or procedures for removal of valuable materials sold.
- 79.15.040 Sale of valuable materials without application or deposit.
- 79.15.045 Who may purchase—Fee.
- 79.15.050 Type of sale—Direct sales.
- 79.15.055 Appraisal—Defined.
- 79.15.060 Date of sale limited by time of appraisal—Transfer of authority.
- 79.15.070 Time and date of sale.
- 79.15.080 Advertising sales of valuable materials.
- 79.15.090 Advertisement for informational purposes only.
- 79.15.100 Terms and conditions of sale—Exemption for forest biomass.
- 79.15.110 Conduct of sales.
- 79.15.120 Confirmation of sale.
- 79.15.130 Bill of sale.
- 79.15.140 Valuable materials contract—Impracticable to perform/cancellation—Substitute valuable materials.
- 79.15.150 Reoffer.

**PART 2  
DAMAGED TIMBER**

- 79.15.210 Findings—Damage to timber.
- 79.15.220 Sale of damaged valuable materials.

**PART 3  
ROCK, GRAVEL, ETC., SALES**

- 79.15.300 Contracts—Forfeiture—Royalties—Monthly reports.
- 79.15.320 Road material—Sale to public authorities—Disposition of proceeds.

**PART 4  
FIREWOOD**

- 79.15.400 License to remove firewood authorized.
- 79.15.410 Removal only for personal use.
- 79.15.420 Issuance of license—Fee.
- 79.15.430 Removal of firewood without charge.
- 79.15.440 Penalty.

**PART 5  
CONTRACT HARVESTING**

- 79.15.500 Contract harvesting—Definitions.
- 79.15.510 Contract harvesting—Program established.
- 79.15.520 Contract harvesting revolving account.
- 79.15.530 Contract harvesting—Special appraisal practices.
- 79.15.540 Intent—Contract harvesting—State trust forest land with identified forest health deficiencies.
- 79.15.550 Mitigation against the potential for contract default—Report to the legislature.

**PART 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**79.15.010 Valuable materials sold separately. (1)**

Valuable materials situated upon state lands and state forest lands may be sold separate from the land, when in the judgment of the department, it is for the best interest of the state so to sell the same.

(2) Sales of valuable materials from any university lands require:

- (a) The consent of the board of regents of the University of Washington; or
- (b) Legislative directive.

(3) When application is made for the purchase of any valuable materials, the department shall appraise the value of the valuable materials if the department determines it is in the best interest of the state to sell. No valuable materials shall be sold for less than the appraised value thereof. [2003 c 334 § 331; 2001 c 250 § 3; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 154; 1959 c 257 § 12; 1929 c 220 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 31; RRS § 7797-31. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 2; 1909 c 223 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 6; 1901 c 148 § 1; 1899 c 129 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 12; 1895 c 178 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.01.124, 79.12.100.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Forests and forest products: Title 76 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.15.020 Duties of department.** (1) The department shall exercise general supervision and control over the sale of valuable materials.

(2) The department shall maintain all reports, data, and information in its records pertaining to a proposed sale.

(3) The department may hold a sale in abeyance pending further inspection and report and may cause such further inspection and report.

(4) The department shall determine, based on subsection (2) of this section, and if necessary the information provided under subsection (3) of this section, the terms upon which the proposed sales are consummated. [2003 c 334 § 319.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.030 Rules or procedures for removal of valuable materials sold.** All sales of valuable materials shall be made subject to the right, power, and authority of the department to prescribe rules or procedures governing the manner of the sale and removal of the valuable materials. Such procedures shall be binding when contained within a purchaser's contract for valuable materials and apply to the purchaser's successors in interest and shall be enforced by the department. [2004 c 199 § 213; 2003 c 334 § 339; 2001 c 250 § 5; 1959 c 257 § 15; 1927 c 255 § 40; RRS § 7797-40. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 2; 1909 c 223 § 3; 1907 c 256 § 6; 1901 c 148 § 1; 1899 c 129 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 12; 1895 c 178 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.01.160, 79.12.190.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Forest protection: Chapter 76.04 RCW.*

**79.15.040 Sale of valuable materials without application or deposit.** The department may cause valuable materials on state lands and state forest lands to be inspected and appraised and offered for sale when authorized by the board without an application having been filed, or deposit made, for the purchase of the same. [2003 c 334 § 341; 1961 c 73 § 2; 1959 c 257 § 17; 1927 c 255 § 42; RRS § 7797-42. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.168, 79.12.210.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.045 Who may purchase—Fee.** A person desiring to purchase valuable materials may make application to the department on forms provided by the department and accompanied by the fee provided in RCW 79.02.250. [2003 c 334 § 312.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.050 Type of sale—Direct sales.** (1) All sales of valuable materials exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars in appraised value must be at public auction or by sealed bid to the highest bidder, provided that on public lands granted to the state for educational purposes sealed bids may be accepted for sales of timber or stone only.

(2) A direct sale of valuable materials may be sold to the applicant for cash at full appraised value without notice or advertising. The board must, by resolution, establish the

value amount of a direct sale not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars in appraised sale value, and establish procedures to ensure that competitive market prices and accountability are guaranteed. [2006 c 42 § 1; 2003 c 334 § 353.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.055 Appraisal—Defined.** For the purposes of this chapter, "appraisal" means an estimate of the market value of valuable materials. The estimate must reflect the value based on market conditions at the time of the sale or transfer offering. The appraisal must reflect the department's best effort to establish a reasonable market value for the purpose of setting a minimum bid at auction or transfer. A purchaser of valuable materials may not rely upon the appraisal prepared by the department for purposes of deciding whether to make a purchase from the department. All purchasers are required to make their own independent appraisals. [2004 c 199 § 214; 2003 c 334 § 309; 2001 c 250 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.01.082.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.060 Date of sale limited by time of appraisal—Transfer of authority. (Expires January 1, 2014.)** (1) For the sale of valuable materials under this chapter, if the board is required by law to appraise the sale, the board must establish a minimum appraisal value that is valid for a period of one hundred eighty days, or a longer period as may be established by resolution. The board may reestablish the minimum appraisal value at any time. For any valuable materials sales that the board is required by law to appraise, the board may by resolution transfer this authority to the department.

(2) Where the board has set a minimum appraisal value for a valuable materials sale, the department may set the final appraisal value of valuable materials for auction, which must be based on current market prices. The department may also appraise any valuable materials sale not required by law to be approved by the board. [2009 c 418 § 4; 2003 c 334 § 329.]

**Findings—Intent—Expiration date—2009 c 418:** See notes following RCW 79.15.510.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.060 Date of sale limited by time of appraisal—Transfer of authority. (Effective January 1, 2014.)** (1) For the sale of valuable materials under this chapter, if the board is required by law to appraise the sale, the board must establish a minimum appraisal value that is valid for a period of one hundred eighty days, or a longer period as may be established by resolution. The board may reestablish the minimum appraisal value at any time. For any valuable materials sales that the board is required by law to appraise, the board may by resolution transfer this authority to the department.

(2) Where the board has set a minimum appraisal value for a valuable materials sale, the department may set the final appraisal value of valuable materials for auction, which must be equal to or greater than the board's minimum appraisal value. The department may also appraise any valuable materials sale not required by law to be approved by the board. [2003 c 334 § 329.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.070 Time and date of sale.** It is the duty of the department to fix the date, time, and place of sale.

(1) All valuable materials shall have been appraised prior to the date fixed for sale as prescribed in RCW 79.15.060.

(2) No sale may be conducted on any day that is a legal holiday.

(3) Sales must be held between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. If all sales cannot be offered within this time period, the sale must continue on the following day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

(4) Sales must take place:

(a) At the department's regional office having jurisdiction over the respective sale; or

(b) On county property designated by the board of county commissioners or county legislative authority of the county in which the whole or majority of valuable materials are situated. [2003 c 334 § 350.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.080 Advertising sales of valuable materials.** (1) Sales, other than direct sales, appraised at an amount not exceeding two hundred fifty thousand dollars, when authorized by the board for sale, shall be advertised by publishing not less than ten days prior to sale a notice of such sale in a newspaper of general circulation located nearest to the property from which the valuable material is to be sold.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 79.15.050, all other proposed sales of valuable materials must be advertised through individual notice of sale and publication of a statewide list of sales.

(a) The notice of sale:

(i) Must specify the place, date, and time of sale, the appraised value thereof, and describe with particularity each parcel of land from which valuable materials are to be sold. The estimated volume will be identified and the terms of sale will be available in the region headquarters and the department's Olympia office;

(ii) May prescribe that the bid deposit required in RCW 79.15.110 be considered an opening bid;

(iii) May be advertised by newspaper or by other means of publishing the information such as on the internet; and

(iv) Must be posted in a conspicuous place in the department's Olympia office and in the region headquarters administering the sale, and in the office of the county auditor of the county where the material is located.

(b) The department shall print a list of all valuable material on public lands that are to be sold. The list should be organized by county and by alphabetical order.

(i) The list should be published in a pamphlet form, issued at least four weeks prior to the date of any sale and provide sale information to prospective buyers.

(ii) The department must retain for free distribution in the Olympia office and the region offices sufficient copies of the pamphlet, to be kept in a conspicuous place, and, when requested to do so, must mail copies of the pamphlet as issued to any requesting applicant.

(iii) The department may seek additional means of publishing the information in the pamphlet, such as on the internet, to increase the number of prospective buyers.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) The department is authorized to expend any sum in additional advertising of the sales as it deems necessary. [2006 c 42 § 2; 2003 c 334 § 347.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.090 Advertisement for informational purposes only.** The advertisement of sales is for informational purposes only, and under no circumstances does the information in the notice of sale constitute a warranty that the purchaser will receive the stated values, volumes, or acreage. All purchasers are expected to make their own measurements, evaluations, and appraisals. [2003 c 334 § 345.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.100 Terms and conditions of sale—Exemption for forest biomass.** (1) Valuable materials may be sold separately from the land as a "lump sum sale" or as a "scale sale."

(a) "Lump sum sale" means any sale offered with a single total price applying to all the material conveyed.

(b) "Scale sale" means any sale offered with per unit prices to be applied to the material conveyed.

(2) Payment for lump sum sales must be made as follows:

(a) Lump sum sales under five thousand dollars appraised value require full payment on the day of sale.

(b) Lump sum sales appraised at over five thousand dollars but under one hundred thousand dollars may require full payment on the day of sale.

(c) Lump sum sales requiring full payment on the day of sale may be paid in cash or by certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, or money order, all payable to the department.

(3) Except for sales paid in full on the day of sale or sales with adequate bid bonds, an initial deposit not to exceed twenty-five percent of the actual or projected purchase price shall be made on the day of sale.

(a) Sales with bid bonds are subject to the day of sale payment and replacement requirements prescribed by RCW 79.15.110.

(b) The initial deposit must be maintained until all contract obligations of the purchaser are satisfied. However, all or a portion of the initial deposit may be applied as the final payment for the valuable materials in the event the department determines that adequate security exists for the performance or fulfillment of any remaining obligations of the purchaser under the sale contract.

(4) Advance payments or other adequate security acceptable to the department is required for valuable materials sold on a scale sale basis or a lump sum sale not requiring full payment on the day of sale.

(a) The purchaser must notify the department before any operation takes place on the sale site.

(b) Upon notification as provided in (a) of this subsection, the department must require advanced payment or may allow purchasers to submit adequate security.

(c) The amount of advanced payments or security must be determined by the department and must at all times equal or exceed the value of timber cut and other valuable materials processed or removed until paid for.

(d) Security may be bank letters of credit, payment bonds, assignments of savings accounts, assignments of cer-

tificates of deposit, or other methods acceptable to the department as adequate security.

(5) All valuable material must be removed from the sale area within the period specified in the contract.

(a) The specified period may not exceed five years from date of purchase except for stone, sand, gravel, fill material, or building stone.

(b) The specified period for stone, sand, gravel, fill material, or building stone may not exceed thirty years.

(c) In all cases, any valuable material not removed from the land within the period specified in the contract reverts to the state. The department may utilize any remaining forest biomass in accordance with chapter 79.150 RCW.

(6) The department may extend a contract beyond the normal termination date specified in the sale contract as the time for removal of valuable materials when, in the department's judgment, the purchaser is acting in good faith and endeavoring to remove the materials. The extension is contingent upon payment of the fees specified below.

(a) The extended time for removal shall not exceed:

(i) Forty years from date of purchase for stone, sand, gravel, fill material, or building stone;

(ii) A total of ten years beyond the original termination date for all other valuable materials.

(b) An extension fee fixed by the department will be charged based on the estimated loss of income per acre to the state resulting from the granting of the extension plus interest on the unpaid portion of the contract. The board must periodically fix and adopt by rule the interest rate, which shall not be less than six percent per annum.

(c) The sale contract shall specify:

(i) The applicable rate of interest as fixed at the day of sale and the maximum extension payment; and

(ii) The method for calculating the unpaid portion of the contract upon which interest is paid.

(d) The minimum extension fee is fifty dollars per extension plus interest on the unpaid portion of the contract.

(e) Moneys received for any extension must be credited to the same fund in the state treasury as was credited the original purchase price of the valuable material sold.

(7) The department may, in addition to any other securities, require a performance security to guarantee compliance with all contract requirements. The security is limited to those types listed in subsection (4) of this section. The value of the performance security will, at all times, equal or exceed the value of work performed or to be performed by the purchaser.

(8) The department does not need to comply with the provisions of this chapter for forest biomass except as described in the provisions of chapter 79.150 RCW. Forest biomass may not be included in any sales contract authorized under this chapter unless the department has complied with the provisions of chapter 79.150 RCW.

(9) The provisions of this section apply unless otherwise provided by statute. [2010 c 126 § 9; 2004 c 177 § 5; 2003 c 334 § 334.]

**Effective date—2004 c 177:** See note following RCW 84.33.035.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.110 Conduct of sales.** (1) Sales of valuable materials must be conducted under the direction of the department or its authorized representative.

(a) Sales of valuable materials, unless otherwise provided in this chapter, shall be at public auction or by sealed bid to the highest bidder, except that, on public lands granted to the state for educational purposes, sealed bids may be accepted for sales of timber or stone only.

(b) The person conducting the sale is called the auctioneer.

(2) On or before the time specified in the notice of sale each bidder shall deposit with the auctioneer a bid deposit equal to the amount specified in the notice of sale plus any fees required by law for the issuance of contracts or bill of sale.

(a) The bid deposit must meet the requirements of RCW 79.15.100(3).

(b) The deposit may be in cash, or by certified check, cashier's check, or money order, all payable to the department or by bid guarantee in the form of a bid bond acceptable to the department.

(3) The bid deposit, if prescribed in the notice of sale as authorized in RCW 79.15.100, may be considered an opening bid of an amount not less than the minimum appraised price established in the notice of sale.

(4) The successful bidder's deposit will be retained by the auctioneer.

(a) Any difference between the bid deposit and the total amount due including any fees required by law shall be paid on the day of sale. Payments may be by cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, or money order payable to the department.

(b) Any amount of the deposit guaranteed by a bid bond must be paid to the department within ten days of the sale day in cash, certified check, cashier's check, money order, or other acceptable payment method.

(c) Other deposits must be returned to the respective bidders at the conclusion of each sale.

(5) The auctioneer must deliver to the purchaser a memorandum of his or her purchase containing a description of the materials purchased, the price bid, and the terms of the sale.

(6) The auctioneer must at once send to the department all payments or bid guarantees received from the purchaser and a copy of the memorandum delivered to the purchaser, together with additional reports of the proceedings as required by the department. [2003 c 334 § 355.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.120 Confirmation of sale.** The department shall enter upon its records a confirmation of sale and issue to the purchaser a bill of sale for valuable materials if the following conditions have been met:

(1) No fewer than ten days have passed since the auctioneer's report has been filed;

(2) No affidavit is filed with the department showing that the interests of the state in the sale were injuriously affected by fraud or collusion;

(3) It appears from the auctioneer's report that:

(a) The sale was fairly conducted; and

(b) The purchaser was the highest bidder and the bid was not less than the appraised value of the material sold;

(4) The department is satisfied that the valuable material sold would not, upon being readvertised and offered for sale, sell for at least ten percent more than the price submitted by the apparent high bidder;

(5) The payment required by law to be made at the time of making the sale has been made; and

(6) The department determines the best interests of the state will be served by confirming the sale. [2003 c 334 § 358.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.130 Bill of sale.** When valuable materials are sold separately from the land and the purchase price is paid in full, the department shall prepare a bill of sale. The bill of sale shall:

(1) State the time period for removing the material;

(2) Be signed by the commissioner and attested by the seal of the commissioner's office upon full payment of the purchase price and fees;

(3) Be issued to the purchaser upon payment of the fee for the bill of sale; and

(4) Be recorded in the department. [2003 c 334 § 362; 2001 c 250 § 9; 1927 c 255 § 58; RRS § 7797-58. Formerly RCW 79.01.232, 79.12.420.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.140 Valuable materials contract—Impracticable to perform/cancellation—Substitute valuable materials.** (1) In the event that the department determines that regulatory requirements or some other circumstance beyond the control of both the department and the purchaser has made a valuable materials contract wholly or partially impracticable to perform, the department may cancel any portion of the contract which could not be performed. In the event of such a cancellation, the purchaser shall not be liable for the purchase price of any portions of the contract so canceled. Market price fluctuations shall not constitute an impracticable situation for valuable materials contracts.

(2) Alternatively, and notwithstanding any other provision in this title, the department may substitute valuable materials from another site in exchange for any valuable materials which the department determines have become impracticable to remove under the original contract. Any substituted valuable materials must belong to the identical trust involved in the original contract, and the substitute materials shall be determined by the department to have an appraised value that is not greater than the valuable materials remaining under the original contract. The substitute valuable materials and site shall remain subject to all applicable permitting requirements and the state environmental policy act, chapter 43.21C RCW, for the activities proposed at that site. In any such substitution, the value of the materials substituted shall be fixed at the purchase price of the original contract regardless of subsequent market changes. Consent of the purchaser shall be required for any substitution under this section. [2003 c 334 § 364; 2001 c 250 § 18. Formerly RCW 79.01.238.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

(2012 Ed.)

**79.15.150 Reoffer.** A sale of valuable materials that has not been offered, and for which there are no bids received, shall not be reoffered until it has been readvertised as prescribed in RCW 79.11.130. [2003 c 334 § 351.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## PART 2 DAMAGED TIMBER

**79.15.210 Findings—Damage to timber.** From time to time timber on state land is damaged by events such as fire, wind storms, and flooding. After such events the timber becomes very susceptible to loss of value and quality due to rot and disease. To obtain maximum value for the state, it is important to sell any damaged timber as fast as possible while providing ample protection for the physical environment and recognizing the sensitivity of removing timber from certain locations. [1987 c 126 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.790.]

**79.15.220 Sale of damaged valuable materials.** When the department finds valuable materials on state land that are damaged by fire, wind, flood, or from any other cause, it shall determine if the salvage of the damaged valuable materials is in the best interest of the trust for which the land is held, which may include the salvage of forest biomass under chapter 79.150 RCW. If salvaging the valuable materials is in the best interest of the trust, the department shall proceed to offer the valuable materials for sale. The valuable materials, when offered for sale, must be sold in the most expeditious and efficient manner as determined by the department. In determining if the sale is in the best interest of the trust the department shall consider the net value of the valuable materials and relevant elements of the physical and social environment. [2010 c 126 § 10; 2001 c 250 § 14; 1987 c 126 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.795.]

## PART 3 ROCK, GRAVEL, ETC., SALES

**79.15.300 Contracts—Forfeiture—Royalties—Monthly reports.** (1) The department, upon application by any person, may enter into a contract providing for the sale and removal of rock, gravel, sand, and silt located upon state lands or state forest lands, and providing for payment to be made on a royalty basis.

(2) The issuance of a contract shall be made after public auction and shall not be issued for less than the appraised value of the material.

(3) Each application made pursuant to this section shall:

(a) Set forth the estimated quantity and kind of materials desired to be removed; and

(b) Be accompanied by a map or plat showing the area from which the applicant wishes to remove such materials.

(4) The department may in its discretion include in any contract such terms and conditions required to protect the interests of the state.

(5) Every contract shall provide for a right of forfeiture by the state, upon a failure to operate under the contract or pay royalties for periods therein stipulated. The right of forfeiture is exercised by entry of a declaration of forfeiture in the records of the department.

(6) The department may require a bond with a surety company authorized to transact a surety business in this state, as surety, to secure the performance of the terms and conditions of such contract including the payment of royalties.

(7) The amount of rock, gravel, sand, or silt taken under the contract shall be reported monthly by the purchaser to the department and payment therefor made on the basis of the royalty provided in the contract.

(8) The department may inspect and audit books, contracts, and accounts of each person removing rock, gravel, sand, or silt pursuant to any such contract and make such other investigation and secure or receive any other evidence necessary to determine whether or not the state is being paid the full amount payable to it for the removal of such materials. [2003 c 334 § 335; 1985 c 197 § 1; 1961 c 73 § 11. Formerly RCW 79.01.134.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.320 Road material—Sale to public authorities—Disposition of proceeds.** (1) Any county, city, or town may file with the department an application to purchase any stone, rock, gravel, or sand upon any state lands or state forest lands to be used in the construction, maintenance, or repair of any public street, road, or highway within such county, city, or town.

(2) Applications shall set forth the quantity and kind of material desired to be purchased, the location thereof, and the name, or other designation, and location of the street, road, or highway upon which the material is to be used.

(3) The department is authorized to appraise and sell the material in such a manner and upon such terms as the department deems advisable for not less than the fair market value thereof.

(4) The proceeds of any such sale shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the fund to which the proceeds of the sale of the land upon which the material is situated would belong. [2003 c 334 § 343; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 155; 1927 c 255 § 44; RRS § 7797-44. Prior: 1923 c 71 § 1; 1917 c 148 § 13. Formerly RCW 79.01.176, 79.12.250.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### PART 4 FIREWOOD

**79.15.400 License to remove firewood authorized.** The department may issue licenses to residents of this state to enter upon lands under the administration or jurisdiction of the department for the purpose of removing therefrom, standing or downed timber which is unfit for any purpose except to be used as firewood. [2003 c 334 § 230; 1975 c 10 § 1; 1945 c 97 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-40a. Formerly RCW 76.20.010.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.410 Removal only for personal use.** In addition to other matters which may be required to be contained in the application for a license under this chapter the applicant must certify that the wood so removed is to be only for the applicant's own personal use and in his or her own home and that the applicant will not dispose of it to any other person. [2003

c 334 § 231; 1945 c 97 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-40b. Formerly RCW 76.20.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.420 Issuance of license—Fee.** The application may be made to the department, and if deemed proper, the license may be issued upon the payment of two dollars and fifty cents which shall be paid into the treasury of the state by the officer collecting the same and placed in the resource management cost account or forest development account, as applicable; the license shall be dated as of the date of issuance and authorize the holder thereof to remove between the dates so specified not more than six cords of wood not fit for any use but as firewood for the use of the applicant and his or her family from the premises described in the license under such rules as the department may adopt. [2003 c 334 § 232; 1975 c 10 § 2; 1945 c 97 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-40c. Formerly RCW 76.20.030.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.430 Removal of firewood without charge.** Whenever the department determines that it is in the best interest of the state and there will be a benefit to the lands involved or a state program affecting such lands it may designate specific areas and authorize the general public to enter upon lands under its jurisdiction for the purposes of cutting and removing standing or downed timber for use as firewood for the personal use of the person so cutting and removing without a charge under such terms and conditions as it may require. [2003 c 334 § 233; 1975 c 10 § 3. Formerly RCW 76.20.035.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.15.440 Penalty.** Any false statement made in the application or any violation of the provisions of RCW 79.15.400 through 79.15.430 shall constitute a gross misdemeanor and be punishable as such. [2003 c 334 § 234; 1945 c 97 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-40d. Formerly RCW 76.20.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

#### PART 5 CONTRACT HARVESTING

**79.15.500 Contract harvesting—Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 79.15.500 through 79.15.530 and 79.15.540 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public lands.

(2) "Contract harvesting" means a timber operation occurring on state forest lands, in which the department contracts with a firm or individual to perform all the necessary harvesting work to process trees into logs sorted by department specifications. The department then sells the individual log sorts.

(3) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(4) "Harvesting costs" are those expenses related to the production of log sorts from a stand of timber. These expenses typically involve road building, labor for felling,

bucking, and yarding, as well as the transporting of sorted logs to the forest product purchasers.

(5) "Net proceeds" means gross proceeds from a contract harvesting sale less harvesting costs.

(6) "Silvicultural treatment" means any vegetative or other treatment applied to a managed forest to improve the conditions of the stand, and may include harvesting, thinning, prescribed burning, and pruning. [2004 c 218 § 8; 2003 c 313 § 2.]

**Effective date—2004 c 218:** See note following RCW 76.06.140.

**Findings—2003 c 313:** "The legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the trust beneficiaries to capture additional revenues while providing for additional environmental protection on timber sales. Further, the legislature finds that contract harvesting is one method to achieve these desired outcomes. Therefore, the legislature directs the department of natural resources to establish and implement contract harvesting where there exists the ability to increase revenues for the beneficiaries of the trusts while obtaining increases in environmental protection." [2003 c 313 § 1.]

**Severability—2003 c 313:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2003 c 313 § 15.]

**79.15.510 Contract harvesting—Program established. (Effective until January 1, 2014.)** (1) The department may establish a contract harvesting program for directly contracting for the removal of timber and other valuable materials from state lands and for conducting silvicultural treatments consistent with RCW 79.15.540.

(2) The contract requirements must be compatible with the office of financial management's guide to public service contracts.

(3) The department may not use contract harvesting for more than twenty percent of the total annual volume of timber offered for sale. However, volume removed primarily to address an identified forest health issue under RCW 79.15.540 may not be included in calculating the annual limit of contract harvesting sales. Forest biomass resulting from harvesting to address an identified forest health issue under RCW 79.15.540 may be utilized in accordance with chapter 79.150 RCW. [2010 c 126 § 11; 2009 c 418 § 2; 2004 c 218 § 6; 2003 c 313 § 3.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 126 § 11:** "Section 11 of this act expires January 1, 2014." [2010 c 126 § 15.]

**Findings—Intent—2009 c 418:** "The legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the trust beneficiaries to capture additional revenues while providing for additional environmental protection and improving forest health on state trust lands. Further, the legislature finds that contract harvesting is one method to achieve these desired outcomes while also providing the department of natural resources with the ability to offer opportunities to merchandise high value wood. The legislature intends that the department of natural resources should have the ability to expand their contract sales in areas where other sales do not generate as much revenue or provide resource management benefits. The legislature further intends that the department of natural resources distribute the increased contract harvest authority across all trusts and markets." [2009 c 418 § 1.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 418:** "This act expires January 1, 2014." [2009 c 418 § 7.]

**Effective date—2004 c 218:** See note following RCW 76.06.140.

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

**79.15.510 Contract harvesting—Program established. (Effective January 1, 2014.)** (1) The department may establish a contract harvesting program for directly con-

(2012 Ed.)

tracting for the removal of timber and other valuable materials from state lands and for conducting silvicultural treatments consistent with RCW 79.15.540.

(2) The contract requirements must be compatible with the office of financial management's guide to public service contracts.

(3) The department may not use contract harvesting for more than ten percent of the total annual volume of timber offered for sale. However, volume removed primarily to address an identified forest health issue under RCW 79.15.540 may not be included in calculating the annual limit of contract harvesting sales. Forest biomass resulting from harvesting to address an identified forest health issue under RCW 79.15.540 may be utilized in accordance with chapter 79.150 RCW. [2010 c 126 § 12; 2004 c 218 § 6; 2003 c 313 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 126 § 12:** "Section 12 of this act takes effect January 1, 2014." [2010 c 126 § 16.]

**Effective date—2004 c 218:** See note following RCW 76.06.140.

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

**79.15.520 Contract harvesting revolving account. (Effective until January 1, 2014.)** (1) The contract harvesting revolving account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.

All receipts from the gross proceeds of the sale of logs from a contract harvesting sale must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the payment of harvesting costs incurred on contract harvesting sales and for payment of costs incurred from silvicultural treatments necessary to improve forest health conducted under RCW 79.15.540. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The board of natural resources has oversight of the account, and the commissioner must periodically report to the board of natural resources as to the status of the account, its disbursement, and receipts. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

(2) When the logs from a contract harvesting sale are sold, the gross proceeds must be deposited into the contract harvesting revolving account. Moneys equal to the harvesting costs must be retained in the account and be deducted from the gross proceeds to determine the net proceeds. The net proceeds from the sale of the logs must be distributed in accordance with RCW 43.30.325(1)(b). The final receipt of gross proceeds on a contract harvesting sale must be retained in the contract harvesting revolving account until all required costs for that sale have been paid. The contract harvesting revolving account is an interest-bearing account and the interest must be credited to the account. The account balance may not exceed five million dollars at the end of each calendar year. Moneys in excess of five million dollars must be disbursed according to RCW 79.22.040, 79.22.050, and 79.64.040. If the department permanently discontinues the use of contract harvesting sales, any sums remaining in the contract harvesting revolving account must be returned to the resource management cost account and the forest development account in proportion to each account's contribution to the initial balance of the contract harvesting revolving account. [2009 c 418 § 3; 2004 c 218 § 7; 2003 c 313 § 4.]

[Title 79 RCW—page 45]

**Findings—Intent—Expiration date—2009 c 418:** See notes following RCW 79.15.510.

**Effective date—2004 c 218:** See note following RCW 76.06.140.

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

**79.15.520 Contract harvesting revolving account. (Effective January 1, 2014.)** (1) The contract harvesting revolving account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from the gross proceeds of the sale of logs from a contract harvesting sale must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the payment of harvesting costs incurred on contract harvesting sales and for payment of costs incurred from silvicultural treatments necessary to improve forest health conducted under RCW 79.15.540. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The board of natural resources has oversight of the account, and the commissioner must periodically report to the board of natural resources as to the status of the account, its disbursement, and receipts. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

(2) When the logs from a contract harvesting sale are sold, the gross proceeds must be deposited into the contract harvesting revolving account. Moneys equal to the harvesting costs must be retained in the account and be deducted from the gross proceeds to determine the net proceeds. The net proceeds from the sale of the logs must be distributed in accordance with RCW 43.30.325(1)(b). The final receipt of gross proceeds on a contract harvesting sale must be retained in the contract harvesting revolving account until all required costs for that sale have been paid. The contract harvesting revolving account is an interest-bearing account and the interest must be credited to the account. The account balance may not exceed one million dollars at the end of each fiscal year. Moneys in excess of one million dollars must be disbursed according to RCW 79.22.040, 79.22.050, and 79.64.040. If the department permanently discontinues the use of contract harvesting sales, any sums remaining in the contract harvesting revolving account must be returned to the resource management cost account and the forest development account in proportion to each account's contribution to the initial balance of the contract harvesting revolving account. [2004 c 218 § 7; 2003 c 313 § 4.]

**Effective date—2004 c 218:** See note following RCW 76.06.140.

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

**79.15.530 Contract harvesting—Special appraisal practices.** The board of natural resources must determine whether any special appraisal practices are necessary for logs sold by the contract harvesting processes, and if so, must adopt the special appraisal practices or procedures. In its consideration of special appraisal practices, the board of natural resources must consider and adopt procedures to rapidly market and sell any log sorts that failed to receive the required minimum bid at the original auction, which may include allowing the department to set a new appraised value for the unsold sort.

The board of natural resources must establish and adopt policy and procedures by which the department evaluates and selects certified contract harvesters. The procedures must include a method whereby a certified contract harvester may appeal a decision by the department or board of natural resources to not include the certified contract harvester on the list of approved contract harvesters. [2003 c 313 § 5.]

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

**79.15.540 Intent—Contract harvesting—State trust forest land with identified forest health deficiencies.** (1) The legislature intends to ensure, to the extent feasible given all applicable trust responsibilities, that trust beneficiaries receive long-term income from timber lands through improved forest conditions and by reducing the threat of forest fire to state trust forest lands.

(2) In order to implement the intent of RCW 76.06.140, the department may initiate contract harvesting timber sales, or other silvicultural treatments when appropriate, in specific areas of state trust forest land where the department has identified forest health deficiencies as enumerated in RCW 76.06.140. All harvesting or silvicultural treatments applied under this section must be tailored to improve the health of the specific stand, must be consistent with any applicable state forest plans and other management agreements, and must comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations regarding the harvest of timber by the department of natural resources.

(3) In utilizing contract harvesting to address forest health issues as outlined in this section, the department shall give priority to silvicultural treatments that assist the department in meeting forest health strategies included in any management or landscape plans that exist for state forests. If such plans are not in place, the department shall prioritize silvicultural treatments for forest health with higher priority given to the protection of public health and safety, public resources as defined in RCW 76.09.020, and the long-term asset value of the trust. [2007 c 109 § 2; 2004 c 218 § 5.]

**Findings—2007 c 109:** "The legislature finds that chapter 218, Laws of 2004 authorized the department of natural resources to utilize contract harvesting for silvicultural treatments to improve forest health on state trust lands, in accordance with RCW 76.06.140 and 79.15.540. The legislature further finds that the use of contract harvesting for silvicultural treatments has proven effective and that continued utilization is important to improve and maintain forest health. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is necessary to remove the expiration date for this authority, set for December 31, 2007, and to continue the use of contract harvesting for silvicultural treatments to improve forest health on state trust lands." [2007 c 109 § 1.]

**Effective date—2004 c 218:** See note following RCW 76.06.140.

**79.15.550 Mitigation against the potential for contract default—Report to the legislature. (Expires January 1, 2014.)** (1) The department is directed, to the extent possible under current law consistent with its responsibility to the trust beneficiaries, to consider requests from purchasers for timber sale extensions and to provide flexibility in timber sale contract administration to help mitigate against the potential for contract default.

(2) By December 1, 2009, the department shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the status of existing contracts, contract extensions, contract defaults, and

shall provide a timber market forecast for 2010 and 2011. [2009 c 418 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—Expiration date—2009 c 418:** See notes following RCW 79.15.510.

## Chapter 79.17 RCW LAND TRANSFERS

### Sections

#### PART 1 EXCHANGES

- 79.17.010 Exchange of state lands—Purposes—Conditions.  
79.17.020 Exchange of lands to consolidate and block up holdings or obtain lands having commercial recreational leasing potential—Consultation with interested parties.  
79.17.030 University demonstration forest and experiment station.  
79.17.040 Exchange of property acquired as administrative sites—Purposes.  
79.17.050 Public notice—News release—Hearing.  
79.17.060 Exchange of lands to consolidate and block up holdings—Agreements and deeds by commissioner.  
79.17.070 Exchange of lands to consolidate and block up holdings—Lands acquired are subject to same laws and administered for same fund as lands exchanged.

#### PART 2 PURCHASE OR LEASE OF LAND BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- 79.17.100 Application by school district.  
79.17.110 School districts—Purchase of leased lands with improvements.  
79.17.120 School districts—Purchases from school construction fund.  
79.17.130 School districts—Extension of contract period.  
79.17.140 School districts—Reversion, when.

#### PART 3 LAND TRANSFER

- 79.17.200 Real property—Transfer or disposal without public auction.  
79.17.210 Real property asset base—Natural resources real property replacement account.  
79.17.220 Notification requirements.

#### PART 1 EXCHANGES

**79.17.010 Exchange of state lands—Purposes—Conditions.** (1) The department, with the approval of the board, may exchange any state land and any timber thereon for any land of equal value in order to:

- (a) Facilitate the marketing of forest products of state lands;
- (b) Consolidate and block-up state lands;
- (c) Acquire lands having commercial recreational leasing potential;
- (d) Acquire county-owned lands;
- (e) Acquire urban property which has greater income potential or which could be more efficiently managed by the department in exchange for state urban lands as defined in RCW 79.19.100; or
- (f) Acquire any other lands when such exchange is determined by the board to be in the best interest of the trust for which the state land is held.

(2) Land exchanged under this section shall not be used to reduce the publicly owned forest land base.

(3) The board shall determine that each land exchange is in the best interest of the trust for which the land is held prior to authorizing the land exchange.

(2012 Ed.)

(4) During the biennium ending June 30, 2013, for the purposes of maintaining working farm and forest landscapes or acquiring natural resource lands at risk of development, the department, with approval of the board of natural resources, may exchange any state land and any timber thereon for any land and proceeds of equal value, when it can be demonstrated that the trust fiduciary obligations can be better fulfilled after an exchange is completed. Proceeds may be in the form of cash or services in order to achieve the purposes established in this section. Any cash received as part of an exchange transaction shall be deposited in the resource management cost account to pay for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out an exchange transaction. These administrative expenses include road maintenance and abandonment expenses. The amount of proceeds received from the exchange partner may not exceed five percent of the total value of the exchange. The receipt of proceeds shall not change the character of the transaction from an exchange to a sale.

(5) Prior to executing an exchange under this section, and in addition to the public notice requirements set forth in RCW 79.17.050, the department shall consult with legislative members, other state and federal agencies, local governments, tribes, local stakeholders, conservation groups, and any other interested parties to identify and address cultural resource issues and the potential of the state lands proposed for exchange to be used for open space, park, school, or critical habitat purposes. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 6006; 2009 c 497 § 6024; 2008 c 328 § 6012. Prior: 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 § 939; 2003 c 334 § 452; 1987 c 113 § 1; 1983 c 261 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 50 § 2; 1961 c 77 § 4; 1957 c 290 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.08.180.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 43.155.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 497:** See note following RCW 28B.15.210.

**Part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2008 c 328:** See notes following RCW 43.155.050.

**Severability—Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 19.28.351.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Exchange to block up holdings: RCW 79.17.020, 79.17.060.*

**79.17.020 Exchange of lands to consolidate and block up holdings or obtain lands having commercial recreational leasing potential—Consultation with interested parties.** (1) The board of county commissioners of any county and/or the mayor and city council or city commission of any city or town and/or the board shall have authority to exchange, each with the other, or with the federal forest service, the federal government or any proper agency thereof and/or with any private landowner, county land of any character, land owned by municipalities of any character, and state forest land owned by the state under the jurisdiction of the department, for real property of equal value for the purpose of consolidating and blocking up the respective land holdings of any county, municipality, the federal government, or the state of Washington or for the purpose of obtaining lands having commercial recreational leasing potential.

(2) During the biennium ending June 30, 2013, for the purposes of maintaining working farm and forest landscapes or acquiring natural resource lands at risk of development,

the department, with approval of the board of natural resources, may exchange any state land and any timber thereon for any land and proceeds of equal value, when it can be demonstrated that the trust fiduciary obligations can be better fulfilled after an exchange is completed. Proceeds may be in the form of cash or services in order to achieve the purposes established in this section. Any cash received as part of an exchange transaction shall be deposited in the forest development account to pay for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out an exchange transaction. These administrative expenses include road maintenance and abandonment expenses. The amount of proceeds received from the exchange partner may not exceed five percent of the total value of the exchange. The receipt of proceeds shall not change the character of the transaction from an exchange to a sale.

(3) Prior to executing an exchange under this section, and in addition to the public notice requirements set forth in RCW 79.17.050, the department shall consult with legislative members, other state and federal agencies, local governments, tribes, local stakeholders, conservation groups, and any other interested parties to identify and address cultural resource issues, and the potential of the state lands proposed for exchange to be used for open space, park, school, or critical habitat purposes. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 6007; 2009 c 497 § 6025; 2008 c 328 § 6013. Prior: 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 § 937; 2003 c 334 § 209; 1973 1st ex.s. c 50 § 1; 1961 c 77 § 1; 1937 c 77 § 1; RRS § 5812-3e. Formerly RCW 76.12.050.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 43.155.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 497:** See note following RCW 28B.15.210.

**Part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2008 c 328:** See notes following RCW 43.155.050.

**Severability—Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 19.28.351.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.17.030 University demonstration forest and experiment station.** For the purpose of securing an area suitable for a demonstration forest and forest experiment station for the University of Washington authority is hereby granted the board of regents of the University of Washington and the department with the approval of the board, acting with the advice and approval of the attorney general, to exchange all or any portion of the granted lands of the University of Washington assigned for the support of said university by section 9 of chapter 122 of the act of March 14, 1893, enacted by the legislature of Washington, being entitled, "An act providing for the location, construction and maintenance of the University of Washington, and making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency," for all or any portion of such lands as may be acquired by the state under and by virtue of chapter 102, Laws of 1913, being: "An act relating to lands granted to the state for common schools and for educational, penal, reformatory, charitable, capitol buildings and other purposes providing for the completion of such grants and the relinquishment of certain granted lands; and making an appropriation," approved March 18, 1913, by exchange with the United States in the Pilchuck-Sultan-Wallace watersheds included within the present boundaries of the Snoqualmie national forest. The

board of regents and department with the advice and approval required by this section are hereby authorized to execute such agreements, writings, or relinquishments as are necessary or proper for the purpose of carrying said exchange into effect and such agreements or other writings to be executed in duplicate, one to be filed with the department and one to be delivered to the board of regents. The exchange shall be made upon the basis of equal values to be determined by careful valuation of the areas to be exchanged. [2003 c 334 § 446; 1917 c 66 § 1; RRS § 7848. Formerly RCW 79.08.070.]

**Reviser's note:** 1893 c 122 § 9 referred to herein reads as follows: "That 100,000 acres of the lands granted by section 17 of the enabling act, approved February 22, 1889, for state, charitable, educational, penal and reformatory institutions are hereby assigned for the support of the University of Washington."

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.17.040 Exchange of property acquired as administrative sites—Purposes.** The department may exchange surplus real property previously acquired by the department as administrative sites. The property may be exchanged for any public or private real property of equal value, to preserve archeological sites on trust lands, to acquire land to be held in natural preserves, to maintain habitats for endangered species, or to acquire or enhance sites to be dedicated for recreational purposes. [2003 c 334 § 453; 1979 c 24 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.08.250.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.17.050 Public notice—News release—Hearing.** Before a proposed exchange is presented to the board involving an exchange of any lands under the administrative control of the department, the department shall hold a public hearing on the proposal in the county where the state-owned land or the greatest proportion thereof is located. Ten days but not more than twenty-five days prior to such hearing, the department shall publish a paid public notice of reasonable size in display advertising form, setting forth the date, time, and place of the hearing, at least once in one or more daily newspapers of general circulation in the county and at least once in one or more weekly newspapers circulated in the area where the state-owned land is located. A news release pertaining to the hearing shall be disseminated among printed and electronic media in the area where the state-owned land is located. The public notice and news release also shall identify lands involved in the proposed exchange and describe the purposes of the exchange and proposed use of the lands involved. A summary of the testimony presented at the hearings shall be prepared for the board's consideration when reviewing the department's exchange proposal. If there is a failure to substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this section, then the exchange agreement shall be subject to being declared invalid by a court. Any such suit must be brought within one year from the date of the exchange agreement. [2003 c 334 § 445; 1979 c 54 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 107 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.08.015.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Exchange of state land by parks and recreation commission, procedure: RCW 79A.05.180.*

**79.17.060 Exchange of lands to consolidate and block up holdings—Agreements and deeds by commissioner.** The commissioner shall, with the advice and approval of the attorney general, execute such agreements, writings, or relinquishments and certify to the governor such deeds as are necessary or proper to complete an exchange. [2003 c 334 § 210; 1961 c 77 § 2; 1937 c 77 § 2; RRS § 5812-3f. Formerly RCW 76.12.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.17.070 Exchange of lands to consolidate and block up holdings—Lands acquired are subject to same laws and administered for same fund as lands exchanged.** Lands acquired by the state of Washington as the result of any exchange shall be held and administered for the benefit of the same fund and subject to the same laws as were the lands exchanged therefor. [2003 c 334 § 211; 1961 c 77 § 3. Formerly RCW 76.12.065.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

PART 2  
PURCHASE OR LEASE OF LAND  
BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**79.17.100 Application by school district.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 79.17.110, upon the application of a school district or any institution of higher education for the purchase or lease of lands granted to the state by the United States, the department may offer such land for sale or lease to such school district or institution of higher education in such acreage as it may determine, consideration being given upon application of a school district to school site criteria established by the superintendent of public instruction. However, in the event the department thereafter proposes to offer such land for sale or lease at public auction, such school district or institution of higher education shall have a preference right for six months from notice of such proposal to purchase or lease such land at the appraised value determined by the board. [2006 c 263 § 333; 2003 c 334 § 322.]

**Findings—Purpose—Part headings not law—2006 c 263:** See notes following RCW 28A.150.230.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.17.110 School districts—Purchase of leased lands with improvements.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 79.11.010 or any other provision of law, any school district or institution of higher education leasing land granted to the state by the United States and on which land such district or institution has placed improvements as defined in RCW 79.02.010 shall be afforded the opportunity by the department at any time to purchase such land, excepting land over which the department retains management responsibilities, for the purposes of schoolhouse construction and/or necessary supporting facilities or structures at the appraised value thereof less the value that any improvements thereon added to the value of the land itself at the time of the sale thereof. [2003 c 334 § 437; 1985 c 200 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 31 § 1; 1980 c 115 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 200 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.770.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

(2012 Ed.)

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.17.120 School districts—Purchases from school construction fund.** The purchases authorized under RCW 79.17.110 shall be classified as for the construction of common school plant facilities under RCW 28A.525.010 through 28A.525.222 and shall be payable out of the common school construction fund as otherwise provided for in RCW 28A.515.320 if the school district involved was under emergency school construction classification as established by the superintendent of public instruction at any time during the period of its lease of state lands. [2006 c 263 § 334; 2003 c 334 § 438; 1990 c 33 § 596; 1971 ex.s. c 200 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.774.]

**Findings—Purpose—Part headings not law—2006 c 263:** See notes following RCW 28A.150.230.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.17.130 School districts—Extension of contract period.** In those cases where the purchases, as authorized by RCW 79.17.110 and 79.17.120, have been made on a ten year contract, the board, if it deems it in the best interest of the state, may extend the term of any such contract to not to exceed an additional ten years under such terms and conditions as the board may determine. [2003 c 334 § 439; 1971 ex.s. c 200 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.01.778.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.17.140 School districts—Reversion, when.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, annually the board shall determine if lands purchased or leased by school districts or institutions of higher education under the provisions of RCW \*79.11.010 and 79.17.110 are being used for school sites. If such land has not been used for school sites for a period of seven years the title to such land shall revert to the original trust for which it was held. [2003 c 334 § 440; 1971 ex.s. c 200 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.780.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 79.11.010 appears to be erroneous. A reference to RCW 79.17.100 was apparently intended.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

PART 3  
LAND TRANSFER

**79.17.200 Real property—Transfer or disposal without public auction.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "public agency" means any agency, political subdivision, or unit of local government of this state including, but not limited to, municipal corporations, quasi-municipal corporations, special purpose districts, and local service districts; any agency of the state government; any agency of the United States; and any Indian tribe recognized as such by the federal government.

(2) With the approval of the board of natural resources, the department of natural resources may directly transfer or

dispose of real property, without public auction, in the following circumstances:

- (a) Transfers in lieu of condemnations;
  - (b) Transfers to public agencies; and
  - (c) Transfers to resolve trespass and property ownership disputes.
- (3) Real property to be transferred or disposed of under this section shall be transferred or disposed of only after appraisal and for at least fair market value, and only if such transaction is in the best interest of the state or affected trust. [1992 c 167 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.009.]

**79.17.210 Real property asset base—Natural resources real property replacement account.** (1) The legislature finds that the department has a need to maintain the real property asset base it manages and needs an accounting mechanism to complete transactions without reducing the real property asset base.

(2) The natural resources real property replacement account is created in the state treasury. This account shall consist of funds transferred or paid for the disposal or transfer of real property by the department under RCW 79.17.200 and the transfer of state lands or state forest lands into community forest trust lands under RCW 79.155.040. The funds in this account shall be used solely for the acquisition of replacement real property and may be spent only when, and as, authorized by legislative appropriation. [2011 c 216 § 13; 2003 c 334 § 118; 1992 c 167 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.30.265.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.17.220 Notification requirements.** Actions under this chapter are subject to the notification requirements of RCW 43.17.400. [2007 c 62 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—2007 c 62:** See notes following RCW 43.17.400.

## Chapter 79.19 RCW LAND BANK

### Sections

79.19.010	Legislative finding.
79.19.020	Land bank—Created—Purchase of property authorized.
79.19.030	Exchange or sale of property held in land bank.
79.19.040	Management of property held in land bank.
79.19.050	Appropriation of funds from forest development account or resource management cost account—Use of income.
79.19.060	Reimbursement for costs and expenses.
79.19.080	Identification of trust lands expected to convert to commercial, residential, or industrial uses—Hearing—Notice—Designation as urban lands.
79.19.090	Exchange of urban land for land bank land—Notification of affected public agencies.
79.19.100	Urban lands—Cooperative planning, development.
79.19.110	Lands for commercial, industrial, or residential use—Payment of in-lieu of property tax—Distribution.
79.19.900	Severability—1984 c 222.
79.19.901	Effective date—1984 c 222.

**79.19.010 Legislative finding.** The legislature finds that from time to time it may be desirable for the department to sell state lands which have low potential for natural resource management or low income-generating potential or which, because of geographic location or other factors, are inefficient for the department to manage. However, it is also

important to acquire lands for long-term management to replace those sold so that the publicly owned land base will not be depleted and the publicly owned forest land base will not be reduced. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a means to facilitate such sales and purchases so that the diversity of public uses on the trust lands will be maintained. In making the determinations, the department shall comply with local land use plans and applicable growth management principles. [2003 c 334 § 525; 1984 c 222 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 109 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.66.010.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.020 Land bank—Created—Purchase of property authorized.** The department, with the approval of the board, may purchase property at fair market value to be held in a land bank, which is hereby created within the department. Property so purchased shall be property which would be desirable for addition to the public lands of the state because of the potential for natural resource or income production of the property. The total acreage held in the land bank shall not exceed one thousand five hundred acres. [2003 c 334 § 526; 1984 c 222 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 109 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.66.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.030 Exchange or sale of property held in land bank.** The department, with the approval of the board, may:

(1) Exchange property held in the land bank for any other lands of equal value administered by the department, including any lands held in trust.

(2) Exchange property held in the land bank for property of equal or greater value which is owned publicly or privately, and which has greater potential for natural resource or income production or which could be more efficiently managed by the department, however, no power of eminent domain is hereby granted to the department; and

(3) Sell property held in the land bank in the manner provided by law for the sale of state lands without any requirement of platting and to use the proceeds to acquire property for the land bank which has greater potential for natural resource or income production or which would be more efficiently managed by the department. [2004 c 199 § 215; 2003 c 334 § 527; 1984 c 222 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 109 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.66.030.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.040 Management of property held in land bank.** The department may manage the property held in the land bank as provided in RCW 79.10.030. However, the properties or interest in such properties shall not be withdrawn, exchanged, transferred, or sold without first obtaining payment of the fair market value of the property or interest therein or obtaining property of equal value in exchange. [2003 c 334 § 528; 1984 c 222 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 109 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.66.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.050 Appropriation of funds from forest development account or resource management cost account—**

**Use of income.** The legislature may authorize appropriation of funds from the forest development account or the resource management cost account for the purposes of this chapter. Income from the sale or management of property in the land bank shall be returned as a recovered expense to the forest development account or the resource management cost account and may be used to acquire property under RCW 79.19.020. [2003 c 334 § 529; 1984 c 222 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 109 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.66.050.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Forest development account:* RCW 79.64.100.

*Resource management cost account:* RCW 79.64.020.

#### **79.19.060 Reimbursement for costs and expenses.**

The department shall be reimbursed for actual costs and expenses incurred in managing and administering the land bank program under this chapter from the forest development account or the resource management cost account in an amount not to exceed the limits provided in RCW 79.64.040. Reimbursement from proceeds of sales shall be limited to marketing costs provided in RCW 79.10.030. [2003 c 334 § 530; 1984 c 222 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.66.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.080 Identification of trust lands expected to convert to commercial, residential, or industrial uses—Hearing—Notice—Designation as urban lands.** Periodically, at intervals to be determined by the board, the department shall identify trust lands which are expected to convert to commercial, residential, or industrial uses within ten years. The department shall adhere to existing local comprehensive plans, zoning classifications, and duly adopted local policies when making this identification and determining the fair market value of the property.

The department shall hold a public hearing on the proposal in the county where the state land is located. At least fifteen days but not more than thirty days before the hearing, the department shall publish a public notice of reasonable size in display advertising form, setting forth the date, time, and place of the hearing, at least once in one or more daily newspapers of general circulation in the county and at least once in one or more weekly newspapers circulated in the area where the trust land is located. At the same time that the published notice is given, the department shall give written notice of the hearings to the departments of fish and wildlife and \*general administration, to the parks and recreation commission, and to the county, city, or town in which the property is situated. The department shall disseminate a news release pertaining to the hearing among printed and electronic media in the area where the trust land is located. The public notice and news release also shall identify trust lands in the area which are expected to convert to commercial, residential, or industrial uses within ten years.

A summary of the testimony presented at the hearings shall be prepared for the board's consideration. The board shall designate trust lands which are expected to convert to commercial, residential, or industrial uses as urban land. Descriptions of lands designated by the board shall be made available to the county and city or town in which the land is situated and for public inspection and copying at the depart-

ment's administrative office in Olympia, Washington and at each area office.

The hearing and notice requirements of this section apply to those trust lands which have been identified by the department prior to July 1, 1984, as being expected to convert to commercial, residential, or industrial uses within the next ten years, and which have not been sold or exchanged prior to July 1, 1984. [2003 c 334 § 531; 1994 c 264 § 60; 1988 c 36 § 53; 1984 c 222 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.66.080.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.090 Exchange of urban land for land bank land—Notification of affected public agencies.** If the department determines to exchange urban land for land bank land, public agencies defined in RCW 79.17.200 that may benefit from owning the property shall be notified in writing of the determination. The public agencies have sixty days from the date of notice by the department to submit an application to purchase the land and shall be afforded an opportunity of up to one year, as determined by the board, to purchase the land from the land bank at fair market value directly without public auction as authorized under RCW 79.17.200. The board, if it deems it in the best interest of the state, may extend the period under terms and conditions as the board determines. If competing applications are received from governmental entities, the board shall select the application which results in the highest monetary value. [2003 c 334 § 532; 1993 c 265 § 1; 1984 c 222 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.66.090.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.100 Urban lands—Cooperative planning, development.** The purpose of this section is to foster cooperative planning among the state, the department, and local governments as to state-owned lands under the department's jurisdiction situated in urban areas.

At least once a year, prior to finalizing the department's urban land leasing action plan, the department and applicable local governments shall meet to review state and local plans and to coordinate planning in areas where urban lands are located. The department and local governments may enter into formal agreements for the purpose of planning the appropriate development of these state-owned urban lands.

The department shall contact those local governments which have planning, zoning, and land-use regulation authority over areas where urban lands under its jurisdiction are located so as to facilitate these annual or other meetings.

"Urban lands" as used in this section means those areas which within ten years are expected to be intensively used for locations of buildings or structures, and usually have urban governmental services.

"Local government" as used in this section means counties, cities, and towns having planning and land-use regulation authority. [2003 c 334 § 441; 1979 ex.s. c 56 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.784.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.110 Lands for commercial, industrial, or residential use—Payment of in-lieu of property tax—Distri-**

**bution.** Lands purchased by the department for commercial, industrial, or residential use shall be subject to payment of in-lieu of real property tax for the period in which they are held in the land bank. The in-lieu payment shall be equal to the property taxes which would otherwise be paid if the land remained subject to the tax. Payment shall be made at the end of the calendar year to the county in which the land is located. If a parcel is not held in the land bank for the entire year, the in-lieu payment shall be reduced proportionately to reflect only that period of time in which the land was held in the land bank. The county treasurer shall distribute the in-lieu payments proportionately in accordance with RCW 84.56.230 as though such moneys were receipts from ad valorem property taxes. [2003 c 334 § 533; 1984 c 222 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.66.100.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.19.900 Severability—1984 c 222.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1984 c 222 § 15. Formerly RCW 79.66.900.]

**79.19.901 Effective date—1984 c 222.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1984. [1984 c 222 § 16. Formerly RCW 79.66.901.]

## Chapter 79.22 RCW ACQUISITION, MANAGEMENT, AND DISPOSITION OF STATE FOREST LANDS

### Sections

#### PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

79.22.010	Powers of department—Acquisition of land for reforestation—Taxes, cancellation.
79.22.020	Acquisition of forest land—Requisites.
79.22.030	Record of proceedings, etc.
79.22.040	Deed of county land to department.
79.22.050	Sales and leases of timber, timber land, or products thereon.
79.22.060	Transfer, disposal of lands without public auction—Requirements.
79.22.070	Forest and land management—Rules—Penalty.
79.22.080	Utility bonds.
79.22.090	Bonds—Purchase price of land limited—Retirement of bonds.
79.22.100	Reacquisition of lands from federal government.
79.22.110	Reconveyance to county in certain cases.
79.22.120	Reconveyance to county of certain leased lands.
79.22.130	Notification requirements.
79.22.140	State forest land pool—Authorization—Participation.
79.22.150	State forest land pool—Analysis.

#### PART 2 TRANSFERS OF STATE FOREST LANDS FOR PUBLIC PARK PURPOSES

79.22.300	Procedure—Reconveyance back when use ceases.
79.22.310	Timber resource management.
79.22.320	Lands transferred by deed.
79.22.330	Provisions cumulative and nonexclusive.

#### PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

**79.22.010 Powers of department—Acquisition of land for reforestation—Taxes, cancellation.** The depart-

ment has the power to accept gifts and bequests of money or other property, made in its own name, or made in the name of the state, to promote generally the interests of reforestation or for a specific named purpose in connection with reforestation, and to acquire in the name of the state, by purchase or gift, any lands which by reason of their location, topography, or geological formation, are chiefly valuable for purpose of developing and growing timber, and to designate such lands and any lands of the same character belonging to the state as state forest lands; and may acquire by gift or purchase any lands of the same character. The department has the power to seed, plant, and develop forests on any lands, purchased, acquired, or designated by it as state forest lands, and shall furnish such care and fire protection for such lands as it shall deem advisable. Upon approval of the board of county commissioners of the county in which the land is located such gift or donation of land may be accepted subject to delinquent general taxes thereon, and upon such acceptance of such gift or donation subject to such taxes, the department shall record the deed of conveyance thereof and file with the assessor and treasurer of the county wherein such land is situated, written notice of acquisition of such land, and that all delinquent general taxes thereon, except state taxes, shall be canceled, and the county treasurer shall thereupon proceed to make such cancellation in the records of the county treasurer. Thereafter, such lands shall be held in trust, protected, managed, and administered upon, and the proceeds therefrom disposed of, under RCW 79.22.040. [2003 c 334 § 205; 1988 c 128 § 23; 1937 c 172 § 1; 1929 c 117 § 1; 1923 c 154 § 3; RRS § 5812-3. Prior: 1921 c 169 § 1, part. Formerly RCW 76.12.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

#### **79.22.020 Acquisition of forest land—Requisites.**

The department shall take such steps as it deems advisable for locating and acquiring lands suitable for state forests and reforestation. Acquisitions made pursuant to this section shall be at no more than fair market value. No lands shall ever be acquired by the department except upon the approval of the title by the attorney general and on a conveyance being made to the state of Washington by good and sufficient deed. No forest lands shall be designated, purchased, or acquired by the department unless the area so designated or the area to be acquired shall, in the judgment of the department, be of sufficient acreage and so located that it can be economically administered for forest development purposes. [2000 c 148 § 1; 1988 c 128 § 28; 1923 c 154 § 4; RRS § 5812-4. Prior: 1921 c 169 § 1, part. Formerly RCW 76.12.080.]

**79.22.030 Record of proceedings, etc.** The department shall keep in its office in a permanent bound volume a record of all forest lands acquired by the state and any lands owned by the state and designated as such by the department. The record shall show the date and from whom said lands were acquired; amount and method of payment therefor; the forest within which said lands are embraced; the legal description of such lands; the amount of money expended, if any, and the date thereof, for seeding, planting, maintenance, or care for such lands; the amount, date, and source of any income derived from such land; and such other information and data as may be required by the department. [2003 c 334 § 223;

1988 c 128 § 34; 1923 c 154 § 9; RRS § 5812-9. Formerly RCW 76.12.155, 43.12.140.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.040 Deed of county land to department.** If any land acquired by a county through foreclosure of tax liens, or otherwise, comes within the classification of land described in RCW 79.22.010 and can be used as state forest land and if the department deems such land necessary for the purposes of this chapter, the county shall, upon demand by the department, deed such land to the department and the land shall become a part of the state forest lands.

Such land shall be held in trust and administered and protected by the department in the same manner as other state forest lands.

In the event that the department sells logs using the contract harvesting process described in RCW 79.15.500 through 79.15.530, the moneys derived subject to this section are the net proceeds from the contract harvesting sale. [2003 c 334 § 206; 2003 c 313 § 6; 1997 c 370 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 151; 1988 c 128 § 24; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 4 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 224 § 1; 1969 c 110 § 1; 1957 c 167 § 1; 1951 c 91 § 1; 1935 c 126 § 1; 1927 c 288 § 3, part (adding a new section to 1923 c 154 § 3b); RRS § 5812-36. Formerly RCW 76.12.030.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2003 c 313 § 6 and by 2003 c 334 § 206, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.22.050 Sales and leases of timber, timber land, or products thereon.** Except as provided in RCW 79.22.060, all land, acquired or designated by the department as state forest land, shall be forever reserved from sale, but the valuable materials thereon may be sold or the land may be leased in the same manner and for the same purposes as is authorized for state lands if the department finds such sale or lease to be in the best interests of the state and approves the terms and conditions thereof.

In the event that the department sells logs using the contract harvesting process described in RCW 79.15.500 through 79.15.530, the moneys received subject to this section are the net proceeds from the contract harvesting sale. [2003 c 334 § 220; 2003 c 313 § 7; 2000 c 148 § 2; 1998 c 71 § 2. Prior: 1988 c 128 § 32; 1988 c 70 § 1; 1980 c 154 § 11; 1971 ex.s. c 123 § 4; 1955 c 116 § 1; 1953 c 21 § 1; 1923 c 154 § 7; RRS § 5812-7. Formerly RCW 76.12.120.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2003 c 313 § 7 and by 2003 c 334 § 220, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter 82.45 RCW digest.

(2012 Ed.)

**79.22.060 Transfer, disposal of lands without public auction—Requirements.** (1) With the approval of the board, the department may directly transfer or dispose of state forest lands without public auction, if the lands:

- (a) Consist of ten contiguous acres or less;
- (b) Have a value of twenty-five thousand dollars or less;

or

(c) Are located in a county with a population of twenty-five thousand or less and are encumbered with timber harvest deferrals, associated with wildlife species listed under the federal endangered species act, greater than thirty years in length.

(2) Disposal under this section may only occur in the following circumstances:

- (a) Transfers in lieu of condemnation;
- (b) Transfers to resolve trespass and property ownership disputes; or

(c) In counties with a population of twenty-five thousand or less, transfers to public agencies.

(3) Real property to be transferred or disposed of under this section shall be transferred or disposed of only after appraisal and for at least fair market value, and only if the transaction is in the best interest of the state or affected trust. Valuable materials attached to lands transferred to public agencies under subsection (2)(c) of this section must be appraised at the fair market value without consideration of management or regulatory encumbrances associated with wildlife species listed under the federal endangered species act.

(4)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the proceeds from real property transferred or disposed of under this section shall be deposited into the park land trust revolving fund and be solely used to buy replacement land within the same county as the property transferred or disposed.

(b) The proceeds from real property transferred or disposed of under subsections (1)(c) and (2)(c) of this section for the purpose of participating in the state forest land pool created under RCW 79.22.140 must be deposited into the park land trust revolving fund and used to buy replacement forest land for the benefit of that county as provided in RCW 79.64.110 and located within any county participating in the land pool.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in counties with a population of twenty-five thousand or less, the portion of the proceeds associated with valuable materials on state forest land transferred under subsections (1)(c) and (2)(c) of this section must be distributed as provided in RCW 79.64.110. If requested in writing by the legislative authority of a county participating in the state forest land pool created under RCW 79.22.140, the portion of the proceeds associated with valuable materials on state forest land transferred under subsections (1)(c) and (2)(c) of this section must be deposited in the park land trust revolving fund and used to buy replacement forest land for the benefit of that county as provided in RCW 79.64.110 and located within any county participating in the land pool. [2012 c 166 § 7; 2009 c 354 § 7; 2003 c 334 § 221; 2000 c 148 § 3. Formerly RCW 76.12.125.]

**Findings—Intent—2012 c 166:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 354:** See note following RCW 84.33.140.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.070 Forest and land management—Rules—Penalty.** (1) State forest lands shall be logged, protected, and cared for in such manner as to ensure natural reforestation of such lands, and to that end the department shall have power, and it shall be its duty to adopt rules, and amendments thereto, governing logging operations on such areas, and to embody in any contract for the sale of timber on such areas, such conditions as it shall deem advisable, with respect to methods of logging, disposition of slashings, and debris, and protection and promotion of new forests. All such rules, or amendments thereto, shall be adopted by the department under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any violation of any rule adopted by the department under the authority of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

(b) The department may specify by rule, when not inconsistent with applicable statutes, that violation of a specific rule is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. [2003 c 334 § 222; 2003 c 53 § 369; 2000 c 11 § 10; 1988 c 128 § 33; 1987 c 380 § 17; 1927 c 288 § 3, part (adding a new section to 1923 c 154 § 3a); RRS § 5812-3a. Prior: 1921 c 169 § 2. Formerly RCW 76.12.140.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2003 c 53 § 369 and by 2003 c 334 § 222, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.22.080 Utility bonds.** For the purpose of acquiring and paying for lands for state forests and reforestation as herein provided the department may issue utility bonds of the state of Washington as may hereafter be authorized by the legislature. The bonds shall be known as state forest utility bonds. The principal or interest of the bonds shall not be a general obligation of the state, but shall be payable only from the forest development account. The department may issue the bonds in exchange for lands selected by it in accordance with RCW 79.64.100 and this chapter, or may sell the bonds in such a manner as it deems advisable, and with the proceeds purchase and acquire such lands. Any of the bonds issued in exchange and payment for any particular tract of lands may be made a first and prior lien against the particular land for which they are exchanged, and upon failure to pay the bonds and interest thereon according to their terms, the lien of the bonds may be foreclosed by appropriate court action. [2003 c 334 § 217; 2000 c 11 § 8; 1988 c 128 § 29; 1937 c 104 § 1; 1923 c 154 § 5; RRS § 5812-5. Formerly RCW 76.12.090.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.090 Bonds—Purchase price of land limited—Retirement of bonds.** For the purpose of acquiring, seeding, reforestation, and administering land for forests and of carrying out RCW 79.64.100 and the provisions of this chapter, the department is authorized to issue and dispose of utility bonds of the state of Washington in an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars in principal during the biennium expiring March 31, 1951. However, no sum in excess of one dollar per acre shall ever be paid or allowed either in cash, bonds, or otherwise, for any lands suitable for forest

growth, but devoid of such, nor shall any sum in excess of three dollars per acre be paid or allowed either in cash, bonds, or otherwise, for any lands adequately restocked with young growth.

Any utility bonds issued under the provisions of this section may be retired from time to time, whenever there is sufficient money in the forest development account, said bonds to be retired at the discretion of the department either in the order of issuance, or by first retiring bonds with the highest rate of interest. [2003 c 334 § 218; 2000 c 11 § 9; 1988 c 128 § 30; 1949 c 80 § 1; 1947 c 66 § 1; 1945 c 13 § 1; 1943 c 123 § 1; 1941 c 43 § 1; 1939 c 106 § 1; 1937 c 104 § 2; 1935 c 126 § 2; 1933 c 117 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5812-11. Formerly RCW 76.12.100.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.100 Reacquisition of lands from federal government.** Whenever any forest land which shall have been acquired by any county through the foreclosure of tax liens, or otherwise, and which shall have been acquired by the federal government either from said county or from the state holding said lands in trust, and shall be available for reacquisition, the board and the board of county commissioners of any such county are authorized to enter into an agreement for the reacquisition of such lands as state forest lands in trust for such county. Such agreement shall provide for the price and manner of such reacquisition. The board is authorized to provide in such agreement for the advance of funds available to it for such purpose from the forest development account, all or any part of the price for such reacquisition so agreed upon, which advance shall be repaid at such time and in such manner as provided in the agreement, solely from any distribution to be made to said county under the provisions of RCW 79.22.040; that the title to said lands shall be retained by the state free from any trust until the state shall have been fully reimbursed for all funds advanced in connection with such reacquisition; and that in the event of the failure of the county to repay such advance in the manner provided, the said forest lands shall be retained by the state to be administered and/or disposed of in the same manner as other state forest lands free and clear of any trust interest therein by said county. Such county shall make provisions for the reimbursement of the various funds from any moneys derived from such lands so acquired, or any other county trust forest board lands which are distributable in a like manner, for any sums withheld from funds for other areas which would have been distributed thereto from time to time but for such agreement. [2003 c 334 § 208; 1959 c 87 § 1. Formerly RCW 76.12.035.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.110 Reconveyance to county in certain cases.** Whenever any county shall have acquired by tax foreclosure, or otherwise, lands within the classification of RCW 79.22.010 and shall have thereafter contracted to sell such lands to bona fide purchasers before the same may have been selected as forest lands by the department, and has heretofore deeded or shall hereafter deed because of inadvertence or oversight such lands to the state or to the department to be held under RCW 79.22.040 or any amendment thereof; the department upon being furnished with a certified copy of such contract of sale on file in such county and a certificate of

the county treasurer showing said contract to be in good standing in every particular and that all due payments and taxes have been made thereon, and upon receipt of a certified copy of a resolution of the board of county commissioners of such county requesting the reconveyance to the county of such lands, is hereby authorized to reconvey such lands to such county by quitclaim deed executed by the department. Such reconveyance of lands hereafter so acquired shall be made within one year from the conveyance thereof to the state or department. [2003 c 334 § 212; 1988 c 128 § 27; 1941 c 84 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5812-3g. Formerly RCW 76.12.070.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.120 Reconveyance to county of certain leased lands.** If the board of natural resources determines that any forest lands deeded to the board or the state pursuant to this chapter, which are leased to any county for uses which have as one permitted use a sanitary landfill and/or transfer station, are no longer appropriate for management by the board, the board may reconvey all of the lands included within any such lease to that county. Reconveyance shall be by quitclaim deed executed by the chairman of the board. Upon execution of such deed, full legal and equitable title to such lands shall be vested in that county, and any leases on such lands shall terminate. A county that receives any such reconveyed lands shall indemnify and hold the state of Washington harmless from any liability or expense arising out of the reconveyed lands. [1991 c 10 § 1. Formerly RCW 76.12.067.]

**79.22.130 Notification requirements.** Actions under this chapter are subject to the notification requirements of RCW 43.17.400. [2007 c 62 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—2007 c 62:** See notes following RCW 43.17.400.

**79.22.140 State forest land pool—Authorization—Participation.** (1) The board may create a state forest land pool, to be managed in accordance with this section, if the board determines that creation of a land pool is in the best interest of the state or affected trust, based on an analysis prepared by the department under RCW 79.22.150. The land pool may not contain more than ten thousand acres of state forest land at any one time.

(2) A county is eligible to participate in a land pool if the board determines it:

(a) Has a population of twenty-five thousand or less; and

(b) Has existing state forest lands encumbered with timber harvest deferrals, associated with wildlife species listed under the federal endangered species act, more than thirty years in length.

(3) All lands in the land pool are state forest lands and must be managed in the same manner and with the same responsibilities as other state forest lands. Proceeds from the state forest land pool must, except as provided in RCW 79.64.110, be distributed under RCW 79.22.010 and 79.22.040.

(4)(a) A county may participate in the land pool only if it is eligible, as determined under subsection (2) of this section, and the board receives a written request to do so by the legislative authority of that county.

(b) The board shall end any further participation of a county in the land pool if it receives a written request to do so by the legislative authority of that county. If the board receives such a request, that county's interest in the land pool as a beneficiary remains, but no new contributions of asset value may be made to the land pool on behalf of the county and no new lands may be purchased in that county for the land pool.

(5)(a) If a land pool is created by the board, the department and the participating counties must develop a funding strategy for acquiring land to include in the land pool.

(b) The department and participating counties may pursue funding for the transfer of state forest land encumbered by long-term wildlife-related harvest deferrals within the participating counties into status as a natural resources conservation area under chapter 79.71 RCW, and use the value of the transferred land to acquire working forest lands to include in the land pool.

(c) The department and participating counties may pursue other land acquisition funding strategies. [2012 c 166 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2012 c 166:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.150 State forest land pool—Analysis.** (1) Upon the request of the board in its consideration of creating a state forest land pool under RCW 79.22.140, the department must conduct an analysis that includes, at a minimum, the following elements:

(a) An evaluation of how the proposed land pool would benefit the requesting counties, including revenue predictability and long-term revenue projections;

(b) The development and proposal of a set of policy, administrative, and financial structures necessary for the department to establish the land pool, including a method to determine the percentage of revenue to be distributed to each county participating in the land pool that is based on each county's proportionate contribution of asset value to the land pool;

(c) An estimation of the administrative costs of creating and maintaining the land pool; and

(d) Any additional information requested by the board.

(2) The department may coordinate its analysis with affected counties or an association representing the affected counties. [2012 c 166 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2012 c 166:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## PART 2 TRANSFERS OF STATE FOREST LANDS FOR PUBLIC PARK PURPOSES

**79.22.300 Procedure—Reconveyance back when use ceases.** Whenever the board of county commissioners of any county shall determine that state forest lands, that were acquired from such county by the state pursuant to RCW 79.22.040 and that are under the administration of the department, are needed by the county for public park use in accordance with the county and the state outdoor recreation plans, the board of county commissioners may file an application with the board for the transfer of such state forest lands.

Upon the filing of an application by the board of county commissioners, the department shall cause notice of the

impending transfer to be given in the manner provided by RCW 42.30.060. If the department determines that the proposed use is in accordance with the state outdoor recreation plan, it shall reconvey said state forest lands to the requesting county to have and to hold for so long as the state forest lands are developed, maintained, and used for the proposed public park purpose. This reconveyance may contain conditions to allow the department to coordinate the management of any adjacent public lands with the proposed park activity to encourage maximum multiple use management and may reserve rights-of-way needed to manage other public lands in the area. The application shall be denied if the department finds that the proposed use is not in accord with the state outdoor recreation plan. If the land is not, or ceases to be, used for public park purposes the land shall be conveyed back to the department upon request of the department. [2004 c 199 § 216; 2003 c 334 § 213; 1983 c 3 § 195; 1969 ex.s. c 47 § 1. Formerly RCW 76.12.072.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.310 Timber resource management.** The timber resources on any such state forest land transferred to the counties under RCW 79.22.300 shall be managed by the department to the extent that this is consistent with park purposes and meets with the approval of the board of county commissioners. Whenever the department does manage the timber resources of such lands, it will do so in accordance with the general statutes relative to the management of all other state forest lands. [2003 c 334 § 214; 1969 ex.s. c 47 § 2. Formerly RCW 76.12.073.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.320 Lands transferred by deed.** Under provisions mutually agreeable to the board of county commissioners and the board, lands approved for transfer to a county for public park purposes under the provisions of RCW 79.22.300 shall be transferred to the county by deed. [2003 c 334 § 215; 1969 ex.s. c 47 § 3. Formerly RCW 76.12.074.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.22.330 Provisions cumulative and nonexclusive.** The provisions of RCW 79.22.300 through 79.22.330 shall be cumulative and nonexclusive and shall not repeal any other related statutory procedure established by law. [2003 c 334 § 216; 1969 ex.s. c 47 § 4. Formerly RCW 76.12.075.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Chapter 79.24 RCW  
CAPITOL BUILDING LANDS**

Sections

GENERAL

- 79.24.010 Designation of lands—Sale, manner, consent of board.
- 79.24.020 Use of funds restricted.
- 79.24.030 Employment of assistants—Payment of expenses.
- 79.24.060 Disposition of proceeds of sale—Publication of notice of proposals or bids.
- 79.24.085 Disposition of money from sales.
- 79.24.087 Capitol grant revenue to capitol building construction account.

DESCHUTES BASIN

- 79.24.100 Bond issue authorized.
- 79.24.110 Sale of bonds—Price—Investment of funds in.
- 79.24.120 Life of bonds—Payment of interest.
- 79.24.130 Signatures—Registration of bonds.
- 79.24.140 Proceeds to capitol building construction account.
- 79.24.150 Bonds as security and legal investment.
- 79.24.160 Use of proceeds specified.

PARKING FACILITIES

- 79.24.300 Parking facilities authorized—Rental.
- 79.24.310 Number and location of facilities.
- 79.24.320 Appropriations—Parking facilities, laboratories.
- 79.24.330 Purchase of land for parking facilities authorized.
- 79.24.340 Purchase of land for parking facilities authorized—Construction of one-level facility.

SYLVESTER PARK

- 79.24.400 Sylvester Park—Grant authorized.
- 79.24.410 Sylvester Park—Subsurface parking facility.

ACCESS TO CAPITOL GROUNDS

- 79.24.450 Access to capitol grounds on described route authorized.

EAST CAPITOL SITE

- 79.24.500 Property described.
- 79.24.510 Area designated as the east capitol site.
- 79.24.520 Acquisition of property authorized—Means—Other state agencies to assist committee in executing chapter.
- 79.24.530 Department of general administration to design and develop site and buildings—Approval of capitol committee.
- 79.24.540 State agencies may buy land and construct buildings thereon—Requirements.
- 79.24.550 State buildings to be constructed only on capitol grounds—Exception.
- 79.24.560 Department of general administration to rent, lease or use properties.
- 79.24.570 Use of proceeds from site.
- 79.24.590 Use of private real estate and rights in site declared public use.
- 79.24.600 Severability—1961 c 167.

STATE BUILDINGS AND PARKING FACILITIES—1969 ACT

- 79.24.650 Committee duties enumerated.
- 79.24.652 Bonds authorized—Amount—Interest and maturity—Payable from certain revenues.
- 79.24.654 Maturities—Covenants—Section’s provisions as contract with bond holders—Where payable.
- 79.24.656 Signatures—Registration.
- 79.24.658 Payment of principal and interest—State building and parking bond redemption fund—Reserve—Owner’s remedies—Disposition of proceeds of sale—Nondebt-limit revenue bond retirement account.
- 79.24.660 Bonds as security and legal investment.
- 79.24.662 Use of bond proceeds.
- 79.24.664 Appropriation.
- 79.24.666 State capitol committee to act upon advice of legislative committee—State capitol committee powers.
- 79.24.668 Severability—1969 ex.s. c 272.

STATE CAPITOL PUBLIC AND HISTORIC FACILITIES

- 79.24.700 Findings.
- 79.24.710 Properties identified as "state capitol public and historic facilities."
- 79.24.720 Department of general administration’s responsibilities.
- 79.24.730 Funding/grants for stewardship of state capitol public and historic facilities.

*Control of traffic on capitol grounds: RCW 46.08.150 and 46.08.160.*

*State capitol committee: Chapter 43.34 RCW.*

GENERAL

**79.24.010 Designation of lands—Sale, manner, consent of board.** All lands granted to the state by the federal government for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the state capitol shall be known and designated as "Capitol Building Lands". None of such lands, nor the timber or other materials thereon, shall hereafter be sold without the consent

of the board of natural resources and only in the manner as provided for public lands and materials thereon. [1959 c 257 § 42; 1909 c 69 § 2; RRS § 7898.]

**79.24.020 Use of funds restricted.** All funds arising from the sale of lands granted to the state of Washington for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the state capital shall be held intact for the purpose for which they were granted. Lands when selected and assigned to said grant shall not be transferred to any other grant, nor shall the moneys derived from said lands be applied to any other purpose than for the erection of buildings at the state capital. [1893 c 83 § 1; RRS § 7896.]

**79.24.030 Employment of assistants—Payment of expenses.** The board of natural resources and the department of natural resources may employ such cruisers, draughtsmen, engineers, architects or other assistants as may be necessary for the best interests of the state in carrying out the provisions of RCW 79.24.010 through 79.24.085, and all expenses incurred by the board and department, and all claims against the capitol building construction account shall be audited by the department and presented in vouchers to the state treasurer, who shall draw a warrant therefor against the capitol building construction account as herein provided or out of any appropriation made for such purpose. [1988 c 128 § 62; 1985 c 57 § 76; 1973 c 106 § 37; 1959 c 257 § 43; 1911 c 59 § 12; 1909 c 69 § 7; RRS § 7903.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.24.060 Disposition of proceeds of sale—Publication of notice of proposals or bids.** The proceeds of such sale of capitol building lands, or the timber or other materials shall be paid into the capitol building construction account which is hereby established in the state treasury to be used as in \*this act provided. All contracts for the construction of capitol buildings shall be let after notice for proposals or bids have been advertised for at least four consecutive weeks in at least three newspapers of general circulation throughout the state. [1985 c 57 § 77; 1959 c 257 § 44; 1911 c 59 § 10; 1909 c 69 § 5; RRS § 7901.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "This act" first appears in 1909 c 69 codified as RCW 79.24.010 and 79.24.030 through 79.24.085.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.24.085 Disposition of money from sales.** All sums of money received from sales shall be paid into the capitol building construction account in the state treasury, and are hereby appropriated for the purposes of \*this act. [1985 c 57 § 78; 1959 c 257 § 46; 1909 c 69 § 8; RRS § 7904.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "this act," see note following RCW 79.24.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.24.087 Capitol grant revenue to capitol building construction account.** All revenues received from leases and sales of lands, timber and other products on the surface or beneath the surface of the lands granted to the state of Washington by the United States pursuant to an act of Congress approved February 22, 1889, for capitol building purposes, shall be paid into the "capitol building construction account". Available revenues in this account shall first be pledged to

(2012 Ed.)

state capitol public and historic facilities as defined under RCW 79.24.710. [2005 c 330 § 7; 1923 c 12 § 1; RRS § 7921-1. Formerly RCW 43.34.060.]

## DESCHUTES BASIN

**79.24.100 Bond issue authorized.** The state capitol committee may issue coupon or registered bonds of the state of Washington in an amount not exceeding one million dollars. The bonds shall bear interest at a rate not to exceed five percent per annum, both principal and interest to be payable only from the capitol building construction fund from revenues hereafter received from leases and contracts of sale heretofore or hereafter made of lands, timber, and other products from the surface or beneath the surface of the lands granted to the state by the United States pursuant to the act of congress approved February 22, 1889, for capitol building purposes. [1947 c 186 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7921-10.]

*Capitol building construction fund abolished and moneys transferred to capitol building construction account: RCW 43.79.330 through 43.79.334.*

*State capitol committee: Chapter 43.34 RCW.*

**79.24.110 Sale of bonds—Price—Investment of funds in.** Such bonds may be sold in such manner and in such amount, in such denominations, and at such times as the capitol committee shall determine, at the best price obtainable, but not for a sum so low as to make the net interest return to the purchaser exceed five percent per annum as computed by standard tables upon such sums; or the state treasurer may invest surplus cash in the accident fund in such bonds at par, at such rate of interest, not exceeding five percent as may be agreed upon between the treasurer and the state capitol committee, and the state finance committee may invest any surplus cash in the general fund, not otherwise appropriated, in such bonds at par at such rate of interest, not exceeding five percent, as may be agreed upon between the state finance committee and the state capitol committee. [1947 c 186 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7921-11.]

*Accident fund: RCW 51.44.010.*

*State finance committee: Chapter 43.33 RCW.*

*State treasurer: Chapter 43.08 RCW.*

**79.24.120 Life of bonds—Payment of interest.** Bonds issued under RCW 79.24.100 through 79.24.160 shall be payable in such manner, at such place or places, and at such time or times, not longer than twenty years from their date; with the option of paying any or all of said bonds at any interest paying date, as shall be fixed by the capitol committee, and the interest on the bonds shall be payable semiannually. [1947 c 186 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7921-12.]

**79.24.130 Signatures—Registration of bonds.** The bonds shall be signed by the governor and state auditor under the seal of the state, and any coupons attached thereto shall be signed by the same officers, whose signatures thereupon may be printed facsimile. Any of such bonds may be registered in the name of the holder upon presentation to the state treasurer, or at the fiscal agency of the state in New York, as to principal alone, or as to both principal and interest, under

[Title 79 RCW—page 57]

such regulations as the state capitol committee may prescribe. [1947 c 186 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7921-13.]

**79.24.140 Proceeds to capitol building construction account.** The proceeds from the sale of the bonds hereby authorized shall be paid into the \*capitol building construction fund. [1947 c 186 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7921-14.]

\*Reviser's note: For "capitol building construction fund," see note following RCW 79.24.100.

**79.24.150 Bonds as security and legal investment.** Bonds authorized by RCW 79.24.100 through 79.24.160 shall be accepted by the state, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and other political subdivisions as security for the deposit of any of their funds in any banking institution. Any officer of this state, or any county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision may invest surplus funds, which he is authorized to invest in securities, and where such authorization is not limited or restricted as to the class of securities in which he may invest, in bonds issued under RCW 79.24.100 through 79.24.160. [1947 c 186 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7921-15.]

**79.24.160 Use of proceeds specified.** Proceeds of the bonds issued hereunder shall be expended by the state capitol committee in the completion of the Deschutes Basin project adjacent to the state capitol grounds. The project shall embrace: (1) The acquisition by purchase or condemnation of necessary lands or easements; (2) the construction of a dam or weir along the line of Fifth Avenue in the city of Olympia and a parkway and railroad over the same; (3) the construction of a parkway on the west bank of the Deschutes Basin from the Pacific highway at the Deschutes River to a connection with the Olympic highway; (4) the construction of a parkway from the vicinity of Ninth Avenue and Columbia Street in the city of Olympia around the south side of the north Deschutes Basin, using the existing railroad causeway, to a road along Percival Creek and connecting with the Olympic highway; (5) the preservation of the precipitous banks surrounding the basin by the acquisition of easements or other rights whereby the cutting of trees and the building of structures on the banks can be controlled; (6) the construction by dredging of varying level areas at the foot of the bluffs for access to water and to provide for boating and other recreational areas; and (7) such other undertakings as, in the judgment of the committee, are necessary to the completion of the project.

In connection with the establishment of parkways, causeways, streets, and highways, or the relocation thereof, and the rerouting of railroads to effectuate the general plan of the basin project, the committee shall at all times cooperate with the department of transportation, the proper authorities of the city of Olympia, and the railroad companies which may be involved in the rerouting of railway lines. [1984 c 7 § 370; 1947 c 186 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7921-16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## PARKING FACILITIES

**79.24.300 Parking facilities authorized—Rental.** The state capitol committee may construct parking facilities for

the state capitol adequate to provide parking space for automobiles, said parking facilities to be either of a single level, multiple level, or both, and to be either on one site or more than one site and located either on or in close proximity to the capitol grounds, though not necessarily contiguous thereto. The state capitol committee may select such lands as are necessary therefor and acquire them by purchase or condemnation. As an aid to such selection the committee may cause location, topographical, economic, traffic, and other surveys to be conducted, and for this purpose may utilize the services of existing state agencies, may employ personnel, or may contract for the services of any person, firm or corporation. In selecting the location and plans for the construction of the parking facilities the committee shall consider recommendations of the \*director of general administration.

Space in parking facilities may be rented to the officers and employees of the state on a monthly basis at a rental to be determined by the \*director of general administration. The state shall not sell gasoline, oil, or any other commodities or perform any services for any vehicles or equipment other than state equipment. [1977 c 75 § 90; 1965 c 129 § 1; 1955 c 293 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: The "director of general administration" was renamed the "director of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 108.

**79.24.310 Number and location of facilities.** The state capitol committee may construct any two of the following three facilities: (1) A two story parking facility south of the transportation and public lands building in the existing parking area; (2) multiple level but not to exceed three story parking facility adjacent to the new office building; (3) multiple level but not to exceed three story parking facility adjacent to the new office building. [1955 c 293 § 2.]

**79.24.320 Appropriations—Parking facilities, laboratories.** There is appropriated to the state capitol committee from the \*capitol building construction fund for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 1957, the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars for the purposes of RCW 79.24.300, 79.24.310 and 79.24.320. Of this sum five hundred thousand dollars is to be used for parking purposes as outlined above and the remaining two hundred thousand dollars of this sum are to be used to complete the fisheries and health laboratories in the new office building on the contingency that it is necessary for the fisheries and health departments to move to Olympia. [1955 c 293 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: For "capitol building construction fund," see note following RCW 79.24.100.

**79.24.330 Purchase of land for parking facilities authorized.** For use in the construction thereon of parking facilities in close proximity to the capitol grounds, the state capitol committee is authorized to purchase, at a price not in excess of one hundred thousand dollars, the following real estate situated in the city of Olympia, Thurston county, state of Washington, and more particularly described as: Lots two, three, six, and seven, block eight, P.D. Moore's addition to the town of Olympia, according to the plat thereof recorded in volume 1 of plats, page 32, records of said county. [1957 c 257 § 1.]

**79.24.340 Purchase of land for parking facilities authorized—Construction of one-level facility.** After purchase of the said real estate the state capitol committee shall construct thereon one-level parking facilities suitable for as large a number of automobiles as may reasonably be accommodated thereon. [1957 c 257 § 2.]

SYLVESTER PARK

**79.24.400 Sylvester Park—Grant authorized.** The city of Olympia may grant to the state of Washington its right, title and interest in that public square situated therein and bounded by Capitol Way, Legion Way, Washington Street and East Seventh Street, and commonly known as Sylvester Park, and such conveyance shall in all respects supersede the terms and effect of any prior conveyance or agreement concerning this property. [1955 c 216 § 1.]

**79.24.410 Sylvester Park—Subsurface parking facility.** The state capitol committee may accept such grant on behalf of the state. Upon receipt from the city of Olympia of the conveyance authorized by RCW 79.24.400, the state capitol committee may lease the premises thereby conveyed, to any person, firm, or corporation for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining a garage and parking facility underneath the surface of said property.

The lease shall be for a term of not to exceed twenty-five years and by its terms shall require the lessee to restore and maintain the condition of the surface of the property so as to be available and suitable for use as a public park. The lease shall further provide that all improvements to the property shall become the property of the state upon termination of the lease, and may provide such further terms as the capitol committee may deem to be advantageous. [1955 c 216 § 2.]

ACCESS TO CAPITOL GROUNDS

**79.24.450 Access to capitol grounds on described route authorized.** The state capitol committee may construct a suitable access to the capitol grounds by way of fourteenth and fifteenth streets in the city of Olympia, and for the purpose may acquire, by purchase or condemnation, such lands along the said streets and between Capitol Way and Cherry Street in the city of Olympia, and construct thereon such improvements as the state capitol committee may deem proper for the purposes of such access. [1957 c 258 § 1.]

EAST CAPITOL SITE

**79.24.500 Property described.** The state capitol committee shall proceed as rapidly as their resources permit to acquire title to the following described property for development as state capitol grounds:

That area bounded as follows: Commencing at a point beginning at the southwest corner of Capitol Way and 15th Avenue and proceeding westerly to the present easterly boundary of the capitol grounds on the west; thence proceeding northerly along said easterly boundary of the capitol grounds; thence proceeding easterly along the boundary of the present capitol grounds to a point at the corner of Capitol Way and 14th Avenue; thence proceeding southerly to the point of beginning; also that area bounded by Capitol Way on

the west, 11th Avenue on the north, Jefferson Street on the east, and 16th Avenue (Maple Park) on the south; also that area bounded by Jefferson Street on the west, 14th Avenue on the north, Cherry Street on the east and 14th Avenue (Interstate No. 5 access) on the south; also that area bounded by 14th Avenue (Interstate No. 5 access) on the north, the westerly boundary of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Co. right-of-way on the east, 16th Avenue on the south, and Jefferson Street on the west; also that area bounded by 15th Avenue on the north, the westerly boundary of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Co. right-of-way on the east, and 14th Avenue (Interstate No. 5 access) on the south and west; all in the city of Olympia, county of Thurston, state of Washington, or any such portion or portions of the above described areas as may be required for present or future expansion of the facilities of the state capitol. [1967 ex.s. c 43 § 1; 1961 c 167 § 1.]

**79.24.510 Area designated as the east capitol site.** The area described in RCW 79.24.500 shall be known as the east capitol site, and upon acquisition shall become part of the state capitol grounds. [1961 c 167 § 2.]

**79.24.520 Acquisition of property authorized—Means—Other state agencies to assist committee in executing chapter.** The state capitol committee may acquire such property by gift, exchange, purchase, option to purchase, condemnation, or any other means of acquisition not expressly prohibited by law. All other state agencies shall aid and assist the state capitol committee in carrying out the provisions of RCW 79.24.500 through 79.24.600. [1961 c 167 § 3.]

**79.24.530 Department of general administration to design and develop site and buildings—Approval of capitol committee.** The \*department of general administration shall develop, amend and modify an overall plan for the design and establishment of state capitol buildings and grounds on the east capitol site in accordance with current and prospective requisites of a state capitol befitting the state of Washington. The overall plan, amendments and modifications thereto shall be subject to the approval of the state capitol committee. [1961 c 167 § 4.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**79.24.540 State agencies may buy land and construct buildings thereon—Requirements.** State agencies which are authorized by law to acquire land and construct buildings, whether from appropriated funds or from funds not subject to appropriation by the legislature, may buy land in the east capitol site and construct buildings thereon so long as the location, design and construction meet the requirements established by the \*department of general administration and approved by the state capitol committee. [1961 c 167 § 5.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**79.24.550 State buildings to be constructed only on capitol grounds—Exception.** No state agency shall undertake construction of buildings in Thurston county except

upon the state capitol grounds: PROVIDED, That the state capitol committee may authorize exceptions upon a finding by the state capitol committee that appropriate locations on the capitol grounds or east capitol site are unavailable. [1961 c 167 § 6.]

**79.24.560 Department of general administration to rent, lease or use properties.** The \*department of general administration shall have the power to rent, lease, or otherwise use any of the properties acquired in the east capitol site. [1961 c 167 § 7.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**79.24.570 Use of proceeds from site.** All moneys received by the \*department of general administration from the management of the east capitol site, excepting (1) funds otherwise dedicated prior to April 28, 1967, (2) parking and rental charges and fines which are required to be deposited in other accounts, and (3) reimbursements of service and other utility charges made to the \*department of general administration, shall be deposited in the capitol purchase and development account of the state general fund. [2000 c 11 § 24; 1969 ex.s. c 273 § 11; 1963 c 157 § 1; 1961 c 167 § 8.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**79.24.590 Use of private real estate and rights in site declared public use.** The use of the private real estate, rights, and interests in the east capitol site is hereby declared to be a public use. [1961 c 167 § 10.]

**79.24.600 Severability—1961 c 167.** If any provision of RCW 79.24.500 through 79.24.590, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of RCW 79.24.500 through 79.24.590, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1961 c 167 § 11.]

#### STATE BUILDINGS AND PARKING FACILITIES— 1969 ACT

**79.24.650 Committee duties enumerated.** The state capitol committee shall provide for the construction, remodeling, and furnishing of capitol office buildings, parking facilities, governor's mansion, and such other buildings and facilities as are determined by the state capitol committee to be necessary to provide space for the legislature by way of offices, committee rooms, hearing rooms, and work rooms, and to provide executive office space and housing for the governor, and to provide executive office space for other elective officials and such other state agencies as may be necessary, and to pay for all costs and expenses in issuing the bonds and to pay interest thereon during construction of the facilities for which the bonds were issued and six months thereafter. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 1.]

**79.24.652 Bonds authorized—Amount—Interest and maturity—Payable from certain revenues.** In addition to any authority previously granted, the state capitol committee is authorized and directed to issue coupon or registered reve-

nue bonds of the state in an amount not to exceed fifteen million dollars. The bonds may be sold in such manner and amounts, and in such denominations, at such times, at such price and shall bear interest at such rates and mature at such times as the state capitol committee shall determine by resolution. Both principal and interest shall be payable only from revenues hereafter received from leases and contracts of sale heretofore or hereafter made of lands, timber, and other products from the surface or beneath the surface of the lands granted to the state by the United States pursuant to the act of congress approved February 22, 1889, for capitol building purposes and from any parking revenues derived from state capitol parking facilities. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 2.]

**79.24.654 Maturities—Covenants—Section's provisions as contract with bond holders—Where payable.** Bonds issued under RCW 79.24.650 through 79.24.668 shall mature at such time or times, and include such provisions for optional redemption, premiums, coverage, guarantees, and other covenants as in the opinion of the state capitol committee may be necessary. In issuing such bonds and including such provisions, the state capitol committee shall act for the state and all officers, departments and agencies thereof affected by such provisions, and the state and such other officers, departments and agencies shall adhere to and be bound by such covenants. As long as any of such bonds shall be outstanding, neither the state, nor any of its officers, departments, agencies or instrumentalities, shall divert any of the proceeds and revenues actually pledged to secure the payment of the bonds and interest thereon, and the provisions of this section shall restrict and limit the powers of the legislature of the state of Washington in respect to the matters herein mentioned as long as the bonds are outstanding and unpaid and shall constitute a contract to that effect for the benefit of the holders of all such bonds. The principal and interest of said bonds shall be payable at the office of the state treasurer, or at the office of the fiscal agent of the state in New York City at the option of the holder of any such bond or bonds. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 3.]

**79.24.656 Signatures—Registration.** The bonds shall be signed by the governor and state treasurer under the seal of the state which may be printed or engraved in the border of such bonds. The signature of the governor may be a facsimile printed upon the bonds and any coupons attached thereto shall be signed with the facsimile signature of said officials. Any of such bonds may be registered in the name of the holder upon presentation to the state treasurer, or at the fiscal agency of the state in New York City, as to principal alone, or as to both principal and interest, under such regulations as the treasurer may prescribe. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 4.]

**79.24.658 Payment of principal and interest—State building and parking bond redemption fund—Reserve—Owner's remedies—Disposition of proceeds of sale—Nondebt-limit revenue bond retirement account.** For the purpose of paying the principal and interest of the bonds as the bonds become due, or as the bonds become callable at the option of the capitol committee, there is created a fund to be denominated the "state building and parking bond redemption fund". While any of the bonds remain outstanding and

unpaid, it shall be the duty of the capitol committee on or before June 30th of each year to determine the amount that will be required for the redemption of bonds and the payment of interest during the next fiscal year, and certify the amount to the state treasurer in writing. The state treasurer shall forthwith and thereafter during that fiscal year and at least fifteen days prior to each interest and principal payment date deposit into the state building and parking bond redemption fund all receipts from any parking facilities and to the extent necessary from receipts from leases and contracts of sale heretofore or hereafter made of lands, timber, and other products from the surface or beneath the surface of the lands granted to the state by the United States pursuant to the act of congress until the amount certified to the treasurer by the capitol committee has accrued to the state building and parking bond redemption fund. Nothing in RCW 79.24.650 through 79.24.668 shall prohibit the use of such receipts from leases and contracts of sale for any other lawfully authorized purpose when not required for the redemption and payment of interest and meeting the covenant requirements of the bonds authorized herein.

In addition to certifying and providing for the annual amounts required to pay the principal and interest of the bonds, the capitol committee may, under such terms and conditions and at such times and in such amounts as may be found necessary to insure the sale of the bonds, provide for additional payments into the state building and parking bond redemption fund to be held as a reserve to secure the payment of the principal and interest of such bonds.

The owner and holder of any of the bonds or the trustee for any of the bonds may by mandamus or other appropriate proceeding require and compel the deposit and payment of funds as directed herein.

The proceeds from the sale of the bonds hereby authorized shall be paid into the general fund—state building construction account.

If a nondebt-limit revenue bond retirement account is created in the state treasury by chapter 456, Laws of 1997 and becomes effective prior to the issuance of any of the bonds authorized by this chapter, the nondebt-limit revenue bond retirement account shall be used for the purposes of this chapter in lieu of the state building and parking bond redemption fund. [1997 c 456 § 28; 1969 ex.s. c 272 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.24.660 Bonds as security and legal investment.** Bonds authorized by RCW 79.24.650 through 79.24.668 shall be accepted by the state, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and other political subdivisions as security for the deposit of any of their funds in any banking institution. Any officer of this state, or any county, city, town, school district, or other political subdivision may invest surplus funds, which he is authorized to invest in securities, and where such authorization is not limited or restricted as to the class of securities in which he may invest, in bonds issued under RCW 79.24.650 through 79.24.668. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 6.]

**79.24.662 Use of bond proceeds.** Proceeds of the bonds issued hereunder shall be expended by the state capitol committee for the purposes enumerated in RCW 79.24.650. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 7.]

**79.24.664 Appropriation.** There is appropriated to the \*department of general administration from the general fund—state building construction account the sum of fifteen million dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in RCW 79.24.650. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 8.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**79.24.666 State capitol committee to act upon advice of legislative committee—State capitol committee powers.** The state capitol committee shall perform the foregoing in accordance with law and after consultation with and advice of such committee of the senate and house of representatives as the legislature may appoint for this purpose. The state capitol committee shall have power to do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of RCW 79.24.650 through 79.24.668 subject to and in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.24.650 through 79.24.668 and chapters 43.19 and 79.24 RCW. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 9.]

**79.24.668 Severability—1969 ex.s. c 272.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances, is not affected. [1969 ex.s. c 272 § 11.]

## STATE CAPITOL PUBLIC AND HISTORIC FACILITIES

**79.24.700 Findings.** The legislature finds that the historic facilities of the Washington state capitol are the most important public facilities in the state. They are a source of beauty and pride, a resource for celebrating our heritage and democratic ideals, and an exceptional educational resource. The public and historic facilities of the state capitol campus should be managed and maintained to the highest standards of excellence, model the best of historic preservation practice, and maximize opportunities for public access and enjoyment. The purpose of chapter 330, Laws of 2005 is to provide authority and direction for the care and stewardship of the public and historic facilities of the state capitol, to facilitate public access, use, and enjoyment of these assets, and to carefully preserve them for the benefit of future generations. [2005 c 330 § 1.]

**79.24.710 Properties identified as "state capitol public and historic facilities."** For the purposes of RCW 79.24.720, 79.24.730, 43.01.090, 43.19.500, and 79.24.087, "state capitol public and historic facilities" includes:

(1) The east, west and north capitol campus grounds, Sylvester park, Heritage park, Marathon park, Centennial park, the Deschutes river basin commonly known as Capitol lake, the interpretive center, Deschutes parkway, and the landscape, memorials, artwork, fountains, streets, sidewalks, lighting, and infrastructure in each of these areas not including state-owned aquatic lands in these areas managed by the department of natural resources under \*RCW 79.90.450;

(2) The public spaces and the historic interior and exterior elements of the following buildings: The visitor center, the Governor's mansion, the legislative building, the John L. O'Brien building, the Cherberg building, the Newhouse

building, the Pritchard building, the temple of justice, the insurance building, the Dolliver building, capitol court, and the old capitol buildings, including the historic state-owned furnishings and works of art commissioned for or original to these buildings; and

(3) Other facilities or elements of facilities as determined by the state capitol committee, in consultation with the \*\*department of general administration. [2005 c 330 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 79.90.450 was recodified as RCW 79.105.010 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1003.

\*\*\*(2) The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**79.24.720 Department of general administration's responsibilities.** The \*department of general administration is responsible for the stewardship, preservation, operation, and maintenance of the public and historic facilities of the state capitol, subject to the policy direction of the state capitol committee and the legislative buildings committee as created in chapter . . . (\*\*House Bill No. 1301), Laws of 2005, and the guidance of the capitol campus design advisory committee. In administering this responsibility, the department shall:

(1) Apply the United States secretary of the interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties;

(2) Seek to balance the functional requirements of state government operations with public access and the long-term preservation needs of the properties themselves; and

(3) Consult with the capitol furnishings preservation committee, the state historic preservation officer, the state arts commission, and the state facilities accessibility advisory committee in fulfilling the responsibilities provided for in this section. [2005 c 330 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

\*\*\*(2) House Bill No. 1301 failed to become law.

**79.24.730 Funding/grants for stewardship of state capitol public and historic facilities.** (1) To provide for responsible stewardship of the state capitol public and historic facilities, funding for:

(a) Maintenance and operational needs shall be authorized in the state's omnibus appropriations act and funded by the \*general administration services account as provided under RCW 43.19.500;

(b) Development and preservation needs shall be authorized in the state's capital budget. To the extent revenue is available, the capitol building construction account under RCW 79.24.087 shall fund capital budget needs. If capitol building construction account funds are not available, the state building construction account funds may be authorized for this purpose.

(2) The \*\*department of general administration may seek grants, gifts, or donations to support the stewardship of state capitol public and historic facilities. The department may: (a) Purchase historic state capitol furnishings or artifacts; or (b) sell historic state capitol furnishings and artifacts that have been designated as state surplus by the capitol furnishings preservation committee under RCW 27.48.040(6). Funds generated from grants, gifts, donations, or sales for omnibus appropriations act needs shall be deposited into the \*general administration services account. Funds generated

for capital budget needs shall be deposited into the capitol building construction account. [2005 c 330 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "general administration services account" was renamed the "enterprise services account" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 202.

\*\*\*(2) The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**Chapter 79.36 RCW  
EASEMENTS OVER PUBLIC LANDS**

Sections

PART 1  
ACQUISITION

- 79.36.310 Acquisition of property interests for access authorized.
- 79.36.320 Condemnation—Duty of attorney general.
- 79.36.330 Disposal of property interests acquired.
- 79.36.340 Acquisition—Payment.

PART 2  
GRANTING

- 79.36.350 Application for right-of-way.
- 79.36.355 Grant of easements and rights in public land.
- 79.36.370 Lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials.
- 79.36.380 Private easement subject to common user.
- 79.36.390 Reasonable facilities and service for transportation must be furnished.
- 79.36.400 Duty of utilities and transportation commission.
- 79.36.410 Penalty for violation of orders.
- 79.36.430 Forfeiture for nonuse.
- 79.36.440 Right-of-way for public roads.
- 79.36.450 Railroad right-of-way.
- 79.36.460 Railroad right-of-way—Procedure to acquire.
- 79.36.470 Railroad right-of-way—Appraisalment.
- 79.36.480 Railroad right-of-way—Improvements—Appraisal.
- 79.36.490 Railroad right-of-way—Release or payment of damages.
- 79.36.500 Railroad right-of-way—Certificate.
- 79.36.510 Utility pipe lines, transmission lines, etc.
- 79.36.520 Utility pipe lines, transmission lines, etc.—Procedure to acquire.
- 79.36.530 Utility pipe lines—Appraisal—Certificate—Reversion.
- 79.36.540 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes.
- 79.36.550 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes—Procedure to acquire.
- 79.36.560 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes—Appraisal—Certificate.
- 79.36.570 Grant of overflow rights.
- 79.36.580 Construction of foregoing sections.
- 79.36.590 Easement reserved in later grants.
- 79.36.600 Private easement over state lands.
- 79.36.610 Easement over public lands subject to common user.
- 79.36.620 Reservations in grants and leases.
- 79.36.630 Duty of utilities and transportation commission.
- 79.36.640 Penalty for violating utilities and transportation commission's order.
- 79.36.650 Applications—Appraisalment—Certificate—Forfeiture—Fee.

*Diking district right-of-way: RCW 85.05.080.*

*Flood control district right-of-way: Chapter 86.09 RCW.*

*Reclamation district right-of-way: RCW 89.30.223.*

PART 1  
ACQUISITION

**79.36.310 Acquisition of property interests for access authorized.** Whenever the department finds that it is in the best interests of the state of Washington to acquire any property or use of a road in private ownership to afford access to state timber and other valuable material for the purpose of developing, caring for, or selling the same, the acquisition of such property, or use thereof, is hereby declared to be necessary for the public use of the state of Washington, and the department is authorized to acquire such property or the use of such roads by gift, purchase, exchange, or condemnation,

and subject to all of the terms and conditions of such gift, purchase, exchange, or decree of condemnation to maintain such property or roads as part of the department's land management road system. [2003 c 334 § 226; 1963 c 140 § 1; 1945 c 239 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5823-30. Formerly RCW 76.16.010.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Eminent domain: State Constitution Art. 1 § 16; chapter 8.04 RCW.*

*State lands subject to easements for removal of materials: RCW 79.36.370 and 79.36.590.*

### 79.36.320 Condemnation—Duty of attorney general.

The attorney general of the state of Washington is hereby required and authorized to condemn said property interests found to be necessary for the public purposes of the state of Washington, as provided in RCW 79.36.310, and upon being furnished with a certified copy of the resolution of the department, describing said property interests found to be necessary for the purposes set forth in RCW 79.36.310, the attorney general shall immediately take steps to acquire said property interests by exercising the state's right of eminent domain under the provisions of chapter 8.04 RCW, and in any condemnation action herein authorized, the resolution so describing the property interests found to be necessary for the purposes set forth above shall, in the absence of a showing of bad faith, arbitrary, capricious, or fraudulent action, be conclusive as to the public use and real necessity for the acquisition of said property interests for a public purpose, and said property interests shall be awarded to the state without the necessity of either pleading or proving that the department was unable to agree with the owner or owners of said private property interest for its purchase. Any condemnation action herein authorized shall have precedence over all actions, except criminal actions, and shall be summarily tried and disposed of. [2003 c 334 § 227; 1963 c 140 § 2; 1945 c 239 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5823-31. Formerly RCW 76.16.020.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

### 79.36.330 Disposal of property interests acquired.

In the event the department should determine that the property interests acquired under the authority of this chapter are no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were acquired, the department shall dispose of the same in the following manner, when in the discretion of the department it is to the best interests of the state of Washington to do so, except that property purchased with educational funds or held in trust for educational purposes shall be sold only in the same manner as are state lands:

(1) Where the state property necessitating the acquisition of private property interests for access purposes under authority of this chapter is sold or exchanged, the acquired property interests may be sold or exchanged as an appurtenance of the state property when it is determined by the department that sale or exchange of the state property and acquired property interests as one parcel is in the best interests of the state.

(2) If the acquired property interests are not sold or exchanged as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the department shall notify the person or persons from whom the property interest was acquired, stating that the property interests are to be sold, and that the person or persons shall have

the right to purchase the same at the appraised price. The notice shall be given by registered letter or certified mail, return receipt requested, mailed to the last known address of the person or persons. If the address of the person or persons is unknown, the notice shall be published twice in an official newspaper of general circulation in the county where the lands or a portion thereof is located. The second notice shall be published not less than ten nor more than thirty days after the notice is first published. The person or persons shall have thirty days after receipt of the registered letter or five days after the last date of publication, as the case may be, to notify the department, in writing, of their intent to purchase the offered property interest. The purchaser shall include with his or her notice of intention to purchase, cash payment, certified check, or money order in an amount not less than one-third of the appraised price. No instrument conveying property interests shall issue from the department until the full price of the property is received by the department. All costs of publication required under this section shall be added to the appraised price and collected by the department upon sale of the property interests.

(3) If the property interests are not sold or exchanged as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the department shall notify the owners of land abutting the property interests in the same manner as provided in subsection (2) of this section and their notice of intent to purchase shall be given in the manner and in accordance with the same time limits as are set forth in subsection (2) of this section. However, if more than one abutting owner gives notice of intent to purchase the property interests, the department shall apportion them in relation to the lineal footage bordering each side of the property interests to be sold, and apportion the costs to the interested purchasers in relation thereto. Further, no sale is authorized by this section unless the department is satisfied that the amounts to be received from the several purchasers will equal or exceed the appraised price of the entire parcel plus any costs of publishing notices.

(4) If no sale or exchange is consummated as provided in subsections (1) through (3) of this section, the department shall sell the properties in the same manner as state lands are sold.

(5) Any disposal of property interests authorized by this chapter shall be subject to any existing rights previously granted by the department. [2004 c 199 § 217; 2003 c 334 § 228; 1963 c 140 § 3; 1945 c 239 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5823-32. Formerly RCW 76.16.030.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.340 Acquisition—Payment.** The department in acquiring any property interests under the provisions of this chapter, either by purchase or condemnation, is hereby authorized to pay for the same out of any moneys available to the department for this purpose. [2003 c 334 § 229; 1963 c 140 § 4; 1945 c 239 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5823-33. Formerly RCW 76.16.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

PART 2  
GRANTING

**79.36.350 Application for right-of-way.** Any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the business of logging or lumbering, quarrying, mining or removing sand, gravel, or other valuable materials from land, and desirous of obtaining a right—of way for the purpose of transporting or moving timber, minerals, stone, sand, gravel, or other valuable materials from other lands, over and across any state lands, or tide or shore lands belonging to the state, or any such lands sold or leased by the state since the fifteenth day of June, 1911, shall file with the department upon a form to be furnished for that purpose, a written application for such right-of-way, accompanied by a plat showing the location of the right-of-way applied for with references to the boundaries of the government section in which the lands over and across which such right-of-way is desired are located. Upon the filing of such application and plat, the department shall cause the lands embraced within the right-of-way applied for, to be inspected, and all timber thereon, and all damages to the lands affected which may be caused by the use of such right-of-way, to be appraised, and shall notify the applicant of the appraised value of such timber and such appraisal of damages. Upon the payment to the department of the amount of the appraised value of timber and damages, the department shall issue in duplicate a right-of-way certificate setting forth the terms and conditions upon which such right-of-way is granted, as provided in the preceding sections, and providing that whenever such right-of-way shall cease to be used for the purpose for which it was granted, or shall not be used in accordance with such terms and conditions, it shall be deemed forfeited. One copy of such certificate shall be filed in the office of the department and one copy delivered to the applicant. [2003 c 334 § 383; 1927 c 255 § 83; RRS § 7797-83. Prior: 1921 c 55 § 1; 1915 c 147 § 12; 1897 c 89 § 34; 1895 c 178 § 45. Formerly RCW 79.01.332, 79.36.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.650.

**79.36.355 Grant of easements and rights in public land.** The department may grant to any person such easements and rights in public lands, not otherwise provided in law, as the applicant applying therefor may acquire in privately owned lands. No grant shall be made under this section until such time as the full market value of the estate or interest granted together with damages to all remaining property of the state of Washington has been ascertained and safely secured to the state. [2004 c 199 § 218; 2003 c 334 § 396; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 175; 1961 c 73 § 12. Formerly RCW 79.01.414.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.370 Lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials.** All state lands granted, sold or leased since the fifteenth day of June, 1911, or hereafter granted, sold or leased, containing timber, minerals, stone, sand, gravel, or other valuable materials, or when other state lands

contiguous or in proximity thereto contain any such valuable materials, shall be subject to the right of the state, or any grantee or lessee thereof who has acquired such other lands, or any such valuable materials thereon, since the fifteenth day of June, 1911, or hereafter acquiring such other lands or valuable materials thereon, to acquire the right-of-way over such lands so granted, sold or leased, for private railroads, skid roads, flumes, canals, watercourses or other easements for the purpose of, and to be used in, transporting and moving such valuable materials from such other lands, over and across the lands so granted or leased, upon the state, or its grantee or lessee, paying to the owner of lands so granted or sold, or the lessee of the lands so leased, reasonable compensation therefor. In case the parties interested cannot agree upon the damages incurred, the same shall be ascertained and assessed in the same manner as damages are ascertained and assessed against a railroad company seeking to condemn private property. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 167; 1927 c 255 § 78; RRS § 7797-78. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.312, 79.36.010.]

*Railroads, eminent domain:* RCW 81.36.010 and 81.53.180.

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.590.

*State lands, eminent domain:* RCW 8.28.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.380 Private easement subject to common user.** Every grant, deed, conveyance, contract to purchase or lease made since June 15, 1911, or hereafter made to any person, firm, or corporation, for a right-of-way for a private railroad, skid road, canal, flume, watercourse, or other easement, over or across any public lands for the purpose of, and to be used in, transporting and moving timber, minerals, stone, sand, gravel, or other valuable materials of the land, shall be subject to the right of the state, or any grantee or lessee thereof, or other person who has acquired since June 15, 1911, or shall hereafter acquire, any lands containing valuable materials contiguous to, or in proximity to, such right-of-way, or who has so acquired or shall hereafter acquire such valuable materials situated upon public lands or contiguous to, or in proximity to, such right-of-way, of having such valuable materials transported or moved over such private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement, after the same is or has been put in operation, upon paying therefor just and reasonable rates for transportation, or for the use of such private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement, and upon complying with just, reasonable and proper rules and regulations relating to such transportation or use, which rates, rules, and regulations, shall be under the supervision and control of the utilities and transportation commission. [2004 c 199 § 219; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 168; 1927 c 255 § 79; RRS § 7797-79. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.316, 79.36.020.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.600.

*Washington utilities and transportation commission:* Chapter 80.01 RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.390 Reasonable facilities and service for transportation must be furnished.** Any person, firm, or corpora-

tion, having acquired such right-of-way or easement since June 15, 1911, or hereafter acquiring such right-of-way or easement over any public lands for the purpose of transporting or moving timber, mineral, stone, sand, gravel, or other valuable materials, and engaged in such business thereon, shall accord to the state, or any grantee or lessee thereof, having since June 15, 1911, acquired, or hereafter acquiring, from the state, any public lands containing timber, mineral, stone, sand, gravel, or other valuable materials, contiguous to or in proximity to such right-of-way or easement, or any person, firm, or corporation, having since June 15, 1911, acquired, or hereafter acquiring, the timber, mineral, stone, sand, gravel, or other valuable materials upon any public lands contiguous to or in proximity to the lands over which such right-of-way or easement is operated, proper and reasonable facilities and service for transporting and moving such valuable materials, under reasonable rules and regulations and upon payment of just and reasonable charges therefor, or, if such right-of-way or other easement is not then in use, shall accord the use of such right-of-way or easement for transporting and moving such valuable materials, under reasonable rules and regulations and upon the payment of just and reasonable charges therefor. [2004 c 199 § 220; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 169; 1927 c 255 § 80; RRS § 7797-80. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.320, 79.36.030.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.610.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.400 Duty of utilities and transportation commission.** Should the owner or operator of any private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse or other easement operating over lands acquired since the fifteenth day of June, 1911, or hereafter acquired, from the state, as in the previous sections provided, fail to agree with the state, or any grantee thereof, as to the reasonable and proper rules, regulations and charges, concerning the transportation of timber, mineral, stone, sand, gravel or other valuable materials, from lands contiguous to, or in proximity to, the lands over which such private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse or other easement, is operated, for transporting or moving such valuable materials, the state, or such person, firm or corporation, owning and desiring to have such valuable materials transported or moved, may apply to the state utilities and transportation commission and have the reasonableness of the rules and regulations and charges inquired into, and it shall be the duty of the utilities and transportation commission to inquire into the same and it is hereby given the same power and authority to investigate the same as it is now authorized to investigate or inquire into the reasonableness of rules, regulations and charges made by railroad companies, and it is authorized and empowered to make any such order as it would make in an inquiry against a railroad company, and in case such private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse or easement, is not then in use, may make such reasonable, proper and just rules and regulations concerning the use thereof for the purposes aforesaid as may be just and proper, and such order shall have the same force and effect, and be binding upon the parties to such hearing, as though such hearing and order was made affecting a common carrier railroad.

(2012 Ed.)

[1983 c 4 § 6; 1927 c 255 § 81; RRS § 7797-81. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.01.324, 79.36.040.]

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.630.

*Transportation, general regulations:* Chapter 81.04 RCW.

**79.36.410 Penalty for violation of orders.** In case any person, firm or corporation, owning or operating any private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse or other easement, over and across any state lands, or any lands acquired since the fifteenth day of June, 1911, or hereafter acquired, from the state, subject to the provisions of the preceding sections, shall violate or fail to comply with any rule, regulation or order made by the utilities and transportation commission, after an inquiry and hearing as provided in the preceding section, such person, firm or corporation, shall be subject to a penalty of not to exceed one thousand dollars for each and every violation thereof, and in addition thereto such right-of-way, private road, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse or other easement and all improvements and structures on such right-of-way, and connected therewith, shall revert to the state or to the owner of the land over which such right-of-way is located, and may be recovered in an action instituted in any court of competent jurisdiction. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 170; 1927 c 255 § 82; RRS § 7797-82. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.328, 79.36.050.]

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.640.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.430 Forfeiture for nonuse.** Any such right-of-way heretofore granted which has never been used, or has ceased to be used for the purpose for which it was granted, for a period of two years, shall be deemed forfeited. The forfeiture of any such right-of-way heretofore granted, or granted under the provisions of the preceding sections, shall be rendered effective by the mailing of a notice of such forfeiture to the grantee thereof at his or her last known post office address and by stamping a copy of such certificate, or other record of the grant, in the office of the department with the word "canceled", and the date of such cancellation. [2003 c 334 § 384; 1927 c 255 § 84; RRS § 7797-84. Prior: 1921 c 55 § 1; 1915 c 147 § 12; 1897 c 89 § 34; 1895 c 178 § 45. Formerly RCW 79.01.336, 79.36.070.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.650.

**79.36.440 Right-of-way for public roads.** Any county or city or the United States of America or state agency desiring to locate, establish, and construct a road or street over and across any state lands of the state of Washington shall by resolution of the board of county commissioners of such county, or city council or other governing body of such city, or proper agency of the United States of America, or state agency, cause to be filed in the office of the department a petition for a right-of-way for such road or street, setting forth the reasons for the establishment thereof, accompanied by a duly attested copy of a plat made by the county or city engineer or proper agency of the United States of America, or state agency, showing the location of the proposed road or street with reference to the legal subdivisions, or lots and blocks of the official plat, or the lands, over and across which such

right-of-way is desired, the amount of land to be taken and the amount of land remaining in each portion of each legal subdivision or lot or block bisected by such proposed road or street.

Upon the filing of such petition and plat the department, if deemed for the best interest of the state to grant the petition, shall cause the land proposed to be taken to be inspected and shall appraise the value of the land and valuable materials thereon and notify the petitioner of such appraised value.

If there are no valuable materials on the proposed right-of-way, or upon the payment of the appraised value of the land and valuable materials thereon, to the department in cash, or by certified check drawn upon any bank in this state, or money order, except for all rights-of-way granted to the department on which the valuable materials, if any, shall be sold at public auction or by sealed bid, the department may approve the plat filed with the petition and file and enter the same in the records of its office, and such approval and record shall constitute a grant of such right-of-way from the state. [2003 c 334 § 385; 2001 c 250 § 12; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 171; 1961 c 73 § 5; 1945 c 145 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 85; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-85. Prior: 1917 c 148 § 9; 1903 c 20 § 1; 1897 c 89 § 35; 1895 c 178 § 46. Formerly RCW 79.01.340, 79.36.080.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.450 Railroad right-of-way.** A right-of-way through, over and across any state lands not held under a contract of sale, is hereby granted to any railroad company organized under the laws of this state, or any state or territory of the United States, or under any act of congress of the United States, to any extent not exceeding fifty feet on either side of the center line of any railroad now constructed, or hereafter to be constructed, and for such greater width as is required for excavations, embankments, depots, station grounds, passing tracks or borrow pits, which extra width shall not in any case exceed two hundred feet on either side of said right-of-way. [1927 c 255 § 86; RRS § 7797-86. Prior: 1907 c 104 § 1; 1901 c 173 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.344, 79.36.090.]

*Railroad rights-of-way: Chapter 81.52 RCW.*

**79.36.460 Railroad right-of-way—Procedure to acquire.** In order to obtain the benefits of RCW 79.36.450, any railroad company hereafter constructing, or proposing to construct, a railroad, shall file with the department a copy of its articles of incorporation, due proof of organization thereunder, a map or maps, accompanied by the field notes of the survey, showing the location of the line of said railroad, the width of the right-of-way and extra widths, if any, and shall pay to the department as hereinafter provided the amount of the appraised value of the lands included within the right-of-way, and extra widths if any are required, and the damages to any lands affected by the right-of-way or extra widths. [2003 c 334 § 386; 1927 c 255 § 87; RRS § 7797-87. Prior: 1907 c 104 § 1; 1901 c 173 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.348, 79.36.100.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.470 Railroad right-of-way—Appraisal.** All state lands over which a right-of-way of any railroad to be

hereafter constructed, shall be located, shall be appraised in the same manner as in the case of applications for the purchase of state lands, fixing the appraised value per acre for each lot or block, quarter section or subdivision thereof, less the improvements, if any, and the damages to any state lands affected by such right-of-way, shall be appraised in like manner, and the appraisal shall be recorded and the evidence or report upon which the same is based shall be preserved of record, in the office of the department, and the department shall send notice to the railroad company applying for the right-of-way that such appraisal has been made. [2003 c 334 § 387; 1927 c 255 § 88; RRS § 7797-88. Prior: 1901 c 173 §§ 2, 5. Formerly RCW 79.01.352, 79.36.110.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.480 Railroad right-of-way—Improvements—Appraisal.** Should any improvements, made by anyone not holding adversely to the state at the time of making such improvements or made in good faith by a lessee of the state whose lease had not been canceled or was not subject to cancellation for any cause, or made upon the land by mistake, be upon any of such lands at the time of the appraisal, the same shall be separately appraised, together with the damage and waste done to said lands, or to adjacent lands, by the use and occupancy of the same, and after deducting from the amount of the appraisal for improvements the amount of such damage and waste, the balance shall be regarded as the value of said improvements, and the railroad company, if not the owner of such improvements, shall deposit with the department the value of the same, as shown by the appraisal, within thirty days next following the date thereof. The department shall hold such moneys for a period of three months, and unless a demand and proof of ownership of such improvements shall be made upon the department within said period of three months, the same shall be deemed forfeited to the state and deposited with the state treasurer and paid into the general fund. If two or more persons shall file claims of ownership of said improvements, within said period of three months, with the department, the department shall hold such moneys until the claimants agree or a certified copy of the judgment decreeing the ownership of said improvements shall be filed with the department. When notice of agreement or a certified copy of a judgment has been so filed, the department shall pay over to the owner of the improvements the money so deposited. [2003 c 334 § 388; 1927 c 255 § 89; RRS § 7797-89. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 13; 1901 c 173 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.01.356, 79.36.120.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.490 Railroad right-of-way—Release or payment of damages.** When the construction or proposed construction of said railroad affects the value of improvements on state lands not situated on the right-of-way or extra widths, the applicant for said right-of-way shall file with the department a valid release of damages duly executed by the owner or owners of such improvements, or a certified copy of a judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, showing that compensation for the damages resulting to such owner or owners, as ascertained in accordance with existing law, has been made or paid into the registry of such court. [2003 c 334

§ 389; 1927 c 255 § 90; RRS § 7797-90. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 13; 1901 c 173 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.01.360, 79.36.130.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.500 Railroad right-of-way—Certificate.** Upon full payment of the appraised value of any right-of-way for a railroad and of damages to state lands affected, the department shall issue to the railroad company applying for such right-of-way a certificate in such form as the department may prescribe, in which the terms and conditions of said easement shall be set forth and the lands covered thereby described, and any future grant, or lease, by the state, of the lands crossed or affected by such right-of-way shall be subject to the easement described in the certificate. [2003 c 334 § 390; 1927 c 255 § 91; RRS § 7797-91. Prior: 1915 c 147 § 14; 1901 c 173 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.01.364, 79.36.140.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.510 Utility pipe lines, transmission lines, etc.** A right-of-way through, over, and across any state lands or state forest lands, may be granted to any municipal or private corporation, company, association, individual, or the United States of America, constructing or proposing to construct, or which has heretofore constructed, any telephone line, ditch, flume, or pipe line for the domestic water supply of any municipal corporation or transmission line for the purpose of generating or transmitting electricity for light, heat, or power. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 172; 1961 c 73 § 6; 1945 c 147 § 1; 1927 c 255 § 96; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-96. Prior: 1925 c 6 § 1; 1921 c 148 § 1; 1919 c 97 § 1; 1909 c 188 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.384, 79.36.150.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.520 Utility pipe lines, transmission lines, etc.—Procedure to acquire.** In order to obtain the benefits of the grant made in RCW 79.36.510, the municipal or private corporation or company, association, individual, or the United States of America, constructing or proposing to construct, or which has heretofore constructed, such telephone line, ditch, flume, pipe line, or transmission line, shall file, with the department, a map, accompanied by the field notes of the survey and location of such telephone line, ditch, flume, pipe line, or transmission line, and shall make payment therefor as provided in RCW 79.36.530. The land within the right-of-way shall be limited to an amount necessary for the construction of said telephone line, ditch, flume, pipe line, or transmission line sufficient for the purposes required, together with sufficient land on either side thereof for ingress and egress to maintain and repair the same, and the grant shall include the right to cut all standing timber, and/or reproduction within said right-of-way. The grant shall also include the right to cut trees marked as danger trees by the applicant outside of the right-of-way, which shall be dangerous to the operation and maintenance of the telephone line, ditch, flume, pipe line, or transmission line upon full payment of the appraised value thereof. [2003 c 334 § 391; 1961 c 73 § 7; 1959 c 257 § 35; 1945 c 147 § 2; 1927 c 255 § 97; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-97. Prior: 1921 c 148 § 2; 1919 c 97 § 2; 1909 c 188 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.388, 79.36.160.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.530 Utility pipe lines—Appraisal—Certificate—Reversion.** Upon the filing of the plat and field notes, as provided in RCW 79.36.520, the land applied for and the valuable materials on the right-of-way applied for, and the marked danger trees to be felled off the right-of-way, if any, and the improvements included in the right-of-way applied for, if any, shall be appraised as in the case of an application to purchase state lands. Upon full payment of the appraised value of the land applied for, or upon payment of an annual rental when the department deems a rental to be in the best interests of the state, and upon full payment of the appraised value of the valuable materials and improvements, if any, the department shall issue to the applicant a certificate of the grant of such right-of-way stating the terms and conditions thereof and shall enter the same in the abstracts and records in its office, and thereafter any sale or lease of the lands affected by such right-of-way shall be subject to the easement of such right-of-way. Should the corporation, company, association, individual, state agency, political subdivision of the state, or the United States of America, securing such right-of-way ever abandon the use of the same for a period of sixty months or longer for the purposes for which it was granted, the right-of-way shall revert to the state, or the state's grantee. [2003 c 334 § 392; 2001 c 250 § 13; 1961 c 73 § 8; 1959 c 257 § 36; 1945 c 147 § 3; 1927 c 255 § 98; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-98. Prior: 1909 c 188 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.392, 79.36.170.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.540 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes.** A right-of-way through, over and across any state lands is hereby granted to any irrigation district, or irrigation company duly organized under the laws of this state, and to any association, individual, or the United States of America, constructing or proposing to construct an irrigation ditch or pipe line for irrigation, or to any diking and drainage district or any diking and drainage improvement district proposing to construct a dike or drainage ditch. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 173; 1945 c 147 § 4; 1927 c 255 § 99; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-99. Prior: 1917 c 148 § 6; 1907 c 161 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.01.396, 79.36.180.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.550 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes—Procedure to acquire.** In order to obtain the benefits of the grant provided for in RCW 79.36.540, the irrigation district, irrigation company, association, individual, or the United States of America, constructing or proposing to construct such irrigation ditch or pipe line for irrigation, or the diking and drainage district or diking and drainage improvement district constructing or proposing to construct any dike or drainage ditch, shall file with the department a map accompanied by the field notes of the survey and location of the proposed irrigation ditch, pipe line, dike, or drainage ditch, and shall pay to the state as hereinafter provided, the amount of the appraised value of the said lands used for or included within such right-of-way. The land within said right-of-way shall be limited to an amount necessary for the construction of the irrigation ditch, pipe line, dike, or drainage ditch for the purposes required, together with sufficient land on either side thereof for ingress

and egress to maintain and repair the same. [2003 c 334 § 393; 1945 c 147 § 5; 1927 c 255 § 100; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7797-100. Prior: 1917 c 148 § 7; 1907 c 161 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.400, 79.36.190.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.560 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes—Appraisal—Certificate.** Upon the filing of the plat and field notes as provided in RCW 79.36.550, the lands included within the right-of-way applied for shall be appraised as in the case of an application to purchase such lands, at the full market value thereof. Upon full payment of the appraised value of the lands the department shall issue to the applicant a certificate of right-of-way, and enter the same in the records in its office and thereafter any sale or lease by the state of the lands affected by such right-of-way shall be subject thereto. [2003 c 334 § 394; 1927 c 255 § 101; RRS § 7797-101. Prior: 1907 c 161 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.01.404, 79.36.200.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.570 Grant of overflow rights.** The department shall have the power to grant to any person or corporation the right, privilege, and authority to perpetually back and hold water upon or over any state lands, and overflow such lands and inundate the same, whenever the department shall deem it necessary for the purpose of erecting, constructing, maintaining, or operating any water power plant, reservoir, or works for impounding water for power purposes, irrigation, mining, or other public use, but no such rights shall be granted until the value of the lands to be overflowed and any damages to adjoining lands of the state, appraised as in the case of an application to purchase such lands, shall have been paid by the person or corporation seeking the grant, and if the construction or erection of any such water power plant, reservoir, or works for impounding water for the purposes heretofore specified, shall not be commenced and diligently prosecuted and completed within such time as the department may prescribe at the time of the grant, the same may be forfeited by the department by serving written notice of such forfeiture upon the person or corporation to whom the grant was made, but the department, for good cause shown to its satisfaction, may extend the time within which such work shall be completed. [2003 c 334 § 395; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 174; 1927 c 255 § 102; RRS § 7797-102. Prior: 1915 c 147 §§ 10, 11; 1907 c 125 §§ 1, 2. Formerly RCW 79.01.408, 79.36.210.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Operating agencies: Chapter 43.52 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.580 Construction of foregoing sections.** The foregoing sections relating to the acquiring of rights-of-way and overflow rights through, over and across lands belonging to the state, shall not be construed as exclusive or as affecting the right of municipal and public service corporations to acquire lands belonging to or under control of the state, or rights-of-way or other rights thereover, by condemnation proceedings. [1927 c 255 § 103; RRS § 7797-103. Formerly RCW 79.01.412, 79.36.220.]

*Railroad rights-of-way: Chapter 81.52 RCW.*

[Title 79 RCW—page 68]

**79.36.590 Easement reserved in later grants.** All state lands hereafter granted, sold or leased shall be subject to the right of the state, or any grantee or lessee or successor in interest thereof hereafter acquiring other state lands, or acquiring the timber, stone, mineral or other natural products thereon, or the manufactured products thereof to acquire the right-of-way over such lands so granted, for logging and/or lumbering railroads, private railroads, skid roads, flumes, canals, watercourses, or other easements for the purpose of and to be used in the transporting and moving of such timber, stone, mineral or other natural products thereon, and the manufactured products thereof from such state land, and all necessary machinery, supplies or materials to be used in transporting, cutting, manufacturing, mining or quarrying any or all of such products over and across the lands so granted or leased, upon the state or its grantee or successor in interest thereof, paying to the owner of the lands so granted, sold, or leased reasonable compensation therefor. In case the parties interested cannot agree upon the damages incurred, the same shall be ascertained and assessed in the same manner as damages are ascertained and assessed against a railroad seeking to condemn private property. [1927 c 312 § 1; RRS § 8107-1. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.36.230.]

*Railroads, eminent domain: RCW 81.36.010 and 81.53.180.*

*Similar enactment: RCW 79.36.370.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.36.600 Private easement over state lands.** Every grant, deed, conveyance, lease or contract hereafter made to any person, firm or corporation over and across any state lands for the purpose of right-of-way for any logging and/or lumbering railroad, private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse or other easement to be used in the hauling of timber, stone, mineral or other natural products of the land and the manufactured products thereof and all necessary machinery, supplies or materials to be used in transporting, cutting, manufacturing, mining or quarrying any or all of such products, shall be subject to the right of the state, or any grantee or successor in interest thereof, owning or hereafter acquiring from the state any timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products, or any state lands containing valuable timber, stone, mineral or other natural products of the land, and the manufactured products thereof and all necessary machinery, supplies or materials to be used in transporting, cutting, manufacturing, mining or quarrying any or all of such products transported or moved over such railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse or other easement, after the same is or has been put in operation, upon paying therefor just and reasonable rates for transportation or for the use of such railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse or other easement, and upon complying with just, reasonable and proper rules affecting such transportation, which rates, rules and regulations shall be under the supervision and control of the utilities and transportation commission of the state of Washington. [1983 c 4 § 7; 1927 c 312 § 2; RRS § 8107-2. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.36.240.]

*Similar enactment: RCW 79.36.380.*

**79.36.610 Easement over public lands subject to common user.** Any person, firm or corporation hereafter

acquiring the right-of-way or other easement over state lands or over any tide or shore lands belonging to the state, or over and across any navigable water or stream for the purpose of transporting or moving timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products of the lands, and the manufactured products thereof and engaged in such business thereon, shall accord to the state or any grantee or successor in interest thereof hereafter acquiring state lands containing valuable timber, stone, mineral or other natural products of the land, or any person, firm or corporation hereafter acquiring the timber, stone, mineral or other natural products situate upon state lands, or the manufactured products thereof proper and reasonable facilities and service, including physical connection therewith, for the transportation and moving of such timber, stone, mineral and other natural products of the land, and the manufactured products thereof and all necessary machinery, supplies or materials to be used in transporting, cutting, manufacturing, mining or quarrying any or all of such products under reasonable rules and regulations upon payment of just and reasonable charges therefor, or, if such right-of-way or other easement is not then in use to have the right to use such right-of-way or easement for transporting and moving such products under such reasonable rules and regulations and upon payment of just and reasonable charges therefor. [1927 c 312 § 3; RRS § 8107-3. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.36.250.]

*Similar enactment: RCW 79.36.390.*

**79.36.620 Reservations in grants and leases.** Whenever any person, firm, or corporation shall hereafter purchase, lease, or acquire any state lands, or any easement or interest therein, or any timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products thereon, or the manufactured products thereof the purchase, lease, or grant shall be subject to the condition or reservation that such person, firm, or corporation, or their successors in interest, shall, whenever any of the timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products on said lands or the manufactured products thereof are removed, by any logging and/or lumbering railroad, private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement, owned, leased, or operated by such person, firm, or corporation, or their successors in interest, accord to any other person, firm, or corporation, or their successors in interest, having the right to remove any timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products or the manufactured products thereof from any other lands, owned or formerly owned by the state, proper and reasonable facilities and service, including physical connection therewith, for the transportation and moving of such other timber, stone, mineral, and other natural products, and the manufactured products thereof and all necessary machinery, supplies, or materials to be used in transporting, cutting, manufacturing, mining, or quarrying any or all of such products under reasonable rules and upon payment of just and reasonable charges therefor; and that any conveyance, lease, or mortgage of such logging and/or lumbering railroad, private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement, shall be subject to the right of the person, firm, or corporation, or their successors in interest, having the right to remove timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products or the manufactured products thereof from such other state lands, to be accorded such proper and reasonable facilities and service, including physi-

(2012 Ed.)

cal connection therewith, for the transportation and moving of such other timber, stone, mineral, and other natural products and the manufactured products thereof and all necessary machinery, supplies, or materials to be used in transporting, cutting, manufacturing, mining, or quarrying any or all of such products under reasonable rules and upon payment of just and reasonable charges therefor; and such purchase, lease, or grant from the state shall also be subject to the condition or reservation that whenever any of the timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products on such lands or the manufactured products thereof are about to be removed, by means of any logging and/or lumbering railroad, private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement, not owned, controlled, or operated by the person, firm, or corporation owning or having the right to remove, and about to remove such timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products or the manufactured products thereof shall exact and require from the owners and operators of such logging and/or lumbering railroad, private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement, which shall be binding upon the successors in interest of such owners and operators, an agreement and promise, as a part of the contract for removal, and by virtue of RCW 79.36.590 through 79.36.650 there shall be deemed to be a part of any such express or implied contract for removal, an agreement, and promise that such owners and operators, and their successors in interest, shall accord to any person, firm, or corporation and their successors in interest, having the right to remove any timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products or the manufactured products thereof from any lands, owned, or formerly owned by the state, proper and reasonable facilities and service, including physical connection therewith, for the transportation and moving of such timber, stone, mineral, and other natural products and the manufactured products thereof and all necessary machinery, supplies, or materials to be used in transporting, cutting, manufacturing, mining, or quarrying any or all of such products and under reasonable rules and upon payment of just and reasonable charges therefor. [2003 c 334 § 495; 1927 c 312 § 4; RRS § 8107-4. Formerly RCW 79.36.260.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.36.630 Duty of utilities and transportation commission.** Should the owner or operator of any logging and/or lumbering railroad, private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement operating over lands hereafter acquired from the state, as in RCW 79.36.590 through 79.36.650 set out, fail to agree with the state or with any subsequent grantee or successor in interest thereof as to the reasonable and proper rules and charges concerning the transportation of timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products of the land, or the manufactured products thereof and all necessary machinery, supplies, or materials to be used in transporting, cutting, manufacturing, mining, or quarrying any or all of such products for carrying and transporting such products or for the use of the railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement in transporting such products, the state or such person, firm, or corporation owning and desiring to ship such products may apply to the utilities and transportation commission and have the reasonableness of the rules and charges inquired into and it shall be the duty of

[Title 79 RCW—page 69]

the utilities and transportation commission to inquire into the same in the same manner, and it is hereby given the same power and authority to investigate the same as it is now authorized to investigate and inquire into the rules and charges made by railroads and is authorized and empowered to make such order as it would make in an inquiry against a railroad, and in case such logging and/or lumbering railroad, private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement is not then in use, may adopt such reasonable, proper, and just rules concerning the use thereof for the purposes aforesaid as may be just and proper and such order shall have the same force and effect and shall be binding upon the parties to such hearing as though such hearing and order was made affecting a railroad. [2003 c 334 § 496; 1983 c 4 § 8; 1927 c 312 § 5; RRS § 8107-5. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.36.270.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.400.

**79.36.640 Penalty for violating utilities and transportation commission's order.** In case any person, firm, or corporation owning and/or operating any logging and/or lumbering railroad, private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other easement subject to the provisions of RCW 79.36.590 through 79.36.650 shall fail to comply with any rule or order made by the utilities and transportation commission, after an inquiry as provided for in RCW 79.36.630, each person, firm, or corporation shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars, and in addition thereto, the right-of-way over state lands theretofore granted to such person, firm, or corporation, and all improvements and structures on such right-of-way and connected therewith, shall revert to the state of Washington, and may be recovered by it in an action instituted in any court of competent jurisdiction, unless such state lands have been sold. [2003 c 334 § 497; 1983 c 4 § 9; 1927 c 312 § 7; RRS § 8107-7. Prior: 1911 c 109 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.36.280.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.410.

**79.36.650 Applications—Appraisal—Certificate—Forfeiture—Fee.** Any person, firm, or corporation shall have a right-of-way over public lands, subject to the provisions of RCW 79.36.590 through 79.36.650, when necessary, for the purpose of hauling or removing timber, stone, mineral, or other natural products or the manufactured products thereof of the land. Before, however, any such right-of-way grant shall become effective, a written application for and a plat showing the location of such right-of-way, with reference to the adjoining lands, shall be filed with the department, and all timber on the right-of-way, together with the damages to the land, shall be appraised and paid for in cash by the person, firm, or corporation applying for such right-of-way. The department shall then cause to be issued in duplicate to such person, firm, or corporation a right-of-way certificate setting forth the conditions and terms upon which the right-of-way is granted. Whenever the right-of-way shall cease to be used, for a period of two years, for the purpose for which it was granted, it shall be deemed forfeited, and the right-of-way certificate shall contain such a provision. However, any right-of-way for logging purposes heretofore issued

which has never been used, or has ceased to be used, for a period of two years, for the purpose of which it was granted, shall be deemed forfeited and shall be canceled upon the records of the department. One copy of each certificate shall be filed with the department and one copy delivered to the applicant. The forfeiture of the right-of-way, as herein provided, shall be rendered effective by the mailing of notice of such a forfeiture to the grantee thereof to his or her last known post office address and by stamping the copy of the certificate in the department canceled and the date of such cancellation. For the issuance of such a certificate the same fee shall be charged as provided in the case of certificates for railroad rights-of-way. [2003 c 334 § 498; 1988 c 128 § 65; 1927 c 312 § 6; RRS § 8107-6. Prior: 1921 c 55 § 1; 1915 c 147 § 12; 1897 c 89 § 34; 1895 c 178 § 45. Formerly RCW 79.36.290.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Certificates for railroad rights-of-way:* RCW 79.36.500.

*Fees, generally:* RCW 79.02.240.

*Similar enactment:* RCW 79.36.350 and 79.36.430.

## Chapter 79.38 RCW ACCESS ROADS

### Sections

79.38.010	Acquisition of property for access to public lands.
79.38.020	Exchange of easement rights.
79.38.030	Use of roads by purchasers of valuable materials.
79.38.040	Permits for use of roads.
79.38.050	Access road revolving fund.
79.38.060	Use of moneys not deposited in revolving fund.
79.38.070	Department-county agreements for improvement of access roads.
79.38.900	Severability—1961 c 44.

**79.38.010 Acquisition of property for access to public lands.** In addition to any authority otherwise granted by law, the department shall have the authority to acquire lands, interests in lands, and other property for the purpose of affording access by road to public lands from any public highway. [2004 c 199 § 221; 2003 c 334 § 499; 1961 c 44 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.38.020 Exchange of easement rights.** To facilitate the carrying out of the purpose of this chapter, the department may:

(1) Grant easements, rights-of-way, and permits to cross public lands to any person in exchange for similar rights over lands not under its jurisdiction;

(2) Enter into agreements with any person or agency relating to purchase, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, regulation, and use of access roads or public roads used to provide access to public lands;

(3) Dispose, by sale, exchange, or otherwise, of any interest in an access road in the event it determines such interest is no longer necessary for the purposes of this chapter. [2004 c 199 § 222; 1981 c 204 § 1; 1961 c 44 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.38.030 Use of roads by purchasers of valuable materials.** Purchasers of valuable materials from public lands may use access roads or public roads for the removal of such materials where the rights acquired by the state will permit, but use shall be subject to the right of the department:

(1) To impose reasonable terms for the use, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of such access roads; and

(2) To impose reasonable charges for the use of such access roads or public roads which have been constructed or reconstructed through funding by the department. [2004 c 199 § 223; 2003 c 334 § 500; 1981 c 204 § 2; 1961 c 44 § 3.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.38.040 Permits for use of roads.** Whenever the department finds that it is for the best interest of the state and where the rights acquired by the state will permit, the department may grant permits for the use of access roads to any person. Any permit issued under the authority of this section shall be subject to reasonable regulation by the department. Such regulation shall include, but is not limited to, the following matters:

(1) Requirements for construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair;

(2) Limitations as to extent and time of use;

(3) Provision for revocation at the discretion of the department; and

(4) Charges for use. [2003 c 334 § 501; 1961 c 44 § 4.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.38.050 Access road revolving fund.** The department shall create, maintain, and administer a revolving fund, to be known as the access road revolving fund in which shall be deposited all moneys received by it from users of access roads as payment for costs incurred or to be incurred in maintaining, repairing, and reconstructing access roads, or public roads used to provide access to public lands. The department may use moneys in the fund for the purposes for which they were obtained without appropriation by the legislature. [2004 c 199 § 224; 2003 c 334 § 502; 1981 c 204 § 3; 1961 c 44 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.38.060 Use of moneys not deposited in revolving fund.** All moneys received by the department from users of access roads that are not deposited in the access road revolving fund shall be paid as follows:

(1) To reimburse the state fund or account from which expenditures have been made for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of the access road or public road, and upon full reimbursement, then

(2) To the funds or accounts for which the public lands, to which access is provided, are pledged by law or constitutional provision, in which case the department shall make an equitable apportionment between funds and accounts so that no fund or account shall benefit at the expense of another.

(2012 Ed.)

[2004 c 199 § 225; 2003 c 334 § 503; 1981 c 204 § 4; 1961 c 44 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.38.070 Department-county agreements for improvement of access roads.** The department may enter into agreements with the county to:

(1) Identify public roads used to provide access to state forest lands in need of improvement;

(2) Establish a time schedule for the improvements;

(3) Advance payments to the county to fund the road improvements. However, no more than fifty percent of the access road revolving fund shall be eligible for use as advance payments to counties. The department shall assess the fund on January 1st and July 1st of each year to determine the amount that may be used as advance payments to counties for road improvements; and

(4) Determine the equitable distribution, if any, of costs of such improvements between the county and the state through negotiation of terms and conditions of any resulting repayment to the fund or funds financing the improvements. [2003 c 334 § 224; 1981 c 204 § 5. Formerly RCW 76.12.180.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.38.900 Severability—1961 c 44.** If any provisions of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1961 c 44 § 7.]

## Chapter 79.44 RCW

### ASSESSMENTS AND CHARGES AGAINST LANDS OF THE STATE

#### Sections

79.44.003	"Assessing district" defined.
79.44.004	"Assessment" defined.
79.44.010	Lands subject to local assessments.
79.44.020	State to be charged its proportion of cost—Construction of chapter.
79.44.030	Apportioning cost on leaseholds.
79.44.040	Notice to state of intention to improve, or impose assessment—Consent—Notice to port commission.
79.44.050	Certification of roll—Penalties, interest.
79.44.060	Payment procedure—Lands not subject to lien, exception.
79.44.070	Enforcement against lessee or contract holder.
79.44.080	Foreclosure against leasehold or contract interest—Cancellation of lease or contract.
79.44.090	Payment by state after forfeiture of lease or contract.
79.44.095	Assessments paid by state to be added to purchase price of land.
79.44.100	Assignment of lease or contract to purchaser at foreclosure sale.
79.44.120	When assessments need not be added in certain cases.
79.44.130	Local provisions superseded.
79.44.140	Application of chapter—Eminent domain assessments.
79.44.190	Acquisition of property by state or political subdivision which is subject to unpaid assessments or delinquencies—Payment of lien or installments.
79.44.900	Severability—1963 c 20.

*Diking, drainage and sewerage improvement district assessments:* RCW 85.08.370.

*Diking and drainage district assessments:* RCW 85.05.390.

*Flood control district assessments:* RCW 86.09.523, 86.09.526, 86.09.529.

*Intercounty diking and drainage district assessments: RCW 85.24.275.*

*Irrigation district assessments: RCW 87.03.025.*

*Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land: RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.390.*

**79.44.003 "Assessing district" defined.** As used in this chapter "assessing district" means:

- (1) Incorporated cities and towns;
- (2) Diking districts;
- (3) Drainage districts;
- (4) Port districts;
- (5) Irrigation districts;
- (6) Water-sewer districts;
- (7) Counties; and
- (8) Any municipal corporation or public agency having

power to levy local improvement or other assessments, rates, or charges which by statute are expressly made applicable to lands of the state. [1999 c 153 § 68; 1989 c 243 § 13; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 14; 1963 c 20 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.44.004 "Assessment" defined.** As used in this chapter, "assessment" shall mean any assessment, rate or charge levied, assessed, imposed, or charged by any assessing district as defined in RCW 79.44.003, and which assessments, rates or charges by statute are expressly made applicable to lands of the state. [1989 c 243 § 16.]

**79.44.010 Lands subject to local assessments.** All lands, including school lands, granted lands, escheated lands, or other lands, held or owned by the state of Washington in fee simple (in trust or otherwise), situated within the limits of any assessing district in this state, may be assessed and charged for the cost of local or other improvements specially benefiting such lands which may be ordered by the proper authorities of any such assessing district and may be assessed by any irrigation district to the same extent as private lands within the district are assessed: PROVIDED, That the leasehold, contractual, or possessory interest of any person, firm, association, or private or municipal corporation in any such lands shall be charged and assessed in the proportional amount such leasehold, contractual, or possessory interest is benefited: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That no lands of the state shall be included within an irrigation district except as provided in RCW 87.03.025 and 89.12.090. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 178; 1963 c 20 § 2; 1919 c 164 § 1; RRS § 8125. Cf. 1909 c 154 §§ 1, 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.44.020 State to be charged its proportion of cost—Construction of chapter.** In all local improvement assessment districts in any assessing district in this state, property in such district, held or owned by the state shall be assessed and charged for its proportion of the cost of such local improvements in the same manner as other property in such district, it being the intention of this chapter that the state shall bear its just and equitable proportion of the cost of local improvements specially benefiting lands of the state. However, none of the provisions of this chapter shall have the effect, or be construed to have the effect, to alter or modify in any particular any existing lease of any lands or property

owned by the state, or release or discharge any lessee of any such lands or property from any of the obligations, covenants, or conditions of the contract under which any such lands or property are leased or held by any such lessee. [2003 c 334 § 506; 1963 c 20 § 3; 1919 c 164 § 2; RRS § 8126. Cf. 1909 c 154 § 5.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.44.030 Apportioning cost on leaseholds.** Where lands of the state are under lease, the proportionate amounts to be assessed against the leasehold interest, and the fee simple interest of the state, shall be fixed with reference to the life of the improvement and the period for which the lease has yet to run. [2003 c 334 § 507; 1919 c 164 § 3; RRS § 8127. Cf. 1909 c 154 § 3; 1907 c 74 § 3.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.44.040 Notice to state of intention to improve, or impose assessment—Consent—Notice to port commission.** Notice of the intention to make such improvement, or impose any assessment, together with the estimate of the amount to be charged to each lot, tract or parcel of land, or other property owned by the state to be assessed, shall be forwarded by registered or certified mail to the chief administrative officer of the agency of state government occupying, using, or having jurisdiction over such lands at least thirty days prior to the date fixed for hearing on the resolution or petition initiating the assessment. Such assessing district, shall not have jurisdiction to order such improvement as to the interest of the state in harbor areas and state tidelands until the written consent of the commissioner of public lands to the making of such improvement shall have been obtained, unless other means be provided for paying that portion of the cost which would otherwise be levied on the interest of the state of Washington in and to those tidelands, and nothing herein shall prevent the city from assessing the proportionate cost of the improvement against any leasehold, contractual, or possessory interest in and to any tideland or harbor area owned by the state: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in the case of tidelands and harbor areas within the boundaries of any port district, notice of intention to make such improvement shall also be forwarded to the commissioners of the port district. [2002 c 260 § 2; 1989 c 243 § 14; 1979 c 151 § 177; 1963 c 20 § 4; 1919 c 164 § 4; RRS § 8128. Cf. 1909 c 154 § 6.]

**79.44.050 Certification of roll—Penalties, interest.** Upon the approval and confirmation of the assessment roll ordered by the proper authorities of any assessing district, the treasurer of such assessing district shall certify and forward to the chief administrative officer of the agency of state government occupying, using, or having jurisdiction over the lands, a statement of all the lots or parcels of land held or owned by the state and charged on such assessment roll, separately describing each such lot or parcel of the state's land, with the amount of the local assessment charged against it, or the proportionate amount assessed against the fee simple interest of the state, in case the land has been leased. The chief administrative officer upon receipt of such statement shall cause a proper record to be made in his office of the cost

of such assessment upon the lands occupied, used, or under the jurisdiction of his agency.

No penalty shall be provided or enforced against the state, and the interest upon such assessments shall be computed and paid at the rate paid by other property situated in the same assessing district. [2002 c 260 § 3; 1989 c 243 § 15; 1979 c 151 § 178; 1963 c 20 § 5; 1933 c 108 § 1; 1919 c 164 § 5; RRS § 8129. Cf. 1909 c 154 § 6; 1907 c 74 §§ 1, 2, 4, 5.]

**79.44.060 Payment procedure—Lands not subject to lien, exception.** When the chief administrative officer of an agency of state government is satisfied that an assessing district has complied with all the conditions precedent to the levy of assessments for district purposes, pursuant to this chapter against lands occupied, used, or under the jurisdiction of the officer's agency, he or she shall pay them, together with any interest thereon from any funds specifically appropriated to the agency therefor or from any funds of the agency which under existing law have been or are required to be expended to pay assessments on a current basis. In all other cases, the chief administrative officer shall certify to the director of financial management that the assessment is one properly chargeable to the state. The director of financial management shall pay such assessments from funds available or appropriated for this purpose.

Except as provided in RCW 79.44.190 no lands of the state shall be subject to a lien for unpaid assessments, nor shall the interest of the state in any land be sold for unpaid assessments where assessment liens attached to the lands prior to state ownership. [2003 c 334 § 508; 1979 c 151 § 179; 1971 ex.s. c 116 § 2; 1963 c 20 § 6; 1947 c 205 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 8136a.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.44.070 Enforcement against lessee or contract holder.** When any assessing district has made or caused to be made an assessment against such leasehold, contractual, or possessory interest for any such local improvement, the treasurer of that assessing district shall immediately give notice to the chief administrative officer of the agency having jurisdiction over the lands. The assessment shall become a lien against the leasehold, contractual, or possessory interest in the same manner as the assessments on other property, and its collection may be enforced against such interests as provided by law for the enforcement of other local improvement assessments: PROVIDED, That the assessment shall not be made payable in installments unless the owner of such leasehold, contractual, or possessory interest shall first file with such treasurer a satisfactory bond guaranteeing the payment of such installments as they become due. [2002 c 260 § 4; 1979 c 151 § 180; 1963 c 20 § 7; 1919 c 164 § 6; RRS § 8130. Cf. 1909 c 154 § 2.]

**79.44.080 Foreclosure against leasehold or contract interest—Cancellation of lease or contract.** Whenever any assessing district shall have foreclosed the lien of any such delinquent assessments, as provided by law, and shall have obtained title to such leasehold, contractual, or possessory interest, the chief administrative officer of the agency having jurisdiction over the lands shall be notified by registered or certified mail of such action and furnished a statement of all

assessments against such leasehold, contractual, or possessory interest, and the chief administrative officer shall cause the amount of such assessments to be paid as provided in RCW 79.44.060, and upon the receipt of an assignment from such assessing district, the chief administrative officer shall cancel such lease or contract: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That unless the assessing district making the local improvement and levying the special assessment shall have used due diligence in the foreclosure thereof, the chief administrative officer shall not be required to pay any sum in excess of what they deem to be the special benefits accruing to the state's reversionary interest in the property: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That if such delinquent assessment or installment shall be against a leasehold interest in freshwater harbor areas within a port district, the chief administrative officer shall notify the commissioners of that port district of the receipt of such assignment, and the commissioners shall forthwith cancel such lease. [2002 c 260 § 5; 1979 c 151 § 181; 1963 c 20 § 8; 1919 c 164 § 7; RRS § 8131.]

**79.44.090 Payment by state after forfeiture of lease or contract.** If by reason of default in the payment of rentals or installments, or other causes, the state shall cancel any lease or contract against which assessments have been levied as herein provided, the chief administrative officer of the agency having jurisdiction over the lands shall cause such assessments or installments as shall fall due subsequent to the cancellation of said contract or leasehold interest to be paid as provided in RCW 79.44.060, the same as if the assessments or installments thereof had been levied on the state's interest in said lands. [1963 c 20 § 9; 1919 c 164 § 8; RRS § 8132.]

**79.44.095 Assessments paid by state to be added to purchase price of land.** When any land, other than lands occupied and used in connection with state institutions, owned or held by the state within incorporated cities, towns, diking, drainage or port districts in this state, against which local improvement assessments have been paid, as herein provided for, is offered for sale, there shall be added to the appraised value of such land, as provided by law, such portion of the local improvement assessment paid by the state as shall be deemed to represent the value added to such lands by such improvement for the purpose of sale, which amount so added shall be paid by the purchaser in cash at the time of the sale of said land, in addition to the amounts otherwise due to the state for said land, and no deed shall ever be executed until such local improvement assessments have been paid, and nothing herein shall be construed as canceling any unpaid assessments on the land so sold by the state, but such land shall be sold subject to all assessments unpaid at the time of sale. [1919 c 164 § 9; RRS § 8133. Cf. 1909 c 154 § 7.]

*Assessments paid to be added to purchase price of land: RCW 79.11.320.*

**79.44.100 Assignment of lease or contract to purchaser at foreclosure sale.** Whenever any such tide, state, school, granted or other lands situated within the limits of any assessing district, has been included within any local improvement district by such assessing district, and the contract, leasehold or other interest of any individual has been sold to satisfy the lien of such assessment for local improvement, the purchaser of such interest at such sale shall be enti-

tled to receive from the state of Washington, on demand, an assignment of the contract, leasehold or other interest purchased by him, and shall assume, subject to the terms and conditions of the contract or lease, the payment to the state of the amount of the balance which his predecessor in interest was obligated to pay. [1963 c 20 § 10; 1919 c 164 § 10; RRS § 8134. Cf. 1909 c 154 § 10.]

**79.44.120 When assessments need not be added in certain cases.** Whenever any state school, granted, tide, or other public lands of the state shall have been charged with local improvement assessments under any local improvement assessment district in any incorporated city, town, irrigation, diking, drainage, port, weed, or pest district, or any other district now authorized by law to levy assessments against lands of the state, where such assessments are required under existing statutes to be returned to the fund of the state treasury from which the assessments were originally paid, the department may, and is hereby authorized, to sell such lands for their appraised valuation without regard to such assessments, anything to the contrary in the existing statutes notwithstanding. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to alter in any way any existing statute providing for the method of procedure in levying assessments against lands of the state in any of such local improvement assessment districts. [2003 c 334 § 509; 1937 c 80 § 1; RRS § 7797-192a.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.44.130 Local provisions superseded.** The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all assessing districts as herein defined, any charter or ordinance provisions to the contrary notwithstanding. [1963 c 20 § 11; 1919 c 164 § 11; RRS § 8135. Cf. 1909 c 154 § 8.]

**79.44.140 Application of chapter—Eminent domain assessments.** The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all local improvements initiated after June 11, 1919, including assessments to pay the cost and expense of taking and damaging property by the power of eminent domain, as provided by law: PROVIDED, That in case of eminent domain assessments, it shall not be necessary to forward notice of the intention to make such improvement, but the eminent domain commissioners, authorized to make such assessment, shall, at the time of filing the assessment roll with the court in the manner provided by law, forward by registered or certified mail to the chief administrative officer of the agency using, occupying or having jurisdiction over the lands a notice of such assessment, and of the day fixed by the court for the hearing thereof: PROVIDED, That no assessment against the state's interest in tidelands or harbor areas shall be binding against the state if the commissioner of public lands shall file a disapproval of the same in court before judgment confirming the roll. [2002 c 260 § 6; 1979 c 151 § 182; 1963 c 20 § 12; 1919 c 164 § 12; RRS § 8136.]

**79.44.190 Acquisition of property by state or political subdivision which is subject to unpaid assessments or delinquencies—Payment of lien or installments.** When real property subject to an unpaid special assessment for a local improvement levied by any political subdivision of the state authorized to form local improvement or utility local

improvement districts is acquired by purchase or condemnation by the state or any political subdivision thereof, including but not limited to any special purpose district, the property so acquired shall continue to be subject to the assessment lien.

An assessment lien or installment thereof, delinquent at the time of such acquisition shall be paid at the time of acquisition, and the amount thereof, including any accrued interest and delinquent penalties, shall be withheld from the purchase price or condemnation award by the public body acquiring the property and shall be paid immediately to the county, city, or town treasurer, whichever is applicable, in payment of and discharge of such delinquent installment lien.

Any installment or installments not delinquent at the time of acquisition shall become due and payable in such year and at such date as said installment would have become due if such property had not been so acquired: PROVIDED, That where such property is acquired by the state of Washington, the balance of the assessment shall be paid in full at the time of acquisition.

For the purpose of this section, the "time of acquisition" shall mean the date of completion of the sale, date of condemnation verdict, date of the order of immediate possession and use pursuant to RCW 8.04.090, or the date of judgment, if not tried to a jury. [1971 ex.s. c 116 § 1.]

**79.44.900 Severability—1963 c 20.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1963 c 20 § 16.]

## Chapter 79.64 RCW

### FUNDS FOR MANAGING AND ADMINISTERING LANDS

#### Sections

#### PART 1 STATE LANDS

- 79.64.010 Definitions.
- 79.64.020 Resource management cost account—Use.
- 79.64.030 Expenditures of certain funds in the resource management cost account to be for trust lands—Use for other lands—Repayment—Ordinary cost not deductible from sale proceeds—Accounting.
- 79.64.040 Deductions from proceeds of all transactions authorized—Limitations.
- 79.64.050 Deductions to be paid into resource management cost account.
- 79.64.060 Rules relating to account.
- 79.64.070 Severability—1961 c 178.
- 79.64.090 Agricultural college trust management account—Creation.

#### PART 2 STATE FOREST LANDS

- 79.64.100 Forest development account (*as amended by 2012 c 166*).
- 79.64.100 Forest development account (*as amended by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 7*).
- 79.64.110 Revenue distribution.
- 79.64.120 Retirement of interfund loans—Transfer of timber cutting rights on state forest lands acquired under RCW 79.22.010 to the federal land grant trusts—Distribution of revenue from timber management activities.

PART 1  
STATE LANDS

**79.64.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, "rule" means rule as that term is defined by RCW 34.05.010. [2003 c 334 § 519; 1967 ex.s. c 63 § 1; 1961 c 178 § 1.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.64.020 Resource management cost account—Use.** A resource management cost account in the state treasury is created to be used solely for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses necessarily incurred by the department in managing and administering state lands, community forest trust lands, and aquatic lands and the making and administering of leases, sales, contracts, licenses, permits, easements, and rights-of-way as authorized under the provisions of this title. Appropriations from the resource management cost account to the department shall be expended for no other purposes. Funds in the resource management cost account may be appropriated or transferred by the legislature for the benefit of all of the trusts from which the funds were derived. [2011 c 216 § 15; 2008 c 328 § 6004; 2004 c 199 § 226; 2003 c 334 § 520; 1993 c 460 § 1; 1985 c 57 § 80; 1981 c 4 § 2; 1961 c 178 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2008 c 328:** See notes following RCW 43.155.050.

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.64.030 Expenditures of certain funds in the resource management cost account to be for trust lands—Use for other lands—Repayment—Ordinary cost not deductible from sale proceeds—Accounting.** Funds in the resource management cost account from the moneys received from leases, sales, contracts, licenses, permits, easements, and rights-of-way issued by the department and affecting school lands, university lands, scientific school lands, normal school lands, capitol building lands, or institutional lands shall be pooled and expended by the department solely for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses necessarily incurred in managing and administering all of the trust lands enumerated in this section. Such funds may be used for similar costs and expenses in managing and administering other lands managed by the department provided that such expenditures that have been or may be made on such other lands shall be repaid to the resource management cost account together with interest at a rate determined by the board.

Costs and expenses necessarily incurred in managing and administering agricultural college lands shall not be deducted from proceeds received from the sale of such lands or from the sale of resources that are part of the lands. Costs and expenses incurred in managing and administering agricultural college trust lands shall be funded by appropriation under RCW 79.64.090.

An accounting shall be made annually of the accrued expenditures from the pooled trust funds in the account. In the event the accounting determines that expenditures have been made from moneys received from trust lands for the benefit of other lands, such expenditure shall be considered a

(2012 Ed.)

debt and an encumbrance against the property benefited, including state forest lands. The results of the accounting shall be reported to the legislature at the next regular session. The state treasurer is authorized, upon request of the department, to transfer funds between the forest development account and the resource management cost account solely for purpose of repaying loans pursuant to this section. [2003 c 334 § 521; 2001 c 250 § 15; 1999 c 279 § 1; 1993 c 460 § 2; 1988 c 70 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 159 § 2; 1961 c 178 § 3.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

*Forest development account: RCW 79.64.100.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.64.040 Deductions from proceeds of all transactions authorized—Limitations.** (1) The board shall determine the amount deemed necessary in order to achieve the purposes of this chapter and shall provide by rule for the deduction of this amount from the moneys received from all leases, sales, contracts, licenses, permits, easements, and rights-of-way issued by the department and affecting state lands, community forest trust lands, and aquatic lands, provided that no deduction shall be made from the proceeds from agricultural college lands.

(2) Moneys received as deposits from successful bidders, advance payments, and security under RCW 79.15.100, 79.15.080, and 79.11.150 prior to December 1, 1981, which have not been subjected to deduction under this section are not subject to deduction under this section.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (4) and (6) of this section, the deductions authorized under this section shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the moneys received by the department in connection with any one transaction pertaining to state lands and aquatic lands other than second-class tide and shore lands and the beds of navigable waters, and fifty percent of the moneys received by the department pertaining to second-class tide and shore lands and the beds of navigable waters.

(4) Deductions authorized under this section for transactions pertaining to community forest trust lands must be established at a level sufficient to defray over time the management costs for activities prescribed in a parcel's management plan adopted pursuant to RCW 79.155.080, and, if deemed appropriate by the board consistent with RCW 79.155.090, to reimburse the state and any local entities' eligible financial contributions for acquisition of the parcel.

(5) In the event that the department sells logs using the contract harvesting process described in RCW 79.15.500 through 79.15.530, the moneys received subject to this section are the net proceeds from the contract harvesting sale.

(6) During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the twenty-five percent limitation on deductions set in subsection (3) of this section may be increased up to thirty percent by the board. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 927. Prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 966; 2011 c 216 § 16; 2009 c 564 § 957; 2007 c 522 § 958; 2005 c 518 § 945; 2004 c 199 § 227; prior: 2003 c 334 § 522; 2003 c 313 § 8; 2001 c 250 § 16; 1999 c 279 § 2; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 4 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 224 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 63 § 2; 1961 c 178 § 4.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 522:** See notes following RCW 15.64.050.

**Severability—Effective date—2005 c 518:** See notes following RCW 28A.500.030.

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.64.050 Deductions to be paid into resource management cost account.** All deductions from moneys received made in accordance with RCW 79.64.040 shall be paid into the resource management cost account and the balance shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the fund otherwise entitled to the proceeds. [2003 c 334 § 523; 2001 c 250 § 17; 1961 c 178 § 5.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.64.060 Rules relating to account.** The board shall adopt such rules as it deems necessary and proper for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of RCW 79.64.010 through 79.64.070. [1983 c 3 § 203; 1961 c 178 § 6.]

**79.64.070 Severability—1961 c 178.** If any provision of RCW 79.64.010 through 79.64.070, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of RCW 79.64.010 through 79.64.070, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1983 c 3 § 204; 1961 c 178 § 7.]

**79.64.090 Agricultural college trust management account—Creation.** The agricultural college trust management account is created in the state treasury. To this account shall be deposited such funds as the legislature directs or appropriates. Moneys in the agricultural college trust management account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from this account may be used only for the costs of managing the assets of the agricultural school trust. [2003 c 334 § 524; 1999 c 279 § 3.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## PART 2 STATE FOREST LANDS

**79.64.100 Forest development account (as amended by 2012 c 166).**

(1) There is created a forest development account in the state treasury. The state treasurer shall keep an account of all sums deposited (~~therein and~~), expended, or withdrawn (~~therefrom~~) from the account.

(2)(a) Any sums placed in the forest development account shall be pledged for the purpose of:

(i) Paying interest and principal on the bonds issued by the department under RCW 79.22.080 and 79.22.090 and the provisions of this chapter(~~;~~); and

~~((for))~~ (ii) The purchase of land for growing timber.

(b) Any bonds issued shall constitute a first and prior claim and lien against the account for the payment of principal and interest.

(3) No sums for the (~~above~~) purposes identified in subsection (2) of this section shall be withdrawn or paid out of the account except upon approval of the department.

(4) Appropriations may be made by the legislature from the forest development account to the department for the purpose of:

(a) Carrying on the activities of the department on state forest lands(~~;~~);

(b) Establishing a state forest land pool under RCW 79.22.140 and carrying on the activities of the department on lands included in the land pool;

(c) Carrying on the activities of the department on lands managed on a sustained yield basis as provided for in RCW 79.10.320(~~;~~); and

~~((for))~~ (d) Reimbursement of expenditures that have been made or may be made from the resource management cost account created in RCW 79.64.020 in the management of state forest lands. [2012 c 166 § 5; 2003 c 334 § 219; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 915; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 18; 1998 c 347 § 55; 1988 c 128 § 31; 1985 c 57 § 75; 1977 ex.s. c 159 § 1; 1959 c 314 § 1; 1951 c 149 § 1; 1933 c 118 § 2; 1923 c 154 § 6; RRS § 5812-6. Formerly RCW 76.12.110.]

**Findings—Intent—2012 c 166:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.64.100 Forest development account (as amended by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 7).** There is created a forest development account in the state treasury. The state treasurer shall keep an account of all sums deposited therein and expended or withdrawn therefrom. Any sums placed in the forest development account shall be pledged for the purpose of paying interest and principal on the bonds issued by the department under RCW 79.22.080 and 79.22.090 and the provisions of this chapter, and for the purchase of land for growing timber. Any bonds issued shall constitute a first and prior claim and lien against the account for the payment of principal and interest. No sums for the above purposes shall be withdrawn or paid out of the account except upon approval of the department.

Appropriations may be made by the legislature from the forest development account to the department for the purpose of carrying on the activities of the department on state forest lands, lands managed on a sustained yield basis as provided for in RCW 79.10.320, and for reimbursement of expenditures that have been made or may be made from the resource management cost account in the management of state forest lands. For the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, moneys from the forest development account shall be distributed as directed in section 706, chapter 7, Laws of 2012 2nd sp. sess. to the beneficiaries of the revenues derived from state forest lands. During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate moneys in the forest development account to support emergency fire suppression activities in a manner that, at a maximum, represents the proportion of land that the department manages in comparison to the total land the department conducts emergency fire suppression activities on. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 928; 2003 c 334 § 219; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 915; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 18; 1998 c 347 § 55; 1988 c 128 § 31; 1985 c 57 § 75; 1977 ex.s. c 159 § 1; 1959 c 314 § 1; 1951 c 149 § 1; 1933 c 118 § 2; 1923 c 154 § 6; RRS § 5812-6. Formerly RCW 76.12.110.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 79.64.100 was amended twice during the 2012 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.64.110 Revenue distribution.** (1) Any moneys derived from the lease of state forest lands or from the sale of valuable materials, oils, gases, coal, minerals, or fossils from those lands, or the appraised value of these resources when transferred to a public agency under RCW 79.22.060, except as provided in RCW 79.22.060(4), must be distributed as follows:

(a) For state forest lands acquired through RCW 79.22.040 or by exchange for lands acquired through RCW 79.22.040:

(i) The expense incurred by the state for administration, reforestation, and protection, not to exceed twenty-five percent, which rate of percentage shall be determined by the board, must be returned to the forest development account created in RCW 79.64.100.

(ii) Any balance remaining must be paid to the county in which the land is located or, for counties participating in a

land pool created under RCW 79.22.140, to each participating county proportionate to its contribution of asset value to the land pool as determined by the board. Payments made under this subsection are to be paid, distributed, and prorated, except as otherwise provided in this section, to the various funds in the same manner as general taxes are paid and distributed during the year of payment.

(iii) Any balance remaining, paid to a county with a population of less than sixteen thousand, must first be applied to the reduction of any indebtedness existing in the current expense fund of the county during the year of payment.

(iv) With regard to moneys remaining under this subsection (1)(a), within seven working days of receipt of these moneys, the department shall certify to the state treasurer the amounts to be distributed to the counties. The state treasurer shall distribute funds to the counties four times per month, with no more than ten days between each payment date.

(b) For state forest lands acquired through RCW 79.22.010 or by exchange for lands acquired through RCW 79.22.010, except as provided in RCW 79.64.120:

(i) Fifty percent shall be placed in the forest development account.

(ii) Fifty percent shall be prorated and distributed to the state general fund, to be dedicated for the benefit of the public schools, to the county in which the land is located or, for counties participating in a land pool created under RCW 79.22.140, to each participating county proportionate to its contribution of asset value to the land pool as determined by the board, and according to the relative proportions of tax levies of all taxing districts in the county. The portion to be distributed to the state general fund shall be based on the regular school levy rate under RCW 84.52.065 and the levy rate for any maintenance and operation special school levies. With regard to the portion to be distributed to the counties, the department shall certify to the state treasurer the amounts to be distributed within seven working days of receipt of the money. The state treasurer shall distribute funds to the counties four times per month, with no more than ten days between each payment date. The money distributed to the county must be paid, distributed, and prorated to the various other funds in the same manner as general taxes are paid and distributed during the year of payment.

(2) A school district may transfer amounts deposited in its debt service fund pursuant to this section into its capital projects fund as authorized in RCW 28A.320.330. [2012 c 166 § 6; 2009 c 354 § 8; 2007 c 503 § 1; 2003 c 334 § 207.]

**Findings—Intent—2012 c 166:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 354:** See note following RCW 84.33.140.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.64.120 Retirement of interfund loans—Transfer of timber cutting rights on state forest lands acquired under RCW 79.22.010 to the federal land grant trusts—Distribution of revenue from timber management activities.** (1) The department is authorized to:

(a) Determine the total present account balance with interest of the interfund loans made by the resource management cost account to the forest development account in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(b) Subject to approval of the board, effectuate a transfer of timber cutting rights on state forest lands acquired under

(2012 Ed.)

RCW 79.22.010 to the federal land grant trusts in such proportion that each trust receives full and fair market value for the interfund loans and is fully repaid or so much thereof as possible within distribution constraints described in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) After the effective date of the transfer authorized by subsection (1)(b) of this section and until the exercise of the cutting rights on the timber transferred has been fully satisfied, the distribution of revenue from timber management activities on state forest lands acquired under RCW 79.22.010 on which cutting rights have been transferred shall be as follows:

(a) As determined by the board, an amount no greater than thirty-three and three-tenths percent to be distributed to the federal land grant trust accounts and resource management cost account as directed by RCW 79.64.040 and 79.64.050;

(b) As determined by the board, an amount not less than sixteen and seven-tenths percent to the forest development account;

(c) Fifty percent to be distributed as provided in RCW 79.64.110. [2003 c 334 § 463; 1988 c 70 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.12.035.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Purpose—1988 c 70 § 3:** "The purpose of RCW 79.12.035 is to provide a means to retire interfund loans authorized by RCW 79.64.030 from the resource management cost account to the forest development account. The resource management cost account is an asset of the federal land grant trusts. Section 3 of this act is intended to authorize a process by which the interfund loans may be repaid such that the federal land grant trusts will receive full fair market value without disruption in income to counties and the state general fund from management activities on state forest lands managed pursuant to chapter 79.12 RCW." [1988 c 70 § 2.]

**Chapter 79.70 RCW  
NATURAL AREA PRESERVES**

Sections

79.70.010	Purpose.
79.70.020	Definitions.
79.70.030	Powers of department.
79.70.040	Powers as to transactions involving public lands deemed natural areas—Alienation of lands designated natural area preserves.
79.70.060	Legislative findings—Natural heritage resources.
79.70.070	Natural heritage advisory council.
79.70.080	Council duties.
79.70.090	Dedication of property as natural area.
79.70.100	Public hearing—Establishment of boundary.
79.70.110	Important bird areas.
79.70.120	Important bird area—Recognition requirements.
79.70.130	Distribution of amount in lieu of real property taxes, weed control assessment.
79.70.900	Construction—1972 ex.s. c 119.

**79.70.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish a state system of natural area preserves and a means whereby the preservation of these aquatic and land areas can be accomplished.

All areas within the state, except those which are expressly dedicated by law for preservation and protection in their natural condition, are subject to alteration by human activity. Natural lands, together with the plants and animals living thereon in natural ecological systems, are valuable for the purposes of scientific research, teaching, as habitats of rare and vanishing species, as places of natural historic and

natural interest and scenic beauty, and as living museums of the original heritage of the state.

It is, therefore, the public policy of the state of Washington to secure for the people of present and future generations the benefit of an enduring resource of natural areas by establishing a system of natural area preserves, and to provide for the protection of these natural areas. [1972 ex.s. c 119 § 1.]

**79.70.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(2) "Natural areas" and "natural area preserves" include such public or private areas of land or water which have retained their natural character, although not necessarily completely natural and undisturbed, or which are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are acquired or voluntarily registered or dedicated by the owner under this chapter.

(3) "Public lands" and "state lands" have the meaning set out in RCW 79.02.010.

(4) "Council" means the natural heritage advisory council as established in RCW 79.70.070.

(5) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public lands.

(6) "Important bird area" means those areas jointly identified by the natural heritage program and a qualifying nonprofit organization using internationally recognized scientific criteria. These areas have been found to be necessary to conserve populations of wild waterfowl, upland game birds, songbirds, and other birds native to and migrating through Washington, and contain the habitats that birds are dependent upon for breeding, migration, shelter, and sustenance.

(7) "Instrument of dedication" means any written document intended to convey an interest in real property pursuant to chapter 64.04 RCW.

(8) "Natural heritage resources" means the plant community types, aquatic types, unique geologic types, and special plant and animal species and their critical habitat as defined in the natural heritage plan established under RCW 79.70.030.

(9) "Plan" means the natural heritage plan as established under RCW 79.70.030.

(10) "Program" means the natural heritage program as established under RCW 79.70.030.

(11) "Qualifying nonprofit organization" means a national nonprofit organization, or a branch of a national nonprofit organization, that conserves and restores natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitat.

(12) "Register" means the Washington register of natural area preserves as established under RCW 79.70.030. [2004 c 180 § 4; 2003 c 334 § 548; 1981 c 189 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 119 § 2.]

**Intent—2004 c 180:** See note following RCW 79.70.110.

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.70.030 Powers of department.** In order to set aside, preserve, and protect natural areas within the state, the department is authorized, in addition to any other powers, to:

(1) Establish the criteria for selection, acquisition, management, protection, and use of such natural areas, including:

(a) Limiting public access to natural area preserves consistent with the purposes of this chapter. Where appropriate, and on a case-by-case basis, a buffer zone with an increased low level of public access may be created around the environmentally sensitive areas;

(b) Developing a management plan for each designated natural area preserve. The plan must identify the significant resources to be conserved consistent with the purposes of this chapter and identify the areas with potential for low-impact public and environmental educational uses. The plan must specify the types of management activities and public uses that are permitted, consistent with the purposes of this chapter. The department must make the plans available for review and comment by the public, and state, tribal, and local agencies, prior to final approval;

(2) Cooperate or contract with any federal, state, or local governmental agency, private organizations, or individuals in carrying out the purpose of this chapter;

(3) Consistent with the plan, acquire by gift, devise, purchase, grant, dedication, or means other than eminent domain, the fee or any lesser right or interest in real property which shall be held and managed as a natural area;

(4) Acquire by gift, devise, grant, or donation any personal property to be used in the acquisition and/or management of natural areas;

(5) Inventory existing public, state, and private lands in cooperation with the council to assess possible natural areas to be preserved within the state;

(6) Maintain a natural heritage program to provide assistance in the selection and nomination of areas containing natural heritage resources for registration or dedication. The program shall maintain a classification of natural heritage resources, an inventory of their locations, and a data bank for such information. The department shall cooperate with the department of fish and wildlife in the selection and nomination of areas from the data bank that relate to critical wildlife habitats. Information from the data bank shall be made available to public and private agencies and individuals for environmental assessment and proprietary land management purposes. Usage of the classification, inventory, or data bank of natural heritage resources for any purpose inconsistent with the natural heritage program is not authorized;

(7) Prepare a natural heritage plan which shall govern the natural heritage program in the conduct of activities to create and manage a system of natural areas that includes natural resources conservation areas, and may include areas designated under the research natural area program on federal lands in the state;

(a) The plan shall list the natural heritage resources to be considered for registration and shall provide criteria for the selection and approval of natural areas under this chapter;

(b) The department shall provide opportunities for input, comment, and review to the public, other public agencies, and private groups with special interests in natural heritage resources during preparation of the plan;

(c) Upon approval by the council and adoption by the department, the plan shall be updated and submitted biennially to the appropriate committees of the legislature for their information and review. The plan shall take effect ninety

days after the adjournment of the legislative session in which it is submitted unless the reviewing committees suggest changes or reject the plan; and

(8) Maintain a state register of natural areas containing significant natural heritage resources to be called the Washington register of natural area preserves. Selection of natural areas for registration shall be in accordance with criteria listed in the natural heritage plan and accomplished through voluntary agreement between the owner of the natural area and the department. No privately owned lands may be proposed to the council for registration without prior notice to the owner or registered without voluntary consent of the owner. No state or local governmental agency may require such consent as a condition of any permit or approval of or settlement of any civil or criminal proceeding or to penalize any landowner in any way for failure to give, or for withdrawal of, such consent.

(a) The department shall adopt rules as authorized by RCW 43.12.065 and 79.70.030(1) and chapter 34.05 RCW relating to voluntary natural area registration.

(b) After approval by the council, the department may place sites onto the register or remove sites from the register.

(c) The responsibility for management of registered natural area preserves shall be with the preserve owner. A voluntary management agreement may be developed between the department and the owners of the sites on the register.

(d) Any public agency may register lands under provisions of this chapter. [2003 c 334 § 549; 2002 c 284 § 1; 1994 c 264 § 61; 1988 c 36 § 54; 1981 c 189 § 3; 1972 ex.s. c 119 § 3.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.70.040 Powers as to transactions involving public lands deemed natural areas—Alienation of lands designated natural area preserves.** The department is further authorized to purchase, lease, set aside, or exchange any public lands which are deemed to be natural areas: PROVIDED, That the appropriate state land trust receives the fair market value for any interests that are disposed of: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That such transactions are approved by the board of natural resources.

An area consisting of public land designated as a natural area preserve shall be held in trust and shall not be alienated except to another public use upon a finding by the department of natural resources of imperative and unavoidable public necessity. [2004 c 199 § 228; 1972 ex.s. c 119 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—2004 c 199:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.70.060 Legislative findings—Natural heritage resources.** The legislature finds:

(1) That it is necessary to establish a process and means for public and private sector cooperation in the development of a system of natural areas. Private and public landowners should be encouraged to participate in a program of natural area establishment which will benefit all citizens of the state;

(2) That there is a need for a systematic and accessible means for providing information concerning the locations of the state's natural heritage resources; and

(3) That the natural heritage advisory council should utilize a specific framework for natural heritage resource con-

(2012 Ed.)

servation decision making through a classification, inventory, priority establishment, acquisition, and management process known as the natural heritage program. Future natural areas should avoid unnecessary duplication of already protected natural heritage resources including those which may already be protected in existing publicly owned or privately dedicated lands such as nature preserves, natural areas, natural resources conservation areas, parks, or wilderness. [2002 c 284 § 2; 1981 c 189 § 2.]

**79.70.070 Natural heritage advisory council.** (1) The natural heritage advisory council is hereby established. The council shall consist of fifteen members, ten of whom shall be chosen as follows and who shall elect from the council's membership a chairperson:

(a) Five individuals, appointed by the commissioner, who shall be recognized experts in the ecology of natural areas and represent the public, academic, and private sectors. Desirable fields of expertise are biological and geological sciences; and

(b) Five individuals, appointed by the commissioner, who shall be selected from the various regions of the state. At least one member shall be or represent a private forest landowner and at least one member shall be or represent a private agricultural landowner.

(2) Members appointed under subsection (1) of this section shall serve for terms of four years.

(3) In addition to the members appointed by the commissioner, the director of the department of fish and wildlife, the director of the department of ecology, the supervisor of the department of natural resources, the director of the state parks and recreation commission, and the director of the recreation and conservation office, or an authorized representative of each agency officer, shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the council.

(4) Any vacancy on the council shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term by the commissioner.

(5) In order to provide for staggered terms, of the initial members of the council:

(a) Three shall serve for a term of two years;

(b) Three shall serve for a term of three years; and

(c) Three shall serve for a term of four years.

(6) Members of the natural preserves advisory committee serving on July 26, 1981, shall serve as members of the council until the commissioner appoints a successor to each. The successor appointment shall be specifically designated to replace a member of the natural preserves advisory committee until all members of that committee have been replaced. A member of the natural preserves advisory committee is eligible for appointment to the council if otherwise qualified.

(7) Members of the council shall serve without compensation. Members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now or hereafter amended. [2007 c 241 § 24; 1998 c 50 § 1; 1994 c 264 § 62; 1988 c 36 § 55; 1981 c 189 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79.70.080 Council duties.** (1) The council shall:

(a) Meet at least annually and more frequently at the request of the chairperson;

(b) Recommend policy for the natural heritage program through the review and approval of the natural heritage plan;

(c) Advise the department, the department of fish and wildlife, the state parks and recreation commission, and other state agencies managing state-owned land or natural resources regarding areas under their respective jurisdictions which are appropriate for natural area registration or dedication;

(d) Advise the department of rules and regulations that the council considers necessary in carrying out this chapter;

(e) Review and approve area nominations by the department or other agencies for registration and review and comment on legal documents for the voluntary dedication of such areas;

(f) Recommend whether new areas proposed for protection be established as natural area preserves, natural resources conservation areas, a combination of both, or by some other protected status; and

(g) Review and comment on management plans proposed for individual natural area preserves.

(2) From time to time, the council shall identify areas from the natural heritage data bank which qualify for registration. Priority shall be based on the natural heritage plan and shall generally be given to those resources which are rarest, most threatened, or under-represented in the heritage conservation system on a statewide basis. After qualifying areas have been identified, the department shall advise the owners of such areas of the opportunities for acquisition or voluntary registration or dedication. [2002 c 284 § 3; 1994 c 264 § 63; 1988 c 36 § 56; 1981 c 189 § 5.]

**79.70.090 Dedication of property as natural area.** (1) The owner of a registered natural area, whether a private individual or an organization, may voluntarily agree to dedicate the area as a natural area by executing with the state an instrument of dedication in a form approved by the council. The instrument of dedication shall be effective upon its recording in the real property records of the appropriate county or counties in which the natural area is located. The county assessor in computing assessed valuation shall take into consideration any reductions in property values and/or highest and best use which result from natural area dedication.

(2) A public agency owning or managing a registered natural area preserve may dedicate lands under the provisions of this chapter.

(3) The department shall adopt rules as authorized by RCW 43.12.065 and 79.70.030(1) relating to voluntary natural area dedication and defining:

(a) The types of real property interests that may be transferred;

(b) Real property transfer methods and the types of consideration of payment possible;

(c) Additional dedication provisions, such as natural area management, custody, use, and rights and privileges retained by the owner; and

(d) Procedures for terminating dedication arrangements. [2003 c 334 § 550; 1981 c 189 § 6.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.70.100 Public hearing—Establishment of boundary.** The department shall hold a public hearing in the county

where the majority of the land in a proposed natural area preserve is located prior to establishing the boundary. [1998 c 50 § 2.]

**79.70.110 Important bird areas.** (1) The program may use information collected by a qualifying nonprofit organization to recognize important bird areas. The program should, to the greatest extent possible, coordinate with and use internationally agreed-upon, scientific criteria and protocols developed by a qualifying nonprofit organization to officially recognize these sites throughout Washington. Prior to using information collected by a qualifying nonprofit organization, the program must verify that the information was collected by individuals trained in scientific data collection, wildlife biology, or ornithology.

(2) When the program recognizes an important bird area, that information will be included in the program's data bank. An important bird area shall not be designated as a natural area or a natural area preserve unless that area satisfies the substantive and procedural requirements for becoming a natural area or natural area preserve under this chapter.

(3) The qualifying nonprofit organization that collected the information used to recognize important bird areas should be available to work with interested landowners, businesses, and state and local governments to identify ways to maintain or enhance the important bird areas.

(4) The recognition of private property as an important bird area under this chapter, or the inclusion of private property in the program's data bank, does not confer nor imply any rights of access or trespass onto the important bird area without full knowledge and consent of the owner pursuant to any state statutory and common laws dealing with trespass and access to private property.

(5) Recognition of an important bird area does not require or create critical area designation under chapter 36.70A RCW. [2004 c 180 § 2.]

**Intent—2004 c 180:** "Washington has a rich variety of birds, wildlife, and fish that its citizens and visitors enjoy. With over three hundred sixty-five bird species, Washington can use this natural asset to attract nature tourists and sportsmen from all over the country and the world. According to a United States fish and wildlife service report, thirty-six percent of Washington's residents currently participate in bird watching, and the watchable wildlife industry brings nearly one billion dollars per year into the state's economy. The economic benefits delivered to rural economies in Washington by those choosing to recreate by hunting waterfowl or upland game birds is equally as impressive.

The legislature has long recognized the important role of waterfowl and upland game bird hunting and other sporting pursuits in both the state's economy and the quality of life for Washington residents. Additionally, the 2003 legislature recognized the economic value of promoting watchable wildlife and nature tourism when it required the departments of fish and wildlife and \*community, trade, and economic development to host a watchable wildlife and nature tourism conference and write a statewide strategic plan. The 2002 legislature recognized the value of identifying and conserving our state's biodiversity for future generations when it created the biodiversity task force and required a plan be developed to recommend ways to conserve biodiversity. Furthermore, over the past fifteen years, the legislature has recognized the important contributions volunteers and nonprofit organizations have made in restoring and monitoring salmon and wildlife habitat. Therefore, it is the goal of the legislature to promote: Partnerships with volunteers; rural economic development; nature tourism; and conservation of biodiversity by encouraging partnerships between state government agencies, volunteers, and nonprofit organizations to designate and conserve natural assets that attract nature tourists and bird watchers to Washington's rural areas.

To accomplish this goal, the legislature recognizes the scientific work by volunteer organizations to use internationally recognized scientific crite-

ria and protocols to identify, conserve, and monitor areas of the state that are important for migrating and resident birds. Scientists, ornithologists, and qualified volunteers have identified important bird areas. Wildlife conservation organizations and their volunteers are working to develop mutually agreed-upon bird conservation plans and monitoring plans in cooperation with public land managers and private landowners. Volunteers and scientists in more than one hundred countries around the world have already completed identification of fourteen thousand two hundred sixty sites that qualify as important bird areas.

Qualified volunteers and scientists have already successfully used the international criteria to identify fifty-three sites important for birds in Washington. Following the final round of site selection, volunteer organizations plan to work with landowners, businesses, and local and state governments to develop plans to maintain or enhance sites that will then become destinations for nature tourists to promote rural economic development. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to have Washington participate in the recognition portion of the important bird area program by directing the natural heritage program at the department of natural resources to officially recognize important bird areas." [2004 c 180 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**79.70.120 Important bird area—Recognition requirements.** Prior to recognizing an important bird area under this chapter, the department must:

- (1) Publish notice of the proposed important bird area in the Washington state register;
- (2) Publish notice of the proposed important bird area in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the proposed important bird area is located; and
- (3) Conduct at least one public hearing in the county where the proposed important bird area is located. [2004 c 180 § 3.]

**Intent—2004 c 180:** See note following RCW 79.70.110.

**79.70.130 Distribution of amount in lieu of real property taxes, weed control assessment.** The state treasurer, on behalf of the department, must distribute to counties for all lands acquired for the purposes of this chapter an amount in lieu of real property taxes equal to the amount of tax that would be due if the land were taxable as open space land under chapter 84.34 RCW except taxes levied for any state purpose, plus an additional amount equal to the amount of weed control assessment that would be due if such lands were privately owned. The county assessor and county legislative authority shall assist in determining the appropriate calculation of the amount of tax that would be due. The county shall distribute the amount received under this section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The county shall distribute the amount received under this section for weed control to the appropriate weed district. [2005 c 303 § 11.]

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

**79.70.900 Construction—1972 ex.s. c 119.** Nothing in this chapter is intended to supersede or otherwise affect any existing legislation. [1972 ex.s. c 119 § 6.]

(2012 Ed.)

## Chapter 79.71 RCW WASHINGTON NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AREAS

### Sections

79.71.010	Legislative findings.
79.71.020	Characteristics of lands considered for conservation purposes.
79.71.030	Definitions.
79.71.040	Acquisition of property for natural resources conservation areas—Designation.
79.71.050	Transfer of trust land for natural resources conservation areas—Use of proceeds.
79.71.060	Public hearing on proposed conservation area.
79.71.070	Management plans for designated areas.
79.71.080	Administration of natural resources conservation areas—Management agreements and activities.
79.71.090	Natural resources conservation areas stewardship account.
79.71.100	Designation of certain areas as natural resources conservation areas.
79.71.120	Elk river natural resources conservation area—Transfer of management—Hunting opportunities.
79.71.130	Distribution of amount in lieu of real property taxes, weed control assessment.
79.71.900	Severability—1987 c 472.

**79.71.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that: (1) There is an increasing and continuing need by the people of Washington for certain areas of the state to be conserved, in rural as well as urban settings, for the benefit of present and future generations; (2) such areas are worthy of conservation for their outstanding scenic and ecological values and provide opportunities for low-impact public use; (3) in certain cases acquisition of property or rights in property is necessary to protect these areas for public purposes; and (4) there is a need for a state agency to act in an effective and timely manner to acquire interests in such areas and to develop appropriate management strategies for conservation purposes. [1991 c 352 § 1; 1987 c 472 § 1.]

**79.71.020 Characteristics of lands considered for conservation purposes.** Lands possessing the following characteristics are considered by the legislature to be worthy of consideration for conservation purposes:

- (1) Lands identified as having high priority for conservation, natural systems, wildlife, and low-impact public use values;
- (2) An area of land or water, or land and water, that has flora, fauna, geological, archaeological, scenic, or similar features of critical importance to the people of Washington and that has retained to some degree or has reestablished its natural character;
- (3) Examples of native ecological communities; and
- (4) Environmentally significant sites threatened with conversion to incompatible or ecologically irreversible uses. [1991 c 352 § 2; 1987 c 472 § 2.]

**79.71.030 Definitions.** As used in this chapter: "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public lands.

"Department" means the department of natural resources.

"Conservation purposes" include but are not limited to: (1) Maintaining, enhancing, or restoring ecological systems, including but not limited to aquatic, coastal, riparian, montane, and geological systems, whether such systems be unique or typical to the state of Washington; (2) maintaining exceptional scenic landscapes; (3) maintaining habitat for

threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; (4) enhancing sites for primitive recreational purposes; and (5) outdoor environmental education.

"Low-impact public use" includes public recreation uses and improvements that do not adversely affect the resource values, are appropriate to the maintenance of the site in a relatively unmodified natural setting, and do not detract from long-term ecological processes.

"Management activities" may include limited production of income from forestry, agriculture, or other resource management activities, if such actions are consistent with the other purposes and requirements of this chapter.

"Natural resources conservation area" or "conservation area" means an area having the characteristics identified in RCW 79.71.020. [1991 c 352 § 3; 1987 c 472 § 3.]

**79.71.040 Acquisition of property for natural resources conservation areas—Designation.** The department is authorized to acquire property or less than fee interests in property, as defined by RCW 64.04.130, by all means, except eminent domain, for creating natural resources conservation areas, where acquisition is the best way to achieve the purposes of this chapter. Areas acquired or assembled by the department for conservation purposes will be designated as "Washington natural resources conservation areas." [1987 c 472 § 4.]

**79.71.050 Transfer of trust land for natural resources conservation areas—Use of proceeds.** The department is authorized to transfer fee simple interest or less than fee interests in trust land, as defined by Article XVI of the Washington Constitution, for the creation of natural resources conservation areas, provided the owner of the trust land receives full fair market value compensation for all rights transferred. The proceeds from such transfers shall be used for the exclusive purpose of acquiring real property to replace those interests utilized for the conservation area in order to meet the department's fiduciary obligations and to maintain the productive land base of the various trusts. [1991 c 352 § 4; 1987 c 472 § 5.]

**79.71.060 Public hearing on proposed conservation area.** The department shall hold a public hearing in the county where the majority of the land in the proposed natural resources conservation area is located prior to establishing the boundary. An area proposed for designation must contain resources consistent with characteristics identified in RCW 79.71.020. [1991 c 352 § 5; 1987 c 472 § 6.]

**79.71.070 Management plans for designated areas.** The department shall develop a management plan for each designated area. The plan shall identify the significant resources to be conserved consistent with the purposes of this chapter and identify the areas with potential for low-impact public and environmental educational uses. The plan shall specify what types of management activities and public uses that are permitted, consistent with the conservation purposes of this chapter. The department shall make such plans available for review and comment by the public and other state, tribal, and local agencies, prior to final approval by the commissioner. [1991 c 352 § 6; 1987 c 472 § 7.]

**79.71.080 Administration of natural resources conservation areas—Management agreements and activities.** The department is authorized to administer natural resources conservation areas and may enter into management agreements for these areas with federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, and private nonprofit conservancy corporations, as defined in RCW 64.04.130, when such agreements are consistent with the purposes of acquisition as defined in the adopted management plan. All management activities within a Washington natural resources conservation area will conform with the plan. Any moneys derived from the management of these areas in conformance with the adopted plan shall be deposited in the natural resources conservation areas stewardship account. [1991 c 352 § 7; 1987 c 472 § 8.]

**79.71.090 Natural resources conservation areas stewardship account.** There is hereby created the natural resources conservation areas stewardship account in the state treasury to ensure proper and continuing management of land acquired or designated pursuant to this chapter. Funds for the stewardship account shall be derived from appropriations of state general funds, federal funds, grants, donations, gifts, bond issue receipts, securities, and other monetary instruments of value. Income derived from the management of natural resources conservation areas shall also be deposited in this stewardship account.

Appropriations from this account to the department shall be expended for no other purpose than the following: (1) To manage the areas approved by the legislature in fulfilling the purposes of this chapter; (2) to manage property acquired as natural area preserves under chapter 79.70 RCW; (3) to manage property transferred under the authority and appropriation provided by the legislature to be managed under chapter 79.70 RCW or this chapter or acquired under chapter 79A.15 RCW; and (4) to pay for operating expenses for the natural heritage program under chapter 79.70 RCW. [2000 c 11 § 25; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 118; 1991 c 352 § 8; 1987 c 472 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.71.100 Designation of certain areas as natural resources conservation areas.** The legislature hereby designates certain areas as natural resources conservation areas:

(1) The Mt. Si conservation area (King County), RCW 79A.05.725, is hereby designated the Mt. Si natural resources conservation area. The department is directed to continue its management of this area and to develop a plan for its continued conservation and use by the public. In accordance with Article XVI of the Washington state Constitution, any available private lands and trust lands located within the designated boundaries of the Mt. Si conservation area shall be leased or acquired in fee from the appropriate trust at fair market value using funds appropriated for that purpose.

(2) Trust lands and state-owned land on Cypress Island (Skagit County) are hereby designated as the Cypress Island natural resources conservation area. Any available private lands necessary to achieve the purposes of this section shall be acquired by the department of natural resources using funds appropriated for that purpose. Trust lands located within the designated boundaries of the Cypress Island natural resources conservation area shall be leased or acquired in fee from the appropriate trust at fair market value.

(3) Woodard Bay (Thurston County) is hereby designated the Woodard Bay natural resources conservation area. The department is directed to acquire property available in Sec. 18, T.19N, R1W using funds appropriated for that purpose.

(4) The area adjacent to the Dishman Hills natural area (Spokane County) is hereby designated the Dishman Hills natural resources conservation area. The department is directed to acquire property available in Sec. 19, 29 and 30, T.25N, R44E, using funds appropriated for that purpose. [2000 c 11 § 26; 1987 c 472 § 10.]

**79.71.120 Elk river natural resources conservation area—Transfer of management—Hunting opportunities.** The property currently designated as the Elk river natural area preserve is transferred from management under chapter 79.70 RCW as a natural area preserve to management under chapter 79.71 RCW as a natural resources conservation area. The legislature finds that hunting is a suitable low-impact public use within the Elk river natural resources conservation area. The department of natural resources shall incorporate this legislative direction into the management plan developed for the Elk river natural resources conservation area. The department shall work with the department of fish and wild-life to identify hunting opportunities compatible with the area's conservation purposes. [1997 c 371 § 1.]

**79.71.130 Distribution of amount in lieu of real property taxes, weed control assessment.** The state treasurer, on behalf of the department, must distribute to counties for all lands acquired for the purposes of this chapter an amount in lieu of real property taxes equal to the amount of tax that would be due if the land were taxable as open space land under chapter 84.34 RCW except taxes levied for any state purpose, plus an additional amount equal to the amount of weed control assessment that would be due if such lands were privately owned. The county assessor and county legislative authority shall assist in determining the appropriate calculation of the amount of tax that would be due. The county shall distribute the amount received under this section in lieu of real property taxes to all property taxing districts except the state in appropriate tax code areas the same way it would distribute local property taxes from private property. The county shall distribute the amount received under this section for weed control to the appropriate weed district. [2005 c 303 § 12.]

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

**79.71.900 Severability—1987 c 472.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1987 c 472 § 20.]

## Chapter 79.73 RCW

### MILWAUKEE ROAD CORRIDOR

#### Sections

79.73.010 Management and control.  
79.73.020 Recreational use—Permit—Rules—Fees.

(2012 Ed.)

79.73.030 Powers.  
79.73.040 Leasing—Duties with respect to unleased portions.  
79.73.050 Authority to terminate or modify leases—Notice.

**79.73.010 Management and control.** The portion of the Milwaukee Road corridor from the west end of the bridge structure over the Columbia river, which point is located in section 34, township 16 north, range 23 east, W.M., to the Idaho border purchased by the state shall be under the management and control of the department. [2003 c 334 § 456; (2003 c 334 § 455; 2000 c 11 § 23; 1996 c 129 § 8 expired July 1, 2006); 1989 c 129 § 2; 1984 c 174 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.08.275.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** See note following RCW 79A.05.315.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.73.020 Recreational use—Permit—Rules—Fees.** The portion of the Milwaukee Road corridor under management and control of the department shall be open to individuals or organized groups that obtain permits from the department to travel the corridor for recreational purposes. The department shall, for the purpose of issuing permits for corridor use, adopt rules necessary for the orderly and safe use of the corridor and protection of adjoining landowners. Permit fees shall be established at a level that will cover costs of issuance. Upon request of abutting landowners, the department shall notify the landowners of permits issued for use of the corridor adjacent to their property. [2003 c 334 § 457; 1984 c 174 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.08.277.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** See note following RCW 79A.05.315.

**79.73.030 Powers.** The department may do the following with respect to the portion of the Milwaukee Road corridor under its control:

- (1) Enter into agreements to allow the realignment or modification of public roads, farm crossings, water conveyance facilities, and other utility crossings;
- (2) Regulate activities and restrict uses, including, but not limited to, closing portions of the corridor to reduce fire danger or protect public safety in consultation with local legislative authorities or fire districts;
- (3) Place hazard warning signs and close hazardous structures;
- (4) Renegotiate deed restrictions upon agreement with affected parties; and
- (5) Approve and process the sale or exchange of lands or easements if (a) such a sale or exchange will not adversely affect the recreational, transportation, or utility potential of the corridor and (b) the department has not entered into a lease of the property in accordance with RCW 79.73.040. [2003 c 334 § 458; 1984 c 174 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.08.279.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** See note following RCW 79A.05.315.

**79.73.040 Leasing—Duties with respect to unleased portions.** (1) The department shall offer to lease, and shall subsequently lease if a reasonable offer is made, portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor under its control to the person

who owns or controls the adjoining land for periods of up to ten years commencing with June 7, 1984. The lessee shall assume the responsibility for fire protection, weed control, and maintenance of water conveyance facilities and culverts. The leases shall follow standard department leasing procedures, with the following exceptions:

(a) The lessee may restrict public access pursuant to RCW 79.73.020 and subsection (3) of this section.

(b) The right of renewal shall be to the current lessee if the lessee still owns or controls the adjoining lands.

(c) If two persons own or control opposite sides of the corridor, each person shall be eligible for equal portions of the available property.

(2) The department has the authority to renew leases in existence on June 7, 1984.

(3) The leases shall contain a provision allowing the department to issue permits to travel the corridor for recreational purposes.

(4) Unleased portions of the Milwaukee Road property under this section shall be managed by the department. On these unleased portions, the department solely shall be responsible for weed control, culvert, bridge, and other necessary maintenance and fire protection services. The department shall place hazard warning signs and close hazardous structures on unleased portions and shall regulate activities and restrict uses, including closing the corridor during seasons of high fire danger. [2003 c 334 § 459; 1984 c 174 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.08.281.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** See note following RCW 79A.05.315.

**79.73.050 Authority to terminate or modify leases—Notice.** The state, through the department, shall reserve the right to terminate a lease entered into pursuant to RCW 79.73.040 or modify authorized uses of the corridor for future recreation, transportation, or utility uses. If the state elects to terminate the lease, the state shall provide the lessee with a minimum of six months' notice. [2003 c 334 § 460; 1984 c 174 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.08.283.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** See note following RCW 79A.05.315.

**Chapter 79.100 RCW  
DERELICT VESSELS**

Sections

79.100.005	Findings.
79.100.010	Definitions.
79.100.020	Chapter not exclusive remedy.
79.100.030	Authority of authorized public entity—Owner retains primary responsibility—Limitation on civil liability.
79.100.040	Obtaining custody of vessel.
79.100.050	Use or disposal of vessel.
79.100.060	Reimbursement for costs.
79.100.070	Contract with private company/individual.
79.100.080	Chapter not exclusive.
79.100.100	Derelict vessel removal account.
79.100.110	Vessel abandoned or derelict upon aquatic lands—Causing a vessel to block a navigational channel—Penalty.
79.100.120	Contesting an authorized public entity's decision to take temporary custody or possession of a vessel—Contesting the amount of reimbursement.
79.100.130	Marina owner may contract with a local government—Contract requirements.
79.100.900	Severability—2002 c 286.
79.100.901	Effective date—2002 c 286.

**79.100.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that there has been an increase in the number of derelict and abandoned vessels that are either grounded or anchored upon publicly or privately owned submerged lands. These vessels are public nuisances and safety hazards as they often pose hazards to navigation, detract from the aesthetics of Washington's waterways, and threaten the environment with the potential release of hazardous materials. The legislature further finds that the costs associated with the disposal of derelict and abandoned vessels are substantial, and that in many cases there is no way to track down the current vessel owners in order to seek compensation. As a result, the costs associated with the removal of derelict vessels becomes a burden on public entities and the taxpayer public. [2002 c 286 § 1.]

**79.100.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Abandoned vessel" means a vessel that has been left, moored, or anchored in the same area without the express consent, or contrary to the rules of, the owner, manager, or lessee of the aquatic lands below or on which the vessel is located for either a period of more than thirty consecutive days or for more than a total of ninety days in any three hundred sixty-five-day period, and the vessel's owner is: (a) Not known or cannot be located; or (b) known and located but is unwilling to take control of the vessel. For the purposes of this subsection (1) only, "in the same area" means within a radius of five miles of any location where the vessel was previously moored or anchored on aquatic lands.

(2) "Aquatic lands" means all tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters, including lands owned by the state and lands owned by other public or private entities.

(3) "Authorized public entity" includes any of the following: The department of natural resources; the department of fish and wildlife; the parks and recreation commission; a metropolitan park district; a port district; and any city, town, or county with ownership, management, or jurisdiction over the aquatic lands where an abandoned or derelict vessel is located.

(4) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(5) "Derelict vessel" means the vessel's owner is known and can be located, and exerts control of a vessel that:

(a) Has been moored, anchored, or otherwise left in the waters of the state or on public property contrary to RCW 79.02.300 or rules adopted by an authorized public entity;

(b) Has been left on private property without authorization of the owner; or

(c) Has been left for a period of seven consecutive days, and:

(i) Is sunk or in danger of sinking;

(ii) Is obstructing a waterway; or

(iii) Is endangering life or property.

(6) "Owner" means any natural person, firm, partnership, corporation, association, government entity, or organization that has a lawful right to possession of a vessel by purchase, exchange, gift, lease, inheritance, or legal action whether or not the vessel is subject to a security interest.

(7) "Vessel" means every species of watercraft or other mobile artificial contrivance, powered or unpowered, intended to be used for transporting people or goods on water or for floating marine construction or repair and which does not exceed two hundred feet in length. "Vessel" includes any trailer used for the transportation of watercraft, or any attached floats or debris. [2007 c 342 § 1; 2006 c 153 § 2; 2002 c 286 § 2.]

**79.100.020 Chapter not exclusive remedy.** This chapter is not intended to limit or constrain the ability and authority of the authorized public entities to enact and enforce ordinances or other regulations relating to derelict and abandoned vessels, or to take any actions authorized by federal or state law in responding to derelict or abandoned vessels. This chapter is also not intended to be the sole remedy available to authorized public entities against the owners of derelict and abandoned vessels. [2002 c 286 § 3.]

**79.100.030 Authority of authorized public entity—Owner retains primary responsibility—Limitation on civil liability.** (1) An authorized public entity has the authority, subject to the processes and limitations of this chapter, to store, strip, use, auction, sell, salvage, scrap, or dispose of an abandoned or derelict vessel found on or above aquatic lands within the jurisdiction of the authorized public entity. A vessel disposal must be done in an environmentally sound manner and in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws, including the state solid waste disposal provisions provided for in chapter 70.95 RCW. Scuttling or sinking of a vessel is only permissible after obtaining the express permission of the owner or owners of the aquatic lands below where the scuttling or sinking would occur, and obtaining all necessary state and federal permits or licenses.

(2) The primary responsibility to remove a derelict or abandoned vessel belongs to the owner, operator, or lessee of the moorage facility or the aquatic lands where the vessel is located. If the authorized public entity with the primary responsibility is unwilling or unable to exercise the authority granted by this section, it may request the department to assume the authorized public entity's authority for a particular vessel. The department may at its discretion assume the authorized public entity's authority for a particular vessel after being requested to do so. For vessels not at a moorage facility, an authorized public entity with jurisdiction over the aquatic lands where the vessel is located may, at its discretion, request to assume primary responsibility for that particular vessel from the owner of the aquatic lands where the vessel is located.

(3) The authority granted by this chapter is permissive, and no authorized public entity has a duty to exercise the authority. No liability attaches to an authorized public entity that chooses not to exercise this authority. An authorized public entity, in the good faith performance of the actions authorized under this chapter, is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the performance of the actions other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. Any person whose assistance has been requested by an authorized public entity, who has entered into a written agreement pursuant to RCW 79.100.070, and who, in good faith, renders assistance or

advice with respect to activities conducted by an authorized public entity pursuant to this chapter, is not liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of the assistance or advice, other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. [2011 c 247 § 4; 2002 c 286 § 4.]

**79.100.040 Obtaining custody of vessel.** (1) Prior to exercising the authority granted in RCW 79.100.030, the authorized public entity must first obtain custody of the vessel. To do so, the authorized public entity must:

(a) Mail notice of its intent to obtain custody, at least twenty days prior to taking custody, to the last known address of the previous owner to register the vessel in any state or with the federal government and to any lien holders or secured interests on record. A notice need not be sent to the purported owner or any other person whose interest in the vessel is not recorded with a state or federal agency;

(b) Post notice of its intent clearly on the vessel for thirty days and publish its intent at least once, more than ten days but less than twenty days prior to taking custody, in a newspaper of general circulation for the county in which the vessel is located; and

(c) Post notice of its intent on the department's internet web site on a page specifically designated for such notices. If the authorized public entity is not the department, the department must facilitate the internet posting.

(2) All notices sent, posted, or published in accordance with this section must, at a minimum, explain the intent of the authorized public entity to take custody of the vessel, the rights of the authorized public entity after taking custody of the vessel as provided in RCW 79.100.030, the procedures the owner must follow in order to avoid custody being taken by the authorized public entity, the procedures the owner must follow in order to reclaim possession after custody is taken by the authorized public entity, and the financial liabilities that the owner may incur as provided for in RCW 79.100.060.

(3)(a) If a vessel is: (i) In immediate danger of sinking, breaking up, or blocking navigational channels; or (ii) poses a reasonably imminent threat to human health or safety, including a threat of environmental contamination; and (iii) the owner of the vessel cannot be located or is unwilling or unable to assume immediate responsibility for the vessel, any authorized public entity may tow, beach, or otherwise take temporary possession of the vessel.

(b) Before taking temporary possession of the vessel, the authorized public entity must make reasonable attempts to consult with the department or the United States coast guard to ensure that other remedies are not available. The basis for taking temporary possession of the vessel must be set out in writing by the authorized public entity within seven days of taking action and be submitted to the owner, if known, as soon thereafter as is reasonable. If the authorized public entity has not already provided the required notice, immediately after taking possession of the vessel, the authorized public entity must initiate the notice provisions in subsection (1) of this section. The authorized public entity must complete the notice requirements of subsection (1) of this section before using or disposing of the vessel as authorized in RCW 79.100.050. [2007 c 342 § 2; 2006 c 153 § 3; 2002 c 286 § 5.]

**79.100.050 Use or disposal of vessel.** (1) After taking custody of a vessel, the authorized public entity may use or dispose of the vessel in any appropriate and environmentally sound manner without further notice to any owners, but must give preference to uses that derive some monetary benefit from the vessel, either in whole or in scrap. If no value can be derived from the vessel, the authorized public entity must give preference to the least costly, environmentally sound, reasonable disposal option. Any disposal operations must be consistent with the state solid waste disposal provisions provided for in chapter 70.95 RCW.

(2) If the authorized public entity chooses to offer the vessel at a public auction, either a minimum bid may be set or a letter of credit may be required, or both, to discourage future reabandonment of the vessel.

(3) Proceeds derived from the sale of the vessel must first be applied to any administrative costs that are incurred by the authorized public entity during the notification procedures set forth in RCW 79.100.040, removal and disposal costs, and costs associated with environmental damages directly or indirectly caused by the vessel. If the proceeds derived from the vessel exceed all administrative costs, removal and disposal costs, and costs associated with environmental damages directly or indirectly caused by the vessel, the remaining moneys must be applied to satisfying any liens registered against the vessel.

(4) Any value derived from a vessel greater than all liens and costs incurred reverts to the derelict vessel removal account established in RCW 79.100.100. [2002 c 286 § 6.]

**79.100.060 Reimbursement for costs.** (1) The owner of an abandoned or derelict vessel is responsible for reimbursing an authorized public entity for all reasonable and auditable costs associated with the removal or disposal of the owner's vessel under this chapter. These costs include, but are not limited to, costs incurred exercising the authority granted in RCW 79.100.030, all administrative costs incurred by the authorized public entity during the procedure set forth in RCW 79.100.040, removal and disposal costs, and costs associated with environmental damages directly or indirectly caused by the vessel. An authorized public entity that has taken temporary possession of a vessel may require that all reasonable and auditable costs associated with the removal of the vessel be paid before the vessel is released to the owner.

(2) Reimbursement for costs may be sought from an owner who is identified subsequent to the vessel's removal and disposal.

(3) If the full amount of all costs due to the authorized public entity under this chapter is not paid to the authorized public entity within thirty days after first notifying the responsible parties of the amounts owed, the authorized public entity or the department may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to recover the costs, plus reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the authorized public entity. [2006 c 153 § 4; 2002 c 286 § 7.]

**79.100.070 Contract with private company/individual.** An authorized public entity may enter into a contract with a private company or individual to carry out the authority granted in this chapter. [2002 c 286 § 8.]

**79.100.080 Chapter not exclusive.** The rights granted by this chapter are in addition to any other legal rights an authorized public entity may have to obtain title to, remove, recover, sell, or dispose of an abandoned or derelict vessel, and in no way does this chapter alter those rights, or affect the priority of other liens on a vessel. [2002 c 286 § 9.]

**79.100.100 Derelict vessel removal account.** (1) The derelict vessel removal account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from RCW 79.100.050 and 79.100.060 and those moneys specified in RCW 88.02.640 must be deposited into the account. The account is authorized to receive fund transfers and appropriations from the general fund, deposits from the derelict vessel removal surcharge under RCW 88.02.640(4), as well as gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private sources as may be made from time to time, in trust or otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of this chapter and expend the same or any income according to the terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments provided those terms do not conflict with any provisions of this section or any guidelines developed to prioritize reimbursement of removal projects associated with this chapter. Moneys in the account may only be spent after appropriation. Expenditures from the account must be used by the department to reimburse authorized public entities for up to ninety percent of the total reasonable and auditable administrative, removal, disposal, and environmental damage costs of abandoned or derelict vessels when the previous owner is either unknown after a reasonable search effort or insolvent. Reimbursement may not be made unless the department determines that the public entity has made reasonable efforts to identify and locate the party responsible for the vessel, regardless of the title of owner of the vessel. Funds in the account resulting from transfers from the general fund or from the deposit of funds from the watercraft excise tax as provided for under RCW 82.49.030 must be used to reimburse one hundred percent of these costs and should be prioritized for the removal of large vessels. Costs associated with removal and disposal of an abandoned or derelict vessel under the authority granted in RCW 53.08.320 also qualify for reimbursement from the derelict vessel removal account. In each biennium, up to twenty percent of the expenditures from the account may be used for administrative expenses of the department of licensing and department of natural resources in implementing this chapter.

(2) If the balance of the account reaches one million dollars as of March 1st of any year, exclusive of any transfer or appropriation of funds into the account or funds deposited into the account collected under RCW 88.02.640(5), the department must notify the department of licensing and the collection of any fees associated with this account must be suspended for the following fiscal year.

(3) Priority for use of this account is for the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels that are in danger of sinking, breaking up, or blocking navigation channels, or that present environmental risks such as leaking fuel or other hazardous substances. The department must develop criteria, in the form of informal guidelines, to prioritize removal projects associated with this chapter, but may not consider whether the applicant is a state or local entity when prioritizing. The guidelines must also include guidance to the authorized pub-

lic entities as to what removal activities and associated costs are reasonable and eligible for reimbursement.

(4) The department must keep all authorized public entities apprized of the balance of the derelict vessel removal account and the funds available for reimbursement. The guidelines developed by the department must also be made available to the other authorized public entities. This subsection (4) must be satisfied by utilizing the least costly method, including maintaining the information on the department's internet web site, or any other cost-effective method.

(5) An authorized public entity may contribute its ten percent of costs that are not eligible for reimbursement by using in-kind services, including the use of existing staff, equipment, and volunteers.

(6) This chapter does not guarantee reimbursement for an authorized public entity. Authorized public entities seeking certainty in reimbursement prior to taking action under this chapter may first notify the department of their proposed action and the estimated total costs. Upon notification by an authorized public entity, the department must make the authorized public entity aware of the status of the fund and the likelihood of reimbursement being available. The department may offer technical assistance and assure reimbursement for up to two years following the removal action if an assurance is appropriate given the balance of the fund and the details of the proposed action. [2010 c 161 § 1161; 2007 c 342 § 4; 2006 c 153 § 6; 2002 c 286 § 11.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**79.100.110 Vessel abandoned or derelict upon aquatic lands—Causing a vessel to block a navigational channel—Penalty.** (1) A person who causes a vessel to become abandoned or derelict upon aquatic lands is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) A person who intentionally, through action or inaction and without the appropriate state, local, or federal authorization, causes a vessel to sink, break up, or block a navigational channel upon aquatic lands is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2011 c 247 § 1; 2006 c 153 § 1.]

**79.100.120 Contesting an authorized public entity's decision to take temporary custody or possession of a vessel—Contesting the amount of reimbursement.** (1) A person seeking to contest an authorized public entity's decision to take temporary possession or custody of a vessel under this chapter, or to contest the amount of reimbursement owed to an authorized public entity under this chapter, may request a hearing in accordance with this section.

(2)(a) If the contested decision or action was undertaken by a state agency, a written request for a hearing related to the decision or action must be filed with the pollution control hearings board and served on the state agency in accordance with RCW 43.21B.230 (2) and (3) within thirty days of the date the authorized public entity acquires custody of the vessel under RCW 79.100.040, or if the vessel is redeemed before the authorized public entity acquires custody, the date of redemption, or the right to a hearing is deemed waived and the vessel's owner is liable for any costs owed the authorized

public entity. In the event of litigation, the prevailing party is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(b) Upon receipt of a timely hearing request, the pollution control hearings board shall proceed to hear and determine the validity of the decision to take the vessel into temporary possession or custody and the reasonableness of any towing, storage, or other charges permitted under this chapter. Within five business days after the request for a hearing is filed, the pollution control hearings board shall notify the vessel owner requesting the hearing and the authorized public entity of the date, time, and location for the hearing. Unless the vessel is redeemed before the request for hearing is filed, the pollution control hearings board shall set the hearing on a date that is within ten business days of the filing of the request for hearing. If the vessel is redeemed before the request for a hearing is filed, the pollution control hearings board shall set the hearing on a date that is within sixty days of the filing of the request for hearing. A proceeding brought under this subsection may be heard by one member of the pollution control hearings board, whose decision is the final decision of the board.

(3)(a) If the contested decision or action was undertaken by a metropolitan park district, port district, city, town, or county, which has adopted rules or procedures for contesting decisions or actions pertaining to derelict or abandoned vessels, those rules or procedures must be followed in order to contest a decision to take temporary possession or custody of a vessel, or to contest the amount of reimbursement owed.

(b) If the metropolitan park district, port district, city, town, or county has not adopted rules or procedures for contesting decisions or actions pertaining to derelict or abandoned vessels, then a person requesting a hearing under this section must follow the procedure established in RCW 53.08.320(5) for contesting the decisions or actions of moorage facility operators. [2010 c 210 § 34; 2006 c 153 § 5.]

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

**79.100.130 Marina owner may contract with a local government—Contract requirements.** A marina owner may contract with a local government for the purpose of participating in the derelict vessel removal program. The local government shall serve as the authorized public entity for the removal of the derelict or abandoned vessel from the marina owner's property. The contract must provide for the marina owner to be financially responsible for the removal costs that are not reimbursed by the department as provided under RCW 79.100.100, and any additional reasonable administrative costs incurred by the local government during the removal of the derelict or abandoned vessel. Prior to the commencement of any removal which will seek reimbursement from the derelict vessel removal program, the contract and the proposed vessel removal shall be submitted to the department for review and approval. The local government shall use the procedure specified under RCW 79.100.100(6). [2011 c 247 § 2; 2007 c 342 § 3.]

**79.100.900 Severability—2002 c 286.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the

provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2002 c 286 § 25.]

**79.100.901 Effective date—2002 c 286.** This act takes effect January 1, 2003. [2002 c 286 § 26.]

### Chapter 79.105 RCW AQUATIC LANDS—GENERAL

#### Sections

79.105.001 Intent—2005 c 155.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

79.105.010 Aquatic lands—Findings.  
79.105.020 Purpose—Articulation of management philosophy.  
79.105.030 Aquatic lands—Management guidelines.  
79.105.040 Application to existing property rights—Application of shoreline management act.  
79.105.050 Fostering use of aquatic environment—Limitation.  
79.105.060 Definitions.

#### GENERAL USE, SALE, AND LEASE PROVISIONS

79.105.100 Sale and lease of state-owned aquatic lands—Blank forms of applications.  
79.105.110 Who may purchase or lease—Application—Fees.  
79.105.120 Survey to determine areas subject to sale or lease.  
79.105.130 Reconsideration of official acts.  
79.105.140 Assignment of contracts or leases.  
79.105.150 Deposit, use of proceeds from sale or lease of aquatic lands or valuable materials therefrom—Aquatic lands enhancement project grant requirements—Aquatic lands enhancement account.  
79.105.160 Aquatic lands—Court review of actions.

#### LEASING AND RENTAL RATES

79.105.200 Use and occupancy fee in lieu of lease—Construction of section.  
79.105.210 Aquatic lands—Preservation and enhancement of water-dependent uses—Leasing authority.  
79.105.220 Lease of tidelands in front of public parks.  
79.105.230 Use for public parks or public recreation purposes.  
79.105.240 Determination of annual rent rates for lease of aquatic lands for water-dependent uses.  
79.105.250 Log storage rents.  
79.105.260 Rent for leases in effect October 1, 1984.  
79.105.270 Aquatic lands—Leases/rents for nonwater-dependent uses.  
79.105.280 Rents and fees for recovery of mineral or geothermal resources.  
79.105.290 Aquatic lands—Rents for multiple uses.  
79.105.300 Aquatic lands—Lease for water-dependent use—Rental for nonwater-dependent use.  
79.105.310 Aquatic lands—Rent for improvements.  
79.105.320 Aquatic lands—Administrative review of proposed rent.  
79.105.330 Aquatic lands—Security for leases for more than one year.  
79.105.340 Aquatic lands—Payment of rent.  
79.105.350 Aquatic lands—Interest rate.  
79.105.360 Adoption of rules.

#### OTHER CONVEYANCES

79.105.400 Authority to exchange state-owned tidelands and shorelands—Rules—Limitation.  
79.105.410 Gifts of aquatic land—Procedures and criteria.  
79.105.420 Management of certain aquatic lands by port district—Agreement—Rent—Model management agreement.  
79.105.430 Private recreational docks—Mooring buoys.

#### DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL

79.105.500 Aquatic land dredged material disposal sites—Findings.  
79.105.510 Aquatic land dredged material disposal site account.  
79.105.520 Fees for use of aquatic land dredged material disposal sites authorized.

#### OTHER MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

79.105.600 Archaeological activities on state-owned aquatic lands—Agreements, leases, or other conveyances.  
79.105.610 Puget Sound partners.

79.105.620 City use of state-owned aquatic lands for publicly owned marina—Reduced fee lease—Expiration date.  
79.105.630 Administering funds—Preference to an evergreen community.  
79.105.901 Severability—1984 c 221.  
79.105.902 Effective date—1984 c 221.  
79.105.903 Severability—2005 c 155.  
79.105.904 Part/subchapter headings not law—2005 c 155.

**79.105.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** This act is intended to make technical amendments to certain codified statutes that deal with the department of natural resources. Any statutory changes made by this act should be interpreted as technical in nature and not be interpreted to have any substantive policy implications. [2005 c 155 § 1001.]

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

**79.105.010 Aquatic lands—Findings.** The legislature finds that state-owned aquatic lands are a finite natural resource of great value and an irreplaceable public heritage. The legislature recognizes that the state owns these aquatic lands in fee and has delegated to the department the responsibility to manage these lands for the benefit of the public. The legislature finds that water-dependent industries and activities have played a major role in the history of the state and will continue to be important in the future. The legislature finds that revenues derived from leases of state-owned aquatic lands should be used to enhance opportunities for public recreation, shoreline access, environmental protection, and other public benefits associated with the aquatic lands of the state. The legislature further finds that aquatic lands are faced with conflicting use demands. [2005 c 155 § 139; 1984 c 221 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.90.450.]

**79.105.020 Purpose—Articulation of management philosophy.** The purpose of RCW 79.105.060, 79.105.230, 79.105.280, and 79.105.010 through 79.105.040 is to articulate a management philosophy to guide the exercise of the state's ownership interest and the exercise of the department's management authority, and to establish standards for determining equitable and predictable lease rates for users of state-owned aquatic lands. [2005 c 155 § 101. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.450.]

**79.105.030 Aquatic lands—Management guidelines.** The management of state-owned aquatic lands shall be in conformance with constitutional and statutory requirements. The manager of state-owned aquatic lands shall strive to provide a balance of public benefits for all citizens of the state. The public benefits provided by state-owned aquatic lands are varied and include:

- (1) Encouraging direct public use and access;
- (2) Fostering water-dependent uses;
- (3) Ensuring environmental protection;
- (4) Utilizing renewable resources.

Generating revenue in a manner consistent with subsections (1) through (4) of this section is a public benefit. [2005 c 155 § 140; 1984 c 221 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.90.455.]

**79.105.040 Application to existing property rights—Application of shoreline management act.** Nothing in \*this chapter or RCW 79.120.040 or 79.120.060 shall modify or affect any existing legal rights involving the boundaries of,

title to, or vested property rights in aquatic lands or waterways. Nothing in \*this chapter shall modify, alter, or otherwise affect the applicability of chapter 90.58 RCW. [2005 c 155 § 157; 1984 c 221 § 20. Formerly RCW 79.90.545.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to "this chapter" referred to chapter 79.90 RCW, which was recodified and/or repealed in its entirety by 2005 c 155.

**79.105.050 Fostering use of aquatic environment—Limitation.** The department shall foster the commercial and recreational use of the aquatic environment for production of food, fibre, income, and public enjoyment from state-owned aquatic lands and from associated waters, and to this end the department may develop and improve production and harvesting of seaweeds and sealife attached to or growing on aquatic land or contained in aquaculture containers, but nothing in this section alters the responsibility of other state agencies for their normal management of fish, shellfish, game, and water. [2005 c 155 § 141; 2003 c 334 § 541; 1971 ex.s. c 234 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.90.456, 79.68.080.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.105.060 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout chapters 79.105 through 79.145 RCW unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Aquatic lands" means all tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters.

(2) "Beds of navigable waters" means those lands lying waterward of and below the line of navigability on rivers and lakes not subject to tidal flow, or extreme low tide mark in navigable tidal waters, or the outer harbor line where harbor area has been created.

(3) "First-class shorelands" means the shores of a navigable lake or river belonging to the state, not subject to tidal flow, lying between the line of ordinary high water and the line of navigability, or inner harbor line where established and within or in front of the corporate limits of any city or within two miles of either side.

(4) "First-class tidelands" means the shores of navigable tidal waters belonging to the state, lying within or in front of the corporate limits of any city, or within one mile of either side and between the line of ordinary high tide and the inner harbor line; and within two miles of the corporate limits on either side and between the line of ordinary high tide and the line of extreme low tide.

(5) "Harbor area" means the area of navigable waters determined as provided in Article XV, section 1 of the state Constitution, which shall be forever reserved for landings, wharves, streets, and other conveniences of navigation and commerce.

(6) "Improvements" when referring to state-owned aquatic lands means anything considered a fixture in law placed within, upon, or attached to aquatic lands that has changed the value of those lands, or any changes in the previous condition of the fixtures that changes the value of the land.

(7) "Inflation rate" means for a given year the percentage rate of change in the previous calendar year's all commodity producer price index of the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of commerce. If the index ceases to

be published, the department shall designate by rule a comparable substitute index.

(8) "Inner harbor line" means a line located and established in navigable waters between the line of ordinary high tide or ordinary high water and the outer harbor line, constituting the inner boundary of the harbor area.

(9) "Log booming" means placing logs into and taking them out of the water, assembling and disassembling log rafts before or after their movement in water-borne commerce, related handling and sorting activities taking place in the water, and the temporary holding of logs to be taken directly into a processing facility. "Log booming" does not include the temporary holding of logs to be taken directly into a vessel.

(10) "Log storage" means the water storage of logs in rafts or otherwise prepared for shipment in water-borne commerce, but does not include the temporary holding of logs to be taken directly into a vessel or processing facility.

(11) "Nonwater-dependent use" means a use that can operate in a location other than on the waterfront. Examples include, but are not limited to, hotels, condominiums, apartments, restaurants, retail stores, and warehouses not part of a marine terminal or transfer facility.

(12) "Outer harbor line" means a line located and established in navigable waters as provided in Article XV, section 1 of the state Constitution, beyond which the state shall never sell or lease any rights whatever to private persons.

(13) "Person" means any private individual, partnership, association, organization, cooperative, firm, corporation, the state or any agency or political subdivision thereof, any public or municipal corporation, or any unit of government, however designated.

(14) "Port district" means a port district created under Title 53 RCW.

(15) "Public utility lines" means pipes, conduits, and similar facilities for distribution of water, electricity, natural gas, telephone, other electronic communication, and sewers, including sewer outfall lines.

(16) "Real rate of return" means the average for the most recent ten calendar years of the average rate of return on conventional real property mortgages as reported by the federal home loan bank board or any successor agency, minus the average inflation rate for the most recent ten calendar years.

(17) "Second-class shorelands" means the shores of a navigable lake or river belonging to the state, not subject to tidal flow, lying between the line of ordinary high water and the line of navigability, and more than two miles from the corporate limits of any city.

(18) "Second-class tidelands" means the shores of navigable tidal waters belonging to the state, lying outside of and more than two miles from the corporate limits of any city, and between the line of ordinary high tide and the line of extreme low tide.

(19) "Shorelands," where not preceded by "first-class" or "second-class," means both first-class shorelands and second-class shorelands.

(20) "State-owned aquatic lands" means all tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, the beds of navigable waters, and waterways owned by the state and administered by the department or managed under RCW 79.105.420 by a port district. "State-owned aquatic lands" does not include

aquatic lands owned in fee by, or withdrawn for the use of, state agencies other than the department.

(21) "Terminal" means a point of interchange between land and water carriers, such as a pier, wharf, or group of such, equipped with facilities for care and handling of either cargo or passengers, or both.

(22) "Tidelands," where not preceded by "first-class" or "second-class," means both first-class tidelands and second-class tidelands.

(23) "Valuable materials" when referring to state-owned aquatic lands means any product or material within or upon lands, such as forest products, forage, stone, gravel, sand, peat, agricultural crops, and all other materials of value except mineral, coal, petroleum, and gas as provided for under chapter 79.14 RCW. However, RCW 79.140.190 and 79.140.200 also apply to materials provided for under chapter 79.14 RCW.

(24) "Water-dependent use" means a use that cannot logically exist in any location but on the water. Examples include, but are not limited to: Water-borne commerce; terminal and transfer facilities; ferry terminals; watercraft sales in conjunction with other water-dependent uses; watercraft construction, repair, and maintenance; moorage and launching facilities; aquaculture; log booming; and public fishing piers and parks.

(25) "Water-oriented use" means a use that historically has been dependent on a waterfront location, but with existing technology could be located away from the waterfront. Examples include, but are not limited to, wood products manufacturing, watercraft sales, fish processing, petroleum refining, sand and gravel processing, log storage, and houseboats. For the purposes of determining rent under this chapter, water-oriented uses shall be classified as water-dependent uses if the activity either is conducted on state-owned aquatic lands leased on October 1, 1984, or was actually conducted on the state-owned aquatic lands for at least three years before October 1, 1984. If, after October 1, 1984, the activity is changed to a use other than a water-dependent use, the activity shall be classified as a nonwater-dependent use. If continuation of the existing use requires leasing additional state-owned aquatic lands and is permitted under the shoreline management act of 1971, chapter 90.58 RCW, the department may allow reasonable expansion of the water-oriented use. [2005 c 155 § 102.]

#### GENERAL USE, SALE, AND LEASE PROVISIONS

**79.105.100 Sale and lease of state-owned aquatic lands—Blank forms of applications.** The department shall prepare, and furnish to applicants, blank forms of applications for the purchase of state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, and the purchase of valuable material situated thereon, and the lease of state-owned tidelands, shorelands, and harbor areas, which forms shall contain such instructions as will inform and aid the applicants. [2005 c 155 § 104; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 15. Formerly RCW 79.90.090.]

**79.105.110 Who may purchase or lease—Application—Fees.** Any person desiring to purchase any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted under

RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, or to purchase any valuable material situated thereon, or to lease any state-owned aquatic lands, shall file with the department an application, on the proper form which shall be accompanied by reasonable fees to be prescribed by the board in its rules, in an amount sufficient to defray the cost of performing or otherwise providing for the processing, review, or inspection of the applications or activities permitted pursuant to the applications for each category of services performed. These fees shall be credited to the resource management cost account fund in the general fund. [2005 c 155 § 105; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 16. Formerly RCW 79.90.100.]

**79.105.120 Survey to determine areas subject to sale or lease.** The department may cause any state-owned aquatic lands to be surveyed for the purpose of ascertaining and determining the area subject to sale or lease. [2005 c 155 § 108; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 18. Formerly RCW 79.90.120.]

**79.105.130 Reconsideration of official acts.** The department may review and reconsider any of its official acts relating to state-owned aquatic lands until such time as a lease, contract, or deed is made, executed, and finally issued, and the department may recall any lease, contract, or deed issued for the purpose of correcting mistakes or errors, or supplying omissions. [2005 c 155 § 138; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 47. Formerly RCW 79.90.410.]

**79.105.140 Assignment of contracts or leases.** All contracts of purchase of state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, and all leases of state-owned tidelands, shorelands, or beds of navigable waters issued by the department shall be assignable in writing by the contract holder or lessee. The assignee shall be subject to the provisions of law applicable to the purchaser or lessee of whom they are the assignee, and shall have the same rights in all respects as the original purchaser or lessee of the lands, but only if the assignment is first approved by the department and entered upon the records in the department. [2005 c 155 § 135; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 43. Formerly RCW 79.90.370.]

**79.105.150 Deposit, use of proceeds from sale or lease of aquatic lands or valuable materials therefrom—Aquatic lands enhancement project grant requirements—Aquatic lands enhancement account.** (1) After deduction for management costs as provided in RCW 79.64.040 and payments to towns under RCW 79.115.150(2), all moneys received by the state from the sale or lease of state-owned aquatic lands and from the sale of valuable material from state-owned aquatic lands shall be deposited in the aquatic lands enhancement account which is hereby created in the state treasury. After appropriation, these funds shall be used solely for aquatic lands enhancement projects; for the purchase, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes; for providing and improving access to the lands; and for volunteer cooperative fish and game projects. During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the aquatic lands enhancement account may also be used for scientific research as part of the adaptive management process and for developing a planning report for McNeil Island. During the 2011-

2013 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the aquatic lands enhancement account to the state general fund such amounts as reflect excess fund balance of the account. During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the aquatic lands enhancement account may be used to support the shellfish program, the ballast water program, parks, hatcheries, and the Puget Sound toxic sampling program at the department of fish and wildlife, the knotweed program at the department of agriculture, and the Puget SoundCorps program. During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the aquatic lands enhancement account to the marine resources stewardship trust account funds for the purposes of RCW 43.372.070.

(2) In providing grants for aquatic lands enhancement projects, the recreation and conservation funding board shall:

(a) Require grant recipients to incorporate the environmental benefits of the project into their grant applications;

(b) Utilize the statement of environmental benefits, consideration, except as provided in RCW 79.105.610, of whether the applicant is a Puget Sound partner, as defined in RCW 90.71.010, whether a project is referenced in the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310, and except as otherwise provided in RCW 79.105.630, and effective one calendar year following the development and statewide availability of model evergreen community management plans and ordinances under RCW 35.105.050, whether the applicant is an entity that has been recognized, and what gradation of recognition was received, in the evergreen community recognition program created in RCW 35.105.030 in its prioritization and selection process; and

(c) Develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the grants.

(3) To the extent possible, the department should coordinate its performance measure system with other natural resource-related agencies as defined in RCW 43.41.270.

(4) The department shall consult with affected interest groups in implementing this section.

(5) After January 1, 2010, any project designed to address the restoration of Puget Sound may be funded under this chapter only if the project is not in conflict with the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 929; 2012 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 6008; 2011 2nd sp.s. c 9 § 911; 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 967; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 949; 2009 c 564 § 959; 2008 c 299 § 28; 2007 c 341 § 32. Prior: 2005 c 518 § 946; 2005 c 155 § 121; 2004 c 276 § 914; 2002 c 371 § 923; 2001 c 227 § 7; 1999 c 309 § 919; 1997 c 149 § 913; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 923; 1994 c 219 § 12; 1993 sp.s. c 24 § 927; 1987 c 350 § 1; 1985 c 57 § 79; 1984 c 221 § 24; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 8 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 273 § 12; 1967 ex.s. c 105 § 3; 1961 c 167 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.90.245, 79.24.580.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 6008 and by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 929, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 43.155.050.

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective dates—2011 2nd sp.s. c 9:** See note following RCW 28B.50.837.

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**Severability—Effective date—2005 c 518:** See notes following RCW 28A.500.030.

**Severability—Effective date—2004 c 276:** See notes following RCW 43.330.167.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 371:** See notes following RCW 9.46.100.

**Findings—Intent—2001 c 227:** See note following RCW 43.41.270.

**Finding—1994 c 219:** See note following RCW 43.88.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### 79.105.160 Aquatic lands—Court review of actions.

Any applicant to purchase or lease any state-owned aquatic lands, or any valuable materials on state-owned aquatic lands, and any person whose property rights or interest will be affected by the sale or lease, feeling himself or herself aggrieved by any order or decision of the board, or the commissioner, concerning the order or decision, may appeal in the manner provided in RCW 79.02.030. [2005 c 155 § 137; 2003 c 334 § 606; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 46. Formerly RCW 79.90.400.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## LEASING AND RENTAL RATES

**79.105.200 Use and occupancy fee in lieu of lease—Construction of section.** (1) The department may require the payment of a use and occupancy fee in lieu of a lease where improvements have been placed without authorization on state-owned aquatic lands.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the assertion of public ownership rights in any publicly owned aquatic lands, or the leasing of the aquatic lands when the leasing is not contrary to the statewide public interest. [2005 c 155 § 516; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 102. Formerly RCW 79.94.170.]

### 79.105.210 Aquatic lands—Preservation and enhancement of water-dependent uses—Leasing authority.

(1) The management of state-owned aquatic lands shall preserve and enhance water-dependent uses. Water-dependent uses shall be favored over other uses in state-owned aquatic land planning and in resolving conflicts between competing lease applications. In cases of conflict between water-dependent uses, priority shall be given to uses which enhance renewable resources, water-borne commerce, and the navigational and biological capacity of the waters, and to statewide interests as distinguished from local interests.

(2) Nonwater-dependent use of state-owned aquatic lands is a low-priority use providing minimal public benefits and shall not be permitted to expand or be established in new areas except in exceptional circumstances where it is compat-

ible with water-dependent uses occurring in or planned for the area.

(3) The department shall consider the natural values of state-owned aquatic lands as wildlife habitat, natural area preserve, representative ecosystem, or spawning area prior to issuing any initial lease or authorizing any change in use. The department may withhold from leasing lands which it finds to have significant natural values, or may provide within any lease for the protection of such values.

(4) The power to lease state-owned aquatic lands is vested in the department, which has the authority to make leases upon terms, conditions, and length of time in conformance with the state Constitution and chapters 79.105 through 79.140 RCW.

(5) State-owned aquatic lands shall not be leased to persons or organizations which discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, or physical or mental handicap. [2005 c 155 § 143; 1984 c 221 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.90.460.]

**79.105.220 Lease of tidelands in front of public parks.** The department may lease state-owned tidelands that are in front of state parks only with the approval of the state parks and recreation commission. The department may lease bedlands in front of state parks only after the department has consulted with the state parks and recreation commission. [2005 c 155 § 145. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.94.010; 2002 c 152 § 2; 1984 c 221 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.90.470.]

**Findings—Severability—2002 c 152:** See notes following RCW 79.110.240.

**79.105.230 Use for public parks or public recreation purposes.** Use for public parks or public recreation purposes shall be granted without charge if the state-owned aquatic lands and improvements are available to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis and are not managed to produce a profit for the operator or a concessionaire. [2005 c 155 § 144.]

**79.105.240 Determination of annual rent rates for lease of aquatic lands for water-dependent uses.** Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, annual rent rates for the lease of state-owned aquatic lands for water-dependent uses shall be determined as follows:

(1)(a) The assessed land value, exclusive of improvements, as determined by the county assessor, of the upland tax parcel used in conjunction with the leased area or, if there are no such uplands, of the nearest upland tax parcel used for water-dependent purposes divided by the parcel area equals the upland value.

(b) The upland value times the area of leased aquatic lands times thirty percent equals the aquatic land value.

(2) As of July 1, 1989, and each July 1st thereafter, the department shall determine the real capitalization rate to be applied to water-dependent aquatic land leases commencing or being adjusted under subsection (3)(a) of this section in that fiscal year. The real capitalization rate shall be the real rate of return, except that until June 30, 1989, the real capitalization rate shall be five percent and thereafter it shall not

change by more than one percentage point in any one year or be more than seven percent or less than three percent.

(3) The annual rent shall be:

(a) Determined initially, and redetermined every four years or as otherwise provided in the lease, by multiplying the aquatic land value times the real capitalization rate; and

(b) Adjusted by the inflation rate each year in which the rent is not determined under (a) of this subsection.

(4) If the upland parcel used in conjunction with the leased area is not assessed or has an assessed value inconsistent with the purposes of the lease, the nearest comparable upland parcel used for similar purposes shall be substituted and the lease payment determined in the same manner as provided in this section.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "upland tax parcel" is a tax parcel, some portion of which has upland characteristics. Filled tidelands or shorelands with upland characteristics which abut state-owned aquatic land shall be considered as uplands in determining aquatic land values.

(6) The annual rent for filled state-owned aquatic lands that have the characteristics of uplands shall be determined in accordance with RCW 79.105.270 in those cases in which the state owns the fill and has a right to charge for the fill.

(7) For all new leases for other water-dependent uses, issued after December 31, 1997, the initial annual water-dependent rent shall be determined by the methods in subsections (1) through (6) of this section. [2005 c 155 § 147; 2003 c 310 § 1; 1998 c 185 § 2; 1984 c 221 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.90.480.]

**Effective date—2003 c 310:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 14, 2003]." [2003 c 310 § 2.]

**Findings—Report—1998 c 185:** "(1) The legislature finds that the current method for determining water-dependent rental rates for aquatic land leases may not be achieving the management goals in RCW 79.90.455. The current method for setting rental rates, as well as alternatives to the current methods, should be evaluated in light of achieving management goals for aquatic lands leases. The legislature further finds that there should be no further increases in water-dependent rental rates for marina leases before the completion of this evaluation.

(2) The department of natural resources shall study and prepare a report to the legislature on alternatives to the current method for determination of water-dependent rent set forth in RCW 79.90.480. The report shall be prepared with the assistance of appropriate outside economic expertise and stakeholder involvement. Affected stakeholders shall participate with the department by providing information necessary to complete this study. For each alternative, the report shall:

(a) Describe each method and the costs and benefits of each;

(b) Compare each with the current method of calculating rents;

(c) Provide the private industry perspective;

(d) Describe the public perspective;

(e) Analyze the impact on state lease revenue;

(f) Evaluate the impacts of water-dependent rates on economic development in economically distressed counties; and

(g) Evaluate the ease of administration.

(3) The report shall be presented to the legislature by November 1, 1998, with the recommendations of the department clearly identified. The department's recommendations shall include draft legislation as necessary for implementation of its recommendations." [1998 c 185 § 1.]

**79.105.250 Log storage rents.** (1) Until June 30, 1989, the log storage rents per acre shall be the average rents the log storage leases in effect on July 1, 1984, would have had under the formula for water-dependent leases as set out in RCW 79.105.240, except that the aquatic land values shall be thirty

percent of the assessed value of the abutting upland parcels exclusive of improvements, if they are assessed. If the abutting upland parcel is not assessed, the nearest assessed upland parcel shall be used.

(2) On July 1, 1989, and every four years thereafter, the base log storage rents established under subsection (1) of this section shall be adjusted in proportion to the change in average water-dependent lease rates per acre since the date the log storage rates were last established under this section.

(3) The annual rent shall be adjusted by the inflation rate each year in which the rent is not determined under subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(4) If the lease provides for seasonal use so that portions of the leased area are available for public use without charge part of the year, the annual rent may be discounted to reflect such public use in accordance with rules adopted by the board. [2005 c 155 § 148; 1984 c 221 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.90.485.]

#### **79.105.260 Rent for leases in effect October 1, 1984.**

(1) For leases in effect on October 1, 1984, the rent shall remain at the annual rate in effect on September 30, 1984, until the next lease anniversary date, at which time rent established under RCW 79.105.240 or 79.105.250 shall become effective. If the first rent amount established is an increase of more than one hundred dollars and is more than thirty-three percent above the rent in effect on September 30, 1984, the annual rent shall not increase in any year by more than thirty-three percent of the difference between the previous rent and the rent established under RCW 79.105.240 or 79.105.250. If the first rent amount established under RCW 79.105.240 or 79.105.250 is more than thirty-three percent below the rent in effect on September 30, 1984, the annual rent shall not decrease in any year by more than thirty-three percent of the difference between the previous rent and the rent established under RCW 79.105.240 or 79.105.250. Thereafter, notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the annual rental established under RCW 79.105.240 or 79.105.250 shall not increase more than fifty percent in any year.

(2) This section applies only to leases of state-owned aquatic lands subject to RCW 79.105.240 or 79.105.250. [2005 c 155 § 149; 1984 c 221 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.90.490.]

**79.105.270 Aquatic lands—Leases/rents for nonwater-dependent uses.** Leases for nonwater-dependent uses of state-owned aquatic lands shall be charged the fair market rental value of the leased lands, determined in accordance with appraisal techniques specified by rule. However, rents for nonwater-dependent uses shall always be more than the amount that would be charged as rent for a water-dependent use of the same parcel. [2005 c 155 § 150; 1984 c 221 § 11. Formerly RCW 79.90.500.]

**79.105.280 Rents and fees for recovery of mineral or geothermal resources.** Rents and fees for the mining or other recovery of mineral or geothermal resources shall be established through competitive bidding, negotiations, or as otherwise provided by statute. [2005 c 155 § 151. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.500.]

#### **79.105.290 Aquatic lands—Rents for multiple uses.**

If water-dependent and nonwater-dependent uses occupy separate portions of the same leased parcel of state-owned aquatic land, the rental rate for each use shall be that established for the use by this chapter, prorated in accordance with the proportion of the whole parcel that each use occupies. If water-dependent and nonwater-dependent uses occupy the same portion of a leased parcel of state-owned aquatic land, the rental rate for the parcel shall be subject to negotiation with the department taking into account the proportion of the improvements each use occupies. [2005 c 155 § 152; 1984 c 221 § 12. Formerly RCW 79.90.505.]

**79.105.300 Aquatic lands—Lease for water-dependent use—Rental for nonwater-dependent use.** If a parcel leased for water-dependent uses is used for an extended period of time, as defined by rule of the department, for a nonwater-dependent use, the rental for the nonwater-dependent use shall be negotiated with the department. [1984 c 221 § 13. Formerly RCW 79.90.510.]

#### **79.105.310 Aquatic lands—Rent for improvements.**

(1) Except as agreed between the department and the lessee prior to construction of the improvements, rent shall not be charged under any lease of state-owned aquatic lands for improvements, including fills, authorized by the department or installed by the lessee or its predecessor before June 1, 1971, so long as the lands remain under a lease or succession of leases without a period of three years in which no lease is in effect or a bona fide application for a lease is pending.

(2) If improvements were installed under a good faith belief that a state-owned aquatic lands lease was not necessary, rent shall not be charged for the improvements if, within ninety days after specific written notification by the department that a lease is required, the owner either applies for a lease or files suit to determine if a lease is required. [2005 c 155 § 153; 1984 c 221 § 14. Formerly RCW 79.90.515.]

**79.105.320 Aquatic lands—Administrative review of proposed rent.** The manager shall, by rule, provide for an administrative review of any state-owned aquatic land rent proposed to be charged. The rules shall require that the lessee or applicant for release file a request for review within thirty days after the manager has notified the lessee or applicant of the rent due. For leases issued by the department, the final authority for the review rests with the board. For leases managed under RCW 79.105.420, the final authority for the review rests with the appropriate port commission. If the request for review is made within thirty days after the manager's final determination as to the rental, the lessee may pay rent at the preceding year's rate pending completion of the review, and shall pay any additional rent or be entitled to a refund, with interest thirty days after announcement of the decision. The interest rate shall be fixed by rule adopted by the board and shall not be less than six percent per annum. Nothing in this section abrogates the right of an aggrieved party to pursue legal remedies. For purposes of this section, "manager" is the department except where state-owned aquatic lands are managed by a port district, in which case "manager" is the port district. [2005 c 155 § 154; 1991 c 64 § 1; 1984 c 221 § 15. Formerly RCW 79.90.520.]

**79.105.330 Aquatic lands—Security for leases for more than one year.** For any lease for a term of more than one year, the department may require that the rent be secured by insurance, bond, or other security satisfactory to the department in an amount not exceeding two years' rent. The department may require additional security for other lease provisions. The department shall not require cash deposits exceeding one-twelfth of the annual rental. [1984 c 221 § 16. Formerly RCW 79.90.525.]

**79.105.340 Aquatic lands—Payment of rent.** If the annual rent charged for the use of a parcel of state-owned aquatic lands exceeds four thousand dollars, the lessee may pay on a prorated quarterly basis. If the annual rent exceeds twelve thousand dollars, the lessee may pay on a prorated monthly basis. [1984 c 221 § 17. Formerly RCW 79.90.530.]

**79.105.350 Aquatic lands—Interest rate.** The interest rate and all interest rate guidelines shall be fixed by rule adopted by the board and shall not be less than six percent per annum. [2005 c 155 § 155; 1991 c 64 § 2; 1984 c 221 § 18. Formerly RCW 79.90.535.]

**79.105.360 Adoption of rules.** The department shall adopt such rules as are necessary to carry out the purposes of RCW 79.105.010, 79.105.030, 79.105.050, 79.105.210, 79.105.220, 79.105.240 through 79.105.260, 79.105.270, 79.105.290 through 79.105.350, 79.105.400, 79.105.420, 79.130.070, and 79.135.100, specifically including criteria for determining under RCW 79.105.240(4) when an abutting upland parcel has been inappropriately assessed and for determining the nearest comparable upland parcel used for water-dependent uses. [2005 c 155 § 156; 1984 c 221 § 19. Formerly RCW 79.90.540.]

#### OTHER CONVEYANCES

**79.105.400 Authority to exchange state-owned tidelands and shorelands—Rules—Limitation.** The department may exchange state-owned tidelands and shorelands with private and other public landowners if the exchange is in the public interest and will actively contribute to the public benefits established in RCW 79.105.030. The board shall adopt rules which establish criteria for determining when a proposed exchange is in the public interest and actively contributes to the public benefits established in RCW 79.105.030. The department may not exchange state-owned harbor areas or waterways. [2005 c 155 § 142; 1995 c 357 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.90.457.]

**79.105.410 Gifts of aquatic land—Procedures and criteria.** (1) The department is authorized to accept gifts of aquatic land within the state, including tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters, which shall become part of the state-owned aquatic land base. Consistent with RCW 79.105.030, the department must develop procedures and criteria that state the manner in which gifts of aquatic land, received after July 27, 2003, may occur. No gift of aquatic land may be accepted until: (a) An appraisal of the value of the land has been prepared; (b) an environmental site

assessment has been conducted; and (c) the title property report has been examined and approved by the attorney general of the state. The results of the appraisal, the site assessment, and the examination of the title property report must be submitted to the board before the department may accept a gift of aquatic land.

(2) The authorization to accept gifts of aquatic land within the state extends to aquatic land accepted as gifts prior to July 27, 2003. [2005 c 155 § 163; 2003 c 176 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.90.580.]

**79.105.420 Management of certain aquatic lands by port district—Agreement—Rent—Model management agreement.** (1) Upon request of a port district, the department and port district may enter into an agreement authorizing the port district to manage state-owned aquatic lands abutting or used in conjunction with and contiguous to uplands owned, leased, or otherwise managed by a port district, for port purposes as provided in Title 53 RCW. The agreement shall include, but not be limited to, provisions defining the specific area to be managed, the term, conditions of occupancy, reservations, periodic review, and other conditions to ensure consistency with the state Constitution and the policies of this chapter. If a port district acquires operating management, lease, or ownership of real property which abuts state-owned aquatic lands currently under lease from the state to a person other than the port district, the port district shall manage state-owned aquatic lands if: (a) The port district acquires the leasehold interest in accordance with state law, or (b) the current lessee and the department agree to termination of the current lease to accommodate management by the port. The administration of state-owned aquatic lands covered by a management agreement shall be consistent with the aquatic land policies of chapters 79.105 through 79.140 RCW and the implementing rules adopted by the department. The administrative procedures for management of the lands shall be those of Title 53 RCW.

(2) No rent is due the state for the use of state-owned aquatic lands managed under this section for water-dependent or water-oriented uses. If a port district manages state-owned aquatic lands under this section and either leases or otherwise permits any person to use the lands, the rental fee attributable to the state-owned aquatic land only shall be comparable to the rent charged lessees for the same or similar uses by the department. However, a port district need not itemize for the lessee any charges for state-owned aquatic lands improved by the port district for use by carriers by water. If a port leases state-owned aquatic lands to any person for nonwater-dependent use, eighty-five percent of the revenue attributable to the rent of the state-owned aquatic land only shall be paid to the state.

(3) Upon application for a management agreement, and so long as the application is pending and being diligently pursued, no rent is due the department for the lease by the port district of state-owned aquatic lands included within the application for water-dependent or water-oriented uses.

(4) The department and representatives of the port industry shall develop a proposed model management agreement which shall be used as the basis for negotiating the management agreements required by this section. The model management agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the

board. [2005 c 155 § 146; 1984 c 221 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.90.475.]

**79.105.430 Private recreational docks—Mooring buoys.** (1) The abutting residential owner to state-owned shorelands, tidelands, or related beds of navigable waters, other than harbor areas, may install and maintain without charge a dock on the areas if used exclusively for private recreational purposes and the area is not subject to prior rights, including any rights of upland, tideland, or shoreland owners as provided in RCW 79.125.400, 79.125.460, 79.125.410, and 79.130.010. The dock cannot be sold or leased separately from the upland residence. The dock cannot be used to moor boats for commercial or residential use. This permission is subject to applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations governing location, design, construction, size, and length of the dock. Nothing in this subsection (1) prevents the abutting owner from obtaining a lease if otherwise provided by law.

(2) The abutting residential owner to state-owned shorelands, tidelands, or related beds of navigable waters, other than harbor areas, may install and maintain a mooring buoy without charge if the boat that is moored to the buoy is used for private recreational purposes, the area is not subject to prior rights, including any rights of upland, tideland, or shoreland owners as provided in RCW 79.125.400, 79.125.460, 79.125.410, and 79.130.010, and the buoy will not obstruct the use of mooring buoys previously authorized by the department.

(a) The buoy must be located as near to the upland residence as practical, consistent with applicable rules and regulations and the provisions of this section. The buoy must be located, or relocated if necessary, to accommodate the use of lawfully installed and maintained buoys.

(b) If two or more residential owners, who otherwise qualify for free use under the provisions of this section, are in dispute over assertion of rights to install and maintain a mooring buoy in the same location, they may seek formal settlement through adjudication in superior court for the county in which the buoy site is located. In the adjudication, preference must be given to the residential owner that first installed and continually maintained and used a buoy on that site, if it meets all applicable rules, regulations, and provisions of this section, and then to the owner of the residential property nearest the site. Nothing in this section requires the department to mediate or otherwise resolve disputes between residential owners over the use of the same site for a mooring buoy.

(c) The buoy cannot be sold or leased separately from the abutting residential property. The buoy cannot be used to moor boats for commercial or residential use, nor to moor boats over sixty feet in length.

(d) If the department determines that it is necessary for secure moorage, the abutting residential owner may install and maintain a second mooring buoy, under the same provisions as the first, the use of which is limited to a second mooring line to the boat moored at the first buoy.

(e) The permission granted in this subsection (2) is subject to applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations governing location, design, installation, maintenance, and operation of the mooring buoy, anchoring system, and

moored boat. Nothing in this subsection (2) prevents a boat owner from obtaining a lease if otherwise provided by law. This subsection (2) also applies to areas that have been designated by the commissioner or the fish and wildlife commission as aquatic reserves.

(3) This permission to install and maintain a recreational dock or mooring buoy may be revoked by the department, or the department may direct the owner of a recreational dock or mooring buoy to relocate their dock or buoy, if the department makes a finding of public necessity to protect waterward access, ingress rights of other landowners, public health or safety, or public resources. Circumstances prompting a finding of public necessity may include, but are not limited to, the dock, buoy, anchoring system, or boat posing a hazard or obstruction to navigation or fishing, contributing to degradation of aquatic habitat, or contributing to decertification of shellfish beds otherwise suitable for commercial or recreational harvest. The revocation may be appealed as provided for under RCW 79.105.160.

(4) Nothing in this section authorizes a boat owner to abandon a vessel at a recreational dock, mooring buoy, or elsewhere. [2005 c 155 § 106; 2002 c 304 § 1; 2001 c 277 § 1; 1989 c 175 § 170; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 2 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.90.105.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL

**79.105.500 Aquatic land dredged material disposal sites—Findings.** The legislature finds that the department provides, manages, and monitors aquatic land dredged material disposal sites on state-owned aquatic lands for materials dredged from rivers, harbors, and shipping lanes. These disposal sites are approved through a cooperative planning process by the departments of natural resources and ecology, the United States army corps of engineers, and the United States environmental protection agency in cooperation with the Puget Sound partnership. These disposal sites are essential to the commerce and well-being of the citizens of the state of Washington. Management and environmental monitoring of these sites are necessary to protect environmental quality and to assure appropriate use of state-owned aquatic lands. The creation of an aquatic land dredged material disposal site account is a reasonable means to enable and facilitate proper management and environmental monitoring of these disposal sites. [2007 c 341 § 58; 2005 c 155 § 158; 1987 c 259 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.90.550.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.105.510 Aquatic land dredged material disposal site account.** The aquatic land dredged material disposal site account is established in the state treasury. The account shall consist of funds appropriated to the account; funds transferred or paid to the account pursuant to settlements; court or administrative agency orders or judgments; gifts and grants to the account; and all funds received by the department from users of aquatic land dredged material disposal sites. After appropriation, moneys in the fund may be spent only for the management and environmental monitoring of aquatic land

dredged material disposal sites. The account is subject to the allotment procedure provided under chapter 43.88 RCW. [2005 c 155 § 159; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 63; 1987 c 259 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.90.555.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.105.520 Fees for use of aquatic land dredged material disposal sites authorized.** The department shall estimate the costs of site management and environmental monitoring at aquatic land dredged material disposal sites and may, by rule, establish fees for use of the sites in amounts no greater than necessary to cover the estimated costs. All such revenues shall be placed in the aquatic land dredged material disposal site account under RCW 79.105.510. [2005 c 155 § 160; 1987 c 259 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.90.560.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### OTHER MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

**79.105.600 Archaeological activities on state-owned aquatic lands—Agreements, leases, or other conveyances.** After consultation with the \*director of community, trade, and economic development, the department may enter into agreements, leases, or other conveyances for archaeological activities on state-owned aquatic lands. The agreements, leases, or other conveyances may contain those conditions as are required for the department to comply with its legal rights and duties. All agreements, leases, or other conveyances, shall be issued in accordance with the terms of chapters 79.105 through 79.140 RCW. [2005 c 155 § 161; 1995 c 399 § 210; 1988 c 124 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.90.565.]

\***Reviser's note:** The "director of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "director of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Severability—Intent—Application—1988 c 124:** See RCW 27.53.901 and notes following RCW 27.53.030.

**79.105.610 Puget Sound partners.** When administering funds under this chapter, the \*interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall give preference only to Puget Sound partners, as defined in RCW 90.71.010, in comparison to other entities that are eligible to be included in the definition of Puget Sound partner. Entities that are not eligible to be a Puget Sound partner due to geographic location, composition, exclusion from the scope of the Puget Sound action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310, or for any other reason, shall not be given less preferential treatment than Puget Sound partners. [2007 c 341 § 33.]

\***Reviser's note:** Chapter 241, Laws of 2007 changed the name of the interagency committee for outdoor recreation to the recreation and conservation funding board.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**79.105.620 City use of state-owned aquatic lands for publicly owned marina—Reduced fee lease—Expiration date. (Expires July 1, 2029.)** (1)(a) A city with a population between twenty thousand and twenty-five thousand on June 12, 2008, and that currently operates a publicly owned marina may enter into a reduced fee lease authorizing the city to use state-owned aquatic lands for the purpose of operating a publicly owned marina. The office of financial manage-

ment's population estimate must be used to determine a city's population for purposes of this section. The lease period may not exceed twenty years.

(b) No rent is due the state for the use of state-owned aquatic lands for the first ten years under such a lease. During subsequent years under such a lease, rent is due for only those lands that have been included under a previous aquatic land lease for the marina. The lease may not be renewed, extended, or put into holdover.

(2) A city choosing to enter into a lease as provided in subsection (1) of this section must do so within one year of June 12, 2008. Prior to entering into such a lease, the city must be in good standing with the department and must have paid all amounts owed the department including any accrued interest.

(3) State-owned aquatic lands that may be included in the lease are limited only to those lands included in the most recent expired lease with the city for the marina, along with any state-owned aquatic lands immediately adjacent to those lands. Only those marina operations conducted directly by the city may be included within the leased area.

(4) If a city chooses to enter into an agreement as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the city is not eligible to apply for grants from the aquatic lands enhancement account created under RCW 79.105.150 for the first ten years of the lease.

(5) Upon expiration of the twenty-year lease, the city may enter into a new lease for the use of state-owned aquatic lands or vacate the lands as agreed to in the expiring lease. To ensure the consistent statewide application of aquatic land management principles, the new lease must be completed in accordance with all applicable sections of this title.

(6) This section expires July 1, 2029. [2008 c 132 § 1.]

**79.105.630 Administering funds—Preference to an evergreen community.** When administering funds under this chapter, the recreation and conservation funding board shall give preference only to an evergreen community recognized under RCW 35.105.030 in comparison to other entities that are eligible to receive evergreen community designation. Entities not eligible for designation as an evergreen community shall not be given less preferential treatment than an evergreen community. [2008 c 299 § 33.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**79.105.901 Severability—1984 c 221.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1984 c 221 § 31. Formerly RCW 79.90.901.]

**79.105.902 Effective date—1984 c 221.** This act shall take effect on October 1, 1984. [1984 c 221 § 32. Formerly RCW 79.90.902.]

**79.105.903 Severability—2005 c 155.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2005 c 155 § 1014.]

**79.105.904 Part/subchapter headings not law—2005 c 155.** Part headings and subchapter headings used in this act are not any part of the law. [2005 c 155 § 1002.]

**Chapter 79.110 RCW  
AQUATIC LANDS—  
EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

Sections

79.110.001 Intent—2005 c 155.

EASEMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF VALUABLE MATERIALS

- 79.110.010 Certain aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials.
- 79.110.020 Certain aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Private easements subject to common use in removal of valuable materials.
- 79.110.030 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Reasonable facilities and service for transporting must be furnished.
- 79.110.040 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Duty of utilities and transportation commission.
- 79.110.050 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Penalty for violation of orders.
- 79.110.060 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Application for right-of-way.
- 79.110.070 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Forfeiture for nonuser.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR ROADS, BRIDGES, AND TRESTLES

- 79.110.100 United States of America, state agency, county, or city right-of-way for roads and streets over, and wharves over and upon aquatic lands.
- 79.110.110 Railroad bridge rights-of-way across navigable streams.
- 79.110.120 Public bridges or trestles across waterways and aquatic lands—Recovery of reasonable direct administrative costs—Report to the legislature.
- 79.110.130 Common carriers may bridge or trestle state waterways.
- 79.110.140 Location and plans of bridge or trestle to be approved—Future alterations.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR UTILITY LINES

- 79.110.200 Right-of-way for utility pipelines, transmission lines, etc.
- 79.110.210 Right-of-way for utility pipelines, transmission lines, etc.—Procedure to acquire.
- 79.110.220 Right-of-way for utility pipelines, transmission lines, etc.—Appraisal—Certificate—Reversion for nonuser.
- 79.110.230 Use of state-owned aquatic lands for public utility lines.
- 79.110.240 Charge for term of easement—Recovery of costs.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR IRRIGATION, DIKING, AND  
DRAINAGE/OVERFLOW RIGHTS

- 79.110.300 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes.
- 79.110.310 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes—Procedure to acquire.
- 79.110.320 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes—Appraisal—Certificate.
- 79.110.330 Grant of overflow rights.
- 79.110.340 Construction of RCW 79.110.010 through 79.110.220 and 79.110.240 through 79.110.330 relating to rights-of-way and overflow rights.
- 79.110.350 Grant of such easements and rights-of-way as applicant may acquire in private lands by eminent domain.

**79.110.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** See RCW 79.105.001.

EASEMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF  
VALUABLE MATERIALS

**79.110.010 Certain aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials.** All tidelands and

(2012 Ed.)

shorelands originally belonging to the state, and which were granted, sold, or leased at any time after June 15, 1911, and which contain any valuable materials or are contiguous to or in proximity of state lands or other tidelands or shorelands which contain any valuable materials, shall be subject to the right of the state or any grantee or lessee who has acquired the other lands, or any valuable materials thereon, after June 15, 1911, to acquire the right-of-way over the lands so granted, sold, or leased, for private railroads, skid roads, flumes, canals, watercourses, or other easements for the purpose of, and to be used in, transporting and moving valuable materials from the other lands, over and across the lands so granted or leased in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.36.370. [2005 c 155 § 201; 2003 c 334 § 607; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 48. Formerly RCW 79.91.010.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.110.020 Certain aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Private easements subject to common use in removal of valuable materials.** Every right-of-way for a private railroad, skid road, canal, flume, or watercourse, or other easement, over and across any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, for the purpose of, and to be used in, transporting and moving valuable materials of the land, granted after June 15, 1911, shall be subject to joint and common use in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.36.380. [2005 c 155 § 202; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 49. Formerly RCW 79.91.020.]

**79.110.030 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Reasonable facilities and service for transporting must be furnished.** Any person having acquired a right-of-way or easement as provided in RCW 79.110.010 and 79.110.020 over any state-owned tidelands or shorelands or over or across beds of any navigable water or stream for the purpose of transporting or moving valuable materials and being engaged in such business, or any grantee or lessee thereof acquiring after June 15, 1911, state lands or tidelands or shorelands containing valuable materials, where the land is contiguous to or in proximity of the right-of-way or easement, shall accord to the state or any person acquiring after June 15, 1911, valuable materials upon any such lands, proper and reasonable facilities and service for transporting and moving valuable materials under reasonable rules and upon payment of just and reasonable charges in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.36.390. [2005 c 155 § 203; 2003 c 334 § 608; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 50. Formerly RCW 79.91.030.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.110.040 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Duty of utilities and transportation commission.** Should the owner or operator of any private railroad, skid road, flume, canal, watercourse, or other right-of-way or easement provided for in RCW 79.110.020 and 79.110.030 fail to agree with the state or any grantee or lessee, as to the reasonable and proper rules and charges, concerning the transportation and movement of valuable materials from those lands contiguous to or in proximity to the lands over which the private right-of-way or easement is operated, the state or any grantee or lessee,

owning and desiring to have the valuable materials transported or moved, may apply to the Washington state utilities and transportation commission for an inquiry into the reasonableness of the rules, investigate the rules, and make binding reasonable, proper, and just rates and regulations in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.36.400. [2005 c 155 § 204; 2003 c 334 § 609; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 51. Formerly RCW 79.91.040.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.110.050 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Penalty for violation of orders.** Any person owning or operating any right-of-way or easement subject to the provisions of RCW 79.110.020 through 79.110.040, over and across any state-owned tidelands or shorelands or across any beds of navigable waters, and violating or failing to comply with any rule or order made by the utilities and transportation commission, after inquiry, investigation, and a hearing as provided in RCW 79.110.040, shall be subject to the same penalties provided in RCW 79.36.410. [2005 c 155 § 205; 2003 c 334 § 610; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 52. Formerly RCW 79.91.050.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.110.060 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Application for right-of-way.** Any person engaged in the business of logging or lumbering, quarrying, mining, or removing sand, gravel, or other valuable materials from land, and desirous of obtaining a right-of-way or easement provided for in RCW 79.110.010 through 79.110.030 over and across any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, or beds of navigable waters or any lands sold or leased by the state since June 15, 1911, shall file with the department upon a form to be furnished for that purpose, a written application for the right-of-way in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.36.350. [2005 c 155 § 206; 2003 c 334 § 611; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 53. Formerly RCW 79.91.060.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.110.070 Certain state and aquatic lands subject to easements for removal of valuable materials—Forfeiture for nonuser.** Any right-of-way or easement granted under the provisions of RCW 79.110.010 through 79.110.030 which has never been used, or for a period of two years has ceased to be used for the purpose for which it was granted, shall be deemed forfeited. The forfeiture of any such right-of-way previously granted or granted under the provisions of RCW 79.110.010 through 79.110.030, shall be rendered effective by the mailing of a notice of the forfeiture to the grantee at the grantee's last known post office address and by posting a copy of the certificate, or other record of the grant, in the department's Olympia office with the word "canceled" and the date of the cancellation. [2005 c 155 § 207; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 54. Formerly RCW 79.91.070.]

#### RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR ROADS, BRIDGES, AND TRESTLES

**79.110.100 United States of America, state agency, county, or city right-of-way for roads and streets over,**

**and wharves over and upon aquatic lands.** Any county or city or the United States of America or any state agency desiring to locate, establish, and construct a road or street over and across any aquatic lands, or wharf over any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, shall by resolution of the legislative body of the county, or city council or other governing body of the city, or proper agency of the United States of America or state agency, file a petition with the department for a right-of-way for the road or street or wharf in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.36.440.

The department may grant the petition if it deems it in the best interest of the state and upon payment for the right-of-way and any damages to the affected aquatic lands. [2005 c 155 § 208; 2003 c 334 § 612; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 55. Formerly RCW 79.91.080.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.110.110 Railroad bridge rights-of-way across navigable streams.** Any railroad company organized under the laws of the territory or state of Washington, or under any other state or territory of the United States, or under any act of the congress of the United States, and authorized to do business in the state and to construct and operate railroads, shall have the right to construct bridges across the navigable streams within this state over which the line or lines of its railway shall run for the purpose of being made a part of the railway line, or for the more convenient use thereof, if the bridges are constructed so as not to interfere with, impede, or obstruct navigation on the streams. However, payment for any right-of-way and any damages to those aquatic lands affected must be paid first. [2005 c 155 § 209; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 56. Formerly RCW 79.91.090.]

**79.110.120 Public bridges or trestles across waterways and aquatic lands—Recovery of reasonable direct administrative costs—Report to the legislature.** (1) Counties, cities, towns, and other municipalities shall have the right to construct bridges and trestles across waterways heretofore or hereafter laid out under the authority of the state of Washington, and over and across any tidelands, shorelands, bedlands, or harbor areas owned and managed by the state adjacent thereto over which the projected line or lines of highway will run, if such bridges or trestles are constructed in good faith for the purpose of being made a part of the constructed line of such a highway, upon payment for any natural resource damages to those aquatic lands affected not already covered by an approved state or federal regulatory mitigation plan. Such a right shall be granted by easement and no charge may be made to the county, city, town, or other municipality, for such an easement. The department may recover only its reasonable direct administrative costs incurred in processing and approving the request or application, and reviewing plans for construction of the bridge or trestle.

(2) For purposes of this section, "direct administrative costs" means the cost of hours worked directly on an application or request, based on salaries and benefits, plus travel reimbursement and other actual out-of-pocket costs. Direct administrative costs recovered by the department must be deposited into the resource management cost account.

(3) By December 1, 2008, the department must deliver a report to the legislature regarding the collection of administrative fees as described in this section. [2005 c 58 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 57. Formerly RCW 79.91.100.]

**79.110.130 Common carriers may bridge or trestle state waterways.** Any person authorized by any state or municipal law or ordinance to construct and operate railroads, interurban railroads, or street railroads as common carriers within this state, shall have the right to construct bridges or trestles across waterways laid out under the authority of the state of Washington, over which the projected line or lines of railroad will run. The bridges or trestles shall be constructed in good faith for the purpose of being made a part of the constructed line of the railroad, and may also include a roadway for the accommodation of vehicles and foot passengers. Full payment for any right-of-way and any damages to those aquatic lands affected by the right-of-way shall first be made. [2005 c 155 § 211; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 58. Formerly RCW 79.91.110.]

**79.110.140 Location and plans of bridge or trestle to be approved—Future alterations.** The location and plans of any bridge, draw bridge, or trestle proposed to be constructed under RCW 79.110.110 through 79.110.130 shall be submitted to and approved by the department before construction is commenced. However, in case the portion of the waterway, river, stream, or watercourse, at the place to be crossed is navigable water of the United States, or otherwise within the jurisdiction of the United States, the location and plans shall also be submitted to and approved by the United States army corps of engineers before construction is commenced. When plans for any bridge or trestle have been approved by the department and the United States army corps of engineers, it is unlawful to deviate from the plans either before or after the completion of the structure, unless the modification of the plans has previously been submitted to, and received the approval of the department and the United States army corps of engineers, as the case may be. Any structure authorized and approved as indicated in this section shall remain within the jurisdiction of the respective officer or officers approving the structure, and shall be altered or changed from time to time at the expense of the municipality owning the highway, or at the expense of the common carriers, at the time owning the railway or road using the structure, to meet the necessities of navigation and commerce in such a manner as may be from time to time ordered by the respective officer or officers at the time having jurisdiction of the structure, and the orders may be enforced by appropriate action at law or in equity at the suit of the state. [2005 c 155 § 212; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 59. Formerly RCW 79.91.120.]

#### RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR UTILITY LINES

**79.110.200 Right-of-way for utility pipelines, transmission lines, etc.** A right-of-way through, over, and across any tidelands, shorelands, beds of navigable waters, oyster reserves belonging to the state, or the reversionary interest of the state in oyster lands may be granted to any person or the United States of America, constructing or proposing to construct, or which has constructed, any telephone line, ditch,

flume, or pipeline for the domestic water supply of any municipal corporation or transmission line for the purpose of generating or transmitting electricity for light, heat, or power. [2005 c 155 § 213; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 60. Formerly RCW 79.91.130.]

**79.110.210 Right-of-way for utility pipelines, transmission lines, etc.—Procedure to acquire.** In order to obtain the benefits of the grant made in RCW 79.110.200, the person or the United States of America constructing or proposing to construct, or which has constructed, a telephone line, ditch, flume, pipeline, or transmission line, shall file, with the department, a map accompanied by the field notes of the survey and location of the telephone line, ditch, flume, pipeline, or transmission line, and shall make payment as provided in RCW 79.110.220. The land within the right-of-way shall be limited to an amount necessary for the construction of the telephone line, ditch, flume, pipeline, or transmission line sufficient for the purposes required, together with sufficient land on either side thereof for ingress and egress to maintain and repair the telephone line, ditch, flume, pipeline, or transmission line. The grant shall also include the right to cut all standing timber outside the right-of-way marked as danger trees located on public lands upon full payment of the appraised value. [2005 c 155 § 214; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 61. Formerly RCW 79.91.140.]

**79.110.220 Right-of-way for utility pipelines, transmission lines, etc.—Appraisal—Certificate—Reversion for nonuser.** On the filing of the plat and field notes, as provided in RCW 79.110.210, the land applied for and any improvements included in the right-of-way applied for, if any, shall be appraised as in the case of an application to purchase state lands. Upon full payment of the appraised value of the state-owned aquatic land applied for, or upon payment of an annual rental when the department deems a rental to be in the best interests of the state, and upon full payment of the appraised value of any danger trees and improvements, if any, the department shall issue to the applicant a certificate of the grant of right-of-way stating the terms and conditions and shall enter the certificate in the abstracts and records in the department's Olympia office, and thereafter any sale or lease of the lands affected by the right-of-way shall be subject to the easement of the right-of-way. However, should the person or the United States of America securing the right-of-way ever abandon the use of the right-of-way for the purposes for which it was granted, the right-of-way shall revert to the state, or the state's grantee. [2005 c 155 § 215; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 62. Formerly RCW 79.91.150.]

**79.110.230 Use of state-owned aquatic lands for public utility lines.** (1) The use of state-owned aquatic lands for public utility lines owned by a governmental entity shall be granted by an agreement, permit, or other instrument if the use is consistent with the purposes of RCW 79.105.010, 79.105.030, 79.105.050, 79.105.210, 79.105.400, and 79.130.070 and does not obstruct navigation or other public uses. The department may recover only its administrative costs incurred in processing and approving the request or application, and reviewing plans for construction of public utility lines as determined under RCW 79.110.240. Admin-

istrative costs recovered by the department must be deposited into the resource management cost account.

(2) The use of state-owned aquatic lands for local public utility lines owned by a nongovernmental entity will be granted by easement if the use is consistent with the purpose of RCW 79.105.010, 79.105.030, 79.105.050, 79.105.210, 79.105.400, and 79.130.070 and does not obstruct navigation or other public uses. The total charge for the easement will be determined under RCW 79.110.240.

(3) Nothing in this section limits the ability of the department to obtain payment for commodity costs, such as lost revenue from renewable resources, resulting from the granted use of state-owned aquatic lands for public utility lines. [2008 c 55 § 1; 2005 c 155 § 216. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.470.]

**79.110.240 Charge for term of easement—Recovery of costs.** (1) Until July 1, 2017, the charge for the term of an easement granted under RCW 79.110.230(2) will be determined as follows and will be paid in advance upon grant of the easement:

(a) Five thousand dollars for individual easement crossings that are no longer than one mile in length;

(b) Twelve thousand five hundred dollars for individual easement crossings that are more than one mile but less than five miles in length; or

(c) Twenty thousand dollars for individual easement crossings that are five miles or more in length.

(2) The charge for easements under subsection (1) of this section must be adjusted annually by the rate of yearly increase in the most recently published consumer price index, all urban consumers, for the Seattle-Everett SMSA, over the consumer price index for the preceding year, as compiled by the bureau of labor statistics, United States department of labor for the state of Washington rounded up to the nearest fifty dollars.

(3) The term of the easement is thirty years or a period of less than thirty years if requested by the person or entity seeking the easement.

(4) In addition to the charge for the easement under subsection (1) of this section, the department may recover its administrative costs incurred in receiving an application for the easement, approving the easement, and reviewing plans for and construction of the public utility lines. For the purposes of this subsection, "administrative costs" is equivalent to twenty percent of the fee for the easement as determined under subsection (1) of this section and adjusted under subsection (2) of this section. For public utility lines owned by a governmental entity, the administrative costs will be calculated based on the length of the easement and the fee that it would be charged if it were subject to the easement charges in this section. When multiple public utility lines are owned by the same entity and are authorized under the same easement, the administrative fee for the easement shall be equal to twenty percent of the easement fee for the single longest public utility line. Administrative costs recovered by the department must be deposited into the resource management cost account.

(5) Applicants under RCW 79.110.230(2) providing a residence with an individual service connection for electrical, natural gas, cable television, or telecommunications service

are not required to pay the charge for the easement under subsection (1) of this section but shall pay administrative costs under subsection (4) of this section.

(6) A final decision on applications for an easement must be made within one hundred twenty days after the department receives the completed application and after all applicable regulatory permits for the aquatic easement have been acquired. This subsection applies to applications submitted before June 13, 2002, as well as to applications submitted on or after June 13, 2002. Upon request of the applicant, the department may reach a decision on an application within sixty days and charge an additional fee for an expedited processing. The fee for an expedited processing is ten percent of the combined total of the easement charge and administrative costs.

(7) By December 31, 2016, the legislature shall review the granting of easements on state-owned aquatic lands under this chapter and determine whether all applications for easements are processed within one hundred twenty days for normal processing of applications and sixty days for expedited processing of applications, and whether the granting of easements on state-owned aquatic lands generates reasonable income for the aquatic lands enhancement account. [2008 c 55 § 2; 2005 c 155 § 162; 2002 c 152 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.90.575.]

**Findings—2002 c 152:** "The legislature finds that local public utilities provide essential services to all of the residents of the state and that the construction and improvement of local utility infrastructure is critical to the public health, safety, and welfare, community and economic development, and installation of modern and reliable communication and energy technology. The legislature further finds that local utility lines must cross state-owned aquatic lands in order to reach all state residents and that, for the benefit of such residents, the state should permit the crossings, consistent with all applicable state environmental laws, in a nondiscriminatory, economic, and timely manner. The legislature further finds that this act and the valuation methodology in section 3 of this act applies only to the uses listed in section 2 of this act, and does not establish a precedent for valuation for any other uses on state-owned aquatic lands." [2002 c 152 § 1.]

**Severability—2002 c 152:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2002 c 152 § 4.]

## RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR IRRIGATION, DIKING, AND DRAINAGE/OVERFLOW RIGHTS

**79.110.300 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes.** A right-of-way through, over, and across any state-owned tidelands or shorelands is granted to any irrigation district, or irrigation company duly organized under the laws of this state, and to any person, or the United States of America, constructing or proposing to construct an irrigation ditch or pipeline for irrigation, or to any diking and drainage district or any diking and drainage improvement district proposing to construct a dike or drainage ditch. [2005 c 155 § 217; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 63. Formerly RCW 79.91.160.]

**79.110.310 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes—Procedure to acquire.** In order to obtain the benefits of the grant provided for in RCW 79.110.300, the irrigation district, irrigation company, person, or the United States of America, constructing or proposing to construct an irrigation ditch or pipeline for irrigation,

or the diking and drainage district or diking and drainage improvement district constructing or proposing to construct any dike or drainage ditch, shall file with the department a map accompanied by the field notes of the survey and location of the proposed irrigation ditch, pipeline, dike, or drainage ditch, and shall pay to the state as provided in RCW 79.110.320, the amount of the appraised value of the lands used for or included within the right-of-way. The land within the right-of-way shall be limited to an amount necessary for the construction of the irrigation ditch, pipeline, dike, or drainage ditch for the purposes required, together with sufficient land on either side for ingress and egress to maintain and repair the irrigation ditch, pipeline, dike, or drainage ditch. [2005 c 155 § 218; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 64. Formerly RCW 79.91.170.]

**79.110.320 Right-of-way for irrigation, diking, and drainage purposes—Appraisal—Certificate.** Upon the filing of the plat and field notes as in RCW 79.110.310, the lands included within the right-of-way applied for shall be appraised as in the case of an application to purchase the lands, at full market value. Upon full payment of the appraised value of the lands the department shall issue to the applicant a certificate of right-of-way, and enter the certificate in the department records. Any subsequent sale or lease by the state of the lands affected by the right-of-way shall be subject to the certificate of right-of-way. [2005 c 155 § 219; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 65. Formerly RCW 79.91.180.]

**79.110.330 Grant of overflow rights.** The department has the power and authority to grant to any person, the right, privilege, and authority to perpetually back and hold water upon or over any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, and to overflow and inundate the lands, whenever the department deems it necessary for the purpose of erecting, constructing, maintaining, or operating any water power plant, reservoir, or works for impounding water for power purposes, irrigation, mining, or other public use in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.36.570. [2005 c 155 § 220; 2003 c 334 § 613; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 66. Formerly RCW 79.91.190.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.110.340 Construction of RCW 79.110.010 through 79.110.220 and 79.110.240 through 79.110.330 relating to rights-of-way and overflow rights.** RCW 79.110.010 through 79.110.220 and 79.110.240 through 79.110.330, relating to the acquiring of rights-of-way and overflow rights through, over, and across state-owned aquatic lands, shall not be construed as exclusive or as affecting the right of municipal and public service corporations to acquire lands belonging to or under the control of the state, or rights-of-way or other rights, by condemnation proceedings. [2005 c 155 § 221; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 67. Formerly RCW 79.91.200.]

**79.110.350 Grant of such easements and rights-of-way as applicant may acquire in private lands by eminent domain.** The department may grant to any person easements and rights in tidelands and shorelands and oyster reserves owned by the state as the applicant may acquire in privately or publicly owned lands through proceedings in eminent domain in accordance with the provisions of RCW

79.36.355. [2005 c 155 § 222; 2003 c 334 § 614; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 68. Formerly RCW 79.91.210.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

## Chapter 79.115 RCW AQUATIC LANDS—HARBOR AREAS

### Sections

79.115.001 Intent—2005 c 155.

#### HARBOR LINE ESTABLISHMENT AND RELOCATION

79.115.010 Harbor lines and areas to be established.  
79.115.020 Relocation of harbor lines by the harbor line commission.  
79.115.030 Commission on harbor lines may change, relocate, or reestablish harbor lines.  
79.115.040 Modification of harbor lines in Port Gardner Bay.  
79.115.050 Seizure or sale of improvements for taxes.

#### HARBOR AREA LEASES

79.115.100 Terms of harbor area leases.  
79.115.110 Construction or extension of docks, wharves, etc., in harbor areas—New lease.  
79.115.120 Re-leases of harbor areas.  
79.115.130 Procedure to re-lease harbor areas.  
79.115.140 Regulation of wharfage, dockage, and other tolls.  
79.115.150 Harbor areas and tidelands within towns—Distribution of rents to municipal authorities.

**79.115.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** See RCW 79.105.001.

#### HARBOR LINE ESTABLISHMENT AND RELOCATION

##### 79.115.010 Harbor lines and areas to be established.

(1) It is the duty of the board acting as the harbor line commission to locate and establish harbor lines and determine harbor areas, as required by Article XV, section 1 of the state Constitution, where harbor lines and harbor areas have not previously been located and established.

(2) The board shall locate and establish outer harbor lines beyond which the state shall never sell or lease any rights whatever to private persons, and to locate and establish the inner harbor line, thereby defining the width of the harbor area between such harbor lines. The harbor area shall be forever reserved for landings, wharves, streets, and other conveniences of navigation and commerce. [2005 c 155 § 301; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 69. Formerly RCW 79.92.010.]

**79.115.020 Relocation of harbor lines by the harbor line commission.** Whenever it appears that the inner harbor line of any harbor area has been so established as to overlap or fall inside the government meander line, or for any other good cause, the board acting as the harbor line commission is empowered to relocate and reestablish said inner harbor line so erroneously established, outside of the meander line. All tidelands or shorelands within the inner harbor line so reestablished and relocated, shall belong to the state and may be sold or leased as other first-class tidelands or shorelands in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.125.200. However, in all other cases, authority to relocate the inner harbor line or outer harbor line, or both, shall first be obtained from the legislature. [2005 c 155 § 302; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 70. Formerly RCW 79.92.020.]

**79.115.030 Commission on harbor lines may change, relocate, or reestablish harbor lines.** The commission on harbor lines is authorized to change, relocate, or reestablish harbor lines. [2010 c 45 § 1; 2005 c 155 § 303; 2004 c 219 § 1; 1989 c 79 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 71. Formerly RCW 79.92.030.]

**79.115.040 Modification of harbor lines in Port Gardner Bay.** The harbor line commission shall modify harbor lines in Port Gardner Bay as necessary to facilitate the conveyance through exchange authorized in RCW 79.125.800. [2005 c 155 § 304; 1987 c 271 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.92.035.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.115.050 Seizure or sale of improvements for taxes.** Whenever improvements have been made on state-owned tidelands, shorelands, or beds of navigable waters, in front of cities or towns, prior to the location of harbor lines in front of the cities or towns, and the reserved harbor area as located include the improvements, no seizure or sale of the improvements for taxes shall be had until six months after the lands have been leased or offered for lease. However, this section shall not affect or impair the lien for taxes on the improvements. [2005 c 155 § 136; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 45. Formerly RCW 79.90.390.]

#### HARBOR AREA LEASES

**79.115.100 Terms of harbor area leases.** Applications, leases, and bonds of lessees shall be in such a form as the department shall prescribe. Every lease shall provide that the rental shall be payable to the department, and for cancellation by the department upon sixty days' written notice for any breach of the conditions. Every lessee shall furnish a bond, with surety satisfactory to the department, with such penalty as the department may prescribe, but not less than five hundred dollars, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the terms of the lease and the payment of the rent when due. If the department at any time deems any bond insufficient, it may require the lessee to file a new and sufficient bond within thirty days after receiving notice to do so.

Applications for leases of harbor areas upon tidal waters shall be accompanied by plans and drawings and other data concerning the proposed wharves, docks, or other structures or improvements as the department shall require. Every lease of harbor areas shall provide that, wharves, docks, or other conveniences of navigation and commerce adequate for the public needs, to be specified in the lease, shall be constructed within the time as may be fixed in each case by the department. In no case shall the construction be commenced more than two years from the date of the lease and shall be completed within such reasonable time as the department shall fix, any of which times may be extended by the department either before or after their expiration, and the character of the improvements may be changed either before or after completion with the approval of the department. However, if in its opinion improvements existing upon such harbor area or the tidelands adjacent thereto are adequate for public needs of commerce and navigation, the department shall require the maintenance of existing improvements and need not require

further improvements. [2005 c 155 § 305; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 74. Formerly RCW 79.92.060.]

**79.115.110 Construction or extension of docks, wharves, etc., in harbor areas—New lease.** If the owner of any harbor area lease upon tidal waters desires to construct any wharf, dock, or other convenience of navigation or commerce, or to extend, enlarge, or substantially improve any existing structure used in connection with the harbor area, and deems the required expenditure not warranted by the lessee's right to occupy the harbor area during the remainder of the term of their lease, the lease owner may make application to the department for a new lease of the harbor area for a period not exceeding thirty years. Upon the filing of an application accompanied by proper plans, drawings, or other data, the department shall investigate the application and if the department determines that the proposed work or improvement is in the public interest and reasonably adequate for the public needs, it shall by order fix the terms and conditions and the rate of rental for a new lease, the rate of rental shall be a fixed percentage, during the term of the lease, on the true and fair value in money of the harbor area determined by the department. The department may propose modifications of the proposed wharf, dock, or other convenience or extensions, enlargements, or improvements. The department shall, within ninety days from the filing of an application notify the applicant in writing of the terms and conditions upon which a new lease will be granted, and of the rental to be paid, and if the applicant shall within ninety days elect to accept a new lease of the harbor area upon the terms and conditions, and at the rental prescribed by the department, the department shall make a new lease for the harbor area for the term applied for and the existing lease shall be surrendered and canceled. [2005 c 155 § 306; 2000 c 11 § 27; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 75. Formerly RCW 79.92.070.]

**79.115.120 Re-leases of harbor areas.** Upon the expiration of any harbor area lease upon tidal waters, the lessee may apply for a re-lease of the harbor area for a period not exceeding thirty years. The application shall be accompanied with maps showing the existing improvements upon the harbor area and the adjacent tidelands and with proper plans, drawings, and other data showing any proposed extensions or improvements of existing structures. Upon the filing of an application the department shall investigate the application and if it determines that the character of the wharves, docks, or other conveniences of commerce and navigation are reasonably adequate for the public needs and in the public interest, it shall by order fix and determine the terms and conditions upon which the re-lease shall be granted and the rate of rental to be paid, which rate shall be a fixed percentage during the term of the lease on the true and fair value in money of the harbor area as determined by the department. [2005 c 155 § 307; 2000 c 11 § 28; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 76. Formerly RCW 79.92.080.]

**79.115.130 Procedure to re-lease harbor areas.** Upon completion of the valuation of any tract of harbor area applied for under RCW 79.115.120, the department shall notify the applicant of the terms and conditions upon which the re-lease will be granted and of the rental fixed. The appli-

cant or the applicant's successor in interest shall have the option for the period of sixty days from the date of the service of notice in which to accept a lease on the terms and conditions and at the rental so fixed and determined by the department. If the terms and conditions and rental are accepted a new lease shall be granted for the term applied for. If the terms and conditions are not accepted by the applicant within the period of time, or within such further time, not exceeding three months, as the department shall grant, the lease shall be deemed rejected by the applicant, and the department shall give eight weeks' notice by publication once a week in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the county in which the harbor area is located, that a lease of the harbor area will be sold on the terms and conditions and at the rental, at a time and place specified in the notice (which shall not be more than three months from the date of the first publication of the notice) to the person offering at the public sale to pay the highest sum as a cash bonus at the time of sale of the lease. Notice of the sale shall be served upon the applicant at least six weeks prior to the date of sale. The person paying the highest sum as a cash bonus shall be entitled to lease the harbor area. However, if the lease is not sold at the public sale the department may at any time or times again fix the terms, conditions, and rental, and again advertise the lease for sale as provided in this section and upon similar notice. Further, upon failure to secure any sale of the lease as prescribed in this section, the department may issue revocable leases without requirement of improvements for one year periods at a minimum rate of two percent. [2005 c 155 § 308; 1985 c 469 § 61; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 77. Formerly RCW 79.92.090.]

**79.115.140 Regulation of wharfage, dockage, and other tolls.** The state of Washington retains and reserves the right to regulate the rates of wharfage, dockage, and other tolls to be imposed by the lessee or the lessee's assigns upon commerce for any of the purposes for which the leased area may be used and the right to prevent extortion and discrimination in such use. [2005 c 155 § 309; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 78. Formerly RCW 79.92.100.]

**79.115.150 Harbor areas and tidelands within towns—Distribution of rents to municipal authorities.** (1) Where any leased harbor area or tideland is situated within the limits of a town, whether or not the harbor area or tideland lies within a port district, the rents from the leases shall be paid by the state treasurer to the municipal authorities of the town to be expended for water-related improvements.

(2) The state treasurer is authorized and directed to make payments to the respective towns on the first days of July and January of each year, of all moneys payable under the terms of this section. [2005 c 155 § 310; 1984 c 221 § 25; 1983 c 153 § 1; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 8 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 79. Formerly RCW 79.92.110.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 79.120 RCW

### AQUATIC LANDS—WATERWAYS AND STREETS

#### Sections

79.120.001 Intent—2005 c 155.

(2012 Ed.)

- 79.120.010 First-class tidelands and shorelands to be platted—Public waterways and streets.
- 79.120.020 Streets, waterways, etc., validated.
- 79.120.030 Approval of plans/authorize construction on state-owned aquatic lands.
- 79.120.040 Permits to use waterways.
- 79.120.050 Excavation of waterways—Waterways open to public—Tide gates or locks.
- 79.120.060 Vacation of waterways—Extension of streets.

**79.120.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** See RCW 79.105.001.

**79.120.010 First-class tidelands and shorelands to be platted—Public waterways and streets.** It is the duty of the department simultaneously with the establishment of harbor lines and the determination of harbor areas in front of any city or town, or as soon as practicable, to survey and plat all first-class tidelands and shorelands not previously platted, and in plating the tidelands and shorelands to lay out streets which shall be dedicated to public use, subject to the control of the cities or towns in which they are situated.

The department shall also establish one or more public waterways not less than fifty nor more than one thousand feet wide, beginning at the outer harbor line and extending inland across the tidelands belonging to the state. These waterways shall include within their boundaries, as nearly as practicable, all navigable streams running through the tidelands, and shall be located at other places as in the judgment of the department may be necessary for the present and future convenience of commerce and navigation. All waterways shall be reserved from sale or lease and remain as public highways for watercraft until vacated as provided for in this chapter.

The department shall appraise the value of platted tidelands and shorelands and enter the appraisals in its records. [2005 c 155 § 401; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 80. Formerly RCW 79.93.010.]

**79.120.020 Streets, waterways, etc., validated.** All alleys, streets, avenues, boulevards, waterways, and other public places and highways located and platted on the first-class tidelands and shorelands, or harbor areas, as provided by law, and not vacated as provided by law, are validated as public highways and dedicated to the use of the public for the purposes for which they were intended, subject to vacation as provided for in this chapter. [2005 c 155 § 402; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 81. Formerly RCW 79.93.020.]

**79.120.030 Approval of plans/authorize construction on state-owned aquatic lands.** The department has the power to approve plans for and authorize the construction of slopes, with rock, riprap, or other protection, upon any state-owned aquatic lands incident to the improvement of any abutting or adjacent street or avenue by any city or town in this state. [2005 c 155 § 403; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 82. Formerly RCW 79.93.030.]

**79.120.040 Permits to use waterways.** If the United States government has established pierhead lines within a waterway created under the laws of this state at any distance from the boundaries established by the state, structures may be constructed in that strip of waterway between the waterway boundary and the nearest pierhead line only with the

consent of the department and upon such plans, terms, and conditions and for such term as determined by the department. However, no permit shall extend for a period longer than thirty years.

The department may cancel any permit upon sixty days' notice for a substantial breach by the permittee of any of the permit conditions.

If a waterway is within the territorial limits of a port district, the duties assigned by this section to the department may be exercised by the port commission of the port district as provided in RCW 79.105.420.

Nothing in this section shall confer upon, create, or recognize in any abutting owner any right or privilege in or to any strip of waterway abutting any street and between prolongations of the lines of the street, but the control of and the right to use the strip is reserved to the state of Washington, except as authorized by RCW 79.105.420. [2005 c 155 § 404; 1984 c 221 § 21; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 83. Formerly RCW 79.93.040.]

*Application to existing property rights: RCW 79.105.040.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.120.050 Excavation of waterways—Waterways open to public—Tide gates or locks.** All waterways excavated through any state-owned tidelands or shorelands by virtue of the provisions of chapter 99, Laws of 1893, so far as they run through the tidelands or shorelands, are declared to be public waterways, free to all citizens upon equal terms, and subject to the jurisdiction of the proper authorities, as otherwise provided by law. However, where tide gates or locks are considered by the contracting parties excavating any waterways to be necessary to the efficiency of the waterway, the department may, in its discretion, authorize tide gates or locks to be constructed and may authorize the parties constructing the waterway to operate them and collect a reasonable toll from vessels passing through the tide gates or locks. Further, the state of Washington or the United States of America can, at any time, appropriate the tide gates or locks upon payment to the parties erecting them of the reasonable value of the tide gates or locks at the date of the appropriation, reasonable value to be ascertained and determined as in other cases of condemnation of private property for public use. [2005 c 155 § 405; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 84. Formerly RCW 79.93.050.]

**79.120.060 Vacation of waterways—Extension of streets.** If a waterway established under the laws of this state, or any portion of the waterway, has not been excavated, or is not used for navigation, or is not required in the public interest to exist as a waterway, the waterway or a portion of the waterway may be vacated by written order of the commissioner upon request by ordinance or resolution of the city council of the city in which such waterway is located or by resolution of the port commission of the port district in which the waterway is located. If the waterway or a portion of the waterway which is vacated is navigable water of the United States, or otherwise within the jurisdiction of the United States, a copy of the resolution or ordinance, together with a copy of the vacation order of the commissioner shall be submitted to the United States army corps of engineers for their approval, and if they approve, the waterway or a portion of

the waterway is vacated. However, if a port district owns property abutting the waterway and the provisions of this section are otherwise satisfied, the waterway, or the portion of the waterway that abuts the port district property, shall be vacated.

Upon vacation of a waterway, the commissioner shall notify the city in which the waterway is located, and the city has the right, if otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200, to extend across the portions so vacated any existing streets, or to select portions of the waterway as the city may desire for street purposes, in no case to exceed one hundred fifty feet in width for any one street. The selection shall be made within sixty days subsequent to the receipt of notice of the vacation of the portion of the waterway.

If the city fails to make a selection within the time, or selects only a portion of the waterway, the title of the remaining portions of the vacated waterway shall vest in the state, unless the waterway is located within the territorial limits of a port district, in which event, if otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200, the title shall vest in the port district. The title is subject to any railroad or street railway crossings existing at the time of the vacation. [2005 c 155 § 406; 1984 c 221 § 22; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 85. Formerly RCW 79.93.060.]

*Application to existing property rights: RCW 79.105.040.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 79.125 RCW AQUATIC LANDS— TIDELANDS AND SHORELANDS

### Sections

- 79.125.001 Intent—2005 c 155.  

PLAT/APPRaisal/REPLAT
- 79.125.010 Location of line dividing tidelands from shorelands in tidal rivers.
- 79.125.020 First-class tidelands and shorelands to be platted.
- 79.125.030 Second-class tidelands and shorelands may be platted.
- 79.125.040 Tidelands and shorelands—Plats—Record.
- 79.125.050 Date of sale limited by time of appraisal.
- 79.125.060 First or second-class tidelands and shorelands—Appraisal—Record.
- 79.125.070 Tidelands and shorelands—Notice of filing plat and record of appraisal—Appeal.
- 79.125.080 Tidelands and shorelands—Petition for replat—Replating and reappraisal—Vacation by replat.
- 79.125.090 Tidelands and shorelands—Dedication of replat—All interests must join.
- 79.125.100 Tidelands and shorelands—Vacation procedure cumulative.
- 79.125.110 Tidelands and shorelands—Effect of replat.
- EXCHANGE, SALE, LEASE LIMITATIONS/TERMS
- 79.125.200 State-owned tidelands, shorelands, and waterways—Sold only to public entities—Leasing—Limitation.
- 79.125.210 Sale of second-class tidelands.
- 79.125.220 Second-class tidelands or shorelands—Lease for booming purposes.
- 79.125.230 Second-class tidelands or shorelands separated from uplands by navigable water—Sale.
- 79.125.240 Sale procedure—Terms of payment—Deferred payments, rate of interest.
- 79.125.250 Sale procedure—Certificate to governor of payment in full—Deed.
- 79.125.260 Sale procedure—Reservation in contract.
- 79.125.270 Sale procedure—Form of contract—Forfeiture—Extension of time.
- 79.125.280 Subdivision of leases—Fee.
- 79.125.290 First-class tidelands and shorelands—Sale of remaining lands.
- 79.125.300 Tidelands or shorelands—Failure to re-lease tidelands or shorelands—Appraisal of improvements.
- 79.125.310 Effect of mistake or fraud.

## SALE OR LEASING PREFERENCE

- 79.125.400 First-class tidelands and shorelands—Lease—Preference right of upland owner—How exercised.
- 79.125.410 First-class unplatted tidelands and shorelands—Lease preference right to upland owners—Lease for booming purposes.
- 79.125.420 Tidelands and shorelands—Vacation by replat—Preference right of tideland or shoreland owner.
- 79.125.430 Tidelands or shorelands—Preference rights, time limit on exercise.
- 79.125.440 Tidelands or shorelands—Accretions—Lease.
- 79.125.450 Second-class shorelands on navigable lakes—Sale.
- 79.125.460 Second-class shorelands—Sale or lease when in best public interest—Preference right of upland owner—Procedure upon determining sale or lease not in best public interest or where transfer made for public use—Platting.

## SECOND-CLASS SHORELANDS—

## SPECIAL PLATTING AND SELECTION PROVISIONS

- 79.125.500 Second-class shorelands—Boundary of shorelands when water lowered—Certain shorelands granted to city of Seattle.
- 79.125.510 Second-class shorelands—Survey/platting—Selection for slips, docks, wharves, etc.—Filing of plat.
- 79.125.520 Second-class shorelands—Platting of certain shorelands of Lake Washington for use as harbor area—Effect.
- 79.125.530 Platting of certain shorelands of Lake Washington for use as harbor area—Selection for slips, docks, wharves, etc.—Vesting of title.

## SALES OF TIDELANDS AND SHORELANDS

- 79.125.600 Sale procedure—Fixing date, place, and time of sale—Notice—Publication and posting.
- 79.125.610 List of state-owned tidelands and shorelands permitted to be sold.
- 79.125.620 Sale procedure—Additional advertising expense.
- 79.125.630 Reoffer—Continuance.
- 79.125.640 Sale at public auction—Minimum price—Sales by leaseholder.
- 79.125.650 Highest responsible bidder—Determination.
- 79.125.660 Sale procedure—Conduct of sales—Deposits—Bid bonds—Memorandum of purchase.
- 79.125.670 Sale procedure—Readvertisement of lands not sold.
- 79.125.680 Sale procedure—Confirmation of sale.

## CONVEYANCE TO PUBLIC ENTITIES/PUBLIC USE

- 79.125.700 Sale of state-owned tidelands or shorelands to municipal corporation or state agency—Authority to execute agreements, deeds, etc.
- 79.125.710 Grant of lands for city park or playground purposes.
- 79.125.720 Exchange of lands to secure city parks and playgrounds.
- 79.125.730 Director of ecology to assist city parks.
- 79.125.740 Certain tidelands reserved for recreational use and taking of fish and shellfish.
- 79.125.750 Access to and from tidelands reserved for recreational use and taking of fish and shellfish.
- 79.125.760 Use of certain tidelands, shorelands, and abutting bedlands—Grant to the United States—Purposes—Limitations.
- 79.125.770 Tidelands and shorelands—Use of lands granted to United States—Application—Proof of upland use—Conveyance.
- 79.125.780 Tidelands and shorelands—Use of lands granted to United States—Easements over tidelands or shorelands to United States.
- 79.125.790 Tidelands and shorelands—Use of lands granted to United States—Reversion on cessation of use.
- 79.125.800 United States Navy base—Exchange of property—Procedure.

**79.125.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** See RCW 79.105.001.

## PLAT/APPRaisal/REPLAT

**79.125.010 Location of line dividing tidelands from shorelands in tidal rivers.** The department is authorized to locate in all navigable rivers in this state which are subject to tidal flow, the line dividing the tidelands in the river from the shorelands in the river, and the classification or the location of the dividing line shall be final and not subject to review,

(2012 Ed.)

and the department shall enter the location of the line upon the plat of the tidelands and shorelands affected. [2005 c 155 § 532; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 118. Formerly RCW 79.94.330.]

**79.125.020 First-class tidelands and shorelands to be platted.** It is the duty of the department simultaneously with the establishment of harbor lines and the determination of harbor areas in front of any city or town or as soon as practicable to survey and plat all first-class tidelands and shorelands not previously platted as provided in RCW 79.120.010. [2005 c 155 § 501; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 87. Formerly RCW 79.94.020.]

**79.125.030 Second-class tidelands and shorelands may be platted.** The department may survey and plat any second-class tidelands and shorelands not previously platted. [2005 c 155 § 502; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 88. Formerly RCW 79.94.030.]

**79.125.040 Tidelands and shorelands—Plats—Record.** The department shall prepare plats showing all tidelands and shorelands, surveyed, platted, and appraised by it in the respective counties, on which shall be marked the location of all tidelands and shorelands, with reference to the lines of the United States survey of the abutting upland, and shall prepare a record of its proceedings, including a list of the tidelands and shorelands surveyed, platted, or replatted, and appraised by it and its appraisal of the tidelands and shorelands, which plats and books shall be in triplicate and the department shall file one copy of the plats and records in the department's Olympia office, and file one copy in the office of the county auditor of the county where the lands platted, or replatted, and appraised are situated, and file one copy in the office of the city engineer of the city in which, or within two miles of which, the lands platted, or replatted, are situated. [2005 c 155 § 503; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 89. Formerly RCW 79.94.040.]

**79.125.050 Date of sale limited by time of appraisal.** In no case shall any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, be offered for sale unless the lands have been appraised by the department within ninety days prior to the date fixed for the sale. [2005 c 155 § 107; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 17. Formerly RCW 79.90.110.]

**79.125.060 First or second-class tidelands and shorelands—Appraisal—Record.** In appraising tidelands or shorelands, the department shall appraise each lot, tract, or piece of land separately, and shall maintain a description of each lot, tract, or piece of first or second-class tidelands or shorelands, its full appraised value, the area and rate per acre at which it was appraised, and if any lot is covered in whole or in part by improvements in actual use for commerce, trade, residence, or business, on or prior to, the date of the plat or replat, the department shall enter the name of the owner, or reputed owner, the nature of the improvements, the area covered by the improvements, the portion of each lot, tract, or piece of land covered, and the appraised value of the land covered, with and exclusive of, the improvements. [2005 c

155 § 504; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 90. Formerly RCW 79.94.050.]

**79.125.070 Tidelands and shorelands—Notice of filing plat and record of appraisal—Appeal.** (1) The department shall, before filing in the department's Olympia office the plat and record of appraisal of any tidelands or shorelands platted and appraised by it, publish a notice once each week for four consecutive weeks in a newspaper published and of general circulation in the county where the lands covered by the plat and record are situated, stating that the plat and record, describing it, is complete and subject to inspection at the department's Olympia office, and will be filed on a certain day to be named in the notice.

(2) Any person entitled to purchase under RCW 79.125.200 and claiming a preference right of purchase of any of the tidelands or shorelands platted and appraised by the department, and who feels aggrieved at the appraisal fixed by the department upon the lands, or any part thereof, may within sixty days after the filing of the plat and record in the department's Olympia office (which shall be done on the day fixed in the notice), appeal from the appraisal to the superior court of the county in which the tidelands or shorelands are situated, in the manner provided for taking appeals from orders or decisions under RCW 79.105.160.

(3) The prosecuting attorney of any county, or city attorney of any city, in which the aquatic lands are located, shall at the request of the governor, appeal on behalf of the state, or the county, or city, from any appraisal in the manner provided in this section. Notice of the appeal shall be served upon the commissioner, and the department must immediately notify all persons entitled to purchase under RCW 79.125.200 and claiming a preference right to purchase the lands subject to the appraisal.

(4) Any party, other than the state or the county or city appealing, shall execute a bond to the state with sufficient surety, to be approved by the department, in the sum of two hundred dollars conditioned for the payment of costs on appeal.

(5) The superior court to which an appeal is taken shall hear evidence as to the value of the lands appraised and enter an order confirming, or raising, or lowering the appraisal appealed from, and the clerk of the court shall file a certified copy in the department's Olympia office. The appraisal fixed by the court shall be final. [2005 c 155 § 505; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 91. Formerly RCW 79.94.060.]

**79.125.080 Tidelands and shorelands—Petition for replat—Replating and reappraisal—Vacation by replat.** Whenever all of the owners and other persons having a vested interest in those tidelands or shorelands embraced within any plat of tidelands or shorelands or within any portion of any plat in which there are unsold state-owned tidelands or shorelands, shall file a petition with the department accompanied by proof of service of the petition upon the city council, or other governing body, of the city or town in which the tidelands or shorelands described in the petition are situated, or upon the legislative body of the county in which the tidelands or shorelands outside of any incorporated city or town are situated, asking for a replat of the tidelands or shorelands, the department is authorized and empowered to replat the tide-

lands or shorelands described in the petition, and all unsold tidelands or shorelands situated within the replat shall be reappraised as provided for the original appraisal of tidelands or shorelands. However, any streets or alleys embraced within the plat or portion of plat, vacated by the replat shall vest in the owner or owners of the abutting lands. [2005 c 155 § 509; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 95. Formerly RCW 79.94.100.]

**79.125.090 Tidelands and shorelands—Dedication of replat—All interests must join.** If in the preparation of a replat provided for in RCW 79.125.080 by the department, it becomes desirable to appropriate any tidelands or shorelands previously sold for use as streets, alleys, waterways, or other public places, all persons interested in the title to the tidelands or shorelands desired for public places shall join in the dedication of the replat before it shall become effective. [2005 c 155 § 510; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 96. Formerly RCW 79.94.110.]

**79.125.100 Tidelands and shorelands—Vacation procedure cumulative.** RCW 79.125.080, 79.125.090, and 79.125.420 are intended to afford a method of procedure, in addition to other methods provided in this title for the vacation of streets, alleys, waterways, and other public places platted on tidelands or shorelands. [2005 c 155 § 512; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 98. Formerly RCW 79.94.130.]

**79.125.110 Tidelands and shorelands—Effect of replat.** A replat of tidelands or shorelands platted shall be in full force and effect and shall constitute a vacation of streets, alleys, waterways, and other dedicated public places, when otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200, and the dedication of new streets, alleys, waterways, and other public places appearing upon the replat, when the replat is recorded and filed as in the case of original plats. [2005 c 155 § 513; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 99. Formerly RCW 79.94.140.]

#### EXCHANGE, SALE, LEASE LIMITATIONS/TERMS

**79.125.200 State-owned tidelands, shorelands, and waterways—Sold only to public entities—Leasing—Limitation.** (1) This section applies to:

- (a) First-class tidelands as defined in RCW 79.105.060;
- (b) Second-class tidelands as defined in RCW 79.105.060;
- (c) First-class shorelands as defined in RCW 79.105.060;
- (d) Second-class shorelands as defined in RCW 79.105.060, except as included within RCW 79.125.450;
- (e) Waterways as described in RCW 79.120.010.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, from and after August 9, 1971, all state-owned tidelands and shorelands enumerated in subsection (1) of this section shall not be sold except to public entities as may be authorized by law and they shall not be given away.

(3) Tidelands and shorelands enumerated in subsection (1) of this section may be leased for a period not to exceed fifty-five years. However, nothing in this section shall be construed as modifying or canceling any outstanding lease during its present term.

(4) Nothing in this section shall:

(a) Be construed to cancel an existing sale contract;

(b) Prohibit sale or exchange of beds and shorelands where the water course has changed and the area now has the characteristics of uplands;

(c) Prevent exchange involving state-owned tidelands and shorelands;

(d) Be construed to prevent the assertion of public ownership rights in any publicly owned aquatic lands, or the leasing of such aquatic lands when such leasing is not contrary to the statewide public interest. [2005 c 155 § 514. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.94.170; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 100. Formerly RCW 79.94.150.]

**79.125.210 Sale of second-class tidelands.** All second-class tidelands shall be offered for sale, when otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, and sold in the same manner as state lands, other than capitol building lands, but for not less than five dollars per lineal chain, measured on the United States meander line bounding the inner shore limit of the tidelands, and shall pay one-tenth of the purchase price on the date of sale. [2005 c 155 § 508; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 94. Formerly RCW 79.94.090.]

**79.125.220 Second-class tidelands or shorelands—Lease for booming purposes.** (1) The department is authorized to lease any second-class tidelands or shorelands, whether reserved from sale, or from lease for other purposes, by or under authority of law, or not, except any oyster reserve containing oysters in merchantable quantities, to any person, for booming purposes, for any term not exceeding ten years from the date of the lease, for annual rental and upon terms and conditions as the department may fix and determine, and may also provide for forfeiture and termination of any lease at any time for failure to pay the fixed rental or for any violation of the terms or conditions.

(2) The lessee of any lands for booming purposes shall receive, hold, and sort the logs and other timber products of all persons requesting the service and upon the same terms and without discrimination, and may charge and collect tolls for the service not to exceed seventy-five cents per thousand feet scale measure on all logs, spars, or other large timber and reasonable rates on all other timber products, and shall be subject to the same duties and liabilities, so far as the duties and liabilities are applicable, as are imposed upon boom companies organized under the laws of the state. However, failure to use any lands leased under the provisions of this section for booming purposes for a period of one year shall work a forfeiture of the lease, and the lands shall revert to the state without any notice to the lessee upon the entry of a declaration of forfeiture in the records of the department.

(3) At the expiration of any lease issued under the provisions of this section, the lessee shall have the preference right to re-lease the lands covered by the lessee's original lease for a further term, not exceeding ten years, at the rental and upon the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the department. [2005 c 155 § 528; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 114. Formerly RCW 79.94.290.]

**79.125.230 Second-class tidelands or shorelands separated from uplands by navigable water—Sale.** Second-

class tidelands and shorelands that are separated from the upland by navigable waters shall be sold, when otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, but in no case at less than five dollars per acre. An applicant to purchase the tidelands or shorelands shall, at the applicant's own expense, survey and file with the application a plat of the surveys of the land applied for, which survey shall be connected with, and the plat shall show, two or more connections with the United States survey of the uplands, and the applicant shall file the field notes of the survey of the land with the application. The department shall examine and test the plat and field notes of the survey, and if found incorrect or indefinite, it shall cause the survey to be corrected or may reject the survey and cause a new survey to be made. [2005 c 155 § 526; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 112. Formerly RCW 79.94.270.]

**79.125.240 Sale procedure—Terms of payment—Deferred payments, rate of interest.** All state-owned tidelands and shorelands, otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, shall be sold on the following terms: One-tenth to be paid on the date of sale; one-tenth to be paid one year from the date of the issuance of the contract of sale; and one-tenth annually thereafter until the full purchase price has been made; but any purchaser may make full payment at any time. All deferred payments shall draw interest at the rate as may be fixed by rule adopted by the board, and the rate of interest, as so fixed at the date of each sale, shall be stated in all advertising for and notice of the sale and in the contract of sale. The first installment of interest shall become due and payable one year after the date of the contract of sale and all interest shall become due and payable annually on that date, and all remittances for payment of either principal or interest shall be forwarded to the department. [2005 c 155 § 122; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 31. Formerly RCW 79.90.250.]

**79.125.250 Sale procedure—Certificate to governor of payment in full—Deed.** When the entire purchase price of any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, shall have been fully paid, the department shall certify the fact to the governor, and shall cause a deed signed by the governor and attested by the secretary of state, with the seal of the state attached, to be issued to the purchaser and to be recorded in the department, and no fee shall be required for any deed issued by the governor other than the fee provided for in this chapter. [2005 c 155 § 123; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 32. Formerly RCW 79.90.260.]

**79.125.260 Sale procedure—Reservation in contract.** Each and every contract for the sale of, and each deed to, state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, shall contain the reservation contained in RCW 79.11.210. [2005 c 155 § 124; 2003 c 334 § 601; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 33. Formerly RCW 79.90.270.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.125.270 Sale procedure—Form of contract—Forfeiture—Extension of time.** The purchaser of state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, except in cases where the full purchase

price is paid at the time of the purchase, shall enter into and sign a contract with the state to be signed by the commissioner on behalf of the state, with the seal of the commissioner's office attached, and in a form to be prescribed by the attorney general, and under those terms and conditions provided in RCW 79.11.200. [2005 c 155 § 125; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 34. Formerly RCW 79.90.280.]

**79.125.280 Subdivision of leases—Fee.** Whenever the holder of any contract to purchase any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, or the holder of any lease of any lands, except for mining of valuable minerals, or coal, or extraction of petroleum or gas, shall surrender the contract or lease to the department with the request to have it divided into two or more contracts or leases, the department may divide the contract or lease and issue new contracts or leases. However, no new contract or lease shall issue while there is due and unpaid any rental, taxes, or assessments on the land held under the contract or lease, nor in any case where the department is of the opinion that the state's security would be impaired or endangered by the proposed division. For all new contracts or leases a fee as determined by the board for each new contract or lease issued, shall be paid by the applicant and the fee shall be paid into the state treasury to the resource management cost account in the general fund, pursuant to RCW 79.64.020. [2005 c 155 § 133; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 41. Formerly RCW 79.90.350.]

**79.125.290 First-class tidelands and shorelands—Sale of remaining lands.** Any first-class tidelands or shorelands remaining unsold, and where there is no pending application for purchase under claim of any preference right, when otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, shall be sold on the same terms and in the same manner as provided for the sale of state lands for not less than the appraised value fixed at the time of the application to purchase, and the department whenever it deems it advisable and for the best interest of the state may reappraise the lands in the same manner as provided for the appraisal of state lands. [2005 c 155 § 507; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 93. Formerly RCW 79.94.080.]

**79.125.300 Tidelands or shorelands—Failure to re-lease tidelands or shorelands—Appraisal of improvements.** (1) In case any lessee of tidelands or shorelands, for any purpose except mining of valuable minerals or coal, or extraction of petroleum or gas, or the lessee's successor in interest, shall after the expiration of any lease, fail to purchase, when otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be purchased, or re-lease from the state the tidelands or shorelands formerly covered by the lease, when the lands are offered for sale or re-lease, then and in that event the department shall appraise and determine the value of all improvements existing upon the tidelands or shorelands at the expiration of the lease which are not capable of removal without damage to the land, including the cost of filling and raising the property above high tide, or high water, whether filled or raised by the lessee or the lessee's successors in interest, or by virtue of any contract made with the state, and also including the then value to the land of all existing local improvements paid for by the lessee or the lessee's successors in

interest. In case the lessee or the lessee's successor in interest is dissatisfied with the appraised value of the improvements as determined by the department, the lessee shall have the right of appeal to the superior court of the county where the tidelands or shorelands are situated, within the time and according to the method prescribed in RCW 79.105.160 for taking appeals from decisions of the department.

(2) In case the tidelands or shorelands are leased, or sold, to any person other than such lessee or the lessee's successor in interest, within three years from the expiration of the former lease, the bid of the subsequent lessee or purchaser shall not be accepted until payment is made by the subsequent lessee or purchaser of the appraised value of the improvements as determined by the department, or as may be determined on appeal, to the former lessee or the former lessee's successor in interest.

(3) In case the tidelands or shorelands are not leased, or sold, within three years after the expiration of the former lease, then in that event, the improvements existing on the lands at the time of any subsequent lease, shall belong to the state and be considered a part of the land, and shall be taken into consideration in appraising the value, or rental value, of the land and sold or leased with the land. [2005 c 155 § 531; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 117. Formerly RCW 79.94.320.]

**79.125.310 Effect of mistake or fraud.** Any sale or lease of state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, made by mistake, or not in accordance with law, or obtained by fraud or misrepresentation, shall be void, and the contract of purchase or lease, issued shall be of no effect, and the holder of the contract or lease, shall be required to surrender the contract or lease to the department, which, except in the case of fraud on the part of the purchaser, or lessee, shall cause the money paid on account of the surrendered contract or lease to be refunded to the holder, provided the money has not been paid into the state treasury. [2005 c 155 § 134; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 42. Formerly RCW 79.90.360.]

#### SALE OR LEASING PREFERENCE

**79.125.400 First-class tidelands and shorelands—Lease—Preference right of upland owner—How exercised.** (1) Upon platting and appraisal of first-class tidelands or shorelands as provided in this chapter, if the department deems it for the best public interest to offer the first-class tidelands or shorelands for lease, the department shall notify the owner of record of uplands fronting upon the tidelands or shorelands to be offered for lease if the upland owner is a resident of the state, or the upland owner is a nonresident of the state, shall mail to the upland owner's last known post office address, as reflected in the county records, a copy of the notice notifying the owner that the state is offering the tidelands or shorelands for lease, giving a description of those lands and the department's appraised fair market value of the tidelands or shorelands for lease, and notifying the owner that the upland owner has a preference right to apply to lease the tidelands or shorelands at the appraised value for the lease for a period of sixty days from the date of service of mailing of the notice.

(2) If at the expiration of sixty days from the service or mailing of the notice, as provided in subsection (1) of this section, there being no conflicting applications filed, and the owner of the uplands fronting upon the tidelands or shorelands offered for lease, has failed to avail themselves of their preference right to apply to lease or to pay to the department the appraised value for lease of the tidelands or shorelands described in the notice, the tidelands or shorelands may be offered for lease to any person and may be leased in the manner provided for in the case of lease of state lands.

(3) If at the expiration of sixty days two or more claimants asserting a preference right to lease have filed applications to lease any tract, conflicting with each other, the conflict between the claimants shall be equitably resolved by the department as the best interests of the state require in accord with the procedures prescribed by chapter 34.05 RCW. However, any contract purchaser of lands or rights therein, which upland qualifies the owner for a preference right under this section, shall have first priority for the preference right. [2005 c 155 § 506; 2000 c 11 § 29; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 92. Formerly RCW 79.94.070.]

**79.125.410 First-class unplatted tidelands and shorelands—Lease preference right to upland owners—Lease for booming purposes.** (1) The department is authorized to lease to the abutting upland owner any unplatted first-class tidelands or shorelands.

(2) The department shall, prior to the issuance of any lease under the provisions of this section, fix the annual rental for the tidelands or shorelands and prescribe the terms and conditions of the lease. No lease issued under the provisions of this section shall be for a longer term than ten years, and every lease shall be subject to termination upon ninety days' notice to the lessee in the event that the department shall decide that it is in the best interest of the state that the tidelands or shorelands be surveyed and platted. At the expiration of any lease issued under the provisions of this section, the lessee or the lessee's successors or assigns shall have a preference right to re-lease the lands covered by the original lease or any portion of the lease, if the department deems it to be in the best interests of the state to re-lease the lands, for succeeding periods not exceeding five years each at the rental and upon the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the department.

(3) In case the abutting uplands are not improved and occupied for residential purposes and the abutting upland owner has not filed an application for the lease of the lands, the department may lease the lands to any person for booming purposes under the terms and conditions of this section. However, failure to use for booming purposes any lands leased under this section for such purposes for a period of one year shall work a forfeiture of the lease and the land shall revert to the state without any notice to the lessee upon the entry of a declaration of forfeiture in the records of the department. [2005 c 155 § 527; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 113. Formerly RCW 79.94.280.]

**79.125.420 Tidelands and shorelands—Vacation by replat—Preference right of tideland or shoreland owner.** If any platted street, alley, waterway, or other public place is vacated by a replat as provided for in RCW 79.125.080 and

79.125.090, or any new street, alley, waterway, or other public place is so laid out as to leave unsold tidelands or shorelands between a new street, alley, waterway, or other public place, and tidelands or shorelands previously sold, the owner of the adjacent tidelands or shorelands shall have the preference right for sixty days after the final approval of the plat to purchase the unsold tidelands or shorelands so intervening at the appraised value, if otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold. [2005 c 155 § 511; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 97. Formerly RCW 79.94.120.]

**79.125.430 Tidelands or shorelands—Preference rights, time limit on exercise.** All preference rights to purchase tidelands or shorelands, when otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200 to be purchased, awarded by the department, or by the superior court in case of appeal from the award of the department, shall be exercised by the parties to whom the award is made within thirty days from the date of the service of notice of the award by registered mail, by the payment to the department of the sums required by law to be paid for a contract, or deed, as in the case of the sale of state lands, other than capitol building lands, and upon failure to make the payment the preference rights shall expire. [2005 c 155 § 529; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 115. Formerly RCW 79.94.300.]

**79.125.440 Tidelands or shorelands—Accretions—Lease.** Any accretions that may be added to any tract or tracts of tidelands or shorelands previously sold, or that may be sold, by the state, shall belong to the state and shall not be sold, or offered for sale, unless otherwise permitted by this chapter to be sold, and unless the accretions are surveyed under the direction of the department. However, the owner of the adjacent tidelands or shorelands shall have the preference right to purchase the lands produced by accretion, when otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, for thirty days after the owner of the adjacent tidelands or shorelands shall have been notified by registered mail of the owner's preference right to purchase the accreted lands. [2005 c 155 § 530; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 116. Formerly RCW 79.94.310.]

**79.125.450 Second-class shorelands on navigable lakes—Sale.** (1) The legislature finds that maintaining public lands in public ownership is often in the public interest. However, when second-class shorelands on navigable lakes have minimal public value, the sale of those shorelands to the abutting upland owner may not be contrary to the public interest. However, the purpose of this section is to remove the prohibition contained in RCW 79.125.200 regarding the sale of second-class shorelands to abutting owners, whose uplands front on the shorelands. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to otherwise affect the rights of interested parties relating to public or private ownership of shorelands within the state.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 79.125.200, the department may sell second-class shorelands on navigable lakes to abutting owners whose uplands front upon the shorelands in cases where the board has determined that these sales would not be contrary to the public interest. These shorelands shall be sold at fair market value, but not less than five percent of the fair market value of the abutting upland,

less improvements, to a maximum distance of one hundred and fifty feet landward from the line of ordinary high water.

(3) Review of the decision of the department regarding the sale price established for a shoreland to be sold pursuant to this section may be obtained by the upland owner by filing a petition with the board of tax appeals created in accordance with chapter 82.03 RCW within thirty days after the mailing of notification by the department to the owner regarding the price. The board of tax appeals shall review the cases in an adjudicative proceeding as described in chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act, and the board's review shall be de novo. Decisions of the board of tax appeals regarding fair market values determined pursuant to this section shall be final unless appealed to the superior court pursuant to RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598. [2005 c 155 § 520. Prior: 1989 c 378 § 3; 1989 c 175 § 171; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 106. Formerly RCW 79.94.210.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.125.460 Second-class shorelands—Sale or lease when in best public interest—Preference right of upland owner—Procedure upon determining sale or lease not in best public interest or where transfer made for public use—Platting.** (1) If application is made to purchase or lease any second-class shorelands and the department deems it for the best public interest to offer second-class shorelands for sale or lease, the department shall cause a notice to be served upon the abutting upland owner if the owner is a resident of the state, or if the upland owner is a nonresident of the state, shall mail to the owner's last known post office address, as reflected in the county records a copy of a notice notifying the owner that the state is offering the shorelands for sale or lease, giving a description of the department's appraised fair market value of the shorelands for sale or lease, and notifying the upland owner that he or she has a preference right to purchase, if the purchase is otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200, or lease the shorelands at the appraised value for a period of thirty days from the date of the service or mailing of the notice. If at the expiration of the thirty days from the service or mailing of the notice, as provided in this section, the abutting upland owner has failed to exercise the preference right to purchase, as otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200, or lease, or to pay to the department the appraised value for sale or lease of the shorelands described in the notice, then in that event, except as otherwise provided in this section, the shorelands may be offered for sale, when otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200, or offered for lease, and sold or leased in the manner provided for the sale or lease of state lands, as otherwise permitted under this chapter.

(2) The department shall authorize the sale or lease, whether to abutting upland owners or others, only if the sale or lease would be in the best public interest and is otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200. It is the intent of the legislature that whenever it is in the best public interest, the second-class shorelands managed by the department shall not be sold but shall be maintained in public ownership for the use and benefit of the people of the state.

(3) In all cases where application is made for the lease of any second-class shorelands adjacent to upland, under the

provisions of this section, the shorelands shall be leased per lineal chain frontage.

(4) If, following an application by the abutting upland owner to either purchase as otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 or to obtain an exclusive lease at appraised full market value or rental, the department deems that the sale or lease is not in the best public interest, or if property rights in state-owned second-class shorelands are at any time withdrawn, sold, or assigned in any manner authorized by law to a public agency for a use by the general public, the department shall within one hundred and eighty days from receipt of the application to purchase or lease, or on reaching a decision to withdraw, sell, or assign such shorelands to a public agency, and: (a) Make a formal finding that the body of water adjacent to the shorelands is navigable; (b) find that the state or the public has an overriding interest inconsistent with a sale or exclusive lease to a private person, and specifically identify the interest and the factor or factors amounting to the inconsistency; and (c) provide for the review of the decision in accordance with the procedures prescribed by chapter 34.05 RCW.

(5) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, the department may cause any of the shorelands to be platted as is provided for the platting of first-class shorelands, and when so platted the lands shall be sold, when otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, or leased in the manner provided for the sale or lease of first-class shorelands. [2005 c 155 § 525; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 111. Formerly RCW 79.94.260.]

#### SECOND-CLASS SHORELANDS— SPECIAL PLATTING AND SELECTION PROVISIONS

**79.125.500 Second-class shorelands—Boundary of shorelands when water lowered—Certain shorelands granted to city of Seattle.** In every case where the state of Washington had prior to June 13, 1913, sold to any purchaser from the state any second-class shorelands bordering upon navigable waters of this state by description where the water boundary of the purchased shorelands is not defined, the water boundary shall be the line of ordinary navigation in the water; and whenever the waters have been or shall be lowered by any action done or authorized either by the state of Washington or the United States, the water boundary shall be the line of ordinary navigation as the water boundary shall be found in the waters after the lowering, and there is granted and confirmed to every purchaser, the purchaser's heirs and assigns, all the lands. However, this section and RCW 79.125.510 shall not apply to the portions of the second-class shorelands which shall, as provided by RCW 79.125.510, be selected by the department for harbor areas, slips, docks, wharves, warehouses, streets, avenues, parkways and boulevards, alleys, or other public purposes. Further, all shorelands and the bed of Lake Washington from the southerly margin of the plat of Lake Washington shorelands southerly along the westerly shore of the lake to a line three hundred feet south of and parallel with the east and west center line of section 35, township 24 north, range 4 east, W.M., are reserved for public uses and are granted and donated to the city of Seattle for public park, parkway, and boulevard purposes, and as a part of its public park, parkway, and boule-

ward system and any diversion or attempted diversion of the lands so donated from such purposes shall cause the title to the lands to revert to the state. [2005 c 155 § 521; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 107. Formerly RCW 79.94.220.]

**79.125.510 Second-class shorelands—Survey/platting—Selection for slips, docks, wharves, etc.—Filing of plat.** It is the duty of the department to survey the second-class shorelands and in platting the survey to designate for public use all of the shorelands as in the opinion of the department is available, convenient, or necessary to be selected for the use of the public as harbor areas, sites for slips, docks, wharves, warehouses, streets, avenues, parkways and boulevards, alleys, and other public purposes.

Upon the filing of the plat in the department's Olympia office, the title to all harbor areas so selected shall remain in the state, the title to all selections for streets, avenues, and alleys shall vest in any city or town within the corporate limits of which they are situated, otherwise in the county in which they are situated, the title to and control of any lands so selected and designated upon the plat for parkways and boulevard purposes shall, if the lands lie outside of the corporate limits of any city or town and if the lands form a part of the general parkway and boulevard system of a first-class city lie in the city, and the title to all selections for slips, docks, wharves, warehouses, and other public purposes shall vest in the port district if they are situated in a port district, otherwise in the county in which they are situated. [2005 c 155 § 522; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 108. Formerly RCW 79.94.230.]

**79.125.520 Second-class shorelands—Platting of certain shorelands of Lake Washington for use as harbor area—Effect.** It is the duty of the department to plat for the public use harbor area in front of the portions of the shorelands of Lake Washington sold as second-class shorelands by the state of Washington as in the opinion of the department are necessary for the use of the public as harbor area. However, this section and RCW 79.125.530 shall not be construed to authorize the department to change the location of any inner or outer harbor line or the boundaries or location of, or to replat any harbor area platted under and by virtue of sections 1 and 2, chapter 183, Laws of 1913, and the title to all shorelands purchased from the state as second-class shorelands is confirmed to the purchaser, the purchaser's heirs and assigns, out to the inner harbor line established and platted under sections 1 and 2, chapter 183, Laws of 1913, or which shall be established and platted under RCW 79.125.510 and 79.125.530, and all reservations shown upon the plat made and filed pursuant to sections 1 and 2, chapter 183, Laws of 1913, are declared null and void, except reservations shown for harbor area, and reservations in the harbor area, and reservations across shorelands for traversed streets which were extensions of streets existing across shorelands at the time of filing of such plat. The department shall in platting the harbor area make a new plat showing all the harbor area on Lake Washington already platted under sections 1 and 2, chapter 183, Laws of 1913, and under sections 1 and 2, chapter 150, Laws of 1917, and upon the adoption of any new plat by the board acting as the harbor line commission, and the filing of the plat in the department's Olympia office, the title to all the harbor areas so selected shall remain in the state of Washing-

ton, and the harbor areas shall not be sold, but may be leased as provided for by law relating to the leasing of the harbor area. [2005 c 155 § 523; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 109. Formerly RCW 79.94.240.]

**79.125.530 Platting of certain shorelands of Lake Washington for use as harbor area—Selection for slips, docks, wharves, etc.—Vesting of title.** Immediately after establishing the harbor area provided for in RCW 79.125.520, it is the duty of the department to make a plat designating all first and second-class shorelands, not sold by the state of Washington, and to select for the use of the public out of the shorelands, or out of harbor areas, sites for slips, docks, wharves, warehouses, streets, avenues, parkways, boulevards, alleys, commercial waterways, and other public purposes, insofar as the shorelands may be available for any or all public purposes.

Upon the filing of the plat of shorelands with the reservations and selections in the department's Olympia office, the title to all selections for streets, avenues, and alleys shall vest in any city or town within the corporate limits of which they are situated, otherwise in the county in which they are situated. The title to and control of any land so selected and designated upon the plat for parkway and boulevard purposes shall, if the lands lie outside the corporate limits of any city or town, and if the lands form a part of the general parkway and boulevard system of the first-class city, be in the city. The title to all selections for commercial waterway purposes shall vest in the commercial waterway district in which they are situated, or for which selected, and the title to all selections for slips, docks, wharves, warehouses, and other purposes shall vest in the port district if they are situated in a port district, otherwise in the county in which they are situated, and any sales of the shorelands when otherwise permitted by law shall be made subject to the selection and reservation for public use. [2005 c 155 § 524; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 110. Formerly RCW 79.94.250.]

## SALES OF TIDELANDS AND SHORELANDS

**79.125.600 Sale procedure—Fixing date, place, and time of sale—Notice—Publication and posting.** (1) When the department decides to sell any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, it shall be the duty of the department to fix the date, place, and the time of sale, and no sale shall be had on any day which is a legal holiday.

(2) The department shall give notice of the sale by advertisement published once a week for four consecutive weeks immediately preceding the date fixed for sale in the notice, in at least one newspaper published and of general circulation in the county in which the whole or any part of any lot, block, or tract of land to be sold is situated, and by causing a copy of the notice to be posted in a conspicuous place in the department's Olympia office and the region headquarters administering the sale.

(3) The notice shall: (a) Specify the place and time of sale; (b) specify the appraised value; (c) describe with particularity each parcel of land to be sold; and (d) specify that the terms of sale will be posted in the region headquarters and the

department's Olympia office. [2005 c 155 § 112; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 23. Formerly RCW 79.90.170.]

**79.125.610 List of state-owned tidelands and shorelands permitted to be sold.** The department shall print a list of all state-owned tidelands and shorelands otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, giving appraised value, character of the land, and other information as may be of interest to prospective buyers. The lists must be issued at least four weeks prior to the date of any sale. The department shall retain for free distribution in its office in Olympia and the regional offices sufficient copies of the lists, to be kept in a conspicuous place or receptacle on the counter of the general and regional office of the department, and, when requested to do so, shall mail copies of the list as issued to any applicant. [2005 c 155 § 113; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 24. Formerly RCW 79.90.180.]

**79.125.620 Sale procedure—Additional advertising expense.** The department is authorized to expend any sum in additional advertising of the sale as shall be determined to be in the best interests of the state. [2005 c 155 § 114; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 25. Formerly RCW 79.90.190.]

**79.125.630 Reoffer—Continuance.** Any sale that has been offered, and for which there are no bids received shall not be reoffered until it has been readvertised as specified in RCW 79.125.600, 79.125.610, and 79.125.620. If all sales cannot be offered within the specified time on the advertised date, the sale shall continue on the following day between the hours of ten o'clock a.m. and four o'clock p.m. [2005 c 155 § 115; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 26. Formerly RCW 79.90.200.]

**79.125.640 Sale at public auction—Minimum price—Sales by leaseholder.** All sales of state-owned tidelands and shorelands otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200 to be sold, shall be sold at public auction to the highest responsible bidder, on the terms prescribed by law and as specified in the notice provided, and no land shall be sold for less than the appraised value. Sales of aquaculture products by a leaseholder shall be as specified in RCW 79.135.040. [2005 c 155 § 116; 2005 c 113 § 2; 1990 c 163 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 27. Formerly RCW 79.90.210.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2005 c 113 § 2 and by 2005 c 155 § 116, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**79.125.650 Highest responsible bidder—Determination.** (1) To determine the "highest responsible bidder" under RCW 79.125.640, the department shall be entitled to consider, in addition to price, the following:

- (a) The financial and technical ability of the bidder to perform the contract;
- (b) Whether the bid contains material defects;
- (c) Whether the bidder has previously or is currently complying with terms and conditions of any other contracts with the state or relevant contracts with entities other than the state;
- (d) Whether the bidder was the "highest responsible bidder" for a sale within the previous five years but failed to

complete the sale, such as by not entering into a resulting contract or by not paying the difference between the deposit and the total amount due. However, sales that were bid prior to January 1, 2003, may not be considered for the purposes of this subsection (1)(d);

(e) Whether the bidder has been convicted of a crime relating to the public lands or natural resources of the state of Washington, the United States, or any other state, tribe, or country, where "conviction" shall include a guilty plea, or unvacated forfeiture of bail;

(f) Whether the bidder is owned, controlled, or managed by any person, partnership, or corporation that is not responsible under this statute; and

(g) Whether the subcontractors of the bidder, if any, are responsible under this statute.

(2) Whenever the department has reason to believe that the apparent high bidder is not a responsible bidder, the department may award the sale to the next responsible bidder or the department may reject all bids pursuant to RCW 79.125.680. [2005 c 155 § 117; 2003 c 28 § 1; 1990 c 163 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.90.215.]

**79.125.660 Sale procedure—Conduct of sales—Deposits—Bid bonds—Memorandum of purchase.** (1) Sales by public auction under this chapter shall be conducted under the direction of the department or by its authorized representative. The department's representatives are referred to as auctioneers.

(2) On or before the time specified in the notice of sale each bidder shall deposit with the auctioneer, in cash or by certified check, cashier's check, or postal money order payable to the order of the department, or by bid guarantee in the form of bid bond acceptable to the department, an amount equal to the deposit specified in the notice of sale. The deposit shall include a specified amount of the appraised price for the valuable materials offered for sale, together with any fee required by law for the issuance of contracts or bills of sale. The deposit may, when prescribed in the notice of sale, be considered an opening bid of an amount not less than the minimum appraised price established in the notice of sale. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained by the auctioneer and the difference, if any, between the deposit and the total amount due shall on the day of the sale be paid in cash, certified check, cashier's check, draft, postal money order, or by personal check made payable to the department. If a bid bond is used, the share of the total deposit due guaranteed by the bid bond shall, within ten days of the day of sale, be paid in cash, certified check, cashier's check, draft, or postal money order payable to the department. Other deposits, if any, shall be returned to the respective bidders at the conclusion of each sale.

(3) The auctioneer shall deliver to the purchaser a memorandum of the purchase containing a description of the land or materials purchased, the price bid, and the terms of the sale.

(4) The auctioneer shall at once send to the department the cash, certified check, cashier's check, draft, postal money order, or bid guarantee received from the purchaser, and a copy of the memorandum delivered to the purchaser, together with such additional report of the auctioneer's proceedings with reference to the sales as may be required by the department

ment. [2005 c 155 § 118; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 28. Formerly RCW 79.90.220.]

**79.125.670 Sale procedure—Readvertisement of lands not sold.** If any tideland or shoreland, when otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200, offered for sale is not sold, it may again be advertised for sale, as provided in this chapter, whenever in the opinion of the department it is expedient to do so. Whenever any person applies to the department in writing to have the land offered for sale and agrees to pay at least the appraised value of the land and deposits with the department at the time of making the application a sufficient sum of money to pay the cost of advertising the sale, the land may be advertised again and offered for sale as provided in this chapter. [2005 c 155 § 119; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 29. Formerly RCW 79.90.230.]

**79.125.680 Sale procedure—Confirmation of sale.** (1) A sale of tidelands or shorelands otherwise permitted by RCW 79.125.200 to be sold shall be confirmed if:

(a) No affidavit showing that the interest of the state in such sale was injuriously affected by fraud or collusion, is filed with the department's Olympia office within ten days from the receipt of the report of the auctioneer conducting the sale;

(b) It appears from the report that the sale was fairly conducted, that the purchaser was the highest responsible bidder at the sale, and that the sale price is not less than the appraised value of the property sold;

(c) The department is satisfied that the lands sold would not, upon being readvertised and offered for sale, sell for a substantially higher price; and

(d) The payment required by law to be made at the time of making the sale has been made, and that the best interests of the state are being served.

(2) Upon confirming a sale, the department shall enter upon its records the confirmation of sale and issue to the purchaser a contract of sale or bill of sale as the case may be, as is provided for in this chapter. [2005 c 155 § 120; 1990 c 163 § 3; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 30. Formerly RCW 79.90.240.]

#### CONVEYANCE TO PUBLIC ENTITIES/PUBLIC USE

**79.125.700 Sale of state-owned tidelands or shorelands to municipal corporation or state agency—Authority to execute agreements, deeds, etc.** The department may with the advice and approval of the board sell state-owned tidelands or shorelands at the appraised market value to any municipal corporation or agency of the state of Washington when the land is to be used solely for municipal or state purposes. However, the department shall with the advice and approval of the attorney general, execute agreements, writings, or relinquishments and certify to the governor such deeds as are necessary or proper to affect the sale or exchange. [2005 c 155 § 515; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 101. Formerly RCW 79.94.160.]

**79.125.710 Grant of lands for city park or playground purposes.** Whenever application is made to the department by any incorporated city or town or metropolitan park district for the use of any state-owned tidelands or shore-

lands within the corporate limits of the city or town or metropolitan park district for municipal park and/or playground purposes, the department shall cause the application to be entered in the records of its office, and shall then forward the application to the governor, who shall appoint a committee of five representative citizens of the city or town, in addition to the commissioner and the director of ecology, both of whom shall be ex officio members of the committee, to investigate the lands and determine whether they are suitable and needed for park or playground purposes; and, if they so find, the commissioner shall certify to the governor that the property shall be deeded, when in accordance with RCW 79.125.200 and 79.125.700, to the city or town or metropolitan park district and the governor shall then execute a deed in the name of the state of Washington, attested by the secretary of state, conveying the use of the lands to the city or town or metropolitan park district for park or playground purposes for so long as it shall continue to hold, use, and maintain the lands for park or playground purposes. [2005 c 155 § 517; 2003 c 334 § 447; 1988 c 127 § 33; 1939 c 157 § 1; RRS § 7993-1. Formerly RCW 79.94.175, 79.08.080.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.125.720 Exchange of lands to secure city parks and playgrounds.** In the event there are no state-owned tidelands or shorelands in any city or town or metropolitan park district suitable for the purposes of RCW 79.125.710 and the committee finds other lands which are suitable and needed for parks or playgrounds, the department is authorized to secure the lands by exchanging state-owned tidelands or shorelands of equal value in the same county, and the use of the lands so secured shall be conveyed to any city or town or metropolitan park district as provided for in RCW 79.125.710. In all exchanges the department is authorized and directed, with the assistance of the attorney general, to execute agreements, writings, relinquishments, and deeds as are necessary or proper for the purpose of carrying the exchanges into effect. Upland owners shall be notified of the state-owned tidelands or shorelands to be exchanged. [2005 c 155 § 518; 2003 c 334 § 448; 1939 c 157 § 2; RRS § 7993-2. Formerly RCW 79.94.181, 79.08.090.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.125.730 Director of ecology to assist city parks.** The director of ecology, in addition to serving as an ex officio member of the committee, is authorized and directed to assist the city or town or metropolitan park district in the development and decoration of any lands so conveyed and to furnish trees, grass, flowers, and shrubs therefor. [2005 c 155 § 519; 1988 c 127 § 34; 1939 c 157 § 3; RRS § 7993-3. Formerly RCW 79.94.185, 79.08.100.]

**79.125.740 Certain tidelands reserved for recreational use and taking of fish and shellfish.** The following described tidelands, being public lands of the state, are withdrawn from sale or lease and reserved as public areas for recreational use and for the taking of fish and shellfish for personal use as defined in RCW 77.08.010:

Parcel No. 1. (Point Whitney) The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to or abutting upon lots 3, 4, and 5, section 7, town-

ship 26 north, range 1 west, W.M., with a frontage of 72.45 lineal chains, more or less.

Excepting, however, those portions of the above-described second-class tidelands conveyed to the state of Washington, department of fish and wildlife through deed issued May 14, 1925, under application No. 8136, records of department of public lands.

Parcel No. 2. (Point Whitney) The second-class tidelands lying below the line of mean low tide, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of lot 1, section 6, township 26 north, range 1 west, W.M., with a frontage of 21.00 lineal chains, more or less; also

The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 6 and 7, and that portion of lot 5, section 1, township 26 north, range 1 west, W.M., lying south of a line running due west from a point on the government meander line which is S 22° E 1.69 chains from an angle point in said meander line which is S 15° W 1.20 chains, more or less, from the point of intersection of the north line of said lot 5 and the meander line, with a frontage of 40.31 lineal chains, more or less.

Parcel No. 3. (Toandos Peninsula) The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 1, 2, and 3, section 5, lots 1, 2, and 3, section 4, and lot 1, section 3, all in township 25 north, range 1 west, W.M., with a frontage of 158.41 lineal chains, more or less.

Parcel No. 4. (Shine) The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 1, 2, 3 and that portion of lot 4 lying north of the south 8.35 chains as measured along the government meander line, all in section 35, township 28 north, range 1 east, W.M., with a frontage of 76.70 lineal chains, more or less.

Subject to an easement for right-of-way for county road granted to Jefferson county December 8, 1941, under application No. 1731, records of department of public lands.

Parcel No. 5. (Lilliwaup) The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, lying easterly of the east line of vacated state oyster reserve plat No. 133 produced southerly and situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lot 9, section 30, lot 8, section 19 and lot 5 and the south 20 acres of lot 4, section 20, all in township 23 north, range 3 west, W.M., with a frontage of 62.46 lineal chains, more or less.

Subject to easements for rights-of-way for state road granted through the filing of state road plats No. 374 December 15, 1930, No. 661, March 29, 1949, and No. 666 August 25, 1949, records of department of public lands.

Parcel No. 6. (Nemah) Those portions of the second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 5, 6, and 7, section 3 and lots 1, 2, and 3, section 4, township 12 north, range 10 west, W.M., lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, section 34, section 27 and lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, section 28, township 13 north, range 10 west, W.M., lying easterly of the easterly line of the Nemah Oyster reserve and easterly of the easterly line of a tract of second-class tidelands conveyed through deed issued July 28, 1938, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 24, Laws of 1895, under

application No. 9731, with a frontage of 326.22 lineal chains, more or less.

Parcels No. 7 and 8. (Penn Cove) The unplatted first and second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 1 and 2, section 33, lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, section 32, lots 2 and 3 and the B.P. Barstow D.L.C. No. 49, sections 30 and 31 and that portion of the R.H. Lansdale D.L.C. No. 54 in section 30, lying west of the east 3.00 chains thereof as measured along the government meander line, all in township 32 north, range 1 east, W.M., with a frontage of 260.34 lineal chains, more or less.

Excepting, however, the tidelands above the line of mean low tide in front of said lot 1, section 32 which were conveyed as second-class tidelands through deed issued December 29, 1908, application No. 4957, records of department of public lands.

Subject to an easement for right-of-way for transmission cable line granted to the United States of America Army Engineers June 7, 1943, under application No. 17511, records of department of public lands.

Parcel No. 9. (South of Penn Cove) The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 2, 3 and 4, section 17 and lots 1, 2 and 3, section 20, township 31 north, range 2 east, W.M., with a frontage of 129.97 lineal chains, more or less.

Parcel No. 10. (Mud Bay—Lopez Island) The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 5, 6 and 7, section 18, lot 5, section 7 and lots 3, 4, and 5, section 8, all in township 34 north, range 1 west, W.M., with a frontage of 172.11 lineal chains, more or less.

Excepting, however, any second-class tideland in front of said lot 3, section 8 conveyed through deeds issued April 14, 1909, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 24, Laws of 1895, under application No. 4985, records of department of public lands.

Parcel No. 11. (Cattle Point) The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lot 1, section 6, lots 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, section 7, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, section 8 and lot 1, section 5, all in township 34 north, range 2 west, W.M., with a frontage of 463.88 lineal chains, more or less.

Excepting, however, any second-class tidelands in front of said lot 10, section 7 conveyed through deed issued June 1, 1912, under application No. 6906, records of department of public lands.

Parcel No. 12. (Spencer Spit) The second-class tidelands, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 1, 3, and 4, section 7, and lot 5, section 18 all in township 35 north, range 1 west, W.M., with a frontage of 118.80 lineal chains, more or less. [2005 c 155 § 533; 2003 c 39 § 42; 1994 c 264 § 66; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 181; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 124. Formerly RCW 79.94.390.]

**Tidelands—Upland owner use:** "The state department of fisheries is authorized to permit designated portions of the following described tidelands to be used by the upland owners thereof for the purpose of building and maintaining docks: Tidelands of the second class owned by the state of Washington situated in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon, the entire west side of lot 1, section 5, Township 34 North, Range 2 West, W.M., to the

northernmost tip of said lot, and lots 2 and 3, section 8, Township 34 North, Range 2 West, W.M. (Cattle Point)." [1967 ex.s. c 128 § 1.]

**79.125.750 Access to and from tidelands reserved for recreational use and taking of fish and shellfish.** The director of fish and wildlife may take appropriate action to provide public and private access, including roads and docks, to and from the tidelands described in RCW 79.125.740. [2005 c 155 § 534; 1994 c 264 § 67; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 125. Formerly RCW 79.94.400.]

**79.125.760 Use of certain tidelands, shorelands, and abutting bedlands—Grant to the United States—Purposes—Limitations.** The use of any tidelands, shorelands, and abutting bedlands covered with less than four fathoms of water at ordinary low tide belonging to the state, and adjoining and bordering on any tract, piece, or parcel of land, which may have been reserved or acquired, or which may be reserved or acquired, by the government of the United States, for the purposes of erecting and maintaining forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, navy yards, prisons, penitentiaries, lighthouses, fog signal stations, aviation fields, or other aids to navigation, may be granted to the United States, upon payment for the rights, so long as the upland adjoining the tidelands or shorelands shall continue to be held by the government of the United States for any of the public purposes above mentioned. However, this grant shall not extend to or include any aquatic lands covered by more than four fathoms of water at ordinary low tide; and shall not be construed to prevent any citizen of the state from using the lands for the taking of food fishes so long as the fishing does not interfere with the public use of them by the United States. [2005 c 155 § 535; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 126. Formerly RCW 79.94.410.]

**79.125.770 Tidelands and shorelands—Use of lands granted to United States—Application—Proof of upland use—Conveyance.** Whenever application is made to the department by any department of the United States government for the use of any state-owned tidelands or shorelands and adjoining and bordering on any upland held by the United States for any of the purposes mentioned in RCW 79.125.760, upon proof being made to the department, that the uplands are so held by the United States for such purposes, and upon payment for the land, it shall cause the fact to be entered in the records of the department and the department shall certify the fact to the governor who will execute a deed in the name of the state, attested by the secretary of state, conveying the use of the lands, for such purposes, to the United States, so long as it shall continue to hold for the public purposes the uplands adjoining the tidelands and shorelands. [2005 c 155 § 536; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 127. Formerly RCW 79.94.420.]

**79.125.780 Tidelands and shorelands—Use of lands granted to United States—Easements over tidelands or shorelands to United States.** Whenever application is made to the department, by any department of the United States government, for the use of any state-owned tidelands or shorelands, for any public purpose, and the department shall be satisfied that the United States requires or may require the use of the tidelands or shorelands for the public purposes, the

department may reserve the tidelands or shorelands from public sale and grant the use of them to the United States, upon payment for the land, so long as it may require the use of them for the public purposes. In such a case, the department shall execute an easement to the United States, which grants the use of the tidelands or shorelands to the United States, so long as it shall require the use of them for the public purpose. [2005 c 155 § 537; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 128. Formerly RCW 79.94.430.]

**79.125.790 Tidelands and shorelands—Use of lands granted to United States—Reversion on cessation of use.** Whenever the United States shall cease to hold and use any uplands for the use and purposes mentioned in RCW 79.125.760, or shall cease to use any tidelands or shorelands for the purpose mentioned in RCW 79.125.780, the grant or easement of the tidelands or shorelands shall be terminated, and the tidelands or shorelands shall revert to the state without resort to any court or tribunal. [2005 c 155 § 538; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 129. Formerly RCW 79.94.440.]

**79.125.800 United States Navy base—Exchange of property—Procedure.** The department is authorized to deed, by exchanges of property, to the United States Navy those tidelands necessary to facilitate the location of the United States Navy base in Everett. In carrying out this authority, the department shall request that the governor execute the deed in the name of the state attested to by the secretary of state. The department will follow the requirements outlined in RCW 79.17.050 in making the exchange. The department must exchange the state's tidelands for lands of equal value, and the land received in the exchange must be suitable for natural preserves, recreational purposes, or have commercial value. The lands must not have been previously used as a waste disposal site. Choice of the site must be made with the advice and approval of the board. [2003 c 334 § 615; 1987 c 271 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.94.450.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 79.130 RCW

### AQUATIC LANDS—BEDS OF NAVIGABLE WATERS

#### Sections

79.130.001	Intent—2005 c 155.
79.130.010	Lease of beds of navigable waters.
79.130.020	Lease of beds of navigable waters—Terms and conditions of lease—Forfeiture for nonuser.
79.130.030	Lease of beds of navigable waters—Improvements—Federal permit—Forfeiture—Plans and specifications.
79.130.040	Lease of beds of navigable waters—Preference right to re-lease.
79.130.050	United States Navy base—Legislative findings and declaration.
79.130.060	Lease of bedlands in Port Gardner Bay for dredge spoil site—Conditions.
79.130.070	Exchange of bedlands—Cowlitz river.

**79.130.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** See RCW 79.105.001.

**79.130.010 Lease of beds of navigable waters.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 79.130.060, the department may lease to the abutting tidelands or shorelands owner or lessee,

the beds of navigable waters lying below the line of extreme low tide in waters where the tide ebbs and flows, and below the line of navigability in lakes and rivers claimed by the state and defined in Article XVII, section 1 of the state Constitution.

(2) In case the abutting tidelands or shorelands or the abutting uplands are not improved or occupied for residential or commercial purposes, the department may lease the beds to any person for a period not exceeding ten years for booming purposes.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall change or modify any of the provisions of the state Constitution or laws of the state which provide for the leasing of harbor areas and the reservation of lands lying in front of harbor areas. [2005 c 155 § 601; 1987 c 271 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 130. Formerly RCW 79.95.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.130.020 Lease of beds of navigable waters—Terms and conditions of lease—Forfeiture for nonuser.**

(1) The department shall, prior to the issuance of any lease under the provisions of this chapter, fix the annual rental and prescribe the terms and conditions of the lease. However, in fixing the rental, the department shall not take into account the value of any improvements placed upon the lands by the lessee.

(2) No lease issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be for a term longer than thirty years from the date thereof if in front of second-class tidelands or shorelands; or a term longer than ten years if in front of unplatted first-class tidelands or shorelands leased under the provisions of RCW 79.125.410, in which case the lease shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as provided for in the lease of the unplatted first-class tidelands or shorelands. Failure to use those beds leased under the provisions of this chapter for booming purposes, for a period of two years shall work a forfeiture of the lease and the land shall revert to the state without notice to the lessee upon the entry of a declaration of forfeiture in the records of the department. [2005 c 155 § 602; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 131. Formerly RCW 79.95.020.]

**79.130.030 Lease of beds of navigable waters—Improvements—Federal permit—Forfeiture—Plans and specifications.**

The applicant for a lease under the provisions of this chapter shall first obtain from the United States army corps of engineers or other federal regulatory agency, a permit to place structures or improvements in the navigable waters and file with the department a copy of the permit. No structures or improvements shall be constructed beyond a point authorized by the army corps of engineers or the department and any construction beyond authorized limits will work a forfeiture of all rights granted by the terms of any lease issued under the provisions of this chapter. The applicant shall also file plans and specifications of any proposed improvements to be placed upon the areas with the department, the plans and specifications to be the same as provided for in the case of the lease of harbor areas. [2005 c 155 § 603; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 132. Formerly RCW 79.95.030.]

**79.130.040 Lease of beds of navigable waters—Preference right to re-lease.** At the expiration of any lease

issued under the provisions of this chapter, the lessee or the lessee's successors or assigns, shall have a preference right to re-lease all or part of the area covered by the original lease if the department deems it to be in the best interest of the state to re-lease the area. Such re-lease shall be for the term as specified by the provisions of this chapter, and at the rental and upon the conditions as may be prescribed by the department. However, if the preference right is not exercised, the rights and obligations of the lessee, the department, and any subsequent lessee shall be the same as provided in RCW 79.125.300 relating to failure to re-lease tidelands or shorelands. Any person who prior to June 11, 1953, had occupied and improved an area subject to lease under this chapter and has secured a permit for the improvements from the United States army corps of engineers, or other federal regulatory agency, shall have the rights and obligations of a lessee under this section upon the filing of a copy of the permit together with plans and specifications of the improvements with the department. [2005 c 155 § 604; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 133. Formerly RCW 79.95.040.]

**79.130.050 United States Navy base—Legislative findings and declaration.**

The legislature recognizes the importance of economic development in the state of Washington, and finds that the location of a United States Navy base in Everett, Washington will enhance economic development. The legislature finds that the state should not assume liability or risks resulting from any action taken by the United States Navy, now or in the future associated with the dredge disposal program for that project known as confined aquatic disposal (CAD). The legislature also recognizes the importance of improving water quality and cleaning up pollution in Puget Sound. The legislature declares these actions to be a public purpose necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, and to promote economic growth and improve environmental quality in the state of Washington. The United States Navy proposes to commence the Everett home port project immediately. [2005 c 155 § 605; 1987 c 271 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.95.050.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.130.060 Lease of bedlands in Port Gardner Bay for dredge spoil site—Conditions.**

(1) Upon application by the United States Navy, and upon verification of the legal description and compliance with the intent of this chapter, the commissioner is authorized to lease bedlands in Port Gardner Bay for a term of thirty years so the United States Navy can utilize a dredge spoil site solely for purposes related to construction of the United States Navy base at Everett.

(2) The lease shall reserve for the state uses of the property and associated waters which are not inconsistent with the use of the bed by the Navy as a disposal site. The lease shall include conditions under which the Navy:

(a) Will agree to hold the state of Washington harmless for any damage and liability relating to, or resulting from, the use of the property by the Navy; and

(b) Will agree to comply with all terms and conditions included in the applicable state of Washington section 401 water quality certification issued under the authority of the federal clean water act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251, et seq.), all terms and conditions of the army corps of engineers section

404 permit (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1344), and all requirements of statutes, regulations, and permits relating to water quality and aquatic life in Puget Sound and Port Gardner Bay, including all reasonable and appropriate terms and conditions of any permits issued under the authority of the Washington state shoreline management act (chapter 90.58 RCW) and any applicable shoreline master program.

(3) The ability of the state of Washington to enforce the terms and conditions specified in subsection (2)(b) of this section shall include, but not be limited to: (a) The terms and conditions of the lease; (b) the section 401 water quality certification under the clean water act, 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251, et seq.; (c) the comprehensive environmental response, compensation, and liability act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601, et seq.; (d) the resource conservation and recovery act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 6901, et seq.; or (e) any other applicable federal or state law. [2005 c 155 § 606; 1987 c 271 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.95.060.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.130.070 Exchange of bedlands—Cowlitz river.** (1)

The department is authorized to exchange bedlands abandoned through rechanneling of the Cowlitz river near the confluence of the Columbia river so that the state obtains clear title to the Cowlitz river as it now exists or where it may exist in the future through the processes of erosion and accretion.

(2) The department is also authorized to exchange bedlands and enter into boundary line agreements to resolve any disputes that may arise over the location of state-owned lands now comprising the dike that was created in the 1920s.

(3) For purposes of chapter 150, Laws of 2001, "Cowlitz river near the confluence of the Columbia river" means those tidelands and bedlands of the Cowlitz river fronting and abutting sections 10, 11, and 14, township 7 north, range 2 west, Willamette Meridian and fronting and abutting the Huntington Donation Land Claim No. 47 and the Blakeny Donation Land Claim No. 43, township 7 north, range 2 west, Willamette Meridian.

(4) Nothing in chapter 150, Laws of 2001 shall be deemed to convey to the department the power of eminent domain. [2003 c 334 § 454; 2001 c 150 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.90.458, 79.08.260.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Findings—2001 c 150:** "(1) The legislature finds that in the 1920s the Cowlitz river near the confluence of the Columbia river in Longview, Washington was diverted from its original course by dredging and construction of a dike. As a result, a portion of the original bed of the Cowlitz river became a nonnavigable body of shallow water. Another portion of the original bed of the Cowlitz river became part of a dike and is indistinguishable from existing islands. The main channel of the Cowlitz river was diverted over uplands to the south of the original bed and has continued as a navigable channel.

(2) The legislature finds that continued ownership of the nonnavigable portion of the original bed of the Cowlitz river near the confluence of the Columbia river no longer serves the state's interest in navigation. Ownership of the existing navigable bed of the Cowlitz river would better serve the state's interest in navigation. It is also in the state's interest to resolve any disputes that have arisen because state-owned land is now indistinguishable from privately owned land within the dike." [2001 c 150 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**Chapter 79.135 RCW  
AQUATIC LANDS—OYSTERS, GEODUCKS,  
SHELLFISH, OTHER AQUACULTURAL USES,  
AND MARINE AQUATIC PLANTS**

Sections

79.135.001 Intent—2005 c 155.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 79.135.010 Bush act/Callow act lands.
  - 79.135.020 Sale of reserved or reversionary rights in tidelands.
  - 79.135.030 Wrongful taking of shellfish from public lands—Civil remedies.
  - 79.135.040 Aquaculture products—Sale by leaseholder.
- LEASING FOR SHELLFISH CULTIVATION/AQUACULTURE USE
- 79.135.100 Aquatic lands used for aquaculture production and harvesting—Rents and fees—Limitations on leases.
  - 79.135.110 Leasing beds of tidal waters for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use.
  - 79.135.120 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Who may lease—Application—Deposit.
  - 79.135.130 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Inspection and report by director of fish and wildlife—Rental and term—Commercial harvest of subtidal hardshell clams by hydraulic escalating.
  - 79.135.140 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Survey and boundary markers.
  - 79.135.150 Renewal lease—Application.
  - 79.135.160 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Reversion for use other than cultivation of shellfish.
  - 79.135.170 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Abandonment—Application for other lands.

GEODUCK HARVEST/CULTIVATION

- 79.135.200 Geoduck harvest/cultivation—Survey of navigable waters by private party—Record of survey.
- 79.135.210 Geoduck harvesting—Agreements, regulation.
- 79.135.220 Geoduck harvesting—Designation of aquatic lands.
- 79.135.230 Intensive management plan for geoducks.

OYSTER RESERVES

- 79.135.300 Lease of tidelands set aside as oyster reserves.
- 79.135.310 Inspection by director of fish and wildlife.
- 79.135.320 Vacation of reserve—Lease of lands—Designated state oyster reserve lands.

MARINE AQUATIC PLANTS

- 79.135.400 Seaweed—Marine aquatic plants defined.
- 79.135.410 Seaweed—Personal use limit—Commercial harvesting prohibited—Exception—Import restriction.
- 79.135.420 Seaweed—Harvest and possession violations—Penalties and damages.
- 79.135.430 Seaweed—Enforcement.
- 79.135.900 Savings—1982 1st ex.s. c 21.
- 79.135.901 Captions—1982 1st ex.s. c 21.
- 79.135.902 Severability—1982 1st ex.s. c 21.
- 79.135.903 Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 21 §§ 176 and 179.
- 79.135.904 Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 21.

**79.135.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** See RCW 79.105.001.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**79.135.010 Bush act/Callow act lands.** (1) A person in possession of real property conveyed by the state of Washington pursuant to the authority of chapter 24, Laws of 1895 (Bush act) or chapter 25, Laws of 1895 (Callow act), wherein such lands are subject to a possibility of reversion, shall heretofore have and are granted the further right to use all of the property for the purpose of cultivating and propagating clams and any shellfish.

(2) The rights granted under subsection (1) of this section do not include the right to use subtidal portions of Bush

act and Callow act lands for the harvest and cultivation of any species of shellfish that had not commenced prior to December 31, 2001.

(3) For the purposes of this section, harvest and cultivation of any species of shellfish shall not be deemed to have commenced unless the subtidal portions of the land had been planted with that species of shellfish prior to December 31, 2001.

(4) No vested rights in shellfish cultivation may be impaired by any of the provisions of chapter 123, Laws of 2002, nor is anything other than what is stated in subsection (2) of this section intended to grant any further rights in the subtidal lands than what was originally included under the intent of the Bush and Callow acts. [2002 c 123 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.90.570.]

**Findings—2002 c 123:** "The legislature declares that shellfish farming provides a consistent source of quality food, offers opportunities of new jobs, increases farm income stability, and improves balance of trade. The legislature also finds that many areas of the state of Washington are scientifically and biologically suitable for shellfish farming, and therefore the legislature has encouraged and promoted shellfish farming activities, programs, and development with the same status as other agricultural activities, programs, and development within the state. It being the policy of this state to encourage the development and expansion of shellfish farming within the state and to promote the development of a diverse shellfish farming industry, the legislature finds that the uncertainty surrounding reversionary clauses contained in Bush act and Callow act deeds is interfering with this policy. The legislature finds that uncertainty of the grant of rights for the claim and other shellfish culture as contained in chapter 166, Laws of 1919 must be fully and finally resolved. It is not the intent of this act to impair any vested rights in shellfish cultivation or current shellfish aquaculture activities to which holders of Bush act and Callow act lands are entitled." [2002 c 123 § 1.]

**79.135.020 Sale of reserved or reversionary rights in tidelands.** Upon an application to purchase the reserved and reversionary rights of the state in any tidelands sold under the provisions of chapter 24, Laws of 1895, or chapter 25, Laws of 1895, or chapter 165, Laws of 1919, or either the reserved or reversionary right if only one exists, being filed in the department's Olympia office by the owner of the tidelands, accompanied by an abstractor's certificate, or other evidence of the applicant's title to the lands, the department, if it finds the applicant is the owner of the tidelands, is authorized to inspect, appraise, and sell, if otherwise permitted under RCW 79.125.200, for not less than the appraised value, such reserved or reversionary rights of the state to the applicant, and upon payment of the purchase price to cause a deed to be issued as in the case of the sale of state lands, or upon the payment of one-fifth of the purchase price, to issue a contract of sale, providing that the remainder of the purchase price may be paid in four equal annual installments, with interest on deferred payments at the rate of six percent per annum, or sooner at the election of the contract holder, which contract shall be subject to cancellation by the department for failure to comply with its provisions, and upon the completion of the payments as provided in the contract to cause a deed to the lands described in the contract to be issued to the holder as in the case of the sale of state lands. [2005 c 155 § 713; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 145. Formerly RCW 79.96.120.]

**79.135.030 Wrongful taking of shellfish from public lands—Civil remedies.** (1) If a person wrongfully takes shellfish or causes shellfish to be wrongfully taken from the public lands and the wrongful taking is intentional and know-

ing, the person is liable for damages of treble the fair market retail value of the amount of shellfish wrongfully taken. If a person wrongfully takes shellfish from the public lands under other circumstances, the person is liable for damages of double the fair market value of the amount of shellfish wrongfully taken.

(2) For purposes of this section, a person "wrongfully takes" shellfish from public lands if the person takes shellfish: (a) Above the limits of any applicable laws that govern the harvest of shellfish from public lands; (b) without reporting the harvest to the department of fish and wildlife or the department where the reporting is required by law or contract; (c) outside the area or above the limits that an agreement or contract from the department allows the harvest of shellfish from public lands; or (d) without a lease or purchase of the shellfish where the lease or purchase is required by law prior to harvest of the shellfish.

(3) The remedies in this section are for civil damages and shall be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. The department may file a civil action in Thurston county superior court or the county where the shellfish were taken against any person liable under this section. Damages recovered under this section shall be applied in the same way as received under geoduck harvesting agreements authorized by RCW 79.135.210.

(4) For purposes of the remedies created by this section, the amount of shellfish wrongfully taken by a person may be established either:

(a) By surveying the aquatic lands to reasonably establish the amount of shellfish taken from the immediate area where a person is shown to have been wrongfully taking shellfish;

(b) By weighing the shellfish on board any vessel or in possession of a person shown to be wrongfully taking shellfish; or

(c) By any other evidence that reasonably establishes the amount of shellfish wrongfully taken.

The amount of shellfish established by (a) or (b) of this subsection shall be presumed to be the amount wrongfully taken unless the defendant shows by a preponderance of evidence that the shellfish were lawfully taken or that the defendant did not take the shellfish presumed to have been wrongfully taken. Whenever there is reason to believe that shellfish in the possession of any person were wrongfully taken, the department or the department of fish and wildlife may require the person to proceed to a designated off-load point and to weigh all shellfish in possession of the person or on board the person's vessel.

(5) This civil remedy is supplemental to the state's power to prosecute any person for theft of shellfish, for other crimes where shellfish are involved, or for violation of rules of the department of fish and wildlife. [2005 c 155 § 714; 1994 c 264 § 73; 1990 c 163 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.96.130.]

**79.135.040 Aquaculture products—Sale by leaseholder.** Aquaculture products produced on leased state-owned aquatic land may be sold by the leaseholder as prescribed by the department without competitive bid or public auction and consistent with statutes governing aquaculture leases on state-owned aquatic land. [2005 c 113 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was directed to be codified in chapter 79.96 RCW. However, chapter 79.96 RCW was recodified in its entirety by 2005 c 155.

#### LEASING FOR SHELLFISH CULTIVATION/AQUACULTURE USE

**79.135.100 Aquatic lands used for aquaculture production and harvesting—Rents and fees—Limitations on leases.** (1) If state-owned aquatic lands are used for aquaculture production or harvesting, rents and fees shall be established through competitive bidding or negotiation.

(2) After an initial twenty-three acres are leased, the department is prohibited from offering leases that would permit the intertidal commercial aquaculture of geoducks on more than fifteen acres of state-owned aquatic lands a [per] year until December 1, 2014.

(3) Any intertidal leases entered into by the department for geoduck aquaculture must be conditioned in such a way that the department can engage in monitoring of the environmental impacts of the lease's execution, without unreasonably diminishing the economic viability of the lease, and that the lease tracts are eligible to be made part of the studies conducted under RCW 28B.20.475.

(4) The department must notify all abutting landowners and any landowner within three hundred feet of the lands to be leased of the intent of the department to lease any intertidal lands for the purposes of geoduck aquaculture. [2007 c 216 § 3; 1984 c 221 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.90.495.]

**79.135.110 Leasing beds of tidal waters for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use.** (1) The beds of all navigable tidal waters in the state lying below extreme low tide, except as prohibited by Article XV, section 1 of the state Constitution shall be subject to lease for the purposes of planting and cultivating oyster beds, or for the purpose of cultivating clams or other edible shellfish, or for other aquaculture use, for periods not to exceed thirty years.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prevent any person from leasing more than one parcel, as offered by the department. [2005 c 155 § 701; 1993 c 295 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 134. Formerly RCW 79.96.010.]

**79.135.120 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Who may lease—Application—Deposit.** Any person desiring to lease tidelands or beds of navigable waters for the purpose of planting and cultivating oyster beds, or for the purpose of cultivating clams and other edible shellfish, shall file with the department, on a proper form, an application in writing signed by the applicant and accompanied by a map of the lands desired to be leased, describing the lands by metes and bounds tied to at least two United States government corners, and by the reference to local geography as shall suffice to convey a knowledge of the location of the lands with reasonable accuracy to persons acquainted with the vicinity, and accompanied by a deposit of ten dollars. The deposit shall be returned to the applicant in case a lease is not granted. [2005 c 155 § 702; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 135. Formerly RCW 79.96.020.]

**79.135.130 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Inspection and report by director**

(2012 Ed.)

**of fish and wildlife—Rental and term—Commercial harvest of subtidal hardshell clams by hydraulic escalating.**

(1) The department, upon the receipt of an application for a lease for the purpose of planting and cultivating oyster beds or for the purpose of cultivating clams or other edible shellfish, shall notify the director of fish and wildlife of the filing of the application describing the tidelands or beds of navigable waters applied for. The director of fish and wildlife shall cause an inspection of the lands applied for to be made and shall make a full report to the department of the director's findings as to whether it is necessary, in order to protect existing natural oyster beds, and to secure adequate seeding of the lands, to retain the lands described in the application for lease or any part of the lands, and in the event the director deems it advisable to retain the lands or any part of the lands for the protection of existing natural oyster beds or to guarantee the continuance of an adequate seed stock for existing natural oyster beds, the lands shall not be subject to lease. However, if the director determines that the lands applied for or any part of the lands may be leased, the director shall so notify the department and the director shall cause an examination of the lands to be made to determine the presence, if any, of natural oysters, clams, or other edible shellfish on the lands, and to fix the rental value of the lands for use for oyster, clam, or other edible shellfish cultivation. In the report to the department, the director shall recommend a minimum rental for the lands and an estimation of the value of the oysters, clams, or other edible shellfish, if any, then present on the lands applied for. The lands approved by the director for lease may then be leased to the applicant for a period of not less than five years nor more than ten years at a rental not less than the minimum rental recommended by the director of fish and wildlife. In addition, before entering upon possession of the land, the applicant shall pay the value of the oysters, clams, or other edible shellfish, if any, then present on the land as determined by the director, plus the expense incurred by the director in investigating the quantity of oysters, clams, or other edible shellfish, present on the land applied for.

(2) When issuing new leases or reissuing existing leases the department shall not permit the commercial harvest of subtidal hardshell clams by means of hydraulic escalating when the upland within five hundred feet of any lease tract is zoned for residential development. [2005 c 155 § 703; 1994 c 264 § 68; 1987 c 374 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 136. Formerly RCW 79.96.030.]

**79.135.140 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Survey and boundary markers.**

Before entering into possession of any leased tidelands or beds of navigable waters, the applicant shall have the lands surveyed by a registered land surveyor, and the applicant shall furnish to the department and to the director of fish and wildlife, a map of the leased premises signed and certified by the registered land surveyor. The lessee shall also mark the boundaries of the leased premises by piling monuments or other markers of a permanent nature as the director of fish and wildlife may direct. [2005 c 155 § 704; 1994 c 264 § 69; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 137. Formerly RCW 79.96.040.]

**79.135.150 Renewal lease—Application.** The department may, upon the filing of an application for a renewal

lease, inspect the tidelands or beds of navigable waters, and if the department deems it in the best interests of the state to release the lands, the department shall issue to the applicant a renewal lease for a further period not exceeding thirty years and under the terms and conditions as may be determined by the department. However, in the case of an application for a renewal lease it shall not be necessary for the lands to be inspected and reported upon by the director of fish and wildlife. [2005 c 155 § 705; 1994 c 264 § 70; 1993 c 295 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 138. Formerly RCW 79.96.050.]

**79.135.160 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Reversion for use other than cultivation of shellfish.** All leases of tidelands and beds of navigable waters for the purpose of planting and cultivating oysters, clams, or other edible shellfish shall expressly provide that if at any time after the granting of the lease, the described lands shall cease to be used for the purpose of oyster beds, clam beds, or other edible shellfish beds, they shall revert to and become the property of the state and that the lands are leased only for the purpose of cultivating oysters, clams, or other edible shellfish thereon, and that the state reserves the right to enter upon and take possession of the lands if at any time the lands are used for any other purpose than the cultivation of oysters, clams, or other edible shellfish. [2005 c 155 § 706; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 139. Formerly RCW 79.96.060.]

**79.135.170 Leasing lands for shellfish cultivation or other aquaculture use—Abandonment—Application for other lands.** If from any cause any lands leased for the purpose of planting and cultivating oysters, clams, or other edible shellfish become unfit and valueless for any such purposes, the lessee or the lessee's assigns, upon certifying the fact under oath to the department, together with the fact that the lessee has abandoned the land, shall be entitled to make application for other lands for such purposes. [2005 c 155 § 707; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 140. Formerly RCW 79.96.070.]

#### GEODUCK HARVEST/CULTIVATION

**79.135.200 Geoduck harvest/cultivation--Survey of navigable waters by private party--Record of survey.** Beds of navigable waters held under contract or deed from the state of Washington upon which a private party is harvesting or cultivating geoduck shall be surveyed by the private party and a record of survey filed in compliance with chapter 58.09 RCW prior to harvest. Property corners will be placed in sufficient quantity and location to aid in relocation of the oyster tract lines occurring or extending below extreme low tide. Buoys on anchors must be placed intervisibly along and at angle points on any ownership boundaries that extend below extreme low tide, for the harvest term. The survey of privately owned beds of navigable waters will be established on the Washington coordinate system in compliance with chapter 58.20 RCW and property corners labeled with their coordinates on the record of survey. [2002 c 123 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.96.140.]

**Findings—2002 c 123:** See note following RCW 79.135.010.

**79.135.210 Geoduck harvesting—Agreements, regulation.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 79.135.040, geo-

[Title 79 RCW—page 120]

ducks shall be sold as valuable materials under the provisions of \*chapter 79.90 RCW. After confirmation of the sale, the department may enter into an agreement with the purchaser for the harvesting of geoducks. The department may place terms and conditions in the harvesting agreements as the department deems necessary. The department may enforce the provisions of any harvesting agreement by suspending or canceling the harvesting agreement or through any other means contained in the harvesting agreement. Any geoduck harvester may terminate a harvesting agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection if actions of a governmental agency, beyond the control of the harvester, its agents, or its employees, prohibit harvesting, for a period exceeding thirty days during the term of the harvesting agreement, except as provided within the agreement. Upon termination of the agreement by the harvester, the harvester shall be reimbursed by the department for the cost paid to the department on the agreement, less the value of the harvest already accomplished by the harvester under the agreement.

(2) Harvesting agreements under this title for the purpose of harvesting geoducks shall require the harvester and the harvester's agent or representatives to comply with all applicable commercial diving safety standards and regulations promulgated and implemented by the federal occupational safety and health administration established under the federal occupational safety and health act of 1970 as the law exists or as amended (84 Stat. 1590 et seq.; 29 U.S.C. Sec. 651 et seq.). However, for the purposes of this section and RCW 77.60.070, all persons who dive for geoducks are deemed to be employees as defined by the federal occupational safety and health act. All harvesting agreements shall provide that failure to comply with these standards is cause for suspension or cancellation of the harvesting agreement. Further, for the purposes of this subsection if the harvester contracts with another person or entity for the harvesting of geoducks, the harvesting agreement shall not be suspended or canceled if the harvester terminates its business relationship with such an entity until compliance with this subsection is secured. [2005 c 155 § 708; 2005 c 113 § 3; 2003 c 39 § 43; 1990 c 163 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 141. Formerly RCW 79.96.080.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Chapter 79.90 RCW was recodified and/or repealed in its entirety by 2005 c 155.

(2) This section was amended by 2005 c 113 § 3 and by 2005 c 155 § 708, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**79.135.220 Geoduck harvesting—Designation of aquatic lands.** The department shall designate the areas of state-owned aquatic lands that are available for geoduck harvesting by licensed geoduck harvesters in accordance with \*chapter 79.90 RCW. [2005 c 155 § 709; 1990 c 163 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 129; 1979 ex.s. c 141 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.96.085, 75.28.286.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 79.90 RCW was recodified and/or repealed in its entirety by 2005 c 155.

*Commercial harvesting of geoducks: RCW 77.60.070, 77.65.410.*

**79.135.230 Intensive management plan for geoducks.** The department may enter into agreements with the department of fish and wildlife for the development of an intensive management plan for geoducks including the development

and operation of a geoduck hatchery. [2005 c 155 § 718; 1994 c 264 § 74; 1984 c 221 § 26. Formerly RCW 79.96.906.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### OYSTER RESERVES

**79.135.300 Lease of tidelands set aside as oyster reserves.** The department is authorized to lease first or second-class tidelands which have been or that are set aside as state oyster reserves in the same manner as provided elsewhere in this chapter for the lease of those lands. [2005 c 155 § 710; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 142. Formerly RCW 79.96.090.]

**79.135.310 Inspection by director of fish and wildlife.** The department, upon the receipt of an application for the lease of any first or second-class state-owned tidelands that are set aside as state oyster reserves, shall notify the director of fish and wildlife of the filing of the application describing the lands applied for. It is the duty of the director of fish and wildlife to inspect the reserve for the purpose of determining whether the reserve or any part of the reserve should be retained as a state oyster reserve or vacated. [2005 c 155 § 711; 1994 c 264 § 71; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 143. Formerly RCW 79.96.100.]

**79.135.320 Vacation of reserve—Lease of lands—Designated state oyster reserve lands.** (1) In the event that the fish and wildlife commission approves the vacation of the whole or any part of a reserve, the department may vacate and offer for lease the parts or all of the reserve as it deems to be for the best interest of the state, and all moneys received for the lease of the lands shall be paid to the department.

(2) Notwithstanding RCW 77.60.020, subsection (1) of this section, or any other provision of state law, the state oyster reserves in Eld Inlet, Hammersley Inlet, or Totten Inlet, situated in Mason or Thurston counties shall permanently be designated as state oyster reserve lands. [2005 c 155 § 712; 2001 c 273 § 4; 2000 c 11 § 30; 1994 c 264 § 72; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 144. Formerly RCW 79.96.110.]

#### MARINE AQUATIC PLANTS

**79.135.400 Seaweed—Marine aquatic plants defined.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definition in this section applies throughout this chapter.

"Marine aquatic plants" means saltwater marine plant species that are dependent upon the marine aquatic or tidal environment, and exist in either an attached or free-floating state. Marine aquatic plants include but are not limited to seaweed of the classes Chlorophyta, Phaeophyta, and Rhodophyta. [1993 c 283 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.96.200, 79.01.800.]

**Findings—1993 c 283:** "The legislature finds that the plant resources of marine aquatic ecosystems have inherent value and provide essential habitat. These resources are also becoming increasingly valuable as economic commodities and may be declining. The legislature further finds that the regulation of harvest of these resources is currently inadequate to afford necessary protection." [1993 c 283 § 1.]

**79.135.410 Seaweed—Personal use limit—Commercial harvesting prohibited—Exception—Import restric-**

**tion.** (1) The maximum daily wet weight harvest or possession of seaweed for personal use from all state-owned aquatic lands and all privately owned tidelands is ten pounds per person. The department in cooperation with the department of fish and wildlife may establish seaweed harvest limits of less than ten pounds for conservation purposes. This section shall in no way affect the ability of any state agency to prevent harvest of any species of marine aquatic plant from lands under its control, ownership, or management.

(2) Except as provided under subsection (3) of this section, commercial harvesting of seaweed from state-owned aquatic lands, and all privately owned tidelands is prohibited. This subsection shall in no way affect commercial seaweed aquaculture.

(3) Upon mutual approval by the department and the department of fish and wildlife, seaweed species of the genus *Macrocystis* may be commercially harvested for use in the herring spawn-on-kelp fishery.

(4) Importation of seaweed species of the genus *Macrocystis* into Washington state for the herring spawn-on-kelp fishery is subject to the fish and shellfish disease control policies of the department of fish and wildlife. *Macrocystis* shall not be imported from areas with fish or shellfish diseases associated with organisms that are likely to be transported with *Macrocystis*. The department shall incorporate this policy on *Macrocystis* importation into its overall fish and shellfish disease control policies. [2005 c 155 § 715; 2003 c 334 § 442; 1996 c 46 § 1; 1994 c 286 § 1; 1993 c 283 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.96.210, 79.01.805.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Findings—1993 c 283:** See note following RCW 79.135.400.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.135.420 Seaweed—Harvest and possession violations—Penalties and damages.** (1) It is unlawful to exceed the harvest and possession restrictions imposed under RCW 79.135.410.

(2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor, and a violation taking place on state-owned aquatic lands is subject to the provisions of RCW 79.02.300.

(3) A person committing a violation of this section on private tidelands which he or she owns is liable to the state for treble the amount of damages to the seaweed resource, and a person trespassing on privately owned tidelands and committing a violation of this section is liable to the private tideland owner for treble the amount of damages to the seaweed resource. Damages recoverable include, but are not limited to, damages for the market value of the seaweed, for injury to the aquatic ecosystem, and for the costs of restoration. In addition, the person is liable for reimbursing the injured party for the party's reasonable costs, including but not limited to investigative costs and reasonable attorneys' fees and other litigation-related costs. [2005 c 155 § 716. Prior: 2003 c 334 § 443; 2003 c 53 § 380; 1994 c 286 § 2; 1993 c 283 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.96.220, 79.01.810.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Findings—1993 c 283:** See note following RCW 79.135.400.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.135.430 Seaweed—Enforcement.** The department of fish and wildlife and law enforcement authorities may enforce the provisions of RCW 79.135.410 and 79.135.420. [2005 c 155 § 717; 2003 c 334 § 444; 1994 c 286 § 3; 1993 c 283 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.96.230, 79.01.815.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**Findings—1993 c 283:** See note following RCW 79.135.400.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79.135.900 Savings—1982 1st ex.s. c 21.** The enactment of this act including all repeals, decodifications, and amendments shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under the statutes repealed, decodified, or amended or under any rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto; nor as affecting any proceeding instituted thereunder. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 181. Formerly RCW 79.96.901.]

**79.135.901 Captions—1982 1st ex.s. c 21.** Chapter and section headings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 182. Formerly RCW 79.96.902.]

**79.135.902 Severability—1982 1st ex.s. c 21.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 184. Formerly RCW 79.96.903.]

**79.135.903 Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 21 §§ 176 and 179.** Sections 176 (amending RCW 79.01.525) and 179 (creating a new section providing for an aquatic lands joint legislative committee) of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 185. Formerly RCW 79.96.904.]

**79.135.904 Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 21.** Except as provided in \*RCW 79.96.904, this act shall take effect July 1, 1983. [1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 186. Formerly RCW 79.96.905.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79.96.904 was recodified as RCW 79.135.903 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1010.

## Chapter 79.140 RCW

### AQUATIC LANDS—VALUABLE MATERIALS

#### Sections

79.140.001 Intent—2005 c 155.

#### SALE PROCEDURE

79.140.010 Manner of sale—Notice.  
 79.140.020 List of valuable materials.  
 79.140.030 Expenditures for advertising.  
 79.140.040 Reoffer of sale—Readvertised.  
 79.140.050 Sale by public auction/sealed bid—Exception.  
 79.140.060 Determination of highest responsible bidder.  
 79.140.070 Sales by public auction—Procedure.  
 79.140.080 Confirmation of sale.

#### SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LEASES

79.140.100 Valuable materials from Columbia river—Agreements with Oregon.  
 79.140.110 Material removed for channel or harbor improvement or flood control—Use for public purpose.  
 79.140.130 Prior appraisal required.  
 79.140.140 Bill of sale for valuable material sold separately.  
 79.140.150 Sale of rock, gravel, sand, silt, and other valuable materials.  
 79.140.160 Sale of rock, gravel, sand, and silt—Application—Terms of lease or contract—Bond—Payment—Reports.  
 79.140.170 Sale of rock, gravel, sand, and silt—Investigation, audit of books of person removing.  
 79.140.180 Contract for sale of rock, gravel, etc.—Royalties—Consideration of flood protection value.  
 79.140.190 Leases and permits for prospecting and contracts for mining valuable minerals and specific materials from aquatic lands.  
 79.140.200 Option contracts for prospecting and leases for mining and extraction of coal from aquatic lands.  
 79.140.210 Mount St. Helens dredge spoils or materials.

**79.140.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** See RCW 79.105.001.

#### SALE PROCEDURE

**79.140.010 Manner of sale—Notice.** (1) When the department decides to sell any valuable materials situated within or upon any state-owned aquatic lands, it is the duty of the department to fix the date, place, and time of sale, and no sale shall be had on any day that is a legal holiday.

(2) The department shall give notice of the sale by advertisement published once a week for four consecutive weeks immediately preceding the date fixed for sale in the notice, in at least one newspaper published and of general circulation in the county in which the whole or any part of any lot, block, or tract of land containing the valuable material to be sold is situated, and by causing a copy of the notice to be posted in a conspicuous place in the department's Olympia office and the region headquarters administering the sale.

(3) The notice shall: (a) Specify the place and time of sale; (b) estimate the volume of valuable materials; (c) state the appraised value; (d) describe with particularity each parcel of land from which valuable materials are to be sold; and (e) specify that the terms of sale will be posted in the area headquarters and the department's Olympia office. [2005 c 155 § 801. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.170.]

**79.140.020 List of valuable materials.** The department shall print a list of valuable materials contained within or upon state-owned aquatic lands, giving appraised value, character of the land, and such other information as may be of interest to prospective buyers. The lists must be issued at least four weeks prior to the date of any sale. The department shall retain for free distribution in its office in Olympia and the regional offices sufficient copies of the lists, to be kept in a conspicuous place or receptacle on the counter of the general and regional office of the department, and, when requested, shall mail copies of the list as issued to any applicant. [2005 c 155 § 802. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.180.]

**79.140.030 Expenditures for advertising.** The department is authorized to expend any sum in additional advertising of the sale as is determined to be in the best interests of the state. [2005 c 155 § 803. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.190.]

**79.140.040 Reoffer of sale—Readvertised.** Any sale that has been offered, and for which there are no bids received, shall not be reoffered until it has been readvertised as specified in RCW 79.140.010 through 79.140.030. If all sales cannot be offered within the specified time on the advertised date, the sale shall continue on the following day between the hours of ten o'clock a.m. and four o'clock p.m. [2005 c 155 § 804. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.200.]

**79.140.050 Sale by public auction/sealed bid—Exception.** All sales of valuable materials shall be at public auction or by sealed bid to the highest responsible bidder, on the terms prescribed by law and as specified in the notice provided, and no land or materials shall be sold for less than their appraised value. However:

(1) When valuable material has been appraised at an amount not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, the department, when authorized by the board, may arrange for the sale at public auction of said valuable material and for its removal under such terms and conditions as the department may prescribe, after the department shall have caused to be published not less than ten days prior to sale a notice of such sale in a newspaper of general circulation located nearest to the property to be sold;

(2) Any sale of valuable material on state-owned aquatic lands of an appraised value of ten thousand dollars or less may be sold directly to the applicant for cash without notice or advertising. [2005 c 155 § 805. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.210.]

*Sales of aquaculture products by a leaseholder: RCW 79.135.040.*

**79.140.060 Determination of highest responsible bidder.** (1) To determine the "highest responsible bidder" under RCW 79.140.050, the department shall be entitled to consider, in addition to price, the following:

(a) The financial and technical ability of the bidder to perform the contract;

(b) Whether the bid contains material defects;

(c) Whether the bidder has previously or is currently complying with terms and conditions of any other contracts with the state or relevant contracts with entities other than the state;

(d) Whether the bidder was the "highest responsible bidder" for a sale within the previous five years but failed to complete the sale, such as by not entering into a resulting contract or by not paying the difference between the deposit and the total amount due. However, sales that were bid prior to January 1, 2003, may not be considered for the purposes of this subsection (1)(d);

(e) Whether the bidder has been convicted of a crime relating to the public lands or natural resources of the state of Washington, the United States, or any other state, tribe, or country, where "conviction" includes a guilty plea, or unvacated forfeiture of bail;

(f) Whether the bidder is owned, controlled, or managed by any person, partnership, or corporation that is not responsible under this statute; and

(g) Whether the subcontractors of the bidder, if any, are responsible under this statute.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) Whenever the department has reason to believe that the apparent high bidder is not a responsible bidder, the department may award the sale to the next responsible bidder or the department may reject all bids pursuant to RCW 79.140.080. [2005 c 155 § 806. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.215.]

**79.140.070 Sales by public auction—Procedure.** (1) Sales by public auction under this chapter shall be conducted under the direction of the department, by its authorized representative. The department's representatives are referred to as auctioneers.

(2) On or before the time specified in the notice of sale each bidder shall deposit with the auctioneer, in cash or by certified check, cashier's check, or postal money order payable to the order of the department, or by bid guarantee in the form of bid bond acceptable to the department, an amount equal to the deposit specified in the notice of sale. The deposit shall include a specified amount of the appraised price for the valuable materials offered for sale, together with any fee required by law for the issuance of contracts or bills of sale. The deposit may, when prescribed in the notice of sale, be considered an opening bid of an amount not less than the minimum appraised price established in the notice of sale. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained by the auctioneer and the difference, if any, between the deposit and the total amount due shall on the day of the sale be paid in cash, certified check, cashier's check, draft, postal money order, or by personal check made payable to the department. If a bid bond is used, the share of the total deposit due guaranteed by the bid bond shall, within ten days of the day of sale, be paid in cash, certified check, cashier's check, draft, or postal money order payable to the department. Other deposits, if any, shall be returned to the respective bidders at the conclusion of each sale.

(3) The auctioneer shall deliver to the purchaser a memorandum of purchase containing a description of the materials purchased, the price bid, and the terms of the sale.

(4) The auctioneer shall at once send to the department the cash, certified check, cashier's check, draft, postal money order, or bid guarantee received from the purchaser, and a copy of the memorandum delivered to the purchaser, together with such additional report of the auctioneer's proceedings with reference to the sales as may be required by the department. [2005 c 155 § 807. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.220.]

**79.140.080 Confirmation of sale.** (1) A sale of valuable materials shall be confirmed if:

(a) No affidavit showing that the interest of the state in such a sale was injuriously affected by fraud or collusion, is filed with the department's Olympia office within ten days from the receipt of the report of the auctioneer conducting the sale;

(b) It appears from the report that the sale was fairly conducted, that the purchaser was the highest responsible bidder at the sale, and that the sale price is not less than the appraised value of the property sold;

(c) The department is satisfied that the material sold would not, upon being readvertised and offered for sale, sell for a substantially higher price; and

(d) The payment required by law to be made at the time of making the sale has been made, and that the best interests of the state are being served.

(2) Upon confirming a sale, the department shall enter upon its records the confirmation of sale and issue to the purchaser a contract of sale or bill of sale as the case may be, as is provided for in this chapter. [2005 c 155 § 808. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.240.]

#### SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LEASES

**79.140.100 Valuable materials from Columbia river—Agreements with Oregon.** The department is authorized and empowered to confer with and enter into any agreements with the public authorities of the state of Oregon, which in the judgment of the department will assist the state of Washington and the state of Oregon in securing the maximum revenues for sand, gravel, or other valuable materials taken from the bed of the Columbia river where the river forms the boundary line between the states. [2005 c 155 § 109; 1991 c 322 § 24; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 19. Formerly RCW 79.90.130.]

**Findings—Intent—1991 c 322:** See note following RCW 86.12.200.

**79.140.110 Material removed for channel or harbor improvement or flood control—Use for public purpose.** When gravel, rock, sand, silt, or other material from any state-owned aquatic lands is removed by any public agency or under public contract for channel or harbor improvement, or flood control, use of the material may be authorized by the department for a public purpose on land owned or leased by the state or any municipality, county, or public corporation. However, when no public land site is available for deposit of the material, its deposit on private land with the landowner's permission is authorized and may be designated by the department to be for a public purpose. Prior to removal and use, the state agency, municipality, county, or public corporation contemplating or arranging the use shall first obtain written permission from the department. No payment of royalty shall be required for the gravel, rock, sand, silt, or other material used for the public purpose, but a charge will be made if the material is subsequently sold or used for some other purpose. Further, the department may authorize the public agency or private landowner to dispose of the material without charge when necessary to implement disposal of material. No charge shall be required for any use of the material obtained under the provisions of this chapter when used solely on an authorized site. No charge shall be required for any use of the material obtained under the provisions of this chapter if the material is used for public purposes by local governments. Public purposes include, but are not limited to, construction and maintenance of roads, dikes, and levies. Nothing in this section shall repeal or modify the provisions of \*RCW 77.55.100 or eliminate the necessity of obtaining a permit for the removal from other state or federal agencies as otherwise required by law. [2005 c 155 § 110; 2003 c 39 § 41; 1991 c 337 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 21. Formerly RCW 79.90.150.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 77.55.100 was repealed by 2005 c 146 § 1006. For later enactment, see RCW 77.55.021.

**79.140.130 Prior appraisal required.** In no case shall any valuable materials situated within or upon any tidelands, shorelands, or beds of navigable waters belonging to the state, be offered for sale unless the same shall have been appraised by the department of natural resources within ninety days prior to the date fixed for the sale. [2005 c 155 § 809. FORMERLY PART OF RCW 79.90.110.]

**79.140.140 Bill of sale for valuable material sold separately.** When valuable materials are sold separate from state-owned aquatic lands and the purchase price is paid in full, the department shall cause a bill of sale, signed by the commissioner and attested by the seal of the commissioner's office, setting forth the time within which the material shall be removed. The bill of sale shall be issued to the purchaser and shall be recorded in the department's Olympia office, upon the payment of the fee provided for in this chapter. [2005 c 155 § 126; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 35. Formerly RCW 79.90.290.]

**79.140.150 Sale of rock, gravel, sand, silt, and other valuable materials.** The department, upon application by any person or when determined by the department to be in the best interest of the state, may enter into a contract or lease providing for the removal and sale of rock, gravel, sand, and silt, or other valuable materials located within or upon beds of navigable waters, or upon any state-owned tidelands or shorelands and providing for payment to be made by such royalty as the department may fix, by negotiation, by sealed bid, or at public auction. If application is made for the purchase of any valuable material situated within or upon state-owned aquatic lands the department shall inspect and appraise the value of the material in the application. [2005 c 155 § 127; 1991 c 322 § 26; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 36. Formerly RCW 79.90.300.]

**Findings—Intent—1991 c 322:** See note following RCW 86.12.200.

**79.140.160 Sale of rock, gravel, sand, and silt—Application—Terms of lease or contract—Bond—Payment—Reports.** Each application made pursuant to RCW 79.140.150 shall set forth the estimated quantity and kind of materials desired to be removed and shall be accompanied by a map or plat showing the area from which the applicant wishes to remove the materials. The department may in its discretion include in any lease or contract entered into pursuant to RCW 79.140.150 through 79.140.170, terms and conditions deemed necessary by the department to protect the interests of the state. In each lease or contract the department shall provide for a right of forfeiture by the state, upon a failure to operate under the lease or contract or pay royalties or rent for periods therein stipulated, and the department shall require a bond with a surety company authorized to transact a surety business in this state, as surety to secure the performance of the terms and conditions of the contract or lease including the payment of royalties. The right of forfeiture shall be exercised by entry of a declaration of forfeiture in the records of the department. The amount of rock, gravel, sand, or silt taken under the contract or lease shall be reported monthly by the purchaser to the department and payment made on the basis of the royalty provided in the lease or con-

tract. [2005 c 155 § 128; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 37. Formerly RCW 79.90.310.]

**79.140.170 Sale of rock, gravel, sand, and silt—Investigation, audit of books of person removing.** The department may inspect and audit books, contracts, and accounts of each person removing rock, gravel, sand, or silt pursuant to any lease or contract under RCW 79.140.150 and 79.140.160 and make such other investigation and secure or receive any other evidence necessary to determine whether or not the state is being paid the full amount payable to it for the removal of the materials. [2005 c 155 § 129; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 38. Formerly RCW 79.90.320.]

**79.140.180 Contract for sale of rock, gravel, etc.—Royalties—Consideration of flood protection value.** Whenever, pursuant to RCW 79.15.300, the department enters into a contract for the sale and removal of rock, gravel, sand, or silt out of a riverbed, the department shall, when establishing a royalty, take into consideration flood protection value to the public that will arise as a result of the removal. [2005 c 155 § 130; 2003 c 334 § 602; 1984 c 212 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.90.325, 79.01.135.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.140.190 Leases and permits for prospecting and contracts for mining valuable minerals and specific materials from aquatic lands.** The department may issue permits and leases for prospecting, placer mining contracts, and contracts for the mining of valuable minerals and specific materials, except rock, gravel, sand, silt, coal, or hydrocarbons, upon and from any state-owned aquatic lands, or which have been sold and the minerals reserved by the state in tracts not to exceed six hundred forty acres or an entire government-surveyed section. The procedures contained at RCW 79.14.300 through 79.14.450, inclusive, shall apply. [2005 c 155 § 131; 2003 c 334 § 603; 1987 c 20 § 16; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 39. Formerly RCW 79.90.330.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.140.200 Option contracts for prospecting and leases for mining and extraction of coal from aquatic lands.** The department is authorized to execute option contracts for prospecting purposes and leases for the mining and extraction of coal from any state-owned aquatic lands or from which it may acquire title, or from any aquatic lands sold or leased by the state the minerals of which have been reserved by the state. The procedures contained at RCW 79.14.470 through 79.14.580, inclusive, shall apply. [2005 c 155 § 132; 2003 c 334 § 604; 1982 1st ex.s. c 21 § 40. Formerly RCW 79.90.340.]

**Intent—2003 c 334:** See note following RCW 79.02.010.

**79.140.210 Mount St. Helens dredge spoils or materials.** (1)(a) The legislature finds and declares that an extraordinary volume of material washed down onto beds of navigable waters and shorelands in the Toutle river, Coweeman river, and portions of the Cowlitz river following the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980.

(b) The legislature further finds that the owners of private lands located near the impacted rivers were authorized to

(2012 Ed.)

sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of any dredge spoils removed from the river between the years of 1980 and 1995 without the necessity of any charge by the department.

(c) The legislature further finds that the dredging activities following the eruption of Mount St. Helens are no longer adequate to protect engineered structures on the affected rivers or the public health and safety of the communities located in proximity to the affected rivers. Future river dredging will be necessary as part of managing the post-eruption state of the rivers, and with the commencement of new dredging activities, the underlying conditions leading to the previous authority for private landowners to dispose of the dredged materials without the necessity of any charge by the department are replicated.

(d) The legislature further finds that just as between the years of 1980 and 1995, the dredge spoils placed upon adjacent publicly and privately owned property in the affected areas, if further disposed, will be of nominal value to the state and that it is in the best interests of the state to allow further disposal without charge.

(2) All dredge spoil or materials removed from the state-owned beds and shores of the Toutle river, Coweeman river, and that portion of the Cowlitz river from two miles above the confluence of the Toutle river to its mouth deposited on adjacent public and private lands before December 31, 2035, as a result of dredging the affected rivers for navigation and flood control purposes that as of June 10, 2010, have not been sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of by owners of the lands, may be sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of by owners of the lands without the necessity of any charge by the department and free and clear of any interest of the department. [2010 c 57 § 1; 2009 c 426 § 1.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 57:** "This act applies to all dredge spoil or materials removed from the state-owned beds and shores of the Toutle river, Coweeman river, and that portion of the Cowlitz river from two miles above the confluence of the Toutle river to its mouth deposited on adjacent public and private lands as a result of dredging the affected rivers for navigation and flood control purposes following the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980 that, as of June 10, 2010, have not been sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of by owners of the lands. To this extent, this act applies retroactively, but in all other respects it applies prospectively." [2010 c 57 § 2.]

## Chapter 79.145 RCW MARINE PLASTIC DEBRIS

### Sections

79.145.001	Intent—2005 c 155.
79.145.010	Intent.
79.145.020	Definitions.
79.145.030	Coordinating implementation—Rules.
79.145.040	Agreements with other entities.
79.145.050	Employees—Information clearinghouse contracts.
79.145.060	Grants, funds, or gifts.
79.145.900	Severability—1989 c 23.

**79.145.001 Intent—2005 c 155.** See RCW 79.105.001.

**79.145.010 Intent.** The legislature finds that the public health and safety is threatened by an increase in the amount of plastic garbage being deposited in the waters and on the shores of the state. To address this growing problem, the commissioner appointed the marine plastic debris task force

which presented a state action plan in October 1988. It is necessary for the state of Washington to implement the action plan in order to:

- (1) Cleanup and prevent further pollution of the state's waters and aquatic lands;
- (2) Increase public awareness;
- (3) Coordinate federal, state, local, and private efforts;
- (4) Foster the stewardship of the aquatic lands of the state. [2005 c 155 § 901; 1989 c 23 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.97.010, 79.81.010.]

**79.145.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Department" means the department of natural resources.
- (2) "Action plan" means the marine plastic debris action plan of October 1988 as presented to the commissioner by the marine plastic debris task force. [2005 c 155 § 902; 1989 c 23 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.97.020, 79.81.020.]

**79.145.030 Coordinating implementation—Rules.**

The department shall have the authority to coordinate implementation of the action plan with appropriate state agencies including the parks and recreation commission and the departments of ecology and fish and wildlife. The department is authorized to adopt, in consultation with affected agencies, the necessary rules to provide for the cleanup and to prevent pollution of the waters of the state and aquatic lands by plastic and other marine debris. [2005 c 155 § 903; 1994 c 264 § 65; 1989 c 23 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.97.030, 79.81.030.]

**79.145.040 Agreements with other entities.**

The department may enter into intergovernmental agreements with federal or state agencies and agreements with private parties deemed necessary by the department to carry out the provisions of this chapter. [1989 c 23 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.97.040, 79.81.040.]

**79.145.050 Employees—Information clearinghouse contracts.**

The department is the designated agency to coordinate implementation of the action plan and is authorized to hire such employees as are necessary to coordinate the action plan among state and federal agencies, the private sector, and interested public groups and organizations. The department is authorized to contract, through an open bidding process, with interested parties to act as the information clearinghouse for marine plastic debris related issues. [2005 c 155 § 904; 1989 c 23 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.97.050, 79.81.050.]

**79.145.060 Grants, funds, or gifts.**

The department is authorized to accept, receive, disburse, and administer grants or funds or gifts from any source including private individuals, public entities, and the federal government to supplement the funds appropriated to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [2005 c 155 § 905; 1989 c 23 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.97.060, 79.81.060.]

**79.145.900 Severability—1989 c 23.**

If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the

provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1989 c 23 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.97.900, 79.81.900.]

### Chapter 79.150 RCW FOREST BIOMASS MATERIALS LOCATED ON STATE LANDS

#### Sections

- 79.150.010 Findings.
- 79.150.020 List of potential sources of forest biomass on state lands.
- 79.150.030 Forest biomass supply contracts.
- 79.150.040 Lease of state land for resource use derived from biomass.
- 79.150.050 Evaluation of supply agreements under RCW 79.150.030 and 79.150.040—Report to the legislature—Demonstration project authorized.

**79.150.010 Findings.** The legislature finds that the utilization of forest biomass materials located on state lands will assist in achieving the purposes of the forest biomass energy demonstration project under RCW 43.30.835, facilitate and support the emerging forest biomass market and clean energy economy, and enable the department to encourage biomass energy development on state trust lands for the trust land's potential long-term benefits to trust beneficiaries. The legislature finds that biomass utilization on state forest lands must be accomplished in a manner that retains organic components of the forest necessary to restore or sustain forest ecological functions. [2010 c 126 § 1.]

**79.150.020 List of potential sources of forest biomass on state lands.**

(1) The department may maintain a list of all potential sources of forest biomass on state lands for the purposes of identifying and making forest biomass, as defined in RCW 79.02.010, available for sale, exploration, collection, processing, storage, stockpiling, and conversion into energy, biofuels, for use in a biorefinery, or any other similar use. Prior to entering an agreement authorized by RCW 79.150.030(1) or 79.150.040, the department shall complete an inventory of the available biomass in the area that will be subject to the agreement, except that no inventory will be required as a prerequisite for demonstration projects authorized pursuant to RCW 43.30.835. The inventory must contain, at a minimum, an estimated amount of the forest biomass available in the area that will be subject to the agreement and a determination of the ecological and operational sustainability of the volumetric limit established by the agreement under RCW 79.150.030(5).

(2) The data developed for each inventoried area will be compiled for the list authorized by this section. In order to utilize the list to limit or terminate any agreement authorized under chapter 126, Laws of 2010, the department must determine that the overall supply of forest biomass in a region or watershed has been reduced to a point such that further exploration and collection of forest biomass may not be ecologically or operationally sustainable or might otherwise threaten long-term forest health. [2010 c 126 § 2.]

**79.150.030 Forest biomass supply contracts.**

(1) The department is authorized to enter forest biomass supply contracts on terms and conditions acceptable to the department for terms of up to five years, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, for the purpose of providing a supply of

forest biomass during the term of the contract except as the term of the contract may be limited under subsection (2) of this section, provided that such a contract must terminate automatically upon the removal of the agreed volume of biomass and the completion of other conditions of the contract.

(2) The department may authorize the sale of forest biomass in a contract for the sale of valuable materials under chapter 79.15 RCW provided that the department complies with the provisions of this chapter and: (a) Requires a separate bid and selects an apparent highest bidder for the forest biomass separately from the sale of valuable materials; (b) expressly includes forest biomass as an element of the sale of the valuable materials to be sold in the sales contract; or (c) a combination of (a) and (b) of this subsection. The term of the contract for the removal of biomass, if the sale is made in conformance with this subsection, must not exceed the term of the contract for valuable materials sold under chapter 79.15 RCW.

(3) The department may: (a) Enter into direct sales contracts for forest biomass, without public auction, based upon procedures adopted by the board to ensure competitive market prices and accountability; or (b) enter into contracts for forest biomass at public auction or by sealed bid to the highest bidder in a manner consistent with the sale procedures established for the sale of valuable materials in chapter 79.15 RCW or as may be adopted by the board.

(4) In the event a contracting entity makes a qualifying capital investment of fifty million dollars or more, the department may enter into an agreement for up to fifteen years. Such an agreement must include provisions that are periodically adjusted for market conditions. In addition, the conditions of the contract must include provisions that allow the department, when in the best interest of trust beneficiaries, to maintain the availability of biomass resources on state lands to existing pulp and paper operations or other existing biomass processing operations that are using such resources, in quantities typical for the period of five years preceding June 10, 2010. For the purposes of this section, "qualifying capital investment" means a planned and committed investment at the time the contract is set with the requirement that at least fifty million dollars be invested before the removal of any biomass under the contract.

(5) The department must specify in each contract an annual volumetric limit of the total cubic volume or tons of forest biomass to be supplied from a specific unit, geographically delineated area, or region within a watershed or watersheds on an ecologically and operationally sustainable basis. The department shall adopt general procedures for making the biomass supply availability determinations under this subsection. The procedures must be written to ensure that biomass utilization on forest lands managed by the department is accomplished in a manner that retains organic components of the forest necessary to restore or sustain forest ecological functions. The department shall develop utilization standards and operational methods in recognition of the variability of on-site conditions. The department may unilaterally amend the volume to be supplied by providing the contracting party with a minimum of six months notice prior to reducing the contract volume to be supplied if the department determines, under RCW 79.150.020, that the available supply has been reduced to a point such that further removal of forest

biomass may not be ecologically or operationally sustainable or may adversely affect long-term forest health.

(6) At the expiration of the contract term, the department may renew the contract for up to three additional five year periods on terms and conditions acceptable to the department, if the department finds: (a) An ecologically and operationally sustainable supply of forest biomass is available for the term of the contract; (b) the payment under the contract represents the fair market value at the time of the renewal; and (c) the purchaser agrees to the estimated amount of biomass material available.

(7) Where the department sells forest biomass in a contract for sale of valuable materials under subsection (2) of this section, any valuable material conveyed as timber in such a contract must count toward the achievement of annual or decadal targets developed in the sustainable timber harvest calculation required by RCW 79.10.320, or similar targets for timber harvest volume, even where the purchaser uses that material as a biomass energy feedstock. All other biomass volume conveyed as authorized in this chapter must not be counted toward such sustainable timber harvest targets.

(8) All contractors and their operations authorized under this section shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. [2010 c 126 § 3.]

**79.150.040 Lease of state land for resource use derived from biomass.** The department is authorized to lease state lands for the purpose of the sale, exploration, collection, processing, storage, stockpiling, and conversion of biomass into energy or biofuels, the development of a biorefinery, or for any other resource use derived from biomass if the department is able to obtain a fair market rental return to the state or the appropriate constitutional or statutory trust and if the lease is in the best interest of the state and the affected trust, as follows:

(1) Leases authorized under this chapter may be entered into by public auction, in accordance with the provisions of RCW 79.13.140, or by negotiation.

(2) All leases must contain such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the department in accordance with the provision of chapter 126, Laws of 2010 and to ensure that removal of forest biomass is ecologically and operationally sustainable. Leases authorized under chapter 126, Laws of 2010 may be for a term of no more than fifty years.

(3) For leases that involve the development of biomass processing, biofuel manufacturing, or biomass energy production facilities, the department may include provisions for reduced rent until an approved plan of development is completed and the facility is operational, provided that provisions are included to require: (a) Adequate assurances to protect the department's interest in a future rental income stream; (b) the demonstration of reasonable progress consistent with an approved plan of development; and (c) a lump sum payment to the department in the amount of the difference between the fair market rent and the reduced rent, if the approved plan of development is not completed in the time required in the plan.

(4) The department may require the payment of production rent or other compensation for the use of the land and biomass materials on the land. If the department is not entering a supply contract under RCW 79.150.030 for any forest

biomass to be supplied for the lease purposes from the leased land, then the department must require a royalty payment for the contribution to value of any product created by the lessee that is associated with forest biomass removed from the leased land in an amount fixed by the board.

(5) All lessees and their operations authorized under this section shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. [2010 c 126 § 4.]

**79.150.050 Evaluation of supply agreements under RCW 79.150.030 and 79.150.040—Report to the legislature—Demonstration project authorized.** (1) For the purpose of improving forest health on state trust lands, and to better clarify the relationship of forest biomass with the by-products of forest health and fuel reduction treatments that have been traditionally utilized for other products, the department of natural resources shall evaluate how the supply agreements in RCW 79.150.030 and 79.150.040 could be utilized to sustain or create rural jobs and timber manufacturing infrastructure, and to sell state timber to traditional types of timber purchasers. The department shall report its findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 15, 2010, and the evaluation must at a minimum identify how such supply agreements could:

- (a) Ensure the department of natural resources meets its fiduciary responsibility to the state's trust beneficiaries;
- (b) Restore or sustain a competitive market for state timber sales;
- (c) Generate returns for the trust that are commensurate with fluctuating market prices; and
- (d) Ensure environmental compliance with all pertinent state and federal laws, and provide for ecologically and operationally sustainable biomass removal.

(2) For the purposes of proving the concepts evaluated in this section, the department may, in addition to the authorities granted in RCW 79.150.030, establish a five-year forest health and fuel reduction supply agreement demonstration project. Solicitation of private industry partners for such a project must be competitive, must focus on areas where traditional forest products manufacturing infrastructure and rural jobs have been lost, and should consider prioritizing partners utilizing materials for both traditional forest products and biomass energy conversion. [2010 c 126 § 5.]

## Chapter 79.155 RCW

### COMMUNITY FOREST TRUSTS

#### Sections

79.155.010	Findings.
79.155.020	Community forest land trust—Department authorized to create and manage.
79.155.030	Identification of lands—Minimum program management principles.
79.155.040	Department's authority.
79.155.050	Criteria for identification and prioritization of forest lands suitable for potential inclusion in the community forest trust.
79.155.060	Prioritized list identifying nominated parcels of state land or state forest land.
79.155.070	Local community must commit to preserving land as a working forest—Financial contribution.
79.155.080	Postacquisition management plan.
79.155.090	Use of revenue produced on community forest trust lands.
79.155.100	Periodic review and update of community forest trust program.
79.155.110	Statewide advisory committee.

79.155.120	Establishing community forest districts/local working forest districts—Technical assistance grants.
79.155.130	Authority to manage state lands—Authority to develop management procedures.

**79.155.010 Findings.** (1) The legislature finds that since the 1980s, about seventeen percent of Washington's commercial forests have been converted to other land uses.

(2) The legislature further finds that as these forests vanish, so do the multiple benefits they provide to our communities such as local timber jobs, clean air and water, carbon storage, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation areas, and open space.

(3) The legislature further finds that it has provided policy direction to the department of natural resources to protect working forest and natural resource lands at risk of conversion, while maintaining the department's obligation to manage the state's fiduciary trust lands and financial assets in the interest of the beneficiaries of the respective trust lands and assets.

(4) The legislature further finds that there are numerous tools available to acquire open space and recreation lands, but limited tools to protect working forest lands.

(5) The legislature further finds that currently the department of natural resources lacks a full complement of policy and management tools necessary to protect or manage working forest lands at high risk of conversion.

(6) The legislature further finds that through modest enhancements to existing department of natural resources' programs and authorities, the legislature can expand Washington's ability to protect communities' working forest lands, while simultaneously improving the revenue generating performance of fiduciary trust lands managed by the department of natural resources.

(7) The legislature further finds that there has been past and present legislative intent to ensure continued public access for recreation compatible with the purposes of the lands involved.

(8) The legislature further finds that there exists an interest by local communities, governments, and conservation organizations in cooperating in the establishment of working community forests. [2011 c 216 § 1.]

**79.155.020 Community forest land trust—Department authorized to create and manage.** (1) If deemed practicable by the commissioner, the department is authorized to create and manage, consistent with the provisions of this chapter, a discrete category of natural resource lands in a nonfiduciary community forest land trust. The department is authorized to assemble, hold title to, and manage directly or through mutual agreement with other landowners land suitable for sustainable forest management, to be held in the community forest trust.

(2) All land held in the community forest trust must be held by the department and actively managed, consistent with a community working forest management plan developed under RCW 79.155.080, to generate financial support for the management of the community forest trust and to advance and sustain the working forest conservation objectives established in the management plan. [2011 c 216 § 2.]

**79.155.030 Identification of lands—Minimum program management principles.** (1) The department must identify lands for inclusion into the community forest trust, and manage the resulting community forest trust lands, in furtherance of goals that must be identified by the department prior to the creation of a community forest.

(2) In addition to any goals for a community forest identified by the department, the community forest trust program must satisfy the following minimum program management principles:

(a) Protecting in perpetuity working forest lands that are at a significant risk of conversion to another land use;

(b) Securing financial and social viability through sound management plans and objectives that are consistent with the values of the local community;

(c) Maintaining the land in a working status, through traditional forestry, management of specialized forest products harvest consistent with chapter 76.48 RCW, land leases, renewable energy opportunities, ecosystem services such as clean water protection or carbon storage, and other sources of revenue appropriate for the community forest to generate;

(d) Generating revenue at levels that are, at a minimum, capable of reimbursing the department for management costs and providing for some reinvestment into the management objectives of the community forest;

(e) Providing for ongoing, sustainable public recreational access, local timber jobs, clean air and water, carbon storage, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space in a manner that is compatible with management plans and objectives adopted for the community forest; and

(f) Providing educational opportunities for local communities regarding the benefits that working forests provide to Washington's economy, communities, environment, and quality of life. [2011 c 216 § 3.]

**79.155.040 Department's authority.** (1)(a) Except as limited by RCW 79.155.070, the department is authorized to acquire by purchase, gift, donation, grant, transfer, or other means other than eminent domain fee interest or a partial interest, including conservation easements, in lands or other real property suitable for management as part of the community forest trust and that are appropriate to further the goals of the community forest trust.

(b) The fair market value of any real property, and the associated valuable materials, of any land transferred into the community forest trust from state lands must be provided to the beneficiaries of the transferee [transferor] trust or used for the furtherance of the transferee [transferor] trust.

(2) The department is authorized to receive funds for purposes of establishing the community forest trust from grants, gifts, bequests, or loans, whether public or private, as well as from legislative appropriation.

(3) All acquisitions of real property for the community forest trust must be approved by the board. [2011 c 216 § 4.]

**79.155.050 Criteria for identification and prioritization of forest lands suitable for potential inclusion in the community forest trust.** (1) The department shall, if it establishes a community forest trust program, develop criteria to be used for the identification and prioritization of forest land that is suitable for potential inclusion in the community

forest trust due to its ability to most closely satisfy the goals of the community forest trust outlined in RCW 79.155.030.

(2) In prioritizing forest land for inclusion in the community forest trust, the department shall give priority consideration to lands that are:

(a) The subject of established management and revenue production objectives of potential local community partners;

(b) At greatest risk of conversion;

(c) Helping buffer commercial public or private forest lands from encroaching development;

(d) Helping to block up other community forest assets to be managed consistently with the community forest trust acquisition;

(e) Able to be managed, considering surrounding current or expected future land use, as economically sustainable working forest land either alone or in combination with adjacent and nearby working forest land, including other lands incorporated into a community forest by the department, a local governmental entity, or a not-for-profit conservation organization managing forest lands;

(f) Eligible for trust land transfer capital appropriations;

(g) Available for acquisition through existing or new programs or funding;

(h) Supporting existing or expanded forest product manufacturing infrastructure;

(i) Useful in leveraging funds to match available acquisition moneys;

(j) Positioned to have their development rights extinguished through transfer, purchase, conservation easement, lease, or by some other comparable mechanism; or

(k) Enhancing state fiduciary trust land revenues by repositioning underperforming state trust lands to provide short and long-term revenues to that trust. [2011 c 216 § 5.]

**79.155.060 Prioritized list identifying nominated parcels of state land or state forest land.** (1) The department shall, if it establishes a community forest trust program, submit biennially to the office of financial management and the appropriate committees of the legislature a prioritized list that identifies nominated parcels of state land or state forest land that are suitable for transfer into the community forest trust, where such a transfer is also in the best interest of the respective trust. The department shall solicit and consider input from the board on a draft list before submitting a final prioritized list.

(2) The list of nominated parcels must reflect consideration of local nominations and the priorities outlined in RCW 79.155.050 and be delivered to the required recipients by November 1st of each even-numbered year. [2011 c 216 § 6.]

**79.155.070 Local community must commit to preserving land as a working forest—Financial contribution.**

(1) The department must, prior to using the authority provided in RCW 79.155.040 to acquire land for inclusion in a community forest, obtain from the local community a commitment to preserving the land as a working forest.

(2) Following initial agreement between potential local community partners and the department regarding management and revenue production objectives for the lands in question, the local commitment to preserving the land as a working forest must be demonstrated by the county, city, or other

local entity providing a financial contribution to the specific community forest of at least fifty percent of the difference between the parcel's appraised fair market value and the parcel's timber and forest land value. The local community contribution may be provided through any means deemed acceptable by the department and the local contributor, including:

- (a) Traditional financing or bonding;
- (b) The purchase of conservation easements; or
- (c) The purchase or transfer of development rights.

(3) The local financial contribution must be deposited into the park land trust revolving fund created in RCW 43.30.385 and used solely for acquisition of the community forest trust land parcel or parcels for which it is intended. [2011 c 216 § 7.]

**79.155.080 Postacquisition management plan.** (1) All lands transferred into community forest trust status must be managed in accordance with a postacquisition management plan developed by the department consistent with this section.

(2) After exercising the authority provided in RCW 79.155.040 to acquire land for inclusion in a community forest, the department must establish a local advisory committee in cooperation with any interested and affected local government.

(3) The department must use the local advisory committee as a source of advice and comment on a postacquisition management plan. Comments and advice should, at a minimum, include plans for how the department will maintain the land's working status and economic viability objectives through revenue-generating activities that are sufficient to generate ongoing revenue at a level that reimburses administrative costs, while satisfying, or contributing to, identified community conservation and recreation objectives.

(4)(a) If, after a good faith effort by all parties, the department and the local advisory committee fail to reach a consensus on a conceptual postacquisition management plan for the parcel in question, the department may either adopt a management plan informed by the community or recommend to the board that the parcel be divested through the existing authority of the department and the board. If the parcel is divested, then, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, proceeds must return to the park land trust revolving fund created in RCW 43.30.385.

(b) Prior to depositing the proceeds of a land divestiture under this subsection to the park land trust revolving fund, the department must first reimburse local entities that have made financial contributions to the parcel's acquisition as provided in RCW 79.155.070(2). However, local entities are only eligible for reimbursement upon divestiture under this subsection if the board determines that:

(i) The subsequent parcel use is likely to remain a working forest, the department secures full fair market value for the parcel, and the local entity's contribution was not provided by a state or federal grant; or

(ii) The funds used as part of the local contribution were originally provided through a grant that requires, as a condition of the grant, the repayment of granted dollars if the purposes of the grant are not or cannot be fulfilled and the deci-

sion to divest the land creates an inability for the purposes of the grant to be fulfilled. [2011 c 216 § 8.]

**79.155.090 Use of revenue produced on community forest trust lands.** (1) Any revenue produced on community forest trust lands must be, consistent with RCW 79.64.040, allocated as follows:

(a) All costs incurred by the department in managing the parcel must be fully reimbursed; and

(b) After the department's management costs are reimbursed, any remaining revenue must then be prioritized to fulfill the management objectives for the specific parcel as identified in the postacquisition management plan developed under RCW 79.155.080 consistent with the management principles outlined in RCW 79.155.030.

(2)(a) If, by the determination of the board, there is revenue remaining in any given biennium after fulfilling the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, then the board has the discretion to reimburse any local entities' eligible financial contributions for acquisition of the parcel under RCW 79.155.070(2) and any state contribution to the acquisition of the parcel up to an amount that represents fifty percent of the difference between the parcel's original appraised fair market value and the parcel's timber and forest land value. However, any funds used as part of the local contribution may not be reimbursed if the funds were originally provided through a state or federal grant, provided through a fully compensated transfer of development rights at fair market value, or provided by a donation of funds or property.

(b) If the board decides to reimburse the state and local contribution, then it must allocate the reimbursement so that fifty percent is provided to the state general fund and fifty percent is provided to any eligible partnering local entities.

(c) Nothing in this section creates an expectation, requirement, or fiduciary duty for the board or the associated community forest trust lands to generate revenue in excess of amounts as provided in subsection (1)(a) of this section. [2011 c 216 § 9.]

**79.155.100 Periodic review and update of community forest trust program.** By September 1, 2014, and periodically, but at least once every ten years thereafter, the department shall provide to the board a review and update of the community forest trust program. The review must include updates on the performance of the community forest trust statewide and notification of any community forest trust parcels not performing according to their management plan. The department is authorized to, consistent with this chapter, recommend to the board action to divest itself of nonperforming community forest trust parcels using existing policies and mechanisms available to the department and the board. [2011 c 216 § 10.]

**79.155.110 Statewide advisory committee.** (1) The commissioner may establish and maintain a statewide advisory committee to assist the department in the implementation of this chapter.

(2) If a statewide advisory committee is established, the commissioner shall appoint a balanced representation of interests on the committee, including representatives of state fiduciary trust land beneficiaries, tribal governments, local

governments, relevant state agencies, commercial forest landowners, land trusts, and conservation organizations.

(3) The statewide advisory committee shall provide consultation on issues and questions presented by the commissioner and may be dissolved by the commissioner at any time.

(4) Participation on the statewide advisory committee is voluntary and members are not eligible for any form of compensation nor for reimbursement for expenses incurred due to service on the committee. [2011 c 216 § 11.]

**79.155.120 Establishing community forest districts/local working forest districts—Technical assistance grants.** (1) The commissioner may, if deemed practicable and beneficial by the commissioner, cooperate with interested local governments in establishing community forest districts or local working forest districts that are compatible with the goals identified in this chapter for the community forest trust. Cooperative districts would attempt to voluntarily synchronize the management of community forest trust lands, other public lands, and private lands located within a certain geographic area to further a common set of community goals. If a working forest district encompasses state lands or state forest lands, then their voluntary management to further a common set of community goals must be consistent with the department's fiduciary and other legal obligations to the trust, including the multiple use act in chapter 79.10 RCW.

(2)(a) The department may, in its sole discretion and if it deems sufficient funding to be available, provide technical assistance grants to local communities for the purpose of enabling or furthering the development of community forest management plans consistent with this chapter.

(b) This subsection does not create a private right of action. [2011 c 216 § 12.]

**79.155.130 Authority to manage state lands—Authority to develop management procedures.** The authorities granted under Title 79 RCW for the management of state lands apply to the community forest trust to the extent consistent with the purposes of chapter 216, Laws of 2011. The department may develop management procedures deemed necessary by the department to implement chapter 216, Laws of 2011. [2011 c 216 § 18.]



# Title 79A

## PUBLIC RECREATIONAL LANDS

### Chapters

- 79A.05 Parks and recreation commission.**
- 79A.10 Outdoor recreational facilities.**
- 79A.15 Acquisition of habitat conservation and outdoor recreation lands.**
- 79A.20 Wildlife and recreation lands—Funding of maintenance and operations.**
- 79A.25 Recreation and conservation funding board.**
- 79A.30 Washington state horse park.**
- 79A.35 Washington state recreation trails system.**
- 79A.40 Conveyances for persons in recreational activities.**
- 79A.45 Skiing and commercial ski activity.**
- 79A.50 Public lands for state or city parks.**
- 79A.55 Scenic river system.**
- 79A.60 Regulation of recreational vessels.**
- 79A.65 Commission moorage facilities.**
- 79A.70 State parks gift foundation.**
- 79A.80 Access to recreational lands.**

- 79A.05.170 Transfer of surplus land—Reversionary clause required—Release—Parkland acquisition account.
- 79A.05.175 Disposal of land not needed for park purposes.
- 79A.05.178 Real property disposal—Disputed land—Manner—Notice and hearing—Suit for noncompliance.
- 79A.05.179 Notification requirements.
- 79A.05.180 Exchange of state land by commission—Public notice—News release—Hearing—Procedure.
- 79A.05.185 Small boat facilities for Puget Sound authorized.
- 79A.05.190 Recreational metal detectors—Available land.
- 79A.05.195 Identification of historic archaeological resources in state parks—Plan—Availability of land for use by recreational metal detectors.
- 79A.05.200 Certain tidelands transferred to commission.
- 79A.05.205 Certain tidelands transferred to commission—Access to and from tidelands.
- 79A.05.210 Sale of state trust lands—Terms and conditions.
- 79A.05.215 State parks renewal and stewardship account.
- 79A.05.220 Trust lands—Periodic review to identify parcels appropriate for transfer to commission.
- 79A.05.225 Winter recreational facilities—Commission duties—Liability.
- 79A.05.230 Winter recreational area parking permits—Fee—Expiration.
- 79A.05.235 Winter recreational program account—Deposit of parking permit fees—Winter recreation programs by public and private agencies.
- 79A.05.240 Winter recreational parking areas—Restriction of overnight parking.
- 79A.05.245 Penalty for violation of RCW 79A.05.240 or 46.61.585.
- 79A.05.250 Winter recreational parking areas—Rules.
- 79A.05.255 Winter recreation advisory committee—Generally.
- 79A.05.260 Sun Lakes state park—"Vic Meyers Golf Course" designation—"Vic Meyers Lake" designation.
- 79A.05.265 Hostels—Legislative declaration of intent.
- 79A.05.270 "Hostel" defined.
- 79A.05.275 Hostels—Authority of political subdivisions to establish.
- 79A.05.280 Hostels—Commission authorized to accept grants or moneys for the support thereof—Rules required.
- 79A.05.285 Land evaluation, acquisition.
- 79A.05.290 Acquisition of land held by department of natural resources.
- 79A.05.300 Establishment of urban area state parks by parks and recreation commission.
- 79A.05.305 Declaration of policy—Lands for public park purposes.
- 79A.05.310 Powers and duties—Program of boating safety education—Casualty and accident reporting program.
- 79A.05.315 Milwaukee Road corridor—Transfer of management control to commission.
- 79A.05.320 Milwaukee Road corridor—Duties.
- 79A.05.325 Milwaukee Road corridor—Additional duties.
- 79A.05.330 Recreation trail on Milwaukee Road corridor.
- 79A.05.335 Environmental interpretation—Authority of commission.
- 79A.05.340 Environmental interpretation—Scope of activities.
- 79A.05.345 Environmental interpretation—Assistance from other organizations.
- 79A.05.351 Outdoor education and recreation grant program—Creation—Establish and implement program by rule—Advisory committee—Account.

### Chapter 79A.05 RCW PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

#### Sections

- 79A.05.010 Definitions.
- 79A.05.013 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.
- 79A.05.015 Commission created—Composition—Compensation and expenses.
- 79A.05.020 Duties of commission.
- 79A.05.025 Chair—Meetings—Quorum.
- 79A.05.030 Powers and duties—Mandatory.
- 79A.05.035 Additional powers and duties.
- 79A.05.040 Director's duties.
- 79A.05.045 Waste reduction and recycling.
- 79A.05.050 Community restitution for littering in state parks—Policy and procedures.
- 79A.05.055 Additional powers and duties.
- 79A.05.059 State parks education and enhancement account.
- 79A.05.060 Parks improvement account—Transfers to state parks renewal and stewardship account.
- 79A.05.065 Park passes—Eligibility.
- 79A.05.070 Further powers—Director of parks and recreation—Salaries.
- 79A.05.075 Delegation of commission's powers and duties to director.
- 79A.05.080 Lease of park lands for television stations.
- 79A.05.085 Lease of park lands for television stations—Lease rental rates, terms—Attachment of antennae.
- 79A.05.090 Exemption of persons over sixty-five from fees for collection in state parks of wood debris for personal use.
- 79A.05.095 Donations of land for park purposes.
- 79A.05.100 Bequests and donations of money.
- 79A.05.105 Withdrawal of granted lands on public highways.
- 79A.05.110 Withdrawal of other lands—Exchange for lands on highway.
- 79A.05.115 Cross-state trail facility.
- 79A.05.120 Cross-state trail—Transfer of lands in Milwaukee Road corridor.
- 79A.05.125 Cross-state trail—Rail line franchise negotiations by department of transportation.
- 79A.05.130 Cross-state trail account—Land acquisition—Rules describing trail.
- 79A.05.135 Dedication as parks and parkways.
- 79A.05.140 Permits for improvement of parks—Limitations.
- 79A.05.145 Application for permit.
- 79A.05.150 Plans and specifications.
- 79A.05.155 Surety bond.
- 79A.05.160 Police powers vested in commission and employees.
- 79A.05.165 Penalties.

#### UNDERWATER PARKS

- 79A.05.355 Underwater parks—Lead agency.
- 79A.05.360 Underwater parks—Authority to establish—Powers and duties.
- 79A.05.370 Underwater parks—Diverse recreational opportunity.
- 79A.05.375 Underwater parks—Liability.

#### WATER TRAIL RECREATION PROGRAM

- 79A.05.380 Water trail recreation program—Created.
- 79A.05.385 Water trail recreation program—Powers and duties.
- 79A.05.390 Water trail recreation program—Grants.
- 79A.05.395 Water trail recreation program—Liability.
- 79A.05.410 Water trail recreation program—Rules.
- 79A.05.415 Water trail recreation program—Violation.
- 79A.05.425 Water trail recreation program—Disposition of funds.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION CORPS

79A.05.545 Washington conservation corps.

## SEASHORE CONSERVATION AREA

- 79A.05.600 Declaration of principles.  
 79A.05.605 Seashore conservation area—Established.  
 79A.05.610 Jurisdiction over and administration of area.  
 79A.05.615 Principles and purposes to be followed in administering area.  
 79A.05.620 Cooperation and assistance of federal, state, and local agencies.  
 79A.05.625 Powers and authority of department of fish and wildlife not interfered with.  
 79A.05.630 Sale, lease, and disposal of lands within the Seashore Conservation Area—Disposal of certain lands.  
 79A.05.635 Ocean beach recreation management plans—Cooperative program.  
 79A.05.640 Definitions.  
 79A.05.645 Local recreation management plans.  
 79A.05.650 Reservation for pedestrian use—Restrictions on motorized traffic.  
 79A.05.655 Areas reserved for pedestrian use—Exception.  
 79A.05.660 Public vehicles.  
 79A.05.665 Land adjoining national wildlife refuges and state parks—Pedestrian use—Exception.  
 79A.05.670 Consultation with government agencies required.  
 79A.05.675 Compliance with federal and state laws required.  
 79A.05.680 Hearings.  
 79A.05.685 Adoption of plans—Approval—Procedure.  
 79A.05.688 Appeal.  
 79A.05.690 Cooperation for law enforcement.  
 79A.05.693 Ocean beaches in Seashore Conservation Area declared public highways.  
 79A.05.695 Amendments to plan—Approval—Procedure.

## GREEN RIVER GORGE CONSERVATION AREA

- 79A.05.700 Declaration.  
 79A.05.705 Green River Gorge conservation area created.  
 79A.05.710 Acquisition of real property, easements, or rights authorized.  
 79A.05.715 Acquisition of real property, easements, or rights authorized—Rights of other state agencies not to be infringed upon.

## MOUNT SI CONSERVATION AREA

- 79A.05.725 Legislative declaration.  
 79A.05.730 "Mt. Si conservation area"—Created.  
 79A.05.735 Mt. Si conservation area—Management.  
 79A.05.740 Mt. Si conservation area—Valuation of included lands.  
 79A.05.745 Eminent domain—Use prohibited.

## WASHINGTON STATE YAKIMA RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

- 79A.05.750 Legislative declaration.  
 79A.05.755 "Washington State Yakima river conservation area"—Created.  
 79A.05.760 Yakima river conservation area—Size prescribed.  
 79A.05.765 Yakima river conservation area—Authority of Yakima county commissioners.  
 79A.05.770 Yakima river conservation area—Land acquisition.  
 79A.05.775 Intent to preserve river wetlands in their natural state.  
 79A.05.780 Yakima river conservation area—Consultation between commission and Yakima county commissioners.  
 79A.05.785 Yakima river conservation area—Recreation and conservation funding board directed to assist Yakima county commissioners.  
 79A.05.790 County or city zoning and/or permitted land uses not affected.  
 79A.05.793 Department of fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife commission—Powers, duties, and authority—No hunting in any state park.  
 79A.05.795 Acquisition of real property, etc., of another agency by Yakima county commissioners—Agency approval required.

*Private business activity policy: RCW 42.52.570.*

**79A.05.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this title unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commission" means the state parks and recreation commission.

(2) "Chair" means the member of the commission elected pursuant to RCW 79A.05.025.

(3) "Director" and "director of the state parks and recreation commission" mean the director of parks and recreation or the director's designee.

(4) "Recreation" means those activities of a voluntary and leisure time nature that aid in promoting entertainment, pleasure, play, relaxation, or instruction.

(5) "Natural forest" means a forest that faithfully represents, or is meant to become representative of, its unaltered state. [1999 c 249 § 101.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.013 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 185.]

**79A.05.015 Commission created—Composition—Compensation and expenses.** There is hereby created a "state parks and recreation commission" consisting of seven citizens of the state. The members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate and shall serve for a term of six years, expiring on December 31st of even-numbered years, and until their successors are appointed. In case of a vacancy, the governor shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of the commissioner whose office has become vacant.

In making the appointments to the commission, the governor shall choose citizens who understand park and recreation needs and interests. No person shall serve if he or she holds any elective or full-time appointive state, county, or municipal office. Members of the commission shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and in addition shall be allowed their travel expenses incurred while absent from their usual places of residence in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

Payment of expenses pertaining to the operation of the commission shall be made upon vouchers certified to by such persons as shall be designated by the commission. [1999 c 249 § 201; 1984 c 287 § 82; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 116; 1969 ex.s. c 31 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 132 § 1; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.020. Prior: 1947 c 271 § 1; 1945 c 36 § 1; 1921 c 7 § 10; RRS § 10768. Formerly RCW 43.51.020.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287:** See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.020 Duties of commission.** In addition to whatever other duties may exist in law or be imposed in the future, it is the duty of the commission to:

- (1) Implement integrated pest management practices and regulate pests as required by RCW 17.15.020;
- (2) Take steps necessary to control spartina and purple loosestrife as required by RCW 17.26.020;
- (3) Participate in the implementation of chapter 19.02 RCW;
- (4) Coordinate planning and provide staffing and administrative assistance to the Lewis and Clark trail committee as required by \*RCW 27.34.340;
- (5) Administer those portions of chapter 46.10 RCW not dealing with the registration of snowmobiles as required by RCW 46.10.370;
- (6) Consult and participate in the scenic and recreational highway system as required by chapter 47.39 RCW; and
- (7) Develop, prepare, and distribute information relating to marine oil recycling tanks and sewage holding tank pumping stations, in cooperation with other departments, as required by chapter 88.02 RCW.

The commission has the power reasonably necessary to carry out these duties. [2011 c 171 § 114; 1999 c 249 § 301.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 27.34.340 was repealed by 1999 c 35 § 5. See chapter 35, Laws of 1999 for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial advisory committee.

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.025 Chair—Meetings—Quorum.** The commission shall elect one of its members as chair. The commission may be convened at such times as the chair deems necessary, and a majority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. [1999 c 249 § 202; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.030. Prior: 1947 c 271 § 3; RRS § 10768-2. Formerly RCW 43.51.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.030 Powers and duties—Mandatory.** The commission shall:

- (1) Have the care, charge, control, and supervision of all parks and parkways acquired or set aside by the state for park or parkway purposes.
- (2) Adopt policies, and adopt, issue, and enforce rules pertaining to the use, care, and administration of state parks and parkways. The commission shall cause a copy of the rules to be kept posted in a conspicuous place in every state park to which they are applicable, but failure to post or keep any rule posted shall be no defense to any prosecution for the violation thereof.
- (3) Permit the use of state parks and parkways by the public under such rules as shall be adopted.
- (4) Clear, drain, grade, seed, and otherwise improve or beautify parks and parkways, and erect structures, buildings, fireplaces, and comfort stations and build and maintain paths, trails, and roadways through or on parks and parkways.
- (5) Grant concessions or leases in state parks and parkways, upon such rentals, fees, or percentage of income or profits and for such terms, in no event longer than fifty years, and upon such conditions as shall be approved by the commission: PROVIDED, That leases exceeding a twenty-year term shall require a unanimous vote of the commission: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if, during the term of any con-

(2012 Ed.)

cession or lease, it is the opinion of the commission that it would be in the best interest of the state, the commission may, with the consent of the concessionaire or lessee, alter and amend the terms and conditions of such concession or lease: PROVIDED FURTHER, That television station leases shall be subject to the provisions of RCW 79A.05.085, only: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the rates of such concessions or leases shall be renegotiated at five-year intervals. No concession shall be granted which will prevent the public from having free access to the scenic attractions of any park or parkway.

(6) Employ such assistance as it deems necessary. Commission expenses relating to its use of volunteer assistance shall be limited to premiums or assessments for the insurance of volunteers by the department of labor and industries, compensation of staff who assist volunteers, materials and equipment used in authorized volunteer projects, training, reimbursement of volunteer travel as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, and other reasonable expenses relating to volunteer recognition. The commission, at its discretion, may waive commission fees otherwise applicable to volunteers. The commission shall not use volunteers to replace or supplant classified positions. The use of volunteers may not lead to the elimination of any employees or permanent positions in the bargaining unit.

(7) By majority vote of its authorized membership select and purchase or obtain options upon, lease, or otherwise acquire for and in the name of the state such tracts of land, including shore and tide lands, for park and parkway purposes as it deems proper. If the commission cannot acquire any tract at a price it deems reasonable, it may, by majority vote of its authorized membership, obtain title thereto, or any part thereof, by condemnation proceedings conducted by the attorney general as provided for the condemnation of rights-of-way for state highways. Option agreements executed under authority of this subsection shall be valid only if:

- (a) The cost of the option agreement does not exceed one dollar; and
- (b) Moneys used for the purchase of the option agreement are from (i) funds appropriated therefor, or (ii) funds appropriated for undesignated land acquisitions, or (iii) funds deemed by the commission to be in excess of the amount necessary for the purposes for which they were appropriated; and
- (c) The maximum amount payable for the property upon exercise of the option does not exceed the appraised value of the property.

(8) Cooperate with the United States, or any county or city of this state, in any matter pertaining to the acquisition, development, redevelopment, renovation, care, control, or supervision of any park or parkway, and enter into contracts in writing to that end. All parks or parkways, to which the state contributed or in whose care, control, or supervision the state participated pursuant to the provisions of this section, shall be governed by the provisions hereof.

(9) Within allowable resources, maintain policies that increase the number of people who have access to free or low-cost recreational opportunities for physical activity, including noncompetitive physical activity.

(10) Adopt rules establishing the requirements for a criminal history record information search for the following: Job applicants, volunteers, and independent contractors who

have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults, or who will be responsible for collecting or disbursing cash or processing credit/debit card transactions. These background checks will be done through the Washington state patrol criminal identification section and may include a national check from the federal bureau of investigation, which shall be through the submission of fingerprints. A permanent employee of the commission, employed as of July 24, 2005, is exempt from the provisions of this subsection. [2005 c 373 § 1; 2005 c 360 § 5. Prior: 1999 c 249 § 302; 1999 c 155 § 1; 1999 c 59 § 1; 1989 c 175 § 106; 1980 c 89 § 1; 1979 c 10 § 4; prior: 1977 ex.s. c 123 § 1; 1977 c 75 § 57; 1967 ex.s. c 90 § 1; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.040; prior: 1959 c 317 § 1; 1955 c 391 § 1; 1929 c 148 § 1; 1923 c 157 § 1; 1921 c 149 § 2; RRS § 10942. Formerly RCW 43.51.040.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2005 c 360 § 5 and by 2005 c 373 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Intent—2005 c 360:** See note following RCW 36.70A.070.

*Inspection of recreational devices: Chapter 79A.40 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.035 Additional powers and duties.** (1) The commission shall:

(a) Manage timber and land under its jurisdiction to maintain and enhance aesthetic and recreational values;

(b) Apply modern conservation practices to maintain and enhance aesthetic, recreational, and ecological resources; and

(c) Designate and preserve certain forest areas throughout the state as natural forests or natural areas for interpretation, study, and preservation purposes.

(2) Trees may be removed from state parks:

(a) When hazardous to persons, property, or facilities;

(b) As part of a park maintenance or development project, or conservation practice;

(c) As part of a road or utility easement; or

(d) When damaged by a catastrophic forest event.

(3) Tree removal under subsection (2) of this section shall be done by commission personnel, unless the personnel lack necessary expertise. Except in emergencies and when feasible, significant trees shall be removed only after they have been marked or appraised by a professional forester. The removal of significant trees from a natural forest may take place only after a public hearing has been held, except in emergencies.

(4) When feasible, felled timber shall be left on the ground for natural purposes or used for park purposes including, but not limited to, building projects, trail mulching, and firewood. In natural forest areas, first consideration shall be given to leaving timber on the ground for natural purposes.

(5) The commission may issue permits to individuals under RCW 4.24.210 and 79A.05.090 for the removal of wood debris from state parks for personal firewood use.

(6) Only timber that qualifies for cutting or removal under subsection (2) of this section may be sold. Timber shall be sold only when surplus to the needs of the park.

(7) Net revenue derived from timber sales shall be deposited in the state parks renewal and stewardship account created in RCW 79A.05.215. [1999 c 249 § 303; 1984 c 82 § 1; 1981 c 271 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.045.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.040 Director's duties.** In addition to other duties the commission may from time to time impose, it is the duty of the director to:

(1) Ensure the control of weeds in parks to the extent required by RCW 17.04.160 and 17.10.205; and

(2) Participate in the operations of the environmental enhancement and job creation task force under chapter 43.21J RCW.

The director has the power reasonably necessary to carry out these duties. [1999 c 249 § 401.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.045 Waste reduction and recycling.** (1) The commission shall provide waste reduction and recycling information in each state park campground and day-use area.

(2) The commission shall provide recycling receptacles in the day-use and campground areas of at least forty state parks. The receptacles shall be clearly marked for the disposal of at least two of the following recyclable materials: Aluminum, glass, newspaper, plastic, and tin. The commission shall endeavor to provide recycling receptacles in parks that are near urban centers or in heavily used parks.

(3) The commission shall provide daily maintenance of such receptacles from April through September of each year.

(4) The commission is authorized to enter into agreements with any person, company, or nonprofit organization to provide for the collection and transport of recyclable materials and related activities under this section. [1999 c 249 § 304; 1991 c 11 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.046.]

*Marinas and airports: RCW 70.93.095.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.050 Community restitution for littering in state parks—Policy and procedures.** (1) The commission shall establish a policy and procedures for supervising and evaluating community restitution activities that may be imposed under RCW 70.93.060(3) including a description of what constitutes satisfactory completion of community restitution.

(2) The commission shall inform each state park of the policy and procedures regarding community restitution activities, and each state park shall then notify the commission as to whether or not the park elects to participate in the community restitution program. The commission shall transmit a list notifying the district courts of each state park that elects to participate. [2002 c 175 § 52; 1996 c 263 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.048.]

**Effective date—2002 c 175:** See note following RCW 7.80.130.

**79A.05.055 Additional powers and duties.** The commission may:

(1) Study and appraise parks and recreational needs of the state and assemble and disseminate information relative to parks and recreation;

(2) Make provisions for the publication and sale of interpretive, recreational, and historical materials and literature. Proceeds from such sales shall be directed to the parks improvement account; and

(3) Coordinate the parks and recreational functions of the various state departments, and cooperate with state and federal agencies in the promotion of parks and recreational opportunities. [1997 c 137 § 1; 1987 c 225 § 1; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.050. Prior: 1955 c 391 § 2; 1947 c 271 § 4; RRS § 10768-3. Formerly RCW 43.51.050.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.059 State parks education and enhancement account.** The state parks education and enhancement account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from the sale of Washington state parks and recreation commission special license plates, after the deductions permitted by RCW 46.68.425, must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may only be used to provide public educational opportunities and enhancement of Washington state parks. Only the director or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2010 c 161 § 1162; 2005 c 44 § 4.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**79A.05.060 Parks improvement account—Transfers to state parks renewal and stewardship account.** (1) The parks improvement account is hereby established in the state treasury.

(2) The commission shall deposit all moneys received from the sale of interpretive, recreational, and historical literature and materials in this account. Moneys in the account may be spent only for development, production, and distribution costs associated with literature and materials.

(3) Disbursements from the account shall be on the authority of the director, or the director's designee. The account is subject to the allotment procedure provided under chapter 43.88 RCW. No appropriation is required for disbursement of moneys to be used for support of further production of materials provided for in RCW 79A.05.055(2). The director may transfer a portion of the moneys in this account to the state parks renewal and stewardship account and may expend moneys so transferred for any purpose provided for in RCW 79A.05.215. [1999 c 249 § 402; 1997 c 137 § 2; 1987 c 225 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.052.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.065 Park passes—Eligibility.** (1)(a) The commission shall grant to any person who meets the eligibility requirements specified in this section a senior citizen's pass which shall: (i) Entitle such a person, and members of his or her camping unit, to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the commission; and (ii) entitle such a person to free admission to any state park.

(b) The commission shall grant a senior citizen's pass to any person who applies for the senior citizen's pass and who meets the following requirements:

(i) The person is at least sixty-two years of age;

(ii) The person is a domiciliary of the state of Washington and meets reasonable residency requirements prescribed by the commission; and

(iii) The person and his or her spouse have a combined income that would qualify the person for a property tax exemption pursuant to RCW 84.36.381. The financial eligibility requirements of this subsection (1)(b)(iii) apply regardless of whether the applicant for a senior citizen's pass owns taxable property or has obtained or applied for such property tax exemption.

(c) Each senior citizen's pass granted pursuant to this section is valid as long as the senior citizen meets the requirements of (b)(ii) of this subsection. A senior citizen meeting the eligibility requirements of this section may make a voluntary donation for the upkeep and maintenance of state parks.

(d) A holder of a senior citizen's pass shall surrender the pass upon request of a commission employee when the employee has reason to believe the holder fails to meet the criteria in (b) of this subsection. The holder shall have the pass returned upon providing proof to the satisfaction of the director that the holder meets the eligibility criteria for obtaining the senior citizen's pass.

(2)(a) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by the social security administration and who receives social security benefits for that disability, or any other benefits for that disability from any other governmental or nongovernmental source, or who is entitled to benefits for permanent disability under \*RCW 71A.10.020(3) due to unemployment full time at the minimum wage, or who is legally blind or profoundly deaf, or who has been issued a card, decal, or special license plate for a permanent disability under RCW 46.19.010 shall be entitled to receive, regardless of age and upon making application therefor, a disability pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (i) Entitle such a person, and members of his or her camping unit, to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the commission; and (ii) entitle such a person to free admission to any state park.

(b) A card, decal, or special license plate issued for a permanent disability under RCW 46.19.010 may serve as a pass for the holder to entitle that person and members of the person's camping unit to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the commission, and to allow the holder free admission to state parks.

(3) Any resident of Washington who is a veteran and has a service-connected disability of at least thirty percent shall be entitled to receive a lifetime veteran's disability pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (a) Entitle such a person, and members of his or her camping unit, to free use of any campsite within any state park; (b) entitle such a person to free admission to any state park; and (c) entitle such a person to an exemption from any reservation fees.

(4)(a) Any Washington state resident who provides out-of-home care to a child, as either a licensed foster-family home or a person related to the child, is entitled to a foster home pass.

(b) An applicant for a foster home pass must request a pass in the manner required by the commission. Upon receipt of a properly submitted request, the commission shall verify with the department of social and health services that the applicant qualifies under (a) of this subsection. Once issued, a foster home pass is valid for the period, which may not be less than one year, designated by the commission.

(c) When accompanied by a child receiving out-of-home care from the pass holder, a foster home pass: (i) Entitles such a person, and members of his or her camping unit, to free use of any campsite within any state park; and (ii) entitles such a person to free admission to any state park.

(d) For the purposes of this subsection (4):

(i) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster-family home or with a person related to the child under the authority of chapter 13.32A, 13.34, or 74.13 RCW;

(ii) "Foster-family home" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 74.15.020; and

(iii) "Person related to the child" means those persons referred to in RCW 74.15.020(2)(a) (i) through (vi).

(5) All passes issued pursuant to this section are valid at all parks any time during the year. However, the pass is not valid for admission to concessionaire operated facilities.

(6) The commission shall negotiate payment and costs, to allow holders of a foster home pass free access and usage of park campsites, with the following nonoperated, non-state-owned parks: Central Ferry, Chief Timothy, Crow Butte, and Lyons Ferry. The commission shall seek state general fund reimbursement on a biennial basis.

(7) The commission may deny or revoke any Washington state park pass issued under this section for cause, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Residency outside the state of Washington;

(b) Violation of laws or state park rules resulting in eviction from a state park;

(c) Intimidating, obstructing, or assaulting a park employee or park volunteer who is engaged in the performance of official duties;

(d) Fraudulent use of a pass;

(e) Providing false information or documentation in the application for a state parks pass;

(f) Refusing to display or show the pass to park employees when requested; or

(g) Failing to provide current eligibility information upon request by the agency or when eligibility ceases or changes.

(8) This section shall not affect or otherwise impair the power of the commission to continue or discontinue any other programs it has adopted for senior citizens.

(9) The commission may engage in a mutually agreed upon reciprocal or discounted program for all or specific pass programs with other outdoor recreation agencies.

(10) The commission shall adopt those rules as it finds appropriate for the administration of this section. Among other things, the rules shall prescribe a definition of "camping unit" which will authorize a reasonable number of persons traveling with the person having a pass to stay at the campsite rented by such a person, a minimum Washington residency requirement for applicants for a senior citizen's pass, and an application form to be completed by applicants for a senior citizen's pass. [2011 c 171 § 115; 2010 c 161 § 1163; 2008 c 238 § 1; 2007 c 441 § 1; 1999 c 249 § 305; 1997 c 74 § 1; 1989 c 135 § 1; 1988 c 176 § 909; 1986 c 6 § 1; 1985 c 182 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 131 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 330 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.055.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 71A.10.020 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 30 § 3, changing subsection (3) to subsection (4).

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.070 Further powers—Director of parks and recreation—Salaries.** The commission may:

(1) Make rules and regulations for the proper administration of its duties;

(2) Accept any grants of funds made with or without a matching requirement by the United States, or any agency thereof, for purposes in keeping with the purposes of this chapter; accept gifts, bequests, devises and endowments for purposes in keeping with such purposes; enter into cooperative agreements with and provide for private nonprofit groups to use state park property and facilities to raise money to contribute gifts, grants, and support to the commission for the purposes of this chapter. The commission may assist the nonprofit group in a cooperative effort by providing necessary agency personnel and services, if available. However, none of the moneys raised may inure to the benefit of the nonprofit group, except in furtherance of its purposes to benefit the commission as provided in this chapter. The agency and the private nonprofit group must agree on the nature of any project to be supported by such gift or grant prior to the use of any agency property or facilities for raising money. Any such gifts may be in the form of recreational facilities developed or built in part or in whole for public use on agency property, provided that the facility is consistent with the purposes of the agency;

(3) Require certification by the commission of all parks and recreation workers employed in state aided or state controlled programs;

(4) Act jointly, when advisable, with the United States, any other state agencies, institutions, departments, boards, or commissions in order to carry out the objectives and responsibilities of this chapter;

(5) Grant franchises and easements for any legitimate purpose on parks or parkways, for such terms and subject to such conditions and considerations as the commission shall specify;

(6) Charge fees for services, utilities, and use of facilities as the commission shall deem proper. The commission may utilize unstaffed collection stations to collect any fees or distribute any permits necessary for access to state parks, including discover passes and day-use permits as those terms are defined in RCW 79A.80.010;

(7) Enter into agreements whereby individuals or companies may rent undeveloped parks or parkway land for grazing, agricultural, or mineral development purposes upon such terms and conditions as the commission shall deem proper, for a term not to exceed forty years;

(8) Determine the qualifications of and employ a director of parks and recreation who must receive a salary as fixed by the governor in accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.03.040 and determine the qualifications and salary of and employ such other persons as may be needed to carry out the provisions hereof; and

(9) Utilize such other powers as in the judgment of a majority of its members are deemed necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. However, the commission does not have power to supervise directly any local park or recreation district, and no funds shall be made available for such purpose. [2012 c 261 § 8; 2011 c 320 § 24; 2006 c 141 § 1; 2003 c 186 § 1; 1999 c 249 § 307; 1995 c 211 § 3; 1993 c 156 § 1; 1987 c 225 § 3; 1980 c 89 § 2; 1969 c 99 § 1; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.060. Prior: 1961 c 307 § 12; 1955 c 391 § 3; 1947 c 271 § 5; RRS § 10768-4. Formerly RCW 43.51.060.]

**Effective date—2012 c 261:** See note following RCW 79A.80.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**Effective date—2006 c 141:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect April 9, 2006." [2006 c 141 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—1995 c 211:** "The legislature finds that during the past fourteen years, the Washington state parks and recreation commission has endured a steady erosion of general fund operating support, which has caused park closures, staff reductions, and growing backlog of deferred maintenance projects. The legislature also finds that the growth of parks revenue has been constrained by staff limitations and by transfers of that revenue into the general fund.

The legislature intends to reverse the decline in operating support to its state parks, stabilize the system's level of general fund support, and inspire system employees and park visitors to enhance these irreplaceable resources and ensure their continuing availability to current and future state citizens and visitors. To achieve these goals, the legislature intends to dedicate park revenues to park operations, developing and renovating park facilities, undertaking deferred maintenance, and improving park stewardship. The legislature clearly intends that such revenues shall complement, not supplant, future general fund support." [1995 c 211 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.075 Delegation of commission's powers and duties to director.** No provision of law relating to the commission shall prevent the commission from delegating to the director such powers and duties of the commission as they may deem proper. [1999 c 249 § 306; 1969 ex.s. c 31 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.061.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.080 Lease of park lands for television stations.** The state parks and recreation commission is hereby authorized to lease the use of such areas in Mount Spokane state park, Steptoe Butte state park, Kamiak Butte state park or any other state park for television stations as the commission may decide are suitable for that purpose: PROVIDED, That this authority shall not extend to school lands or lands held by the state of Washington for educational purposes. [1965 c 8 § 43.51.062. Prior: 1953 c 39 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.062.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.085 Lease of park lands for television stations—Lease rental rates, terms—Attachment of antennae.** The commission shall determine the fair market value for television station leases based upon independent appraisals and existing leases for television stations shall be extended at said fair market rental for at least one period of not more than twenty years: PROVIDED, That the rates in said leases shall be renegotiated at five year intervals: PROVIDED FURTHER, That said stations shall permit the

attachment of antennae of publicly operated broadcast and microwave stations where electronically practical to combine the towers: PROVIDED FURTHER, That notwithstanding any term to the contrary in any lease, this section shall not preclude the commission from prescribing new and reasonable lease terms relating to the modification, placement or design of facilities operated by or for a station, and any extension of a lease granted under this section shall be subject to this proviso: PROVIDED FURTHER, That notwithstanding any other provision of law the director in his discretion may waive any requirement that any environmental impact statement or environmental assessment be submitted as to any lease negotiated and signed between January 1, 1974 and December 31, 1974. [1974 ex.s. c 151 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.063.]

**79A.05.090 Exemption of persons over sixty-five from fees for collection in state parks of wood debris for personal use.** Persons over the age of sixty-five are exempt from any permit or other administrative fee imposed by the commission for the collection of wood debris in state parks, if such wood is for personal use. [1983 c 193 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.065.]

**79A.05.095 Donations of land for park purposes.** The commission may receive and accept donations of lands for state park purposes, and shall be responsible for the management and control of all lands so acquired. It may from time to time recommend to the legislature the acquisition of lands for park purposes by purchase or condemnation. [1999 c 249 § 901; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.070. Prior: 1913 c 113 § 2; RRS § 10940. Formerly RCW 43.51.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.100 Bequests and donations of money.** The commission may receive in trust any money donated or bequeathed to it, and carry out the terms of such donation or bequest, or, in the absence of such terms, expend the same as it may deem advisable for park or parkway purposes.

Money so received shall be deposited in the state parks renewal and stewardship account. [1997 c 137 § 3; 1969 c 99 § 2; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.090. Prior: 1923 c 157 § 2; 1921 c 149 § 3; RRS § 10943. Formerly RCW 43.51.090.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.105 Withdrawal of granted lands on public highways.** Inasmuch as the value of land with standing timber is increasing and will continue to increase from year to year and no loss will be caused to the common school fund or other fund into which the proceeds of the sale of any land held by the state would be paid by postponing the sale thereof, the commissioner of public lands may, upon his own motion, and shall, when directed so to do by the state parks and recreation commission, withdraw from sale any land held by the state abutting on any public highway and certify to the commission that such land is withheld from sale pursuant to the terms of this section.

Such lands shall not be sold until directed by the legislature, and shall in the meantime be under the care, charge, control, and supervision of the commission. [1965 c 8 §

43.51.100. Prior: 1921 c 149 § 4; RRS § 10944. Formerly RCW 43.51.100.]

**79A.05.110 Withdrawal of other lands—Exchange for lands on highway.** The commissioner of public lands may, upon his or her own motion, and shall, when directed so to do by the commission, withdraw from sale any land held by the state and not acquired directly from the United States with reservations as to the manner of sale thereof and the purposes for which it may be sold, and certify to the commission that such land is withheld from sale pursuant to the terms of this section.

All such land shall be under the care, charge, control, and supervision of the commission, and after appraisal in such manner as the commission directs may be exchanged for land of equal value, and to this end the chair and secretary of the commission may execute deeds of conveyance in the name of the state. [1999 c 249 § 902; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.110. Prior: 1921 c 149 § 5; RRS § 10945. Formerly RCW 43.51.110.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.115 Cross-state trail facility. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) The commission shall develop and maintain a cross-state trail facility with appropriate appurtenances.

(2) This section expires July 1, 2019, unless the department of transportation enters into a franchise agreement for a rail line over any of the portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor between Ellensburg and Marengo by July 1, 2019. [2009 c 338 § 1; 2006 c 160 § 1; 1999 c 301 § 1; 1996 c 129 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.112.]

**Effective date—2009 c 338:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect June 30, 2009." [2009 c 338 § 5.]

**Intent—1996 c 129:** "The legislature intends to complete a cross-state trail system while maintaining long-term ownership of the Milwaukee Road corridor. In order to accomplish this, it will be beneficial to change the management and control of certain portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor currently managed and controlled by several state agencies and to provide a franchise to establish and maintain a rail line. It is the intent of the legislature that if a franchise is not agreed upon, no changes in the current management and control shall occur." [1996 c 129 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.120 Cross-state trail—Transfer of lands in Milwaukee Road corridor. (Contingent expiration date.)**

(1) To facilitate completion of a cross-state trail under the management of the parks and recreation commission, management and control of lands known as the Milwaukee Road corridor shall be transferred between state agencies as follows on the date a franchise agreement is entered into for a rail line over portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor:

(a) Portions owned by the state between Ellensburg and the Columbia river that are managed by the parks and recreation commission are transferred to the department of transportation;

(b) Portions owned by the state between the west side of the Columbia river and Royal City Junction and between Warden and Lind that are managed by the department of natural resources are transferred to the department of transportation;

(c) Portions owned by the state between Lind and the Idaho border that are managed by the department of natural resources are transferred to the parks and recreation commission as of June 7, 2006; and

(d) Portions owned by the state between Lind and Marengo are transferred to the department of transportation.

(2) The department of natural resources may, by mutual agreement with the parks and recreation commission, transfer management authority over portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor to the state parks and recreation commission, at any time prior to the department of transportation entering into a franchise agreement.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2019, and no transfers shall occur unless the department of transportation enters into a franchise agreement for a rail line over any of the portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor between Ellensburg and Marengo by July 1, 2019. [2009 c 338 § 2; 2006 c 160 § 2; 1999 c 301 § 2; 1996 c 129 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.1121.]

**Effective date—2009 c 338:** See note following RCW 79A.05.115.

**Intent—Effective date—Severability—1996 c 129:** See notes following RCW 79A.05.115.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.125 Cross-state trail—Rail line franchise negotiations by department of transportation. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) The department of transportation shall negotiate one or more franchises with rail carriers to establish and maintain a rail line over portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor owned by the state between Ellensburg and Marengo. The department of transportation may negotiate such a franchise with any qualified rail carrier. Criteria for negotiating the franchise and establishing the right-of-way include:

(a) Assurances that resources from the franchise will be sufficient to compensate the state for use of the property, including completion of a cross-state trail between Easton and the Idaho border;

(b) Types of payment for use of the franchise, including payment for the use of federally granted trust lands in the transportation corridor;

(c) Standards for maintenance of the line;

(d) Provisions ensuring that both the conventional and intermodal rail service needs of local shippers are met. Such accommodations may comprise agreements with the franchisee to offer or maintain adequate service or to provide service by other carriers at commercially reasonable rates;

(e) Provisions requiring the franchisee, upon reasonable request of any other rail operator, to provide rail service and interchange freight over what is commonly known as the Stampede Pass rail line from Cle Elum to Auburn at commercially reasonable rates;

(f) If any part of the franchise agreement is invalidated by actions or rulings of the federal surface transportation board or a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions of the franchise agreement are not affected;

(g) Compliance with environmental standards; and

(h) Provisions for insurance and the coverage of liability.

(2) The franchise may provide for periodic review of financial arrangements under the franchise.

(3) The department of transportation, in consultation with the parks and recreation commission and the senate and

house transportation committees, shall negotiate the terms of the franchise, and shall present the agreement to the parks and recreation commission for approval of as to terms and provisions affecting the cross-state trail or affecting the commission.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2019, unless the department of transportation enters into a franchise agreement for a rail line over any of the portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor between Ellensburg and Marengo by July 1, 2019. [2009 c 338 § 3; 2006 c 160 § 3; 2005 c 319 § 134; 1999 c 301 § 3; 1996 c 129 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.113.]

**Effective date—2009 c 338:** See note following RCW 79A.05.115.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings—Effective dates—2005 c 319:** See notes following RCW 43.17.020.

**Review and approval of franchise—Report to the legislature:** "(1) Before entering into a final agreement to issue a franchise negotiated in accordance with RCW 43.51.113, the department of transportation shall submit the franchise to the legislative transportation committee for review and approval.

(2) If the department of transportation has not entered into a final agreement to franchise a rail line over portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor by December 1, 1998, a report of the progress and obstacles to such an agreement shall be made. The report shall be submitted by December 15, 1998, to appropriate committees of the legislature." [1996 c 129 § 6.]

**Intent—Effective date—Severability—1996 c 129:** See notes following RCW 79A.05.115.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.130 Cross-state trail account—Land acquisition—Rules describing trail. (Contingent expiration date.)**

(1) The cross-state trail account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. Eleven million five hundred thousand dollars is provided to the state parks and recreation commission to acquire, construct, and maintain a cross-state trail. This amount may consist of: (a) Legislative appropriations intended for trail development; (b) payments for the purchase of federally granted trust lands; and (c) franchise fees derived from use of the rail corridor. The legislature intends that any amounts provided from the transportation fund are to be repaid to the transportation fund from franchise fees.

(2) The department shall deposit franchise fees from use of the rail corridor according to the following priority: (a) To the department of transportation for actual costs incurred in administering the franchise; (b) to the department of natural resources as compensation for use of federally granted trust lands in the rail corridor; (c) to the transportation fund to reimburse any amounts transferred or appropriated from that fund by the legislature for trail development; (d) to the cross-state trail account, not to exceed eleven million five hundred thousand dollars, provided that this amount shall be reduced proportionate with any funds transferred or appropriated by the 1996 legislature or paid from franchise fees for the purchase of federally granted trust lands or for trail development; and (e) the remainder to the essential rail assistance account, created under RCW 47.76.250. Expenditures from the cross-state trail account may be used only for the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of the cross-state trail. Only the director of the state parks and recreation commission or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) The commission may acquire land from willing sellers for the cross-state trail, but not by eminent domain.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules describing the cross-state trail.

(5) This section expires July 1, 2019, unless the department of transportation enters into a franchise agreement for a rail line over any of the portions of the Milwaukee Road corridor between Ellensburg and Marengo by July 1, 2019. [2009 c 338 § 4; 2006 c 160 § 4; 1999 c 301 § 4; 1996 c 129 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.51.114.]

**Effective date—2009 c 338:** See note following RCW 79A.05.115.

**Intent—Effective date—Severability—1996 c 129:** See notes following RCW 79A.05.115.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.135 Dedication as parks and parkways.** All state parks and parkways, subject to the provisions of this chapter are set apart and dedicated as public parks and parkways for the benefit and enjoyment of all the people of this state. [1965 c 8 § 43.51.120. Prior: 1921 c 149 § 6; RRS § 10946. Formerly RCW 43.51.120.]

**79A.05.140 Permits for improvement of parks—Limitations.** The state parks and recreation commission may grant permits to individuals, groups, churches, charities, organizations, agencies, clubs, or associations to improve any state park or parkway, or any lands belonging to the state and withdrawn from sale under the provisions of this chapter. These improvements shall not interfere with access to or use of such public lands or facilities by the general public and shall benefit the public in terms of safety, recreation, aesthetics, or wildlife or natural area preservation. These improvements on public lands and facilities shall be for the use of all members of the general public. [1999 c 59 § 2; 1982 c 156 § 1; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.130. Prior: 1929 c 83 § 1; RRS § 10946-1. Formerly RCW 43.51.130.]

**79A.05.145 Application for permit.** Any such individual, group, organization, agency, club, or association desiring to obtain such permit shall make application therefor in writing to the commission, describing the lands proposed to be improved and stating the nature of the proposed improvement. [1999 c 59 § 3; 1982 c 156 § 2; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.140. Prior: 1929 c 83 § 2; RRS § 10946-2. Formerly RCW 43.51.140.]

**79A.05.150 Plans and specifications.** If the state parks and recreation commission determines that the proposed improvement will substantially alter a park, parkway, or park land, it shall require the applicant to submit detailed plans and specifications of the proposed improvement, which, as submitted, or as modified by the state parks and recreation commission, shall be incorporated in the permit when granted. [1982 c 156 § 3; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.150. Prior: 1929 c 83 § 3; RRS § 10946-3. Formerly RCW 43.51.150.]

**79A.05.155 Surety bond.** If the commission determines it necessary, the applicant shall execute and file with the secretary of state a bond payable to the state, in such penal sum as the commission shall require, with good and sufficient sureties to be approved by the commission, conditioned that

the grantee of the permit will make the improvement in accordance with the plans and specifications contained in the permit, and, in case the improvement is made upon lands withdrawn from sale under the provisions of RCW 79A.05.105, will pay into the state treasury to the credit of the fund to which the proceeds of the sale of such lands would belong, the appraised value of all merchantable timber and material on the land, destroyed, or used in making such improvement. [2000 c 11 § 31; 1982 c 156 § 4; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.160. Prior: 1929 c 83 § 4; RRS § 10946-4. Formerly RCW 43.51.160.]

**79A.05.160 Police powers vested in commission and employees.** (1) The members of the commission and its designated employees shall be vested with police powers to enforce the laws of this state.

(2) The director may, under the provisions of RCW 7.84.140, enter into an agreement allowing employees of the department of natural resources and the department of fish and wildlife to enforce certain civil infractions created under this title. [2011 c 320 § 15; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.170. Prior: 1921 c 149 § 7; RRS § 10947. Formerly RCW 43.51.170.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.05.165 Penalties.** (1) Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor who:

(a) Cuts, breaks, injures, destroys, takes, or removes any tree, shrub, timber, plant, or natural object in any park or parkway except in accordance with such rules as the commission may prescribe; or

(b) Kills, or pursues with intent to kill, any bird or animal in any park or parkway except in accordance with a research pass, permit, or other approval issued by the commission, pursuant to rule, for scientific research purposes; or

(c) Takes any fish from the waters of any park or parkway, except in conformity with such general rules as the commission may prescribe; or

(d) Willfully mutilates, injures, defaces, or destroys any guidepost, notice, tablet, fence, inclosure, or work for the protection or ornamentation of any park or parkway; or

(e) Lights any fire upon any park or parkway, except in such places as the commission has authorized, or willfully or carelessly permits any fire which he or she has lighted or which is under his or her charge, to spread or extend to or burn any of the shrubbery, trees, timber, ornaments, or improvements upon any park or parkway, or leaves any campfire which he or she has lighted or which has been left in his or her charge, unattended by a competent person, without extinguishing it; or

(f) Places within any park or parkway or affixes to any object therein contained, without a written license from the commission, any word, character, or device designed to advertise any business, profession, article, thing, exhibition, matter, or event.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a person who violates any rule adopted, promulgated, or issued by the commission pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) The commission may specify by rule, when not inconsistent with applicable statutes, that violation of the rule

is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. [2007 c 441 § 2; (2008 c 83 § 2 expired December 1, 2010); 2003 c 53 § 382; 1997 c 214 § 1; 1987 c 380 § 15; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.180. Prior: 1921 c 149 § 8; RRS § 10948. Formerly RCW 43.51.180.]

**Expiration date—2008 c 83:** "This act expires December 1, 2010." [2008 c 83 § 3.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.170 Transfer of surplus land—Reversionary clause required—Release—Parkland acquisition account.** (1) Any lands owned by the state parks and recreation commission, which are determined to be surplus to the needs of the state for development for state park purposes and which the commission proposes to deed to a local government or other entity, shall be accompanied by a clause requiring that if the land is not used for outdoor recreation purposes, ownership of the land shall revert to the state parks and recreation commission.

(2) The state parks and recreation commission, in cases where land subject to such a reversionary clause is proposed for use or disposal for purposes other than recreation, shall require that, if the land is surplus to the needs of the commission for park purposes at the time the commission becomes aware of its proposed use for nonrecreation purposes, the holder of the land or property shall reimburse the commission for the release of the reversionary interest in the land. The reimbursement shall be in the amount of the fair market value of the reversionary interest as determined by a qualified appraiser agreeable to the commission. Appraisal costs shall be borne by the local entity which holds title to the land.

(3) Any funds generated under a reimbursement under this section shall be deposited in the parkland acquisition account which is hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys in this account are to be used solely for the purchase or acquisition of property for use as state park property by the commission, as directed by the legislature; all such funds shall be subject to legislative appropriation. [1991 sp.s. c 13 § 23; 1985 c 57 § 33; 1984 c 87 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.200.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.175 Disposal of land not needed for park purposes.** Whenever the commission finds that any land under its control cannot advantageously be used for park purposes, it is authorized to dispose of such land by the method provided in this section or by the method provided in RCW 79A.05.170. If such lands are school or other grant lands, control thereof shall be relinquished by resolution of the commission to the proper state officials. If such lands were acquired under restrictive conveyances by which the state may hold them only so long as they are used for park purposes, they may be returned to the donor or grantors by the commission. All other such lands may be either sold by the commission to the highest bidder or exchanged for other lands of equal value by the commission, and all conveyance documents shall be executed by the governor. All such exchanges shall be accompanied by a transfer fee, to be set by the commission and paid by the other party to the transfer; such fee shall be paid into the parkland acquisition account established under RCW 79A.05.170. The commission may

accept sealed bids, electronic bids, or oral bids at auction. Bids on all sales shall be solicited at least twenty days in advance of the sale date by an advertisement appearing at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the land to be sold is located. If the commission feels that no bid received adequately reflects the fair value of the land to be sold, it may reject all bids, and may call for new bids. All proceeds derived from the sale of such park property shall be paid into the park land acquisition account. All land considered for exchange shall be evaluated by the commission to determine its adaptability to park usage. The equal value of all lands exchanged shall first be determined by the appraisals to the satisfaction of the commission. No sale or exchange of state park lands shall be made without the unanimous consent of the commission. [2007 c 145 § 1; 1999 c 249 § 601; 1998 c 42 § 1; 1984 c 87 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 246 § 1; 1969 c 99 § 3; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.210. Prior: 1953 c 64 § 1; 1947 c 261 § 1; RRS § 10951a. Formerly RCW 43.51.210.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.178 Real property disposal—Disputed land—Manner—Notice and hearing—Suit for noncompliance.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the commission may directly dispose of up to ten contiguous acres of real property, without public auction, to resolve trespass, property ownership disputes, and boundary adjustments with adjacent private property owners. Real property to be disposed of under this section may be disposed of only after appraisal and for at least fair market value, and only if the transaction is in the best interest of the state. The commission shall cooperate with potential purchasers to arrive at a mutually agreeable sales price. If necessary, determination of fair market value may include the use of separate independent appraisals by each party and the review of the appraisals, as agreed upon by the parties. All conveyance documents shall be executed by the governor. All proceeds from the disposal of the property shall be paid into the park land acquisition account. No disposal of real property may be made without the unanimous consent of the commission.

(2) Prior to the disposal of any real property under subsection (1) of this section, the commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposal in the county where the real property, or the greatest portion of the real property, is located. At least ten days, but not more than twenty-five days, prior to the hearing, the commission shall publish a paid public notice of reasonable size in display advertising form, setting forth the date, time, and place of the hearing, at least once in one or more daily newspapers of general circulation in the county and at least once in one or more weekly newspapers circulated in the area where the real property is located. A news release concerning the public hearing must be disseminated among print and electronic media in the area where the real property is located. The public notice and news release shall also identify the real property involved in the proposed disposal and describe the purpose of the proposed disposal. A summary of the testimony presented at the public hearing shall be prepared for the commission's consideration when reviewing the proposed disposal of real property.

(3) If there is a failure to substantially comply with the procedures set out under this section, then the agreement to

dispose of the real property is subject to being declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction. Such a suit must be brought within one year of the date of the real property disposal agreement. [2000 c 42 § 1.]

**79A.05.179 Notification requirements.** Actions under this chapter are subject to the notification requirements of RCW 43.17.400. [2007 c 62 § 11.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—2007 c 62:** See notes following RCW 43.17.400.

**79A.05.180 Exchange of state land by commission—Public notice—News release—Hearing—Procedure.** Before the director of parks and recreation presents a proposed exchange to the parks and recreation commission involving an exchange of state land pursuant to this chapter, the director shall hold a public hearing on the proposal in the county where the state lands or the greatest proportion thereof is located. Ten days but not more than twenty-five days prior to such hearing, the director shall publish a paid public notice of reasonable size in display advertising form, setting forth the date, time, and place of the hearing, at least once in one or more daily newspapers of general circulation in the county and at least once in one or more weekly newspapers circulated in the area where the state owned land is located. A news release pertaining to the hearing shall be disseminated among printed and electronic media in the area where the state land is located. The public notice and news release also shall identify lands involved in the proposed exchange and describe the purposes of the exchange and proposed use of the lands involved. A summary of the testimony presented at the hearings shall be prepared for the commission's consideration when reviewing the director's exchange proposal. If there is a failure to substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this section, then the exchange agreement shall be subject to being declared invalid by a court. Any such suit must be brought within one year from the date of the exchange agreement. [1998 c 42 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 107 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.215.]

*Exchange of land under control of department of natural resources, procedure: RCW 79.17.050.*

**79A.05.185 Small boat facilities for Puget Sound authorized.** To encourage the development of the Puget Sound country as a recreational boating area, the commission is authorized to establish landing, launch ramp, and other facilities for small pleasure boats at places on Puget Sound frequented by such boats and where the commission shall find such facilities will be of greatest advantage to the users of pleasure boats. The commission is authorized to acquire land or to make use of lands belonging to the state for such purposes, and to construct the necessary floats, launch ramp, and other desirable structures and to make such further development of any area used in connection therewith as in the judgment of the commission is best calculated to facilitate the public enjoyment thereof. [1999 c 249 § 904; 1965 c 8 § 43.51.220. Prior: 1949 c 154 § 1; RRS § 10768-4d. Formerly RCW 43.51.220.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.190 Recreational metal detectors—Available land.** (1) By September 1, 1997, the commission shall increase the area available for use by recreational metal detectors by at least two hundred acres.

(2) Beginning September 1, 1998, and each year thereafter until August 31, 2003, the commission shall increase the area of land available for use by recreational metal detectors by at least fifty acres. [1997 c 150 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.235.]

**Intent—1997 c 150:** "It is the intent of the legislature that those significant historic archaeological resources on state park lands that are of importance to the history of our state, or its communities, be protected for the people of the state. At the same time, the legislature also recognizes that the recreational use of metal detectors in state parks is a legitimate form of recreation that can be compatible with the protection of significant historic archaeological resources." [1997 c 150 § 1.]

**79A.05.195 Identification of historic archaeological resources in state parks—Plan—Availability of land for use by recreational metal detectors.** (1) The commission shall develop a cost-effective plan to identify historic archaeological resources in at least one state park containing a military fort located in Puget Sound. The plan shall include the use of a professional archaeologist and volunteer citizens.

(2) Any park land that is made available for use by recreational metal detectors under this section shall count toward the requirements established in RCW 79A.05.190. [1999 c 249 § 905; 1997 c 150 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.237.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.200 Certain tidelands transferred to commission.** The powers, functions, and duties heretofore exercised by the department of fish and wildlife, or its director, respecting the management, control, and operation of the following enumerated tidelands, which are presently suitable for public recreational use, are hereby transferred to the parks and recreation commission which shall also have respecting such tidelands all the powers conferred by this chapter, as now or hereafter amended, respecting parks and parkways:

Parcel No. 1. (Toandos Peninsula) The tidelands of the second class, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 1, 2, and 3, section 5, lots 1, 2, and 3, section 4, and lot 1, section 3, all in township 25 north, range 1 west, W.M., with a frontage of 158.41 lineal chains, more or less.

Parcel No. 2. (Shine) The tidelands of the second class, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 1, 2, 3 and that portion of lot 4 lying north of the south 8.35 chains thereof as measured along the government meander line, all in section 35, township 28 north, range 1 east, W.M., with a frontage of 76.70 lineal chains, more or less.

Subject to an easement for right-of-way for county road granted to Jefferson county December 8, 1941 under application No. 1731, records of department of public lands.

Parcel No. 3. (Mud Bay - Lopez Island) The tidelands of the second class, owned by the state of Washington situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 5, 6 and 7, section 18, lot 5, section 7 and lots 3, 4, and 5, section 8, all in township 34 north, range 1 west, W.M., with a frontage of 172.11 lineal chains, more or less.

Excepting, however, any tideland of the second class in front of said lot 3, section 8 conveyed through deeds issued April 14, 1909 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 24, Laws of 1895 under application No. 4985, records of department of public lands.

Parcel No. 4. (Spencer Spit) The tidelands of the second class, owned by the state of Washington, situate in front of, adjacent to, or abutting upon lots 1, 3, and 4, section 7, and lot 5, section 18 all in township 35 north, range 1 west, W.M., with a frontage of 118.80 lineal chains, more or less.

Parcel No. 5. (Lilliwaup) The tidelands of the second class, owned by the state of Washington, lying easterly of the east line of vacated state oyster reserve plat No. 133 produced southerly and situate in front of, adjacent to or abutting upon lot 9, section 30, lot 8, section 19 and lot 5 and the south 20 acres of lot 4, section 20, all in township 23 north, range 3 west, W.M., with a frontage of 62.46 lineal chains, more or less. [2000 c 11 § 32; 1967 ex.s. c 96 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.240.]

*Certain tidelands reserved for recreational use: RCW 79.125.740.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.205 Certain tidelands transferred to commission—Access to and from tidelands.** The state parks and recreation commission may take appropriate action to provide public and private access, including roads and docks, to and from the tidelands described in RCW 79A.05.200. [2000 c 11 § 33; 1967 ex.s. c 96 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.250.]

**79A.05.210 Sale of state trust lands—Terms and conditions.** (1) The department of natural resources and the commission shall have authority to negotiate sales to the commission, for park and outdoor recreation purposes, of trust lands at fair market value.

(2) The department of natural resources and the commission shall negotiate a sale to the commission of the lands and timber thereon identified in the joint study under section 4, chapter 163, Laws of 1985, and commonly referred to as the Point Lawrence trust property, San Juan county — on the extreme east point of Orcas Island. Timber conservation and management practices provided for in RCW 79A.05.035 and 79A.05.305 shall govern the management of land and timber transferred under this subsection as of the effective date of the transfer, upon payment for the property, and nothing in this chapter shall be construed as restricting or otherwise modifying the department of natural resources' management, control, or use of such land and timber until such date. [1999 c 249 § 906; 1995 c 211 § 4; 1992 c 185 § 1; 1988 c 79 § 1; 1987 c 466 § 1; 1985 c 163 § 1; 1981 c 271 § 1; 1980 c 4 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 210 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.270.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—Severability—1995 c 211:** See notes following RCW 79A.05.070.

*Withdrawal of state trust lands for park and recreational purpose: RCW 79A.50.080 through 79A.50.100.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.215 State parks renewal and stewardship account.** The state parks renewal and stewardship account is created in the state treasury. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all receipts from user fees, concessions, leases, donations collected under RCW 46.16A.090(3), and other

state park-based activities shall be deposited into the account. The proceeds from the recreation access pass account created in RCW 79A.80.090 must be used for the purpose of operating and maintaining state parks. Expenditures from the account may be used for operating state parks, developing and renovating park facilities, undertaking deferred maintenance, enhancing park stewardship, and other state park purposes. Expenditures from the account may be made only after appropriation by the legislature. [2011 c 320 § 22; 2010 c 161 § 1164; 2007 c 340 § 2; 1995 c 211 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.51.275.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—Severability—1995 c 211:** See notes following RCW 79A.05.070.

**79A.05.220 Trust lands—Periodic review to identify parcels appropriate for transfer to commission.** The parks and recreation commission and the department of natural resources may periodically conduct a joint review of trust lands managed by the department to identify those parcels which may be appropriate for transfer to the commission for public recreation purposes. [1987 c 466 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.285.]

*Escheat land suitable for park purposes: RCW 79.10.030.*

**79A.05.225 Winter recreational facilities—Commission duties—Liability.** (1) In addition to its other powers, duties, and functions the commission may:

(a) Plan, construct, and maintain suitable facilities for winter recreational activities on lands administered or acquired by the commission or as authorized on lands administered by other public agencies or private landowners by agreement;

(b) Provide and issue upon payment of the proper fee, under RCW 79A.05.230, 79A.05.240, and 46.61.585, with the assistance of such authorized agents as may be necessary for the convenience of the public, special permits to park in designated winter recreational area parking spaces;

(c) Administer the snow removal operations for all designated winter recreational area parking spaces; and

(d) Compile, publish, and distribute maps indicating such parking spaces, adjacent trails, and areas and facilities suitable for winter recreational activities.

(2) The commission must require the winter recreation program and its services to be self-supported solely through permit fees, gifts, grants, donations, and other revenues dedicated to the winter recreational program account in RCW 79A.05.235 and the snowmobile account in \*RCW 46.10.075.

(3) The commission may contract with any public or private agency for the actual conduct of such duties, but shall remain responsible for the proper administration thereof. The commission is not liable for unintentional injuries to users of lands administered for winter recreation purposes under this section or under RCW 46.10.370, whether the lands are administered by the commission, by other public agencies, or by private landowners through agreement with the commis-

(2012 Ed.)

sion. Nothing in this section prevents the liability of the commission for injuries sustained by a user by reason of a known dangerous artificial latent condition for which warning signs have not been conspicuously posted. A road covered with snow and groomed for the purposes of winter recreation consistent with this chapter and chapter 46.10 RCW shall not be presumed to be a known dangerous artificial latent condition for the purposes of this chapter. [2011 c 320 § 25; 2011 c 171 § 116; 1999 c 249 § 1401. Prior: 1990 c 136 § 2; 1990 c 49 § 2; 1982 c 11 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 209 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.290.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 46.10.075 was recodified as RCW 46.68.350 pursuant to 2010 c 161 § 1230, effective July 1, 2011.

(2) This section was amended by 2011 c 171 § 116 and by 2011 c 320 § 25, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 320:** See RCW 79A.80.005.

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.230 Winter recreational area parking permits—Fee—Expiration.** The fee for the issuance of special winter recreational area parking permits shall be determined by the commission after consultation with the winter recreation advisory committee. If the person making application therefor is also the owner of a snowmobile registered pursuant to chapter 46.10 RCW, there shall be no fee for the issuance of an annual permit. All special winter recreational area parking permits shall commence and expire on the dates established by the commission. [1990 c 49 § 3; 1986 c 47 § 1; 1982 c 11 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 209 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.300.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.235 Winter recreational program account—Deposit of parking permit fees—Winter recreation programs by public and private agencies.** There is hereby created the winter recreational program account in the state treasury. Special winter recreational area parking permit fees collected under this chapter shall be remitted to the state treasurer to be deposited in the winter recreational program account and shall be appropriated only to the commission for nonsnowmobile winter recreation purposes including the administration, acquisition, development, operation, planning, and maintenance of winter recreation facilities and the development and implementation of winter recreation, safety, enforcement, and education programs. The commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, or moneys from any source for deposit in the winter recreational program account.

Any public agency in this state may develop and implement winter recreation programs. The commission may make grants to public agencies and contract with any public or private agency or person to develop and implement winter recreation programs. [1991 sp.s. c 13 § 6; 1985 c 57 § 35; 1982 c 11 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 209 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.310.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.240 Winter recreational parking areas—Restriction of overnight parking.** The commission may,

[Title 79A RCW—page 13]

after consultation with the winter recreation advisory committee, adopt rules and regulations prohibiting or restricting overnight parking at any special state winter recreational parking areas owned or administered by it. Where such special state winter recreational parking areas are administered by the commission pursuant to an agreement with other public agencies, such agreement may provide for prohibition or restriction of overnight parking. [1982 c 11 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 209 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.320.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.245 Penalty for violation of RCW 79A.05.240 or 46.61.585.** See RCW 46.61.587.

**79A.05.250 Winter recreational parking areas—**

**Rules.** The commission may adopt such rules as are necessary to implement and enforce RCW 79A.05.225 through 79A.05.240 and 46.61.585 after consultation with the winter recreation advisory committee. [2000 c 11 § 34; 1982 c 11 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 209 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.51.330.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.255 Winter recreation advisory committee—**

**Generally.** (1) There is created a winter recreation advisory committee to advise the parks and recreation commission in the administration of this chapter and to assist and advise the commission in the development of winter recreation facilities and programs.

(2) The committee shall consist of:

(a) Six representatives of the nonsnowmobiling winter recreation public appointed by the commission, including a resident of each of the six geographical areas of this state where nonsnowmobiling winter recreation activity occurs, as defined by the commission.

(b) Three representatives of the snowmobiling public appointed by the commission.

(c) One representative of the department of natural resources, one representative of the department of fish and wildlife, and one representative of the Washington state association of counties, each of whom shall be appointed by the director of the particular department or association.

(3) The terms of the members appointed under subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section shall begin on October 1st of the year of appointment and shall be for three years or until a successor is appointed, except in the case of appointments to fill vacancies for the remainder of the unexpired term: PROVIDED, That the first of these members shall be appointed for terms as follows: Three members shall be appointed for one year, three members shall be appointed for two years, and three members shall be appointed for three years.

(4) Members of the committee shall be reimbursed from the winter recreational program account created by RCW 79A.05.235 for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(5) The committee shall meet at times and places it determines not less than twice each year and additionally as required by the committee chair or by majority vote of the committee. The chair of the committee shall be chosen under procedures adopted by the committee. The committee shall adopt any other procedures necessary to govern its proceedings.

(6) The director of parks and recreation or the director's designee shall serve as secretary to the committee and shall be a nonvoting member. [2000 c 48 § 1; 2000 c 11 § 35; 1994 c 264 § 19; 1990 c 49 § 1; 1989 c 175 § 107; 1988 c 36 § 16; 1987 c 330 § 1101; 1986 c 47 § 2; 1982 c 11 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 209 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.51.340.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2000 c 11 § 35 and by 2000 c 48 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.260 Sun Lakes state park—"Vic Meyers Golf Course" designation—"Vic Meyers Lake" designation.**

The legislature hereby names the golf course located at Sun Lakes State Park the "Vic Meyers Golf Course", and Rainbow Lake shall be re-named "Vic Meyers Lake". The state shall provide and install a proper marker in a suitable location in the main activity area of the park which will set forth the key role Victor Aloysius Meyers had in the development of Sun Lakes State Park and the important part he had for many years in the political and governmental history of the state. In addition, the name hereby established for the golf course shall be prominently displayed at the golf course club house.

The legislature finds it appropriate to so honor Victor Aloysius Meyers for his long and dedicated service to the people of this state. [1977 ex.s. c 266 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.350.]

**79A.05.265 Hostels—Legislative declaration of intent.**

The legislature finds that there is a need for hostels in the state for the safety and welfare of transient persons with limited resources. It is the intent of RCW 79A.05.265 through 79A.05.275 that such facilities be established using locally donated structures. It is the further intent of RCW 79A.05.265 through 79A.05.275 that the state dispense any available federal or other moneys for such related projects and provide assistance where possible. [2000 c 11 § 36; 1977 ex.s. c 281 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.360.]

**79A.05.270 "Hostel" defined.** For purposes of \*this chapter, "hostel" means a simple basic structure that serves as a safe, low-cost accommodation for mobile people of all ages from this country and abroad. [1977 ex.s. c 281 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.365.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "This chapter" apparently refers to RCW 43.51.360 through 43.51.375; which were subsequently recodified as RCW 79A.05.265 through 79A.05.280 pursuant to 1999 c 249 § 1601.

**79A.05.275 Hostels—Authority of political subdivisions to establish.** Any political subdivision of the state is authorized to establish hostels within its jurisdiction. The facilities and services shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Short term sleeping accommodations including adequate restroom and bathing facilities; and

(2) Information and referral services, including, but not limited to availability of employment and health services.

Details of operations and regulations, including the establishment of appropriate fees to recover actual operating and maintenance costs, shall be within the discretion of the operating authority: PROVIDED, That the consumption of alcoholic beverages or the possession or use of a controlled

substance in violation of chapter 69.50 RCW shall be prohibited. [1977 ex.s. c 281 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.370.]

**79A.05.280 Hostels—Commission authorized to accept grants or moneys for the support thereof—Rules required.** The parks and recreation commission is authorized to accept grants or moneys from any federal or private source for support of hostels. The commission at its discretion is directed to apportion and transfer any such moneys to contracting agencies or political subdivisions which operate hostels: PROVIDED, That the commission shall establish rules and regulations for the operation of hostels which are substantially similar to the operating standards and customs established by the American Youth Hostels Incorporated. [1977 ex.s. c 281 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.375.]

**79A.05.285 Land evaluation, acquisition.** The commission is authorized to evaluate and acquire land under \*RCW 79.01.612 in cooperation with the department of natural resources. [1999 c 249 § 907.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 79.01.612 was recodified as RCW 79.10.030 pursuant to 2003 c 334 § 555.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.290 Acquisition of land held by department of natural resources.** The commission may select land held by the department of natural resources for acquisition under RCW 79A.50.010 et seq. [1999 c 249 § 908.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.300 Establishment of urban area state parks by parks and recreation commission.** For the reasons specified in RCW 79A.25.250, the state parks and recreation commission shall place a high priority on the establishment of urban area state parks and shall revise its plan for future state parks to achieve this priority. This section shall be implemented by January 1, 1981. [2000 c 11 § 37; 1980 c 89 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.385.]

**79A.05.305 Declaration of policy—Lands for public park purposes.** The legislature declares that it is the continuing policy of the state of Washington to set aside and manage certain lands within the state for public park purposes. To comply with public park purposes, these lands shall be acquired and managed to:

- (1) Maintain and enhance ecological, aesthetic, and recreational purposes;
- (2) Preserve and maintain mature and old-growth forests containing trees of over ninety years and other unusual ecosystems as natural forests or natural areas, which may also be used for interpretive purposes;
- (3) Protect cultural and historical resources, locations, and artifacts, which may also be used for interpretive purposes;
- (4) Provide a variety of recreational opportunities to the public, including but not limited to use of developed recreation areas, trails, and natural areas;
- (5) Preserve and maintain habitat which will protect and promote endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants, and endangered, threatened, and sensitive animal species; and

(2012 Ed.)

(6) Encourage public participation in the formulation and implementation of park policies and programs. [1984 c 82 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.395.]

**79A.05.310 Powers and duties—Program of boating safety education—Casualty and accident reporting program.** The state parks and recreation commission shall:

- (1) Coordinate a statewide program of boating safety education using to the maximum extent possible existing programs offered by the United States power squadron and the United States coast guard auxiliary;
- (2) Adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW, consistent with United States coast guard regulations, standards, and precedents, as needed for the efficient administration and enforcement of this section;
- (3) Enter into agreements aiding the administration of this chapter;
- (4) Adopt and administer a casualty and accident reporting program consistent with United States coast guard regulations;
- (5) Adopt and enforce recreational boating safety rules, including but not necessarily limited to equipment and navigating requirements, consistent with United States coast guard regulations;
- (6) Coordinate with local and state agencies the development of biennial plans and programs for the enhancement of boating safety, safety education, and enforcement of safety rules and laws; allocate money appropriated to the commission for these programs as necessary; and accept and administer any public or private grants or federal funds which are obtained for these purposes under chapter 43.88 RCW; and
- (7) Take additional actions necessary to gain acceptance of a program of boating safety for this state under the federal boating safety act of 1971. [1998 c 245 § 66; 1994 c 151 § 3; 1984 c 183 § 4; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 52. Formerly RCW 43.51.400.]

*Penalties for violations: RCW 88.02.380.*

**79A.05.315 Milwaukee Road corridor—Transfer of management control to commission.** Management control of the portion of the Milwaukee Road corridor, beginning at the western terminus near Easton and concluding at the west end of the bridge structure over the Columbia river, which point is located in section 34, township 16 north, range 23 east, W.M., inclusive of the northerly spur line therefrom, shall be transferred by the department of natural resources to the state parks and recreation commission at no cost to the commission. [1989 c 129 § 1; (2000 c 11 § 38; 1996 c 129 § 7 expired July 1, 2006); 1984 c 174 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.405.]

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** "The purpose of RCW 43.51.405 through 43.51.411 and 79.08.275 through 79.08.283 is to set forth the state's policy regarding the approximately two hundred thirteen-mile corridor of land purchased by the state from the Milwaukee Railroad Company under section 17(21), chapter 143, Laws of 1981." [1984 c 174 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.320 Milwaukee Road corridor—Duties.** The state parks and recreation commission shall do the following with respect to the portion of the Milwaukee Road corridor under its control:

(1) Manage the corridor as a recreational trail except when closed under RCW 79A.05.325;

(2) Close the corridor to hunting;

(3) Close the corridor to all motorized vehicles except: (a) Emergency or law enforcement vehicles; (b) vehicles necessary for access to utility lines; and (c) vehicles necessary for maintenance of the corridor, or construction of the trail;

(4) Comply with legally enforceable conditions contained in the deeds for the corridor;

(5) Control weeds under the applicable provisions of chapters 17.04, 17.06, and 17.10 RCW; and

(6) Clean and maintain culverts. [2000 c 11 § 39; 1987 c 438 § 39; 1984 c 174 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.407.]

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** See note following RCW 79A.05.315.

**79A.05.325 Milwaukee Road corridor—Additional duties.** The state parks and recreation commission may do the following with respect to the portion of the Milwaukee Road corridor under its control:

(1) Enter into agreements to allow the realignment or modification of public roads, farm crossings, water conveyance facilities, and other utility crossings;

(2) Regulate activities and restrict uses, including, but not limited to, closing portions of the corridor to reduce fire danger or protect public safety;

(3) Place hazard warning signs and close hazardous structures;

(4) Renegotiate deed restrictions upon agreement with affected parties; and

(5) Approve and process the sale or exchange of lands or easements if such a sale or exchange will not adversely affect the recreational potential of the corridor; and

(6) Manage the portion of the Milwaukee Road corridor lying between the eastern corporate limits of the city of Kittitas and the eastern end of the corridor under commission control for recreational access limited to holders of permits issued by the commission. The commission shall, for the purpose of issuing permits for corridor use, adopt rules necessary for the orderly and safe use of the corridor and the protection of adjoining landowners, which may include restrictions on the total numbers of permits issued, numbers in a permitted group, and periods during which the corridor is available for permitted users. The commission may increase recreational management of this portion of the corridor and eliminate the permit system as it determines in its discretion based upon available funding and other resources. [1989 c 129 § 3; 1984 c 174 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.409.]

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** See note following RCW 79A.05.315.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.330 Recreation trail on Milwaukee Road corridor.** The state parks and recreation commission shall identify opportunities and encourage volunteer work, private contributions, and support from tax-exempt foundations to develop, operate, and maintain the recreation trail on the portion of the Milwaukee Road under its control. [1984 c 174 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.51.411.]

**Purpose—1984 c 174:** See note following RCW 79A.05.315.

**79A.05.335 Environmental interpretation—Authority of commission.** The legislature finds that the lands

owned and managed by the state parks and recreation commission are a significant collection of valuable natural, historical, and cultural resources for the citizens of Washington state. The legislature further finds that if citizens understand and appreciate the state park ecological resources, they will come to appreciate and understand the ecosystems and natural resources throughout the state. Therefore, the state parks and recreation commission may increase the use of its facilities and resources to provide environmental interpretation throughout the state parks system. [1991 c 107 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.415.]

**79A.05.340 Environmental interpretation—Scope of activities.** The state parks and recreation commission may provide environmental interpretative activities for visitors to state parks that:

(1) Explain the functions, history, and cultural aspects of ecosystems;

(2) Explain the relationship between human needs, human behaviors and attitudes, and the environment; and

(3) Offer experiences and information to increase citizen appreciation and stewardship of the environment and its multiple uses. [1991 c 107 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.417.]

**79A.05.345 Environmental interpretation—Assistance from other organizations.** The state parks and recreation commission may consult and enter into agreements with and solicit assistance from private sector organizations and other governmental agencies that are interested in conserving and interpreting Washington's environment. The commission shall not permit commercial advertising in state park lands or interpretive centers as a condition of such agreements. Logos or credit lines for sponsoring organizations may be permitted. The commission shall maintain an accounting of all monetary gifts provided, and expenditures of monetary gifts shall not be used to increase personnel. [1991 c 107 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.419.]

**79A.05.351 Outdoor education and recreation grant program—Creation—Establish and implement program by rule—Advisory committee—Account.** (1) The outdoor education and recreation grant program is hereby created, subject to the availability of funds in the outdoor education and recreation account. The commission shall establish and implement the program by rule to provide opportunities for public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, formal school programs, nonformal after-school programs, and community-based programs to receive grants from the account. Programs that provide outdoor education opportunities to schools shall be fully aligned with the state's essential academic learning requirements.

(2) The program shall be phased in beginning with the schools and students with the greatest needs in suburban, rural, and urban areas of the state. The program shall focus on students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, who are most likely to fail academically, or who have the greatest potential to drop out of school.

(3) The director shall set priorities and develop criteria for the awarding of grants to outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-based education and recreation programs considering at least the following:

(a) Programs that contribute to the reduction of academic failure and dropout rates;

(b) Programs that make use of research-based, effective environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-based education curriculum;

(c) Programs that contribute to healthy life styles through outdoor recreation and sound nutrition;

(d) Various Washington state parks as venues and use of the commission's personnel as a resource;

(e) Programs that maximize the number of participants that can be served;

(f) Programs that will commit matching and in-kind resources;

(g) Programs that create partnerships with public and private entities;

(h) Programs that provide students with opportunities to directly experience and understand nature and the natural world; and

(i) Programs that include ongoing program evaluation, assessment, and reporting of their effectiveness.

(4) The director shall create an advisory committee to assist and advise the commission in the development and administration of the outdoor education and recreation program. The director should solicit representation on the committee from the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department of fish and wildlife, the business community, outdoor organizations with an interest in education, and any others the commission deems sufficient to ensure a cross section of stakeholders. When the director creates such an advisory committee, its members shall be reimbursed from the outdoor education and recreation program account for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(5) The outdoor education and recreation program account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. Funds deposited in the outdoor education and recreation program account shall be transferred only to the commission to be used solely for the commission's outdoor education and recreation program purposes identified in this section including the administration of the program. The director may accept gifts, grants, donations, or moneys from any source for deposit in the outdoor education and recreation program account. Any public agency in this state may develop and implement outdoor education and recreation programs. The director may make grants to public agencies and contract with any public or private agency or person to develop and implement outdoor education and recreation programs. The outdoor education and recreation program account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2007 c 176 § 2.]

**Intent—2007 c 176:** "It is the intent of the legislature to establish an outdoor education and recreation program to provide a large number of underserved students with quality opportunities to directly experience the natural world. It is the intent of the program to improve students' overall academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community involvement, personal health, and understanding of nature. Further, it is the intent of the program to empower local communities to engage students in outdoor education and recreation experiences." [2007 c 176 § 1.]

(2012 Ed.)

## UNDERWATER PARKS

**79A.05.355 Underwater parks—Lead agency.** The state parks and recreation commission shall act as the lead agency for the establishment of underwater parks in state waters and for environmental reviews of projects necessary to establish underwater parks. The commission may enter into interagency agreements to facilitate timely receipt of necessary permits from other state agencies and local governments. [1993 c 267 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.430.]

**79A.05.360 Underwater parks—Authority to establish—Powers and duties.** The commission may establish a system of underwater parks to provide for diverse recreational diving opportunities and to conserve and protect unique marine resources of the state of Washington. In establishing and maintaining an underwater park system, the commission may:

- (1) Plan, construct, and maintain underwater parks;
- (2) Acquire property and enter management agreements with other units of state government for the management of lands, tidelands, and bedlands as underwater parks;
- (3) Construct artificial reefs and other underwater features to enhance marine life and recreational uses of an underwater park;
- (4) Accept gifts and donations for the benefit of underwater parks;
- (5) Facilitate private efforts to construct artificial reefs and underwater parks;
- (6) Work with the federal government, local governments and other appropriate agencies of state government, including but not limited to: The department of natural resources, the department of fish and wildlife and the natural heritage council to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and
- (7) Contract with other state agencies or local governments for the management of an underwater park unit. [1999 c 249 § 1301; 1994 c 264 § 20; 1993 c 267 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.432.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.370 Underwater parks—Diverse recreational opportunity.** In establishing an underwater park system, the commission shall seek to create diverse recreational opportunities in areas throughout Washington state. The commission shall place a high priority upon creating units that possess unique or diverse marine life or underwater natural or artificial features such as shipwrecks. [1993 c 267 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.436.]

**79A.05.375 Underwater parks—Liability.** The commission is not liable for unintentional injuries to users of underwater parks, whether the facilities are administered by the commission or by another entity or person. However, nothing in this section prevents the liability of the commission for injuries sustained by a user by reason of a known dangerous artificial latent condition for which warning signs have not been conspicuously posted. [1993 c 267 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.51.438.]

## WATER TRAIL RECREATION PROGRAM

**79A.05.380 Water trail recreation program—Created.** The legislature recognizes the increase in water-oriented recreation by users of human and wind-powered, beachable vessels such as kayaks, canoes, or day sailors on Washington's waters. These recreationists frequently require overnight camping facilities along the shores of public or private beaches. The legislature now creates a water trail recreation program, to be administered by the Washington state parks and recreation commission. The legislature recognizes that the effort to develop water trail sites is a continuing need and that the commission provides beneficial expertise and consultation to water trail user groups, agencies, and private landowners for the existing Cascadia marine trail and Willapa Bay water trail. [2003 c 338 § 1; 1993 c 182 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.440.]

**79A.05.385 Water trail recreation program—Powers and duties.** In addition to its other powers, duties, and functions, the commission may:

(1) Plan, construct, and maintain suitable facilities for water trail activities on lands administered or acquired by the commission or as authorized on lands administered by tribes or other public agencies or private landowners by agreement.

(2) Compile, publish, distribute, and charge a fee for maps or other forms of public information indicating areas and facilities suitable for water trail activities.

(3) Contract with a public agency, private entity, or person for the actual conduct of these duties.

(4) Work with individuals or organizations who wish to volunteer their time to support the water trail recreation program.

(5) Provide expertise and consultation to individuals, agencies, and organizations in the continued development of water trail sites in this state. [2003 c 338 § 2; 2003 c 126 § 601; 1993 c 182 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.442.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2003 c 126 § 601 and by 2003 c 338 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Part headings not law—2003 c 126:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2003 c 126 § 1001.]

**Effective date—2003 c 126:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003." [2003 c 126 § 1003.]

**79A.05.390 Water trail recreation program—Grants.** The commission may make water trail program grants to public agencies or tribal governments and may contract with any public agency, tribal government, entity, or person to develop and implement water trail programs. [1993 c 182 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.444.]

**79A.05.395 Water trail recreation program—Liability.** The commission is not liable for unintentional injuries to users of facilities administered for water trail purposes under this chapter, whether the facilities are administered by the commission or by any other entity or person. However, nothing in this section prevents the liability of the commission for injuries sustained by a user by reason of a known dangerous

artificial latent condition for which warning signs have not been conspicuously posted. [1993 c 182 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.446.]

**79A.05.410 Water trail recreation program—Rules.** The commission may adopt rules to administer the water trail program and facilities on areas owned or administered by the commission. Where water trail facilities administered by other public or private entities are incorporated into the water trail system, the rules adopted by those entities shall prevail. The commission is not responsible or liable for enforcement of these alternative rules. [2003 c 338 § 3; 2003 c 126 § 603; 1993 c 182 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.51.452.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2003 c 126:** See notes following RCW 79A.05.385.

**79A.05.415 Water trail recreation program—Violation.** Violation of the provisions of the commission's rules governing the use of water trail facilities and property shall constitute a civil infraction, punishable as provided under chapter 7.84 RCW. [1993 c 182 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.51.454.]

**79A.05.425 Water trail recreation program—Disposition of funds.** Any unspent balance of funds in the water trail program account created in \*RCW 79A.05.405 as of June 30, 2003, must be transferred to the state parks renewal and stewardship account created in RCW 79A.05.215. All receipts from sales of materials under RCW 79A.05.385 and all monetary civil penalties collected under RCW 79A.05.415 must be deposited in the state parks renewal and stewardship account. Any gifts, grants, donations, or moneys from any source received by the commission for the water trail program must also be deposited in the state parks renewal and stewardship account. Funds transferred or deposited into the state parks renewal and stewardship account under this section must be used solely for water trail program purposes. [2003 c 338 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 79A.05.405 was repealed by 2003 c 338 § 5.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND  
CONSERVATION CORPS

**79A.05.545 Washington conservation corps.** The commission shall cooperate, when appropriate, as a partner in the Washington conservation corps established in chapter 43.220 RCW. [2011 c 20 § 14; 1999 c 249 § 701.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 20:** See note following RCW 43.220.020.

**Intent—Application—2011 c 20:** See RCW 43.220.905.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## SEASHORE CONSERVATION AREA

**79A.05.600 Declaration of principles.** The beaches bounding the Pacific Ocean from the Straits of Juan de Fuca to Cape Disappointment at the mouth of the Columbia River constitute some of the last unspoiled seashore remaining in the United States. They provide the public with almost unlimited opportunities for recreational activities, like swimming, surfing and hiking; for outdoor sports, like hunting, fishing, clamming, and boating; for the observation of nature

as it existed for hundreds of years before the arrival of Europeans; and for relaxation away from the pressures and tensions of modern life. In past years, these recreational activities have been enjoyed by countless Washington citizens, as well as by tourists from other states and countries. The number of people wishing to participate in such recreational activities grows annually. This increasing public pressure makes it necessary that the state dedicate the use of the ocean beaches to public recreation and to provide certain recreational and sanitary facilities. Nonrecreational use of the beach must be strictly limited. Even recreational uses must be regulated in order that Washington's unrivaled seashore may be saved for our children in much the same form as we know it today. [2009 c 549 § 1029; 1967 c 120 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.650.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.605 Seashore conservation area—Established.** There is established for the recreational use and enjoyment of the public the Washington State Seashore Conservation Area. It shall include all lands now or hereafter under state ownership or control lying between Cape Disappointment and Leadbetter Point; between Toke Point and the South jetty on Point Chehalis; and between Damon Point and the Makah Indian Reservation and occupying the area between the line of ordinary high tide and the line of extreme low tide, as these lines now are or may hereafter be located, and, where applicable, between the Seashore Conservation Line, as established by survey of the Washington state parks and recreation commission and the line of extreme low tide, as these lines now are or may hereafter be located; and shall also include all state-owned nontrust accreted lands along the ocean: PROVIDED, That no such conservation area shall include any lands within the established boundaries of any Indian reservation. [1969 ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1967 c 120 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.655.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.610 Jurisdiction over and administration of area.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.630, the Washington State Seashore Conservation Area shall be under the jurisdiction of the Washington state parks and recreation commission, which shall administer RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.630 in accordance with the powers granted it herein and under the appropriate provisions of this chapter. [2000 c 11 § 46; 1969 ex.s. c 55 § 2; 1967 c 120 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.660.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.615 Principles and purposes to be followed in administering area.** The Washington state parks and recreation commission shall administer the Washington State Seashore Conservation Area in harmony with the broad principles set forth in RCW 79A.05.600. Where feasible, the area shall be preserved in its present state; everywhere it shall be maintained in the best possible condition for public use. All forms of public outdoor recreation shall be permitted and encouraged in the area, unless specifically excluded or limited by the commission. While the primary purpose in the establishment of the area is to preserve the coastal beaches for public recreation, other uses shall be allowed as provided

in RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.630, or when found not inconsistent with public recreational use by the Washington state parks and recreation commission. [2000 c 11 § 47; 1969 ex.s. c 55 § 3; 1967 c 120 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.665.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.620 Cooperation and assistance of federal, state, and local agencies.** In administering the Washington State Seashore Conservation Area, the Washington state parks and recreation commission shall seek the cooperation and assistance of federal agencies, other state agencies, and local political subdivisions. All state agencies, and the governing officials of each local subdivision shall cooperate with the commission in carrying out its duties. Except as otherwise provided in RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.630, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, other state agencies and local subdivisions shall perform duties in the Washington State Seashore Conservation Area which are within their normal jurisdiction, except when such performance clearly conflicts with the purposes of RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.630. [2000 c 11 § 48; 1969 ex.s. c 55 § 4; 1967 c 120 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.51.670.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.625 Powers and authority of department of fish and wildlife not interfered with.** Nothing in RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.630 and 79A.05.635 through 79A.05.695 shall be construed to interfere with the powers, duties and authority of the department of fish and wildlife to regulate the conservation or taking of food fish and shellfish. Nor shall anything in RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.630 and 79A.05.635 through 79A.05.695 be construed to interfere with the powers, duties and authority of the department of fish and wildlife to regulate, manage, conserve, and provide for the harvest of wildlife within such area: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no hunting shall be permitted in any state park. [2000 c 11 § 49; 1994 c 264 § 22; 1988 c 75 § 17; 1987 c 506 § 92; 1983 c 3 § 109; 1969 ex.s. c 55 § 5; 1967 c 120 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.51.675.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.630 Sale, lease, and disposal of lands within the Seashore Conservation Area—Disposal of certain lands.** Lands within the Seashore Conservation Area shall not be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of, except as provided in this section.

(1) The commission may, under authority granted in RCW 79A.05.175 and 79A.05.180, exchange state park lands in the Seashore Conservation Area for lands of equal value to be managed by the commission consistent with this chapter. Only state park lands lying east of the Seashore Conservation Line, as it is located at the time of exchange, may be so exchanged.

(2) The commission may, under authority granted in RCW 79A.05.178, directly dispose of up to five contiguous acres of real property, without public auction, to resolve trespass, property ownership disputes, and boundary adjustments with adjacent property owners. Real property to be disposed of under this subsection may be disposed of only after

appraisal and for at least fair market value, and only if the transaction is in the best interest of the state. All conveyance documents shall be executed by the governor. All proceeds from the disposal of the property shall be paid into the parkland acquisition account and proceeds received pursuant to any sale under this subsection shall be reinvested in real property located inside or within one mile of the Seashore Conservation Area.

(3) The department of natural resources may lease the lands within the Washington State Seashore Conservation Area as well as the accreted lands along the ocean in state ownership for the exploration and production of oil and gas except that oil drilling rigs and equipment shall not be placed on the Seashore Conservation Area or state-owned accreted lands.

Sale of sand from accretions shall be made to supply the needs of cranberry growers for cranberry bogs in the vicinity and shall not be prohibited if found by the commission to be reasonable, and not generally harmful or destructive to the character of the land. The commission may grant leases and permits for the removal of sands for construction purposes from any lands within the Seashore Conservation Area if found by the commission to be reasonable and not generally harmful or destructive to the character of the land. Net income from such leases shall be deposited in the state parks renewal and stewardship account. [2011 c 184 § 1; 2000 c 11 § 50; (2003 1st sp.s. c 26 § 929 expired June 30, 2005); 1997 c 137 § 4; 1995 c 203 § 1; 1988 c 75 § 18; 1969 ex.s. c 55 § 6; 1967 c 120 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.51.685.]

**Expiration date—Severability—Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 26:** See notes following RCW 43.135.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.635 Ocean beach recreation management plans—Cooperative program.** A cooperative program to provide recreation management plans for the ocean beaches that comprise the Seashore Conservation Area established by RCW 79A.05.605 is created. [2000 c 11 § 51; 1988 c 75 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.695.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.640 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply to RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.695.

(1) "Local government" means a county, city, or town.

(2) "Ocean beaches" include the three ocean beaches described in RCW 79A.05.605.

(3) "Pedestrian use" means any use that does not involve a motorized vehicle. [2000 c 11 § 52; 1988 c 75 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.700.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.645 Local recreation management plans.** Local governments having a portion of the Seashore Conservation Area within their boundaries may, individually or through an agreement with other local governments located on the same ocean beach, adopt a recreation management plan which meets the requirements of RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.695 for that portion of the ocean beach. The legislature hereby encourages adoption of a single plan for

each beach. [2000 c 11 § 53; 1988 c 75 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.705.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.650 Reservation for pedestrian use—Restrictions on motorized traffic.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 79A.05.655 and 79A.05.660, a total of forty percent of the length of the beach subject to the recreation management plan shall be reserved for pedestrian use under this section and RCW 79A.05.665. Restrictions on motorized traffic under this section shall be from April 15th to the day following Labor day of each year. Local jurisdictions may adopt provisions within recreation management plans that exceed the requirements of this section. The commission shall not require that a plan designate for pedestrian use more than forty percent of the land subject to the plan.

(2) In designating areas to be reserved for pedestrian use, the plan shall consider the following:

(a) Public safety;

(b) Statewide interest in recreational use of the ocean beaches;

(c) Protection of shorebird and marine mammal habitats;

(d) Preservation of native beach vegetation;

(e) Protection of sand dune topography;

(f) Prudent management of clam beds;

(g) Economic impacts to the local community; and

(h) Public access and parking availability. [2000 c 11 § 54; 1988 c 75 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.710.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.655 Areas reserved for pedestrian use—Exception.** Notwithstanding RCW 79A.05.650(1), recreation management plans may make provision for vehicular traffic on areas otherwise reserved for pedestrian use in order to:

(1) Facilitate clam digging;

(2) Accommodate organized recreational events of not more than seven consecutive days duration;

(3) Provide for removal of wood debris under RCW 4.24.210 and 79A.05.035(5); and

(4) Accommodate removal of sand located upland from the Seashore Conservation Area or removal of sand within the Seashore Conservation Area under the terms of a covenant, easement, or deed. [2000 c 11 § 55; 1988 c 75 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.51.715.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.660 Public vehicles.** Recreation management plans shall not prohibit or restrict public vehicles operated in the performance of official duties, vehicles responding to an emergency, or vehicles specially authorized by the director or the director's designee. [1999 c 249 § 1101; 1988 c 75 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.51.720.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.665 Land adjoining national wildlife refuges and state parks—Pedestrian use—Exception.** Recreation management plans shall, upon request of the commission, reserve on a permanent, seasonal, or temporary basis, land adjoining national wildlife refuges and state parks for pedestrian use. After a plan is approved, the commission may

require local jurisdictions to adopt amendments to the plan governing driving on land adjoining wildlife refuges and state parks. Land reserved for pedestrian use under this section for at least the period from April 15th through the day following Labor Day of each year shall be included when determining compliance with the requirements of RCW 79A.05.650. [2000 c 11 § 56; 1988 c 75 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.51.725.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.670 Consultation with government agencies required.** In preparing, adopting, or approving a recreation management plan, local jurisdictions and the commission shall consult with the department of fish and wildlife and the United States fish and wildlife service. [1999 c 249 § 1102; 1988 c 75 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.51.730.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.675 Compliance with federal and state laws required.** Recreation management plans shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws. [1988 c 75 § 9. Formerly RCW 43.51.735.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.680 Hearings.** Before adopting a recreation management plan, or amendments to an existing plan, local jurisdictions shall conduct a public hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each jurisdiction adopting the plan as well as in a newspaper of general statewide circulation on at least two occasions not less than fourteen days before the first day of the hearing. When a proposed recreation management plan has been prepared by more than one jurisdiction, joint hearings may be conducted. [1988 c 75 § 10. Formerly RCW 43.51.740.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.685 Adoption of plans—Approval—Procedure.** Recreation management plans shall be adopted by each participating jurisdiction and submitted to the commission by September 1, 1989. The commission shall approve the proposed plan if, in the commission's judgment, the plan adequately fulfills the requirements of RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.695.

If the proposed plan is not approved, the commission shall suggest modifications to the participating local governments. Local governments shall have ninety days after receiving the suggested modifications to resubmit a recreation management plan. Thereafter, if the commission finds that a plan does not adequately fulfill the requirements of RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.695, the commission may amend the proposal or adopt an alternative plan.

If a plan for all or any portion of the Seashore Conservation Area is not submitted in accordance with RCW 79A.05.635 through 79A.05.695, the commission shall adopt a recreation management plan for that site.

Administrative rules adopted by the commission under \*RCW 43.51.680 shall remain in effect for all or any portion of each ocean beach until a recreation management plan for that site is adopted or approved by the commission.

(2012 Ed.)

The commission shall not adopt a recreation management plan for all or any portion of an ocean beach while appeal of a commission decision regarding that site is pending. [2000 c 11 § 57; 1988 c 75 § 11. Formerly RCW 43.51.745.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 43.51.680 was repealed by 1988 c 75 § 19, effective January 1, 1989.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.688 Appeal.** Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, organization, cooperative, local government, or state agency aggrieved by a decision of the commission under this chapter may appeal under chapter 34.05 RCW. [1999 c 249 § 1103; 1988 c 75 § 12. Formerly RCW 43.51.750.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.690 Cooperation for law enforcement.** The commission shall cooperate with state and local law enforcement agencies in meeting the need for law enforcement within the Seashore Conservation Area. [1988 c 75 § 13. Formerly RCW 43.51.755.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.693 Ocean beaches in Seashore Conservation Area declared public highways.** The ocean beaches within the Seashore Conservation Area are hereby declared a public highway and shall remain forever open to the use of the public as provided in RCW 79A.05.635 through 79A.05.695. [2000 c 11 § 58; 1988 c 75 § 14. Formerly RCW 43.51.760.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.695 Amendments to plan—Approval—Procedure.** Amendments to the recreation management plan may be adopted jointly by each local government participating in the plan and submitted to the commission for approval. The commission shall approve a proposed amendment if, in the commission's judgment, the amendment adequately fulfills the requirements of RCW 79A.05.600 through 79A.05.695.

After a plan is approved, the commission may require local jurisdictions to adopt amendments to the plan if the commission finds that such amendments are necessary to protect public health and safety, or to protect significant natural resources as determined by the agency having jurisdiction over the resource. [2000 c 11 § 59; 1988 c 75 § 15. Formerly RCW 43.51.765.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## GREEN RIVER GORGE CONSERVATION AREA

**79A.05.700 Declaration.** The Green River Gorge, between the town of Kanasket and the Kummer bridge in King county, is a twelve mile spectacularly winding gorge with steep to overhanging rock walls reaching heights of from one hundred fifty to three hundred feet. The beauty and natural features of the gorge are generally confined within the canyon rim. This twelve mile gorge area contains many examples of unique biological and geological features for educational and recreational interpretation, almost two miles of Eocene sediment rocks and fossils are exposed revealing

one of the most complete stratigraphic sections to be found in the region. The area, a unique recreational attraction with more than one million seven hundred thousand people living within an hour's driving time, is presently used by hikers, geologists, fishermen, kayakers and canoeists, picnickers and swimmers, and those seeking the solitude offered by this unique area. Abutting and adjacent landowners generally have kept the gorge lands in their natural state; however, economic and urbanization pressures for development are rapidly increasing. Local and state outdoor recreation plans show a regional need for resources and facilities which could be developed in this area. A twelve mile strip incorporating the visual basins of the Green River from the Kummer bridge to Palmer needs to be acquired and developed as a conservation area to preserve this unique area for the recreational needs of the region. [1969 ex.s. c 162 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.900.]

**79A.05.705 Green River Gorge conservation area created.** There is hereby created a Washington state parks and recreation commission conservation area to be known as "Green River Gorge conservation area". [1969 ex.s. c 162 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.910.]

**79A.05.710 Acquisition of real property, easements, or rights authorized.** In addition to all other powers and duties prescribed by law, the state parks and recreation commission is authorized and directed to acquire such real property, easements, or rights in the Green River Gorge in King county, together with such real property, easements, and rights as is necessary for such park and conservation purposes in any manner authorized by law for the acquisition of lands for parks and parkway purposes. Except for such real property as is necessary and convenient for development of picnicking or camping areas and their related facilities, it is the intent of this section that such property shall be acquired to preserve, as much as possible, the gorge within the canyon rim in its natural pristine state. [1969 ex.s. c 162 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.920.]

**79A.05.715 Acquisition of real property, easements, or rights authorized—Rights of other state agencies not to be infringed upon.** Nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing or directing the state parks and recreation commission to acquire any real property, easements, or rights in the Green River Gorge in King county which are now held by any state agency for the purposes of outdoor recreation, conservation, fish, or wildlife management or public hunting or fishing without the approval of such agency. [1969 ex.s. c 162 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.930.]

#### MOUNT SI CONSERVATION AREA

**79A.05.725 Legislative declaration.** Mt. Si and Little Si in King county offer unique scenic, natural, and geological features which can be viewed from the I-90 highway. They also afford outstanding recreational opportunities enjoyed by the citizens of this state and tourists alike. The legislature recognizes the importance of guarding portions of this area from those types of development which would permanently alter the area's natural form and beauty. It further recognizes the

necessity of setting forth procedures to manage the area, to enhance the opportunities afforded the state's citizens, one-half of whom live within one-half hour driving time of Mt. Si, and to safeguard to the extent possible the scenic, natural, geological, game habitat, and recreational values therein, and to safeguard and promote the upper Snoqualmie River valley's economy in which the recreational use of Mt. Si plays a pivotal role. Therefore, the legislature declares this area to be of statewide significance for the foregoing purposes to be enhanced and safeguarded in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 306, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. [1977 ex.s. c 306 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 88 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.940.]

**79A.05.730 "Mt. Si conservation area"—Created.** There is hereby created a "Mt. Si conservation area" to include approximately twenty-five hundred acres of state, United States government, and privately owned lands within Sections 25, 26, 35, and 36, Township 24 North, Range 8 East, W.M., and Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12 of Township 23 North, Range 8 East, W.M., as identified for inclusion in the conservation area and described more specifically by the Mt. Si citizen advisory subcommittee in their published report of December 6, 1976, to the Washington state department of natural resources and the Washington state parks and recreation commission as contained in the report filed by those agencies to the house and senate committees on parks and recreation, filed December 1976. [1977 ex.s. c 306 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.942.]

*Designation of Mt. Si conservation area as Mt. Si natural resources conservation area: RCW 79.71.100.*

**79A.05.735 Mt. Si conservation area—Management.** The state department of natural resources and the state parks and recreation commission have joined together in excellent cooperation in the conducting of this study along with the citizen advisory subcommittee and have joined together in cooperation with the department of fish and wildlife to accomplish other projects of multidisciplinary concern, and because it may be in the best interests of the state to continue such cooperation, the state parks and recreation commission, the department of natural resources, and the department of fish and wildlife are hereby directed to consider both short and long term objectives, the expertise of each agency's staff, and alternatives such as reasonably may be expected to safeguard the conservation area's values as described in RCW 79A.05.725 giving due regard to efficiency and economy of management: PROVIDED, That the interests conveyed to or by the state agencies identified in this section shall be managed by the department of natural resources until such time as the state parks and recreation commission or other public agency is managing public recreation areas and facilities located in such close proximity to the conservation area described in RCW 79A.05.730 so as to make combined management of those areas and facilities and transfer of management of the conservation area more efficient and economical than continued management by the department of natural resources. At that time the department of natural resources is directed to negotiate with the appropriate public agency for the transfer of those management responsibilities for the interests obtained within the conservation area under RCW

79A.05.725 through 79A.05.745: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the state agencies identified in this section may, by mutual agreement, undertake management of portions of the conservation area as they may from time to time determine in accordance with those rules and regulations established for natural area preserves under chapter 79.70 RCW, for natural and conservation areas under present WAC 352-16-020(3) and (6), and under chapter 77.12 RCW. [2000 c 11 § 60; 1994 c 264 § 23; 1988 c 36 § 17; 1977 ex.s. c 306 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.943.]

**79A.05.740 Mt. Si conservation area—Valuation of included lands.** The full market value for department of natural resources' managed trust lands or interest therein within the conservation area shall be determined by the department of natural resources for any lands or interests to be dedicated or leased as provided herein. The department of natural resources shall determine the value of dedicating such lands or interests in lands as it may determine to be necessary to carry out the purposes of chapter 306, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. either by execution of fifty-five year scenic or development easements or by execution of fifty-five year leases, including such conditions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of chapter 306, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. Any lease issued pursuant to chapter 306, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. may be subject to renewal under the provisions of \*RCW 79.01.276 as presently existing or hereafter amended. Nothing in chapter 306, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. shall be deemed to alter or affect normal management on lands owned by the state for which no dedication by easement or lease has been made and it is further recognized that no restrictions on management of such lands shall be required unless the applicable trust relating to such lands shall have been compensated. [1998 c 245 § 67; 1977 ex.s. c 306 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.944.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 79.01.276 was repealed by 1979 1st ex.s. c 109 § 23.

**79A.05.745 Eminent domain—Use prohibited.** No property or interest in property shall be acquired for the purpose of chapter 306, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. by the exercise of the power of eminent domain. [1977 ex.s. c 306 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.51.945.]

#### WASHINGTON STATE YAKIMA RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

**79A.05.750 Legislative declaration.** It is the intent of RCW 79A.05.750 through 79A.05.795 to establish and recognize the Yakima river corridor from Selah Gap (Yakima Ridge) to Union Gap (Rattlesnake Hills) as a uniquely valuable recreation, conservation, and scenic resource in the state of Washington. [2000 c 11 § 61; 1977 ex.s. c 75 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.51.946.]

**79A.05.755 "Washington State Yakima river conservation area"—Created.** There is hereby created an area to be known as the "Washington State Yakima river conservation area". This area designation may be used as a common reference by all state and local agencies, municipalities, and federal agencies. [1977 ex.s. c 75 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.947.]

**79A.05.760 Yakima river conservation area—Size prescribed.** For the purposes of RCW 79A.05.750 through 79A.05.795, the Yakima river conservation area is to contain no more than the area delineated in appendix D on pages D-3, D-4, D-6, D-7, D-9, and D-10 of the report entitled "The Yakima River Regional Greenway" which resulted from the Yakima river study authorized in section 170, chapter 269, Laws of 1975, first extraordinary session. This area is also defined as sections 12 and 17, township 13 north, range 18 east totaling approximately 18.0 acres, sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, 33, township 13 north, range 19 east totaling approximately 936.0 acres, and sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 17, township 12 north, range 19 east totaling approximately 793.7 acres. [1999 c 249 § 1001; 1977 ex.s. c 75 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.51.948.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.765 Yakima river conservation area—Authority of Yakima county commissioners.** The Yakima county commissioners are authorized to coordinate the acquisition, development, and operation of the Yakima river conservation area in accordance with the purposes of RCW 79A.05.750 through 79A.05.795 and in cooperation with public parks, conservation and resource managing agencies. [2000 c 11 § 62; 1977 ex.s. c 75 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.51.949.]

**79A.05.770 Yakima river conservation area—Land acquisition.** The Yakima county commissioners are authorized to acquire such real property, easements or rights in river-related lands in the Yakima river conservation area, together with such real property, easements, and rights as are necessary for such conservation and parks purposes in any manner authorized by law for the acquisition of lands for conservation, parks and parkway purposes: PROVIDED, That only the Yakima county commissioners shall have the power of eminent domain for the purposes of this chapter. [1977 ex.s. c 75 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.51.950.]

**79A.05.775 Intent to preserve river wetlands in their natural state.** Except for such property as is necessary or suitable for the development of recreational areas and their related facilities, it is the intent of this section that such property shall be acquired to preserve, as much as possible, the river wetlands in their natural state. [1977 ex.s. c 75 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.51.951.]

**79A.05.780 Yakima river conservation area—Consultation between commission and Yakima county commissioners.** The Washington state parks and recreation commission is directed to consult with the Yakima county commissioners in the acquisition, development, and operation of the Yakima river conservation area in accordance with the purposes of RCW 79A.05.750 through 79A.05.795 and the Yakima river study authorized in section 170, chapter 269, Laws of 1975, first extraordinary session. [2000 c 11 § 63; 1977 ex.s. c 75 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.51.952.]

**79A.05.785 Yakima river conservation area—Recreation and conservation funding board directed to assist Yakima county commissioners.** The recreation and conser-

vation funding board is directed to assist the Yakima county commissioners in obtaining state, federal, and private funding for the acquisition, development, and operation of the Yakima river conservation area. [2007 c 241 § 25; 1977 ex.s. c 75 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.51.953.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.05.790 County or city zoning and/or permitted land uses not affected.** Nothing herein shall be construed as affecting nor being in conflict with existing county or city zoning and/or permitted land uses and the right to develop, build or expand existing uses in accordance with the said zoning or permitted land uses within the Yakima river conservation area. [1977 ex.s. c 75 § 9. Formerly RCW 43.51.954.]

**79A.05.793 Department of fish and wildlife, fish and wildlife commission—Powers, duties, and authority—No hunting in any state park.** Nothing in RCW 79A.05.750 through 79A.05.795 shall be construed to interfere with the powers, duties, and authority of the state department of fish and wildlife or the state fish and wildlife commission to regulate, manage, conserve, and provide for the harvest of wildlife within such area: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no hunting shall be permitted in any state park. [2000 c 11 § 64; 1993 sp.s. c 2 § 19; 1987 c 506 § 93; 1977 ex.s. c 75 § 10. Formerly RCW 43.51.955.]

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506:** See note following RCW 77.04.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.05.795 Acquisition of real property, etc., of another agency by Yakima county commissioners—Agency approval required.** Nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing or directing the Yakima county commissioners to acquire any real property, easements, or rights in the Yakima river conservation area which are now held by any other agency without the approval of that agency. [1977 ex.s. c 75 § 11. Formerly RCW 43.51.956.]

## Chapter 79A.10 RCW OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### Sections

79A.10.010	General obligation bonds authorized.
79A.10.020	Disposition of proceeds of sale.
79A.10.030	Bonds payable from proceeds of corporation fees.
79A.10.040	Outdoor recreational bond redemption fund.
79A.10.050	Remedies of bondholders.
79A.10.060	Legislature may provide additional means of support.
79A.10.070	Bonds legal investment for funds of state and municipal corporations.
79A.10.090	Consent of world fair bondholders prerequisite to issuance of bonds authorized by this chapter.

**79A.10.010 General obligation bonds authorized.** For the purpose of providing funds for the development of outdoor recreational facilities in the state, the state finance committee is hereby authorized to issue, at any time prior to January 1, 1970, general obligation bonds of the state of Washington in the sum of ten million dollars, or so much thereof as shall be required to finance the program for which these bonds are being authorized: PROVIDED, That funds

realized from the sale of such bonds shall be used solely for the acquisition of land and attached appurtenances and such property shall be for outdoor recreational use.

The state finance committee is authorized to prescribe the form of such bonds and the time of sale of all or any portion or portions of such bonds, and the conditions of sale and issuance thereof.

The bonds shall pledge the full faith and credit of the state of Washington and contain an unconditional promise to pay the principal and interest when due. The committee may provide that the bonds, or any of them, may be called prior to the due date thereof under such terms and conditions as it may determine. [1965 c 8 § 43.98.010. Prior: 1963 ex.s. c 12 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.98.010.]

**79A.10.020 Disposition of proceeds of sale.** The proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized herein shall be deposited in the parks and parkways account of the general fund or such other account or fund as shall be established for this purpose. Any agency or commission charged with the administration of the account or fund is authorized to use or permit the use of any funds derived from the sale of bonds authorized under this chapter as matching funds in any case where federal or other funds are made available on a matching basis for projects within the purposes of this chapter. [1965 c 8 § 43.98.020. Prior: 1963 ex.s. c 12 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.98.020.]

*Outdoor recreation account, deposit of proceeds in:* RCW 79A.25.060.

*Parks and parkways account abolished:* RCW 43.79.405.

**79A.10.030 Bonds payable from proceeds of corporation fees.** The bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be payable from the proceeds of one-half of the corporation fees collected under all the provisions of chapter 70, Laws of 1937, as now or hereafter amended. The bonds and interest shall, so long as any portion thereof remains unpaid, constitute a prior and exclusive claim, subject only to amounts previously pledged for the payment of interest on and retirement of bonds heretofore issued, upon that portion of the corporation fees so collected. [1965 c 8 § 43.98.030. Prior: 1963 ex.s. c 12 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.98.030.]

**Reviser's note:** Chapter 70, Laws of 1937 referred to above is affected by chapter 53, Laws of 1965 which enacts a new corporations code effective July 1, 1967 (Title 23A RCW). Section 166 thereof repeals it subject to the savings and continuation provision contained in section 165 which reads as follows: "Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as an impairment of any obligation of the state as evidenced by bonds held for any purpose, and subsections 2 and 13 of section 135, subsections 1 and 2 of section 136, and sections 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 146, and 147 shall be deemed to be a continuation of chapter 70, Laws of 1937, as amended, for the purpose of payment of:

(1) world's fair bonds authorized by chapter 174, Laws of 1957 as amended by chapter 152, Laws of 1961, and

(2) outdoor recreation bonds authorized by referendum bill number 11 (chapter 12, Laws of 1963 extraordinary session), approved by the people on November 3, 1964."

**79A.10.040 Outdoor recreational bond redemption fund.** The outdoor recreational bond redemption fund is hereby created in the state treasury, which fund shall be exclusively devoted to the payment of interest on and retirement of the bonds authorized by this chapter. [1965 c 8 §

43.98.040. Prior: 1963 ex.s. c 12 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.98.040.]

**79A.10.050 Remedies of bondholders.** The owner and holder of each of said bonds or the trustee for any of the bonds may by mandamus or other appropriate proceeding require and compel the transfer and payment of funds as directed herein. [1965 c 8 § 43.98.050. Prior: 1963 ex.s. c 12 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.98.050.]

**79A.10.060 Legislature may provide additional means of support.** The legislature may provide additional means for raising moneys for the payment of the interest and principal of the bonds authorized herein and this chapter shall not be deemed to provide an exclusive method for such payment. [1965 c 8 § 43.98.060. Prior: 1963 ex.s. c 12 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.98.060.]

**79A.10.070 Bonds legal investment for funds of state and municipal corporations.** The bonds herein authorized shall be a legal investment for all state funds or for funds under state control and all funds of municipal corporations. [1965 c 8 § 43.98.070. Prior: 1963 ex.s. c 12 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.98.070.]

**79A.10.090 Consent of world fair bondholders prerequisite to issuance of bonds authorized by this chapter.** No bonds authorized by this chapter shall be issued until there shall first be obtained and filed in the office of the state finance committee the written consent of the holders of all outstanding bonds issued under authority of chapter 174, Laws of 1957, as amended by chapter 152, Laws of 1961, to the changes effected by this chapter and the 1963 amendments of \*RCW 43.31.620 and 43.31.740 in the order of priority of payment of said world fair bonds out of the proceeds of the corporation fees collected under chapter 70, Laws of 1937 as amended. [1965 c 8 § 43.98.090. Prior: 1963 ex.s. c 12 § 10. Formerly RCW 43.98.090.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 43.31.620 and 43.31.740 were decodified by 1985 c 466 § 75, effective June 30, 1985.

(2) See note following RCW 79A.10.030.

## Chapter 79A.15 RCW

### ACQUISITION OF HABITAT CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION LANDS

#### Sections

79A.15.005	Findings.
79A.15.010	Definitions.
79A.15.020	Habitat conservation account.
79A.15.030	Allocation and use of moneys—Grants.
79A.15.040	Habitat conservation account—Distribution and use of moneys.
79A.15.050	Outdoor recreation account—Distribution and use of moneys.
79A.15.060	Habitat conservation account—Acquisition policies and priorities.
79A.15.065	Grants through habitat conservation account—Statement of environmental benefits—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.
79A.15.070	Acquisition and development priorities—Generally.
79A.15.080	Recommended project list—Board authority to obligate funds—Legislature's authority.
79A.15.090	Condemnation.
79A.15.110	Review of proposed project application.
79A.15.120	Riparian protection account—Use of funds.
79A.15.130	Farmlands preservation account—Use of funds.

(2012 Ed.)

79A.15.140	Puget Sound partners.
79A.15.150	Administering funds—Preference to an evergreen community.
79A.15.900	Severability—1990 1st ex.s. c 14.

**79A.15.005 Findings.** The legislature finds:

(1) That Washington possesses an abundance of natural wealth in the form of forests, mountains, wildlife, waters, and other natural resources, all of which help to provide an unparalleled diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities and a quality of life unmatched in this nation;

(2) That as the state's population grows, the demand on these resources is growing too, placing greater stress on today's already overcrowded public recreational lands and facilities, and resulting in a significant loss of wildlife habitat and lands of unique natural value;

(3) That public acquisition and development programs have not kept pace with the state's expanding population;

(4) That private investment and employment opportunities in general and the tourist industry in particular are dependent upon the continued availability of recreational opportunities and our state's unique natural environment;

(5) That if current trends continue, some wildlife species and rare ecosystems will be lost in the state forever and public recreational lands will not be adequate to meet public demands;

(6) That there is accordingly a need for the people of the state to reserve certain areas of the state, in rural as well as urban settings, for the benefit of present and future generations.

It is therefore the policy of the state to acquire as soon as possible the most significant lands for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses, and to develop existing public recreational land and facilities to meet the needs of present and future generations. [1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.98A.005.]

**79A.15.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Acquisition" means the purchase on a willing seller basis of fee or less than fee interests in real property. These interests include, but are not limited to, options, rights of first refusal, conservation easements, leases, and mineral rights.

(2) "Board" means the recreation and conservation funding board.

(3) "Critical habitat" means lands important for the protection, management, or public enjoyment of certain wildlife species or groups of species, including, but not limited to, wintering range for deer, elk, and other species, waterfowl and upland bird habitat, fish habitat, and habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

(4) "Farmlands" means any land defined as "farm and agricultural land" in RCW 84.34.020(2).

(5) "Local agencies" means a city, county, town, federally recognized Indian tribe, special purpose district, port district, or other political subdivision of the state providing services to less than the entire state.

(6) "Natural areas" means areas that have, to a significant degree, retained their natural character and are important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical, or similar features of scientific or educational value.

(7) "Nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association" means an organization as defined in RCW 84.34.250.

(8) "Riparian habitat" means land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers.

(9) "Special needs populations" means physically restricted people or people of limited means.

(10) "State agencies" means the state parks and recreation commission, the department of natural resources, the \*department of general administration, and the department of fish and wildlife.

(11) "Trails" means public ways constructed for and open to pedestrians, equestrians, or bicyclists, or any combination thereof, other than a sidewalk constructed as a part of a city street or county road for exclusive use of pedestrians.

(12) "Urban wildlife habitat" means lands that provide habitat important to wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area.

(13) "Water access" means boat or foot access to marine waters, lakes, rivers, or streams. [2009 c 341 § 1; 2007 c 241 § 26; 2005 c 303 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.98A.010.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of general administration" was renamed the "department of enterprise services" by 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 § 107.

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** "Sections 1 through 14 of this act take effect July 1, 2007." [2005 c 303 § 17.]

**79A.15.020 Habitat conservation account.** The habitat conservation account is established in the state treasury. The board shall administer the account in accordance with chapter 79A.25 RCW and this chapter, and shall hold it separate and apart from all other money, funds, and accounts of the board. [2007 c 241 § 27; 2000 c 11 § 65; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.98A.020.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.15.030 Allocation and use of moneys—Grants.**

(1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter shall be divided as follows:

(a) Appropriations for a biennium of forty million dollars or less must be allocated equally between the habitat conservation account and the outdoor recreation account.

(b) If appropriations for a biennium total more than forty million dollars, the money must be allocated as follows: (i) Twenty million dollars to the habitat conservation account and twenty million dollars to the outdoor recreation account; (ii) any amount over forty million dollars up to fifty million dollars shall be allocated as follows: (A) Ten percent to the habitat conservation account; (B) ten percent to the outdoor recreation account; (C) forty percent to the riparian protection account; and (D) forty percent to the farmlands preservation account; and (iii) any amounts over fifty million dollars must be allocated as follows: (A) Thirty percent to the habitat conservation account; (B) thirty percent to the outdoor recreation account; (C) thirty percent to the riparian protec-

tion account; and (D) ten percent to the farmlands preservation account.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in chapter 303, Laws of 2005, moneys deposited in these accounts shall be invested as authorized for other state funds, and any earnings on them shall be credited to the respective account.

(3) All moneys deposited in the habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, riparian protection, and farmlands preservation accounts shall be allocated as provided under RCW 79A.15.040, 79A.15.050, 79A.15.120, and 79A.15.130 as grants to state or local agencies or nonprofit nature conservancy organizations or associations for acquisition, development, and renovation within the jurisdiction of those agencies, subject to legislative appropriation. The board may use or permit the use of any funds appropriated for this chapter as matching funds where federal, local, or other funds are made available for projects within the purposes of this chapter. Moneys appropriated to these accounts that are not obligated to a specific project may be used to fund projects from lists of alternate projects from the same account in biennia succeeding the biennium in which the moneys were originally appropriated.

(4) Projects receiving grants under this chapter that are developed or otherwise accessible for public recreational uses shall be available to the public.

(5) The board may make grants to an eligible project from the habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, riparian protection, and farmlands preservation accounts and any one or more of the applicable categories under such accounts described in RCW 79A.15.040, 79A.15.050, 79A.15.120, and 79A.15.130.

(6) The board may accept private donations to the habitat conservation account, the outdoor recreation account, the riparian protection account, and the farmlands preservation account for the purposes specified in this chapter.

(7) The board may apply up to three percent of the funds appropriated for this chapter for its office for the administration of the programs and purposes specified in this chapter.

(8) Habitat and recreation land and facilities acquired or developed with moneys appropriated for this chapter may not, without prior approval of the board, be converted to a use other than that for which funds were originally approved. The board shall adopt rules and procedures governing the approval of such a conversion. [2009 c 341 § 2; 2007 c 241 § 28; 2005 c 303 § 2; 2000 c 11 § 66; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.98A.030.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

*Outdoor recreation account: Chapter 79A.25 RCW.*

**79A.15.040 Habitat conservation account—Distribution and use of moneys.** (1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the habitat conservation account shall be distributed in the following way:

(a) Not less than forty percent through June 30, 2011, at which time the amount shall become forty-five percent, for the acquisition and development of critical habitat;

(b) Not less than thirty percent for the acquisition and development of natural areas;

(c) Not less than twenty percent for the acquisition and development of urban wildlife habitat; and

(d) Not less than ten percent through June 30, 2011, at which time the amount shall become five percent, shall be used by the board to fund restoration and enhancement projects on state lands. Only the department of natural resources and the department of fish and wildlife may apply for these funds to be used on existing habitat and natural area lands.

(2)(a) In distributing these funds, the board retains discretion to meet the most pressing needs for critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat, and is not required to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any one biennium.

(b) If not enough project applications are submitted in a category within the habitat conservation account to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any biennium, the board retains discretion to distribute any remaining funds to the other categories within the account.

(3) Only state agencies may apply for acquisition and development funds for natural areas projects under subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(4) State and local agencies may apply for acquisition and development funds for critical habitat and urban wildlife habitat projects under subsection (1)(a) and (c) of this section.

(5)(a) Any lands that have been acquired with grants under this section by the department of fish and wildlife are subject to an amount in lieu of real property taxes and an additional amount for control of noxious weeds as determined by RCW 77.12.203.

(b) Any lands that have been acquired with grants under this section by the department of natural resources are subject to payments in the amounts required under the provisions of RCW 79.70.130 and 79.71.130.

(6) Except as otherwise conditioned by RCW 79A.15.140 or 79A.15.150, the board in its evaluating process shall consider the following in determining distribution priority:

(a) Whether the entity applying for funding is a Puget Sound partner, as defined in RCW 90.71.010;

(b) Effective one calendar year following the development and statewide availability of model evergreen community management plans and ordinances under RCW 35.105.050, whether the entity receiving assistance has been recognized, and what gradation of recognition was received, in the evergreen community recognition program created in RCW 35.105.030; and

(c) Whether the project is referenced in the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310.

(7) After January 1, 2010, any project designed to address the restoration of Puget Sound may be funded under this chapter only if the project is not in conflict with the action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310. [2008 c 299 § 29. Prior: 2007 c 341 § 34; 2007 c 241 § 29; 2005 c 303 § 3; 1999 c 379 § 917; 1997 c 235 § 718; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.98A.040.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

(2012 Ed.)

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.15.050 Outdoor recreation account—Distribution and use of moneys.** (1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the outdoor recreation account shall be distributed in the following way:

(a) Not less than thirty percent to the state parks and recreation commission for the acquisition and development of state parks, with at least fifty percent of the money for acquisition costs;

(b) Not less than thirty percent for the acquisition, development, and renovation of local parks, with at least fifty percent of this money for acquisition costs;

(c) Not less than twenty percent for the acquisition, renovation, or development of trails;

(d) Not less than fifteen percent for the acquisition, renovation, or development of water access sites, with at least seventy-five percent of this money for acquisition costs; and

(e) Not less than five percent for development and renovation projects on state recreation lands. Only the department of natural resources and the department of fish and wildlife may apply for these funds to be used on their existing recreation lands.

(2)(a) In distributing these funds, the board retains discretion to meet the most pressing needs for state and local parks, trails, and water access sites, and is not required to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any one biennium.

(b) If not enough project applications are submitted in a category within the outdoor recreation account to meet the percentages described in subsection (1) of this section in any biennium, the board retains discretion to distribute any remaining funds to the other categories within the account.

(3) Only local agencies may apply for acquisition, development, or renovation funds for local parks under subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(4) Only state and local agencies may apply for funds for trails under subsection (1)(c) of this section.

(5) Only state and local agencies may apply for funds for water access sites under subsection (1)(d) of this section. [2007 c 241 § 30; 2005 c 303 § 4; 2003 c 184 § 1; 1999 c 379 § 941; 1999 c 379 § 920; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.98A.050.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.15.060 Habitat conservation account—Acquisition policies and priorities.** (1) The board may adopt rules establishing acquisition policies and priorities for distributions from the habitat conservation account.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 79A.15.030(7), moneys appropriated for this chapter may not be used by the board to fund staff positions or other overhead expenses, or by a state,

regional, or local agency to fund operation or maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter.

(3) Moneys appropriated for this chapter may be used by grant recipients for costs incidental to acquisition, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(4) The board may not approve a local project where the local agency share is less than the amount to be awarded from the habitat conservation account.

(5) In determining acquisition priorities with respect to the habitat conservation account, the board shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

- (a) For critical habitat and natural areas proposals:
  - (i) Community support for the project;
  - (ii) The project proposal's ongoing stewardship program that includes control of noxious weeds, detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of the funds from which the stewardship program will be funded;
  - (iii) Recommendations as part of a watershed plan or habitat conservation plan, or a coordinated regionwide prioritization effort, and for projects primarily intended to benefit salmon, limiting factors, or critical pathways analysis;
  - (iv) Immediacy of threat to the site;
  - (v) Uniqueness of the site;
  - (vi) Diversity of species using the site;
  - (vii) Quality of the habitat;
  - (viii) Long-term viability of the site;
  - (ix) Presence of endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;
  - (x) Enhancement of existing public property;
  - (xi) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan, including projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130;
  - (xii) Educational and scientific value of the site;
  - (xiii) Integration with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;
  - (xiv) For critical habitat proposals by local agencies, the statewide significance of the site.
- (b) For urban wildlife habitat proposals, in addition to the criteria of (a) of this subsection:
  - (i) Population of, and distance from, the nearest urban area;
  - (ii) Proximity to other wildlife habitat;
  - (iii) Potential for public use; and
  - (iv) Potential for use by special needs populations.

(6) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the board shall recommend to the governor a prioritized list of all state agency and local projects to be funded under RCW 79A.15.040(1) (a), (b), and (c). The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the board and shall submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list shall include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement, and describe for each project any anticipated restrictions upon recreational activities allowed prior to the project. [2009 c 341 § 3; 2009 c 16 § 1; 2007 c 241 § 31; 2005 c 303 § 8; 2000 c 11 § 67; 1999 c 379 § 918; 1997 c 235 § 719; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.98A.060.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 16 § 1 and by 2009 c 341 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are

incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.15.065 Grants through habitat conservation account—Statement of environmental benefits—Development of outcome-focused performance measures.** In providing grants through the habitat conservation account, the board shall require grant applicants to incorporate the environmental benefits of the project into their grant applications, and the board shall utilize the statement of environmental benefits in the grant application and review process. The board shall also develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the grant program. To the extent possible, the board should coordinate its performance measure system with other natural resource-related agencies as defined in RCW 43.41.270. The board shall consult with affected interest groups in implementing this section. [2007 c 241 § 32; 2001 c 227 § 8.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Findings—Intent—2001 c 227:** See note following RCW 43.41.270.

**79A.15.070 Acquisition and development priorities—Generally.** (1) In determining which state parks proposals and local parks proposals to fund, the board shall use existing policies and priorities.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 79A.15.030(7), moneys appropriated for this chapter may not be used by the board to fund staff or other overhead expenses, or by a state, regional, or local agency to fund operation or maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter.

(3) Moneys appropriated for this chapter may be used by grant recipients for costs incidental to acquisition and development, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(4) The board may not approve a project of a local agency where the share contributed by the local agency is less than the amount to be awarded from the outdoor recreation account.

(5) The board may adopt rules establishing acquisition policies and priorities for the acquisition and development of trails and water access sites to be financed from moneys in the outdoor recreation account.

(6) In determining the acquisition and development priorities, the board shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

- (a) For trails proposals:
  - (i) Community support for the project;
  - (ii) Immediacy of threat to the site;
  - (iii) Linkage between communities;
  - (iv) Linkage between trails;
  - (v) Existing or potential usage;
  - (vi) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan, including projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master

plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130;

- (vii) Availability of water access or views;
- (viii) Enhancement of wildlife habitat; and
- (ix) Scenic values of the site.

(b) For water access proposals:

- (i) Community support for the project;
- (ii) Distance from similar water access opportunities;
- (iii) Immediacy of threat to the site;
- (iv) Diversity of possible recreational uses;
- (v) Public demand in the area; and
- (vi) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional

or statewide recreational or resource plan, including projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130.

(7) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the board shall recommend to the governor a prioritized list of all state agency and local projects to be funded under RCW 79A.15.050(1) (a), (b), (c), and (d). The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the board and shall submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list shall include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement, and describe for each project any anticipated restrictions upon recreational activities allowed prior to the project. [2007 c 241 § 33; 2005 c 303 § 9; 2000 c 11 § 68; 1999 c 379 § 919; 1997 c 235 § 720; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.98A.070.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.15.080 Recommended project list—Board authority to obligate funds—Legislature’s authority.** The board shall not sign contracts or otherwise financially obligate funds from the habitat conservation account, the outdoor recreation account, the riparian protection account, or the farmlands preservation account as provided in this chapter before the legislature has appropriated funds for a specific list of projects. The legislature may remove projects from the list recommended by the governor. [2007 c 241 § 34; 2005 c 303 § 10; 1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 9. Formerly RCW 43.98A.080.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

**79A.15.090 Condemnation.** Moneys made available under this chapter for land acquisition shall not be used to acquire land through condemnation. [1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 10. Formerly RCW 43.98A.090.]

**79A.15.110 Review of proposed project application.** A state or local agency shall review the proposed project application with the county or city with jurisdiction over the project area prior to applying for funds for the acquisition of property under this chapter. The appropriate county or city legislative authority may, at its discretion, submit a letter to

the board identifying the authority’s position with regard to the acquisition project. The board shall make the letters received under this section available to the governor and the legislature when the prioritized project list is submitted under RCW 79A.15.120, 79A.15.060, and 79A.15.070. [2007 c 241 § 36; 2005 c 303 § 5.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

**79A.15.120 Riparian protection account—Use of funds.** (1) The riparian protection account is established in the state treasury. The board must administer the account in accordance with chapter 79A.25 RCW and this chapter, and hold it separate and apart from all other money, funds, and accounts of the board.

(2) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the riparian protection account must be distributed for the acquisition or enhancement or restoration of riparian habitat. All enhancement or restoration projects, except those qualifying under subsection (9)(a) of this section, must include the acquisition of a real property interest in order to be eligible.

(3) State and local agencies and lead entities under chapter 77.85 RCW, nonprofit nature conservancy organizations or associations, and the conservation commission may apply for acquisition and enhancement or restoration funds for riparian habitat projects under subsection (1) of this section. Other state agencies not defined in RCW 79A.15.010, such as the department of transportation and the department of corrections, may enter into interagency agreements with state agencies to apply in partnership for funds under this section.

(4) The board may adopt rules establishing acquisition policies and priorities for distributions from the riparian protection account.

(5) Except as provided in RCW 79A.15.030(7), moneys appropriated for this section may not be used by the board to fund staff positions or other overhead expenses, or by a state, regional, or local agency to fund operation or maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter.

(6) Moneys appropriated for this section may be used by grant recipients for costs incidental to restoration and acquisition, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(7) The board may not approve a local project where the local agency or nonprofit nature conservancy organization or association share is less than the amount to be awarded from the riparian protection account. In-kind contributions, including contributions of a real property interest in land may be used to satisfy the local agency’s or nonprofit nature conservancy organization’s or association’s share.

(8) State agencies receiving grants for acquisition of land under this section must pay an amount in lieu of real property taxes equal to the amount of tax that would be due if the land were taxable as open space land under chapter 84.34 RCW except taxes levied for any state purpose, plus an additional amount for control of noxious weeds equal to that which would be paid if such lands were privately owned. The county assessor and county legislative authority shall assist in determining the appropriate calculation of the amount of tax that would be due.

(9) In determining acquisition priorities with respect to the riparian protection account, the board must consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

(a) Whether the project continues the conservation reserve enhancement program. Applications that extend the duration of leases of riparian areas that are currently enrolled in the conservation reserve enhancement program shall be eligible. Such applications are eligible for a conservation lease extension of at least twenty-five years of duration;

(b) Whether the projects are identified or recommended in a watershed planning process under chapter 247, Laws of 1998, salmon recovery planning under chapter 77.85 RCW, or other local plans, such as habitat conservation plans, and these must be highly considered in the process;

(c) Whether there is community support for the project;

(d) Whether the proposal includes an ongoing stewardship program that includes control of noxious weeds, detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of the funds from which the stewardship program will be funded;

(e) Whether there is an immediate threat to the site;

(f) Whether the quality of the habitat is improved or, for projects including restoration or enhancement, the potential for restoring quality habitat including linkage of the site to other high quality habitat;

(g) Whether the project is consistent with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan. The projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130 must be highly considered in the process;

(h) Whether the site has educational or scientific value; and

(i) Whether the site has passive recreational values for walking trails, wildlife viewing, or the observation of natural settings.

(10) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the board will recommend to the governor a prioritized list of projects to be funded under this section. The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the board and will submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list must include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular match requirement. [2009 c 341 § 4; 2009 c 16 § 2; 2007 c 241 § 37; 2005 c 303 § 6.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 16 § 2 and by 2009 c 341 § 4, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

**79A.15.130 Farmlands preservation account—Use of funds.** (1) The farmlands preservation account is established in the state treasury. The board will administer the account in accordance with chapter 79A.25 RCW and this chapter, and hold it separate and apart from all other money, funds, and accounts of the board. Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the farmlands preservation account must be distributed for the acquisition and preservation of farmlands in order to

maintain the opportunity for agricultural activity upon these lands.

(2)(a) Moneys appropriated for this chapter to the farmlands preservation account may be distributed for (i) the fee simple or less than fee simple acquisition of farmlands; (ii) the enhancement or restoration of ecological functions on those properties; or (iii) both. In order for a farmland preservation grant to provide for an environmental enhancement or restoration project, the project must include the acquisition of a real property interest.

(b) If a city, county, nonprofit nature conservancy organization or association, or the conservation commission acquires a property through this program in fee simple, the city, county, nonprofit nature conservancy organization or association, or the conservation commission shall endeavor to secure preservation of the property through placing a conservation easement, or other form of deed restriction, on the property which dedicates the land to agricultural use and retains one or more property rights in perpetuity. Once an easement or other form of deed restriction is placed on the property, the city, county, nonprofit nature conservancy organization or association, or the conservation commission shall seek to sell the property, at fair market value, to a person or persons who will maintain the property in agricultural production. Any moneys from the sale of the property shall either be used to purchase interests in additional properties which meet the criteria in subsection (9) of this section, or to repay the grant from the state which was originally used to purchase the property.

(3) Cities, counties, nonprofit nature conservancy organizations or associations, and the conservation commission may apply for acquisition and enhancement or restoration funds for farmland preservation projects within their jurisdictions under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The board may adopt rules establishing acquisition and enhancement or restoration policies and priorities for distributions from the farmlands preservation account.

(5) The acquisition of a property right in a project under this section by a county, city, nonprofit nature conservancy organization or association, or the conservation commission does not provide a right of access to the property by the public unless explicitly provided for in a conservation easement or other form of deed restriction.

(6) Except as provided in RCW 79A.15.030(7), moneys appropriated for this section may not be used by the board to fund staff positions or other overhead expenses, or by a city, county, nonprofit nature conservancy organization or association, or the conservation commission to fund operation or maintenance of areas acquired under this chapter.

(7) Moneys appropriated for this section may be used by grant recipients for costs incidental to restoration and acquisition, including, but not limited to, surveying expenses, fencing, and signing.

(8) The board may not approve a local project where the local agency's or nonprofit nature conservancy organization's or association's share is less than the amount to be awarded from the farmlands preservation account. In-kind contributions, including contributions of a real property interest in land, may be used to satisfy the local agency's or nonprofit nature conservancy organization's or association's share.

(9) In determining the acquisition priorities, the board must consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

- (a) Community support for the project;
- (b) A recommendation as part of a limiting factors or critical pathways analysis, a watershed plan or habitat conservation plan, or a coordinated regionwide prioritization effort;
- (c) The likelihood of the conversion of the site to nonagricultural or more highly developed usage;
- (d) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan. The projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130 must be highly considered in the process;
- (e) Benefits to salmonids;
- (f) Benefits to other fish and wildlife habitat;
- (g) Integration with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;
- (h) The viability of the site for continued agricultural production, including, but not limited to:
  - (i) Soil types;
  - (ii) On-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, housing, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure;
  - (iii) Suitability for producing different types or varieties of crops;
  - (iv) Farm-to-market access;
  - (v) Water availability; and
- (i) Other community values provided by the property when used as agricultural land, including, but not limited to:
  - (i) Viewshed;
  - (ii) Aquifer recharge;
  - (iii) Occasional or periodic collector for storm water runoff;
  - (iv) Agricultural sector job creation;
  - (v) Migratory bird habitat and forage area; and
  - (vi) Educational and curriculum potential.
- (10) In allotting funds for environmental enhancement or restoration projects, the board will require the projects to meet the following criteria:

(a) Enhancement or restoration projects must further the ecological functions of the farmlands;

(b) The projects, such as fencing, bridging watercourses, replanting native vegetation, replacing culverts, clearing of waterways, etc., must be less than fifty percent of the acquisition cost of the project including any in-kind contribution by any party;

(c) The projects should be based on accepted methods of achieving beneficial enhancement or restoration results; and

(d) The projects should enhance the viability of the preserved farmland to provide agricultural production while conforming to any legal requirements for habitat protection.

(11) Before November 1st of each even-numbered year, the board will recommend to the governor a prioritized list of all projects to be funded under this section. The governor may remove projects from the list recommended by the board and must submit this amended list in the capital budget request to the legislature. The list must include, but not be limited to, a description of each project and any particular

match requirement. [2009 c 341 § 5; 2007 c 241 § 38; 2005 c 303 § 7.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

**79A.15.140 Puget Sound partners.** When administering funds under this chapter, the committee shall give preference only to Puget Sound partners, as defined in RCW 90.71.010, in comparison to other entities that are eligible to be included in the definition of Puget Sound partner. Entities that are not eligible to be a Puget Sound partner due to geographic location, composition, exclusion from the scope of the Puget Sound action agenda developed by the Puget Sound partnership under RCW 90.71.310, or for any other reason, shall not be given less preferential treatment than Puget Sound partners. [2007 c 341 § 35.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

**79A.15.150 Administering funds—Preference to an evergreen community.** When administering funds under this chapter, the recreation and conservation funding board shall give preference only to an evergreen community recognized under RCW 35.105.030 in comparison to other entities that are eligible to receive evergreen community designation. Entities not eligible for designation as an evergreen community shall not be given less preferential treatment than an evergreen community. [2008 c 299 § 34.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**79A.15.900 Severability—1990 1st ex.s. c 14.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1990 1st ex.s. c 14 § 12. Formerly RCW 43.98A.900.]

## Chapter 79A.20 RCW

### WILDLIFE AND RECREATION LANDS— FUNDING OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

#### Sections

79A.20.005	Findings.
79A.20.010	Definitions.
79A.20.030	Allocation and distribution of moneys.
79A.20.900	Short title.
79A.20.901	Severability—1992 c 153.
79A.20.902	Captions not law—1992 c 153.

**79A.20.005 Findings.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) The state of Washington owns and maintains a wide variety of fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, parks, and other recreation lands;

(b) The state of Washington is responsible for managing these lands for the benefit of the citizens, wildlife, and other natural resources of the state;

(c) The state of Washington has recently significantly enhanced its efforts to acquire critical habitat, natural areas, parks, and other recreation lands and to transfer suitable lands from school trust to conservation and park purposes;

(d) Recent unprecedented population growth has greatly increased the threat to the state's fish and wildlife habitat and the demands placed on the lands under (a) of this subsection;

(e) The importance of this habitat and these lands to the state is continuing to increase as more people depend on them to satisfy their needs and more plant and animal species require state-owned lands for their survival;

(f) By itself, public ownership cannot guarantee that resources will be protected, or that appropriate recreational opportunities will be provided;

(g) Only through ongoing, responsible management can fish and wildlife habitat, sensitive ecosystems, and recreational values be protected;

(h) The operation and maintenance funding for state-owned fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, parks, and other recreation lands has not kept pace with increasing demands placed upon such lands;

(i) Many needed operation and maintenance projects have been deferred due to insufficient funding, resulting in increased costs when the projects are finally undertaken; and

(j) An increase in operation and maintenance funding is necessary to bring state-owned lands and facilities up to acceptable standards and to protect the state's investment in its fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, parks, and other recreation lands.

(2) Therefore, it is the policy of the state to provide adequate and continuing funding for operation and maintenance needs of state-owned fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, parks, and other recreation lands to protect the state's investment in such lands, and it is the purpose of this chapter to create a mechanism for doing so. [1992 c 153 § 2. Formerly RCW 43.98B.005.]

**79A.20.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Basic stewardship" means the costs associated with holding and protecting property to maintain the functions for which the property was acquired. It includes, but is not limited to, costs associated with statutorily required in-lieu property taxes, weed and pest control, fire protection, fence maintenance, cultural and archaeological site protection, basic research related to maintenance of natural area preserves and natural resource conservation areas, basic resource and environmental protection, and meeting applicable legal requirements.

(2) "Improved or developed resources" means the costs associated with the built or manipulated environment. It includes, but is not limited to, costs associated with maintaining buildings, grounds, roads, trails, water access sites, and utility systems. Also included are improvements to habitat such as bank stabilization, range rehabilitation, and food and water sources.

(3) "Human use management" means the costs associated with visitor management, education, and protection.

(4) "Administration" means state agency costs necessary to support subsections (1) through (3) of this section. It includes, but is not limited to, budget and accounting, personnel support services, volunteer programs, and training. [1992 c 153 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.98B.010.]

**79A.20.030 Allocation and distribution of moneys.**

(1) Moneys appropriated for this chapter from the \*state wildlife and recreation lands management account shall be expended in the following manner:

(a) Not less than thirty percent for basic stewardship;

(b) Not less than twenty percent for improved or developed resources;

(c) Not less than fifteen percent for human use management; and

(d) Not more than fifteen percent for administration.

(e) The remaining twenty to thirty-five percent shall be considered unallocated.

(2) In the event that moneys appropriated for this chapter to the \*state wildlife and recreation lands management account under the initial allocation prove insufficient to meet basic stewardship needs, the unallocated amount shall be used to fund basic stewardship needs.

(3) Each eligible agency is not required to meet this specific percentage distribution. However, funding across agencies should meet these percentages during each biennium.

(4) It is intended that moneys disbursed from this account not replace existing operation and maintenance funding levels from other state sources.

(5) Agencies eligible to receive funds from this account are the departments of fish and wildlife and natural resources, and the state parks and recreation commission.

(6) Moneys appropriated for this chapter from the \*state wildlife and recreation lands management account shall be distributed in the following manner:

(a) Not less than twenty-five percent to the state parks and recreation commission.

(b) Not less than twenty-five percent to the department of natural resources.

(c) Not less than twenty-five percent to the department of fish and wildlife.

(d) The remaining funds shall be allocated to eligible agencies based upon an evaluation of remaining unfunded needs.

(7) The office of financial management shall review eligible state agency requests and make recommendations on the allocation of funds provided under this chapter as part of the governor's operating budget request to the legislature. [1994 c 264 § 30; 1992 c 153 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.98B.030.]

**\*Reviser's note:** This account was created in RCW 79A.20.020 which was repealed by 2000 c 150 § 2, effective July 1, 2001.

**79A.20.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known as the state wildlife and recreation lands management act. [1992 c 153 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.98B.900.]

**79A.20.901 Severability—1992 c 153.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1992 c 153 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.98B.910.]

**79A.20.902 Captions not law—1992 c 153.** Section headings as used in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law. [1992 c 153 § 8. Formerly RCW 43.98B.920.]

**Chapter 79A.25 RCW**  
**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION**  
**FUNDING BOARD**

(Formerly: Interagency committee for outdoor recreation)

Sections

- 79A.25.005 Policy—Mission of board.
- 79A.25.010 Definitions.
- 79A.25.020 Director's powers and duties.
- 79A.25.030 Proportion of motor vehicle fuel tax moneys that are tax on marine fuel.
- 79A.25.040 Marine fuel tax refund account—Moneys derived from tax on marine fuel—Refunding and placement in account—Exception.
- 79A.25.050 Marine fuel tax refund account—Claims for refunds paid from.
- 79A.25.060 Outdoor recreation account—Deposits.
- 79A.25.070 Recreation resource account, motor vehicle fund—Transfers of moneys from marine fuel tax account.
- 79A.25.080 Recreation resource account—Distribution of moneys transferred.
- 79A.25.090 Interest on funds granted by board to be returned to source account.
- 79A.25.100 Conversion of marine recreation land to other uses—Approval—Substitution.
- 79A.25.110 Recreation and conservation funding board—Created—Membership—Terms—Compensation and travel expenses.
- 79A.25.120 Plans for public outdoor recreation land acquisition or improvement—Contents—Submission—Recommendations.
- 79A.25.130 Participation in federal programs—Authority.
- 79A.25.140 Commitments or agreements forbidden unless sufficient funds available—Agreements with federal agencies on behalf of state or local agencies—Conditions.
- 79A.25.150 Assistance furnished by state departments—Appointment of director and personnel—Civil service exemption.
- 79A.25.170 Public parks and recreation sites guide.
- 79A.25.180 Public parks and recreation sites guide—Review and update.
- 79A.25.190 Appropriations by subsequent legislatures.
- 79A.25.200 Recreation resource account.
- 79A.25.210 Firearms range account—Grant program—Rules.
- 79A.25.230 Firearms range account—Gifts and grants.
- 79A.25.240 Grants and loan administration.
- 79A.25.250 Acquisition, development, etc., of urban area parks by recreation and conservation funding board.
- 79A.25.260 Habitat and recreation lands coordinating group—Members—Progress reports—Duties.
- 79A.25.300 Findings.
- 79A.25.310 Washington invasive species council—Created.
- 79A.25.320 Washington invasive species council—Membership.
- 79A.25.330 Washington invasive species council—Goals.
- 79A.25.340 Washington invasive species council—Statewide strategic plan.
- 79A.25.350 Washington invasive species council—Annual report.
- 79A.25.360 Washington invasive species council—Advisory and technical committees authorized.
- 79A.25.370 Washington invasive species council—Invasive species council account.

YOUTH OR COMMUNITY ATHLETIC FACILITIES

- 79A.25.800 Intent.
- 79A.25.820 Strategic plan—Funding eligibility—Regional coordination and cooperative efforts—Data collection and exchange.
- 79A.25.830 Gifts, grants, or endowments.

CONSTRUCTION

- 79A.25.901 Severability—1965 c 5.
- 79A.25.902 Short title.

**79A.25.005 Policy—Mission of board.** (1) As Washington begins its second century of statehood, the legislature recognizes that renewed efforts are needed to preserve, conserve, and enhance the state's recreational resources. Rapid population growth and increased urbanization have caused a decline in suitable land for recreation and resulted in overcrowding and deterioration of existing facilities. Lack of adequate recreational resources directly affects the health and well-being of all citizens of the state, reduces the state's eco-

nomically, and prevents Washington from maintaining and achieving the quality of life that it deserves.

It is therefore the policy of the state and its agencies to preserve, conserve, and enhance recreational resources and open space. In carrying out this policy, the mission of the recreation and conservation funding board and its office is to (a) create and work actively for the implementation of a unified statewide strategy for meeting the recreational needs of Washington's citizens, (b) represent and promote the interests of the state on recreational issues in concert with other state and local agencies and the governor, (c) encourage and provide interagency and regional coordination, and interaction between public and private organizations, (d) administer recreational grant-in-aid programs and provide technical assistance, and (e) serve as a repository for information, studies, research, and other data relating to recreation.

(2) Washington is uniquely endowed with fresh and salt waters rich in scenic and recreational value. This outdoor heritage enriches the lives of citizens, attracts new residents and businesses to the state, and is a major support of its expanding tourist industry. Rising population, increased income and leisure time, and the rapid growth of boating and other water sports have greatly increased the demand for water related recreation, while waterfront land is rapidly rising in value and disappearing from public use. There is consequently an urgent need for the acquisition or improvement of waterfront land on fresh and salt water suitable for marine recreational use by Washington residents and visitors. To meet this need, it is necessary and proper that the portion of motor vehicle fuel taxes paid by boat owners and operators on fuel consumed in their watercraft and not reclaimed as presently provided by law should be expended for the acquisition or improvement of marine recreation land on the Pacific Ocean, Puget Sound, bays, lakes, rivers, reservoirs and other fresh and salt waters of the state. [2007 c 241 § 39; 1989 c 237 § 1; 1965 c 5 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.010.]

**Intent—2007 c 241:** "The legislature intends to change the name of the interagency committee for outdoor recreation to the recreation and conservation funding board. Similarly, the office of the interagency committee is renamed the recreation and conservation office.

The legislature does not intend this act to make any substantive policy changes other than to change or clarify the names of the relevant entities.

The name changes in this act have no impact on the powers, duties, or responsibilities previously delegated to the interagency committee for outdoor recreation or the office of the interagency committee by statute, budget proviso, or executive order.

The name changes in this act have no impact on the validity of the documents, contracts, agreements, policies, and written decisions made, entered into, recorded, issued, or established before this name change by the interagency committee for outdoor recreation, its office, or director. Documents, contracts, agreements, policies, publications, and written decisions are not required to be changed to conform to the name changes, and the continued use of former names on documents made, recorded, issued, or established prior to the changes in this act does not affect the document's validity after the change." [2007 c 241 § 1.]

**Effective date—2007 c 241:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 241 § 76.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Marine recreation land" means any land with or without improvements which (a) provides access to, or in whole or in part borders on, fresh or salt water suitable for recreational use by watercraft, or (b) may be used to create, add to, or make more usable, bodies of water, waterways, or land, for recreational use by watercraft.

(2) "Public body" means any county, city, town, port district, park and recreation district, metropolitan park district, or other municipal corporation which is authorized to acquire or improve public outdoor recreation land, and shall also mean Indian tribes now or hereafter recognized as such by the federal government for participation in the land and water conservation program.

(3) "Tax on marine fuel" means motor vehicle fuel tax which is (a) tax on fuel used in, or sold or distributed for use in, any watercraft, (b) refundable pursuant to chapter 82.36 RCW, and (c) paid to the director of licensing with respect to taxable sales, distributions, or uses occurring on or after December 3, 1964.

(4) "Watercraft" means any boat, vessel, or other craft used for navigation on or through water.

(5) "Board" means the recreation and conservation funding board.

(6) "Director" means the director of the recreation and conservation office.

(7) "Office," "recreation and conservation office," or "the office of recreation and conservation" means the state agency responsible for administration of programs and activities of the recreation and conservation funding board, the salmon recovery funding board, the invasive species council, and such other duties or boards, councils, or advisory groups as are or may be established or directed for administrative placement in the agency.

(8) "Council" means the Washington invasive species council created in RCW 79A.25.310. [2007 c 241 § 40; 2006 c 152 § 9; 1989 c 237 § 2; 1979 c 158 § 108; 1972 ex.s. c 56 § 1; 1965 c 5 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.020.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.020 Director's powers and duties.** The director shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To supervise the administrative operations of the boards, office, and their staff;

(2) To administer recreation and conservation grant-in-aid programs and contracts, and provide technical assistance to state and local agencies;

(3) To prepare and update a strategic plan for the acquisition, renovation, and development of recreational resources and the preservation and conservation of open space. The plan shall be prepared in coordination with the office of the governor and the office of financial management, with participation of federal, state, and local agencies having recreational responsibilities, user groups, private sector interests, and the general public. The plan shall be submitted to the recreation and conservation funding board for review, and the board shall submit its recommendations on the plan to the governor. The plan shall include, but is not limited to: (a) an inventory of current resources; (b) a forecast of recreational

resource demand; (c) identification and analysis of actual and potential funding sources; (d) a process for broad scale information gathering; (e) an assessment of the capabilities and constraints, both internal and external to state government, that affect the ability of the state to achieve the goals of the plan; (f) an analysis of strategic options and decisions available to the state; (g) an implementation strategy that is coordinated with executive policy and budget priorities; and (h) elements necessary to qualify for participation in or the receipt of aid from any federal program for outdoor recreation;

(4) To represent and promote the interests of the state on recreational issues and further the mission of the board and office;

(5) Upon approval of the relevant board, to enter into contracts and agreements with private nonprofit corporations to further state goals of preserving, conserving, and enhancing recreational resources and open space for the public benefit and use;

(6) To appoint such technical and other committees as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(7) To create and maintain a repository for data, studies, research, and other information relating to recreation and conservation resources in the state, and to encourage the interchange of such information;

(8) To encourage and provide opportunities for inter-agency and regional coordination and cooperative efforts between public agencies and between public and private entities involved in the development and preservation of recreational and conservation resources; and

(9) To prepare the state trails plan, as required by RCW 79A.35.040. [2007 c 241 § 41; 2000 c 11 § 69; 1989 c 237 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.99.025.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.030 Proportion of motor vehicle fuel tax moneys that are tax on marine fuel.** (1) The amount or proportion of motor vehicle fuel tax moneys that are tax on marine fuel is deemed to be one percent of the total motor vehicle fuel tax moneys collected annually.

(2) One percent of the total motor vehicle fuel tax moneys collected annually is to be deposited into the marine fuel tax refund account as provided in RCW 79A.25.040 and 79A.25.070. [2010 c 23 § 1; 2007 c 241 § 42; 2000 c 11 § 70; 1995 c 166 § 1; 1979 c 158 § 109; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 50 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 74 § 1; 1965 c 5 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.030.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.040 Marine fuel tax refund account—Moneys derived from tax on marine fuel—Refunding and placement in account—Exception.** There is created the marine fuel tax refund account in the state treasury. The director of licensing shall request the state treasurer to refund monthly from the motor vehicle fund an amount equal to one percent of the motor vehicle fuel tax moneys collected during that period. The state treasurer shall refund such amounts

and place them in the marine fuel tax refund account to be held for those entitled thereto pursuant to chapter 82.36 RCW and RCW 79A.25.050, except that the treasurer may not refund and place in the marine fuel tax refund account more than the greater of the following amounts: (1) An amount equal to two percent of all moneys paid to the treasurer as motor vehicle fuel tax for such period, (2) an amount necessary to meet all approved claims for refund of tax on marine fuel for such period. [2010 c 23 § 2; 2000 c 11 § 71; 1995 c 166 § 2; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 42; 1985 c 57 § 53; 1979 c 158 § 110; 1965 c 5 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.040.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.050 Marine fuel tax refund account—Claims for refunds paid from.** Claims submitted pursuant to chapter 82.36 RCW for refund of tax on marine fuel which has been placed in the marine fuel tax refund account shall, if approved, be paid from that account. [1965 c 5 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.050.]

**79A.25.060 Outdoor recreation account—Deposits.** The outdoor recreation account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account are subject to legislative appropriation. The board shall administer the account in accordance with chapter 79A.15 RCW and this chapter, and shall hold it separate and apart from all other money, funds, and accounts of the board.

Grants, gifts, or other financial assistance, proceeds received from public bodies as administrative cost contributions, and moneys made available to the state of Washington by the federal government for outdoor recreation, may be deposited into the account. [2007 c 241 § 43; 2000 c 11 § 72; 1995 c 166 § 3; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 52; 1985 c 57 § 54; 1967 ex.s. c 62 § 1; 1965 c 5 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.060.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.070 Recreation resource account, motor vehicle fund—Transfers of moneys from marine fuel tax account.** Upon expiration of the time limited by RCW 82.36.330 for claiming of refunds of tax on marine fuel, the state of Washington shall succeed to the right to such refunds. The director of licensing, after taking into account past and anticipated claims for refunds from and deposits to the marine fuel tax refund account, shall request the state treasurer to transfer monthly from the marine fuel tax refund account an amount equal to the proportion of the moneys in the account representing a motor vehicle fuel tax rate of: (1) Nineteen cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2005; (2) twenty cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007; (3) twenty-one cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009; (4) twenty-two cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011; and (5) twenty-three cents per gallon of motor vehicle fuel beginning July 1, 2011, and thereafter, to the recreation resource account and the remainder to the motor vehicle

fund. [2010 c 23 § 3; 2003 c 361 § 409; 2000 c 11 § 73; 1995 c 166 § 4; 1990 c 42 § 116; 1979 c 158 § 111; 1965 c 5 § 7 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.070.]

**Findings—Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 361:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**79A.25.080 Recreation resource account—Distribution of moneys transferred.** (1) Moneys transferred to the recreation resource account from the marine fuel tax refund account may be used when appropriated by the legislature, as well as any federal or other funds now or hereafter available, to pay the office and necessary administrative and coordinative costs of the recreation and conservation funding board established by RCW 79A.25.110. All moneys so transferred, except those appropriated as aforesaid, shall be divided into two equal shares and shall be used to benefit watercraft recreation in this state as follows:

(a) One share as grants to state agencies for (i) acquisition of title to, or any interests or rights in, marine recreation land, (ii) capital improvement and renovation of marine recreation land, including periodic dredging in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, if needed, to maintain or make the facility more useful, or (iii) matching funds in any case where federal or other funds are made available on a matching basis for purposes described in (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection;

(b) One share as grants to public bodies to help finance (i) acquisition of title to, or any interests or rights in, marine recreation land, or (ii) capital improvement and renovation of marine recreation land, including periodic dredging in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, if needed, to maintain or make the facility more useful. A public body is authorized to use a grant, together with its own contribution, as matching funds in any case where federal or other funds are made available for purposes described in (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection. The board may prescribe further terms and conditions for the making of grants in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) For the purposes of this section "periodic dredging" is limited to dredging of materials that have been deposited in a channel due to unforeseen events. This dredging should extend the expected usefulness of the facility for at least five years.

(3) During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance in the recreation resource account to the state parks and recreation commission for maintenance and operation of parks and to improve accessibility for boaters and off-road vehicle users. This appropriation is not required to follow the specific distribution specified in subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section. [2009 c 564 § 958; 2007 c 241 § 44; 2000 c 11 § 74; 1999 c 341 § 1; 1995 c 166 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 140 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 136 § 1; 1965 c 5 § 8 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.080.]

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.090 Interest on funds granted by board to be returned to source account.** Interest earned on funds granted or made available by the board shall not be expended by the recipient but shall be returned to the source account for disbursement by the board in accordance with general budget and accounting procedure. [2007 c 241 § 45; 1995 c 166 § 6; 1967 ex.s. c 62 § 7. Formerly RCW 43.99.095.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.100 Conversion of marine recreation land to other uses—Approval—Substitution.** Marine recreation land with respect to which money has been expended under RCW 79A.25.080 shall not, without the approval of the board, be converted to uses other than those for which such expenditure was originally approved. The board shall only approve any such conversion upon conditions which will assure the substitution of other marine recreation land of at least equal fair market value at the time of conversion and of as nearly as feasible equivalent usefulness and location. [2007 c 241 § 46; 2000 c 11 § 75; 1965 c 5 § 10 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.100.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.110 Recreation and conservation funding board—Created—Membership—Terms—Compensation and travel expenses.** There is created the recreation and conservation funding board consisting of the commissioner of public lands, the director of parks and recreation, and the director of fish and wildlife, or their designees, and, by appointment of the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, five members from the public at large who have a demonstrated interest in and a general knowledge of outdoor recreation and conservation in the state. The terms of members appointed from the public at large shall commence on January 1st of the year of appointment and shall be for three years or until a successor is appointed, except in the case of appointments to fill vacancies which shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. The governor shall appoint one of the members from the public at large to serve as chair of the board for the duration of the member's term. Members employed by the state shall serve without additional pay and participation in the work of the board shall be deemed performance of their employment. Members from the public at large shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and shall be entitled to reimbursement individually for travel expenses incurred in performance of their duties as members of the board in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [2007 c 241 § 47; 1994 c 264 § 31; 1988 c 36 § 21; 1985 c 77 § 1; 1984 c 287 § 84. Prior: 1981 c 338 § 7; 1981 c 206 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 125; 1971 c 60 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 62 § 2; 1965 c 5 § 11 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.110.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

[Title 79A RCW—page 36]

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287:** See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

*Construction and maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities by department of natural resources, review by recreation and conservation funding board: RCW 79.10.140.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.120 Plans for public outdoor recreation land acquisition or improvement—Contents—Submission—Recommendations.** Any public body or any agency of state government authorized to acquire or improve public outdoor recreation land which desires funds from the outdoor recreation account, the recreation resource account, or the non-highway and off-road vehicle activities program account shall submit to the board a long-range plan for developing outdoor recreation facilities within its authority and detailed plans for the projects sought to be financed from these accounts, including estimated cost and such other information as the board may require. The board shall analyze all proposed plans and projects, and shall recommend to the governor for inclusion in the budget such projects as it may approve and find to be consistent with an orderly plan for the acquisition and improvement of outdoor recreation lands in the state. [2007 c 241 § 48; 1995 c 166 § 7; 1983 c 3 § 114; 1965 c 5 § 12 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.120.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.130 Participation in federal programs—Authority.** The board or director may apply to any appropriate agency or officer of the United States for participation in or the receipt of aid from any federal program respecting outdoor recreation or conservation. The board or director may enter into contracts and agreements with the United States or any appropriate agency thereof, keep financial and other records relating thereto, and furnish to appropriate officials and agencies of the United States such reports and information as may be reasonably necessary to enable such officials and agencies to perform their duties under such programs. [2007 c 241 § 49; 1967 ex.s. c 62 § 5. Formerly RCW 43.99.124.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.140 Commitments or agreements forbidden unless sufficient funds available—Agreements with federal agencies on behalf of state or local agencies—Conditions.** The board or director shall not make any commitment or enter into any agreement until it is determined that sufficient funds are available to meet project costs. It is the legislative intent that, to such extent as may be necessary to assure the proper operation and maintenance of areas and facilities acquired or developed pursuant to any program participated in by this state under authority of this chapter, such areas and facilities shall be publicly maintained for outdoor recreation purposes. When requested by a state agency or public body, the board or director may enter into and administer agreements with the United States or any appropriate agency thereof for planning, acquisition, and development projects involving participating federal-aid funds on behalf of any state agency, public body, or subdivision of this state: PRO-

(2012 Ed.)

VIDED, That recipients of funds give necessary assurances to the board or director that they have available sufficient matching funds to meet their shares, if any, of the cost of the project and that the acquired or developed areas will be operated and maintained at the expense of such state agency, public body, or subdivision for public outdoor recreation use. [2007 c 241 § 50; 1967 ex.s. c 62 § 6. Formerly RCW 43.99.126.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.150 Assistance furnished by state departments—Appointment of director and personnel—Civil service exemption.** When requested by the board, members employed by the state shall furnish assistance to the board from their departments for the analysis and review of proposed plans and projects, and such assistance shall be a proper charge against the appropriations to the several agencies represented on the board. Assistance may be in the form of money, personnel, or equipment and supplies, whichever is most suitable to the needs of the board.

The director of the recreation and conservation office shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the governor. The governor shall select the director from a list of three candidates submitted by the board. However, the governor may request and the board shall provide an additional list or lists from which the governor may select the director. The director shall have background and experience in the areas of recreation and conservation management and policy. The director shall be paid a salary to be fixed by the governor in accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.03.040. The director shall appoint such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the office. Not more than three employees appointed by the director shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 41.06 RCW. [2010 c 128 § 7; 2007 c 241 § 51; 1989 c 237 § 3; 1981 c 206 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 62 § 3; 1965 c 5 § 13 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.130.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.170 Public parks and recreation sites guide.** In addition to its other powers and duties the director is authorized to coordinate the preparation of a comprehensive guide of public parks and recreation sites in the state of Washington. Such guide may include one or more maps showing the locations of such public parks and recreation areas, and may also include information as to the facilities and recreation opportunities available. All state agencies providing public recreational facilities shall participate. Cooperation of federal agencies providing public recreational facilities within the state shall be solicited.

The director shall determine the costs of providing and distributing such a guide and pursue the most feasible means of paying the costs of initial production. The guide shall be sold for an amount to cover the reasonable production and distribution costs involved, and the director may contract with any state agency, local government agency, or private firm as otherwise allowed by law for any part of such produc-

(2012 Ed.)

tion or distribution. [1989 c 237 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 24 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.99.142.]

**Plan submittal:** "The committee shall submit a plan for production and distribution of the guide to the State Legislature on or before January 1, 1981." [1979 ex.s. c 24 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.180 Public parks and recreation sites guide—Review and update.** The director shall periodically review and have updated the guide authorized by RCW 79A.25.170. [2000 c 11 § 76; 1989 c 237 § 6; 1979 ex.s. c 24 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.99.146.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.190 Appropriations by subsequent legislatures.** The 1967 and subsequent legislatures may appropriate funds requested in the budget for grants to public bodies and state agencies from the recreation resource account to the board for allocation and disbursement. The board shall include a list of prioritized state agency projects to be funded from the recreation resource account with its biennial budget request. [2007 c 241 § 52; 1995 c 166 § 8; 1965 c 5 § 15 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.150.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.200 Recreation resource account.** The recreation resource account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in this account are subject to legislative appropriation. The board shall administer the account in accordance with this chapter and chapter 79A.35 RCW and shall hold it separate and apart from all other money, funds, and accounts of the board. Moneys received from the marine fuel tax refund account under RCW 79A.25.070 shall be deposited into the account. Grants, gifts, or other financial assistance, proceeds received from public bodies as administrative cost contributions, and moneys made available to the state of Washington by the federal government for outdoor recreation may be deposited into the account. During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the recreation resource account may be used by the department of fish and wildlife for the purposes of activities related to aquatic and marine enforcement. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 931; 2007 c 241 § 53; 2000 c 11 § 77; 1995 c 166 § 10. Formerly RCW 43.99.170.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.210 Firearms range account—Grant program—Rules.** The firearms range account is hereby created in the state general fund. Moneys in the account shall be subject to legislative appropriation and shall be used for purchase and development of land, construction or improvement of range facilities, including fixed structure construction or remodeling, equipment purchase, safety or environmental improvements, noise abatement, and liability protection for public and nonprofit firearm range training and practice facilities.

Grant funds shall not be used for expendable shooting supplies, or normal operating expenses. In making grants,

the board shall give priority to projects for noise abatement or safety improvement. Grant funds shall not supplant funds for other organization programs.

The funds will be available to nonprofit shooting organizations, school districts, and state, county, or local governments on a match basis. All entities receiving matching funds must be open on a regular basis and usable by law enforcement personnel or the general public who possess Washington concealed pistol licenses or Washington hunting licenses or who are enrolled in a firearm safety class.

Applicants for a grant from the firearms range account shall provide matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. The match must represent one dollar in value for each one dollar of the grant except that in the case of a grant for noise abatement or safety improvements the match must represent one dollar in value for each two dollars of the grant. In-kind contributions include but are not limited to labor, materials, and new property. Existing assets and existing development may not apply to the match.

Applicants other than school districts or local or state government must be registered as a nonprofit or not-for-profit organization with the Washington secretary of state. The organization's articles of incorporation must contain provisions for the organization's structure, officers, legal address, and registered agent.

Organizations requesting grants must provide the hours of range availability for public and law enforcement use. The fee structure will be submitted with the grant application.

Any nonprofit organization or agency accepting a grant under this program will be required to pay back the entire grant amount to the firearms range account if the use of the range facility is discontinued less than ten years after the grant is accepted.

Entities receiving grants must make the facilities for which grant funding is received open for hunter safety education classes and firearm safety classes on a regular basis for no fee.

Government units or school districts applying for grants must open their range facility on a regular basis for hunter safety education classes and firearm safety classes.

The board shall adopt rules to implement chapter 195, Laws of 1990, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. [2007 c 241 § 54; 1996 c 96 § 1; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 443; 1990 c 195 § 2. Formerly RCW 77.12.720.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**Findings—1990 c 195:** "Firearms are collected, used for hunting, recreational shooting, and self-defense, and firearm owners as well as bow users need safe, accessible areas in which to shoot their equipment. Approved shooting ranges provide that opportunity, while at the same time, promote public safety. Interest in all shooting sports has increased while safe locations to shoot have been lost to the pressures of urban growth." [1990 c 195 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.230 Firearms range account—Gifts and grants.** The board or director may accept gifts and grants upon such terms as the board shall deem proper. All monetary gifts and grants shall be deposited in the firearms range

account of the general fund. [2007 c 241 § 56; 1990 c 195 § 4. Formerly RCW 77.12.740.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Findings—1990 c 195:** See note following RCW 79A.25.210.

**79A.25.240 Grants and loan administration.** The recreation and conservation office shall provide necessary grants and loan administration support to the salmon recovery funding board as provided in RCW 77.85.120. The office shall also be responsible for tracking salmon recovery expenditures under RCW 77.85.140. The office shall provide all necessary administrative support to the salmon recovery funding board, and the salmon recovery funding board shall be located with the office. [2009 c 345 § 13; 2007 c 241 § 57; 2003 c 39 § 44; 2000 c 11 § 78; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 17.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 345:** See notes following RCW 77.85.030.

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.250 Acquisition, development, etc., of urban area parks by recreation and conservation funding board.** Recognizing the fact that the demand for park services is greatest in our urban areas, that parks should be accessible to all Washington citizens, that the urban poor cannot afford to travel to remotely located parks, that few state parks are located in or near urban areas, that a need exists to conserve energy, and that local governments having jurisdiction in urban areas cannot afford the costs of maintaining and operating the extensive park systems needed to service their large populations, the legislature hereby directs the recreation and conservation funding board to place a high priority on the acquisition, development, redevelopment, and renovation of parks to be located in or near urban areas and to be particularly accessible to and used by the populations of those areas. For purposes of RCW 79A.25.250 and 79A.05.300, "urban areas" means any incorporated city with a population of five thousand persons or greater or any county with a population density of two hundred fifty persons per square mile or greater. This section shall be implemented by January 1, 1981. [2007 c 241 § 58; 2000 c 11 § 79; 1980 c 89 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.51.380.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.260 Habitat and recreation lands coordinating group—Members—Progress reports—Duties. (Expires July 31, 2017.)** (1) The habitat and recreation lands coordinating group is established. The group must include representatives from the office, the state parks and recreation commission, the department of natural resources, and the department of fish and wildlife. The members of the group must have subject matter expertise with the issues presented in this section. Representatives from appropriate stakeholder organizations and local government must also be considered for participation on the group, but may only be appointed or invited by the director.

(2) To ensure timely completion of the duties assigned to the group, the director shall submit yearly progress reports to the office of financial management.

(3) The group must:

(a) Review agency land acquisition and disposal plans and policies to help ensure statewide coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposals;

(b) Produce an interagency, statewide biennial forecast of habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal plans;

(c) Establish procedures for publishing the biennial forecast of acquisition and disposal plans on web sites or other centralized, easily accessible formats;

(d) Develop and convene an annual forum for agencies to coordinate their near-term acquisition and disposal plans;

(e) Develop a recommended method for interagency geographic information system-based documentation of habitat and recreation lands in cooperation with other state agencies using geographic information systems;

(f) Develop recommendations for standardization of acquisition and disposal recordkeeping, including identifying a preferred process for centralizing acquisition data;

(g) Develop an approach for monitoring the success of acquisitions;

(h) Identify and commence a dialogue with key state and federal partners to develop an inventory of potential public lands for transfer into habitat and recreation land management status; and

(i) Review existing and proposed habitat conservation plans on a regular basis to foster statewide coordination and save costs.

(4) If prioritization among the various requirements of subsection (3) of this section is necessary due to the availability of resources, the group shall prioritize implementation of subsection (3)(a) through (d) and (g) of this section.

(5) The group shall revisit the planning requirements of relevant grant programs administered by the office to determine whether coordination of state agency habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal could be improved by modifying those requirements.

(6) The group must develop options for centralizing coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisition made with funds from federal grants. The advantages and drawbacks of the following options, at a minimum, must be developed:

(a) Requiring that agencies provide early communication on the status of federal grant applications to the office, the office of financial management, or directly to the legislature;

(b) Establishing a centralized pass-through agency for federal funds, where individual agencies would be the primary applicants.

(7) This section expires July 31, 2017. Prior to January 1, 2017, the group shall make a formal recommendation to the board and the appropriate committees of the legislature as to whether the existence of the habitat and recreation lands coordinating group should be continued beyond July 31, 2017, and if so, whether any modifications to its enabling statute should be pursued. [2012 c 128 § 1; 2007 c 247 § 1.]

**Finding—2012 c 128:** "The legislature finds that participation by the state's habitat and recreation land management agencies in the habitat and recreation lands coordinating group is an inherent part of transparent, efficient, and effective state habitat and recreation land management, and must be conducted within existing resources." [2012 c 128 § 2.]

(2012 Ed.)

**79A.25.300 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) The land, water, and other resources of Washington are being severely impacted by the invasion of an increasing number of harmful invasive plant and animal species.

(2) These impacts are resulting in damage to Washington's environment and causing economic hardships.

(3) The multitude of public and private organizations with an interest in controlling and preventing the spread of harmful invasive species in Washington need a mechanism for cooperation, communication, collaboration, and developing a statewide plan of action to meet these threats. [2006 c 152 § 1.]

**79A.25.310 Washington invasive species council—Created.** (1) There is created the Washington invasive species council to exist until June 30, 2017. Staff support to the council shall be provided by the recreation and conservation office and from the agencies represented on the council. For administrative purposes, the council shall be located within the office.

(2) The purpose of the council is to provide policy level direction, planning, and coordination for combating harmful invasive species throughout the state and preventing the introduction of others that may be potentially harmful.

(3) The council is a joint effort between local, tribal, state, and federal governments, as well as the private sector and nongovernmental interests. The purpose of the council is to foster cooperation, communication, and coordinated approaches that support local, state, and regional initiatives for the prevention and control of invasive species.

(4) For the purposes of this chapter, "invasive species" include nonnative organisms that cause economic or environmental harm and are capable of spreading to new areas of the state. "Invasive species" does not include domestic livestock, intentionally planted agronomic crops, or nonharmful exotic organisms. [2011 c 154 § 2; 2007 c 241 § 61; 2006 c 152 § 2.]

**Findings—2011 c 154:** "The land, water, and other resources of Washington state are being severely impacted by the invasion of an increasing number of harmful invasive plant and animal species. These impacts are resulting in damage to the state's environment and causing economic hardships. The multitude of public and private organizations with an interest and authority in controlling and preventing the spread of harmful invasive species in Washington state need a mechanism for cooperation, communication, collaboration, and implementation of the statewide plan of action to combat these threats." [2011 c 154 § 1.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.25.320 Washington invasive species council—Membership.** (1) Membership in the council includes a representative from the following entities:

(a) The department of agriculture, represented by the director or the director's designee;

(b) The department of fish and wildlife, represented by the director or the director's designee;

(c) The department of ecology, represented by the director or the director's designee;

(d) The department of natural resources, represented by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee;

(e) The department of transportation, represented by the secretary or the secretary's designee;

(f) The Washington state noxious weed control board, appointed by the board;

(g) A county located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains, appointed by the other members of the council; and

(h) A county located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains, appointed by the other members of the council.

(2) The councilmembers may add members to the council as the councilmembers deem appropriate to accomplish its goals.

(3) The council must invite one representative each from the United States department of agriculture, the United States fish and wildlife service, the United States environmental protection agency, and the United States coast guard to participate on the council in a nonvoting, ex officio capacity.

(4) A representative of the office of the governor must convene the first meeting of the council and serve as chair until the council selects a chair. At the first meeting of the council, the council shall address issues including, but not limited to, voting methods, meeting schedules, and the need for and use of advisory and technical committees. [2006 c 152 § 3.]

**79A.25.330 Washington invasive species council—Goals.** The council's goals are to:

(1) Minimize the effects of harmful invasive species on Washington's citizens and ensure the economic and environmental well-being of the state;

(2) Serve as a forum for identifying and understanding invasive species issues from all perspectives;

(3) Serve as a forum to facilitate the communication, cooperation, and coordination of local, tribal, state, federal, private, and nongovernmental entities for the prevention, control, and management of nonnative invasive species;

(4) Serve as an avenue for public outreach and for raising public awareness of invasive species issues;

(5) Develop and implement a statewide invasive species strategic plan as described in this chapter;

(6) Review the current funding mechanisms and levels for state agencies to manage noxious weeds on the lands under their authority;

(7) Make recommendations for legislation necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(8) Establish criteria for the prioritization of invasive species response actions and projects; and

(9) Utilizing the process described in subsection (8) of this section, select at least one project per year from the strategic plan for coordinated action by the Washington invasive species councilmember entities. [2006 c 152 § 4.]

**79A.25.340 Washington invasive species council—Statewide strategic plan.** (1) The council shall develop and periodically update a statewide strategic plan for addressing invasive species. The strategic plan should incorporate the reports and activities of the aquatic nuisance species committee, the state noxious weed control board, and other appropriate reports and activities. In addition, the council must coordinate with the biodiversity council created in Executive Order 04-02 to ensure that a statewide strategy for the control of invasive species is integrated into the thirty-year strategy

for biodiversity conservation that the biodiversity council must submit to the legislature in 2007.

(2) The strategic plan must, at a minimum, address:

(a) Statewide coordination and intergovernmental cooperation;

(b) Prevention of new biological invasions through deliberate or unintentional introduction;

(c) Inventory and monitoring of invasive species;

(d) Early detection of and rapid response to new invasions;

(e) Control, management, and eradication of established populations of invasive species;

(f) Projects that can be implemented during the period covered by the strategic plan for the control, management, and eradication of new or established populations of invasive species;

(g) Revegetation, reclamation, or restoration of native species following control or eradication of invasive species;

(h) Tools that can be made available to assist state agencies that are responsible for managing public land to control invasive noxious weeds and recommendations as to how the agencies should be held responsible for the failure to control invasive noxious weeds;

(i) Research and public education;

(j) Funding and resources available for invasive species prevention, control, and management; and

(k) Recommendations for legislation necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(3) The strategic plan must be updated at least once every three years following its initial development. The strategic plan must be submitted to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by September 15th of each applicable year. The council shall complete the initial strategic plan within two years of June 7, 2006.

(4) Each state department and agency named to the council shall, consistent with state law, make best efforts to implement elements of the completed plan that are applicable to the department or agency. [2006 c 152 § 5.]

**79A.25.350 Washington invasive species council—Annual report.** (1) The council shall submit an annual report of its activities to the governor and the relevant policy committees of the senate and house of representatives by December 15th of each year. The annual report must include an evaluation of progress made in the preceding year to implement or carry out the strategic plan and an identification of projects from the strategic plan that will be a focus for the following year.

(2) Prior to the start of the 2011 legislative session, the council must prepare a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature that makes recommendations as to the extension or modification of the council. [2006 c 152 § 6.]

**79A.25.360 Washington invasive species council—Advisory and technical committees authorized.** The council may establish advisory and technical committees that it considers necessary to aid and advise the council in the performance of its functions. The committees may be continuing or temporary committees. The council shall determine the representation, membership, terms, and organization of the committees and appoint their members. [2006 c 152 § 7.]

**79A.25.370 Washington invasive species council—Invasive species council account. (Expires June 30, 2017.)**

(1) The invasive species council account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from appropriations, gifts, grants, and donations must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only to carry out the purposes of the council. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW and the approval of the director of the recreation and conservation office is required for expenditures. All expenditures must be directed by the council.

(2) This section expires June 30, 2017. [2011 c 154 § 3; 2007 c 241 § 62; 2006 c 152 § 8.]

**Findings—2011 c 154:** See note following RCW 79A.25.310.

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

## YOUTH OR COMMUNITY ATHLETIC FACILITIES

**79A.25.800 Intent. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1)

The legislature recognizes that coordinated funding efforts are needed to maintain, develop, and improve the state's community outdoor athletic fields. Rapid population growth and increased urbanization have caused a decline in suitable outdoor fields for community athletic activities and has resulted in overcrowding and deterioration of existing surfaces. Lack of adequate community outdoor athletic fields directly affects the health and well-being of all citizens of the state, reduces the state's economic viability, and prevents Washington from maintaining and achieving the quality of life that it deserves. Therefore, it is the policy of the state and its agencies to maintain, develop, fund, and improve youth or community athletic facilities, including but not limited to community outdoor athletic fields.

(2) In carrying out this policy, the legislature intends to promote the building of new community outdoor athletic fields, the upgrading of existing community outdoor athletic fields, and the maintenance of existing community outdoor athletic fields across the state of Washington. [2003 c 126 § 701; 2000 c 11 § 80; 1998 c 264 § 1. Formerly RCW 43.99.800.]

**Contingent expiration date—2003 c 126 §§ 701 and 702:** "Sections 701 and 702 of this act expire one year after \*RCW 82.14.0494 expires." [2003 c 126 § 1002.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.14.0494 has a contingent expiration date. See RCW 82.14.0494(5).

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2003 c 126:** See notes following RCW 79A.05.385.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.820 Strategic plan—Funding eligibility—Regional coordination and cooperative efforts—Data collection and exchange. (Contingent expiration date.)** Subject to available resources, the recreation and conservation funding board may:

(1) Prepare and update a strategic plan for the development, maintenance, and improvement of community outdoor athletic fields in the state. In the preparation of such plan, the board may use available data from federal, state, and local agencies having community outdoor athletic responsibilities, user groups, private sector interests, and the general public. The plan may include, but is not limited to:

(2012 Ed.)

(a) An inventory of current community outdoor athletic fields;

(b) A forecast of demand for these fields;

(c) An identification and analysis of actual and potential funding sources; and

(d) Other information the board deems appropriate to carry out the purposes of RCW 79A.25.800 through 79A.25.830;

(2) Determine the eligibility requirements for cities, counties, and qualified nonprofit organizations to access funding from the youth athletic facility account created in RCW 43.99N.060(4);

(3) Encourage and provide opportunities for interagency and regional coordination and cooperative efforts between public agencies and between public entities and nonprofit organizations involved in the maintenance, development, and improvement of community outdoor athletic fields; and

(4) Create and maintain data, studies, research, and other information relating to community outdoor athletic fields in the state, and to encourage the exchange of this information. [2007 c 241 § 59; 2003 c 126 § 702; 2000 c 11 § 81; 1998 c 264 § 3. Formerly RCW 43.99.820.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Contingent expiration date—2003 c 126 §§ 701 and 702:** See note following RCW 79A.25.800.

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2003 c 126:** See notes following RCW 79A.05.385.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.25.830 Gifts, grants, or endowments. (Contingent expiration date.)** The recreation and conservation funding board or office may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from public and private sources that are made from time to time, in trust or otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes of RCW 79A.25.800 through 79A.25.830 and spend gifts, grants, or endowments or income from the public or private sources according to their terms, unless the receipt of the gifts, grants, or endowments violates RCW 42.17A.560. [2011 c 60 § 48; 2007 c 241 § 60; 2000 c 11 § 82; 1998 c 264 § 4. Formerly RCW 43.99.830.]

**Contingent expiration date—2011 c 60 § 48:** "Section 82, chapter 11, Laws of 2000; section 60, chapter 241, Laws of 2007; and section 48, chapter 60, Laws of 2011 expire one year after RCW 82.14.0494 expires." [2011 c 60 § 52.]

**Effective date—2011 c 60:** See RCW 42.17A.919.

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## CONSTRUCTION

**79A.25.901 Severability—1965 c 5.** If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1965 c 5 § 17 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.900.]

**79A.25.902 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Marine Recreation Land Act of 1964.

[1965 c 5 § 18 (Initiative Measure No. 215, approved November 3, 1964). Formerly RCW 43.99.910.]

**Chapter 79A.30 RCW**  
**WASHINGTON STATE HORSE PARK**

## Sections

79A.30.005	Findings—Purpose.
79A.30.010	Definitions.
79A.30.020	Park established—Site approval—Ownership of land—Development, promotion, operation, management, and maintenance.
79A.30.030	Washington state horse park authority—Formation—Powers—Articles of incorporation—Board.
79A.30.040	Washington state horse park authority—Powers.
79A.30.050	Collaboration by authority and state on projects of shared interest—Cooperation with groups for youth recreational activities.
79A.30.900	Severability—1995 c 200.

**79A.30.005 Findings—Purpose.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Horses are part of a large, highly diverse, and vital industry which provides significant economic, employment, recreational, and educational contributions to residents of and visitors to the state of Washington;

(2) Currently there is no adequate facility in the Pacific Northwest with the acreage, services, and capacity to host large regional horse shows, national championships, or Olympics-quality events to showcase and promote this important Washington industry;

(3) Establishing a first-class horse park facility in Washington would meet important needs of the state's horse industry, attract investment, enhance recreational opportunities, and bring new exhibitors and tourists to the state from throughout the region and beyond; and

(4) A unique opportunity exists to form a partnership between state, county, and private interests to create a major horse park facility that will provide public recreational opportunities and statewide economic and employment benefits.

It is the purpose of this legislation to create the framework for such a partnership to facilitate development of the Washington state horse park. It is further the intent of the legislature that the state horse park shall be developed in stages, based on factors such as the availability of funds, equipment, and other materials donated by private sources; the availability and willingness of volunteers to work on park development; and the availability of revenues generated by the state horse park as it is developed and utilized. [1995 c 200 § 1. Formerly RCW 67.18.005.]

**79A.30.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Authority" means the Washington state horse park authority authorized to be created in RCW 79A.30.030.

(2) "Commission" means the Washington state parks and recreation commission.

(3) "Horses" includes all domesticated members of the taxonomic family Equidae, including but not limited to horses, donkeys, and mules.

(4) "State horse park" means the Washington state horse park established in RCW 79A.30.020. [2000 c 11 § 83; 1995 c 200 § 2. Formerly RCW 67.18.010.]

**79A.30.020 Park established—Site approval—Ownership of land—Development, promotion, operation, management, and maintenance.** (1) The Washington state horse park is hereby established, to be located at a site approved by the commission. In approving a site for the state horse park, the commission shall consider areas with large blocks of land suitable for park development, the distance to various population centers in the state, the ease of transportation to the site for large vehicles traveling along either a north-south or an east-west corridor, and other factors deemed important by the commission.

(2) Ownership of land for the state horse park shall be as follows:

(a) The commission is vested with and shall retain ownership of land provided by the state for the state horse park. Any lands acquired by the commission after July 23, 1995, for the state horse park shall be purchased under chapter 79A.15 RCW. The legislature encourages the commission to provide a long-term lease of the selected property to the Washington state horse park authority at a minimal charge. The lease shall contain provisions ensuring public access to and use of the horse park facilities, and generally maximizing public recreation opportunities at the horse park, provided that the facility remains available primarily for horse-related activities.

(b) Land provided for the state horse park by the county in which the park is located shall remain in the ownership of that county unless the county determines otherwise. The legislature encourages the county to provide a long-term lease of selected property to the Washington state horse park authority at a minimal charge.

(c) If the authority acquires additional lands through donations, grants, or other means, or with funds generated from the operation of the state horse park, the authority shall retain ownership of those lands. The authority shall also retain ownership of horse park site improvements paid for by or through donations or gifts to the authority.

(3) Development, promotion, operation, management, and maintenance of the state horse park is the responsibility of the authority created in RCW 79A.30.030. [2000 c 11 § 84; 1995 c 200 § 3. Formerly RCW 67.18.020.]

**79A.30.030 Washington state horse park authority—Formation—Powers—Articles of incorporation—Board.**

(1) A nonprofit corporation may be formed under the nonprofit corporation provisions of chapter 24.03 RCW to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Except as provided in RCW 79A.30.040, the corporation shall have all the powers and be subject to the same restrictions as are permitted or prescribed to nonprofit corporations and shall exercise those powers only for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and those purposes necessarily implied therefrom. The nonprofit corporation shall be known as the Washington state horse park authority. The articles of incorporation shall provide that it is the responsibility of the authority to develop, promote, operate, manage, and maintain the Washington state horse park. The articles of incorporation shall provide for appointment of

directors and other conduct of business consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

(2)(a) The articles of incorporation shall provide for a seven-member board of directors for the authority, all appointed by the commission. Board members shall serve three-year terms, except that two of the original appointees shall serve one-year terms, and two of the original appointees shall serve two-year terms. A board member may serve consecutive terms.

(b) The articles of incorporation shall provide that the commission appoint board members as follows:

(i) One board member shall represent the interests of the commission;

(ii) One board member shall represent the interests of the county in which the park is located. In making this appointment, the commission shall solicit recommendations from the county legislative authority; and

(iii) Five board members shall represent the geographic and sports discipline diversity of equestrian interests in the state, and at least one of these members shall have business experience relevant to the organization of horse shows or operation of a horse show facility. In making these appointments, the commission shall solicit recommendations from a variety of active horse-related organizations in the state.

(3) The articles of incorporation shall include a policy that provides for the preferential use of a specific area of the horse park facilities at nominal cost for horse groups associated with youth groups and individuals with disabilities.

(4) The commission shall make appointments to fill board vacancies for positions authorized under subsection (2) of this section, upon additional solicitation of recommendations from the board of directors.

(5) The board of directors shall perform their duties in the best interests of the authority, consistent with the standards applicable to directors of nonprofit corporations under RCW 24.03.127. [2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 32; 2000 c 11 § 85; 1995 c 200 § 4. Formerly RCW 67.18.030.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**79A.30.040 Washington state horse park authority—Powers.** To meet its responsibility for developing, promoting, operating, managing, and maintaining the state horse park, the authority is empowered to do the following:

(1) Exercise the general powers authorized for any nonprofit corporation as specified in RCW 24.03.035. All debts of the authority shall be in the name of the authority and shall not be debts of the state of Washington for which the state or any state agency shall have any obligation to pay; and the authority may not issue bonds. Neither the full faith and credit of the state nor the state's taxing power is pledged for any indebtedness of the authority;

(2) Employ and discharge at its discretion employees, agents, advisors, and other personnel;

(3) Apply for or solicit, accept, administer, and dispose of grants, gifts, and bequests of money, services, securities, real estate, or other property. However, if the authority accepts a donation designated for a specific purpose, the authority shall use the donation for the designated purpose;

(4) Establish, revise, collect, manage, and expend such fees and charges at the state horse park as the authority deems necessary to accomplish its responsibilities;

(5) Make such expenditures as are appropriate for paying the administrative costs and expenses of the authority and the state horse park;

(6) Authorize use of the state horse park facilities by the general public and by and for compatible nonequestrian events as the authority deems reasonable, so long as the primacy of the center for horse-related purposes is not compromised;

(7) Insure its obligations and potential liability;

(8) Enter into cooperative agreements with and provide for private nonprofit groups to use the state horse park facilities and property to raise money to contribute gifts, grants, and support to the authority for the purposes of this chapter;

(9) Grant concessions or leases at the state horse park upon such terms and conditions as the authority deems appropriate, but in no event shall the term of a concession or lease exceed twenty-five years. Concessions and leases shall be consistent with the purposes of this chapter and may be renegotiated at least every five years; and

(10) Generally undertake any and all lawful acts necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes for which the authority and the state horse park are created. [1995 c 200 § 5. Formerly RCW 67.18.040.]

**79A.30.050 Collaboration by authority and state on projects of shared interest—Cooperation with groups for youth recreational activities.** (1) If the authority and state agencies find it mutually beneficial to do so, they are authorized to collaborate and cooperate on projects of shared interest. Agencies authorized to collaborate with the authority include but are not limited to: The commission for activities and projects related to public recreation; the department of agriculture for projects related to the equine agricultural industry; the \*department of community, trade, and economic development with respect to community and economic development and tourism issues associated with development of the state horse park; Washington State University with respect to opportunities for animal research, education, and extension; the department of ecology with respect to opportunities for making the state horse park's waste treatment facilities a demonstration model for the handling of waste to protect water quality; and with local community colleges with respect to programs related to horses, economic development, business, and tourism.

(2) The authority shall cooperate with 4-H clubs, pony clubs, youth groups, and local park departments to provide youth recreational activities. The authority shall also provide for preferential use of an area of the horse park facility for youth and the disabled at nominal cost. [1995 c 200 § 6. Formerly RCW 67.18.050.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**79A.30.900 Severability—1995 c 200.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1995 c 200 § 8. Formerly RCW 67.18.900.]

**Chapter 79A.35 RCW**  
**WASHINGTON STATE**  
**RECREATION TRAILS SYSTEM**

## Sections

79A.35.010	Definitions.
79A.35.020	Purpose.
79A.35.030	Trails to be designated by board—Inclusion of other trails—Procedure.
79A.35.040	State trails plan.
79A.35.050	Proposals for designation of existing or proposed trails as state recreational trails.
79A.35.060	Coordination by recreation and conservation funding board.
79A.35.070	Categories of trails or areas—Policy statement as to certain state lands.
79A.35.080	General types of use.
79A.35.090	Guidelines.
79A.35.100	Consultation and cooperation with state, federal, and local agencies.
79A.35.110	Participation by volunteer organizations—Liability of public agencies therefor limited.
79A.35.120	Department of transportation—Participation.
79A.35.130	Participants in conservation corps programs—Exempt from provisions related to rates of compensation.
79A.35.900	Short title.

**79A.35.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Board" means the recreation and conservation funding board.

(2) "System" means the Washington state recreation trails system. [2007 c 241 § 63; 1970 ex.s. c 76 § 2. Formerly RCW 67.32.020.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

*Recreation and conservation funding board: Chapter 79A.25 RCW.*

**79A.35.020 Purpose.** (1) In order to provide for the ever increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding resident and tourist population and to promote public access to, travel within, and the enjoyment and appreciation of outdoor areas of Washington, it is declared to be in the public interest to plan a system of trails throughout the state to enable and encourage the public to engage in outdoor recreation activities.

(2) The purpose of this chapter is to provide the means for attaining these objectives by instituting a method for establishing a system of state recreation trails, and by prescribing the manner by which a proposed trail may be included in the system. [1970 ex.s. c 76 § 3. Formerly RCW 67.32.030.]

**79A.35.030 Trails to be designated by board—Inclusion of other trails—Procedure.** (1) The system shall be composed of trails as designated by the board. Such trails shall meet the conditions established in this chapter and such supplementary criteria as the board may prescribe.

(2) The board shall establish a procedure whereby federal, state, and local governmental agencies and/or public and private organizations may propose trails for inclusion within the system. Such proposals will comply with the proposal requirements contained in RCW 79A.35.050.

(3) In consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local governmental agencies and public and private organizations, the board shall establish a procedure for public review of the proposals considered appropriate for inclusion in the

statewide trails system. [2007 c 241 § 64; 2000 c 11 § 86; 1970 ex.s. c 76 § 4. Formerly RCW 67.32.040.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.35.040 State trails plan.** The director shall prepare a state trails plan as part of the statewide outdoor recreation and open space plan. Included in this plan shall be an inventory of existing trails and potential trail routes on all lands within the state presently being used or with potential for use by all types of trail users. Such trails plan may include general routes or corridors within which specific trails or segments thereof may be considered for designation as state recreation trails. [1989 c 237 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 47 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 76 § 5. Formerly RCW 67.32.050.]

*Application of chapter—Permission necessary to enter upon private lands: RCW 46.09.300.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.35.050 Proposals for designation of existing or proposed trails as state recreational trails.** Before any specific existing or proposed trail is considered for designation as a state recreational trail, a proposal must be submitted to the board showing the following:

(1) For existing trails:

(a) The route of such trail, including maps and illustrations, and the recommended mode or modes of travel to be permitted thereon;

(b) The characteristics that, in the judgment of the agency or organization proposing the trail, make it worthy of designation as a component of a state recreation trail or trail system;

(c) A map showing the current status of land ownership and use along the designated route;

(d) The name of the agency or combination of agencies that would be responsible for acquiring additional trail rights-of-way or easements, trail improvement, operation and maintenance, and a statement from those agencies indicating the conditions under which they would be willing to accept those responsibilities;

(e) Any anticipated problems of maintaining and supervising the use of such trail and any anticipated hazards to the use of any land or resource adjacent to such trail;

(f) And such others as deemed necessary by the board.

(2) In addition, for proposed trails or for existing trails which require additional right-of-way acquisition, easements, and/or development:

(a) The method of acquiring trail rights-of-way or easements;

(b) The estimated cost of acquisition of lands, or interest in land, if any is required;

(c) The plans for developing the trail and the estimated cost thereof;

(d) Proposed sources of funds to accomplish (a) and (b) of this subsection. [2007 c 241 § 65; 1970 ex.s. c 76 § 6. Formerly RCW 67.32.060.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.35.060 Coordination by recreation and conservation funding board.** Following designation of a state rec-

recreation trail, the recreation and conservation funding board may coordinate:

- (1) The agency or agencies that will acquire (where appropriate), develop and/or maintain the trail;
- (2) The most appropriate location for the trail;
- (3) Modes of travel to be permitted;
- (4) And other functions as appropriate. [2007 c 241 § 66; 1970 ex.s. c 76 § 7. Formerly RCW 67.32.070.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.35.070 Categories of trails or areas—Policy statement as to certain state lands.** The following seven categories of trails or areas are hereby established for purposes of this chapter:

- (1) Cross-state trails which connect scenic, historical, geological, geographical, or other significant features which are characteristic of the state;
- (2) Water-oriented trails which provide a designated path to, on, or along fresh and/or salt water in which the water is the primary point of interest;
- (3) Scenic-access trails which give access to quality recreation, scenic, historic or cultural areas of statewide or national significance;
- (4) Urban trails which provide opportunities within an urban setting for walking, bicycling, horseback riding, or other compatible activities. Where appropriate, they will connect parks, scenic areas, historical points, and neighboring communities;
- (5) Historical trails which identify and interpret routes which were significant in the historical settlement and development of the state;
- (6) ORV vehicle trails which are suitable for use by both four-wheel drive vehicles and two-wheel vehicles. Such trails may be included as a part of the trail systems enumerated in subsections (1), (2), (3) and (5) of this section or may be separately designated;
- (7) Off-road and off-trail areas which are suitable for use by both four-wheel drive vehicles and two-wheel vehicles. The board shall coordinate an inventory and classification of such areas giving consideration to the type of use such areas will receive from persons operating four-wheel drive vehicles and two-wheel vehicles.

The planning and designation of trails shall take into account and give due regard to the interests of federal agencies, state agencies and bodies, counties, municipalities, private landowners and individuals, and interested recreation organizations. It is not required that the above categories be used to designate specific trails, but the board will assure that full consideration is given to including trails from all categories within the system. As it relates to all classes of trails and to all types of trail users, it is herein declared as state policy to increase recreational trail access to and within state and federally owned lands and private lands where access may be obtained. It is the intent of the legislature that public recreation facilities be developed as fully as possible to provide greater recreation opportunities for the citizens of the state. The purpose of chapter 153, Laws of 1972 ex. sess. is to increase the availability of trails and areas for off-road vehicles by granting authority to state and local governments to maintain a system of ORV trails and areas, and to fund the

(2012 Ed.)

program to provide for such development. State lands should be used as fully as possible for all public recreation which is compatible with the income-producing requirements of the various trusts. [2007 c 241 § 67; 1977 ex.s. c 220 § 21; 1972 ex.s. c 153 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 47 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 76 § 8. Formerly RCW 67.32.080.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

*Application of chapter—Permission necessary to enter upon private lands:*  
RCW 46.09.300.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.35.080 General types of use.** All trails designated as state recreational trails will be constructed, maintained, and operated to provide for one or more of the following general types of use: Foot, foot powered bicycle, horse, motor vehicular or watercraft travel as appropriate to the terrain and location, or to legal, administrative or other necessary restraints. It is further provided that the same trail shall not be designated for use by foot and vehicular travel at the same time. [1970 ex.s. c 76 § 9. Formerly RCW 67.32.090.]

**79A.35.090 Guidelines.** With the concurrence of any federal or state agency administering lands through which a state recreation trail may pass, and after consultation with local governments, private organizations and landowners which the board knows or believes to be concerned, the board may issue guidelines including, but not limited to: Encouraging the permissive use of volunteer organizations for planning, maintenance, or trail construction assistance; trail construction and maintenance standards, a trail use reporting procedure, and a uniform trail mapping system. [2007 c 241 § 68; 1971 ex.s. c 47 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 76 § 10. Formerly RCW 67.32.100.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

*Application of chapter—Permission necessary to enter upon private lands:*  
RCW 46.09.300.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.35.100 Consultation and cooperation with state, federal, and local agencies.** The board is authorized and encouraged to consult and to cooperate with any state, federal, or local governmental agency or body including special districts subject to the provisions of chapter 85.38 RCW, with private landowners, and with any privately owned utility having jurisdiction or control over or information concerning the use, abandonment, or disposition of roadways, utility rights-of-way, dikes or levees, or other properties suitable for the purpose of improving or expanding the system in order to assure, to the extent practicable, that any such properties having value for state recreation trail purposes may be made available for such use. [2007 c 241 § 69; 1993 c 258 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 76 § 11. Formerly RCW 67.32.110.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**79A.35.110 Participation by volunteer organizations—Liability of public agencies therefor limited.** Volunteer organizations may assist public agencies, with the agency's approval, in the construction and maintenance of

recreational trails in accordance with the guidelines issued by the board. In carrying out such volunteer activities the members of the organizations shall not be considered employees or agents of the public agency administering the trails, and such public agencies shall not be subject to any liability whatsoever arising out of volunteer activities. The liability of public agencies to members of such volunteer organizations shall be limited in the same manner as provided for in RCW 4.24.210. [2007 c 241 § 70; 1971 ex.s. c 47 § 4. Formerly RCW 67.32.130.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

*Application of chapter—Permission necessary to enter upon private lands:* RCW 46.09.300.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.35.120 Department of transportation—Participation.** The department of transportation shall consider plans for trails along and across all new construction projects, improvement projects, and along or across any existing highways in the state system as deemed desirable by the board. [2007 c 241 § 71; 1984 c 7 § 368; 1971 ex.s. c 47 § 5. Formerly RCW 67.32.140.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

*Application of chapter—Permission necessary to enter upon private lands:* RCW 46.09.300.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.35.130 Participants in conservation corps programs—Exempt from provisions related to rates of compensation.** Participants in conservation corps programs offered by a nonprofit organization affiliated with a national service organization established under the authority of the national and community service trust act of 1993, P.L. 103-82, are exempt from provisions related to rates of compensation while performing environmental and trail maintenance work provided:

(1) The nonprofit organization must be registered as a nonprofit corporation pursuant to chapter 24.03 RCW;

(2) The nonprofit organization's management and administrative headquarters must be located in Washington;

(3) Participants in the program spend at least fifteen percent of their time in the program on education and training activities; and

(4) Participants in the program receive a stipend or living allowance as authorized by federal or state law.

Participants are exempt from provisions related to rates of compensation only for environmental and trail maintenance work conducted pursuant to the conservation corps program. [2011 c 56 § 1.]

**79A.35.900 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the Washington State Recreation Trails System Act. [1970 ex.s. c 76 § 1. Formerly RCW 67.32.010.]

## Chapter 79A.40 RCW CONVEYANCES FOR PERSONS IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Sections

79A.40.010	Safe and adequate facilities and equipment required of owner and operator—Operator not common carrier.
79A.40.020	Plans, specifications to be submitted to state parks and recreation commission—Approval—Penalty.
79A.40.030	Orders directing repairs, improvements, changes, etc.—Notice—Forbidding operation.
79A.40.040	Penalty for violation of chapter or rules, etc., of parks and recreation commission.
79A.40.050	Inspector of recreational devices—Employees.
79A.40.060	Powers and duties of inspector—Condemnation of equipment—Annual inspection.
79A.40.070	Costs of inspection and plan review—Lien—Disposition of funds.
79A.40.080	State immunity from liability—Actions deemed exercise of police power.
79A.40.090	Rules and codes.
79A.40.100	Judicial review.

**79A.40.010 Safe and adequate facilities and equipment required of owner and operator—Operator not common carrier.** Every owner or operator of any recreational device designed and operated for the conveyance of persons which aids in promoting entertainment, pleasure, play, relaxation, or instruction, specifically including devices generally associated with winter sports activities such as ski lifts, ski tows, j-bars, t-bars, ski mobiles, chair lifts, and similar devices and equipment, shall construct, furnish, maintain, and provide safe and adequate facilities and equipment with which safely and properly to receive and transport all persons offered to and received by the owner or operator of such devices, and to promote the safety of such owner's or operator's patrons, employees and the public. The owner or operator of the devices and equipment covered by this section shall be deemed not to be a common carrier. [1965 ex.s. c 85 § 1; 1961 c 253 § 1; 1959 c 327 § 1. Formerly RCW 70.88.010.]

**79A.40.020 Plans, specifications to be submitted to state parks and recreation commission—Approval—Penalty.** It shall be unlawful after June 10, 1959, to construct or install any such recreational device as set forth in RCW 79A.40.010 without first submitting plans and specifications for such device to the state parks and recreation commission and receiving the approval of the commission for such construction or installation. Violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor. [2000 c 11 § 87; 1959 c 327 § 2. Formerly RCW 70.88.020.]

**79A.40.030 Orders directing repairs, improvements, changes, etc.—Notice—Forbidding operation.** The state parks and recreation commission shall have the authority and the responsibility for the inspection of the devices set forth in RCW 79A.40.010 and in addition shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Whenever the commission, after hearing called upon its own motion or upon complaint, finds that additional apparatus, equipment, facilities or devices for use or in connection with the transportation or conveyance of persons upon the devices set forth in RCW 79A.40.010, ought reasonably to be provided, or any repairs or improvements to, or changes in, any theretofore in use ought reasonably to be made, or any additions or changes in construction should reasonably be

made thereto, in order to promote the security and safety of the public or employees, it may make and serve an order directing such repairs, improvements, changes, or additions to be made.

(2) If the commission finds that the equipment, or appliances in connection therewith, or the apparatus, or other structures of the recreational device set forth in RCW 79A.40.010 are defective, and that the operation thereof is dangerous to the employees of the owner or operator of such device or to the public, it shall immediately give notice to the owner or operator of such device of the repairs or reconstruction necessary to place the same in a safe condition, and may prescribe the time within which they shall be made. If, in its opinion, it is needful or proper, the commission may forbid the operation of the device until it is repaired and placed in a safe condition. [2000 c 11 § 88; 1959 c 327 § 3. Formerly RCW 70.88.030.]

**79A.40.040 Penalty for violation of chapter or rules, etc., of parks and recreation commission.** Any violation of this chapter or the rules, regulations and codes of the state parks and recreation commission relating to public safety in the construction, operation and maintenance of the recreational devices provided for in this chapter shall be a misdemeanor. [1965 ex.s. c 85 § 2; 1959 c 327 § 4. Formerly RCW 70.88.040.]

**79A.40.050 Inspector of recreational devices—Employees.** The state parks and recreation commission shall employ or retain a person qualified in engineering experience and training who shall be designated as the inspector of recreational devices, and may employ such additional employees as are necessary to properly administer this chapter. The inspector and such additional employees may be hired on a temporary basis or borrowed from other state departments, or the commission may contract with individuals or firms for such inspecting service on an independent basis. The commission shall prescribe the salary or other remuneration for such service. [1959 c 327 § 5. Formerly RCW 70.88.050.]

**79A.40.060 Powers and duties of inspector—Condemnation of equipment—Annual inspection.** The inspector of recreational devices and his or her assistants shall inspect all equipment and appliances connected with the recreational devices set forth in RCW 79A.40.010 and make such reports of his or her inspection to the commission as may be required. He or she shall, on discovering any defective equipment, or appliances connected therewith, rendering the use of the equipment dangerous, immediately report the same to the owner or operator of the device on which it is found, and in addition report it to the commission. If in the opinion of the inspector the continued operation of the defective equipment constitutes an immediate danger to the safety of the persons operating or being conveyed by such equipment, the inspector may condemn such equipment and shall immediately notify the commission of his or her action in this respect: PROVIDED, That inspection required by this chapter must be conducted at least once each year. [2000 c 11 § 89; 1959 c 327 § 6. Formerly RCW 70.88.060.]

(2012 Ed.)

**79A.40.070 Costs of inspection and plan review—Lien—Disposition of funds.** The expenses incurred in connection with making inspections under this chapter shall be paid by the owner or operator of such recreational devices either by reimbursing the commission for the costs incurred or by paying directly such individuals or firms that may be engaged by the commission to accomplish the inspection service. Payment shall be made only upon notification by the commission of the amount due. The commission shall maintain accurate and complete records of the costs incurred for each inspection and plan review for construction approval and shall assess the respective owners or operators of said recreational devices only for the actual costs incurred by the commission for such safety inspections and plan review for construction approval. The costs as assessed by the commission shall be a lien on the equipment of the owner or operator of the recreational devices so inspected. Such moneys collected by the commission under this section shall be paid into the state parks renewal and stewardship account. [1997 c 137 § 5; 1990 c 136 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 74 § 1; 1961 c 253 § 2; 1959 c 327 § 7. Formerly RCW 70.88.070.]

*Parks and parkways account abolished: RCW 43.79.405.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.40.080 State immunity from liability—Actions deemed exercise of police power.** Inspections, rules, and orders of the state parks and recreation commission resulting from the exercise of the provisions of this chapter and chapter 79A.45 RCW shall not in any manner be deemed to impose liability upon the state for any injury or damage resulting from the operation or signing of the facilities regulated by this chapter, and all actions of the state parks and recreation commission and its personnel shall be deemed to be an exercise of the police power of the state. [2000 c 11 § 90; 1991 c 75 § 2; 1990 c 136 § 3; 1959 c 327 § 8. Formerly RCW 70.88.080.]

**79A.40.090 Rules and codes.** The state parks and recreation commission is empowered to adopt reasonable rules and codes relating to public safety in the construction, operation, signing, and maintenance of the recreational devices provided for in this chapter. The rules and codes authorized hereunder shall be in accordance with established standards, if any, and shall not be discriminatory in their application. [1991 c 75 § 3; 1959 c 327 § 9. Formerly RCW 70.88.090.]

**79A.40.100 Judicial review.** The procedure for review of the orders or actions of the state parks and recreation commission, its agents or employees, shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [2007 c 234 § 98; 1959 c 327 § 10. Formerly RCW 70.88.100.]

## Chapter 79A.45 RCW

### SKIING AND COMMERCIAL SKI ACTIVITY

#### Sections

- 79A.45.010 Ski area sign requirements.
- 79A.45.020 "Trails" or "runs" defined.
- 79A.45.030 Standard of conduct—Prohibited acts—Responsibility.
- 79A.45.040 Skiing outside of trails or boundaries—Notice of skier responsibility.
- 79A.45.050 Leaving scene of skiing accident—Penalty—Notice.

79A.45.060 Insurance requirements for operators.  
79A.45.070 Skiing in an area or trail closed to the public—Penalty.

**79A.45.010 Ski area sign requirements.** (1) The operator of any ski area shall maintain a sign system based on international or national standards and as may be required by the state parks and recreation commission.

All signs for instruction of the public shall be bold in design with wording short, simple, and to the point. All such signs shall be prominently placed.

Entrances to all machinery, operators', and attendants' rooms shall be posted to the effect that unauthorized persons are not permitted therein.

The sign "Working on Lift" or a similar warning sign shall be hung on the main disconnect switch and at control points for starting the auxiliary or prime mover when a person is working on the passenger tramway.

(2) All signs required for normal daytime operation shall be in place, and those pertaining to the tramway, lift, or tow operations shall be adequately lighted for night skiing.

(3) If a particular trail or run has been closed to the public by an operator, the operator shall place a notice thereof at the top of the trail or run involved, and no person shall ski on a run or trail which has been designated "Closed".

(4) An operator shall place a notice at the embarking terminal or terminals of a lift or tow which has been closed that the lift or tow has been closed and that a person embarking on such a lift or tow shall be considered to be a trespasser.

(5) Any snow making machines or equipment shall be clearly visible and clearly marked. Snow grooming equipment or any other vehicles shall be equipped with a yellow flashing light at any time the vehicle is moving on or in the vicinity of a ski run; however, low profile vehicles, such as snowmobiles, may be identified in the alternative with a flag on a mast of not less than six feet in height.

(6) The operator of any ski area shall maintain a readily visible sign on each rope tow, wire rope tow, j-bar, t-bar, ski lift, or other similar device, advising the users of the device that:

(a) Any person not familiar with the operation of the lift shall ask the operator thereof for assistance and/or instruction; and

(b) The skiing-ability level recommended for users of the lift and the runs served by the device shall be classified "easiest", "more difficult", and "most difficult". [1991 c 75 § 1; 1989 c 81 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 139 § 1. Formerly RCW 70.117.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.45.020 "Trails" or "runs" defined.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

"Trails" or "runs" means those trails or runs that have been marked, signed, or designated by the ski area operator as ski trails or ski runs within the ski area boundary. [1989 c 81 § 1. Formerly RCW 70.117.015.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.45.030 Standard of conduct—Prohibited acts—Responsibility.** (1) In addition to the specific requirements of this section, all skiers shall conduct themselves within the

limits of their individual ability and shall not act in a manner that may contribute to the injury of themselves or any other person.

(2) No person shall:

(a) Embark or disembark upon a ski lift except at a designated area;

(b) Throw or expel any object from any tramway, ski lift, commercial skimobile, or other similar device while riding on the device;

(c) Act in any manner while riding on a rope tow, wire rope tow, j-bar, t-bar, ski lift, or similar device that may interfere with the proper or safe operation of the lift or tow;

(d) Wilfully engage in any type of conduct which may injure any person, or place any object in the uphill ski track which may cause another to fall, while traveling uphill on a ski lift; or

(e) Cross the uphill track of a j-bar, t-bar, rope tow, wire rope tow, or other similar device except at designated locations.

(3) Every person shall maintain control of his or her speed and course at all times, and shall stay clear of any snowgrooming equipment, any vehicle, any lift tower, and any other equipment on the mountain.

(4) A person shall be the sole judge of his or her ability to negotiate any trail, run, or uphill track and no action shall be maintained against any operator by reason of the condition of the track, trail, or run unless the condition results from the negligence of the operator.

(5) Any person who boards a rope tow, wire rope tow, j-bar, t-bar, ski lift, or other similar device shall be presumed to have sufficient abilities to use the device. No liability shall attach to any operator or attendant for failure to instruct the person on the use of the device, but a person shall follow any written or verbal instructions that are given regarding the use.

(6) Because of the inherent risks in the sport of skiing all persons using the ski hill shall exercise reasonable care for their own safety. However, the primary duty shall be on the person skiing downhill to avoid any collision with any person or object below him or her.

(7) Any person skiing outside the confines of trails open for skiing or runs open for skiing within the ski area boundary shall be responsible for any injuries or losses resulting from his or her action.

(8) Any person on foot or on any type of sliding device shall be responsible for any collision whether the collision is with another person or with an object.

(9) A person embarking on a lift or tow without authority shall be considered to be a trespasser. [1989 c 81 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 139 § 2. Formerly RCW 70.117.020.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.45.040 Skiing outside of trails or boundaries—Notice of skier responsibility.** Ski area operators shall place a notice of the provisions of RCW 79A.45.030(7) on their trail maps, at or near the ticket booth, and at the bottom of each ski lift or similar device. [2000 c 11 § 91; 1989 c 81 § 5. Formerly RCW 70.117.025.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.45.050 Leaving scene of skiing accident—Penalty—Notice.** (1) Any person who is involved in a skiing

accident and who departs from the scene of the accident without leaving personal identification or otherwise clearly identifying himself or herself before notifying the proper authorities or obtaining assistance, knowing that any other person involved in the accident is in need of medical or other assistance, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) An operator shall place a prominent notice containing the substance of this section in such places as are necessary to notify the public. [1989 c 81 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 139 § 3. Formerly RCW 70.117.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **79A.45.060 Insurance requirements for operators.**

(1) Every tramway, ski lift, or commercial skimobile operator shall maintain liability insurance of not less than one hundred thousand dollars per person per accident and of not less than two hundred thousand dollars per accident.

(2) Every operator of a rope tow, wire rope tow, j-bar, t-bar, or similar device shall maintain liability insurance of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars per person per accident and of not less than fifty thousand dollars per accident.

(3) This section shall not apply to operators of tramways that are not open to the general public and that are operated without charge, except that this section shall apply to operators of tramways that are operated by schools, ski clubs, or similar organizations. [1977 ex.s. c 139 § 4. Formerly RCW 70.117.040.]

**79A.45.070 Skiing in an area or trail closed to the public—Penalty.** A person is guilty of a misdemeanor if the person knowingly skis in an area or on a ski trail, owned or controlled by a ski area operator, that is closed to the public and that has signs posted indicating the closure. [2011 c 276 § 1.]

### **Chapter 79A.50 RCW**

#### **PUBLIC LANDS FOR STATE OR CITY PARKS**

##### Sections

- 79A.50.010 Use of public lands for state or city park purposes—Regents' consent, when.
- 79A.50.020 Use of public lands for state or city park purposes—Rental—Deposit of rent.
- 79A.50.030 Use of public lands for state or city park purposes—Removal of timber—Consent—Compensation.
- 79A.50.040 State lands used for state parks—Trust lands, payment of full market value rental—Other lands, rent free.
- 79A.50.050 State lands used for state parks—Trust lands—Determination of full market value by board of natural resources.
- 79A.50.060 State lands used for state parks—Trust lands—Full market value rental defined—Factor in determination.
- 79A.50.070 State lands used for state parks—Certain funds appropriated for rental to be deposited without deduction for management purposes.
- 79A.50.080 Utilization of public lands for outdoor recreational and other beneficial public uses—State agency cooperation.
- 79A.50.090 Department estopped from certain actions respecting state parks without concurrence of commission.
- 79A.50.100 State trust lands—Withdrawal—Revocation or modification of withdrawal when used for recreational purposes—Hearing—Notice—Board to determine most beneficial use in accordance with policy.
- 79A.50.110 Exchange of lands to secure private lands for parks and recreation purposes.

**79A.50.010 Use of public lands for state or city park purposes—Regents' consent, when.** The department of (2012 Ed.)

natural resources is hereby authorized to withdraw from sale or lease, and reserve for state or city park purposes, public lands selected by the state parks and recreation commission, for such time as it shall determine will be for the best interests of the state and any particular fund for which said public lands are being held in trust: PROVIDED, None of the lands selected under the provisions of section 3, chapter 91, Laws of 1903, shall be withdrawn or reserved hereunder without the consent of the board of regents of the University of Washington; except that the consent of the board of regents of the University of Washington shall not be required with regard to any such lands which are situated within the corporate limits of any city or town and are presently zoned for residential use. [1969 ex.s. c 129 § 2; 1951 c 26 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.08.102.]

**Reviser's note:** 1903 c 91 § 3 referred to herein is not codified. See Index of Public Land Acts of Special or Historical Nature not codified in RCW following Title 79 RCW digest.

**79A.50.020 Use of public lands for state or city park purposes—Rental—Deposit of rent.** The department of natural resources and the state parks and recreation commission shall fix a yearly reasonable rental for the use of public lands reserved for state park purposes, which shall be paid by the commission to the department for the particular fund for which the lands had been held in trust, and which rent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in such fund. [1988 c 128 § 59; 1951 c 26 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.08.104.]

**79A.50.030 Use of public lands for state or city park purposes—Removal of timber—Consent—Compensation.** No merchantable timber shall be cut or removed from lands reserved for state park purposes without the consent of the department of natural resources and without payment to the particular fund for which the lands are held in trust, the reasonable value thereof as fixed by the department. [1988 c 128 § 60; 1951 c 26 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.08.106.]

**79A.50.040 State lands used for state parks—Trust lands, payment of full market value rental—Other lands, rent free.** The parks and recreation commission shall pay to the department of natural resources the full market value rental for state-owned lands acquired in trust from the United States that are used for state parks. All other state lands used by the parks and recreation commission for state parks shall be rent free. [1967 ex.s. c 63 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.08.1062.]

**79A.50.050 State lands used for state parks—Trust lands—Determination of full market value by board of natural resources.** The full market value shall be determined by the board of natural resources for trust lands used for state park purposes. [1969 ex.s. c 189 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 63 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.08.1064.]

**79A.50.060 State lands used for state parks—Trust lands—Full market value rental defined—Factor in determination.** The full market value rental for trust lands used by the parks and recreation commission shall be a percentage of the full market value of the land and the board of natural resources shall consider in its deliberations the aver-

age percentage of return realized by the state during the preceding fiscal biennium on the invested common school permanent fund. [1969 ex.s. c 189 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 63 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.08.1066.]

**79A.50.070 State lands used for state parks—Certain funds appropriated for rental to be deposited without deduction for management purposes.** Any funds appropriated to the state parks and recreation commission for payment of rental for use of state lands reserved for state park purposes during the 1969-71 biennium and received by the department of natural resources shall be deposited by the department to the applicable trust land accounts without the deduction normally applied to such revenues for management purposes. [1969 ex.s. c 189 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.08.1069.]

**79A.50.080 Utilization of public lands for outdoor recreational and other beneficial public uses—State agency cooperation.** In order to maximize outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of the state of Washington and allow for the full utilization of state owned land, all state departments and agencies are authorized and directed to cooperate together in fully utilizing the public lands. All state departments and agencies, vested with statutory authority for utilizing land for outdoor recreation or other beneficial public uses, are authorized and directed to apply to another state department or agency holding suitable public lands for permission of use. The department or agency applied to is authorized and directed to grant permission of use to the applying department or agency if the public use of the public land would be consistent with the existing and continuing principal uses. Trust lands may be withdrawn for outdoor recreation purposes from sale or lease for other purposes by the department of natural resources pursuant to this section subject to the constraints imposed by the Washington state Constitution and the federal enabling statute. The decision regarding such consistency with existing and continuing principal uses shall be made by the agency owning or controlling such lands and which decision shall be final. [1969 ex.s. c 247 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.08.1072.]

**79A.50.090 Department estopped from certain actions respecting state parks without concurrence of commission.** The department of natural resources shall not rescind the withdrawal of public land in any existing and future state park nor sell any timber or other valuable material therefrom or grant any right-of-way or easement thereon, except as provided in the withdrawal order or for off-site drilling, without the concurrence of the state parks and recreation commission.

The department of natural resources shall have reasonable access across such lands in order to reach other public lands administered by the department of natural resources. [1969 ex.s. c 247 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.08.1074.]

*State trust lands—Withdrawal—Revocation or modification of withdrawal when used for recreational purposes—Board to determine most beneficial use in accordance with policy:* RCW 79A.50.100.

**79A.50.100 State trust lands—Withdrawal—Revocation or modification of withdrawal when used for recreational purposes—Hearing—Notice—Board to deter-**

**mine most beneficial use in accordance with policy.** (1) A public hearing may be held prior to any withdrawal of state trust lands and shall be held prior to any revocation of withdrawal or modification of withdrawal of state trust lands used for recreational purposes by the department of natural resources or by other state agencies.

(2) The department shall cause notice of the withdrawal, revocation of withdrawal or modification of withdrawal of state trust lands as described in subsection (1) of this section to be published by advertisement once a week for four weeks prior to the public hearing in at least one newspaper published and of general circulation in the county or counties in which the state trust lands are situated, and by causing a copy of said notice to be posted in a conspicuous place in the department's Olympia office, in the district office in which the land is situated, and in the office of the county auditor in the county where the land is situated thirty days prior to the public hearing. The notice shall specify the time and place of the public hearing and shall describe with particularity each parcel of state trust lands involved in said hearing.

(3) The board of natural resources shall administer the hearing according to its prescribed rules and regulations.

(4) The board of natural resources shall determine the most beneficial use or combination of uses of the state trust lands. Its decision will be conclusive as to the matter: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That said decisions as to uses shall conform to applicable state plans and policy guidelines adopted by the \*department of community, trade, and economic development. [1995 c 399 § 209; 1985 c 6 § 24; 1969 ex.s. c 129 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.08.1078.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

*Purchase of withdrawn state trust lands by state parks and recreation commission:* RCW 79A.05.210.

*Reconveyance of state forest land to counties for park purposes:* RCW 79.22.300 through 79.22.330.

**79A.50.110 Exchange of lands to secure private lands for parks and recreation purposes.** For the purpose of securing and preserving privately owned lands for parks and recreation purposes, the department of natural resources is authorized, with the advice and approval of the state board of natural resources, to exchange any state lands of equal value for such lands. Lands acquired by exchange as herein provided shall be withdrawn from lease and sale and reserved for park and recreation purposes. [1967 ex.s. c 64 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.08.109.]

*Outdoor recreation facilities, construction and maintenance by department of natural resources:* RCW 79.10.140.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 79A.55 RCW SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM

### Sections

- 79A.55.005 Legislative finding—Purpose.
- 79A.55.010 Definitions.
- 79A.55.020 Management policies—Development—Inclusion of management plans—Identification and exclusion of unsuitably developed lands—Boundaries of river areas—Hearings—Notice—Studies—Proposals for system additions.
- 79A.55.030 Administration of management program—Powers, duties, and authority of commission.

- 79A.55.040 State agencies and local governments to pursue policies to conserve and enhance included river areas—Shoreline management act—Private lands—Trust lands.
- 79A.55.050 Criteria for inclusion of rivers within system.
- 79A.55.060 Authority of department of fish and wildlife unaffected.
- 79A.55.070 Rivers designated as part of system.
- 79A.55.080 Inclusion of state's scenic rivers in national wild and scenic river system not precluded.
- 79A.55.090 Wildlife fund moneys not to be used.
- 79A.55.900 Severability—1977 ex.s. c 161.

**79A.55.005 Legislative finding—Purpose.** The legislature hereby finds that many rivers of this state, with their immediate environs, possess outstanding natural, scenic, historic, ecological, and recreational values of present and future benefit to the public. The legislature further finds that the policy of permitting the construction of dams and other impoundment facilities at appropriate sections of the rivers of this state needs to be complemented by a policy that would protect and preserve the natural character of such rivers and fulfill other conservation purposes. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that certain selected rivers of the state which, with their immediate environs, possess the aforementioned characteristics, shall be preserved in as natural a condition as practical and that overuse of such rivers, which tends to downgrade their natural condition, shall be discouraged.

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a program for managing publicly owned land on rivers included in the state's scenic river system, to indicate the river segments to be initially included in that system, to prescribe a procedure for adding additional components to the system, and to protect the rights of private property owners. [1977 ex.s. c 161 § 1. Formerly RCW 79.72.010.]

**79A.55.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commission" means the state parks and recreation commission.

(2) "Participating local government" means the legislative authority of any city or county, a portion of whose territorial jurisdiction is bounded by or includes a river or river segment of the state's scenic river system.

(3) "River" means a flowing body of water or a section, segment, or portion thereof.

(4) "River area" means a river and the land area in its immediate environs as established by the participating agencies not exceeding a width of one-quarter mile landward from the streamway on either side of the river.

(5) "Scenic easement" means the negotiated right to control the use of land, including the air space above the land, for the purpose of protecting the scenic view throughout the visual corridor.

(6) "Streamway" means that stream-dependent corridor of single or multiple, wet or dry, channel or channels within which the usual seasonal or stormwater run-off peaks are contained, and within which environment the flora, fauna, soil, and topography is dependent on or influenced by the height and velocity of the fluctuating river currents.

(7) "System" means all the rivers and river areas in the state designated by the legislature for inclusion as scenic rivers but does not include tributaries of a designated river unless specifically included by the legislature. The inclusion

of a river in the system does not mean that other rivers or tributaries in a drainage basin shall be required to be part of the management program developed for the system unless the rivers and tributaries within the drainage basin are specifically designated for inclusion by the legislature.

(8) "Visual corridor" means that area which can be seen in a normal summer month by a person of normal vision walking either bank of a river included in the system. The visual corridor shall not exceed the river area. [1999 c 249 § 801; 1999 c 151 § 1701; 1994 c 264 § 64; 1988 c 36 § 57; 1987 c 57 § 1; 1984 c 7 § 371; 1977 ex.s. c 161 § 2. Formerly RCW 79.72.020.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1999 c 151 § 1701 and by 1999 c 249 § 801, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.55.020 Management policies—Development—Inclusion of management plans—Identification and exclusion of unsuitably developed lands—Boundaries of river areas—Hearings—Notice—Studies—Proposals for system additions.** (1) The commission shall develop and adopt management policies for publicly owned or leased land on the rivers designated by the legislature as being a part of the state's scenic river system and within the associated river areas. The commission may adopt rules identifying river classifications which reflect the characteristics common to various segments of scenic rivers and may adopt management policies consistent with local government's shoreline management master plans appropriate for each such river classification. All such policies shall be adopted by the commission in accordance with the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. Any variance with such a policy by any public agency shall be authorized only by the approval of the commission and shall be made only to alleviate unusual hardships unique to a given segment of the system.

(2) Any policies developed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall include management plans for protecting ecological, economic, recreational, aesthetic, botanical, scenic, geological, hydrological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, archaeological, and scientific features of the rivers designated as being in the system. Such policies shall also include management plans to encourage any nonprofit group, organization, association, person, or corporation to develop and adopt programs for the purpose of increasing fish propagation.

(3) The commission shall identify on a river by river basis any publicly owned or leased lands which could be included in a river area of the system but which are developed in a manner unsuitable for land to be managed as part of the system. The commission shall exclude lands so identified from the provisions of any management policies implementing the provisions of this chapter.

(4) The commission shall determine the boundaries which shall define the river area associated with any included river. With respect to the rivers named in RCW 79A.55.070, the commission shall make such determination, and those determinations authorized by subsection (3) of this section, within one year of September 21, 1977.

(5) Before making a decision regarding the river area to be included in the system, a variance in policy, or the excluding of land from the provisions of the management policies, the commission shall hold hearings in accord with chapter 34.05 RCW, with at least one public hearing to be held in the general locale of the river under consideration. The commission shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area which includes the river or rivers to be considered, a description, including a map showing such river or rivers, of the material to be considered at the public hearing. Such notice shall appear at least twice in the time period between two and four weeks prior to the public hearing.

The commission shall seek and receive comments from the public regarding potential additions to the system, shall initiate studies, and may submit to any session of the legislature proposals for additions to the state scenic river system. These proposals shall be accompanied by a detailed report on the factors which, in the commission's judgment, make an area a worthy addition to the system. [2009 c 187 § 6. Prior: 1999 c 249 § 802; 1999 c 151 § 1702; 1977 ex.s. c 161 § 3. Formerly RCW 79.72.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.55.030 Administration of management program—Powers, duties, and authority of commission.** (1) The management program for the system shall be administered by the commission. The commission shall have the responsibility for coordinating the development of the program between affected state agencies and participating local governments, and shall develop and adopt rules, in accord with chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act, for each portion of the system, which shall implement the management policies. In developing rules for a specific river in the system, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing in the general locale of the river under consideration. The hearing may constitute the hearing required by chapter 34.05 RCW. The commission shall cause a brief summary of the proposed rules to be published twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area that includes the river to be considered in the period of time between two and four weeks prior to the public hearing. In addition to the foregoing required publication, the commission shall also provide notice of the hearings, rules, and decisions of the commission to radio and television stations and major local newspapers in the areas that include the river to be considered.

(2) In addition to any other powers granted to carry out the intent of this chapter, the commission is authorized to: (a) Purchase, within the river area, real property in fee or any lesser right or interest in real property including, but not limited to scenic easements and future development rights, visual corridors, wildlife habitats, unique ecological areas, historical sites, camping and picnic areas, boat launching sites, and/or easements abutting the river for the purpose of preserving or enhancing the river or facilitating the use of the river by the public for fishing, boating and other water related activities; and (b) purchase, outside of a river area, public access to the river area.

The right of eminent domain shall not be utilized in any purchase made pursuant to this section.

[Title 79A RCW—page 52]

(3) The commission is further authorized to: (a) Acquire by gift, devise, grant, or dedication the fee, an option to purchase, a right of first refusal or any other lesser right or interest in real property and upon acquisition such real property shall be held and managed within the scenic river system; and (b) accept grants, contributions, or funds from any agency, public or private, or individual for the purposes of this chapter.

(4) The commission is hereby vested with the power to obtain injunctions and other appropriate relief against violations of any provisions of this chapter and any rules adopted under this section or agreements made under the provisions of this chapter. [1999 c 249 § 803; 1999 c 151 § 1703; 1989 c 175 § 169; 1977 ex.s. c 161 § 4. Formerly RCW 79.72.040.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1999 c 151 § 1703 and by 1999 c 249 § 803, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.55.040 State agencies and local governments to pursue policies to conserve and enhance included river areas—Shoreline management act—Private lands—Trust lands.** (1) All state government agencies and local governments are hereby directed to pursue policies with regard to their respective activities, functions, powers, and duties which are designed to conserve and enhance the conditions of rivers which have been included in the system, in accordance with the management policies and the rules adopted by the commission for such rivers. Local agencies are directed to pursue such policies with respect to all lands in the river area owned or leased by such local agencies. Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the modification of a shoreline management plan adopted by a local government and approved by the state pursuant to chapter 90.58 RCW without the approval of the department of ecology and local government. The policies adopted pursuant to this chapter shall be integrated, as fully as possible, with those of the shoreline management act of 1971.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall grant to the commission the power to restrict the use of private land without either the specific written consent of the owner thereof or the acquisition of rights in real property authorized by RCW 79A.55.030.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the department of natural resources from exercising its full responsibilities and obligations for the management of state trust lands. [1999 c 249 § 804; 1999 c 151 § 1704; 1977 ex.s. c 161 § 5. Formerly RCW 79.72.050.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1999 c 151 § 1704 and by 1999 c 249 § 804, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.55.050 Criteria for inclusion of rivers within system.** Rivers of a scenic nature are eligible for inclusion in the system. Ideally, a scenic river:

(1) Is free-flowing without diversions that hinder recreational use;

(2) Has a streamway that is relatively unmodified by riprapping and other stream bank protection;

(2012 Ed.)

(3) Has water of sufficient quality and quantity to be deemed worthy of protection;

(4) Has a relatively natural setting and adequate open space;

(5) Requires some coordinated plan of management in order to enhance and preserve the river area; and

(6) Has some lands along its length already in public ownership, or the possibility for purchase or dedication of public access and/or scenic easements. [1977 ex.s. c 161 § 6. Formerly RCW 79.72.060.]

**79A.55.060 Authority of department of fish and wildlife unaffected.** Nothing contained in this chapter shall affect the authority of the department of fish and wildlife to construct facilities or make improvements to facilitate the passage or propagation of fish nor shall anything in this chapter be construed to interfere with the powers, duties, and authority of the department of fish and wildlife to regulate, manage, conserve, and provide for the harvest of fish or wildlife within any area designated as being in the state's scenic river system. No hunting shall be permitted in any state park. [1999 c 249 § 805; 1988 c 36 § 58; 1977 ex.s. c 161 § 7. Formerly RCW 79.72.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.55.070 Rivers designated as part of system.** The following rivers of the state of Washington are hereby designated as being in the scenic river system of the state of Washington:

(1) The Skykomish river from the junction of the north and south forks of the Skykomish river:

(a) Downstream approximately fourteen miles to its junction with the Sultan river;

(b) Upstream approximately twenty miles on the south fork to the junction of the Tye and Foss rivers;

(c) Upstream approximately eleven miles on the north fork to its junction with Bear creek;

(2) The Beckler river from its junction with the south fork of the Skykomish river upstream approximately eight miles to its junction with Rapid river;

(3) The Tye river from its junction with the south fork of the Skykomish river upstream approximately fourteen miles to Tye Lake; and

(4) The Little Spokane river from the upstream boundary of the state park boat put-in site near Rutter parkway and downstream to its confluence with the Spokane river. [1991 c 206 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 161 § 8. Formerly RCW 79.72.080.]

*Green River Gorge conservation area: RCW 79A.05.700 through 79A.05.715.*

*Washington state Yakima river conservation area: RCW 79A.05.750 through 79A.05.795.*

**79A.55.080 Inclusion of state's scenic rivers in national wild and scenic river system not precluded.** Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a section or segment of the state's scenic rivers included in the system from becoming a part of the national wild and scenic river system. [1977 ex.s. c 161 § 9. Formerly RCW 79.72.090.]

**79A.55.090 \*Wildlife fund moneys not to be used.** No funds shall be expended from the \*wildlife fund to carry out

(2012 Ed.)

the provisions of this chapter. [1988 c 36 § 59; 1977 ex.s. c 161 § 10. Formerly RCW 79.72.100.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "state wildlife fund" was renamed the "state wildlife account" pursuant to 2005 c 224 § 4 and 2005 c 225 § 4.

**79A.55.900 Severability—1977 ex.s. c 161.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person of legal entity or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or legal entities or circumstances, shall not be affected. [1977 ex.s. c 161 § 12. Formerly RCW 79.72.900.]

## Chapter 79A.60 RCW

### REGULATION OF RECREATIONAL VESSELS

#### Sections

- 79A.60.010 Definitions.
- 79A.60.020 Violations of chapter punishable as misdemeanor—Circumstances—Violations designated as civil infractions.
- 79A.60.030 Operation of vessel in a negligent manner—Penalty.
- 79A.60.040 Operation of vessel in a reckless manner—Operation of a vessel under the influence of intoxicating liquor—Penalty.
- 79A.60.050 Homicide by watercraft—Penalty.
- 79A.60.060 Assault by watercraft—Penalty.
- 79A.60.080 Failure to stop for law enforcement officer.
- 79A.60.090 Eluding a law enforcement vessel.
- 79A.60.100 Enforcement—Chapter to supplement federal law.
- 79A.60.110 Equipment standards—Rules—Penalty.
- 79A.60.120 Tampering with vessel lights or signals—Exhibiting false lights or signals—Penalty.
- 79A.60.130 Muffler or underwater exhaust system required—Exemptions—Enforcement—Penalty.
- 79A.60.140 Personal flotation devices—Inspection and approval—Rules.
- 79A.60.150 Failure of vessel to contain required equipment—Liability of operator or owner—Penalty.
- 79A.60.160 Personal flotation devices required—Penalty.
- 79A.60.170 Water skiing safety—Requirements.
- 79A.60.180 Loading or powering vessel beyond safe operating ability—Penalties.
- 79A.60.190 Operation of personal watercraft—Prohibited activities—Penalties.
- 79A.60.200 Duty of operator involved in collision, accident, or other casualty—Immunity from liability of persons rendering assistance—Penalties.
- 79A.60.210 Casualty and accident reports—Confidentiality—Use as evidence.
- 79A.60.220 Boating accident reports by local government agencies—Investigation—Report of coroner.
- 79A.60.230 Vessels adrift—Owner to be notified.
- 79A.60.240 Notice—Contents—Service.
- 79A.60.250 Posting of notice.
- 79A.60.260 Compensation—Liability on failure to give notice.
- 79A.60.270 Disputed claims—Trial—Bond.
- 79A.60.280 Liability for excessive or negligent use.
- 79A.60.290 Unclaimed vessel—Procedure.
- 79A.60.300 Vessels secured pursuant to chapter 79A.65 RCW.
- 79A.60.400 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Purpose.
- 79A.60.410 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Whitewater river outfitter's license required.
- 79A.60.420 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Conduct constituting misdemeanor.
- 79A.60.430 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Safety requirements.
- 79A.60.440 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Operation of vessel—Exemptions.
- 79A.60.450 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Use of alcohol prohibited—Vessel to be accompanied by vessel with licensed outfitter.
- 79A.60.460 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Rights-of-way.
- 79A.60.470 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Designation of whitewater river sections.
- 79A.60.480 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Whitewater river outfitter's license—Application—Fees—Insurance—Penalties—State immune from civil actions arising from licensure.

- 79A.60.485 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Rules to implement RCW 79A.60.480—Fees.
- 79A.60.490 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—License sanction for certain convictions.
- 79A.60.495 Designation as whitewater river—Rules—Schedule of fines.
- 79A.60.498 Uniform regulation of business and professions act.
- 79A.60.500 Uniform waterway marking system.
- 79A.60.510 Findings—Sewage disposal initiative established—Boater environmental education—Waterway access facilities.
- 79A.60.520 Identification and designation of polluted and environmentally sensitive areas.
- 79A.60.530 Designation of marinas, boat launches, or boater destinations for installation of sewage pumpout or dump units.
- 79A.60.540 Contracts for financial assistance—Ownership of sewage pumpout or dump unit—Ongoing costs.
- 79A.60.550 Development by department of ecology of design, installation, and operation of sewage pumpout and dump units—Rules.
- 79A.60.560 Boater environmental education program.
- 79A.60.570 Grants for environmental education or boat waste management planning.
- 79A.60.580 Review of programs by commission.
- 79A.60.590 Allocation of funds.
- 79A.60.595 Commission to adopt rules.
- 79A.60.600 Liquid petroleum gas leak warning devices—Findings.
- 79A.60.610 Recreational boating fire prevention education program.
- 79A.60.620 Small spill prevention education program.
- 79A.60.630 Boating safety education—Commission's duties—Fee—Report to the legislature.
- 79A.60.640 Requirements to operate motor driven boats/vessels—Exemptions—Penalty.
- 79A.60.650 Boating safety education certification account.
- 79A.60.660 Operating motor driven boat or vessel for teak surfing, platform dragging, bodysurfing—Prohibition—Exceptions—Penalty.
- 79A.60.670 Boating activities program—Boating activities advisory committee—Adoption of rules.
- 79A.60.680 Study of boater needs—Funding recommendations.
- 79A.60.690 Boating activities account.

**79A.60.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Accredited course" means a mandatory course of instruction on boating safety education that has been approved by the commission.

(2) "Boat wastes" includes, but is not limited to, sewage, garbage, marine debris, plastics, contaminated bilge water, cleaning solvents, paint scrapings, or discarded petroleum products associated with the use of vessels.

(3) "Boater" means any person on a vessel on waters of the state of Washington.

(4) "Boater education card" means a card issued to a person who has successfully completed a boating safety education test and has paid the registration fee for a serial number record to be maintained in the commission's database.

(5) "Boating educator" means a person providing an accredited course.

(6) "Carrying passengers for hire" means carrying passengers in a vessel on waters of the state for valuable consideration, whether given directly or indirectly or received by the owner, agent, operator, or other person having an interest in the vessel. This shall not include trips where expenses for food, transportation, or incidentals are shared by participants on an even basis. Anyone receiving compensation for skills or money for amortization of equipment and carrying passengers shall be considered to be carrying passengers for hire on waters of the state.

(7) "Certificate of accomplishment" means a form of certificate approved by the commission and issued by a boating educator to a person who has successfully completed an accredited course.

(8) "Commission" means the state parks and recreation commission.

(9) "Darkness" means that period between sunset and sunrise.

(10) "Environmentally sensitive area" means a restricted body of water where discharge of untreated sewage from boats is especially detrimental because of limited flushing, shallow water, commercial or recreational shellfish, swimming areas, diversity of species, the absence of other pollution sources, or other characteristics.

(11) "Guide" means any individual, including but not limited to subcontractors and independent contractors, engaged for compensation or other consideration by a whitewater river outfitter for the purpose of operating vessels. A person licensed under RCW 77.65.480 or 77.65.440 and acting as a fishing guide is not considered a guide for the purposes of this chapter.

(12) "Marina" means a facility providing boat moorage space, fuel, or commercial services. Commercial services include but are not limited to overnight or live-aboard boating accommodations.

(13) "Motor driven boats and vessels" means all boats and vessels which are self propelled.

(14) "Motor vessel safety operating and equipment checklist" means a printed list of the safety requirements for a vessel with a motor installed or attached to the vessel being rented, chartered, or leased and meeting minimum requirements adopted by the commission in accordance with RCW 79A.60.630.

(15) "Muffler" or "muffler system" means a sound suppression device or system, including an underwater exhaust system, designed and installed to abate the sound of exhaust gases emitted from an internal combustion engine and that prevents excessive or unusual noise.

(16) "Operate" means to steer, direct, or otherwise have physical control of a vessel that is underway.

(17) "Operator" means an individual who steers, directs, or otherwise has physical control of a vessel that is underway or exercises actual authority to control the person at the helm.

(18) "Observer" means the individual riding in a vessel who is responsible for observing a water skier at all times.

(19) "Owner" means a person who has a lawful right to possession of a vessel by purchase, exchange, gift, lease, inheritance, or legal action whether or not the vessel is subject to a security interest.

(20) "Person" means any individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, nonprofit corporation or organization, limited liability company, firm, association, or other legal entity located within or outside this state.

(21) "Personal flotation device" means a buoyancy device, life preserver, buoyant vest, ring buoy, or buoy cushion that is designed to float a person in the water and that is approved by the commission.

(22) "Personal watercraft" means a vessel of less than sixteen feet that uses a motor powering a water jet pump, as its primary source of motive power and that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on, or being towed behind the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

(23) "Polluted area" means a body of water used by boaters that is contaminated by boat wastes at unacceptable levels, based on applicable water quality and shellfish standards.

(24) "Public entities" means all elected or appointed bodies, including tribal governments, responsible for collecting and spending public funds.

(25) "Reckless" or "recklessly" means acting carelessly and heedlessly in a willful and wanton disregard of the rights, safety, or property of another.

(26) "Rental motor vessel" means a motor vessel that is legally owned by a person that is registered as a rental and leasing agency for recreational motor vessels, and for which there is a written and signed rental, charter, or lease agreement between the owner, or owner's agent, of the vessel and the operator of the vessel.

(27) "Sewage pumpout or dump unit" means:

(a) A receiving chamber or tank designed to receive vessel sewage from a "porta-potty" or a portable container; and

(b) A stationary or portable mechanical device on land, a dock, pier, float, barge, vessel, or other location convenient to boaters, designed to remove sewage waste from holding tanks on vessels.

(28) "Underway" means that a vessel is not at anchor, or made fast to the shore, or aground.

(29) "Vessel" includes every description of watercraft on the water, other than a seaplane, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water. However, it does not include inner tubes, air mattresses, sailboards, and small rafts or flotation devices or toys customarily used by swimmers.

(30) "Water skiing" means the physical act of being towed behind a vessel on, but not limited to, any skis, aquaplane, kneeboard, tube, or any other similar device.

(31) "Waters of the state" means any waters within the territorial limits of Washington state.

(32) "Whitewater river outfitter" means any person who is advertising to carry or carries passengers for hire on any whitewater river of the state, but does not include any person whose only service on a given trip is providing instruction in canoeing or kayaking skills.

(33) "Whitewater rivers of the state" means those rivers and streams, or parts thereof, within the boundaries of the state as listed in RCW 79A.60.470 or as designated by the commission under RCW 79A.60.495. [2005 c 392 § 2; 2003 c 39 § 45; 2000 c 11 § 92; 1998 c 219 § 5; 1997 c 391 § 1; 1993 c 244 § 5; 1933 c 72 § 1; RRS § 9851-1. Formerly RCW 88.12.010.]

**Intent—2005 c 392:** See note following RCW 79A.60.630.

**Intent—1993 c 244:** "It is the intent of the legislature that the boating safety laws administered by the state parks and recreation commission provide Washington's citizens with clear and reasonable boating safety regulations and penalties. Therefore, the legislature intends to recodify, clarify, and partially decriminalize the statewide boating safety laws in order to help the boating community understand and comply with these laws.

It is also the intent of the legislature to increase boat registration fees in order to provide additional funds to local governments for boating safety enforcement and education programs. The funds are to be used for enforcement, education, training, and equipment, including vessel noise measurement equipment. The legislature encourages programs that provide boating safety education in the primary and secondary school system for boat users and potential future boat users. The legislature also encourages boating safety programs that use volunteer and private sector efforts to enhance boating safety and education." [1993 c 244 § 1.]

(2012 Ed.)

**79A.60.020 Violations of chapter punishable as misdemeanor—Circumstances—Violations designated as civil infractions.** (1) A violation of this chapter designated as an infraction is a misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 9.92.030, if the current violation is the person's third violation of the same provision of this chapter during the past three hundred sixty-five days.

(2) A violation designated in this chapter as a civil infraction shall constitute a civil infraction pursuant to chapter 7.84 RCW. [1999 c 249 § 1501; 1993 c 244 § 6. Formerly RCW 88.12.015.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.030 Operation of vessel in a negligent manner—Penalty.** A person shall not operate a vessel in a negligent manner. For the purposes of this section, to "operate in a negligent manner" means operating a vessel in disregard of careful and prudent operation, or in disregard of careful and prudent rates of speed that are no greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions existing at the point of operation, taking into account the amount and character of traffic, size of the lake or body of water, freedom from obstruction to view ahead, effects of vessel wake, and so as not to unduly or unreasonably endanger life, limb, property or other rights of any person entitled to the use of such waters. Except as provided in RCW 79A.60.020, a violation of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. [2000 c 11 § 93; 1993 c 244 § 7; 1933 c 72 § 2; RRS § 9851-2. Formerly RCW 88.12.020.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.040 Operation of vessel in a reckless manner—Operation of a vessel under the influence of intoxicating liquor—Penalty.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a vessel in a reckless manner.

(2) It shall be a violation for a person to operate a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug. A person is considered to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug if:

(a) The person has 0.08 grams or more of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath, as shown by analysis of the person's breath made under RCW 46.61.506; or

(b) The person has 0.08 percent or more by weight of alcohol in the person's blood, as shown by analysis of the person's blood made under RCW 46.61.506; or

(c) The person is under the influence of or affected by intoxicating liquor or any drug; or

(d) The person is under the combined influence of or affected by intoxicating liquor and any drug.

The fact that any person charged with a violation of this section is or has been entitled to use such drug under the laws of this state shall not constitute a defense against any charge of violating this section. A person cited under this subsection may upon request be given a breath test for breath alcohol or may request to have a blood sample taken for blood alcohol analysis. An arresting officer shall administer field sobriety tests when circumstances permit.

(3) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable as provided under RCW 9.92.030. In addition, the court may order the defendant to pay restitution for any damages or

injuries resulting from the offense. [1998 c 213 § 7; 1993 c 244 § 8. Prior: 1990 c 231 § 3; 1990 c 31 § 1; 1987 c 373 § 6; 1986 c 153 § 6; 1985 c 267 § 2. Formerly RCW 88.12.025, 88.12.100, and 88.02.095.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**Legislative finding, purpose—Severability—1987 c 373:** See notes following RCW 46.61.502.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.050 Homicide by watercraft—Penalty.** (1) When the death of any person ensues within three years as a proximate result of injury proximately caused by the operating of any vessel by any person, the operator is guilty of homicide by watercraft if he or she was operating the vessel:

- (a) While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, as defined by RCW 79A.60.040;
- (b) In a reckless manner; or
- (c) With disregard for the safety of others.

(2) When the death is caused by a skier towed by a vessel, the operator of the vessel is not guilty of homicide by watercraft.

(3) A violation of this section is punishable as a class A felony according to chapter 9A.20 RCW. [2000 c 11 § 94; 1998 c 219 § 1. Formerly RCW 88.12.029.]

**79A.60.060 Assault by watercraft—Penalty.** (1) "Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death, serious permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any part or organ of the body.

(2) A person is guilty of assault by watercraft if he or she operates any vessel:

- (a) In a reckless manner, and this conduct is the proximate cause of serious bodily injury to another; or
- (b) While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, as defined by RCW 79A.60.040, and this conduct is the proximate cause of serious bodily injury to another.

(3) When the injury is caused by a skier towed by a vessel, the operator of the vessel is not guilty of assault by watercraft.

(4) A violation of this section is punishable as a class B felony according to chapter 9A.20 RCW. [2000 c 11 § 95; 1998 c 219 § 2. Formerly RCW 88.12.032.]

**79A.60.080 Failure to stop for law enforcement officer.** Any operator of a vessel who willfully fails to stop when requested or signaled to do so by a person reasonably identifiable as a law enforcement officer is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1990 c 235 § 1. Formerly RCW 88.12.035, 88.12.110, and 88.08.070.]

**79A.60.090 Eluding a law enforcement vessel.** Any operator of a vessel who willfully fails or refuses to immediately bring the vessel to a stop and who operates the vessel in a manner indicating a wanton or willful disregard for the lives or property of others while attempting to elude a pursuing law enforcement vessel, after being given a visual or audible signal to bring the vessel to a stop, shall be guilty of a class C felony punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW. The signal given by the law enforcement officer may be by hand, voice, emergency light, or siren. The officer giving such a signal

shall be in uniform and his or her vessel shall be appropriately marked showing it to be an official law enforcement vessel. [1990 c 235 § 2. Formerly RCW 88.12.045, 88.12.120, and 88.08.080.]

**79A.60.100 Enforcement—Chapter to supplement federal law.** (1) Every law enforcement officer of this state and its political subdivisions has the authority to enforce this chapter. Law enforcement officers may enforce recreational boating rules adopted by the commission. Such law enforcement officers include, but are not limited to, county sheriffs, officers of other local law enforcement entities, fish and wildlife officers, through the director, the state patrol, and state park rangers. In the exercise of this responsibility, all such officers may stop and board any vessel and direct it to a suitable pier or anchorage to enforce this chapter.

(2) This chapter shall be construed to supplement federal laws and regulations. To the extent this chapter is inconsistent with federal laws and regulations, the federal laws and regulations shall control. [2001 c 253 § 60; 1994 c 264 § 80; 1993 c 244 § 9; 1988 c 36 § 73; 1986 c 217 § 10. Formerly RCW 88.12.055, 88.12.330, and 91.14.100.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.110 Equipment standards—Rules—Penalty.** In addition to the equipment standards prescribed under this chapter, the commission shall adopt rules specifying equipment standards for vessels. Except where the violation is classified as a misdemeanor under this chapter, violation of any equipment standard adopted by the commission is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. [1993 c 244 § 10. Formerly RCW 88.12.065.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.120 Tampering with vessel lights or signals—Exhibiting false lights or signals—Penalty.** An operator or owner who endangers a vessel, or the persons on board the vessel, by showing, masking, extinguishing, altering, or removing any light or signal or by exhibiting any false light or signal, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in RCW 9.92.030. [1993 c 244 § 11. Formerly RCW 88.12.075.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.130 Muffler or underwater exhaust system required—Exemptions—Enforcement—Penalty.** (1) All motor-propelled vessels shall be equipped and maintained with an effective muffler that is in good working order and in constant use. For the purpose of this section, an effective muffler or underwater exhaust system does not produce sound levels in excess of ninety decibels when subjected to a stationary sound level test that shall be prescribed by rules adopted by the commission, as of July 25, 1993, and for engines manufactured on or after January 1, 1994, a noise level of eighty-eight decibels when subjected to a stationary sound level test that shall be prescribed by rules adopted by the commission.

(2) A vessel that does not meet the requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall not be operated on the waters of this state.

(3) No person may operate a vessel on waters of the state in such a manner as to exceed a noise level of seventy-five decibels measured from any point on the shoreline of the body of water on which the vessel is being operated that shall be specified by rules adopted by the commission, as of July 25, 1993. Such measurement shall not preclude a stationary sound level test that shall be prescribed by rules adopted by the commission.

(4) This section does not apply to: (a) A vessel tuning up, testing for, or participating in official trials for speed records or a sanctioned race conducted pursuant to a permit issued by an appropriate governmental agency; or (b) a vessel being operated by a vessel or marine engine manufacturer for the purpose of testing or development. Nothing in this subsection prevents local governments from adopting ordinances to control the frequency, duration, and location of vessel testing, tune-up, and racing.

(5) Any officer authorized to enforce this section who has reason to believe that a vessel is not in compliance with the noise levels established in this section may direct the operator of the vessel to submit the vessel to an on-site test to measure noise level, with the officer on board if the officer chooses, and the operator shall comply with such request. If the vessel exceeds the decibel levels established in this section, the officer may direct the operator to take immediate and reasonable measures to correct the violation.

(6) Any officer who conducts vessel sound level tests as provided in this section shall be qualified in vessel noise testing. Qualifications shall include but may not be limited to the ability to select the appropriate measurement site and the calibration and use of noise testing equipment.

(7) A person shall not remove, alter, or otherwise modify in any way a muffler or muffler system in a manner that will prevent it from being operated in accordance with this chapter.

(8) A person shall not manufacture, sell, or offer for sale any vessel that is not equipped with a muffler or muffler system that does not comply with this chapter. This subsection shall not apply to power vessels designed, manufactured, and sold for the sole purpose of competing in racing events and for no other purpose. Any such exemption or exception shall be documented in any and every sale agreement and shall be formally acknowledged by signature on the part of both the buyer and the seller. Copies of the agreement shall be maintained by both parties. A copy shall be kept on board whenever the vessel is operated.

(9) Except as provided in RCW 79A.60.020, a violation of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.

(10) Vessels that are equipped with an engine modified to increase performance beyond the engine manufacturer's stock configuration shall have an exhaust system that complies with the standards in this section after January 1, 1994. Until that date, operators or owners, or both, of such vessels with engines that are out of compliance shall be issued a warning and be given educational materials about types of muffling systems available to muffle noise from such high performance engines.

(11) Nothing in this section preempts a local government from exercising any power that it possesses under the laws or Constitution of the state of Washington to adopt more strin-

gent regulations. [2000 c 11 § 97; 1993 c 244 § 39. Formerly RCW 88.12.085.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.140 Personal flotation devices—Inspection and approval—Rules.** (1) The commission shall adopt rules providing for its inspection and approval of the personal flotation devices that may be used to satisfy the requirements of this chapter and governing the manner in which such devices shall be used. The commission shall prescribe the different types of devices that are appropriate for the different uses, such as water skiing or operation of a personal watercraft. In adopting its rules the commission shall consider the United States coast guard rules or regulations. The commission may approve devices inspected and approved by the coast guard without conducting any inspection of the devices itself.

(2) In situations where personal flotation devices are required under provisions of this chapter, the devices shall be in good and serviceable condition and of appropriate size. If they are not, then they shall not be considered as personal flotation devices under such provisions. [1993 c 244 § 12. Formerly RCW 88.12.095.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.150 Failure of vessel to contain required equipment—Liability of operator or owner—Penalty.** If an infraction is issued under this chapter because a vessel does not contain the required equipment and if the operator is not the owner of the vessel, but is operating the vessel with the express or implied permission of the owner, then either or both operator or owner may be cited for the infraction. [1993 c 244 § 13. Formerly RCW 88.12.105.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.160 Personal flotation devices required—Penalty.** (1) No person may operate or permit the operation of a vessel on the waters of the state without a personal flotation device on board for each person on the vessel. Each personal flotation device shall be in serviceable condition, of an appropriate size, and readily accessible.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 79A.60.020, a violation of subsection (1) of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW if the vessel is not carrying passengers for hire.

(3) A violation of subsection (1) of this section is a misdemeanor punishable under RCW 9.92.030, if the vessel is carrying passengers for hire.

(4) No person shall operate a vessel under nineteen feet in length on the waters of this state with a child twelve years old and under, unless the child is wearing a personal flotation device that meets or exceeds the United States coast guard approval standards of the appropriate size, while the vessel is underway. For the purposes of this section, a personal flotation device is not considered readily accessible for children twelve years old and under unless the device is worn by the child while the vessel is underway. The personal flotation device must be worn at all times by a child twelve years old and under whenever the vessel is underway and the child is on an open deck or open cockpit of the vessel. The following circumstances are excepted:

(a) While a child is below deck or in the cabin of a boat with an enclosed cabin;

(b) While a child is on a United States coast guard inspected passenger-carrying vessel operating on the navigable waters of the United States; or

(c) While on board a vessel at a time and place where no person would reasonably expect a danger of drowning to occur.

(5) Except as provided in RCW 79A.60.020, a violation of subsection (4) of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. Enforcement of subsection (4) of this section by law enforcement officers may be accomplished as a primary action, and need not be accompanied by the suspected violation of some other offense. [2000 c 11 § 98; 1999 c 310 § 1; 1993 c 244 § 14; 1933 c 72 § 5; RRS § 9851-5. Formerly RCW 88.12.115 and 88.12.050.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

#### **79A.60.170 Water skiing safety—Requirements.** (1)

The purpose of this section is to promote safety in water skiing on the waters of Washington state, provide a means of ensuring safe water skiing and promote the enjoyment of water skiing.

(2) No vessel operator may tow or attempt to tow a water skier on any waters of Washington state unless such craft shall be occupied by at least an operator and an observer. The observer shall continuously observe the person or persons being towed and shall display a flag immediately after the towed person or persons fall into the water, and during the time preparatory to skiing while the person or persons are still in the water. Such flag shall be a bright red or brilliant orange color, measuring at least twelve inches square, mounted on a pole not less than twenty-four inches long and displayed as to be visible from every direction. This subsection does not apply to a personal watercraft, the design of which makes no provision for carrying an operator or any other person on board, and that is actually operated by the person or persons being towed. Every remote-operated personal watercraft shall have a flag attached which meets the requirements of this subsection. Except as provided under RCW 79A.60.020, a violation of this subsection is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.

(3) The observer and the operator shall not be the same person. The observer shall be an individual who meets the minimum qualifications for an observer established by rules of the commission. Except as provided under RCW 79A.60.020, a violation of this subsection is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.

(4) No person shall engage or attempt to engage in water skiing without wearing a personal flotation device. Except as provided under RCW 79A.60.020, a violation of this subsection is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.

(5) No person shall engage or attempt to engage in water skiing, or operate any vessel to tow a water skier, on the waters of Washington state during the period from one hour after sunset until one hour prior to sunrise. A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor, punishable as provided under RCW 9.92.030.

(6) No person engaged in water skiing either as operator, observer, or skier, shall conduct himself or herself in a reckless manner that willfully or wantonly endangers, or is likely to endanger, any person or property. A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor as provided under RCW 9.92.030.

(7) The requirements of subsections (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this section shall not apply to persons engaged in tournaments, competitions, or exhibitions that have been authorized or otherwise permitted by the appropriate agency having jurisdiction and authority to authorize such events. [2000 c 11 § 99; 1993 c 244 § 15; 1990 c 231 § 1; 1989 c 241 § 1. Formerly RCW 88.12.125, 88.12.080, and 88.12.070.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **79A.60.180 Loading or powering vessel beyond safe operating ability—Penalties.** (1)

A person shall not load or permit to be loaded a vessel with passengers or cargo beyond its safe carrying ability or carry passengers or cargo in an unsafe manner taking into consideration weather and other existing operating conditions.

(2) A person shall not operate or permit to be operated a vessel equipped with a motor or other propulsion machinery of a power beyond the vessel's ability to operate safely, taking into consideration the vessel's type, use, and construction, the weather conditions, and other existing operating conditions.

(3) A violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section is an infraction punishable as provided under chapter 7.84 RCW except as provided under RCW 79A.60.020 or where the overloading or overpowering is reasonably advisable to effect a rescue or for some similar emergency purpose.

(4) If it appears reasonably certain to any law enforcement officer that a person is operating a vessel clearly loaded or powered beyond its safe operating ability and in the judgment of that officer the operation creates an especially hazardous condition, the officer may direct the operator to take immediate and reasonable steps necessary for the safety of the individuals on board the vessel, including directing the operator to return to shore or a mooring and to remain there until the situation creating the hazard is corrected or ended. Failure to follow the direction of an officer under this subsection is a misdemeanor punishable as provided under RCW 9.92.030. [2000 c 11 § 100; 1993 c 244 § 16. Formerly RCW 88.12.135.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

#### **79A.60.190 Operation of personal watercraft—Prohibited activities—Penalties.** (1)

A person shall not operate a personal watercraft unless each person aboard the personal watercraft is wearing a personal flotation device approved by the commission. Except as provided for in RCW 79A.60.020, a violation of this subsection is a civil infraction punishable under RCW 7.84.100.

(2) A person operating a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch shall attach the lanyard to his or her person, clothing, or personal flotation device as appropriate for the specific vessel. It is unlawful for any person to remove or disable a cutoff switch that was installed by the manufacturer.

(3) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft during darkness.

(4) A person under the age of fourteen shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state.

(5) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft in a reckless manner, including recklessly weaving through con-

gested vessel traffic, recklessly jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to the vessel or when visibility around the vessel is obstructed, or recklessly swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision.

(6) A person shall not lease, hire, or rent a personal watercraft to a person under the age of sixteen.

(7) Subsections (1) through (6) of this section shall not apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or a person participating in a regatta, race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition authorized or otherwise permitted by the appropriate agency having jurisdiction and authority to authorize such events.

(8) Violations of subsections (2) through (6) of this section constitute a misdemeanor under RCW 9.92.030. [2000 c 11 § 101; 1993 c 244 § 17. Formerly RCW 88.12.145.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.200 Duty of operator involved in collision, accident, or other casualty—Immunity from liability of persons rendering assistance—Penalties.** (1) The operator of a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty, to the extent the operator can do so without serious danger to the operator's own vessel or persons aboard, shall render all practical and necessary assistance to persons affected by the collision, accident, or casualty to save them from danger caused by the incident. Under no circumstances may the rendering of assistance or other compliance with this section be evidence of the liability of such operator for the collision, accident, or casualty. The operator shall also give all pertinent accident information, as specified by rule by the commission, to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction: PROVIDED, That this requirement shall not apply to operators of vessels when they are participating in an organized competitive event authorized or otherwise permitted by the appropriate agency having jurisdiction and authority to authorize such events. These duties are in addition to any duties otherwise imposed by law. Except as provided for in RCW 79A.60.020 and subsection (3) of this section, a violation of this subsection is a civil infraction punishable under RCW 7.84.100.

(2) Any person who complies with subsection (1) of this section or who gratuitously and in good faith renders assistance at the scene of a vessel collision, accident, or other casualty, without objection of the person assisted, shall not be held liable for any civil damages as a result of the rendering of assistance or for any act or omission in providing or arranging salvage, towage, medical treatment, or other assistance, where the assisting person acts as any reasonably prudent person would have acted under the same or similar circumstances.

(3) An operator of a vessel is guilty of a class C felony and is punishable pursuant to RCW 9A.20.021 if the operator: (a) Is involved in a collision that results in injury to a person; (b) knew or reasonably should have known that a person was injured in the collision; and (c) leaves the scene of the collision without rendering all practical and necessary assistance to the injured person as required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, under circumstances in which the operator could have rendered assistance without serious danger to the operator's own vessel or persons aboard. This subsection (3) does not apply to vessels involved in commerce, including

but not limited to tugs, barges, cargo vessels, commercial passenger vessels, fishing vessels, and processing vessels. [2000 c 11 § 102; 1996 c 36 § 1; 1993 c 244 § 18; 1984 c 183 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 48. Formerly RCW 88.12.155, 88.12.130, and 88.02.080.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.210 Casualty and accident reports—Confidentiality—Use as evidence.** (1) All reports made to the commission pursuant to RCW 79A.60.200 and 79A.05.310 shall be without prejudice to the person who makes the report and shall be for the confidential usage of governmental agencies, except as follows:

(a) Statistical information which shall be made public;

(b) The names and addresses of the operator and owner and the registration number or name of the vessel as documented which was involved in an accident or casualty and the names and addresses of any witnesses which, if reported, shall be disclosed upon written request to any person involved in a reportable accident, or, for a reportable casualty, to any member of a decedent's family or the personal representatives of the family.

(2) A report made to the commission pursuant to RCW 79A.60.200 and 79A.05.310 or copy thereof shall not be used in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident or casualty, except that solely to prove a compliance or failure to comply with the report requirements of RCW 79A.60.200 and 79A.05.310, a certified statement which indicates that a report has or has not been made to the commission shall be provided upon demand to any court or upon written request to any person who has or claims to have made a report. [1999 c 249 § 1502; 1984 c 183 § 3. Formerly RCW 88.12.165, 88.12.140, and 43.51.402.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.220 Boating accident reports by local government agencies—Investigation—Report of coroner.** Law enforcement authorities, fire departments, or search and rescue units of any city or county government shall provide to the commission a report, prepared by the local government agency regarding any boating accident occurring within their jurisdiction resulting in a death or injury requiring hospitalization. Such report shall be provided to the commission within ten days of the occurrence of the accident. The results of any investigation of the accident conducted by the city or county governmental agency shall be included in the report provided to the commission. At the earliest opportunity, but in no case more than forty-eight hours after becoming aware of an accident, the agency shall notify the commission of the accident. The commission shall have authority to investigate any boating accident. The results of any investigation conducted by the commission shall be made available to the local government for further processing. This provision does not eliminate the requirement for a boating accident report by the operator required under RCW 79A.60.200.

The report of a county coroner, or any public official assuming the functions of a coroner, concerning the death of any person resulting from a boating accident, shall be submitted to the commission within one week of completion. Information in such report may be, together with information in other such reports, incorporated into the state boating acci-

dent report provided for in RCW 79A.05.310(4), and shall be for the confidential usage of governmental agencies as provided in RCW 79A.60.210. [1999 c 249 § 1503; 1987 c 427 § 1. Formerly RCW 88.12.175, 88.12.150, and 43.51.403.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.230 Vessels adrift—Owner to be notified.**

Any person taking up any vessel found adrift, and out of the custody of the owner, in waters of this state, shall forthwith notify the owner thereof, if to him or her known, or if upon reasonable inquiry he or she can ascertain the name and residence of the owner, and request such owner to pay all reasonable charges, and take such vessel away. [1993 c 244 § 19; Code 1881 § 3242; 1854 p 386 § 1; RRS § 9891. Formerly RCW 88.12.185, 88.12.160, and 88.20.010.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.240 Notice—Contents—Service.** Such notice as is required by RCW 79A.60.230 shall be given personally, or in writing; if in writing, it shall be served upon the owner, or may be sent by mail to the post office where such owner usually receives his or her letters. Such notice shall inform the party where the vessel was taken up, and where it may be found, and what amount the taker-up or finder demands for his or her charges. [1999 c 249 § 1504; 1993 c 244 § 20; Code 1881 § 3243; 1854 p 386 § 2; RRS § 9892. Formerly RCW 88.12.195, 88.12.170, and 88.20.020.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.250 Posting of notice.** (1) In all cases where the notice required by RCW 79A.60.230 is not given personally, it shall be the duty of the taker-up to post up at the post office nearest the place where such vessel may be taken up, a written notice of the taking up of such vessel. The written notice shall contain a description of the vessel, with the name, if any is painted thereon, also the place where taken up, the place where the property may be found, and the charge for taking the same up.

(2) If the taker-up is traveling upon waters of the state, such notice shall additionally be posted up at the first post office he or she shall pass after the taking up.

(3) In all cases, the person who took up the vessel shall at the time when, and place where, he or she posts up such notice, also mail a copy of such notice, directed to the postmaster of each post office on waters of the state, and within fifty miles of the place where such vessel is taken up. [1999 c 249 § 1505; 1993 c 244 § 21; Code 1881 § 3244; 1854 p 386 § 3; RRS § 9893. Formerly RCW 88.12.205, 88.12.180, and 88.20.030.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.260 Compensation—Liability on failure to give notice.** Every person taking up any vessel so found adrift, and giving the notice herein required, shall be entitled to receive from the owner claiming the property, a reasonable compensation for his or her time, services, expenses, and risk in taking up said property, and take notice of the same, to be settled by agreement between the parties. In case the person

has not, within ten days after the taking up, substantially complied with the provisions of this chapter in giving the notice, the person shall be entitled to no compensation, but he or she shall be liable to all damages the owner may have suffered, and be also liable to the owner for the value of the use of the vessel, from the time of taking it up until the same is delivered to the owner. [1993 c 244 § 22; Code 1881 § 3245; 1854 p 386 § 4; RRS § 9894. Formerly RCW 88.12.215, 88.12.190, and 88.20.040.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.270 Disputed claims—Trial—Bond.** In case the parties cannot agree on the amount to be paid the taker-up, or the ownership, and the sum claimed is less than one thousand dollars, the owner may file a complaint, setting out the facts, and the judge, on hearing, shall decide the same with a jury, or not, and in the same manner as is provided in ordinary civil actions before a district judge. If the amount claimed by the taker-up is more than one thousand dollars, the owner shall file his or her complaint in the superior court of the county where the property is, and trial shall be had as in other civil actions; but if the taker-up claims more than one thousand dollars, and a less amount is awarded him or her, he or she shall be liable for all the costs in the superior court; and in all cases where the taker-up shall recover a less amount than has been tendered him or her by the owner or claimant, previous to filing his or her complaint, he or she shall pay the costs before the district judge or in the superior court: PROVIDED, That in all cases the owner, after filing his or her complaint before a district judge, shall be entitled to the possession of the vessel, upon giving bond, with security to the satisfaction of the judge, in double the amount claimed by the taker-up. When the complaint is filed in the superior court, the clerk thereof shall approve the security of the bond. The bond shall be conditioned to pay such costs as shall be awarded to the finder or taker-up of such vessel. [1993 c 244 § 23; 1987 c 202 § 248; Code 1881 § 3246; 1854 p 386 § 5; RRS § 9895. Formerly RCW 88.12.218, 88.12.200, and 88.20.050.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**79A.60.280 Liability for excessive or negligent use.**

In case the taker-up shall use the vessel, more than is necessary to put it into a place of safety, he or she shall be liable to the owner for such use, and for all damage; and in case it shall suffer injury from his or her neglect to take suitable care of it, he or she shall be liable to the owner for all damage. [1993 c 244 § 24; Code 1881 § 3247, part; 1854 p 387 § 6; RRS § 9896, part. FORMER PART OF SECTION: Code 1881 § 3247, part. Now codified as RCW 88.20.070. Formerly RCW 88.12.222, 88.12.210, and 88.20.060.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.290 Unclaimed vessel—Procedure.** In case such vessel is of less value than one hundred dollars, and is not claimed within three months, the taker-up may apply to a district judge of the district where the property is, who, upon being satisfied that due notice has been given, and that the owner cannot, with reasonable diligence be found, shall order the vessel to be sold, and after paying the taker-up such sum

as he or she shall be entitled to, and the costs, the balance shall be paid the county treasurer as is provided in the case of the sale of estrays. In case the vessel exceeds one hundred dollars, and is not claimed within six months, application shall be made to the superior court of the county, and the same proceeding shall be thereupon had. All sales made under this section shall be conducted as sales of personal property on execution. [1993 c 244 § 25; 1987 c 202 § 249; Code 1881 § 3247, part; 1854 p 387 § 7; RRS § 9896, part. Formerly RCW 88.12.225, 88.12.220, 88.20.070, and 88.20.060, part.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**79A.60.300 Vessels secured pursuant to chapter 79A.65 RCW.** The provisions of RCW 79A.60.230 through 79A.60.290 do not apply to vessels secured pursuant to chapter 79A.65 RCW. [2000 c 11 § 103; 1994 c 51 § 8. Formerly RCW 88.12.227.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.400 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Purpose.** The purpose of RCW 79A.60.440 through 79A.60.480 is to further the public interest, welfare, and safety by providing for the protection and promotion of safety in the operation of vessels carrying passengers for hire on the whitewater rivers of this state. [2000 c 11 § 104; 1993 c 244 § 26; 1986 c 217 § 1. Formerly RCW 88.12.230 and 91.14.005.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.410 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Whitewater river outfitter's license required.** (1) No person shall act in the capacity of a paid whitewater river outfitter, or advertise in any newspaper or magazine or any other trade publication, or represent himself or herself as a whitewater river outfitter in the state, without first obtaining a whitewater river outfitter's license from the department of licensing in accordance with RCW 79A.60.480.

(2) Every whitewater river outfitter's license must, at all times, be conspicuously placed on the premises set forth in the license. [2000 c 11 § 105; 1997 c 391 § 2. Formerly RCW 88.12.232.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.420 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Conduct constituting misdemeanor.** Except as provided in RCW 79A.60.480, the commission of a prohibited act or the omission of a required act under RCW 79A.60.430 through 79A.60.480 constitutes a misdemeanor, punishable as provided under RCW 9.92.030. [2000 c 11 § 106; 1997 c 391 § 3; 1993 c 244 § 27. Formerly RCW 88.12.235.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.430 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Safety requirements.** (1) While carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers in this state, the licensed whitewater river outfitter shall comply with the following requirements at the beginning of every trip:

(a) If using inflatable vessels, use only vessels with three or more separate air chambers;

(b) Ensure that all passengers are wearing a securely fastened United States coast guard-approved type V personal flotation device of the proper size, and that all guides are wearing a securely fastened United States coast guard-approved type III or type V personal flotation device;

(c) Ensure that a spare United States coast guard-approved type III or type V personal flotation device in good repair is accessible to all vessels on each trip;

(d) Ensure that each vessel has on it a bagged throwable line with a floating line and bag;

(e) Ensure that each vessel has accessible an adequate first-aid kit;

(f) Ensure that each vessel has a spare propelling device;

(g) Ensure that a repair kit and air pump are accessible to inflatable vessel;

(h) Ensure that equipment to prevent and treat hypothermia is accessible to all vessels on a trip; and

(i) Ensure that each vessel is operated by a guide who has complied with the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(2) No person may act as a guide unless the individual is at least eighteen years of age and has:

(a) Successfully completed a lifesaving training course meeting standards adopted by the commission;

(b) Completed a program of guide training on whitewater rivers, conducted by a guide instructor, which program must run for a minimum of fifty hours on a whitewater river and must include at least the following elements:

(i) Equipment preparation and boat rigging;

(ii) Reading river characteristics including currents, eddies, rapids, and hazards;

(iii) Methods of scouting and running rapids;

(iv) River rescue techniques, including emergency procedures and equipment recovery; and

(v) Communications with clients, including paddling and safety instruction; and

(c) Completed at least one trip on an entire section of whitewater river before carrying passengers for hire in a vessel on any such section of whitewater river.

(3) A guide instructor must have traveled at least one thousand five hundred river miles, seven hundred fifty of which must have been while acting as a guide.

(4) Any person conducting guide training on whitewater rivers shall, upon request of a guide trainee, issue proof of completion to the guide completing the required training program. [1997 c 391 § 4; 1993 c 244 § 30; 1986 c 217 § 6. Formerly RCW 88.12.245, 88.12.280, and 91.14.050.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.440 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Operation of vessel—Exemptions.**

(1) No person may operate any vessel carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers in a manner that interferes with other vessels or with the free and proper navigation of the rivers of this state.

(2) Every operator of a vessel carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers shall at all times operate the vessel

in a careful and prudent manner and at such a speed as to not endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.

(3) No vessel carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers may be loaded with passengers or cargo beyond its safe carrying capacity taking into consideration the type and construction of the vessel and other existing operating conditions. In the case of inflatable vessels, safe carrying capacity in whitewater shall be considered as less than the United States coast guard capacity rating for each vessel. This subsection shall not apply in cases of an unexpected emergency on the river.

(4) Individuals licensed under chapter 77.32 RCW and acting as fishing guides are exempt from RCW 79A.60.420 and 79A.60.460 through 79A.60.480. [2000 c 11 § 107; 1993 c 244 § 28; 1986 c 217 § 3. Formerly RCW 88.12.250 and 91.14.020.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.450 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Use of alcohol prohibited—Vessel to be accompanied by vessel with licensed outfitter.** (1) Whitewater river outfitters and guides on any trip carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers of the state shall not allow the use of alcohol during the course of a trip on a whitewater river section in this state.

(2) Any vessel carrying passengers for hire on any whitewater river section in this state must be accompanied by at least one other vessel being operated by a licensed whitewater river outfitter or a guide under the direction or control of a licensed whitewater river outfitter. [1997 c 391 § 5; 1993 c 244 § 31; 1986 c 217 § 7. Formerly RCW 88.12.255, 88.12.290, and 91.14.060.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.460 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Rights-of-way.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, vessels on whitewater rivers proceeding downstream have the right-of-way over vessels proceeding upstream.

(2) In all cases, vessels not under power proceeding downstream on whitewater rivers have the right-of-way over motorized craft underway. [1993 c 244 § 29; 1986 c 217 § 4. Formerly RCW 88.12.260 and 91.14.030.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.470 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Designation of whitewater river sections.** Whitewater river sections include but are not limited to:

- (1) Green river above Flaming Geyser state park;
- (2) Klickitat river above the confluence with Summit creek;
- (3) Methow river below the town of Carlton;
- (4) Sauk river above the town of Darrington;
- (5) Skagit river above Bacon creek;
- (6) Suiattle river;
- (7) Tieton river below Rimrock dam;
- (8) Skykomish river below Sunset Falls and above the Highway 2 bridge one mile east of the town of Gold Bar;

(9) Wenatchee river above the Wenatchee county park at the town of Monitor;

(10) White Salmon river; and

(11) Any other section of river designated a "whitewater river section" by the commission under RCW 79A.60.495. [2000 c 11 § 108; 1997 c 391 § 6; 1986 c 217 § 8. Formerly RCW 88.12.265, 88.12.300, and 91.14.070.]

**79A.60.480 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Whitewater river outfitter's license—Application—Fees—Insurance—Penalties—State immune from civil actions arising from licensure.** (1) The department of licensing may issue a whitewater river outfitter's license to an applicant who submits a completed application, pays the required fee, and complies with the requirements of this section.

(2) An applicant for a whitewater river outfitter's license shall make application upon a form provided by the department of licensing. The form must be submitted annually and include the following information:

(a) The name, residence address, and residence telephone number, and the business name, address, and telephone number of the applicant;

(b) Certification that all employees, subcontractors, or independent contractors hired as guides meet training standards under RCW 79A.60.430 before carrying any passengers for hire;

(c) Proof that the applicant has liability insurance for a minimum of three hundred thousand dollars per claim for occurrences by the applicant and the applicant's employees that result in bodily injury or property damage. All guides must be covered by the applicant's insurance policy;

(d) Certification that the applicant will maintain the insurance for a period of not less than one year from the date of issuance of the license; and

(e) Certification by the applicant that for a period of not less than twenty-four months immediately preceding the application the applicant:

(i) Has not had a license, permit, or certificate to carry passengers for hire on a river revoked by another state or by an agency of the government of the United States due to a conviction for a violation of safety or insurance coverage requirements no more stringent than the requirements of this chapter; and

(ii) Has not been denied the right to apply for a license, permit, or certificate to carry passengers for hire on a river by another state.

(3) The department of licensing shall charge a fee for each application, to be set in accordance with RCW 43.24.086.

(4) Any person advertising or representing himself or herself as a whitewater river outfitter who is not currently licensed is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(5) The department of licensing shall submit annually a list of licensed persons and companies to the \*department of community, trade, and economic development, tourism promotion division.

(6) If an insurance company cancels or refuses to renew insurance for a licensee, the insurance company shall notify the department of licensing in writing of the termination of

coverage and its effective date not less than thirty days before the effective date of termination.

(a) Upon receipt of an insurance company termination notice, the department of licensing shall send written notice to the licensee that on the effective date of termination the department of licensing will suspend the license unless proof of insurance as required by this section is filed with the department of licensing before the effective date of the termination.

(b) If an insurance company fails to give notice of coverage termination, this failure shall not have the effect of continuing the coverage.

(c) The department of licensing may sanction a license under RCW 18.235.110 if the licensee fails to maintain in full force and effect the insurance required by this section.

(7) The state of Washington shall be immune from any civil action arising from the issuance of a license under this section. [2002 c 86 § 327; 2000 c 11 § 109; 1997 c 391 § 7; 1995 c 399 § 216; 1986 c 217 § 11. Formerly RCW 88.12.275, 88.12.320, and 91.14.090.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Effective dates—2002 c 86:** See note following RCW 18.08.340.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2002 c 86:** See RCW 18.235.902 and 18.235.903.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.485 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—Rules to implement RCW 79A.60.480—Fees.** The department of licensing may adopt and enforce such rules, including the setting of fees, as may be consistent with and necessary to implement RCW 79A.60.480. The fees must approximate the cost of administration. The fees must be deposited in the business and professions account created in RCW 43.24.150. [2011 c 298 § 35; 2000 c 11 § 110; 1997 c 391 § 9. Formerly RCW 88.12.276.]

**Purpose—Intent—Agency transfer—Contracting—Effective date—2011 c 289:** See notes following RCW 19.02.020.

**79A.60.490 Vessels carrying passengers for hire on whitewater rivers—License sanction for certain convictions.** Within five days after conviction for any of the provisions of RCW 79A.60.430 through 79A.60.480, the court shall forward a copy of the judgment to the department of licensing. After receiving proof of conviction, the department of licensing may sanction the license of any whitewater river outfitter under RCW 18.235.110. Proof of compliance with all licensing requirements and correction of the violation under which the whitewater river outfitter was convicted may be considered by the department as mitigating factors when taking disciplinary action. [2002 c 86 § 328; 2000 c 11 § 111; 1997 c 391 § 8. Formerly RCW 88.12.278.]

**Effective dates—2002 c 86:** See note following RCW 18.08.340.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2002 c 86:** See RCW 18.235.902 and 18.235.903.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.495 Designation as whitewater river—Rules—Schedule of fines.** The commission shall adopt rules that designate as whitewater rivers all sections of rivers

with at least one class III rapid or greater, as described in the American Whitewater Affiliation's whitewater safety code. The commission is authorized to consider the imposition of a schedule of fines for minor violations. [1997 c 391 § 10. Formerly RCW 88.12.279.]

**79A.60.498 Uniform regulation of business and professions act.** The uniform regulation of business and professions act, chapter 18.235 RCW, governs unlicensed practice, the issuance and denial of licenses, and the discipline of licensees under this chapter. [2002 c 86 § 329.]

**Effective dates—2002 c 86:** See note following RCW 18.08.340.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2002 c 86:** See RCW 18.235.902 and 18.235.903.

**79A.60.500 Uniform waterway marking system.** The parks and recreation commission is hereby directed to develop and adopt rules establishing a uniform waterway marking system for waters of the state not serviced by such a marking system administered by the federal government. Such system shall be designed to provide for standardized waterway marking buoys, floats, and other waterway marking devices which identify or specify waterway hazards, vessel traffic patterns, and similar information of necessity or use to boaters. Any new or replacement waterway marking buoy, float, or device installed by a unit of local government shall be designed and installed consistent with rules adopted by the parks and recreation commission pursuant to this section. [1987 c 427 § 3. Formerly RCW 88.12.285, 88.12.350, and 43.51.404.]

**79A.60.510 Findings—Sewage disposal initiative established—Boater environmental education—Waterway access facilities.** The legislature finds that the waters of Washington state provide a unique and valuable recreational resource to large and growing numbers of boaters. Proper stewardship of, and respect for, these waters requires that, while enjoying them for their scenic and recreational benefits, boaters must exercise care to assure that such activities do not contribute to the despoliation of these waters, and that watercraft be operated in a safe and responsible manner. The legislature has specifically addressed the topic of access to clean and safe waterways by requiring the 1987 boating safety study and by establishing the Puget Sound partnership.

The legislature finds that there is a need to educate Washington's boating community about safe and responsible actions on our waters and to increase the level and visibility of the enforcement of boating laws. To address the incidence of fatalities and injuries due to recreational boating on our state's waters, local and state efforts directed towards safe boating must be stimulated. To provide for safe waterways and public enjoyment, portions of the watercraft excise tax and boat registration fees should be made available for boating safety and other boating recreation purposes.

In recognition of the need for clean waterways, and in keeping with the Puget Sound partnership's water quality work plan, the legislature finds that adequate opportunities for responsible disposal of boat sewage must be made available. There is hereby established a five-year initiative to install sewage pumpout or sewage dump stations at appropriate marinas.

To assure the use of these sewage facilities, a boater environmental education program must accompany the five-year initiative and continue to educate boaters about boat wastes and aquatic resources.

The legislature also finds that, in light of the increasing numbers of boaters utilizing state waterways, a program to acquire and develop sufficient waterway access facilities for boaters must be undertaken.

To support boating safety, environmental protection and education, and public access to our waterways, the legislature declares that a portion of the income from boating-related activities, as specified in RCW 82.49.030 and 88.02.650, should support these efforts. [2011 c 171 § 117; 2007 c 341 § 57; 1999 c 249 § 1506; 1989 c 393 § 1. Formerly RCW 88.12.295, 88.12.360, and 88.36.010.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.520 Identification and designation of polluted and environmentally sensitive areas.** The commission, in consultation with the departments of ecology, fish and wildlife, natural resources, social and health services, and the Puget Sound partnership shall conduct a literature search and analyze pertinent studies to identify areas which are polluted or environmentally sensitive within the state's waters. Based on this review the commission shall designate appropriate areas as polluted or environmentally sensitive, for the purposes of chapter 393, Laws of 1989 only. [2007 c 341 § 56; 1999 c 249 § 1507; 1994 c 264 § 81; 1989 c 393 § 3. Formerly RCW 88.12.305, 88.12.380, and 88.36.030.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 341:** See RCW 90.71.906 and 90.71.907.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.530 Designation of marinas, boat launches, or boater destinations for installation of sewage pumpout or dump units.** (1) A marina which meets one or more of the following criteria shall be designated by the commission as appropriate for installation of a sewage pumpout or dump unit:

- (a) The marina is located in an environmentally sensitive or polluted area; or
- (b) The marina has one hundred twenty-five slips or more and there is a lack of sewage pumpout or dump units within a reasonable distance.

(2) In addition to subsection (1) of this section, the commission may at its discretion designate a marina as appropriate for installation of a sewage pumpout or dump unit if there is a demonstrated need for a sewage pumpout or dump unit at the marina based on professionally conducted studies undertaken by federal, state, or local government, or the private sector; and it meets the following criteria:

- (a) The marina provides commercial services, such as sales of food, fuel or supplies, or overnight or live-aboard moorage opportunities;
- (b) The marina is located at a heavily used boating destination or on a heavily traveled route, as determined by the commission; or

(c) There is a lack of adequate sewage pumpout or dump unit capacity within a reasonable distance.

(3) Exceptions to the designation made under this section may be made by the commission if no sewer, septic, water, or electrical services are available at the marina.

(4) In addition to marinas, the commission may designate boat launches or boater destinations as appropriate for installation of a sewage pumpout or dump unit based on the criteria found in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. [1993 c 244 § 32; 1989 c 393 § 4. Formerly RCW 88.12.315, 88.12.390, and 88.36.040.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.540 Contracts for financial assistance—Ownership of sewage pumpout or dump unit—Ongoing costs.** (1) Marinas and boat launches designated as appropriate for installation of a sewage pumpout or dump unit under RCW 79A.60.530 shall be eligible for funding support for installation of such facilities from funds specified in RCW 79A.60.590. The commission shall notify owners or operators of all designated marinas and boat launches of the designation, and of the availability of funding to support installation of appropriate sewage disposal facilities. The commission shall encourage the owners and operators to apply for available funding.

(2) The commission shall seek to provide the most cost-efficient and accessible facilities possible for reducing the amount of boat waste entering the state's waters. The commission shall consider providing funding support for portable pumpout facilities in this effort.

(3) The commission shall contract with, or enter into an interagency agreement with another state agency to contract with, applicants based on the criteria specified below:

(a)(i) Contracts may be awarded to publicly owned, tribal, or privately owned marinas or boat launches.

(ii) Contracts may provide for state reimbursement to cover eligible costs as deemed reasonable by commission rule. Eligible costs include purchase, installation, or major renovation of the sewage pumpout or dump units, including sewer, water, electrical connections, and those costs attendant to the purchase, installation, and other necessary appurtenances, such as required pier space, as determined by the commission.

(iii) Ownership of the sewage pumpout or dump unit will be retained by the state through the commission in privately owned marinas. Ownership of the sewage pumpout or dump unit in publicly owned marinas will be held by the public entity.

(iv) Operation, normal and expected maintenance, and ongoing utility costs will be the responsibility of the contract recipient. The sewage pumpout or dump unit shall be kept in operating condition and available for public use at all times during operating hours of the facility, excluding necessary maintenance periods.

(v) The contract recipient agrees to allow the installation, existence and use of the sewage pumpout or dump unit by granting an irrevocable license for a minimum of ten years at no cost to the commission.

(b) Contracts awarded pursuant to (a) of this subsection shall be subject, for a period of at least ten years, to the following conditions:

(i) Any contract recipient entering into a contract under this section must allow the boating public access to the sewage pumpout or dump unit during operating hours.

(ii) The contract recipient must agree to monitor and encourage the use of the sewage pumpout or dump unit, and to cooperate in any related boater environmental education program administered or approved by the commission.

(iii) The contract recipient must agree not to charge a fee for the use of the sewage pumpout or dump unit.

(iv) The contract recipient must agree to arrange and pay a reasonable fee for a periodic inspection of the sewage pumpout or dump unit by the local health department or appropriate authority.

(v) Use of a free sewage pumpout or dump unit by the boating public shall be deemed to be included in the term "outdoor recreation" for the purposes of chapter 4.24 RCW. [2000 c 11 § 112; 1993 c 244 § 33; 1989 c 393 § 5. Formerly RCW 88.12.325, 88.12.400, and 88.36.050.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.550 Development by department of ecology of design, installation, and operation of sewage pumpout and dump units—Rules.** The department of ecology, in consultation with the commission, shall, for initiation of the statewide program only, develop criteria for the design, installation, and operation of sewage pumpout and dump units, taking into consideration the ease of access to the unit by the boating public. The department of ecology may adopt rules to administer the provisions of this section. [1993 c 244 § 34; 1989 c 393 § 6. Formerly RCW 88.12.335, 88.12.410, and 88.36.060.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.560 Boater environmental education program.** The commission shall undertake a statewide boater environmental education program concerning the effects of boat wastes. The boater environmental education program shall provide informational materials on proper boat waste disposal methods, environmentally safe boat maintenance practices, locations of sewage pumpout and dump units, and boat oil recycling facilities. [1993 c 244 § 35; 1989 c 393 § 7. Formerly RCW 88.12.345, 88.12.420, and 88.36.070.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.570 Grants for environmental education or boat waste management planning.** The commission shall award grants to local government entities for boater environmental education or boat waste management planning. Grants shall be allocated according to criteria developed by the commission. [1989 c 393 § 8. Formerly RCW 88.12.355, 88.12.430, and 88.36.080.]

**79A.60.580 Review of programs by commission.** The commission shall, in consultation with interested parties, review progress on installation of sewage pumpout and dump units, the boater environmental education program, and the boating safety program. [1999 c 249 § 1508; 1993 c 244 § 36; 1989 c 393 § 9. Formerly RCW 88.12.365, 88.12.440, and 88.36.090.]

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.590 Allocation of funds.** The amounts allocated in accordance with \*RCW 82.49.030(3) shall be expended upon appropriation in accordance with the following limitations:

(1) Thirty percent of the funds shall be appropriated to the recreation and conservation funding board and be expended for use by state and local government for public recreational waterway boater access and boater destination sites. Priority shall be given to critical site acquisition. The recreation and conservation funding board shall administer such funds as a competitive grants program. The amounts provided for in this subsection shall be evenly divided between state and local governments.

(2) Thirty percent of the funds shall be expended by the commission exclusively for sewage pumpout or dump units at publicly and privately owned marinas as provided for in RCW 79A.60.530 and 79A.60.540.

(3) Twenty-five percent of the funds shall be expended for grants to state agencies and other public entities to enforce boating safety and registration laws and to carry out boating safety programs. The commission shall administer such grant program.

(4) Fifteen percent shall be expended for instructional materials, programs or grants to the public school system, public entities, or other nonprofit community organizations to support boating safety and boater environmental education or boat waste management planning. The commission shall administer this program. [2007 c 241 § 72; 2000 c 11 § 113; 1993 c 244 § 37; 1989 c 393 § 11. Formerly RCW 88.12.375, 88.12.450, and 88.36.100.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.49.030 was amended by 2000 c 103 § 18, deleting subsection (3).

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**Intent—1993 c 244:** See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

**79A.60.595 Commission to adopt rules.** The commission shall adopt rules as are necessary to carry out all sections of chapter 393, Laws of 1989 except for RCW 79A.60.550 and 82.49.030. The commission shall comply with all applicable provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW in adopting the rules. [1999 c 249 § 1509; 1989 c 393 § 14. Formerly RCW 88.12.385, 88.12.460, and 88.36.110.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.600 Liquid petroleum gas leak warning devices—Findings.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Washington state has the greatest length of marine shoreline miles of the lower forty-eight states;

(b) Such marine waters and the extensive freshwater lakes and rivers of the state provide innumerable recreational opportunities, and support a state recreational vessel population that is one of the largest in the country;

(c) Many of Washington's popular recreational waters are remote from population centers and thus remote from emergency health care facilities;

(d) Washington's climate in the western portion of the state, in which its marine recreational waters lie, is cool and wet for much of the year. Much of the state's recreational vessel activity is conducted in the late fall and winter months in connection with fishing activities. For these reasons the

great majority of Washington vessels are equipped with heating devices. These appliances are in use for a much greater portion of the boating season than in other states, and are predominantly fueled by liquid petroleum gas;

(e) Current state and federal standards governing heating and cooking appliances on vessels that are fueled by liquid petroleum gas do not adequately protect against undetected gas leaks. Such gas leaks have led to explosions on Washington waters, causing loss of life and property damage;

(f) The commission coordinates a statewide program of boating safety education to communicate accident prevention information to boaters at risk of fires, explosions, and other hazards, and administers a boating accident reporting program to assess the effectiveness of accident prevention measures.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to address the state's unique local circumstances regarding inadequate protection of Washington's boaters from undetected leaks of liquid petroleum gas-fueled appliances by incorporating into the boating safety program an intensified boating fire prevention program with special emphasis on preventing fires and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by auxiliary fuels and appliances. [1994 c 151 § 1; 1993 c 469 § 1. Formerly RCW 88.12.500.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**79A.60.610 Recreational boating fire prevention education program.** The commission shall undertake a statewide recreational boating fire prevention education program concerning the safe use of marine fuels and electrical systems. The boating fire prevention education program shall provide for the distribution of fire safety materials and decals warning of fire hazards and for educational opportunities to educate boaters on the safety practices needed to operate heaters, stoves, and other appliances in Washington's unique aquatic environment. The commission shall evaluate the boating public's voluntary participation in the program and the program's impact on safe boating. [2006 c 140 § 4; 1994 c 151 § 2. Formerly RCW 88.12.505.]

**Short title—2006 c 140:** See note following RCW 79A.60.660.

**79A.60.620 Small spill prevention education program.** (1) The Washington sea grant program, in consultation with the department of ecology, shall develop and conduct a voluntary spill prevention education program that targets small spills from commercial fishing vessels, ferries, cruise ships, ports, and marinas. Washington sea grant shall coordinate the spill prevention education program with recreational boater education performed by the state parks and recreation commission.

(2) The spill prevention education program shall illustrate ways to reduce oil contamination of bilge water, accidental spills of hydraulic fluid and other hazardous substances during routine maintenance, and reduce spillage during refueling. The program shall illustrate proper disposal of oil and hazardous substances and promote strategies to meet shoreside oil and hazardous substance handling, and disposal needs of the targeted groups. The program shall include a series of training workshops and the development of educational materials. [2000 c 11 § 114; 1991 c 200 § 110. Formerly RCW 90.56.090.]

**79A.60.630 Boating safety education—Commission's duties—Fee—Report to the legislature.** (1) The commission shall establish and implement by rule a program to provide required boating safety education. The boating safety education program shall include training on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. The program shall be phased in so that all boaters not exempted under RCW 79A.60.640(3) are required to obtain a boater education card by January 1, 2016. To obtain a boater education card, a boater shall provide a certificate of accomplishment issued by a boating educator for taking and passing an accredited boating safety education course, or pass an equivalency exam, or provide proof of completion of a course that meets the standard adopted by the commission.

(2) As part of the boating safety education program, the commission shall:

(a) Establish a program to be phased over eleven years starting July 1, 2005, with full implementation by January 1, 2016. The period July 1, 2005, through December 31, 2007, will be program development, boater notification of the new requirements for mandatory education, and processing cards to be issued to individuals having taken an accredited course prior to January 1, 2008. The schedule for phase-in of the mandatory education requirement by age group is as follows: January 1, 2008 - All boat operators twenty years old and younger;  
January 1, 2009 - All boat operators twenty-five years old and younger;  
January 1, 2010 - All boat operators thirty years old and younger;  
January 1, 2011 - All boat operators thirty-five years old and younger;  
January 1, 2012 - All boat operators forty years old and younger;  
January 1, 2013 - All boat operators fifty years old and younger;  
January 1, 2014 - All boat operators sixty years old and younger;  
January 1, 2015 - All boat operators seventy years old and younger;  
January 1, 2016 - All boat operators;

(b) Establish a minimum standard of boating safety education accomplishment. The standard must be consistent with the applicable standard established by the national association of state boating law administrators;

(c) Adopt minimum standards for boating safety education course of instruction and examination that ensures compliance with the national association of state boating law administrators minimum standards;

(d) Approve and provide accreditation to boating safety education courses operated by volunteers, or commercial or nonprofit organizations, including, but not limited to, courses given by the United States coast guard auxiliary and the United States power squadrons;

(e) Develop an equivalency examination that may be taken as an alternative to the boating safety education course;

(f) Establish a fee of ten dollars for the boater education card to fund all commission activities related to the boating safety education program created by chapter 392, Laws of 2005, including the initial costs of developing the program. Any surplus funds resulting from the fees received shall be

distributed by the commission as grants to local marine law enforcement programs approved by the commission as provided in RCW 88.02.650;

(g) Establish a fee for the replacement of the boater education card that covers the cost of replacement;

(h) Consider and evaluate public agency and commercial opportunities to assist in program administration with the intent to keep administrative costs to a minimum;

(i) Approve and provide accreditation to boating safety education courses offered online; and

(j) Provide a report to the legislature by January 1, 2008, on its progress of implementation of the mandatory education program. [2011 c 171 § 118; 2005 c 392 § 3.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Intent—2005 c 392:** "It is the intent of the legislature to establish a boating safety education program that contributes to the reduction of accidents and increases the enjoyment of boating by all operators of all recreational vessels on the waters of this state. Based on the 2003 report to the legislature titled "Recreational Boating Safety in Washington, A Report on Methods to Achieve Safer Boating Practices," the legislature recognizes that boating accidents also occur in nonmotorized vessels in this state, but, at this time there is no national educational standard for nonmotorized vessels. Therefore, the commission is hereby authorized and directed to work with agencies and organizations representing nonmotorized vessel activities and individuals operating nonmotorized vessels to decrease accidents of operators in these vessels. It is also the intent of the legislature to encourage boating safety education programs that use volunteer and private sector efforts to enhance boating safety and education for operators of nonmotorized vessels to work closely with the state parks and recreation commission in its efforts to reduce all boating accidents in this state." [2005 c 392 § 1.]

**79A.60.640 Requirements to operate motor driven boats/vessels—Exemptions—Penalty.** (1) No person shall operate or permit the operation of motor driven boats and vessels with a mechanical power of fifteen horsepower or greater unless the person:

(a) Is at least twelve years of age, except that an operator of a personal watercraft shall comply with the age requirements under RCW 79A.60.190; and

(b)(i) Has in his or her possession a boater education card, unless exempted under subsection (3) of this section; or

(ii) Is accompanied by and is under the direct supervision of a person sixteen years of age or older who is in possession of a boater education card, or who is not yet required to possess the card as provided in the program phase in RCW 79A.60.630(2)(a).

(2) Any person who can demonstrate they have successfully completed, prior to July 24, 2005, a boating safety education course substantially equivalent to the standards adopted by the commission shall be eligible for a boater education card upon application to the commission and payment of the fee, without having to take a course or equivalency exam as provided in RCW 79A.60.630(1). Successful completion of a boating safety education course could include an original or copy of an original certificate issued by the commission, the United States coast guard auxiliary, or the United States power squadrons, or official certification by these organizations that the individual successfully completed a course substantially equivalent to the standards adopted by the commission.

(3) The following persons are not required to carry a boater education card:

(a) The operator of a vessel engaged in a lawful commercial fishery operation as licensed by the department of fish and wildlife under Title 77 RCW. However, the person when operating a vessel for recreational purposes must carry either a valid commercial fishing license issued by the department of fish and wildlife or a boater education card;

(b) Any person who possesses a valid marine operator license issued by the United States coast guard when operating a vessel authorized by such coast guard license. However, the person when operating a vessel for recreational purposes must carry either a valid marine operator license issued by the United States coast guard or a boater education card;

(c) Any person who is legally engaged in the operation of a vessel that is exempt from vessel registration requirements under chapter 88.02 RCW and applicable rules and is used for purposes of law enforcement or official government work. However, the person when operating a vessel for recreational purposes must carry a boater education card;

(d) Any person at least twelve years old renting, chartering, or leasing a motor driven boat or vessel with an engine power of fifteen horsepower or greater who completes a commission-approved motor vessel safety operating and equipment checklist each time before operating the motor driven boat or vessel, except that an operator of a personal watercraft shall comply with the age requirements under RCW 79A.60.190;

(e) Any person who is not a resident of Washington state and who does not operate a motor driven boat or vessel with an engine power of fifteen horsepower or greater in waters of the state for more than sixty consecutive days;

(f) Any person who is not a resident of Washington state and who holds a current out-of-state or out-of-country certificate or card that is equivalent to the rules adopted by the commission;

(g) Any person who has purchased the boat or vessel within the last sixty days, and has a bill of sale in his or her possession to document the date of purchase;

(h) Any person, including those less than twelve years of age, who is involved in practicing for, or engaging in, a permitted racing event where a valid document has been issued by the appropriate local, state, or federal government agency for the event, and is available for inspection on-site during the racing event;

(i) Any person who is not yet required to have a boater education card under the phased schedule in RCW 79A.60.630(2)(a); and

(j) Any person born before January 1, 1955.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (3)(a) through (i) of this section, a boater must carry a boater education card while operating a vessel and is required to present the boater education card, or alternative license as provided in subsection (3)(a) and (b) of this section, to a law enforcement officer upon request.

(5) Failure to possess a boater education card required by this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. The penalty shall be waived if the boater provides proof to the court within sixty days that he or she has received a boater education card.

(6) No person shall permit the rental, charter, or lease of a motor driven boat or vessel with an engine power of fifteen horsepower or greater to a person without first reviewing

with that person, and all other persons who may be permitted by the person to operate the vessel, all the information contained in the motor vessel safety operating and equipment checklist. [2005 c 392 § 4.]

**Intent—2005 c 392:** See note following RCW 79A.60.630.

**79A.60.650 Boating safety education certification account.** The boating safety education certification account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from fees collected for the issuance of a boater education card shall be deposited in the account and shall be used only for the administration of RCW 79A.60.630 and 79A.60.640. Only the state parks and recreation commission may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2005 c 392 § 5.]

**Intent—2005 c 392:** See note following RCW 79A.60.630.

**79A.60.660 Operating motor driven boat or vessel for teak surfing, platform dragging, bodysurfing—Prohibition—Exceptions—Penalty.** (1) No person may operate a motor driven boat or vessel or have the engine of a motor driven boat or vessel run idle while an individual is teak surfing, platform dragging, or bodysurfing behind the motor driven boat or vessel.

(2) No person may operate a motor driven boat or vessel or have the engine of a motor driven boat or vessel run idle while an individual is occupying or holding onto the swim platform, swim deck, swim step, or swim ladder of the motor driven boat or vessel.

(3) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply when an individual is occupying the swim platform, swim deck, swim step, or swim ladder for a very brief period of time while assisting with the docking or departure of the vessel, while exiting or entering the vessel, or while the vessel is engaged in law enforcement or emergency rescue activity.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "teak surfing" or "platform dragging" means holding onto the swim platform, swim deck, swim step, swim ladder, or any portion of the exterior of the transom of a motor driven boat or vessel for any amount of time while the motor driven boat or vessel is underway at any speed.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "bodysurfing" means swimming or floating on one's stomach or on one's back on or in the wake directly behind a motor driven boat or vessel that is underway.

(6) A violation of this section is a natural resource infraction punishable as provided under chapter 7.84 RCW, however the fine imposed may not exceed one hundred dollars. [2006 c 140 § 1.]

**Short title—2006 c 140:** "This act may be known and cited as the Jenda Jones and Denise Colbert safe boating act." [2006 c 140 § 5.]

**79A.60.670 Boating activities program—Boating activities advisory committee—Adoption of rules.** (1) The boating activities program is created in the recreation and conservation funding board.

(2) The recreation and conservation funding board shall distribute moneys appropriated from the boating activities account created in RCW 79A.60.690 as follows, or as other-

wise appropriated by the legislature, after deduction for the board's expenses in administering the boating activities program and for related studies:

(a) To the commission for boater safety, boater education, boating-related law enforcement activities, activities included in RCW 88.02.650, related administrative expenses, and boating-related environmental programs, such as pumpout stations, to enhance clean waters for boating;

(b) For grants to state agencies, counties, municipalities, port districts, federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes to improve boating access to water and marine parks, enhance the boater experience, boater safety, boater education, and boating-related law enforcement activities, and to provide funds for boating-related environmental programs, such as pumpout stations, to enhance clean waters for boating; and

(c) If the amount available for distribution from the boating activities account is equal to or less than two million five hundred thousand dollars per fiscal year, then eighty percent of the amount available must be distributed to the commission for the purposes of (a) of this subsection and twenty percent for grants in (b) of this subsection. Amounts available for distribution in excess of two million five hundred thousand dollars per fiscal year shall be distributed by the board for purposes of (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(3) The recreation and conservation funding board shall establish an application process for boating activities grants.

(4) Agencies receiving grants for capital purposes from the boating activities account shall consider the possibility of contracting with the commission, the department of natural resources, or other federal, state, and local agencies to employ the youth development and conservation corps or other youth crews in completing the project.

(5) To solicit input on the boating activities grant application process, criteria for grant awards, and use of grant moneys, and to determine the interests of the boating community, the recreation and conservation funding board shall solicit input from a boating activities advisory committee. The recreation and conservation funding board may utilize a currently established boating issues committee that has similar responsibility for input on recreational boating-related funding issues. Members of the boating activities advisory committee are not eligible for compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(6) The recreation and conservation funding board may adopt rules to implement this section. [2011 c 171 § 119; 2007 c 311 § 2.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**79A.60.680 Study of boater needs—Funding recommendations.** (1) By December 1, 2007, the \*interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall complete an initial study of boater needs and make recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the initial amount of funding that should be provided to the commission for boating-related law enforcement purposes under RCW 79A.60.670(2)(a).

(2) The \*interagency committee for outdoor recreation shall periodically update its study of boater needs as neces-

sary and shall make recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature concerning funding allocations to state parks and other grant applicants. [2007 c 311 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 241, Laws of 2007 amended numerous sections of chapter 79A.25 RCW, and changed the name of the "interagency committee for outdoor recreation" to the "recreation and conservation funding board."

**79A.60.690 Boating activities account.** The boating activities account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only as authorized under RCW 79A.60.670 and 79A.60.680.

Grants, gifts, or other financial assistance received by the \*interagency committee for outdoor recreation from state and nonstate sources for purposes of boating activities may be deposited into the account. [2007 c 311 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 241, Laws of 2007 amended numerous sections of chapter 79A.25 RCW, and changed the name of the "interagency committee for outdoor recreation" to the "recreation and conservation funding board."

## Chapter 79A.65 RCW

### COMMISSION MOORAGE FACILITIES

#### Sections

79A.65.010	Definitions.
79A.65.020	Securing unauthorized vessels—Notice—Claiming vessels—Abandoned vessels—Derelict vessel removal account.
79A.65.030	Sale of abandoned vessels—Notice—Redemption of vessels—Use of proceeds—Disposal of vessels.
79A.65.040	Action to recover charges—Attorneys' fees—Costs.
79A.65.050	Rights not affected.
79A.65.900	Severability—1994 c 51.

**79A.65.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Charges" means charges of the commission for moorage and storage, and all other charges related to the vessel and owing to or that become owing to the commission, including but not limited to costs of securing, disposing, or removing vessels, damages to any commission facility, and any costs of sale and related legal expenses for implementing RCW 79A.65.020 and 79A.65.030.

(2) "Commission" means the Washington state parks and recreation commission.

(3) "Commission facility" means any moorage facility, as that term is defined in RCW 53.08.310, owned, leased, operated, managed, or otherwise controlled by the commission or by a person pursuant to a contract with the commission.

(4) "Owner" means a person who has a lawful right to possession of a vessel by purchase, exchange, gift, lease, inheritance, or legal action whether or not the vessel is subject to a security interest, and shall not include the holder of a bona fide security interest.

(5) "Person" means any natural person, firm, partnership, corporation, association, organization, or any other entity.

(6)(a) "Registered owner" means any person that is either: (i) Shown as the owner in a vessel certificate of documentation issued by the secretary of the United States department of transportation under 46 U.S.C. Sec. 12103; or

(ii) the registered owner or legal owner of a vessel for which a certificate of title has been issued under chapter 88.02 RCW; or (iii) the owner of a vessel registered under the vessel registration laws of another state under which laws the commission can readily identify the ownership of vessels registered with that state.

(b) "Registered owner" also includes: (i) Any holder of a security interest or lien recorded with the United States department of transportation with respect to a vessel on which a certificate of documentation has been issued; (ii) any holder of a security interest identified in a certificate of title for a vessel registered under chapter 88.02 RCW; or (iii) any holder of a security interest in a vessel where the holder is identified in vessel registration information of a state with vessel registration laws that fall within (a)(iii) of this subsection and under which laws the commission can readily determine the identity of the holder.

(c) "Registered owner" does not include any vessel owner or holder of a lien or security interest in a vessel if the vessel does not have visible information affixed to it (such as name and hailing port or registration numbers) that will enable the commission to obtain ownership information for the vessel without incurring unreasonable expense.

(7) "Registered vessel" means a vessel having a registered owner.

(8) "Secured vessel" means any vessel that has been secured by the commission that remains in the commission's possession and control.

(9) "Unauthorized vessel" means a vessel using a commission facility of any type whose owner has not paid the required moorage fees or has left the vessel beyond the posted time limits, or a vessel otherwise present without permission of the commission.

(10) "Vessel" means every watercraft or part thereof constructed, used, or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water. It includes any equipment or personal property on the vessel that is used or capable of being used for the operation, navigation, or maintenance of the vessel. [2002 c 286 § 20; 2000 c 11 § 115; 1994 c 51 § 1. Formerly RCW 88.27.010.]

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 286:** See RCW 79.100.900 and 79.100.901.

**79A.65.020 Securing unauthorized vessels—Notice—Claiming vessels—Abandoned vessels—Derelict vessel removal account.** (1) The commission may take reasonable measures, including but not limited to the use of anchors, chains, ropes, and locks, or removal from the water, to secure unauthorized vessels located at or on a commission facility so that the unauthorized vessels are in the possession and control of the commission. At least ten days before securing any unauthorized registered vessel, the commission shall send notification by registered mail to the last registered owner or registered owners of the vessel at their last known address or addresses.

(2) The commission may take reasonable measures, including but not limited to the use of anchors, chains, ropes, locks, or removal from the water, to secure any vessel if the vessel, in the opinion of the commission, is a nuisance, is in danger of sinking or creating other damage to a commission facility, or is otherwise a threat to the health, safety, or wel-

fare of the public or environment at a commission facility. The costs of any such procedure shall be paid by the vessel's owner.

(3) At the time of securing any vessel under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, the commission shall attach to the vessel a readily visible notice or, when practicable, shall post such notice in a conspicuous location at the commission facility in the event the vessel is removed from the premises. The notice shall be of a reasonable size and shall contain the following information:

(a) The date and time the notice was attached or posted;

(b) A statement that the vessel has been secured by the commission and that if the commission's charges, if any, are not paid and the vessel is not removed by . . . . . (the thirty-fifth consecutive day following the date of attachment or posting of the notice), the vessel will be considered abandoned and will be sold at public auction to satisfy the charges;

(c) The address and telephone number where additional information may be obtained concerning the securing of the vessel and conditions for its release; and

(d) A description of the owner's or secured party's rights under this chapter.

(4) With respect to registered vessels: Within five days of the date that notice is attached or posted under subsection (3) of this section, the commission shall send such notice, by registered mail, to each registered owner.

(5) If a vessel is secured under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, the owner, or any person with a legal right to possess the vessel, may claim the vessel by:

(a) Making arrangements satisfactory to the commission for the immediate removal of the vessel from the commission's control or for authorized storage or moorage; and

(b) Making payment to the commission of all reasonable charges incurred by the commission in securing the vessel under subsections (1) and (2) of this section and of all moorage fees owed to the commission.

(6) A vessel is considered abandoned if, within the thirty-five day period following the date of attachment or posting of notice in subsection (3) of this section, the vessel has not been claimed under subsection (5) of this section.

(7) If the owner or owners of a vessel are unable to reimburse the commission for all reasonable charges under subsections (1) and (2) of this section within a reasonable time, the commission may seek reimbursement of seventy-five percent of all reasonable and auditable costs from the derelict vessel removal account established in RCW 79.100.100. [2002 c 286 § 21; 1994 c 51 § 2. Formerly RCW 88.27.020.]

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 286:** See RCW 79.100.900 and 79.100.901.

**79A.65.030 Sale of abandoned vessels—Notice—Redemption of vessels—Use of proceeds—Disposal of vessels.** (1) The commission may provide for the public sale of vessels considered abandoned under RCW 79A.65.020. At such sales, the vessels shall be sold for cash to the highest and best bidder. The commission may establish either a minimum bid or require a letter of credit, or both, to discourage the future reabandonment of the vessel.

(2) Before a vessel is sold, the commission shall make a reasonable effort to provide notice of sale, at least twenty

days before the day of the sale, to each registered owner of a registered vessel and each owner of an unregistered vessel. The notice shall contain the time and place of the sale, a reasonable description of the vessel to be sold, and the amount of charges then owing with respect to the vessel, and a summary of the rights and procedures under this chapter. A notice of sale shall be published at least once, more than ten but not more than twenty days before the sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the commission facility is located. This notice shall include: (a) If known, the name of the vessel and the last owner and the owner's address; and (b) a reasonable description of the vessel. The commission may bid all or part of its charges at the sale and may become a purchaser at the sale.

(3) Before a vessel is sold, any person seeking to redeem a secured vessel may commence a lawsuit in the superior court for the county in which the vessel was secured to contest the commission's decision to secure the vessel or the amount of charges owing. This lawsuit shall be commenced within fifteen days of the date the notification was posted under RCW 79A.65.020(3), or the right to a hearing is deemed waived and the owner is liable for any charges owing the commission. In the event of litigation, the prevailing party is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(4) The proceeds of a sale under this section shall be applied first to the payment of the amount of the reasonable charges incurred by the commission and moorage fees owed to the commission, then to the owner or to satisfy any liens of record or security interests of record on the vessel in the order of their priority. If an owner cannot in the exercise of due diligence be located by the commission within one year of the date of the sale, any excess funds from the sale, following the satisfaction of any bona fide security interest, shall revert to the derelict vessel removal account established in RCW 79.100.100. If the sale is for a sum less than the applicable charges, the commission is entitled to assert a claim for the deficiency against the vessel owner. Nothing in this section prevents any lien holder or secured party from asserting a claim for any deficiency owed the lien holder or secured party.

(5) If no one purchases the vessel at a sale, the commission may proceed to properly dispose of the vessel in any way the commission considers appropriate, including, but not limited to, destruction of the vessel or by negotiated sale. The commission may assert a claim against the owner for any charges incurred thereby. If the vessel, or any part of the vessel, or any rights to the vessel, are sold under this subsection, any proceeds from the sale shall be distributed in the manner provided in subsection (4) of this section. [2002 c 286 § 22; 2000 c 11 § 116; 1994 c 51 § 3. Formerly RCW 88.27.030.]

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 286:** See RCW 79.100.900 and 79.100.901.

**79A.65.040 Action to recover charges—Attorneys' fees—Costs.** If the full amount of all charges due the commission on an unauthorized vessel is not paid to the commission within thirty days after the date on which notice is affixed or posted under RCW 79A.65.020(3), the commission may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to recover the charges, plus reasonable attorneys' fees

and costs incurred by the commission. [2000 c 11 § 117; 1994 c 51 § 4. Formerly RCW 88.27.040.]

**79A.65.050 Rights not affected.** The rights granted to the commission under this chapter are in addition to any other legal rights the commission may have to secure, hold, and sell a vessel and in no manner does this section alter those rights, or affect the priority of other liens on a vessel. [1994 c 51 § 5. Formerly 88.27.050.]

**79A.65.900 Severability—1994 c 51.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1994 c 51 § 10. Formerly RCW 88.27.900.]

## Chapter 79A.70 RCW STATE PARKS GIFT FOUNDATION

### Sections

79A.70.005	Findings.
79A.70.010	Purpose.
79A.70.020	Definitions.
79A.70.030	Washington state parks gift foundation—Establishment—Board of directors—Term of service.
79A.70.040	Foundation's duties—Grant process.
79A.70.050	Foundation moneys not to supplant preexisting funding.
79A.70.900	Severability—2000 c 25.

**79A.70.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) State parks are a valuable asset to the people of the state of Washington, contributing to their health, education, and well-being;

(2) Well maintained state parks are an attraction and contribute significantly to the economic well-being of the state of Washington;

(3) Well maintained state parks encourage the appreciation of the natural resources and natural beauty of the state of Washington;

(4) There is an increasing demand for more state parks and more state parks services;

(5) There are individuals and groups who desire to contribute to the continued vitality of the state parks system;

(6) Providing a tax-deductible method for individuals and groups to contribute is an effective way of increasing available funds to improve the state parks system; and

(7) It is in the public interest to create a nonprofit foundation to provide such a method for individuals and groups to contribute to the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the state parks system. [2000 c 25 § 1.]

**79A.70.010 Purpose.** The purpose of the Washington state parks gift foundation is to solicit support for the state parks system, cooperate with other organizations, and to encourage gifts to support and improve the state parks. [2000 c 25 § 2.]

**79A.70.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Foundation" means the Washington state parks gift foundation, created in RCW 79A.70.030.

(2) "State parks" means that system of parks administered by the commission under this title.

(3) "Eligible grant recipients" includes any and all of the activities of the commission in carrying out the provisions of this title.

(4) "Eligible projects" means any project, action, or part of any project or action that serves to preserve, restore, improve, or enhance the state parks. [2000 c 25 § 3.]

**79A.70.030 Washington state parks gift foundation—Establishment—Board of directors—Term of service.** (1) By September 1, 2000, the commission shall file articles of incorporation in accordance with the Washington nonprofit corporation act, chapter 24.03 RCW, to establish the Washington state parks gift foundation. The foundation shall not be an agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision of the state and shall not disburse public funds.

(2) The foundation shall have a board of directors consisting of up to fifteen members. Initial members of the board shall be appointed by the governor and collectively have experience in business, charitable giving, outdoor recreation, and parks administration. Initial appointments shall be made by September 30, 2000. Subsequent board members shall be elected by the general membership of the foundation.

(3) Members of the board shall serve three-year terms, except for the initial terms, which shall be staggered by the governor to achieve a balanced mix of terms on the board. Members of the board may serve up to a maximum of three terms. At the end of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor has been elected. [2000 c 25 § 4.]

**79A.70.040 Foundation's duties—Grant process.** (1) As soon as practicable, the board of directors shall organize themselves and the foundation suitably to carry out the duties of the foundation, including achieving federal tax-exempt status.

(2) The foundation shall actively solicit contributions from individuals and groups for the benefit of the state parks.

(3) The foundation shall develop criteria for guiding themselves in either the creation of an endowment, or the making of grants to eligible grant recipients and eligible projects in the state parks, or both.

(4) A competitive grant process shall be conducted at least annually by the foundation to award funds to the state parks. Competitive grant applications shall only be submitted to the foundation by the commission. The process shall be started as soon as practicable. Grants shall be awarded to eligible projects consistent with the criteria developed by the foundation and shall be available only for state parks use on eligible projects. [2000 c 25 § 5.]

**79A.70.050 Foundation moneys not to supplant preexisting funding.** Money provided to the state parks by the foundation shall not be used to supplant preexisting funding sources. [2000 c 25 § 6.]

**79A.70.900 Severability—2000 c 25.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2000 c 25 § 7.]

**Chapter 79A.80 RCW**  
**ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL LANDS**

## Sections

79A.80.005	Findings—Intent—2011 c 320.
79A.80.010	Definitions.
79A.80.020	Discover pass.
79A.80.030	Day-use permit.
79A.80.040	Vehicle access pass.
79A.80.050	Valid camper registration/annual natural investment permit— Commission may provide free entry to state parks.
79A.80.060	Sno-park seasonal permit.
79A.80.070	Short-term parking.
79A.80.080	Pass/permit requirements—Penalty.
79A.80.090	Recreation access pass account.
79A.80.100	Purchase, return, replacement of discover passes and day-use permits.

**79A.80.005 Findings—Intent—2011 c 320.** (1) The legislature finds that there is an increasing demand for outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation measures on lands managed by the department of fish and wildlife, the department of natural resources, and the parks and recreation commission. Development and maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities and conservation of lands have not kept pace with this demand. This demand, combined with shrinking resources for management, has led to the degradation of our lands to the detriment of the recreating public and efforts to conserve our natural resources.

(2) The legislature further finds that the recreating public cannot readily discern which agency of the state is responsible for the management of particular state lands or which policies apply to those lands.

(3) It is the intent of this act to reform and improve access to and management of state lands on a sustainable basis for the recreating public by: Providing a motor vehicle access pass and access policies for state lands; recovering the cost incurred by the state for operations and management of recreation opportunities; providing resources to address the growing demand and impacts of outdoor recreationists and conservation of our natural resources; and providing effective education and enforcement of state land access policies. [2011 c 320 § 1.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** "Except for section 12 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2011." [2011 c 320 § 29.]

**79A.80.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agency" or "agencies" means the department of fish and wildlife, the department of natural resources, and the parks and recreation commission.

(2) "Annual natural investment permit" means the annual permit issued by the parks and recreation commission for the purpose of launching boats from the designated state parks boat launch sites.

(3) "Camper registration" means proof of payment of a camping fee on recreational lands managed by the parks and recreation commission.

(4) "Day-use permit" means the permit created in RCW 79A.80.030.

(5) "Discover pass" means the annual pass created in RCW 79A.80.020.

(6) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 46.04.320 and which are required to be registered under chapter 46.16A RCW. "Motor vehicle" does not include those motor vehicles exempt from registration under RCW 46.16A.080 and state and publicly owned motor vehicles as provided in RCW 46.16A.170.

(7) "Recreation site or lands" means a state park, state lands and state forest lands as those terms are defined in RCW 79.02.010, natural resources conservation areas as that term is defined in RCW 79.71.030, natural area preserves as that term is defined in RCW 79.70.020, and fish and wildlife conservation sites including water access areas, boat ramps, wildlife areas, parking areas, roads, and trailheads.

(8) "Sno-park seasonal permit" means the seasonal permit issued by the parks and recreation commission for providing access to winter recreational facilities for the period of November 1st through March 31st.

(9) "Vehicle access pass" means the pass created in RCW 79A.80.040. [2012 c 261 § 1; 2011 c 320 § 2.]

**Effective date—2012 c 261:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 30, 2012]." [2012 c 261 § 14.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.020 Discover pass.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 79A.80.050, 79A.80.060, and 79A.80.070, a discover pass is required for any motor vehicle to park or operate on any recreation site or lands, except for short-term parking as may be authorized under RCW 79A.80.070.

(2) The cost of a discover pass is thirty dollars. Every four years the office of financial management must review the cost of the discover pass and, if necessary, recommend to the legislature an adjustment to the cost of the discover pass to account for inflation.

(3) A discover pass is valid for one year beginning from the date that the discover pass is marked for activation. The activation date may differ from the purchase date pursuant to any policies developed by the agencies.

(4) Sales of discover passes must be consistent with RCW 79A.80.100.

(5) The discover pass must contain space for two motor vehicle license plate numbers. A discover pass is valid only for those vehicle license plate numbers written on the pass. However, the agencies may offer for sale a family discover pass that is fully transferable among vehicles and does not require the placement of a license plate number on the pass to be valid. The agencies must collectively set a price for the sale of a family discover pass that is no more than fifty dollars. A discover pass is valid only for use with one motor vehicle at any one time.

(6) One complimentary discover pass must be provided to a volunteer who performed twenty-four hours of service on agency-sanctioned volunteer projects in a year. The agency must provide vouchers to volunteers identifying the number of volunteer hours they have provided for each project. The vouchers may be brought to an agency to be redeemed for a discover pass. [2012 c 261 § 2; 2011 c 320 § 3.]

**Effective date—2012 c 261:** See note following RCW 79A.80.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.030 Day-use permit.** (1) A person may purchase a day-use permit to meet the requirements of RCW 79A.80.080. A day-use permit is ten dollars per day and must be available for purchase from each agency. A day-use permit is valid for one calendar day.

(2) The agencies may provide short-term parking under RCW 79A.80.070 where a day-use permit is not required.

(3) Every four years the office of financial management must review the cost of the day-use permit and, if necessary, recommend to the legislature an adjustment to the cost of the day-use permit to account for inflation.

(4) Sales of day-use permits must be consistent with RCW 79A.80.100. [2012 c 261 § 3; 2011 c 320 § 4.]

**Effective date—2012 c 261:** See note following RCW 79A.80.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.040 Vehicle access pass.** (1) The vehicle access pass is created solely for access to the department of fish and wildlife recreation sites or lands. The vehicle access pass is only available to a person who purchases a current valid: Big game hunting license issued under RCW 77.32.450; small game hunting license issued under RCW 77.32.460; western Washington pheasant permit issued under RCW 77.32.575; trapping license issued under RCW 77.65.450; watchable wildlife decal issued under RCW 77.32.560; or combination, saltwater, or freshwater personal use fishing license issued under RCW 77.32.470.

(2) One vehicle access pass must be issued per purchase pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The vehicle access pass is valid for the license year of the license it is purchased with.

(4) The vehicle access pass must contain space for two motor vehicle license plate numbers. A vehicle access pass is only valid for those vehicle license plate numbers written on the pass. [2012 c 261 § 5; 2011 c 320 § 5.]

**Effective date—2012 c 261:** See note following RCW 79A.80.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.050 Valid camper registration/annual natural investment permit—Commission may provide free entry to state parks.** (1) A discover pass or a day-use permit are not required within a state park for persons who have a valid camper registration, or annual natural investment permit, issued by the state parks and recreation commission.

(2) The state parks and recreation commission must provide up to twelve days a year where entry to state parks is free. At least three of those days must be on weekends. When practicable, the free access days should be timed to correspond with any similar free access days planned by the national park service for national parks located in the general region of high volume state parks. [2012 c 261 § 6; 2011 c 320 § 6.]

**Effective date—2012 c 261:** See note following RCW 79A.80.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.060 Sno-park seasonal permit.** The discover pass or the day-use permit are not required, for persons who have a valid sno-park seasonal permit issued by the state parks and recreation commission, at designated sno-parks between November 1st through March 31st. [2011 c 320 § 7.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.070 Short-term parking.** Each agency, where applicable, must designate short-term parking not to exceed thirty minutes where the discover pass or day-use permit are not required at recreation sites or lands. [2011 c 320 § 8.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.080 Pass/permit requirements—Penalty.** (1) A discover pass, vehicle access pass, or day-use permit must be visibly displayed in the front windshield of any motor vehicle or otherwise in a prominent location for vehicles without a windshield:

(a) Operating on a recreation site or lands; or

(b) Parking at a recreation site or lands.

(2) The discover pass, the vehicle access pass, or the day-use permit is not required on private lands, state-owned aquatic lands other than water access areas, or at agency offices, hatcheries, or other facilities where public business is conducted.

(3) The discover pass, the vehicle access pass, or the day-use permit is not required for:

(a) Persons who use, possess, or enter lands owned or managed by the agencies for nonrecreational purposes consistent with a written authorization from the agency, including but not limited to leases, contracts, and easements; or

(b) On department of fish and wildlife lands only, for persons possessing a current vehicle access pass pursuant to RCW 79A.80.040.

(4)(a) An agency may waive the requirements of this section for any person who has secured the ability to access specific recreational land through the provision of monetary consideration to the agency or for any person attending an event or function that required the provision of monetary compensation to the agency.

(b) Special events and group activities are core recreational activities and major public service opportunities within state parks. When waiving the requirements of this section for special events, the state parks and recreation commission must consider the direct and indirect costs and benefits to the state, local market rental rates, the public service functions of the event sponsor, and other public interest factors when setting appropriate fees for each event or activity.

(5) Failure to comply with subsection (1) of this section is a natural resource infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. An agency is authorized to issue a notice of infraction to any person who fails to comply with subsection (1)(a) of this section or to any motor vehicle that fails to comply with subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(6) The penalty for failure to comply with the requirements of this section is ninety-nine dollars. This penalty must be reduced to fifty-nine dollars if an individual provides proof of purchase of a discover pass to the court within fifteen days after the issuance of the notice of violation. [2012 c 261 § 7; 2011 c 320 § 9.]

**Effective date—2012 c 261:** See note following RCW 79A.80.010.

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.090 Recreation access pass account.** (1) The recreation access pass account is created in the state treasury.

All moneys received from the sale of discover passes and day-use permits must be deposited into the account.

(2) Each fiscal biennium, the first seventy-one million dollars in revenue must be distributed to the agencies in the following manner:

(a) Eight percent to the department of fish and wildlife and deposited into the state wildlife account created in RCW 77.12.170;

(b) Eight percent to the department of natural resources and deposited into the park land trust revolving fund created in RCW 43.30.385; and

(c) Eighty-four percent to the state parks and recreation commission and deposited into the state parks renewal and stewardship account created in RCW 79A.05.215.

(3) Each fiscal biennium, revenues in excess of seventy-one million dollars must be distributed equally among the agencies to the accounts identified in subsection (2) of this section. [2011 c 320 § 10.]

**Effective date—2011 c 320:** See note following RCW 79A.80.005.

**79A.80.100 Purchase, return, replacement of discover passes and day-use permits.** (1) Discover passes and day-use permits may be made available for purchase:

(a) Through vendors under contract with one or more of the agencies. The agencies may provide vendors with discover passes and day-use permits at the sales price established under RCW 79A.80.020 and 79A.80.030 to sell at retail;

(b) Directly from the state parks and recreation commission, both through that agency's parks reservation system, directly from agency employees or volunteers at staffed state parks, or as otherwise provided in RCW 79A.05.070;

(c) From the department of licensing as provided in RCW 46.16A.090 and 46.01.370;

(d) From other outlets authorized by law to sell state licenses, permits, or passes; and

(e) Consistent with RCW 77.32.050, through the department of fish and wildlife's automated licensing system.

(2) The agencies must maintain a policy to address conditions related to return, replacements, and for providing the full year of recreational lands access that the discover pass provides to individuals who are required by the department of licensing to change license plate numbers during the effective dates of a discover pass tied to the affected vehicle.

(3) For discover passes and day-use permits purchased through the department of licensing, county auditors, or other agents or subagents appointed by the director of the department of licensing, the selling entity is not responsible for delivering the purchased discover pass to the purchaser. The responsibility for delivering the discover pass belongs to the agencies. [2012 c 261 § 4.]

**Effective date—2012 c 261:** See note following RCW 79A.80.010.

# Title 80

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

### Chapters

- 80.01** Utilities and transportation commission.
- 80.04** Regulations—General.
- 80.08** Securities.
- 80.12** Transfers of property.
- 80.16** Affiliated interests.
- 80.20** Investigation of public service companies.
- 80.24** Regulatory fees.
- 80.28** Gas, electrical, and water companies.
- 80.32** Electric franchises and rights-of-way.
- 80.36** Telecommunications.
- 80.40** Underground Natural Gas Storage Act.
- 80.50** Energy facilities—Site locations.
- 80.52** Energy financing voter approval act.
- 80.54** Attachments to transmission facilities.
- 80.58** Nonpolluting power generation exemption.
- 80.60** Net metering of electricity.
- 80.66** Radio communications service companies.
- 80.70** Carbon dioxide mitigation.
- 80.80** Greenhouse gas emissions—Baseload electric generation performance standard.
- 80.82** Closure of coal-fired electric generation facilities.
- 80.98** Construction.

*Agreements between electrical public utilities and cooperatives: Chapter 54.48 RCW.*

*Assessment of public utilities for property tax purposes: Chapter 84.12 RCW.*

*Conversion of overhead electric and communication facilities to underground: Chapter 35.96 RCW, RCW 36.88.410 through 36.88.480.*

*Corporate seals, effect of absence from instrument: RCW 64.04.105.*

*Corporations, annual license fee of public service companies: RCW 23B.01.590.*

*Easements of public service companies taxable as personalty: RCW 84.20.010.*

*Electrical advisory board: RCW 19.28.311.*

*Flaggers—Safety standards: RCW 49.17.350.*

*Franchise on county roads and bridges: Chapter 36.55 RCW.*

*Fraud in obtaining telecommunications service: RCW 9.26A.110.*

*Gas and hazardous liquid pipelines: Chapter 81.88 RCW.*

*Generating electricity by steam: RCW 43.21A.600 through 43.21A.642.*

*Hydroelectric resources, creation of separate legal authority by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts: RCW 87.03.825 through 87.03.840.*

*Mechanics' and materialmen's liens: Chapter 60.04 RCW.*

*Metropolitan municipal corporations: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*

*Motor vehicle fuel tax exemption for urban transportation system: RCW 82.36.275.*

*Municipal utilities: Chapter 35.92 RCW.*

*Municipal utilities, sale or lease of: Chapter 35.94 RCW.*

*Municipal water and sewer facilities act: Chapter 35.91 RCW.*

*Nuclear, thermal power facilities, joint development by cities, public utility districts, electrical companies: Chapter 54.44 RCW.*

*Operating agencies: Chapter 43.52 RCW.*

*Party line telephone calls, emergencies: Chapter 70.85 RCW.*

*Power resources, state division of: Chapter 43.27A RCW.*

*Public utility districts: Title 54 RCW.*

*Public utility tax: Chapter 82.16 RCW.*

*State department of conservation: Chapter 43.27A RCW.*

*State power commission: Chapter 43.27A RCW.*

*Traffic control at work sites: RCW 47.36.200.*

*Underground utilities, records of location: Chapter 19.122 RCW.*

*Utility poles, unlawful to attach objects—Penalty: RCW 70.54.090.*

*Water resources, state division of: Chapter 43.27A RCW.*

### Chapter 80.01 RCW

#### UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

##### Sections

- 80.01.010 Commission created—Appointment of members—Terms—Vacancies—Removal—Salary.
- 80.01.020 Commissioners—Oath, bond, and qualifications—Persons excluded from office and employment.
- 80.01.030 Commission to employ secretary and other assistants—Secretary's duties—Deputies.
- 80.01.035 Appointment of commissioners pro tempore.
- 80.01.040 General powers and duties of commission.
- 80.01.050 Quorum—Hearings—Actions deemed those of the commission.
- 80.01.060 Administrative law judges—Powers.
- 80.01.070 Joint investigations, hearings, orders.
- 80.01.075 Authority to initiate, participate in federal administrative agency proceedings.
- 80.01.080 Public service revolving fund.
- 80.01.090 Proceedings public records—Seal.
- 80.01.100 Duties of attorney general.
- 80.01.110 Wholesale telecommunications services—Commission authorized to review rates, terms, conditions.
- 80.01.300 Certain provisions not to detract from commission powers, duties, and functions.

*Broadband mapping, deployment, and adoption—Reports: RCW 43.330.409.*

*Collection agencies, retained by public bodies to collect debts—Fees: RCW 19.16.500.*

*Solid waste collection districts in counties, commission findings necessary: RCW 36.58A.030.*

#### **80.01.010 Commission created—Appointment of members—Terms—Vacancies—Removal—Salary.**

There is hereby created and established a state commission to be known and designated as the Washington utilities and transportation commission, and in this chapter referred to as the commission.

The commission shall be composed of three members appointed by the governor, with the consent of the senate. Not more than two members of said commission shall belong to the same political party.

Each commissioner shall be appointed and hold office for the term of six years. The governor shall designate one of the commissioners to be chair of the commission during the term of the governor.

Each commissioner shall receive a salary as may be fixed by the governor in accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.03.040.

Any member of the commission may be removed for inefficiency, malfeasance or misfeasance in office, upon specific written charges filed by the governor, who shall transmit such written charges to the member accused and to the chief justice of the supreme court. The chief justice shall thereupon designate a special tribunal composed of three judges of the superior court to hear and adjudicate the charges. Such tribunal shall fix the time, place and procedure for the hearing, and the hearing shall be public. The decision of such tribunal shall be final and not subject to review.

If the tribunal specified herein finds the charges of the governor to be true, the governor shall have the right to immediately remove the commissioner from office, to declare the position of the commissioner vacant, and appoint another commissioner to the position in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Any vacancy arising in the office of commissioner shall be filled by appointment by the governor, and, except for persons appointed as pro tempore commissioners, an appointee selected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the balance of the full term for which his or her predecessor on the commission was appointed.

If a vacancy occurs while the senate is not in session, the governor shall make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the senate, when he or she shall present to the senate his or her nomination or nominations for the office to be filled. [2006 c 346 § 1; 1961 c 307 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 80.01.010. Prior: 1955 c 340 § 7; 1951 c 260 § 1; 1949 c 117 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10964-115-1. Formerly RCW 43.53.010.]

**80.01.020 Commissioners—Oath, bond, and qualifications—Persons excluded from office and employment.** Each commissioner shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe the constitutional oath of office, and furnish bond to the state in the sum of twenty thousand dollars conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office and for the proper accounting for all funds that may come into his possession by virtue of his office. Each commissioner shall be a qualified elector of this state and no person in the employ of or holding any official relation to any corporation or person, which corporation or person is subject in whole or in part to regulation by the commission, and no person owning stocks or bonds of any such corporation or who is in any manner pecuniarily interested therein shall be appointed or hold the office of commissioner or be appointed or employed by the commission: PROVIDED, That if any such person shall become the owner of such stocks or bonds or become pecuniarily interested in such corporation otherwise than voluntarily, he shall within a reasonable time divest himself of such ownership or interest, and failing to do so his office or employment shall become vacant. [1961 c 14 § 80.01.020. Prior: 1949 c 117 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10964-115-2. Formerly RCW 43.53.020 and 43.53.030.]

**80.01.030 Commission to employ secretary and other assistants—Secretary's duties—Deputies.** The commission shall appoint and employ a secretary and such accounting, engineering, expert and clerical assistants, and such other qualified assistants as may be necessary to carry on the administrative work of the commission.

The secretary shall be the custodian of the commission's official seal, and shall keep full and accurate minutes of all transactions, proceedings and determinations of the commission and perform such other duties as may be required by the commission.

The commission may deputize one or more of its assistants to perform, in the name of the commission, such duties of the commission as it deems expedient. The commission may, by rule or order, delegate to designated assistants any of the powers and duties vested in or imposed upon the commission by law except matters governed by chapter 34.05 RCW; however, a matter may not be delegated to a person who has worked as an advocate on the same docket. Delegated powers and duties may be exercised in the name of the commission. The commission by rule shall implement a process by which notice shall be provided of matters designated for delegation. Any such matter shall be heard or reviewed by commissioners at the request of any commissioner or any affected person. [2006 c 346 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 80.01.030. Prior: 1949 c 117 § 4; 1934 c 267 §§ 2, 3, 5 and 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10964-115-4 and Rem. Supp. 1945 §§ 10459-2, 10459-3, 10459-5, 10459-6; prior: compare prior laws as follows: 1955 c 340 § 7; 1951 c 260 § 1; 1949 c 117 §§ 1, 3, 8; 1945 c 267; 1935 c 8 § 1; 1921 c 7 §§ 25, 26; 1911 c 117. Formerly RCW 43.53.040.]

**80.01.035 Appointment of commissioners pro tempore.** When a commissioner has heard all or a substantial part of an adjudicative proceeding and leaves office before entry of a final order in the proceeding, at the request of the remaining commissioners the commissioner leaving office may be appointed by the governor as commissioner pro tempore to complete the proceeding. A proceeding is completed when the commission enters a final order purporting to resolve all contested issues therein, from which no party seeks clarification or reconsideration, or upon entry of an order on clarification or reconsideration, even though the order is subject to a petition for judicial review. A commissioner pro tempore shall receive a reasonable compensation to be fixed by the remaining members of the commission. [2006 c 346 § 3.]

**80.01.040 General powers and duties of commission.** The utilities and transportation commission shall:

- (1) Exercise all the powers and perform all the duties prescribed by this title and by Title 81 RCW, or by any other law.
- (2) Regulate in the public interest, as provided by the public service laws, all persons engaging in the transportation of persons or property within this state for compensation.
- (3) Regulate in the public interest, as provided by the public service laws, the rates, services, facilities, and practices of all persons engaging within this state in the business of supplying any utility service or commodity to the public for compensation.
- (4) Make rules and regulations necessary to carry out its other powers and duties. [2007 c 234 § 1; 1985 c 450 § 10; 1961 c 14 § 80.01.040. Prior: (i) 1949 c 117 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10964-115-3. (ii) 1945 c 267 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10459-5. (iii) 1945 c 267 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10459-6. Formerly RCW 43.53.050.]

*Flaggers—Safety standards: RCW 49.17.350.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.01.050 Quorum—Hearings—Actions deemed those of the commission.** A majority of the commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, for the performance of any duty, or for the exercise of any power of the commission, and may hold hearings at any time or place within or without the state. A quorum of commissioners need not affirm any matter delegated under RCW 80.01.030. Any investigation, inquiry, or hearing which the commission has power to undertake or to hold may be undertaken or held by or before any commissioner or any administrative law judge as provided in RCW 80.01.060. All investigations, inquiries, and hearings of the commission, and all findings, orders, or decisions, made by a commissioner or administrative law judge, when approved and confirmed by the commission or allowed to become final pursuant to RCW 80.01.060 and filed in its office, shall be the orders or decisions of the commission. [2006 c 346 § 4; 1995 c 331 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 80.01.050. Prior: 1949 c 117 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10964-115-6. Formerly RCW 43.53.060.]

**80.01.060 Administrative law judges—Powers.** (1) The commission may appoint administrative law judges when it deems such action necessary for its general administration. The administrative law judges may administer oaths, issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, waybills, books, accounts, documents, and testimony, examine witnesses, make findings of probable cause and issue complaints in the name of the commission, and receive testimony in any inquiry, investigation, hearing, or proceeding in any part of the state, under such rules as the commission may adopt. The administrative law judges appointed under this subsection are not subject to chapter 41.06 RCW; however, they are subject to discipline and termination, for cause, by the executive secretary of the commission. Upon written request of the person so disciplined or terminated, the executive secretary shall state the reasons for such action in writing. The person affected has a right of review by the superior court of Thurston county on petition for reinstatement or other remedy filed within thirty days of receipt of the written reasons.

(2) In general rate increase filings by a natural gas, electric, or telecommunications company, the administrative law judges may preside, but may not enter an initial order unless expressly agreed to in writing by the company making the filing. In all other cases, the administrative law judge may enter an initial order including findings of fact and conclusions of law in accordance with RCW 34.05.461(1)(a) and (c) and (3) through (9) or 34.05.485. RCW 34.05.461 (1)(b) and (2) do not apply to entry of orders under this section.

(3) Administrative law judges may not enter final orders, except that the commission may designate persons by rule to preside and enter final orders in emergency adjudications under RCW 34.05.479. Initial orders of administrative law judges shall become final on the day following expiration of the time established by the commission for filing a petition for administrative review, unless, within that time, a party petitions for administrative review or the commission notifies parties that it will review the initial order on its own motion.

(2012 Ed.)

(4) If the administrative law judge does not enter an initial order as provided in subsection (2) of this section, then a majority of the members of the commission who are to enter the final order must hear or review substantially all of the record submitted by any party. [2006 c 346 § 5; 1995 c 331 § 3; 1991 c 48 § 1; 1981 c 67 § 35; 1961 c 14 § 80.01.060. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 164 § 1; RRS § 10779-1. Formerly RCW 43.53.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.01.070 Joint investigations, hearings, orders.** The commission shall have full power to make joint or concurrent investigations, hold joint or concurrent hearings, and issue joint or concurrent orders in conjunction or concurrence with any official, board, or commission of any state or of the United States, whether in the holding of such investigations or hearings or in the making of such orders the commission functions under agreements or compacts between states or under the concurrent power of states to regulate interstate commerce or as an agency of the federal government or otherwise. When necessary the commission may hold such joint hearing or investigation outside the state. [1961 c 14 § 80.01.070. Prior: 1949 c 117 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10964-115-7. Formerly RCW 43.53.080.]

**80.01.075 Authority to initiate, participate in federal administrative agency proceedings.** The commission shall have the authority as petitioner, intervenor or otherwise to initiate and/or participate in proceedings before federal administrative agencies in which there is at issue the authority, rates or practices for transportation or utility services affecting the interests of the state of Washington, its businesses and general public, and to do all things necessary in its opinion to present to such federal administrative agencies all facts bearing upon such issues, and to similarly initiate and/or participate in any judicial proceedings relating thereto. [1967 ex.s. c 49 § 1.]

**80.01.080 Public service revolving fund.** There is created in the state treasury a public service revolving fund. Regulatory fees payable by all types of public service companies shall be deposited to the credit of the public service revolving fund. Except for expenses payable out of the pipeline safety account, all expense of operation of the Washington utilities and transportation commission shall be payable out of the public service revolving fund.

During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the public service revolving fund to the state general fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the fund. [2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 950; 2006 c 3 § 2; 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 § 940; 2002 c 371 § 924; 2001 c 238 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 80.01.080. Prior: 1949 c 117 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10964-115-11. Formerly RCW 43.53.090.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Effective date—2006 c 3:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [January 12, 2006]." [2006 c 3 § 3.]

**Severability—Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 19.28.351.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 371:** See notes following RCW 9.46.100.

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—2001 c 238:** See notes following RCW 80.24.060.

**80.01.090 Proceedings public records—Seal.** All proceedings of the commission and all documents and records in its possession shall be public records, and it shall adopt and use an official seal. [1998 c 245 § 163; 1987 c 505 § 77; 1977 c 75 § 91; 1961 c 14 § 80.01.090. Prior: 1949 c 117 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10964-115-5. Formerly RCW 43.53.100.]

**80.01.100 Duties of attorney general.** It shall be the duty of the attorney general to represent and appear for the people of the state of Washington and the commission in all actions and proceedings involving any question under this title or Title 81 RCW, or under or in reference to any act or order of the commission; and it shall be the duty of the attorney general generally to see that all laws affecting any of the persons or corporations herein enumerated are complied with, and that all laws, the enforcement of which devolves upon the commission, are enforced, and to that end he is authorized to institute, prosecute and defend all necessary actions and proceedings. [1961 c 14 § 80.01.100. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 5; RRS § 10341.]

**80.01.110 Wholesale telecommunications services—Commission authorized to review rates, terms, conditions.** The commission is authorized to perform the duties required by RCW 53.08.380 and 54.16.340. [2000 c 81 § 10.]

**Findings—2000 c 81:** See note following RCW 53.08.005.

**80.01.300 Certain provisions not to detract from commission powers, duties, and functions.** Nothing contained in the provisions of RCW 36.58A.010 through 36.58A.040 and 70.95.090 and this section shall detract from the powers, duties, and functions given to the utilities and transportation commission in chapter 81.77 RCW. [1971 ex.s. c 293 § 7.]

## Chapter 80.04 RCW REGULATIONS—GENERAL

### Sections

80.04.010	Definitions.
80.04.015	Conduct of business subject to regulation—Determination by commission.
80.04.020	Procedure before commission and courts.
80.04.030	Number of witnesses may be limited.
80.04.040	Witness fees and mileage.
80.04.050	Protection against self-incrimination.
80.04.060	Depositions—Service of process.
80.04.070	Inspection of books, papers, and documents.
80.04.075	Manner of serving papers.
80.04.080	Annual reports.
80.04.090	Forms of records to be prescribed.
80.04.095	Protection of records containing commercial information.
80.04.100	Production of out-of-state books and records.
80.04.110	Complaints—Hearings—Water systems not meeting board of health standards—Drinking water standards—Nonmunicipal water systems audits.
80.04.120	Hearing—Order—Record.

80.04.130	Suspension of tariff change—Mandatory measured telecommunications service—Washington telephone assistance program service—Effect of abandonment of electrical generation facility on which tax exemption for pollution control equipment is claimed—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
80.04.140	Order requiring joint action.
80.04.150	Remunerative rates cannot be changed without approval.
80.04.160	Rules and regulations.
80.04.170	Review of orders.
80.04.180	Supersedes—Water companies seeking supersedeas.
80.04.190	Appellate review.
80.04.200	Rehearing before commission.
80.04.210	Commission may change orders.
80.04.220	Reparations.
80.04.230	Overcharges—Refund.
80.04.240	Action in court on reparations and overcharges.
80.04.250	Valuation of public service property.
80.04.260	Summary proceedings.
80.04.270	Merchandise accounts to be kept separate.
80.04.280	Purchase and sale of stock by employees.
80.04.290	Sales of stock to employees and customers.
80.04.300	Budgets to be filed by companies—Supplementary budgets.
80.04.310	Commission's control over expenditures.
80.04.320	Budget rules.
80.04.330	Effect of unauthorized expenditure—Emergencies.
80.04.350	Depreciation and retirement accounts.
80.04.360	Earnings in excess of reasonable rate—Consideration in fixing rates.
80.04.380	Penalties—Violations by public service companies.
80.04.385	Penalties—Violations by officers, agents, and employees of public service companies.
80.04.387	Penalties—Violations by other corporations.
80.04.390	Penalties—Violations by persons.
80.04.400	Actions to recover penalties—Disposition of fines, penalties, and forfeitures.
80.04.405	Additional penalties—Violations by public service companies and officers, agents, and employees thereof.
80.04.410	Orders and rules conclusive.
80.04.420	Intervention by commission where order or rule is involved.
80.04.430	Findings of commission prima facie correct.
80.04.440	Companies liable for damages.
80.04.450	Certified copies of orders, rules, etc.—Evidentiary effect.
80.04.460	Investigation of accidents.
80.04.470	Commission to enforce public service laws—Employees as peace officers.
80.04.480	Rights of action not released—Penalties cumulative.
80.04.500	Application to municipal utilities.
80.04.510	Duties of attorney general.
80.04.520	Approval of lease of utility facilities.
80.04.530	Local exchange company that serves less than two percent of state's access lines—Regulatory exemptions—Reporting requirements.
80.04.550	Thermal energy—Restrictions on authority of commission.
80.04.560	Finding.
80.04.570	Power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power.
80.04.580	Regulatory fee on wastewater companies regulated by the commission—Rule-making authority.

**80.04.010 Definitions.** As used in this title, unless specifically defined otherwise or unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) "Automatic location identification" means a system by which information about a caller's location, including the seven-digit number or ten-digit number used to place a 911 call or a different seven-digit number or ten-digit number to which a return call can be made from the public switched network, is forwarded to a public safety answering point for display.

(2) "Automatic number identification" means a system that allows for the automatic display of the seven-digit or ten-digit number used to place a 911 call.

(3) "Battery charging facility" includes a "battery charging station" and a "rapid charging station" as defined in RCW 82.08.816.

(4) "Cogeneration facility" means any machinery, equipment, structure, process, or property, or any part thereof, installed or acquired for the primary purpose of the sequential generation of electrical or mechanical power and useful heat from the same primary energy source or fuel.

(5) "Commission" means the utilities and transportation commission.

(6) "Commissioner" means one of the members of such commission.

(7) "Competitive telecommunications company" means a telecommunications company which has been classified as such by the commission pursuant to RCW 80.36.320.

(8) "Competitive telecommunications service" means a service which has been classified as such by the commission pursuant to RCW 80.36.330.

(9) "Corporation" includes a corporation, company, association or joint stock association.

(10) "Department" means the department of health.

(11) "Electric plant" includes all real estate, fixtures and personal property operated, owned, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the generation, transmission, distribution, sale or furnishing of electricity for light, heat, or power for hire; and any conduits, ducts or other devices, materials, apparatus or property for containing, holding or carrying conductors used or to be used for the transmission of electricity for light, heat or power.

(12) "Electrical company" includes any corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership and person, their lessees, trustees or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever (other than a railroad or street railroad company generating electricity solely for railroad or street railroad purposes or for the use of its tenants and not for sale to others), and every city or town owning, operating or managing any electric plant for hire within this state. "Electrical company" does not include a company or person employing a cogeneration facility solely for the generation of electricity for its own use or the use of its tenants or for sale to an electrical company, state or local public agency, municipal corporation, or quasi municipal corporation engaged in the sale or distribution of electrical energy, but not for sale to others, unless such company or person is otherwise an electrical company.

(13) "Facilities" means lines, conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, cross-arms, receivers, transmitters, instruments, machines, appliances, instrumentalities and all devices, real estate, easements, apparatus, property and routes used, operated, owned or controlled by any telecommunications company to facilitate the provision of telecommunications service.

(14) "Gas company" includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership and person, their lessees, trustees or receiver appointed by any court whatsoever, and every city or town, owning, controlling, operating or managing any gas plant within this state.

(15) "Gas plant" includes all real estate, fixtures and personal property, owned, leased, controlled, used or to be used for or in connection with the transmission, distribution, sale or furnishing of natural gas, or the manufacture, transmission, distribution, sale or furnishing of other type gas, for light, heat or power.

(16) "LATA" means a local access transport area as defined by the commission in conformance with applicable federal law.

(17) "Local exchange company" means a telecommunications company providing local exchange telecommunications service.

(18) "Noncompetitive telecommunications service" means any service which has not been classified as competitive by the commission.

(19) "Person" includes an individual, a firm or partnership.

(20) "Private shared telecommunications services" includes the provision of telecommunications and information management services and equipment within a user group located in discrete private premises in building complexes, campuses, or high-rise buildings, by a commercial shared services provider or by a user association, through privately owned customer premises equipment and associated data processing and information management services and includes the provision of connections to the facilities of a local exchange and to interexchange telecommunications companies.

(21) "Private switch automatic location identification service" means a service that enables automatic location identification to be provided to a public safety answering point for 911 calls originating from station lines served by a private switch system.

(22) "Private telecommunications system" means a telecommunications system controlled by a person or entity for the sole and exclusive use of such person, entity, or affiliate thereof, including the provision of private shared telecommunications services by such person or entity. "Private telecommunications system" does not include a system offered for hire, sale, or resale to the general public.

(23) "Public service company" includes every gas company, electrical company, telecommunications company, wastewater company, and water company. Ownership or operation of a cogeneration facility does not, by itself, make a company or person a public service company.

(24) "Radio communications service company" includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership, and person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by any court, and every city or town making available facilities to provide radio communications service, radio paging, or cellular communications service for hire, sale, or resale.

(25) "Service" is used in this title in its broadest and most inclusive sense.

(26) "System of sewerage" means collection, treatment, and disposal facilities and services for sewerage, or storm or surface water run-off.

(27) "Telecommunications" is the transmission of information by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. As used in this definition, "information" means knowledge or intelligence represented by any form of writing, signs, signals, pictures, sounds, or any other symbols.

(28) "Telecommunications company" includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership and person, their lessees, trustees or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever, and every city or town

owning, operating or managing any facilities used to provide telecommunications for hire, sale, or resale to the general public within this state.

(29)(a) "Wastewater company" means a corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership and person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers that owns or proposes to develop and own a system of sewerage that is designed for a peak flow of twenty-seven thousand to one hundred thousand gallons per day if treatment is by a large on-site sewerage system, or to serve one hundred or more customers.

(b) For purposes of commission jurisdiction, wastewater company does not include: (i) Municipal, county, or other publicly owned systems of sewerage; or (ii) wastewater company service to customers outside of an urban growth area as defined in RCW 36.70A.030.

(30)(a) "Water company" includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership and person, their lessees, trustees or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever, and every city or town owning, controlling, operating, or managing any water system for hire within this state.

(b) For purposes of commission jurisdiction, "water company" does not include any water system serving less than one hundred customers where the average annual gross revenue per customer does not exceed three hundred dollars per year, which revenue figure may be increased annually by the commission by rule adopted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW to reflect the rate of inflation as determined by the implicit price deflator of the United States department of commerce. The measurement of customers or revenues must include all portions of water companies having common ownership or control, regardless of location or corporate designation.

(c) "Control" is defined by the commission by rule and does not include management by a satellite agency as defined in chapter 70.116 RCW if the satellite agency is not an owner of the water company.

(d) "Water company" also includes, for auditing purposes only, nonmunicipal water systems which are referred to the commission pursuant to an administrative order from the department, or the city or county as provided in RCW 80.04.110.

(e) Water companies exempt from commission regulation are subject to the provisions of chapter 19.86 RCW. A water company cannot be removed from regulation except with the approval of the commission. Water companies subject to regulation may petition the commission for removal from regulation if the number of customers falls below one hundred or the average annual revenue per customer falls below three hundred dollars. The commission is authorized to maintain continued regulation if it finds that the public interest so requires.

(31) "Water system" includes all real estate, easements, fixtures, personal property, dams, dikes, head gates, weirs, canals, reservoirs, flumes or other structures or appliances operated, owned, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the supply, storage, distribution, sale, furnishing, diversion, carriage, apportionment or measurement of water for power, irrigation, reclamation, manufacturing, municipal, domestic or other beneficial uses for hire. [2011 c

214 § 2; 2011 c 28 § 1; 1995 c 243 § 2; 1991 c 100 § 1; 1989 c 101 § 2; 1987 c 229 § 1. Prior: 1985 c 450 § 2; 1985 c 167 § 1; 1985 c 161 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 191 § 10; 1977 ex.s. c 47 § 1; 1963 c 59 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.010; prior: 1955 c 316 § 2; prior: 1929 c 223 § 1, part; 1923 c 116 § 1, part; 1911 c 117 § 8, part; RRS § 10344, part.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

(2) This section was amended by 2011 c 28 § 1 and by 2011 c 214 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 214:** "The legislature recognizes the critical importance of infrastructure to the development of industrial, commercial, and residential properties and finds that infill development is often limited by the lack of infrastructure. The legislature further finds that in many areas, public funding to extend infrastructure is not available. It is the purpose of this act to allow private utilities to provide infrastructure needed for economic development in a manner that minimizes development sprawl." [2011 c 214 § 1.]

**Limitation of chapter—2011 c 214:** "Nothing in this act supersedes federal, state, or local government requirements to obtain a wastewater discharge permit or a large on-site sewerage system operating permit or other permits or licenses required by law in the state of Washington." [2011 c 214 § 30.]

**Effective date—2011 c 214:** "Except for section 29 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2012." [2011 c 214 § 32.]

**Findings—Severability—1995 c 243:** See notes following RCW 80.36.555.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.04.015 Conduct of business subject to regulation—Determination by commission.** Whether or not any person or corporation is conducting business subject to regulation under this title, or has performed or is performing any act requiring registration or approval of the commission without securing such registration or approval, shall be a question of fact to be determined by the commission. Whenever the commission believes that any person or corporation is engaged in any activity without first complying with the requirements of this title, it may institute a special proceeding requiring such person or corporation to appear before the commission at a location convenient for witnesses and the production of evidence and produce information, books, records, accounts, and other memoranda, and give testimony under oath as to the activities being conducted. The commission may consider any and all facts that may indicate the true nature and extent of the operations or acts and may subpoena such witnesses and documents as it deems necessary.

After investigation, the commission is authorized and directed to issue the necessary order or orders declaring the activities to be subject to, or not subject to, the provisions of this title. In the event the activities are found to be subject to the provisions of this title, the commission shall issue such orders as may be necessary to require all parties involved in the activities to comply with this title, and with respect to services found to be reasonably available from alternative sources, to issue orders to cease and desist from providing jurisdictional services pending full compliance.

In proceedings under this section, no person or corporation may be excused from testifying or from producing any information, book, document, paper, or account before the commission when ordered to do so, on the ground that the testimony or evidence, information, book, document, or

account required may tend to incriminate him or her or subject him or her to penalty or forfeiture specified in this title; but no person or corporation may be prosecuted, punished, or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture specified in this title for or on account of any account, transaction, matter, or thing concerning which he or she shall under oath have testified or produced documentary evidence in proceedings under this section: PROVIDED, That no person so testifying may be exempt from prosecution or punishment for any perjury committed by him or her in such testimony: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the exemption from prosecution in this section extends only to violations of this title.

Until July 1, 1994, in any proceeding instituted under this section to determine whether a person or corporation owning, controlling, operating, or managing a water system is subject to commission regulation, and where the person or corporation has failed or refused to provide sufficient information or documentation to enable the commission to make such a determination, the burden shall be on such person or corporation to prove that the person's or corporation's operations or acts are not subject to commission regulation. [1991 c 101 § 1; 1986 c 11 § 1.]

#### **80.04.020 Procedure before commission and courts.**

Each commissioner shall have power to administer oaths, certify to all official acts, and to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, books, accounts, documents and testimony in any inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding in any part of the state.

The superior court of the county in which any such inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding may be had, shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, books, accounts, documents and testimony as required by such subpoena. The commission or the commissioner before which the testimony is to be given or produced, in case of the refusal of any witness to attend or testify or produce any papers required by the subpoena, shall report to the superior court in and for the county in which the proceeding is pending by petition, setting forth that due notice has been given of the time and place of attendance of said witnesses, or the production of said papers, and that the witness has been summoned in the manner prescribed in this chapter, and that the fees and mileage of the witness have been paid or tendered to the witness for his attendance and testimony, and that the witness has failed and refused to attend or produce the papers required by the subpoena, before the commission, in the cause or proceedings named in the notice and subpoena, or has refused to answer questions propounded to him in the course of such proceeding, and ask an order of said court, compelling the witness to attend and testify before the commission. The court, upon the petition of the commission, shall enter an order directing the witness to appear before said court at a time and place to be fixed by the court in such order, and then and there show cause why he has not responded to said subpoena. A copy of said order shall be served upon said witness. If it shall appear to the court that said subpoena was regularly issued by the commission, the court shall thereupon enter an order that said witness appear before the commission at said time and place as fixed in said order, and testify or produce the required papers, and upon failing to obey said order, said witness shall be dealt

(2012 Ed.)

with as for contempt of court. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.020. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 75, part; RRS § 10413, part.]

**80.04.030 Number of witnesses may be limited.** In all proceedings before the commission the commission shall have the right, in their discretion, to limit the number of witnesses testifying upon any subject or proceeding to be inquired of before the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.030. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 75, part; RRS § 10413, part.]

**80.04.040 Witness fees and mileage.** Each witness who shall appear under subpoena shall receive for his attendance four dollars per day and ten cents per mile traveled by the nearest practicable route in going to and returning from the place of hearing. No witness shall be entitled to fees or mileage from the state when summoned at the instance of the public service companies affected. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.040. Prior: 1955 c 79 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 76, part; RRS 10414, part.]

**80.04.050 Protection against self-incrimination.** The claim by any witness that any testimony sought to be elicited may tend to incriminate him shall not excuse such witness from testifying, but such evidence or testimony shall not be used against such person on the trial of any criminal proceeding, excepting in a prosecution for perjury. The commissioner shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses at any place within the state. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.050. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 76, part; RRS 10414, part.]

*Powers of each commissioner to compel attendance of witnesses: RCW 80.04.020.*

**80.04.060 Depositions—Service of process.** The commission shall have the right to take the testimony of any witness by deposition, and for that purpose the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, documents, papers and accounts may be enforced in the same manner as in the case of hearings before the commission, or any member thereof. Process issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be served as in civil cases. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.060. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 76, part; RRS § 10414, part.]

**80.04.070 Inspection of books, papers, and documents.** The commission and each commissioner, or any person employed by the commission, shall have the right, at any and all times, to inspect the accounts, books, papers and documents of any public service company, and the commission, or any commissioner, may examine under oath any officer, agent or employee of such public service company in relation thereto, and with reference to the affairs of such company: PROVIDED, That any person other than a commissioner who shall make any such demand shall produce his authority from the commission to make such inspection. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.070. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 77; RRS § 10415.]

**80.04.075 Manner of serving papers.** All notices, applications, complaints, findings of fact, opinions and orders required by this title to be served may be served by mail and service thereof shall be deemed complete when a true copy of such paper or document is deposited in the post office properly addressed and stamped. [1961 c 14 §

80.04.075. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 7; RRS § 10458-1. Formerly RCW 80.04.370.]

**80.04.080 Annual reports.** Every public service company shall annually furnish to the commission a report in such form as the commission may require, and shall specifically answer all questions propounded to it by the commission, upon or concerning which the commission may need information. Such annual reports shall show in detail the amount of capital stock issued, the amounts paid therefor and the manner of payment for same, the dividends paid, the surplus fund, if any, and the number of stockholders, the funded and floating debts and the interest paid thereon, the cost and value of the company's property, franchises and equipment, the number of employees and the salaries paid each class, the accidents to employees and other persons and the cost thereof, the amounts expended for improvements each year, how expended and the character of such improvements, the earnings or receipts from each franchise or business and from all sources, the proportion thereof earned from business moving wholly within the state and the proportion earned from interstate business, the operating and other expenses and the proportion of such expense incurred in transacting business wholly within the state, and proportion incurred in transacting interstate business, such division to be shown according to such rules of division as the commission may prescribe, the balances of profit and loss, and a complete exhibit of the financial operations of the company each year, including an annual balance sheet. Such report shall also contain such information in relation to rates, charges or regulations concerning charges, or agreements, arrangements or contracts affecting the same, as the commission may require; and the commission may, in its discretion, for the purpose of enabling it the better to carry out the provisions of this title, prescribe the period of time within which all public service companies subject to the provisions of this title shall have, as near as may be, a uniform system of accounts, and the manner in which such accounts shall be kept. Such detailed report shall contain all the required statistics for the period of twelve months ending on the last day of any particular month prescribed by the commission for any public service company. Such reports shall be made out under oath and filed with the commission at its office in Olympia on such date as the commission specifies by rule, unless additional time be granted in any case by the commission. The commission shall have authority to require any public service company to file monthly reports of earnings and expenses, and to file periodical or special, or both periodical and special, reports concerning any matter about which the commission is authorized or required by this or any other law, to inquire into or keep itself informed about, or which it is required to enforce, such periodical or special reports to be under oath whenever the commission so requires. [1989 c 107 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.080. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 78, part; RRS § 10416, part.]

**80.04.090 Forms of records to be prescribed.** The commission may, in its discretion, prescribe the forms of any and all accounts, records and memoranda to be kept by public service companies, including the accounts, records and memoranda of the movement of traffic, sales of its product, the receipts and expenditures of money. The commission shall at

all times have access to all accounts, records and memoranda kept by public service companies, and may employ special agents or examiners, who shall have power to administer oaths and authority, under the order of the commission, to examine witnesses and to inspect and examine any and all accounts, records and memoranda kept by such companies. The commission may, in its discretion, prescribe the forms of any and all reports, accounts, records and memoranda to be furnished and kept by any public service company whose line or lines extend beyond the limits of this state, which are operated partly within and partly without the state, so that the same shall show any information required by the commission concerning the traffic movement, receipts and expenditures appertaining to those parts of the line within the state. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.090. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 78, part; RRS § 10416, part.]

**80.04.095 Protection of records containing commercial information.** Records, subject to chapter 42.56 RCW, filed with the commission or the attorney general from any person which contain valuable commercial information, including trade secrets or confidential marketing, cost, or financial information, or customer-specific usage and network configuration and design information, shall not be subject to inspection or copying under chapter 42.56 RCW: (1) Until notice to the person or persons directly affected has been given; and (2) if, within ten days of the notice, the person has obtained a superior court order protecting the records as confidential. The court shall determine that the records are confidential and not subject to inspection and copying if disclosure would result in private loss, including an unfair competitive disadvantage. When providing information to the commission or the attorney general, a person shall designate which records or portions of records contain valuable commercial information. Nothing in this section shall prevent the use of protective orders by the commission governing disclosure of proprietary or confidential information in contested proceedings. [2005 c 274 § 358; 1987 c 107 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

**80.04.100 Production of out-of-state books and records.** The commission may by order with or without hearing require the production within this state, at such time and place as it may designate, of any books, accounts, papers or records kept by any public service company in any office or place without this state, or at the option of the company verified copies thereof, so that an examination thereof may be made by the commission or under its direction. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.100. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 2; 1911 c 117 § 79; RRS § 10421.]

**80.04.110 Complaints—Hearings—Water systems not meeting board of health standards—Drinking water standards—Nonmunicipal water systems audits.** (1)(a) Complaint may be made by the commission of its own motion or by any person or corporation, chamber of commerce, board of trade, or any commercial, mercantile, agricultural or manufacturing society, or any body politic or municipal corporation, or by the public counsel section of the office of the attorney general, or its successor, by petition or

complaint in writing, setting forth any act or thing done or omitted to be done by any public service corporation in violation, or claimed to be in violation, of any provision of this title, Title 81 RCW, or of any order or rule of the commission.

(b) No complaint may be entertained by the commission except upon its own motion, as to the reasonableness of the schedule of the rates or charges of any gas company, electrical company, water company, wastewater company, or telecommunications company, unless the same be signed by the mayor, council or commission of the city or town in which the company complained of is engaged in business, or not less than twenty-five consumers or purchasers of such gas, electricity, water, wastewater company services, or telecommunications service, or at least twenty-five percent of the consumers or purchasers of the company's service.

(c) When two or more public service corporations, (meaning to exclude municipal and other public corporations) are engaged in competition in any locality or localities in the state, either may make complaint against the other or others that the rates, charges, rules, regulations or practices of such other or others with or in respect to which the complainant is in competition, are unreasonable, unremunerative, discriminatory, illegal, unfair or intending or tending to oppress the complainant, to stifle competition, or to create or encourage the creation of monopoly, and upon such complaint or upon complaint of the commission upon its own motion, the commission has power, after notice and hearing as in other cases, to, by its order, subject to appeal as in other cases, correct the abuse complained of by establishing such uniform rates, charges, rules, regulations or practices in lieu of those complained of, to be observed by all of such competing public service corporations in the locality or localities specified as is found reasonable, remunerative, nondiscriminatory, legal, and fair or tending to prevent oppression or monopoly or to encourage competition, and upon any such hearing it is proper for the commission to take into consideration the rates, charges, rules, regulations and practices of the public service corporation or corporations complained of in any other locality or localities in the state.

(2) All matters upon which complaint may be founded may be joined in one hearing, and no motion may be entertained against a complaint for misjoinder of complaints or grievances or misjoinder of parties; and in any review of the courts or orders of the commission the same rule shall apply and pertain with regard to the joinder of complaints and parties as herein provided. However, all grievances to be inquired into must be plainly set forth in the complaint. No complaint may be dismissed because of the absence of direct damage to the complainant.

(3) Upon the filing of a complaint, the commission shall cause a copy thereof to be served upon the person or corporation complained of, which must be accompanied by a notice fixing the time when and place where a hearing will be had upon such complaint. The time fixed for such hearing may not be less than ten days after the date of the service of such notice and complaint, excepting as herein provided. The commission shall enter its final order with respect to a complaint filed by any entity or person other than the commission within ten months from the date of filing of the complaint, unless the date is extended for cause. Rules of practice and

procedure not otherwise provided for in this title may be prescribed by the commission. Such rules may include the requirement that a complainant use informal processes before filing a formal complaint.

(4)(a) The commission may, as appropriate, audit a non-municipal water system upon receipt of an administrative order from the department, or the city or county in which the water system is located, finding that the water delivered by a system does not meet state board of health standards adopted under RCW 43.20.050(2)(a) or standards adopted under chapters 70.116 and 70.119A RCW, and the results of the audit must be provided to the requesting department, city, or county. However, the number of nonmunicipal water systems referred to the commission in any one calendar year shall not exceed twenty percent of the water companies subject to commission regulation as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

(b) Every nonmunicipal water system referred to the commission for audit under this section shall pay to the commission an audit fee in an amount, based on the system's twelve-month audited period, equal to the fee required to be paid by regulated companies under RCW 80.24.010.

(5) Any customer or purchaser of service from a water system or company that is subject to commission regulation may file a complaint with the commission if he or she has reason to believe that the water delivered by the system to the customer does not meet state drinking water standards under chapter 43.20 or 70.116 RCW. The commission shall investigate such a complaint, and shall request that the state department of health or local health department of the county in which the system is located test the water for compliance with state drinking water standards, and provide the results of such testing to the commission. The commission may decide not to investigate the complaint if it determines that the complaint has been filed in bad faith, or for the purpose of harassment of the water system or company, or for other reasons has no substantial merit. The water system or company shall bear the expense for the testing. After the commission has received the complaint from the customer and during the pendency of the commission investigation, the water system or company may not take any steps to terminate service to the customer or to collect any amounts alleged to be owed to the company by the customer. The commission may issue an order or take any other action to ensure that no such steps are taken by the system or company. The customer may, at the customer's option and expense, obtain a water quality test by a licensed or otherwise qualified water testing laboratory, of the water delivered to the customer by the water system or company, and provide the results of such a test to the commission. If the commission determines that the water does not meet state drinking water standards, it shall exercise its authority over the system or company as provided in this title, and may, where appropriate, order a refund to the customer on a pro rata basis for the substandard water delivered to the customer, and shall order reimbursement to the customer for the cost incurred by the customer, if any, in obtaining a water quality test. [2011 c 214 § 7; 1995 c 376 § 12. Prior: 1991 c 134 § 1; 1991 c 100 § 2; prior: 1989 c 207 § 2; 1989 c 101 § 17; 1985 c 450 § 11; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.110; prior: 1913 c 145 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 80; RRS § 10422.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

*Drinking water standards: Chapters 43.21A, 70.119A, and 80.28 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.04.120 Hearing—Order—Record.** At the time fixed for the hearing mentioned in RCW 80.04.110, the complainant and the person or corporation complained of shall be entitled to be heard and introduce such evidence as he or it may desire. The commission shall issue process to enforce the attendance of all necessary witnesses. At the conclusion of such hearing the commission shall make and render findings concerning the subject matter and facts inquired into and enter its order based thereon. A copy of such order, certified under the seal of the commission, shall be served upon the person or corporation complained of, or his or its attorney, which order shall, of its own force, take effect and become operative twenty days after the service thereof, except as otherwise provided. Where an order cannot, in the judgment of the commission, be complied with within twenty days, the commission may prescribe such additional time as in its judgment is reasonably necessary to comply with the order, and may, on application and for good cause shown, extend the time for compliance fixed in its order. A full and complete record of all proceedings had before the commission, or any member thereof, on any formal hearing had, and all testimony shall be taken down by a stenographer appointed by the commission, and the parties shall be entitled to be heard in person or by attorney. In case of an action to review any order of the commission, a transcript of such testimony, together with all exhibits introduced, and of the record and proceedings in the cause, shall constitute the record of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.120. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 81; RRS § 10423.]

**80.04.130 Suspension of tariff change—Mandatory measured telecommunications service—Washington telephone assistance program service—Effect of abandonment of electrical generation facility on which tax exemption for pollution control equipment is claimed—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, whenever any public service company shall file with the commission any schedule, classification, rule, or regulation, the effect of which is to change any rate, charge, rental, or toll theretofore charged, the commission shall have power, either upon its own motion or upon complaint, upon notice, to enter upon a hearing concerning such proposed change and the reasonableness and justness thereof. Pending such hearing and the decision thereon, the commission may suspend the operation of such rate, charge, rental, or toll for a period not exceeding ten months from the time the same would otherwise go into effect. After a full hearing, the commission may make such order in reference thereto as would be provided in a hearing initiated after the same had become effective.

(2)(a) The commission shall not suspend a tariff that makes a decrease in a rate, charge, rental, or toll filed by a telecommunications company pending investigation of the fairness, justness, and reasonableness of the decrease when the filing does not contain any offsetting increase to another rate, charge, rental, or toll and the filing company agrees to not file for an increase to any rate, charge, rental, or toll to

recover the revenue deficit that results from the decrease for a period of one year.

(i) The filing company shall file with any decrease sufficient information as the commission by rule may require to demonstrate the decreased rate, charge, rental, or toll is above the long run incremental cost of the service. A tariff decrease that results in a rate that is below long run incremental cost, or is contrary to commission rule or order, or the requirements of this chapter, shall be rejected for filing and returned to the company.

(ii) The commission may prescribe a different rate to be effective on the prospective date stated in its final order after its investigation, if it concludes based on the record that the originally filed and effective rate is unjust, unfair, or unreasonable.

(b) The commission shall not suspend a promotional tariff. For the purposes of this section, "promotional tariff" means a tariff that, for a period of up to ninety days, waives or reduces charges or conditions of service for existing or new subscribers for the purpose of retaining or increasing the number of customers who subscribe to or use a service.

(3) The commission may suspend the initial tariff filing of any water company removed from and later subject to commission jurisdiction because of the number of customers or the average annual gross revenue per customer provisions of RCW 80.04.010. The commission may allow temporary rates during the suspension period. These rates shall not exceed the rates charged when the company was last regulated. Upon a showing of good cause by the company, the commission may establish a different level of temporary rates.

(4) At any hearing involving any change in any schedule, classification, rule, or regulation the effect of which is to increase any rate, charge, rental, or toll theretofore charged, the burden of proof to show that such increase is just and reasonable shall be upon the public service company.

(5) The implementation of mandatory local measured telecommunications service is a major policy change in available telecommunications service. The commission shall not accept for filing a price list, nor shall it accept for filing or approve, prior to June 1, 2004, a tariff filed by a telecommunications company which imposes mandatory local measured service on any customer or class of customers, except that, upon finding that it is in the public interest, the commission may accept for filing a price list or it may accept for filing and approve a tariff that imposes mandatory measured service for a telecommunications company's extended area service or foreign exchange service. This subsection does not apply to land, air, or marine mobile service, or to pay telephone service, or to any service which has been traditionally offered on a measured service basis.

(6) The implementation of Washington telephone assistance program service is a major policy change in available telecommunications service. The implementation of Washington telephone assistance program service will aid in achieving the stated goal of universal telephone service.

(7) If a utility claims a sales or use tax exemption on the pollution control equipment for an electrical generation facility and abandons the generation facility before the pollution control equipment is fully depreciated, any tariff filing for a rate increase to recover abandonment costs for the pollution

control equipment shall be considered unjust and unreasonable for the purposes of this section.

(8) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 401; 2003 c 189 § 1; 2001 c 267 § 1; 1998 c 110 § 1; 1997 c 368 § 14; 1993 c 311 § 1; 1992 c 68 § 1; 1990 c 170 § 1; 1989 c 101 § 13. Prior: 1987 c 333 § 1; 1987 c 229 § 2; prior: 1985 c 450 § 12; 1985 c 206 § 1; 1985 c 161 § 2; 1984 c 3 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.130; prior: 1941 c 162 § 1; 1937 c 169 § 2; 1933 c 165 § 3; 1915 c 133 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 82; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10424.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**Findings—Intent—Rules adoption—Severability—Effective date—1997 c 368:** See notes following RCW 82.08.810.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.04.140 Order requiring joint action.** Whenever any order of the commission shall require joint action by two or more public service companies, such order shall specify that the same shall be made at their joint cost, and the companies affected shall have thirty days, or such further time, as the commission may prescribe, within which to agree upon the part or division of cost which each shall bear, and costs of operation and maintenance in the future, or the proportion of charges or revenue each shall receive from such joint service and the rules to govern future operations. If at the expiration of such time such companies shall fail to file with the commission a statement that an agreement has been made for the division or apportionment of such cost, the division of costs of operation and maintenance to be incurred in the future and the proportion of charges or revenue each shall receive from such joint service and the rules to govern future operations, the commission shall have authority, after further hearing, to enter a supplemental order fixing the proportion of such cost or expense to be borne by each company, and the manner in which the same shall be paid and secured. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.140. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 83; RRS § 10425.]

**80.04.150 Remunerative rates cannot be changed without approval.** Whenever the commission shall find, after hearing had upon its own motion or upon complaint as herein provided, that any rate, toll, rental or charge which has been the subject of complaint and inquiry is sufficiently remunerative to the public service company affected thereby, it may order that such rate, toll, rental or charge shall not be changed, altered, abrogated or discontinued, nor shall there be any change in the classification which will change or alter such rate, toll, rental or charge without first obtaining the consent of the commission authorizing such change to be made. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.150. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 84; RRS § 10426.]

**80.04.160 Rules and regulations.** The commission is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt, promulgate and issue rules and regulations covering the transmission and delivery of messages and conversations, and the furnishing

(2012 Ed.)

and supply of gas, electricity, wastewater company services, and water, and any and all services concerning the same, or connected therewith; and generally such rules as pertain to the comfort and convenience of the public concerning the subjects treated of in this title. Such rules and regulations must be promulgated and issued by the commission on its own motion, and must be served on the public service company affected thereby as other orders of the commission are served. Any public service company affected thereby, and deeming such rules and regulations, or any of them, improper, unjust, unreasonable, or contrary to law, may within twenty days from the date of service of such order upon it file objections thereto with the commission, specifying the particular grounds of such objections. The commission shall, upon receipt of such objections, fix a time and place for hearing the same, and after a full hearing may make such changes or modifications thereto, if any, as the evidence may justify. The commission has, and it is hereby given, power to adopt rules to govern its proceedings, and to regulate the mode and manner of all investigations and hearings. However, no person desiring to be present at such hearing may be denied permission. Actions may be instituted to review rules and regulations promulgated under this section as in the case of orders of the commission. [2011 c 214 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.160. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 85; RRS § 10427.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.04.170 Review of orders.** Any complainant or any public service company affected by any findings or order of the commission, and deeming such findings or order to be contrary to law, may, within thirty days after the service of the findings or order upon him or it, apply to the superior court of Thurston county for a writ of review, for the purpose of having the reasonableness and lawfulness of such findings or order inquired into and determined. Such writ shall be made returnable not later than thirty days from and after the date of the issuance thereof, unless upon notice to all parties affected further time be allowed by the court, and shall direct the commission to certify its record in the case to the court. Such cause shall be heard by the court without the intervention of a jury on the evidence and exhibits introduced before the commission and certified to by it. Upon such hearing the superior court shall enter judgment either affirming or setting aside or remanding for further action the findings or order of the commission under review. The reasonable cost of preparing the transcript of testimony taken before the commission shall be assessable as part of the statutory court costs, and the amount thereof, if collected by the commission, shall be deposited in the public service revolving fund. In case such findings or order be set aside, or reversed and remanded, the court shall make specific findings based upon evidence in the record indicating clearly all respects in which the commission's findings or order are erroneous. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.170. Prior: 1937 c 169 § 3; 1911 c 117 § 86; RRS § 10428.]

**80.04.180 Supersedes—Water companies seeking supersedeas.** (1) The pendency of any writ of review shall not of itself stay or suspend the operation of the order of the

commission, but the superior court in its discretion may restrain or suspend, in whole or in part, the operation of the commission's order pending the final hearing and determination of the suit.

(2) No order so restraining or suspending an order of the commission relating to rates, charges, tolls or rentals, or rules or regulations, practices, classifications or contracts affecting the same, shall be made by the superior court otherwise than upon three days' notice and after hearing. If a supersedeas is granted the order granting the same shall contain a specific finding, based upon evidence submitted to the court making the order, and identified by reference thereto, that great or irreparable damage would otherwise result to the petitioner, and specifying the nature of the damage. A water company seeking a supersedeas must demonstrate to the court that it is in compliance with the state board of health standards adopted pursuant to RCW 43.20.050 and chapter 70.116 RCW relating to the purity, volume, and pressure of water.

(3) In case the order of the commission under review is superseded by the court, it shall require a bond, with good and sufficient surety, conditioned that such company petitioning for such review shall answer for all damages caused by the delay in the enforcement of the order of the commission, and all compensation for whatever sums for transmission or service any person or corporation shall be compelled to pay pending the review proceedings in excess of the sum such person or corporations would have been compelled to pay if the order of the commission had not been suspended.

(4) The court may, in addition to or in lieu of the bond herein provided for, require such other or further security for the payment of such excess charges or damages as it may deem proper. [1989 c 207 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.180. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 6; prior: 1931 c 119 § 2; 1911 c 117 § 87; RRS § 10429.]

**80.04.190 Appellate review.** The commission, any public service company or any complainant may, after the entry of judgment in the superior court in any action of review, seek appellate review as in other cases. [1988 c 202 § 60; 1971 ex.s. c 107 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.190. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 88; RRS § 10430.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. RAP 2.2.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.04.200 Rehearing before commission.** Any public service company affected by any order of the commission, and deeming itself aggrieved, may, after the expiration of two years from the date of such order taking effect, petition the commission for a rehearing upon the matters involved in such order, setting forth in such petition the grounds and reasons for such rehearing, which grounds and reasons may comprise and consist of changed conditions since the issuance of such order, or by showing a result injuriously affecting the petitioner which was not considered or anticipated at the former hearing, or that the effect of such order has been such as was not contemplated by the commission or the petitioner, or for any good and sufficient cause which for any reason was not considered and determined in such former hearing. Upon the filing of such petition, such proceedings shall be had thereon as are provided for hearings upon complaint, and such orders may be reviewed as are other orders of the commission:

PROVIDED, That no order superseding the order of the commission denying such rehearing shall be granted by the court pending the review. In case any order of the commission shall not be reviewed, but shall be complied with by the public service company, such petition for rehearing may be filed within six months from and after the date of the taking effect of such order, and the proceedings thereon shall be as in this section provided. The commission, may, in its discretion, permit the filing of a petition for rehearing at any time. No order of the commission upon a rehearing shall affect any right of action or penalty accruing under the original order unless so ordered by the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.200. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 89; RRS § 10431.]

**80.04.210 Commission may change orders.** The commission may at any time, upon notice to the public service company affected, and after opportunity to be heard as provided in the case of complaints rescind, alter or amend any order or rule made, issued or promulgated by it, and any order or rule rescinding, altering or amending any prior order or rule shall, when served upon the public service company affected, have the same effect as herein provided for original orders and rules. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.210. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 90; RRS § 10432.]

**80.04.220 Reparations.** When complaint has been made to the commission concerning the reasonableness of any rate, toll, rental or charge for any service performed by any public service company, and the same has been investigated by the commission, and the commission has determined that the public service company has charged an excessive or exorbitant amount for such service, and the commission has determined that any party complainant is entitled to an award of damages, the commission shall order that the public service company pay to the complainant the excess amount found to have been charged, whether such excess amount was charged and collected before or after the filing of said complaint, with interest from the date of the collection of said excess amount. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.220. Prior: 1943 c 258 § 1; 1937 c 29 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10433.]

**80.04.230 Overcharges—Refund.** When complaint has been made to the commission that any public service company has charged an amount for any service rendered in excess of the lawful rate in force at the time such charge was made, and the same has been investigated and the commission has determined that the overcharge allegation is true, the commission may order that the public service company pay to the complainant the amount of the overcharge so found, whether such overcharge was made before or after the filing of said complaint, with interest from the date of collection of such overcharge. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.230. Prior: 1937 c 29 § 2; RRS § 10433-1.]

**80.04.240 Action in court on reparations and overcharges.** If the public service company does not comply with the order of the commission for the payment of the overcharge within the time limited in such order, suit may be instituted in any superior court where service may be had upon the said company to recover the amount of the overcharge with interest. It shall be the duty of the commission to

certify its record in the case, including all exhibits, to the court. Such record shall be filed with the clerk of said court within thirty days after such suit shall have been started and said suit shall be heard on the evidence and exhibits introduced before the commission and certified to by it. If the complainant shall prevail in such action, the superior court shall enter judgment for the amount of the overcharge with interest and shall allow complainant a reasonable attorney's fee, and the cost of preparing and certifying said record for the benefit of and to be paid to the commission by complainant, and deposited by the commission in the public service revolving fund, said sums to be fixed and collected as a part of the costs of the suit. If the order of the commission shall be found to be contrary to law or erroneous by reason of the rejection of testimony properly offered, the court shall remand the cause to the commission with instructions to receive the testimony so proffered and rejected and enter a new order based upon the evidence theretofore taken and such as it is directed to receive. The court may in its discretion remand any cause which is reversed by it to the commission for further action. Appeals to the supreme court shall lie as in other civil cases. All complaints concerning overcharges resulting from collecting unreasonable rates and charges or from collecting amounts in excess of lawful rates shall be filed with the commission within six months in cases involving the collection of unreasonable rates and two years in cases involving the collection of more than lawful rates from the time the cause of action accrues, and the suit to recover the overcharge shall be filed in the superior court within one year from the date of the order of the commission.

The procedure provided in this section is exclusive, and neither the supreme court nor any superior court shall have jurisdiction save in the manner hereinbefore provided. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.240. Prior: 1943 c 258 § 2; 1937 c 29 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10433-2.]

**80.04.250 Valuation of public service property.** (1) The commission has power upon complaint or upon its own motion to ascertain and determine the fair value for rate making purposes of the property of any public service company used and useful for service in this state and shall exercise such power whenever it deems such valuation or determination necessary or proper under any of the provisions of this title. In determining what property is used and useful for providing electric, gas, wastewater company services, or water service, the commission may include the reasonable costs of construction work in progress to the extent that the commission finds that inclusion is in the public interest.

(2) The commission has the power to make revaluations of the property of any public service company from time to time.

(3) The commission shall, before any hearing is had, notify the complainants and the public service company concerned of the time and place of such hearing by giving at least thirty days' written notice thereof, specifying that at the time and place designated a hearing will be held for the purpose of ascertaining the value of the company's property, used and useful as aforesaid, which notice must be sufficient to authorize the commission to inquire into and pass upon the matters designated in this section. [2011 c 214 § 9; 1991 c 122 § 2;

(2012 Ed.)

1961 c 14 § 80.04.250. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 4; 1913 c 182 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 92; RRS § 10441.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**Findings—1991 c 122:** "The legislature finds that the state is facing an energy shortage as growth occurs and that inadequate supplies of energy will cause harmful impacts on the entire range of state citizens. The legislature further finds that energy efficiency improvement is the single most effective near term measure to lessen the risk of energy shortage. In the area of electricity, the legislature additionally finds that the Northwest power planning council has made several recommendations, including an update of the commercial building energy code and granting flexible ratemaking alternatives for utility commissions to encourage prudent acquisition of new electric resources." [1991 c 122 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.04.260 Summary proceedings.** Whenever the commission shall be of opinion that any public service company is failing or omitting, or about to fail or omit, to do anything required of it by law, or by order, direction or requirement of the commission, or is doing anything, or about to do anything, or permitting anything, or about to permit anything to be done contrary to or in violation of law or of any order, direction or requirement of the commission authorized by this title, it shall direct the attorney general to commence an action or proceeding in the superior court of the state of Washington for Thurston county, or in the superior court of any county in which such company may do business, in the name of the state of Washington on the relation of the commission, for the purpose of having such violations or threatened violations stopped and prevented, either by mandamus or injunction. The attorney general shall thereupon begin such action or proceeding by petition to such superior court, alleging the violation complained of, and praying for the appropriate relief by way of mandamus or injunction. It shall thereupon be the duty of the court to specify a time, not exceeding twenty days after the service of the copy of the petition, within which the public service company complained of must answer the petition. In case of default in answer or after answer, the court shall immediately inquire into the facts and circumstances in such manner as the court shall direct, without other or formal pleadings, and without respect to any technical requirement. Such persons or corporations as the court may deem necessary or proper to be joined as parties, in order to make its judgment, order or writ effective, may be joined as parties. The final judgment in any such action or proceeding shall either dismiss the action or proceeding or direct that the writ of mandamus or injunction, or both, issue as prayed for in the petition, or in such other modified form as the court may determine will afford appropriate relief. Appellate review of the final judgment may be sought in the same manner and with the same effect as review of judgments of the superior court in actions to review orders of the commission. All provisions of this chapter relating to the time of review, the manner of perfecting the same, the filing of briefs, hearings and supersedeas, shall apply to appeals to the supreme court or the court of appeals under the provisions of this section. [1988 c 202 § 61; 1971 c 81 § 140; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.260. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 93; RRS § 10442.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.04.270 Merchandise accounts to be kept separate.** Any public service company engaging in the sale of mer-

chandise or appliances or equipment shall keep separate accounts, as prescribed by the commission, of its capital employed in such business and of its revenues therefrom and operating expenses thereof. The capital employed in such business shall not constitute a part of the fair value of said company's property for rate making purposes, nor shall the revenues from or operating expenses of such business constitute a part of the operating revenues and expenses of said company as a public service company. For purposes of this section, the providing of competitive telephone service, as defined in RCW 82.04.065, shall not constitute the sale of merchandise, appliances, or equipment, unless the commission determines that it would be in the public interest to hold otherwise. [1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 40; 1981 c 144 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.270. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 8; RRS § 10458-2.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1981 c 144:** See notes following RCW 82.16.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **80.04.280 Purchase and sale of stock by employees.**

No public service company shall permit any employee to sell, offer for sale, or solicit the purchase of any security of any other person or corporation during such hours as such employee is engaged to perform any duty of such public service company; nor shall any public service company by any means or device require any employee to purchase or contract to purchase any of its securities or those of any other person or corporation; nor shall any public service company require any employee to permit the deduction from his wages or salary of any sum as a payment or to be applied as a payment of any purchase or contract to purchase any security of such public service company or of any other person or corporation. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.280. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 9; RRS § 10458-3.]

#### **80.04.290 Sales of stock to employees and customers.**

A corporate public service company, either heretofore or hereafter organized under the laws of this state, may sell to its employees and customers any increase of its capital stock, or part thereof, without first offering it to existing stockholders: PROVIDED, That such sale is approved by the holders of a majority of the capital stock, at a regular or special meeting held after notice given as to the time, place, and object thereof as provided by law and the bylaws of the company. Such sales shall be at prices and in amounts for each purchaser and upon terms and conditions as set forth in the resolution passed at the stockholders' meeting, or in a resolution passed at a subsequent meeting of the board of trustees if the resolution passed at the stockholders' meeting shall authorize the board to determine prices, amounts, terms, and conditions, except that in either event, a minimum price for the stock must be fixed in the resolution passed at the stockholders' meeting. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.290. Prior: 1955 c 79 § 2; 1923 c 110 § 1; RRS § 10344-1.]

**80.04.300 Budgets to be filed by companies—Supplementary budgets.** The commission may regulate, restrict, and control the budgets of expenditures of public service companies. Each company shall prepare a budget showing the amount of money which, in its judgment, will be needed during the ensuing year for maintenance, operation, and con-

struction, classified by accounts as prescribed by the commission, and shall within ten days of the date it is approved by the company file it with the commission for its investigation and approval or rejection. When a budget has been filed the commission shall examine into and investigate it to determine whether the expenditures therein proposed are fair and reasonable and not contrary to public interest.

Adjustments or additions to budget expenditures may be made from time to time during the year by filing a supplementary budget with the commission for its investigation and approval or rejection. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.300. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 11; prior: 1933 c 165 § 10, part; RRS § 10458-4, part.]

#### **80.04.310 Commission's control over expenditures.**

The commission may, both as to original and supplementary budgets, prior to the making or contracting for the expenditure of any item therein, and after notice to the company and a hearing thereon, reject any item of the budget. The commission may require any company to furnish further information, data, or detail as to any proposed item of expenditure.

Failure of the commission to object to any item of expenditure within ninety days of the filing of any original budget or within thirty days of the filing of any supplementary budget shall constitute authority to the company to proceed with the making of or contracting for such expenditure, but such authority may be terminated any time by objection made thereto by the commission prior to the making of or contracting for such expenditure.

Examination, investigation, and determination of the budget by the commission shall not bar or estop it from later determining whether any of the expenditures made thereunder are fair, reasonable, and commensurate with the service, material, supplies, or equipment received. [1987 c 38 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.310. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 12; prior: 1933 c 165 § 10, part; RRS § 10458-4, part.]

**80.04.320 Budget rules.** The commission may prescribe the necessary rules to place RCW 80.04.300 through 80.04.330 in operation. It may, by rule, establish criteria to exempt companies in whole or in part from the operation thereof. The commission may upon request of any company withhold from publication during such time as the commission may deem advisable any portion of any original or supplementary budget relating to proposed capital expenditures. [1989 c 107 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.320. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 13; prior: 1933 c 165 § 10, part; RRS § 10458-4, part.]

**80.04.330 Effect of unauthorized expenditure—Emergencies.** Any public service company may make or contract for any rejected item of expenditure, but in such case the same shall not be allowed as an operating expense, or as to items of construction, as a part of the fair value of the company's property used and useful in serving the public: PROVIDED, That such items of construction may at any time thereafter be so allowed in whole or in part upon proof that they are used and useful. Any company may upon the happening of any emergency caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, riot, or insurrection, or for the immediate preservation or restoration to condition of usefulness of any of its property, the usefulness of which has been destroyed by

accident, make the necessary expenditure therefor free from the operation of RCW 80.04.300 through 80.04.330.

Any finding and order entered by the commission shall be in effect until vacated and set aside in proper proceedings for review thereof. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.330. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 14; prior: 1933 c 165 § 10, part; RRS § 10458-4, part.]

#### **80.04.350 Depreciation and retirement accounts.**

The commission shall have power after hearing to require any or all public service companies to carry proper and adequate depreciation or retirement accounts in accordance with such rules, regulations and forms of accounts as the commission may prescribe. The commission may from time to time ascertain and by order fix the proper and adequate rates of depreciation or retirement of the several classes of property of each public service company. Each public service company shall conform its depreciation or retirement accounts to the rates so prescribed. In fixing the rate of the annual depreciation or retirement charge, the commission may consider the rate and amount theretofore charged by the company for depreciation or retirement.

The commission shall have and exercise like power and authority over all other reserve accounts of public service companies. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.350. Prior: 1937 c 169 § 4; 1933 c 165 § 13; RRS § 10458-7.]

**80.04.360 Earnings in excess of reasonable rate—Consideration in fixing rates.** If any public service company earns in the period of five consecutive years immediately preceding the commission order fixing rates for such company a net utility operating income in excess of a reasonable rate of return upon the fair value of its property used and useful in the public service, the commission shall take official notice of such fact and of whether any such excess earnings shall have been invested in such company's plant or otherwise used for purposes beneficial to the consumers of such company and may consider such facts in fixing rates for such company. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.360. Prior: 1959 c 285 § 2; 1933 c 165 § 14; RRS § 10458-8.]

**80.04.380 Penalties—Violations by public service companies.** Every public service company, and all officers, agents and employees of any public service company, shall obey, observe and comply with every order, rule, direction or requirement made by the commission under authority of this title, so long as the same shall be and remain in force. Any public service company which shall violate or fail to comply with any provision of this title, or which fails, omits or neglects to obey, observe or comply with any order, rule, or any direction, demand or requirement of the commission, shall be subject to a penalty of not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars for each and every offense. Every violation of any such order, direction or requirement of this title shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in case of a continuing violation every day's continuance thereof shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct offense. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.380. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 94; RRS § 10443. Formerly RCW 80.04.380, part. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1911 c 117 § 96 now in RCW 80.04.387.]

(2012 Ed.)

**80.04.385 Penalties—Violations by officers, agents, and employees of public service companies.** Every officer, agent or employee of any public service company, who shall violate or fail to comply with, or who procures, aids or abets any violation by any public service company of any provision of this title, or who shall fail to obey, observe or comply with any order of the commission, or any provision of any order of the commission, or who procures, aids or abets any such public service company in its failure to obey, observe and comply with any such order or provision, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.385. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 95; RRS § 10444. Formerly RCW 80.04.390, part.]

**80.04.387 Penalties—Violations by other corporations.** Every corporation, other than a public service company, which shall violate any provision of this title, or which shall fail to obey, observe or comply with any order of the commission under authority of this title, so long as the same shall be and remain in force, shall be subject to a penalty of not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars for each and every offense. Every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense, and the penalty shall be recovered in an action as provided in RCW 80.04.400. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.387. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 96; RRS § 10445. Formerly RCW 80.04.380, part.]

**80.04.390 Penalties—Violations by persons.** Every person who, either individually, or acting as an officer or agent of a corporation other than a public service company, shall violate any provision of this title, or fail to observe, obey or comply with any order made by the commission under this title, so long as the same shall be or remain in force, or who shall procure, aid or abet any such corporation in its violation of this title, or in its failure to obey, observe or comply with any such order, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.390. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 97; RRS § 10446. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1911 c 117 § 95 now in RCW 80.04.385.]

**80.04.400 Actions to recover penalties—Disposition of fines, penalties, and forfeitures.** Actions to recover penalties under this title shall be brought in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county, or in the superior court of any county in or through which such public service company may do business. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as in ordinary civil actions, except as otherwise herein provided. All fines and penalties recovered by the state under this title shall be paid into the treasury of the state and credited to the state general fund or such other fund as provided by law: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. [1987 c 202 § 238; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 35; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.400. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 98; RRS § 10447.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**80.04.405 Additional penalties—Violations by public service companies and officers, agents, and employees thereof.** In addition to all other penalties provided by law

every public service company subject to the provisions of this title and every officer, agent or employee of any such public service company who violates or who procures, aids or abets in the violation of any provision of this title or any order, rule, regulation or decision of the commission shall incur a penalty of one hundred dollars for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense and in case of a continuing violation every day's continuance shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct violation. Every act of commission or omission which procures, aids or abets in the violation shall be considered a violation under the provisions of this section and subject to the penalty herein provided for.

The penalty herein provided for shall become due and payable when the person incurring the same receives a notice in writing from the commission describing such violation with reasonable particularity and advising such person that the penalty is due. The commission may, upon written application therefor, received within fifteen days, remit or mitigate any penalty provided for in this section or discontinue any prosecution to recover the same upon such terms as it in its discretion shall deem proper and shall have authority to ascertain the facts upon all such applications in such manner and under such regulations as it may deem proper. If the amount of such penalty is not paid to the commission within fifteen days after receipt of notice imposing the same or application for remission or mitigation has not been made within fifteen days after violator has received notice of the disposition of such application the attorney general shall bring an action in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county or of some other county in which such violator may do business, to recover such penalty. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as an ordinary civil action except as otherwise herein provided. All penalties recovered under this title shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the public service revolving fund. [1963 c 59 § 2.]

**80.04.410 Orders and rules conclusive.** In all actions between private parties and public service companies involving any rule or order of the commission, and in all actions for the recovery of penalties provided for in this title, or for the enforcement of the orders or rules issued and promulgated by the commission, the said orders and rules shall be conclusive unless set aside or annulled in a review as in this title provided. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.410. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 99; RRS § 10448.]

**80.04.420 Intervention by commission where order or rule is involved.** In all court actions involving any rule or order of the commission, where the commission has not been made a party, the commission shall be served with a copy of all pleadings, and shall be entitled to intervene. Where the fact that the action involves a rule or order of the commission does not appear until the time of trial, the court shall immediately direct the clerk to notify the commission of the pendency of such action, and shall permit the commission to intervene in such action.

The failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall render void and of no effect any judgment in such action, where the effect of such judgment is to modify or nul-

lify any rule or order of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.420. Prior: 1943 c 67 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10448-1.]

**80.04.430 Findings of commission prima facie correct.** Whenever the commission has issued or promulgated any order or rule, in any writ of review brought by a public service company to determine the reasonableness of such order or rule, the findings of fact made by the commission shall be prima facie correct, and the burden shall be upon said public service company to establish the order or rule to be unreasonable or unlawful. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.430. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 100; RRS § 10449.]

**80.04.440 Companies liable for damages.** In case any public service company shall do, cause to be done or permit to be done any act, matter or thing prohibited, forbidden or declared to be unlawful, or shall omit to do any act, matter or thing required to be done, either by any law of this state, by this title or by any order or rule of the commission, such public service company shall be liable to the persons or corporations affected thereby for all loss, damage or injury caused thereby or resulting therefrom, and in case of recovery if the court shall find that such act or omission was wilful, it may, in its discretion, fix a reasonable counsel or attorney's fee, which shall be taxed and collected as part of the costs in the case. An action to recover for such loss, damage or injury may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction by any person or corporation. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.440. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 102; RRS § 10451.]

**80.04.450 Certified copies of orders, rules, etc.—Evidentiary effect.** Upon application of any person the commission shall furnish certified copies of any classification, rate, rule, regulation or order established by such commission, and the printed copies published by authority of the commission, or any certified copy of any such classification, rate, rule, regulation or order, with seal affixed, shall be admissible in evidence in any action or proceeding, and shall be sufficient to establish the fact that the charge, rate, rule, order or classification therein contained is the official act of the commission. When copies of any classification, rate, rule, regulation or order not contained in the printed reports, or copies of papers, accounts or records of public service companies filed with the commission shall be demanded from the commission for proper use, the commission shall charge a reasonable compensation therefor. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.450. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 103; RRS § 10452.]

**80.04.460 Investigation of accidents.** Every public service company shall give immediate notice to the commission of every accident resulting in death or injury to any person occurring in its plant or system, in such manner as the commission may prescribe. Such notice shall not be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose against the company giving it in any action for damages growing out of any matter mentioned in the notice.

The commission may investigate any accident resulting in death or injury to any person occurring in connection with the plant or system of any public service company. Notice of the investigation shall be given in all cases for a sufficient

length of time to enable the company affected to participate in the hearing and may be given orally or in writing, in such manner as the commission may prescribe.

Such witnesses may be examined as the commission deems necessary and proper to thoroughly ascertain the cause of the accident and fix the responsibility therefor. The examination and investigation may be conducted by an inspector or deputy inspector, and they may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, and compel the attendance of witnesses, and when the examination is conducted by an inspector or deputy inspector, he shall make a full and complete report thereof to the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.460. Prior: 1953 c 104 § 2; prior: 1911 c 117 § 63, part; RRS § 10399, part.]

**80.04.470 Commission to enforce public service laws—Employees as peace officers.** It shall be the duty of the commission to enforce the provisions of this title and all other acts of this state affecting public service companies, the enforcement of which is not specifically vested in some other officer or tribunal. Any employee of the commission may, without a warrant, arrest any person found violating in his presence any provision of this title, or any rule or regulation adopted by the commission: PROVIDED, That each such employee shall be first specifically designated in writing by the commission or a member thereof as having been found to be a fit and proper person to exercise such authority. Upon being so designated such person shall be a peace officer and a police officer for the purposes herein mentioned. [1961 c 173 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.470. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 101; RRS § 10450.]

**80.04.480 Rights of action not released—Penalties cumulative.** This title shall not have the effect to release or waive any right of action by the state or any person for any right, penalty or forfeiture which may have arisen or may hereafter arise under any law of this state; and all penalties accruing under this title shall be cumulative of each other, and a suit for the recovery of one penalty shall not be a bar to the recovery of any other. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.480. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 104; RRS § 10453. Formerly RCW 80.04.480 and 80.04.490.]

**80.04.500 Application to municipal utilities.** Nothing in this title authorizes the commission to make or enforce any order affecting rates, tolls, rentals, contracts or charges or service rendered, or the adequacy or sufficiency of the facilities, equipment, instrumentalities or buildings, or the reasonableness of rules or regulations made, furnished, used, supplied or in force affecting any telecommunications line, gas plant, electrical plant, system of sewerage, or water system owned and operated by any city or town, or to make or enforce any order relating to the safety of any telecommunications line, electrical plant, system of sewerage, or water system owned and operated by any city or town, but all other provisions enumerated herein apply to public utilities owned by any city or town. [2011 c 214 § 10; 1985 c 450 § 13; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.04.500. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 105; RRS § 10454.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.04.510 Duties of attorney general.** It shall be the duty of the attorney general to represent and appear for the people of the state of Washington and the commission in all actions and proceedings involving any question under this title, or under or in reference to any act or order of the commission; and it shall be the duty of the attorney general generally to see that all laws affecting any of the persons or corporations herein enumerated are complied with, and that all laws, the enforcement of which devolves upon the commission, are enforced, and to that end he is authorized to institute, prosecute and defend all necessary actions and proceedings. [1961 c 14 § 80.04.510. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 5; RRS § 10341.]

**80.04.520 Approval of lease of utility facilities.** In addition to any other powers and duties under this chapter, the commission shall have the authority to authorize and approve the terms of any lease of utility facilities by a public service company, as lessee, if the public service company makes proper application to the commission certifying that such authorization or approval is necessary or appropriate to exempt any owner of the facilities from being a public utility company under the federal Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. [1979 ex.s. c 125 § 1.]

**80.04.530 Local exchange company that serves less than two percent of state's access lines—Regulatory exemptions—Reporting requirements.** (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the following do not apply to a local exchange company that serves less than two percent of the access lines in the state of Washington: RCW 80.04.080, 80.04.300 through 80.04.330, and, except for RCW 80.08.140, chapters 80.08, 80.12, and 80.16 RCW.

(b) Nothing in this subsection (1) shall affect the commission's authority over the rates, service, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determinations of costs, as well as the authority to determine whether any expenditure is fair, reasonable, and commensurate with the service, material, supplies, or equipment received.

(c) For purposes of this subsection, the number of access lines served by a local exchange company includes the number of access lines served in this state by any affiliate of that local exchange company.

(2) Any local exchange company for which an exemption is provided under this section shall not be required to file reports or data with the commission, except each such company shall file with the commission an annual report that consists of its annual balance sheet and results of operations, both presented on a Washington state jurisdictional basis. This requirement may be satisfied by the filing of information or reports and underlying studies filed with exchange carrier entities or regulatory agencies if the jurisdictionally separated results of operations for Washington state can be obtained from the information or reports. This subsection shall not be applied to exempt a local exchange company from an obligation to respond to data requests in an adjudicative proceeding in which it is a party.

(3) The commission may, in response to customer complaints or on its own motion and after notice and hearing, establish additional reporting requirements for a specific local exchange company. [1995 c 110 § 1.]

**80.04.550 Thermal energy—Restrictions on authority of commission.** (1) Nothing in this title shall authorize the commission to make or enforce any order affecting rates, tolls, rentals, contracts or charges for service rendered, or the adequacy or sufficiency of the facilities, equipment, instrumentalities, or buildings, or the reasonableness of rules or regulations made, furnished, used, supplied, or in force affecting any district thermal energy system owned and operated by any thermal energy company.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Thermal energy company" means any private person, company, association, partnership, joint venture, or corporation engaged in or proposing to engage in developing, producing, transmitting, distributing, delivering, furnishing, or selling to or for the public thermal energy services for any beneficial use other than electricity generation;

(b) "District thermal energy system" means any system that provides thermal energy for space heating, space cooling, or process uses from a central plant, and that distributes the thermal energy to two or more buildings through a network of pipes;

(c) "Thermal energy" means heat or cold in the form of steam, heated or chilled water, or any other heated or chilled fluid or gaseous medium; and

(d) "Thermal energy services" means the provision of thermal energy from a district thermal energy system and includes such ancillary services as energy audits, metering, billing, maintenance, and repairs related to thermal energy. [1996 c 33 § 2.]

**Findings—1996 c 33:** "(1) The legislature finds:

(a) The Washington utilities and transportation commission has the authority to regulate district heating suppliers on the basis of financial solvency, system design integrity, and reasonableness of contract rates and rate formulas under \*chapter 80.62 RCW;

(b) Consumers have competitive alternatives to thermal energy companies for space heating and cooling and ancillary services;

(c) Consumers have recourse against thermal energy companies for unfair business practices under the consumer protection act; and

(d) Technology and marketing opportunities have advanced since the enactment of \*chapter 80.62 RCW to make the provision of cooling services, as well as heating services, an economical option for consumers.

(2) The legislature declares that the public health, safety, and welfare does not require the regulation of thermal energy companies by the Washington utilities and transportation commission." [1996 c 33 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: Chapter 80.62 RCW was repealed by 1996 c 33 § 3.

**80.04.560 Finding.** The legislature finds that an electrical company's acquisition of coal transition power helps to achieve the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by effecting an orderly transition to cleaner fuels and supports the state's public policy. [2011 c 180 § 303.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**80.04.570 Power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power. (Expires December 31, 2025.)** (1) On the petition of an electrical company, the commission shall approve or disapprove a power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power, as defined in RCW 80.80.010, and the recovery of related acquisition costs. No agreement for an electrical company's acquisition of coal transition power takes effect until it is approved by the commission.

(2) Any power purchase agreement for the acquisition of coal transition power pursuant to this section must provide for modification of the power purchase agreement to the satisfaction of the parties thereto in the event that a new or revised emission or performance standard or other new or revised operational or financial requirement or limitation directly or indirectly addressing greenhouse gas emissions is imposed by state or federal law, rules, or regulatory requirements. Such a modification to a power purchase agreement agreed to by the parties must be reviewed and considered for approval by the commission, considering the circumstances existing at the time of such a review, under procedures and standards set forth in this section. In the event the parties cannot agree to modification of the power purchase agreement, either party to the agreement has the right to terminate the agreement if it is adversely affected by this new standard, requirement, or limitation.

(3) When a petition is filed, the commission shall provide notice to the public and potentially affected parties and set the petition for hearing as an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW. Any party may request that the commission expedite the hearing of that petition. The hearing of such a petition is not considered a general rate case. The electrical company must file supporting testimony and exhibits together with the power purchase agreement for coal transition power. Information provided by the facility owner to the purchasing electrical company for evaluating the costs and benefits associated with acquisition of coal transition power must be made available to other parties to the petition under a protective order entered by the commission. An administrative law judge of the commission may enter an initial order including findings of fact and conclusions of law, as provided in RCW 80.01.060(3). The commission shall issue a final order that approves or disapproves the power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power within one hundred eighty days after an electrical company files the petition.

(4) The commission must approve a power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power pursuant to this section only if the commission determines that, considering the circumstances existing at the time of such a review: The terms of such an agreement provide adequate protection to ratepayers and the electrical company during the term of such an agreement or in the event of early termination; the resource is needed by the electrical company to serve its ratepayers and the resource meets the need in a cost-effective manner as determined under the lowest reasonable cost resource standards under chapter 19.280 RCW, including the cost of the power purchase agreement plus the equity component as determined in this section. As part of these determinations, the commission shall consider, among other factors, the long-term economic risks and benefits to the electrical company and its ratepayers of such a long-term purchase.

(5) If the commission has not issued a final order within one hundred eighty days from the date the petition is filed, or if the commission disapproves the petition, the power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power is null and void. In the event the commission approves the agreement upon conditions other than those set forth in the petition, the electrical company has the right to reject the agreement.

(6)(a) Upon commission approval of an electrical company's power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power in accordance with this section, the electrical company is allowed to earn the equity component of its authorized rate of return in the same manner as if it had purchased or built an equivalent plant and to recover the cost of the coal transition power under the power purchase agreement. Any power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power that earns a return on equity may not be included in an imputed debt calculation for setting customer rates.

(b) For purposes of determining the equity value, the cost of an equivalent plant is the least cost purchased or self-built electric generation plant with equivalent capacity. In determining the least cost plant, the commission may rely on the electrical company's most recent filed integrated resource plan. The cost of an equivalent plant, in dollars per kilowatt, must be determined in the original process of commission approval for each power purchase agreement for coal transition power.

(c) The equivalent plant cost determined in the approval process must be amortized over the life of the power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power to determine the recovery of the equity value.

(d) The recovery of the equity component must be determined and approved in the review process set forth in this section. The approved equity value must be in addition to the approved cost of the power purchase agreement.

(7) Authorizing recovery of costs under a power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power does not prohibit the commission from authorizing recovery of an electrical company's acquisition of capacity resources for the purpose of integrating intermittent power or following load.

(8) Neither chapter 180, Laws of 2011 nor the commission's approval of a power purchase agreement for acquisition of coal transition power that includes the ability to earn the equity component of an electrical company's authorized rate of return establishes any precedent for an electrical company to receive an equity return on any other power purchase agreement or other power contract.

(9) For purposes of this section, "power purchase agreement" means a long-term financial commitment as defined in \*RCW 80.80.010(15)(b).

(10) This section expires December 31, 2025. [2011 c 180 § 304.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 80.80.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (15) to subsection (16).

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**80.04.580 Regulatory fee on wastewater companies regulated by the commission—Rule-making authority.**

(1) Every wastewater company subject to regulation by the commission must, on or before the date specified by the commission for filing annual reports under RCW 80.04.080, pay to the commission a regulatory fee.

(2) The commission must assess such regulatory fees in amounts sufficient for the commission to recover the commission's actual and reasonable costs of supervising and regulating wastewater companies.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) Any payment of a fee assessed under this section made after the due date must include a late fee of two percent of the amount due.

(4) Delinquent fees accrue interest at the rate of one percent per month.

(5) The provisions of RCW 80.24.030, 80.24.040, and 80.24.050 apply to regulatory fees for wastewater companies.

(6) The commission is authorized and empowered to adopt and issue rules and regulations to implement this section, including establishing the methodologies and procedures for developing, assessing, and collecting fees under this section. [2012 c 111 § 1; 2011 c 214 § 4.]

**Effective date—2012 c 111:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2012." [2012 c 111 § 2.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**Chapter 80.08 RCW  
SECURITIES**

Sections

80.08.010	Definition.
80.08.020	Control vested in state.
80.08.030	Authority to issue.
80.08.040	Prior to issuance—Filing required—Contents—Request for order establishing compliance.
80.08.043	Issuance of notes—Compliance with RCW 80.08.040—Exceptions.
80.08.047	Commission may exempt certain issuances—Order or rule—Public interest.
80.08.080	Capitalization of franchises or merger contracts prohibited.
80.08.090	Accounting for disposition of proceeds.
80.08.100	Issuance made contrary to this chapter—Penalties.
80.08.110	Penalty against companies.
80.08.120	Penalty against individuals.
80.08.130	Assumption of obligation or liability—Compliance with filing requirements.
80.08.140	State not obligated.
80.08.150	Authority of commission—Not affected by requirements of this chapter.
80.08.160	Small local exchange company—Chapter does not apply.

**80.08.010 Definition.** The term "public service company", as used in this chapter, shall mean every company now or hereafter engaged in business in this state as a public utility and subject to regulation as to rates and service by the utilities and transportation commission under the provisions of this title. [1961 c 14 § 80.08.010. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 2; 1953 c 95 § 4; 1933 c 151 § 1, part; RRS § 10439-1, part.]

**80.08.020 Control vested in state.** The power of public service companies to issue stocks and stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, and bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness and to create liens on their property situated within this state is a special privilege, the right of supervision, regulation, restriction, and control of which is and shall continue to be vested in the state, and such power shall be exercised as provided by law and under such rules and regulations as the commission may prescribe. [1961 c 14 § 80.08.020. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 2; RRS § 10439-2.]

**80.08.030 Authority to issue.** A public service company may issue stock and stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness payable on demand or at periods of more than

twelve months after the date thereof, for the following purposes only: The acquisition of property, or the construction, completion, extension, or improvement of its facilities, or the improvement or maintenance of its service, or the issuance of stock dividends, or the discharge or refunding of its obligations, or the reimbursement of moneys actually expended from income or from any other moneys in the treasury of the company not secured by or obtained from the issue of stock or stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness of the company for any of the aforesaid purposes except maintenance of service, in cases where the applicant keeps its accounts and vouchers for such expenditures in such manner as to enable the commission to ascertain the amount of money so expended and the purpose for which the expenditure was made. [1961 c 14 § 80.08.030. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 5; 1937 c 30 § 1; 1933 c 151 § 3; RRS § 10439-3.]

**80.08.040 Prior to issuance—Filing required—Contents—Request for order establishing compliance.** Any public service company that undertakes to issue stocks, stock certificates, other evidence of interest or ownership, bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness shall file with the commission before such issuance:

(1) A description of the purposes for which the issuance is made, including a certification by an officer authorized to do so that the proceeds from any such financing is for one or more of the purposes allowed by this chapter;

(2) A description of the proposed issuance including the terms of financing; and

(3) A statement as to why the transaction is in the public interest.

(4) Any public service company undertaking an issuance and making a filing in conformance with this section may at any time of such filing request the commission to enter a written order that such company has complied with the requirements of this section. The commission shall enter such written order after such company has provided all information and statements required by subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section. [1994 c 251 § 1; 1987 c 106 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.08.040. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 4; RRS § 10439-4.]

**80.08.043 Issuance of notes—Compliance with RCW 80.08.040—Exceptions.** A public service company may issue notes, except demand notes, for proper purposes and not in violation of any provision of this chapter, or any other law, payable at periods of not more than twelve months after the date of issuance, without complying with the requirements of RCW 80.08.040, but no such note may be refunded, in whole or in part, by any issue of stock or stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness, without compliance with RCW 80.08.040. However, compliance with RCW 80.08.040 is required for the issuance of any note or notes issued as part of a single borrowing transaction of one million dollars or more payable at periods of less than twelve months after the date of issuance by any public service company that is subject to the federal power act unless such note or notes aggregates together with all other then outstanding notes and drafts of a maturity of twelve months or less on which such public service company is primarily or secondarily liable not more than

five percent of the par value of other securities of such company then outstanding, computed, in the case of securities having no par value, on the basis of the fair market value as of the date of issuance. [1997 c 162 § 1.]

**80.08.047 Commission may exempt certain issuances—Order or rule—Public interest.** The commission may from time to time by order or rule, and subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed in the order or rule, exempt any security or any class of securities for which a filing is required under this chapter or any electrical or natural gas company or class of electrical or natural gas company from the provisions of this chapter if it finds that the application of this chapter to such security, class of securities, electrical or natural gas company, or class of electrical or natural gas company is not required by the public interest. [1997 c 15 § 1.]

**80.08.080 Capitalization of franchises or merger contracts prohibited.** The commission shall have no power to authorize the capitalization of the right to be a corporation, or to authorize the capitalization of any franchise or permit whatsoever or the right to own, operate or enjoy any such franchise or permit, in excess of the amount (exclusive of any tax or annual charge) actually paid to the state or to a political subdivision thereof as the consideration for the grant of such franchise, permit or right; nor shall any contract for consolidation or lease be capitalized, nor shall any public service company hereafter issue any bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness against or as a lien upon any contract for consolidation or merger. [1961 c 14 § 80.08.080. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 7; RRS § 10439-7.]

**80.08.090 Accounting for disposition of proceeds.** The commission shall have the power to require public service companies to account for the disposition of the proceeds of all sales of stocks and stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, and bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness, in such form and detail as it may deem advisable, and to establish such rules and regulations as it may deem reasonable and necessary to insure the disposition of such proceeds for the purpose or purposes specified in its order. [1961 c 14 § 80.08.090. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 8; RRS § 10439-8.]

**80.08.100 Issuance made contrary to this chapter—Penalties.** If a public service company issues any stock, or other evidence of interest or ownership, bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness contrary to the provisions of this chapter, the company may be subject to penalty under RCW 80.08.110 and 80.08.120. [1994 c 251 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 80.08.100. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 9; RRS § 10439-9.]

**80.08.110 Penalty against companies.** Every public service company which, directly or indirectly, issues or causes to be issued, any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness, in nonconformity with the provisions of this chapter, or which applies the proceeds from the sale thereof, or any part thereof, to any purpose other than the purpose or purposes allowed by this chapter, shall be subject to a

penalty of not more than one thousand dollars for each offense. Every violation shall be a separate and distinct offense and in case of a continuing violation every day's continuance thereof shall be deemed to be a separate and distinct offense.

The act, omission or failure of any officer, agent or employee of any public service company acting within the scope of his official duties or employment, shall in every case be deemed to be the act, omission or failure of such public service company. [1994 c 251 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 80.08.110. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 11; RRS § 10439-11.]

**80.08.120 Penalty against individuals.** Every officer, agent, or employee of a public service company, and every other person who knowingly authorizes, directs, aids in, issues or executes, or causes to be issued or executed, any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness contrary to the provisions of this chapter, or who knowingly makes any false statement or representation or with knowledge of its falsity files or causes to be filed with the commission any false statement or representation, or causes or assists to be applied the proceeds or any part thereof, from the sale of any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness, to any purpose not allowed by this chapter, or who, with knowledge that any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness, has been issued or executed in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter, negotiates, or causes the same to be negotiated, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1994 c 251 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 80.08.120. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 12; RRS § 10439-12.]

**80.08.130 Assumption of obligation or liability—Compliance with filing requirements.** Any public service company that assumes any obligation or liability as guarantor, indorser, surety or otherwise in respect to the securities of any other person, firm or corporation, when such securities are payable at periods of more than twelve months after the date thereof, shall comply with the filing requirements of RCW 80.08.040. [1994 c 251 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 80.08.130. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 13; RRS § 10439-13.]

**80.08.140 State not obligated.** No provision of this chapter, and no deed or act done or performed under or in connection therewith, shall be held or construed to obligate the state of Washington to pay or guarantee, in any manner whatsoever, any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness, authorized, issued or executed under the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 80.08.140. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 14; RRS § 10439-14.]

**80.08.150 Authority of commission—Not affected by requirements of this chapter.** No action by a public service company in compliance with nor by the commission in conformance with the requirements of this chapter may in any way affect the authority of the commission over rates, service, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determinations of

costs, or any matters whatsoever that may come before it. [1994 c 251 § 6.]

**80.08.160 Small local exchange company—Chapter does not apply.** Subject to RCW 80.04.530(1), this chapter does not apply to a local exchange company that serves less than two percent of the access lines in the state of Washington. [1995 c 110 § 2.]

## Chapter 80.12 RCW TRANSFERS OF PROPERTY

### Sections

80.12.010	Definitions.
80.12.020	Order required to sell, merge, etc.—Exemption.
80.12.030	Disposal without authorization void—Approval or denial within eleven months, extension permitted.
80.12.040	Authority required to acquire property or securities of utility.
80.12.045	Small local exchange company—Chapter does not apply.
80.12.050	Rules and regulations.
80.12.060	Penalty.

**80.12.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Person" means an individual, partnership, joint venture, corporation, association, firm, public service company, or any other entity, however organized.

(2) "Public service company" means every company now or hereafter engaged in business in this state as a public utility and subject to regulation as to rates and service by the utilities and transportation commission under the provisions of this title. [2009 c 24 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 80.12.010. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 6; 1941 c 159 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440a.]

**Finding—2009 c 24:** "The legislature finds and declares that the Washington utilities and transportation commission should require that a net benefit to customers be shown in order to approve the acquisition of the franchises, properties, or facilities owned by a gas or electrical company in the state and which are necessary or useful in the performance of the duties of a gas or electrical company, and that its decision to approve or deny such an acquisition should be made within a prescribed period of time." [2009 c 24 § 1.]

**80.12.020 Order required to sell, merge, etc.—Exemption.** (1) No public service company shall sell, lease, assign or otherwise dispose of the whole or any part of its franchises, properties or facilities whatsoever, which are necessary or useful in the performance of its duties to the public, and no public service company shall, by any means whatsoever, directly or indirectly, merge or consolidate any of its franchises, properties or facilities with any other public service company, without having secured from the commission an order authorizing it to do so. The commission shall not approve any transaction under this section that would result in a person, directly or indirectly, acquiring a controlling interest in a gas or electrical company without a finding that the transaction would provide a net benefit to the customers of the company.

(2) This section shall not apply to any sale, lease, assignment or other disposal of such franchises, properties or facilities to a special purpose district as defined in RCW 36.96.010, city, county, or town. [2009 c 24 § 3; 1981 c 117

§ 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.12.020. Prior: 1945 c 75 § 1; 1941 c 159 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10440b.]

**Finding—2009 c 24:** See note following RCW 80.12.010.

**80.12.030 Disposal without authorization void—Approval or denial within eleven months, extension permitted.** (1) Any such sale, lease, assignment, or other disposition, merger or consolidation made without authority of the commission shall be void.

(2) The commission shall enter an order approving or denying a transaction under RCW 80.12.020 or 80.12.040 within eleven months of the date of filing, which the commission may extend up to four months for cause. [2009 c 24 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 80.12.030. Prior: 1941 c 159 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440c.]

**Finding—2009 c 24:** See note following RCW 80.12.010.

**80.12.040 Authority required to acquire property or securities of utility.** No public service company shall, directly or indirectly, purchase, acquire, or become the owner of any of the franchises, properties, facilities, capital stocks or bonds of any other public service company unless authorized so to do by the commission. Nothing contained in this chapter shall prevent the holding of stocks or other securities heretofore lawfully acquired or prohibit, upon the surrender or exchange of said stocks or other securities pursuant to a reorganization plan, the purchase, acquisition, taking or holding by the owner of a proportionate amount of the stocks or other securities of any new corporation organized to take over at foreclosure or other sale, the property of the corporation the stocks or securities of which have been thus surrendered or exchanged. Any contract by any public service company for the purchase, acquisition, assignment or transfer to it of any of the stocks or other securities of any other public service company, directly or indirectly, without the approval of the commission shall be void and of no effect. [1961 c 14 § 80.12.040. Prior: 1941 c 159 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440d.]

**80.12.045 Small local exchange company—Chapter does not apply.** Subject to RCW 80.04.530(1), this chapter does not apply to a local exchange company that serves less than two percent of the access lines in the state of Washington. [1995 c 110 § 3.]

**80.12.050 Rules and regulations.** The commission shall have power to promulgate rules and regulations to make effective the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 80.12.050. Prior: 1941 c 159 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440e.]

**80.12.060 Penalty.** The provisions of RCW 80.04.380 and 80.04.385 as to penalties shall be applicable to public service companies, their officers, agents and employees failing to comply with the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 80.12.060. Prior: 1941 c 159 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440f.]

## Chapter 80.16 RCW AFFILIATED INTERESTS

### Sections

80.16.010	Definitions.
80.16.020	Dealings with affiliated interests—Prior filing with commission required—Commission may disapprove.
80.16.030	Payments to affiliated interest disallowed if not reasonable.
80.16.040	Satisfactory proof, what constitutes.
80.16.050	Commission's control is continuing.
80.16.055	Small local exchange company—Chapter does not apply.
80.16.060	Summary order on nonapproved payments.
80.16.070	Summary order on payments after disallowance.
80.16.080	Court action to enforce orders.
80.16.090	Review of orders.

**80.16.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter the term "public service company" shall include every corporation engaged in business as a public utility and subject to regulation as to rates and service by the utilities and transportation commission under the provisions of this title.

As used in this chapter, the term "affiliated interest" means:

Every corporation and person owning or holding directly or indirectly five percent or more of the voting securities of any public service company engaged in any intrastate business in this state;

Every corporation and person, other than those above specified, in any chain of successive ownership of five percent or more of voting securities, the chain beginning with the holder of the voting securities of such public service company;

Every corporation five percent or more of whose voting securities are owned by any person or corporation owning five percent or more of the voting securities of such public service company or by any person or corporation in any such chain of successive ownership of five percent or more of voting securities;

Every corporation or person with which the public service company has a management or service contract; and

Every person who is an officer or director of such public service company or of any corporation in any chain of successive ownership of five percent or more of voting securities. [1961 c 14 § 80.16.010. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 7; 1933 c 152 § 1, part; RRS § 10440-1, part.]

**80.16.020 Dealings with affiliated interests—Prior filing with commission required—Commission may disapprove.** Every public service company shall file with the commission a verified copy, or a verified summary if unwritten, of a contract or arrangement providing for the furnishing of management, supervisory[, ] construction, engineering, accounting, legal, financial, or similar services, or any contract or arrangement for the purchase, sale, lease, or exchange of any property, right, or thing, or for the furnishing of any service, property, right, or thing, other than those enumerated in this section, hereafter made or entered into between a public service company and any affiliated interest as defined in this chapter, including open account advances from or to the affiliated interests. The filing must be made prior to the effective date of the contract or arrangement. Modifications or amendments to the contracts or arrangements with affiliated interests must be filed with the commission prior to the effective date of the modification or amendment. Any time after

receipt of the contract or arrangement, the commission may institute an investigation and disapprove the contract, arrangement, modification, or amendment thereto if the commission finds the public service company has failed to prove that it is reasonable and consistent with the public interest. The commission may disapprove any such contract or arrangement if satisfactory proof is not submitted to the commission of the cost to the affiliated interest of rendering the services or of furnishing the property or service described in this section. [1998 c 47 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.16.020. Prior: 1941 c 160 § 1; 1933 c 152 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440-2.]

**80.16.030 Payments to affiliated interest disallowed if not reasonable.** In any proceeding, whether upon the commission's own motion or upon complaint, involving the rates or practices of any public service company, the commission may exclude from the accounts of the public service company any payment or compensation to an affiliated interest for any services rendered or property or service furnished, as described in this section, under existing contracts or arrangements with the affiliated interest unless the public service company establishes the reasonableness of the payment or compensation. In the proceeding the commission shall disallow the payment or compensation, in whole or in part, in the absence of satisfactory proof that it is reasonable in amount. In such a proceeding, any payment or compensation may be disapproved or disallowed by the commission, in whole or in part, if satisfactory proof is not submitted to the commission of the cost to the affiliated interest of rendering the service or furnishing the property or service described in this section. [1998 c 47 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 80.16.030. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 3; RRS § 10440-3.]

**80.16.040 Satisfactory proof, what constitutes.** No proof shall be satisfactory, within the meaning of RCW 80.16.010 through 80.16.030, unless it includes the original (or verified copies) of the relevant cost records and other relevant accounts of the affiliated interest, or such abstract thereof or summary taken therefrom, as the commission may deem adequate, properly identified and duly authenticated: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the commission may, where reasonable, approve or disapprove such contracts or arrangements without the submission of such cost records or accounts. [1961 c 14 § 80.16.040. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 4; RRS § 10440-4.]

**80.16.050 Commission's control is continuing.** The commission shall have continuing supervisory control over the terms and conditions of such contracts and arrangements as are herein described so far as necessary to protect and promote the public interest. The commission shall have the same jurisdiction over the modifications or amendment of contracts or arrangements as are herein described as it has over such original contracts or arrangements. The fact that a contract or arrangement has been filed with, or the commission has approved entry into such contracts or arrangements as described herein shall not preclude disallowance or disapproval of payments made pursuant thereto, if upon actual experience under such contract or arrangement, it appears that the payments provided for or made were or are unreasonable. Every order of the commission approving any such con-

tract or arrangement shall be expressly conditioned upon the reserved power of the commission to revise and amend the terms and conditions thereof, if, when, and as necessary to protect and promote the public interest. [1998 c 47 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 80.16.050. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 5; RRS § 10440-5.]

**80.16.055 Small local exchange company—Chapter does not apply.** Subject to RCW 80.04.530(1), this chapter does not apply to a local exchange company that serves less than two percent of the access lines in the state of Washington. [1995 c 110 § 4.]

**80.16.060 Summary order on nonapproved payments.** Whenever the commission shall find upon investigation that any public service company is giving effect to any such contract or arrangement without such contract or arrangement having been filed or approved, the commission may issue a summary order prohibiting the public service company from treating any payments made under the terms of such contract or arrangement as operating expenses or as capital expenditures for rate or valuation purposes, unless and until such contract or arrangement has been filed with the commission or until payments have received the approval of the commission. [1998 c 47 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 80.16.060. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 6; RRS § 10440-6.]

**80.16.070 Summary order on payments after disallowance.** Whenever the commission finds upon investigation that any public service company is making payments to an affiliated interest, although the payments have been disallowed or disapproved by the commission in a proceeding involving the public service company's rates or practices, the commission shall issue a summary order directing the public service company to not treat the payments as operating expenses or capital expenditures for rate or valuation purposes, unless and until the payments have received the approval of the commission. [1998 c 47 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 80.16.070. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 7; RRS § 10440-7.]

**80.16.080 Court action to enforce orders.** The superior court of Thurston county is authorized to enforce such orders to cease and desist by appropriate process, including the issuance of a preliminary injunction, upon the suit of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.16.080. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 8; RRS § 10440-8.]

**80.16.090 Review of orders.** Any public service company or affiliated interest deeming any decision or order of the commission to be in any respect or manner improper, unjust or unreasonable may have the same reviewed in the courts in the same manner and by the same procedure as is now provided by law for review of any other order or decision of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.16.090. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 9; RRS § 10440-9.]

### Chapter 80.20 RCW INVESTIGATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES

#### Sections

80.20.010 Definition.

- 80.20.020 Cost of investigation may be assessed against company.  
 80.20.030 Interest on unpaid assessment—Action to collect.  
 80.20.040 Commission's determination of necessity as evidence.  
 80.20.050 Order of commission not subject to review.  
 80.20.060 Limitation on frequency of investigation.

**80.20.010 Definition.** As used in this chapter, the term "public service company" means any person, firm, association, or corporation, whether public or private, operating a utility or public service enterprise subject in any respect to regulation by the commission under the provisions of this title. [1961 c 14 § 80.20.010. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 8; 1939 c 203 § 1; RRS § 10458-6.]

**80.20.020 Cost of investigation may be assessed against company.** Whenever the commission in any proceeding upon its own motion or upon complaint shall deem it necessary in order to carry out the duties imposed upon it by law to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of, or make any valuation or appraisal of the property of any public service company, or to investigate or appraise any phase of its operations, or to render any engineering or accounting service to or in connection with any public service company, and the cost thereof to the commission exceeds in amount the ordinary regulatory fees paid by such public service company during the preceding calendar year or estimated to be paid during the current year, whichever is more, such public service company shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such investigation, valuation, appraisal or services. The commission shall ascertain such expenses, and, after giving notice and an opportunity to be heard, shall render a bill therefor by registered mail to the public service company, either at the conclusion of the investigation, valuation, appraisal or services, or from time to time during its progress. Within thirty days after a bill has been mailed such public service company shall pay to the commission the amount of the bill, and the commission shall transmit such payment to the state treasurer who shall credit it to the public service revolving fund. The total amount which any public service company shall be required to pay under the provisions of this section in any calendar year shall not exceed one percent of the gross operating revenues derived by such public service company from its intrastate operations during the last preceding calendar year. If such company did not operate during all of the preceding year the calculations shall be based upon estimated gross revenues for the current year. [1961 c 14 § 80.20.020. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(a); RRS § 10458-6a(a).]

**80.20.030 Interest on unpaid assessment—Action to collect.** Amounts so assessed against any public service company not paid within thirty days after mailing of the bill therefor, shall draw interest at the rate of six percent per annum from the date of mailing of the bill. Upon failure of the public service company to pay the bill, the attorney general shall proceed in the name of the state by civil action in the superior court for Thurston county against such public service company to collect the amount due, together with interest and costs of suit. [1961 c 14 § 80.20.030. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(b); RRS § 10458-6a(b).]

**80.20.040 Commission's determination of necessity as evidence.** In such action the commission's determination of the necessity of the investigation, valuation, appraisal or services shall be conclusive evidence of such necessity, and its findings and determination of facts expressed in bills rendered pursuant to RCW 80.20.020 through 80.20.060 or in any proceedings determinative of such bills shall be prima facie evidence of such facts. [1961 c 14 § 80.20.040. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(c); RRS § 10458-6a(c).]

**80.20.050 Order of commission not subject to review.** In view of the civil action provided for in RCW 80.20.020 through 80.20.060 any order made by the commission in determining the amount of such bill shall not be reviewable in court, but the mere absence of such right of review shall not prejudice the rights of defendants in the civil action. [1961 c 14 § 80.20.050. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(d); RRS § 10458-6a(d).]

**80.20.060 Limitation on frequency of investigation.** Expenses of a complete valuation, rate and service investigation shall not be assessed against a public service company under this chapter if such company shall have been subjected to and paid the expenses of a complete valuation, rate and service investigation during the preceding five years, unless the properties or operations of the company have materially changed or there has been a substantial change in its value for rate making purposes or in any other circumstances and conditions affecting rates and services: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall not be a limitation on the frequency of assessment of costs of investigation where such investigation results from a tariff filing or tariff filings by a public service company to increase rates. [1971 ex.s. c 143 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 80.20.060. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(e); RRS § 10458-6a(e).]

## Chapter 80.24 RCW REGULATORY FEES

### Sections

- 80.24.010 Companies to file reports of gross revenue and pay fees—Delinquent fee payments.  
 80.24.020 Fees to approximate reasonable cost of regulation.  
 80.24.030 Intent of legislature—Regulatory cost records to be kept by commission.  
 80.24.040 Disposition of fees.  
 80.24.050 Penalty for failure to pay fees—Disposition of fines and penalties.  
 80.24.060 Pipeline safety fee—Reports—Procedure to contest fees—Regulatory incentive program.

*Assessment of public utilities for property tax purposes: Chapter 84.12 RCW.*

*Corporations, annual license fees for public service companies: RCW 23B.01.530, 23B.01.590.*

*Easements of public service companies taxable as personalty: RCW 84.20.010.*

*Public utility tax: Chapter 82.16 RCW.*

**80.24.010 Companies to file reports of gross revenue and pay fees—Delinquent fee payments.** Every public service company subject to regulation by the commission shall, on or before the date specified by the commission for filing annual reports under RCW 80.04.080, file with the commission a statement on oath showing its gross operating revenue

from intrastate operations for the preceding calendar year or portion thereof and pay to the commission a fee equal to one-tenth of one percent of the first fifty thousand dollars of gross operating revenue, plus two-tenths of one percent of any gross operating revenue in excess of fifty thousand dollars: PROVIDED, That the commission may, by rule, set minimum fees that do not exceed the cost of collecting the fees. The commission may by rule waive any or all of the minimum fee established pursuant to this section.

The percentage rates of gross operating revenue to be paid in any year may be decreased by the commission for any class of companies subject to the payment of such fees, by general order entered before March 1st of such year, and for such purpose such companies shall be classified as follows:

Electrical, gas, water, telecommunications, and irrigation companies shall constitute class one. Every other company subject to regulation by the commission, for which regulatory fees are not otherwise fixed by law shall pay fees as herein provided and shall constitute additional classes according to kinds of businesses engaged in.

Any payment of the fee imposed by this section made after its due date shall include a late fee of two percent of the amount due. Delinquent fees shall accrue interest at the rate of one percent per month. [2003 c 296 § 1; 1994 c 83 § 1; 1990 c 48 § 1; 1985 c 450 § 14; 1961 c 14 § 80.24.010. Prior: 1955 c 125 § 2; prior: 1939 c 123 § 1, part; 1937 c 158 § 1, part; 1929 c 107 § 1, part; 1923 c 107 § 1, part; 1921 c 113 § 1, part; RRS § 10417, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.24.020 Fees to approximate reasonable cost of regulation.** In fixing the percentage rates of gross operating revenue to be paid in any year, the commission shall consider all moneys then in the public service revolving fund and the fees currently to be paid into such fund, to the end that the fees collected from the several classes of companies shall be approximately the same as the reasonable cost of supervising and regulating such classes of companies. [1961 c 14 § 80.24.020. Prior: 1955 c 125 § 3; prior: 1939 c 123 § 1, part; 1937 c 158 § 1, part; RRS § 10417, part.]

**80.24.030 Intent of legislature—Regulatory cost records to be kept by commission.** It is the intent and purpose of the legislature that the several groups of public service companies shall each contribute sufficient in fees to the commission to pay the reasonable cost of regulating the several groups respectively. The commission shall keep accurate records of the costs incurred in regulating and supervising the several groups of companies subject to regulation or supervision and such records shall be open to inspection by all interested parties. The records and data upon which the commission's determination is made shall be considered prima facie correct in any proceeding instituted to challenge the reasonableness or correctness of any order of the commission fixing fees and distributing regulatory expenses. [1961 c 14 § 80.24.030. Prior: 1937 c 158 § 7; RRS § 10417-5.]

**80.24.040 Disposition of fees.** All moneys collected under the provisions of this chapter shall within thirty days be paid to the state treasurer and by the state treasurer deposited to the public service revolving fund: PROVIDED, That all

fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. [1987 c 202 § 239; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 36; 1961 c 14 § 80.24.040. Prior: 1937 c 158 § 6; RRS § 10417-4.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**80.24.050 Penalty for failure to pay fees—Disposition of fines and penalties.** Every person, firm, company or corporation, or the officers, agents or employees thereof, failing or neglecting to pay the fees herein required shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. All fines and penalties collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be deposited into the public service revolving fund of the state treasury: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. [1987 c 202 § 240; 1979 ex.s. c 198 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 37; 1961 c 14 § 80.24.050. Prior: 1923 c 107 § 2; 1921 c 113 § 3; RRS § 10419.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**80.24.060 Pipeline safety fee—Reports—Procedure to contest fees—Regulatory incentive program.** (1)(a) Every gas company and every interstate gas pipeline company subject to inspection or enforcement by the commission shall pay an annual pipeline safety fee to the commission. The pipeline safety fees received by the commission shall be deposited in the pipeline safety account created in RCW 81.88.050.

(b) The aggregate amount of fees set shall be sufficient to recover the reasonable costs of administering the pipeline safety program, taking into account federal funds used to offset the costs. The fees established under this section shall be designed to generate revenue not exceeding appropriated levels of funding for the current fiscal year. At a minimum, the fees established under this section shall be sufficient to adequately fund pipeline inspection personnel, the timely review of pipeline safety and integrity plans, the timely development of spill response plans, the timely development of accurate maps of pipeline locations, participation in federal pipeline safety efforts to the extent allowed by law, and the staffing of the citizens committee on pipeline safety.

(c) Increases in the aggregate amount of fees over the immediately preceding fiscal year are subject to the requirements of RCW 43.135.055.

(2) The commission shall by rule establish the methodology it will use to set the appropriate fee for each entity subject to this section. The methodology shall provide for an equitable distribution of program costs among all entities subject to the fee. The fee methodology shall provide for:

(a) Direct assignment of average costs associated with annual standard inspections, including the average number of inspection days per year. In establishing these directly assignable costs, the commission shall consider the requirements and guidelines of the federal government, state safety standards, and good engineering practices; and

(b) A uniform and equitable means of estimating and allocating costs of other duties relating to inspecting pipelines for safety that are not directly assignable, including but

not limited to design review and construction inspections, specialized inspections, incident investigations, geographic mapping system design and maintenance, and administrative support.

(3) The commission shall require reports from those entities subject to this section in the form and at such time as necessary to set the fees. After considering the reports supplied by the entities, the commission shall set the amount of the fee payable by each entity by general order entered before a date established by rule.

(4) For companies subject to RCW 80.24.010, the commission shall collect the pipeline safety fee as part of the fee specified in RCW 80.24.010. The commission shall allocate the moneys collected under RCW 80.24.010 between the pipeline safety program and for other regulatory purposes. The commission shall adopt rules that assure that fee moneys related to the pipeline safety program are maintained separately from other moneys collected by the commission under this chapter.

(5) Any payment of the fee imposed by this section made after its due date must include a late fee of two percent of the amount due. Delinquent fees accrue interest at the rate of one percent per month.

(6) The commission shall keep accurate records of the costs incurred in administering its gas pipeline safety program, and the records are open to inspection by interested parties. The records and data upon which the commission's determination is made shall be prima facie correct in any proceeding to challenge the reasonableness or correctness of any order of the commission fixing fees and distributing regulatory expenses.

(7) If any entity seeks to contest the imposition of a fee imposed under this section, that entity shall pay the fee and request a refund within six months of the due date for the payment by filing a petition for a refund with the commission. The commission shall establish by rule procedures for handling refund petitions and may delegate the decisions on refund petitions to the secretary of the commission.

(8) After establishing the fee methodology by rule as required in subsection (2) of this section, the commission shall create a regulatory incentive program for pipeline safety programs in collaboration with the citizens committee on pipeline safety. The regulatory incentive program created by the commission shall not shift costs among companies paying pipeline safety fees and shall not decrease revenue to pipeline safety programs. [2009 c 91 § 1; 2001 c 238 § 2.]

**Intent—Finding—2001 c 238:** "The intent of this act is to ensure a sustainable, comprehensive, pipeline safety program, to protect the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Washington, and [to] maintain the quality of the state's environment. The legislature finds that public safety and the environment are best protected by securing permanent funding for this program through establishment of a regulatory fee imposed on hazardous liquids and gas pipelines." [2001 c 238 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 80.28 RCW

### GAS, ELECTRICAL, AND WATER COMPANIES

#### Sections

- 80.28.005 Definitions.  
80.28.010 Duties as to rates, services, and facilities—Limitations on termination of utility service for residential heating.

- 80.28.020 Commission to fix just, reasonable, and compensatory rates.  
80.28.022 Water company rates—Reserve account.  
80.28.024 Legislative finding.  
80.28.025 Encouragement of energy cogeneration, conservation, and production from renewable resources—Consideration of water conservation goals.  
80.28.030 Commission may order improved quality of commodity—Ordering improvements to the storage, distribution, or supply of water—Ordering improvements to the system of sewerage.  
80.28.040 Commission may order improved service—Water companies, system of sewerage noncompliance, receivership.  
80.28.050 Tariff schedules to be filed with commission—Public schedules.  
80.28.060 Tariff changes—Statutory notice—Exception—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.  
80.28.065 Tariff schedule—Energy conservation—Payment by successive property owners—Notice—Rules.  
80.28.068 Rates—Low-income customers.  
80.28.070 Sliding scale of charges permitted.  
80.28.074 Legislative declaration.  
80.28.075 Banded rates—Natural gas and electric services.  
80.28.080 Published rates to be charged—Exceptions.  
80.28.090 Unreasonable preference prohibited.  
80.28.100 Rate discrimination prohibited—Exception.  
80.28.110 Service to be furnished on reasonable notice.  
80.28.120 Effect on existing contracts.  
80.28.130 Repairs, improvements, changes, additions, or extensions may be directed.  
80.28.140 Inspection of gas and water meters.  
80.28.150 Inspection of electric meters.  
80.28.160 Testing apparatus to be furnished.  
80.28.170 Testing at consumer's request.  
80.28.180 Rules and regulations.  
80.28.185 Water companies or wastewater companies within counties—Commission may regulate.  
80.28.190 Gas companies—Certificate—Violations—Commission powers—Penalty—Fees.  
80.28.200 Gas companies—Refunds of charges.  
80.28.220 Gas companies—Right of eminent domain—Purposes.  
80.28.230 Gas companies—Use for purpose acquired exclusive—Disposition of property.  
80.28.240 Recovery of damages by utility company for tampering, unauthorized connections, diversion of services.  
80.28.250 Water companies—Fire hydrants.  
80.28.260 Adoption of policies to provide financial incentives for energy efficiency programs.  
80.28.270 Water or wastewater companies—Extension, installation, or connection charges.  
80.28.275 Water or wastewater companies—Assumption of substandard water system or system of sewerage—Limited immunity from liability.  
80.28.280 Compressed natural gas—Motor vehicle refueling stations—Public interest.  
80.28.290 Compressed natural gas—Refueling stations—Identify barriers.  
80.28.300 Gas, electrical companies encouraged to provide customers with landscaping information and to request voluntary donations for urban forestry.  
80.28.303 Conservation service tariff—Contents of filing—Rate base—Duties of commission.  
80.28.306 Conservation bonds—Conservation investment assets as collateral—Priority of security interests—Transfers.  
80.28.309 Costs as bondable conservation investment.  
80.28.310 Tariff for irrigation pumping service—Authority for electrical companies to buy back electricity.  
80.28.320 Regulation of battery charging facilities.  
80.28.330 Certificate of public convenience and necessity—Bond or equivalent surety—Rule-making authority.  
80.28.340 Determination that a wastewater company is unfit to provide wastewater service on a system of sewerage—Commission may order transfer—Power of eminent domain.  
80.28.350 Petition to place a wastewater company in receivership—Power of eminent domain.  
80.28.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Construction projects in state waters: Chapter 77.55 RCW.*

*Franchises on state highways: Chapter 47.44 RCW.*

*Reduced utility rates for low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens: RCW 74.38.070.*

**80.28.005 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Bondable conservation investment" means all expenditures made by electrical, gas, or water companies with respect to energy or water conservation measures and services intended to improve the efficiency of electricity, gas, or water end use, including related carrying costs if:

(a) The conservation measures and services do not produce assets that would be bondable utility property under the general utility mortgage of the electrical, gas, or water company;

(b) The commission has determined that the expenditures were incurred in conformance with the terms and conditions of a conservation service tariff in effect with the commission at the time the costs were incurred, and at the time of such determination the commission finds that the company has proven that the costs were prudent, that the terms and conditions of the financing are reasonable, and that financing under this chapter is more favorable to the customer than other reasonably available alternatives;

(c) The commission has approved inclusion of the expenditures in rate base and has not ordered that they be currently expensed; and

(d) The commission has not required that the measures demonstrate that energy savings have persisted at a certain level for a certain period before approving the cost of these investments as bondable conservation investment.

(2) "Conservation bonds" means bonds, notes, certificates of beneficial interests in trusts, or other evidences of indebtedness or ownership that:

(a) The commission determines at or before the time of issuance are issued to finance or refinance bondable conservation investment by an electrical, gas or water company; and

(b) Rely partly or wholly for repayment on conservation investment assets and revenues arising with respect thereto.

(3) "Conservation investment assets" means the statutory right of an electrical, gas, or water company:

(a) To have included in rate base all of its bondable conservation investment and related carrying costs; and

(b) To receive through rates revenues sufficient to recover the bondable conservation investment and the costs of equity and debt capital associated with it, including, without limitation, the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on conservation bonds.

(4) "Finance subsidiary" means any corporation, company, association, joint stock association, or trust that is beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by an electrical, gas, or water company, or in the case of a trust issuing conservation bonds consisting of beneficial interests, for which an electrical, gas, or water company or a subsidiary thereof is the grantor, or an unaffiliated entity formed for the purpose of financing or refinancing approved conservation investment, and that acquires conservation investment assets directly or indirectly from such company in a transaction approved by the commission. [1994 c 268 § 1.]

**80.28.010 Duties as to rates, services, and facilities—Limitations on termination of utility service for residential heating.** (1) All charges made, demanded or received by any gas company, electrical company, wastewater company,

or water company for gas, electricity or water, or for any service rendered or to be rendered in connection therewith, shall be just, fair, reasonable and sufficient. Reasonable charges necessary to cover the cost of administering the collection of voluntary donations for the purposes of supporting the development and implementation of evergreen community management plans and ordinances under RCW 80.28.300 must be deemed as prudent and necessary for the operation of a utility.

(2) Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, and water company shall furnish and supply such service, instrumentalities and facilities as shall be safe, adequate and efficient, and in all respects just and reasonable.

(3) All rules and regulations issued by any gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company, affecting or pertaining to the sale or distribution of its product or service, must be just and reasonable.

(4) Utility service for residential space heating shall not be terminated between November 15 through March 15 if the customer:

(a) Notifies the utility of the inability to pay the bill, including a security deposit. This notice should be provided within five business days of receiving a payment overdue notice unless there are extenuating circumstances. If the customer fails to notify the utility within five business days and service is terminated, the customer can, by paying reconnection charges, if any, and fulfilling the requirements of this section, receive the protections of this chapter;

(b) Provides self-certification of household income for the prior twelve months to a grantee of the department of commerce, which administers federally funded energy assistance programs. The grantee shall determine that the household income does not exceed the maximum allowed for eligibility under the state's plan for low-income energy assistance under 42 U.S.C. 8624 and shall provide a dollar figure that is seven percent of household income. The grantee may verify information provided in the self-certification;

(c) Has applied for home heating assistance from applicable government and private sector organizations and certifies that any assistance received will be applied to the current bill and future utility bills;

(d) Has applied for low-income weatherization assistance to the utility or other appropriate agency if such assistance is available for the dwelling;

(e) Agrees to a payment plan and agrees to maintain the payment plan. The plan will be designed both to pay the past due bill by the following October 15th and to pay for continued utility service. If the past due bill is not paid by the following October 15, the customer is not eligible for protections under this chapter until the past due bill is paid. The plan may not require monthly payments in excess of seven percent of the customer's monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made and thereafter during November 15 through March 15. A customer may agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but shall not be in default unless payment during this period is less than seven percent of monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made and thereafter. If assistance payments are received by the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan, the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the plan; and

(f) Agrees to pay the moneys owed even if he or she moves.

(5) The utility shall:

(a) Include in any notice that an account is delinquent and that service may be subject to termination, a description of the customer's duties in this section;

(b) Assist the customer in fulfilling the requirements under this section;

(c) Be authorized to transfer an account to a new residence when a customer who has established a plan under this section moves from one residence to another within the same utility service area;

(d) Be permitted to disconnect service if the customer fails to honor the payment program. Utilities may continue to disconnect service for those practices authorized by law other than for nonpayment as provided for in this subsection. Customers who qualify for payment plans under this section who default on their payment plans and are disconnected can be reconnected and maintain the protections afforded under this chapter by paying reconnection charges, if any, and by paying all amounts that would have been due and owing under the terms of the applicable payment plan, absent default, on the date on which service is reconnected; and

(e) Advise the customer in writing at the time it disconnects service that it will restore service if the customer contacts the utility and fulfills the other requirements of this section.

(6) A payment plan implemented under this section is consistent with RCW 80.28.080.

(7) Every gas company and electrical company shall offer residential customers the option of a budget billing or equal payment plan. The budget billing or equal payment plan shall be offered low-income customers eligible under the state's plan for low-income energy assistance prepared in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 8624(C)(1) without limiting availability to certain months of the year, without regard to the length of time the customer has occupied the premises, and without regard to whether the customer is the tenant or owner of the premises occupied.

(8) Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, and water company shall construct and maintain such facilities in connection with the manufacture and distribution of its product, or provision of its services, as will be efficient and safe to its employees and the public.

(9) An agreement between the customer and the utility, whether oral or written, does not waive the protections afforded under this chapter.

(10) In establishing rates or charges for water service, water companies as defined in RCW 80.04.010 may consider the achievement of water conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful water use practices. [2011 c 214 § 11; 2008 c 299 § 35; 1995 c 399 § 211. Prior: 1991 c 347 § 22; 1991 c 165 § 4; 1990 1st ex.s. c 1 § 5; 1986 c 245 § 5; 1985 c 6 § 25; 1984 c 251 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.010; prior: 1911 c 117 § 26; RRS § 10362.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**Purposes—1991 c 347:** See note following RCW 90.42.005.

**Findings—1991 c 165:** See note following RCW 35.21.300.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.28.020 Commission to fix just, reasonable, and compensatory rates.** Whenever the commission shall find, after a hearing had upon its own motion, or upon complaint, that the rates or charges demanded, exacted, charged or collected by any gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company, for gas, electricity, wastewater company services, or water, or in connection therewith, or that the rules, regulations, practices or contracts affecting such rates or charges are unjust, unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory or unduly preferential, or in any wise in violation of the provisions of the law, or that such rates or charges are insufficient to yield a reasonable compensation for the service rendered, the commission shall determine the just, reasonable, or sufficient rates, charges, regulations, practices or contracts to be thereafter observed and in force, and shall fix the same by order. [2011 c 214 § 12; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.020. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 54, part; RRS § 10390, part.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.022 Water company rates—Reserve account.** In determining the rates to be charged by each water company subject to its jurisdiction, the commission may provide for the funding of a reserve account exclusively for the purpose of making capital improvements approved by the department of health as a part of a long-range plan, or required by the department to assure compliance with federal or state drinking water regulations, or to perform construction or maintenance required by the department of ecology to secure safety to life and property under RCW 43.21A.064(2). Expenditures from the fund shall be subject to prior approval by the commission, and shall be treated for rate-making purposes as customer contributions. [1991 c 150 § 1; 1990 c 132 § 6.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—1990 c 132:** See note following RCW 43.20.240.

**80.28.024 Legislative finding.** The legislature finds and declares that the potential for meeting future energy needs through conservation measures, including energy conservation loans, energy audits, the use of appropriate tree plantings for energy conservation, and the use of renewable resources, such as solar energy, wind energy, wood, wood waste, municipal waste, agricultural products and wastes, hydroelectric energy, geothermal energy, and end-use waste heat, may not be realized without incentives to public and private energy utilities. The legislature therefore finds and declares that actions and incentives by state government to promote conservation and the use of renewable resources would be of great benefit to the citizens of this state by encouraging efficient energy use and a reliable supply of energy based upon renewable energy resources. [1993 c 204 § 8; 1980 c 149 § 1.]

**Findings—1993 c 204:** See note following RCW 35.92.390.

**80.28.025 Encouragement of energy cogeneration, conservation, and production from renewable resources—Consideration of water conservation goals.** (1) In establishing rates for each gas and electric company regulated by this chapter, the commission shall adopt policies to encourage meeting or reducing energy demand through

cogeneration as defined in \*RCW 82.35.020, measures which improve the efficiency of energy end use, and new projects which produce or generate energy from renewable resources, such as solar energy, wind energy, hydroelectric energy, geothermal energy, wood, wood waste, municipal wastes, agricultural products and wastes, and end-use waste heat. These policies shall include but are not limited to allowing a return on investment in measures to improve the efficiency of energy end use, cogeneration, or projects which produce or generate energy from renewable resources which return is established by adding an increment of two percent to the rate of return on common equity permitted on the company's other investment. Measures or projects encouraged under this section are those for which construction or installation is begun after June 12, 1980, and before January 1, 1990, and which, at the time they are placed in the rate base, are reasonably expected to save, produce, or generate energy at a total incremental system cost per unit of energy delivered to end use which is less than or equal to the incremental system cost per unit of energy delivered to end use from similarly available conventional energy resources which utilize nuclear energy or fossil fuels and which the gas or electric company could acquire to meet energy demand in the same time period. The rate of return increment shall be allowed for a period not to exceed thirty years after the measure or project is first placed in the rate base.

(2) In establishing rates for water companies regulated by this chapter, the commission may consider the achievement of water conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful water use practices. [1991 c 347 § 23; 1980 c 149 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.35.020 was repealed by 2005 c 443 § 7, effective July 1, 2006.

**Purposes—1991 c 347:** See note following RCW 90.42.005.

*Public utility tax exemptions relating to energy conservation and production from renewable resources: RCW 82.16.055.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.28.030 Commission may order improved quality of commodity—Ordering improvements to the storage, distribution, or supply of water—Ordering improvements to the system of sewerage.** (1) Whenever the commission finds, after such hearing, that the illuminating or heating power, purity or pressure of gas, the efficiency of electric lamp supply, the voltage of the current supplied for light, heat or power, the quality of wastewater company services, or the purity, quality, volume, and pressure of water, supplied by any gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company, as the case may be, is insufficient, impure, inadequate or inefficient, it shall order such improvement in the manufacture, distribution or supply of gas, in the manufacture, transmission or supply of electricity, in the operation of the services and facilities of wastewater companies, or in the storage, distribution or supply of water, or in the methods employed by such gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company, as will in its judgment be efficient, adequate, just and reasonable. Failure of a water company to comply with state board of health standards adopted under RCW 43.20.050(2)(a) or department standards adopted under chapter 70.116 RCW for purity, volume, and pressure is prima facie evidence that the water sup-

plied is insufficient, impure, inadequate, or inefficient. Failure of a wastewater company to comply with standards and permit conditions adopted and implemented under chapter 70.118B or 90.48 RCW for treatment and disposal of sewerage, is prima facie evidence that the system of sewerage is insufficient, inadequate, or inefficient.

(2) In ordering improvements in the storage, distribution, or supply of water, the commission shall consult and coordinate with the department of health. In the event that a water company fails to comply with an order of the commission within the deadline specified in the order, the commission may request that the department petition the superior court of Thurston county to place the company in receivership pursuant to chapter 7.60 RCW.

(3) In ordering improvements to the system of sewerage, the commission shall consult and coordinate with the department of health or the department of ecology, as appropriate to the agencies' jurisdiction. In the event that a wastewater company fails to comply with an order of the commission within the deadline specified in the order, the commission may petition the superior court of Thurston county to place the company in receivership pursuant to chapter 7.60 RCW. [2011 c 214 § 13; 1989 c 207 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.030. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 54, part; RRS § 10390, part.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.040 Commission may order improved service—Water companies, system of sewerage noncompliance, receivership.** (1) Whenever the commission finds, after hearing, that any rules, regulations, measurements or the standard thereof, practices, acts or services of any such gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company are unjust, unreasonable, improper, insufficient, inefficient or inadequate, or that any service which may be reasonably demanded is not furnished, the commission shall fix the reasonable rules, regulations, measurements or the standard thereof, practices, acts or service to be thereafter furnished, imposed, observed and followed, and shall fix the same by order or rule.

(2) In ordering improvements to the service of any water company, the commission shall consult and coordinate with the department of health. In the event that a water company fails to comply with an order of the commission within the deadline specified in the order, the commission may request that the department petition the superior court of Thurston county to place the company in receivership pursuant to chapter 7.60 RCW.

(3) In ordering improvements to the service of any system of sewerage, the commission shall consult and coordinate with the department of health or the department of ecology, as appropriate to the agencies' jurisdiction. In the event that a wastewater company fails to comply with an order of the commission within the deadline specified in the order, the commission may petition the superior court of Thurston county to place the company in receivership pursuant to chapter 7.60 RCW. [2011 c 214 § 14; 1989 c 207 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.040. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 54, part; RRS § 10390, part.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.050 Tariff schedules to be filed with commission—Public schedules.** Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, and water company shall file with the commission and shall print and keep open to public inspection schedules in such form as the commission may prescribe, showing all rates and charges made, established or enforced, or to be charged or enforced, all forms of contract or agreement, all rules and regulations relating to rates, charges or service, used or to be used, and all general privileges and facilities granted or allowed by such gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company. [2011 c 214 § 15; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.050. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 27; RRS § 10363.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

*Duty of company to fix rate for wholesale power on request of public utility district: RCW 54.04.100.*

**80.28.060 Tariff changes—Statutory notice—Exception—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.**

(1) Unless the commission otherwise orders, no change may be made in any rate or charge or in any form of contract or agreement or in any rule or regulation relating to any rate, charge or service, or in any general privilege or facility which shall have been filed and published by a gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company in compliance with the requirements of RCW 80.28.050 except after thirty days' notice to the commission and publication for thirty days, which notice must plainly state the changes proposed to be made in the schedule then in force and the time when the change will go into effect and all proposed changes must be shown by printing, filing and publishing new schedules, or shall be plainly indicated upon the schedules in force at the time and kept open to public inspection. Proposed changes may be suspended by the commission within thirty days or before the stated effective date of the proposed change, whichever is later. The commission, for good cause shown, may allow changes without requiring the thirty days' notice by duly filing, in such manner as it may direct, an order specifying the changes so to be made and the time when it takes effect. All such changes must be immediately indicated upon its schedules by the company affected. When any change is made in any rate or charge, form of contract or agreement, or any rule or regulation relating to any rate or charge or service, or in any general privilege or facility, the effect of which is to increase any rate or charge, then in existence, attention must be directed on the copy filed with the commission to such increase by some character immediately preceding or following the item in such schedule, such character to be in form as designated by the commission.

(2) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2011 c 214 § 16; 2008 c 181 § 402; 1989 c 152 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.060. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 28; RRS § 10364.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

[Title 80 RCW—page 30]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**80.28.065 Tariff schedule—Energy conservation—Payment by successive property owners—Notice—Rules.**

(1) Upon request by an electrical or gas company, the commission may approve a tariff schedule that contains rates or charges for energy conservation measures, services, or payments provided to individual property owners or customers. The tariff schedule shall require the electrical or gas company to enter into an agreement with the property owner or customer receiving services at the time the conservation measures, services, or payments are initially provided. The tariff schedule may allow for the payment of the rates or charges over a period of time and for the application of the payment obligation to successive property owners or customers at the premises where the conservation measures or services were installed or performed or with respect to which the conservation payments were made.

(2) The electrical or gas company shall record a notice of a payment obligation, containing a legal description, resulting from an agreement under this section with the county auditor or recording officer as provided in RCW 65.04.030.

(3) The commission may prescribe by rule other methods by which an electrical or gas company shall notify property owners or customers of any such payment obligation. [1993 c 245 § 2.]

**Legislative findings—Intent—1993 c 245:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) The ability of utilities to acquire cost-effective conservation measures is instrumental in assuring that Washington citizens have reasonable energy rates and that utilities have adequate energy resources to meet future energy demands;

(b) Customers may be more willing to accept investments in energy efficiency and conservation if real and perceived impediments to property transactions are avoided;

(c) Potential purchasers of real property should be notified of any utility conservation charges at the earliest point possible in the sale.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to encourage utilities to develop innovative approaches designed to promote energy efficiency and conservation that have limited rate impacts on utility customers. It is not the intent of the legislature to restrict the authority of the utilities and transportation commission to approve tariff schedules.

(3) It is also the intent of the legislature that utilities which establish conservation tariffs should undertake measures to assure that potential purchasers of property are aware of the existence of any conservation tariffs. Measures that may be considered include, but are not limited to:

(a) Recording a notice of a conservation tariff payment obligation, containing a legal description, with the county property records;

(b) Annually notifying customers who have entered agreements of the conservation tariff obligation;

(c) Working with the real estate industry to provide for disclosure of conservation tariff obligations in standardized listing agreements and earnest money agreements; and

(d) Working with title insurers to provide recorded conservation tariff obligations as an informational note to the preliminary commitment for policy of title insurance." [1993 c 245 § 1.]

**80.28.068 Rates—Low-income customers.** Upon request by an electrical or gas company, or other party to a general rate case hearing, the commission may approve rates, charges, services, and/or physical facilities at a discount for low-income senior customers and low-income customers. Expenses and lost revenues as a result of these discounts shall be included in the company's cost of service and recovered in rates to other customers. [2009 c 32 § 1; 1999 c 62 § 1.]

(2012 Ed.)

**80.28.070 Sliding scale of charges permitted.** Nothing in this chapter shall be taken to prohibit a gas company, electrical company or water company from establishing a sliding scale of charges, whereby a greater charge is made per unit for a lesser than a greater quantity for gas, electricity or water, or any service rendered or to be rendered. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.070. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 32; RRS § 10368.]

**80.28.074 Legislative declaration.** The legislature declares it is the policy of the state to:

(1) Preserve affordable natural gas and electric services to the residents of the state;

(2) Maintain and advance the efficiency and availability of natural gas and electric services to the residents of the state of Washington;

(3) Ensure that customers pay only reasonable charges for natural gas and electric service;

(4) Permit flexible pricing of natural gas and electric services. [1988 c 166 § 1.]

**80.28.075 Banded rates—Natural gas and electric services.** Upon request by a natural gas company or an electrical company, the commission may approve a tariff that includes banded rates for any nonresidential natural gas or electric service that is subject to effective competition from energy suppliers not regulated by the utilities and transportation commission. "Banded rate" means a rate that has a minimum and maximum rate. Rates may be changed within the rate band upon such notice as the commission may order. [1988 c 166 § 2.]

**80.28.080 Published rates to be charged—Exceptions.** (1)(a) Except as provided otherwise in this subsection, no gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company may charge, demand, collect or receive a greater or less or different compensation for any service rendered or to be rendered than the rates and charges applicable to such service as specified in its schedule filed and in effect at the time, nor may any such company directly or indirectly refund or remit in any manner or by any device any portion of the rates or charges so specified, or furnish its product at free or reduced rates except to its employees and their families, and its officers, attorneys, and agents; to hospitals, charitable and eleemosynary institutions and persons engaged in charitable and eleemosynary work; to indigent and destitute persons; to national homes or state homes for disabled volunteer soldiers and soldiers' and sailors' homes.

For the purposes of this subsection (1):

(i) "Employees" includes furloughed, pensioned and superannuated employees, persons who have become disabled or infirm in the service of any such company; and

(ii) "Families" includes the families of those persons named in this proviso, the families of persons killed or dying in the service, also the families of persons killed, and the surviving spouse prior to remarriage, and the minor children during minority of persons who died while in the service of any of the companies named in this subsection (1).

(b) Water companies may furnish free or at reduced rates water for the use of the state, or for any project in which the state is interested.

(2012 Ed.)

(c) Gas companies, electrical companies, wastewater companies, and water companies may charge the defendant for treble damages awarded in lawsuits successfully litigated under RCW 80.28.240.

(2) No gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company may extend to any person or corporation any form of contract or agreement or any rule or regulation or any privilege or facility except such as are regularly and uniformly extended to all persons and corporations under like circumstances. [2011 c 214 § 17; 1985 c 427 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 116; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.080. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 29; RRS § 10365.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.28.090 Unreasonable preference prohibited.** No gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company may make or grant any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any person, corporation, or locality, or to any particular description of service in any respect whatsoever, or subject any particular person, corporation or locality or any particular description of service to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever. [2011 c 214 § 18; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.090. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 30; RRS § 10366.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.100 Rate discrimination prohibited—Exception.** No gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company may, directly or indirectly, or by any special rate, rebate, drawback or other device or method, charge, demand, collect or receive from any person or corporation a greater or less compensation for gas, electricity, wastewater company services, or water, or for any service rendered or to be rendered, or in connection therewith, except as authorized in this chapter, than it charges, demands, collects or receives from any other person or corporation for doing a like or contemporaneous service with respect thereto under the same or substantially similar circumstances or conditions. [2011 c 214 § 19; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.100. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 31; RRS § 10367.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

*Reduced utility rates for low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens: RCW 74.38.070.*

**80.28.110 Service to be furnished on reasonable notice.** Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, or water company, engaged in the sale and distribution of gas, electricity or water or the provision of wastewater company services, shall, upon reasonable notice, furnish to all persons and corporations who may apply therefor and be reasonably entitled thereto, suitable facilities for furnishing and furnish all available gas, electricity, wastewater company services, and water as demanded, except that a water company may not furnish water contrary to the provisions of water system plans approved under chapter 43.20 or 70.116 RCW and wastewater companies may not provide services contrary to the approved general sewer plan. [2011

c 214 § 20; 1990 c 132 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.110. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 33; RRS § 10369.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**Legislative findings—Severability—1990 c 132:** See note following RCW 43.20.240.

*Duty of company to fix rate for wholesale power on request of public utility district: RCW 54.04.100.*

**80.28.120 Effect on existing contracts.** Every gas, water, wastewater, or electrical company owning, operating or managing a plant or system for the distribution and sale of gas, water or electricity, or the provision of wastewater company services to the public for hire is, and is held to be, a public service company as to such plant or system and as to all gas, water, wastewater company services, or electricity distributed or furnished therefrom, whether such gas, water, wastewater company services, or electricity be sold wholesale or retail or be distributed wholly to the general public or in part as surplus gas, water, wastewater company services, or electricity to manufacturing or industrial concerns or to other public service companies or municipalities for redistribution. Nothing in this title may be construed to prevent any gas company, electrical company or water company from continuing to furnish its product or the use of its lines, equipment or service under any contract or contracts in force on June 7, 1911, at the rates fixed in such contract or contracts. However, the commission has power, in its discretion, to direct by order that such contract or contracts be terminated by the company party thereto and thereupon such contract or contracts must be terminated by such company as and when directed by such order. [2011 c 214 § 21; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.120. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 34; RRS § 10370.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.130 Repairs, improvements, changes, additions, or extensions may be directed.** Whenever the commission finds, after hearing had upon its own motion or upon complaint, that repairs or improvements, to, or changes in, any gas plant, electrical plant, system of sewerage, or water system ought to be made, or that any additions or extensions should reasonably be made thereto, in order to promote the security or convenience of the public or employees, or in order to secure adequate service or facilities for manufacturing, distributing or supplying gas, electricity, wastewater company services, or water, the commission may enter an order directing that such reasonable repairs, improvements, changes, additions or extensions of such gas plant, electrical plant, system of sewerage, or water system be made. [2011 c 214 § 22; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.130. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 70; RRS § 10406.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.140 Inspection of gas and water meters.** The commission may appoint inspectors of gas and water meters whose duty it shall be when required by the commission to inspect, examine, prove and ascertain the accuracy of any and all gas and water meters used or intended to be used for mea-

suring or ascertaining the quantity of gas for light, heat or power, or the quantity of water furnished for any purpose by any public service company to or for the use of any person or corporation, and when found to be or made to be correct such inspectors shall seal all such meters and each of them with some suitable device to be prescribed by the commission.

No public service company shall thereafter furnish, set or put in use any gas or water meter which shall not have been inspected, proved and sealed by an inspector of the commission under such rules and regulations as the commission may prescribe. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.140. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 74, part; RRS § 10410, part.]

**80.28.150 Inspection of electric meters.** The commission may appoint inspectors of electric meters whose duty it shall be when required by the commission to inspect, examine, prove and ascertain the accuracy of any and all electric meters used or intended to be used for measuring and ascertaining the quantity of electric current furnished for light, heat or power by any public service company to or for the use of any person or corporation, and to inspect, examine and ascertain the accuracy of all apparatus for testing and proving the accuracy of electric meters, and when found to be or made to be correct the inspector shall stamp or mark all such meters and apparatus with some suitable device to be prescribed by the commission. No public service company shall furnish, set or put in use any electric meters the type of which shall not have been approved by the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.150. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 74, part; RRS § 10410, part.]

**80.28.160 Testing apparatus to be furnished.** Every gas company, electrical company and water company shall prepare and maintain such suitable premises, apparatus and facilities as may be required and approved by the commission for testing and proving the accuracy of gas, electric or water meters furnished for use by it by which apparatus every meter may be tested. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.160. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 74, part; RRS § 10410, part.]

**80.28.170 Testing at consumer's request.** If any consumer to whom a meter has been furnished shall request the commission in writing to inspect such meter, the commission shall have the same inspected and tested, and if the same, on being so tested, shall be found to be more than four percent if an electric meter, or more than two percent if a gas meter, or more than two percent if a water meter, defective or incorrect to the prejudice of the consumer, the expense of such inspection and test shall be borne by the gas company, electrical company or water company, and if the same, on being so tested shall be found to be correct within the limits of error prescribed by the provisions of this section, the expense of such inspection and test shall be borne by the consumer. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.170. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 74, part; RRS § 10410, part.]

**80.28.180 Rules and regulations.** The commission shall prescribe such rules and regulations to carry into effect the provisions of RCW 80.28.140 through 80.28.170 as it may deem necessary, and shall fix the uniform and reasonable charges for the inspection and testing of meters upon

complaint. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.180. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 74, part; RRS § 10410, part.]

**80.28.185 Water companies or wastewater companies within counties—Commission may regulate.** The commission may develop and enter into an agreement with a county to carry out the regulatory functions of this chapter with regard to water companies or wastewater companies located within the boundary of that county. The duration of the agreement, the duties to be performed, and the remuneration to be paid by the commission are subject to agreement by the commission and the county. [2011 c 214 § 23; 1989 c 207 § 6.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.190 Gas companies—Certificate—Violations—Commission powers—Penalty—Fees.** (1) No gas company shall, after January 1, 1956, operate in this state any gas plant for hire without first having obtained from the commission under the provisions of this chapter a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity requires or will require such operation and setting forth the area or areas within which service is to be rendered; but a certificate shall be granted where it appears to the satisfaction of the commission that such gas company was actually operating in good faith, within the confines of the area for which such certificate shall be sought, on June 8, 1955. Any right, privilege, certificate held, owned or obtained by a gas company may be sold, assigned, leased, transferred or inherited as other property, only upon authorization by the commission. The commission shall have power, after hearing, when the applicant requests a certificate to render service in an area already served by a certificate holder under this chapter only when the existing gas company or companies serving such area will not provide the same to the satisfaction of the commission and in all other cases, with or without hearing, to issue the certificate as prayed for; or for good cause shown to refuse to issue same, or to issue it for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the rights granted by the certificate such terms and conditions as, in its judgment, the public convenience and necessity may require.

(2) The commission may, at any time, by its order duly entered after a hearing had upon notice to the holder of any certificate hereunder, and an opportunity to such holder to be heard, at which it shall be proven that such holder willfully violates or refuses to observe any of its proper orders, rules or regulations, suspend, revoke, alter or amend any certificate issued under the provisions of this section, but the holder of such certificate shall have all the rights of rehearing, review and appeal as to such order of the commission as is provided herein.

(3) In all respects in which the commission has power and authority under this chapter applications and complaints may be made and filed with it, process issued, hearings held, opinions, orders and decisions made and filed, petitions for rehearing filed and acted upon, and petitions for writs of review to the superior court filed therewith, appeals or mandate filed with the supreme court or the court of appeals of this state considered and disposed of by such courts in the manner, under the conditions, and subject to the limitations

(2012 Ed.)

and with the effect specified in the Washington utilities and transportation commission laws of this state.

(4) Every officer, agent, or employee of any corporation, and every other person who violates or fails to comply with, or who procures, aids or abets in the violation of any of the provisions of this section or who fails to obey, observe or comply with any order, decision, rule or regulation, directive, demand or requirements, or any provision of this section, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(5) Neither this section, RCW 80.28.200, \*80.28.210, nor any provisions thereof shall apply or be construed to apply to commerce with foreign nations or commerce among the several states of this union except insofar as the same may be permitted under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and acts of congress.

(6) The commission shall collect the following miscellaneous fees from gas companies: Application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity or to amend a certificate, twenty-five dollars; application to sell, lease, mortgage or transfer a certificate of public convenience and necessity or any interest therein, ten dollars. [2003 c 53 § 383; 1971 c 81 § 141; 1961 c 14 § 80.28.190. Prior: 1955 c 316 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 80.28.210 was repealed by 2007 c 142 § 11.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**80.28.200 Gas companies—Refunds of charges.**

Whenever any gas company whose rates are subject to the jurisdiction of the commission shall receive any refund of amounts charged and collected from it on account of natural gas purchased by it, by reason of any reduction of rates or disallowance of an increase in rates of the seller of such natural gas pursuant to an order of the federal power commission, whether such refund shall be directed by the federal power commission or by any court upon review of such an order or shall otherwise accrue to such company, the commission shall have power after a hearing, upon its own motion, upon complaint, or upon the application of such company, to determine whether or not such refund should be passed on, in whole or in part, to the consumers of such company and to order such company to pass such refund on to its consumers, in the manner and to the extent determined just and reasonable by the commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.200. Prior: 1955 c 316 § 5.]

**80.28.220 Gas companies—Right of eminent domain—Purposes.** Every corporation having for one of its principal purposes the transmission, distribution, sale, or furnishing of natural gas or other type gas for light, heat, or power and holding and owning a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the utilities and transportation commission authorizing the operation of a gas plant, may appropriate, by condemnation, lands and property and interests therein, for the transmission, distribution, sale, or furnishing of such natural gas or other type gas through gas mains or pipelines under the provisions of chapter 8.20 RCW. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.220. Prior: 1957 c 191 § 1.]

**80.28.230 Gas companies—Use for purpose acquired exclusive—Disposition of property.** Any property or interest acquired as provided in RCW 80.28.220 shall be used

exclusively for the purposes for which it was acquired: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if any such property be sold or otherwise disposed of by said corporations, such sale or disposition shall be by public sale or disposition and advertised in the manner of public sales in the county where such property is located. [1961 c 14 § 80.28.230. Prior: 1957 c 191 § 2.]

**80.28.240 Recovery of damages by utility company for tampering, unauthorized connections, diversion of services.** (1) A utility may bring a civil action for damages against any person who commits, authorizes, solicits, aids, abets, or attempts to:

(a) Divert, or cause to be diverted, utility services by any means whatsoever;

(b) Make, or cause to be made, any connection or reconnection with property owned or used by the utility to provide utility service without the authorization or consent of the utility;

(c) Prevent any utility meter or other device used in determining the charge for utility services from accurately performing its measuring function by tampering or by any other means;

(d) Tamper with any property owned or used by the utility to provide utility services; or

(e) Use or receive the direct benefit of all or a portion of the utility service with knowledge of, or reason to believe that, the diversion, tampering, or unauthorized connection existed at the time of the use or that the use or receipt was without the authorization or consent of the utility.

(2) In any civil action brought under this section, the utility may recover from the defendant as damages three times the amount of actual damages, if any, plus the cost of the suit and reasonable attorney's fees, plus the costs incurred on account of the bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized reconnection, including but not limited to costs and expenses for investigation, disconnection, reconnection, service calls, and expert witnesses.

(3) Any damages recovered under this section in excess of the actual damages sustained by the utility may be taken into account by the utilities and transportation commission or other applicable rate-making agency in establishing utility rates.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) "Customer" means the person in whose name a utility service is provided;

(b) "Divert" means to change the intended course or path of electricity, gas, or water without the authorization or consent of the utility;

(c) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, association, or corporation or government agency;

(d) "Reconnection" means the commencement of utility service to a customer or other person after service has been lawfully disconnected by the utility;

(e) "Tamper" means to rearrange, injure, alter, interfere with, or otherwise prevent from performing the normal or customary function;

(f) "Utility" means any electrical company, gas company, wastewater company, or water company as those terms are defined in RCW 80.04.010, and includes any electrical,

gas, system of sewerage, or water system operated by any public agency; and

(g) "Utility service" means the provision of electricity, gas, water, wastewater company services, or any other service or commodity furnished by the utility for compensation. [2011 c 214 § 24; 1989 c 11 § 30; 1985 c 427 § 1.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.28.250 Water companies—Fire hydrants.** A city, town or county may, by ordinance or resolution, require a water company to maintain fire hydrants in the area served by the water company. The utilities and transportation commission has no authority to waive this obligation. [1986 c 119 § 1.]

**80.28.260 Adoption of policies to provide financial incentives for energy efficiency programs.** (1) The commission shall adopt a policy allowing an incentive rate of return on investment (a) for payments made under RCW 19.27A.035 and (b) for programs that improve the efficiency of energy end use if priority is given to senior citizens and low-income citizens in the course of carrying out such programs. The incentive rate of return on investments set forth in this subsection is established by adding an increment of two percent to the rate of return on common equity permitted on the company's other investments.

(2) The commission shall consider and may adopt a policy allowing an incentive rate of return on investment in additional programs to improve the efficiency of energy end use or other incentive policies to encourage utility investment in such programs.

(3) The commission shall consider and may adopt other policies to protect a company from a reduction of short-term earnings that may be a direct result of utility programs to increase the efficiency of energy use. These policies may include allowing a periodic rate adjustment for investments in end use efficiency or allowing changes in price structure designed to produce additional new revenue. [1996 c 186 § 520; 1990 c 2 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186:** See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

**Findings—Severability—1990 c 2:** See notes following RCW 19.27A.015.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.28.270 Water or wastewater companies—Extension, installation, or connection charges.** The commission's jurisdiction over the rates, charges, practices, acts or services of any water company or wastewater company includes any aspect of line extension, service installation, or service connection. If the charges for such services are not set forth by specific amount in the company's tariff filed with the commission pursuant to RCW 80.28.050, the commission shall determine the fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient charge for such extension, installation, or connection. In any such proceeding in which there is no specified tariffed rate, the burden is on the company to prove that its proposed charges are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. [2011 c 214 § 25; 1991 c 101 § 2.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.275 Water or wastewater companies—Assumption of substandard water system or system of sewerage—Limited immunity from liability.** A water company or a wastewater company assuming responsibility for a water system or system of sewerage that is not in compliance with state or federal requirements, and its agents and employees, are immune from lawsuits or causes of action, based on noncompliance with state or federal requirements, which predate the date of assuming responsibility and continue after the date of assuming responsibility, provided that the water company or wastewater company has submitted and is complying with a plan and schedule of improvements approved by the department of health or the department of ecology, as appropriate to the agencies' jurisdiction. This immunity expires on the earlier of the date the plan of improvements is completed or four years from the date of assuming responsibility. This immunity does not apply to intentional injuries, fraud, or bad faith and is subject to the provisions of law governing clean water as referenced by the commission by rule. [2011 c 214 § 26; 1994 c 292 § 9.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**80.28.280 Compressed natural gas—Motor vehicle refueling stations—Public interest.** The legislature finds that compressed natural gas offers significant potential to reduce vehicle emissions and to significantly decrease dependence on petroleum-based fuels. The legislature also finds that well-developed and convenient refueling systems are imperative if compressed natural gas is to be widely used by the public. The legislature declares that the development of compressed natural gas refueling stations are in the public interest. Nothing in this section and RCW 80.28.290 is intended to alter the regulatory practices of the commission or allow the subsidization of one ratepayer class by another. [1991 c 199 § 216.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

*Clean fuel:* RCW 70.120.210.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.28.290 Compressed natural gas—Refueling stations—Identify barriers.** The commission shall identify barriers to the development of refueling stations for vehicles operating on compressed natural gas, and shall develop policies to remove such barriers. In developing such policies, the commission shall consider providing rate incentives to encourage natural gas companies to invest in the infrastructure required by such refueling stations. [1991 c 199 § 217.]

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.28.300 Gas, electrical companies encouraged to provide customers with landscaping information and to request voluntary donations for urban forestry.** (1) Gas companies and electrical companies under this chapter are encouraged to provide information to their customers regard-

ing landscaping that includes tree planting for energy conservation.

(2)(a) Gas companies and electrical companies under this chapter may request voluntary donations from their customers for the purposes of urban forestry. The request may be in the form of a check-off on the billing statement or other form of a request for a voluntary donation.

(b) Voluntary donations collected by gas companies and electrical companies under this section may be used by the gas companies and electrical companies to:

(i) Support the development and implementation of evergreen community ordinances, as that term is defined in RCW 35.105.010, for cities, towns, or counties within their service areas; or

(ii) Complete projects consistent with the model evergreen community management plans and ordinances developed under RCW 35.105.050.

(c) Donations received under this section do not contribute to the gross income of a light and power business or gas distribution business under chapter 82.16 RCW. [2008 c 299 § 21; 1993 c 204 § 4.]

**Short title—2008 c 299:** See note following RCW 35.105.010.

**Findings—1993 c 204:** See note following RCW 35.92.390.

**80.28.303 Conservation service tariff—Contents of filing—Rate base—Duties of commission.** (1) An electrical, gas, or water company may file a conservation service tariff with the commission. The tariff shall provide:

(a) The terms and conditions upon which the company will offer the conservation measures and services specified in the tariff;

(b) The period of time during which the conservation measures and services will be offered; and

(c) The maximum amount of expenditures to be made during a specified time period by the company on conservation measures and services specified in the tariff.

(2) The commission has the same authority with respect to a proposed conservation service tariff as it has with regard to any other schedule or classification the effect of which is to change any rate or charge, including, without limitation, the power granted by RCW 80.04.130 to conduct a hearing concerning a proposed conservation service tariff and the reasonableness and justness thereof, and pending such hearing and the decision thereon the commission may suspend the operation of the tariff for a period not exceeding ten months from the time the tariff would otherwise go into effect.

(3) An electrical, gas, or water company may from time to time apply to the commission for a determination that specific expenditures may under its tariff constitute bondable conservation investment. A company may request this determination by the commission in separate proceedings for this purpose or in connection with a general rate case. The commission may designate the expenditures as bondable conservation investment as defined in RCW 80.28.005(1) if it finds that such designation is in the public interest.

(4) The commission shall include in rate base all bondable conservation investment. The commission shall approve rates for service by electrical, gas, and water companies at levels sufficient to recover all of the expenditures of the bondable conservation investment included in rate base and the costs of equity and debt capital associated therewith,

including, without limitation, the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on conservation bonds. The rates so determined may be included in general rate schedules or may be expressed in one or more separate rate schedules. The commission shall not revalue bondable conservation investment for rate-making purposes, to determine that revenues required to recover bondable conservation investment and associated equity and debt capital costs are unjust, unreasonable, or in any way impair or reduce the value of conservation investment assets or that would impair the timing or the amount of revenues arising with respect to conservation investment assets that have been pledged to secure conservation bonds.

(5) Nothing in this chapter precludes the commission from adopting or continuing other conservation policies and programs intended to provide incentives for and to encourage utility investment in improving the efficiency of energy or water end use. However, the policies or programs shall not impair conservation investment assets. This chapter is not intended to be an exclusive or mandatory approach to conservation programs for electrical, gas, and water companies, and no such company is obligated to file conservation service tariffs under this chapter, to apply to the commission for a determination that conservation costs constitute bondable conservation investment within the meaning of this chapter, or to issue conservation bonds.

(6)(a) If a customer of an electrical, gas, or water company for whose benefit the company made expenditures for conservation measures or services ceases to be a customer of such company for one or more of the following reasons, the commission may require that the portion of such conservation expenditures that had been included in rate base but not theretofore recovered in the rates of such company be removed from the rate base of the company:

(i) The customer ceases to be a customer of the supplier of energy or water, and the customer repays to the company the portion of the conservation expenditures made for the benefit of such customer that has not theretofore been recovered in rates of the company; or

(ii) The company sells its property used to serve such customer and the customer ceases to be a customer of the company as a result of such action.

(b) An electrical, gas, or water company may include in a contract for a conservation measure or service, and the commission may by rule or order require to be included in such contracts, a provision requiring that, if the customer ceases to be a customer of that supplier of energy or water, the customer shall repay to the company the portion of the conservation expenditures made for the benefit of such customer that has not theretofore been recovered in rates of the company. [1994 c 268 § 2.]

**80.28.306 Conservation bonds—Conservation investment assets as collateral—Priority of security interests—Transfers.** (1) Electrical, gas, and water companies, or finance subsidiaries, may issue conservation bonds upon approval by the commission.

(2) Electrical, gas, and water companies, or finance subsidiaries may pledge conservation investment assets as collateral for conservation bonds by obtaining an order of the commission approving an issue of conservation bonds and pro-

viding for a security interest in conservation investment assets. A security interest in conservation investment assets is created and perfected only upon entry of an order by the commission approving a contract governing the granting of the security interest and the filing with the department of licensing of a UCC-1 financing statement, showing such pledgor as "debtor" and identifying such conservation investment assets and the bondable conservation investment associated therewith. The security interest is enforceable against the debtor and all third parties, subject to the rights of any third parties holding security interests in the conservation investment assets perfected in the manner described in this section, if value has been given by the purchasers of conservation bonds. An approved security interest in conservation investment assets is a continuously perfected security interest in all revenues and proceeds arising with respect to the associated bondable conservation investment, whether or not such revenues have accrued. Upon such approval, the priority of such security interest shall be as set forth in the contract governing the conservation bonds. Conservation investment assets constitute property for the purposes of contracts securing conservation bonds whether or not the related revenues have accrued.

(3) The relative priority of a security interest created under this section is not defeated or adversely affected by the commingling of revenues arising with respect to conservation investment assets with other funds of the debtor. The holders of conservation bonds shall have a perfected security interest in all cash and deposit accounts of the debtor in which revenues arising with respect to conservation investment assets pledged to such holders have been commingled with other funds, but such perfected security interest is limited to an amount not greater than the amount of such revenues received by the debtor within twelve months before (a) any default under the conservation bonds held by the holders or (b) the institution of insolvency proceedings by or against the debtor, less payments from such revenues to the holders during such twelve-month period. If an event of default occurs under an approved contract governing conservation bonds, the holders of conservation bonds or their authorized representatives, as secured parties, may foreclose or otherwise enforce the security interest in the conservation investment assets securing the conservation bonds, subject to the rights of any third parties holding prior security interests in the conservation investment assets perfected in the manner provided in this section. Upon application by the holders of [or] their representatives, without limiting their other remedies, the commission shall order the sequestration and payment to the holders or their representatives of revenues arising with respect to the conservation investment assets pledged to such holders. Any such order shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding any bankruptcy, reorganization, or other insolvency proceedings with respect to the debtor. Any surplus in excess of amounts necessary to pay principal, premium, if any, interest, and expenses arising under the contract governing the conservation bonds shall be remitted to the debtor electrical, gas, or water company or the debtor finance subsidiary.

(4) The granting, perfection, and enforcement of security interests in conservation investment assets to secure conser-

vation bonds is governed by this chapter rather than by \*chapter 62A.9 RCW.

(5) A transfer of conservation investment assets by an electrical, gas, or water company to a finance subsidiary, which such parties have in the governing documentation expressly stated to be a sale or other absolute transfer, in a transaction approved in an order issued by the commission and in connection with the issuance by such finance subsidiary of conservation bonds, shall be treated as a true sale, and not as a pledge or other financing, of such conservation investment assets. According the holders of conservation bonds a preferred right to revenues of the electrical, gas, or water company, or the provision by such company of other credit enhancement with respect to conservation bonds, does not impair or negate the characterization of any such transfer as a true sale.

(6) Any successor to an electrical, gas, or water company pursuant to any bankruptcy, reorganization, or other insolvency proceeding shall perform and satisfy all obligations of the company under an approved contract governing conservation bonds, in the same manner and to the same extent as such company before any such proceeding, including, without limitation, collecting and paying to the bondholders or their representatives revenues arising with respect to the conservation investment assets pledged to secure the conservation bonds. [1994 c 268 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 62A.9 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2000 c 250 § 9A-901, effective July 1, 2001. For later enactment, see chapter 62A.9A RCW.

**80.28.309 Costs as bondable conservation investment.** (1) Costs incurred before June 9, 1994, by electrical, gas, or water companies with respect to energy or water conservation measures and services intended to improve the efficiency of energy or water end use shall constitute bondable conservation investment for purposes of RCW 80.28.005, 80.28.303, 80.28.306, and this section, if:

(a) The commission has previously issued a rate order authorizing the inclusion of such costs in rate base; and

(b) The commission authorizes the issuance of conservation bonds secured by conservation investment assets associated with such costs.

(2) If costs incurred before June 9, 1994, by electrical, gas, or water companies with respect to energy or water conservation measures intended to improve the efficiency of energy or water end use have not previously been considered by the commission for inclusion in rate base, an electrical, gas, or water company may apply to the commission for approval of such costs. If the commission finds that the expenditures are a bondable conservation investment, the commission shall by order designate such expenditures as bondable conservation investment, which shall be subject to RCW 80.28.005, 80.28.303, 80.28.306, and this section. [1994 c 268 § 4.]

**80.28.310 Tariff for irrigation pumping service—Authority for electrical companies to buy back electricity.** Upon request by an electrical company, the commission may approve a tariff for irrigation pumping service that allows the company to buy back electricity from customers to reduce

electricity usage by those customers during the electrical company's particular irrigation season. [2001 c 122 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.28.320 Regulation of battery charging facilities.**

The commission shall not regulate the rates, services, facilities, and practices of an entity that offers battery charging facilities to the public for hire; if: (1) That entity is not otherwise subject to commission jurisdiction as an electrical company; or (2) that entity is otherwise subject to commission jurisdiction as an electrical company, but its battery charging facilities and services are not subsidized by any regulated service. An electrical company may offer battery charging facilities as a regulated service, subject to commission approval. [2011 c 28 § 2.]

**80.28.330 Certificate of public convenience and necessity—Bond or equivalent surety—Rule-making authority.**

(1) A wastewater company may not own or develop a system of sewerage for the purpose of providing service for compensation without first having obtained from the commission a certificate declaring that the public convenience and necessity requires such service.

(2) Issuance of the certificate of public convenience and necessity must be determined on, but not limited to, the following factors:

(a) A comprehensive business plan detailing the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed service system;

(b) Demonstration of sufficient financial resources to properly operate and maintain the proposed system, and to replace and upgrade capital assets;

(c) The need to develop a new stand alone system instead of connecting to an existing system;

(d) A statement of prior experience, if any, in such field by the petitioner, set out in an affidavit or declaration;

(e) A certification from the municipal corporation that it is not willing and able to provide the sewerage services being proposed; and

(f) A certification from the municipal corporation that the company's proposed service is consistent with the locally approved general sewer plan.

(3) The commission may, after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, issue certificates, or for good cause shown refuse to issue them, or issue them for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the rights granted such terms and conditions as, in its judgment, the public convenience and necessity may require.

(4) No certificate may be transferred to any private or nonprofit entity unless authorized by the commission.

(5)(a) Prior to the commission approving a wastewater company to provide new service or extend existing service, the wastewater company must file and continuously maintain in effect, a bond, or equivalent surety as determined by the commission, with the commission to ensure that there are sufficient funds to:

(i) Design, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed system;

(ii) Replace and upgrade capital assets as required by federal or state law or by order of the department of health or department of ecology; and

(iii) Allow additional connections to the system, if approved by the department of health or the department of ecology.

(b) The bond, or its equivalent surety, is payable under this section to the commission upon:

(i) An order under RCW 80.28.340 to transfer a system or systems of sewerage to a capable wastewater company;

(ii) Notice that the wastewater company does not intend to renew the bond or its equivalent surety or has failed to renew the bond or its equivalent surety; or

(iii) A petition by the commission under RCW 80.28.350, 80.28.030, or 80.28.040 to place a wastewater company in receivership.

(c) The commission must hold the payment in trust until an acquiring wastewater company is designated under RCW 80.28.340 or a receiving entity is designated under RCW 80.28.350, 80.28.030, or 80.28.040, at which point the funds will be made available to the company or entity to expend as directed by the commission.

(6) For purposes of issuing certificates under this chapter, the commission may adopt rules to implement this section.

(7) A wastewater company must obtain commission approval before expanding an existing system beyond the approved capacity set forth in its certificate or acquiring new systems, either by construction or purchase. [2011 c 214 § 3.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.340 Determination that a wastewater company is unfit to provide wastewater service on a system of sewerage—Commission may order transfer—Power of eminent domain.** (1) If the commission determines, after providing notice and opportunity for a hearing in the manner required for complaints under RCW 80.04.110, that a wastewater company is unfit to provide wastewater service on any system of sewerage, under its ownership, the commission may order the transfer of any such system or systems to a capable wastewater company.

(2) In determining whether a wastewater company is unfit to provide wastewater service on a system of sewerage in consultation with the department of health or the department of ecology as appropriate to the agencies' jurisdiction, the commission may consider the company's technical and managerial expertise to operate the system of sewerage, the company's financial soundness and the company's willingness and ability to make ongoing investments necessary to maintain compliance with statutory and regulatory standards for the safety, adequacy, efficiency, and reasonableness of the service provided.

(3) Before ordering the transfer of a system of sewerage owned by a wastewater company that is unfit to provide service, the commission must first determine that:

(a) Alternatives to the transfer are impractical or not economically feasible;

(b) The acquiring wastewater company is willing and able to acquire the system or systems of sewerage, [is] financially sound, and has the technical and managerial expertise

to own and operate the system or systems of sewerage in compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory standards; and

(c) Rates paid by existing customers served by the acquiring wastewater company will not increase unreasonably because of the acquisition of the system of sewerage or because of expenditures that may be necessary to assure compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory standards for the safety, adequacy, efficiency, and reasonableness of the service provided.

(4) The sale price for the unfit wastewater company's system or systems of sewerage assets must be determined by agreement between the unfit wastewater company and the acquiring capable wastewater company subject to a finding by the commission that the agreed price is reasonable. A price is deemed reasonable if it does not exceed the original cost of plant in service, minus accumulated depreciation, minus contributions in aid to construction. If the unfit wastewater company and the acquiring capable wastewater company are unable to agree on the sale price or the commission finds that the agreed sale price is not reasonable, the acquiring capable wastewater company may initiate a condemnation proceeding in superior court in the manner provided by chapter 8.04 RCW to determine the compensation to be paid by the acquiring capable wastewater company for the failed system or systems of sewerage assets.

(5) The capable wastewater company acquiring an unfit wastewater company's system or systems shall have the same immunity from liability as wastewater companies assuming substandard systems as set forth in RCW 80.28.275.

(6) The commission must provide copies of the notice required by subsection (1) of this section to the department of health or the department of ecology, as appropriate to the agencies' jurisdiction, and all proximate public entities providing wastewater utility service.

(7) Any capable wastewater company approved by the commission to acquire the system or systems of sewerage of an unfit wastewater company must submit to the commission, for approval, a financial plan, including a timetable, for bringing the acquired system of sewerage assets into compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory standards. The acquiring capable wastewater company must also provide a copy of the plan to the department of health or the department of ecology, as appropriate to the agencies' jurisdiction, and other state or local agency as the commission may direct. The commission must give the department of health or the department of ecology, as appropriate to the agencies' jurisdiction, adequate opportunity to comment on the plan and must consider any comments submitted in deciding whether or not to approve the plan.

(8) The legislature grants to any private entity the power of eminent domain, for exercise only under the circumstances described in this section. However, a private entity must obtain authorization from the city, town, or county with jurisdiction over the subject property after the legislative authority of the city, town, or county has passed an ordinance requiring that property be taken for public use. This subsection does not limit eminent domain authority granted by any other provision of law. [2011 c 214 § 5.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.350 Petition to place a wastewater company in receivership—Power of eminent domain.** (1) The commission may petition the Thurston county superior court pursuant to chapter 7.60 RCW to place a wastewater company in receivership. The petition must include the names of one or more qualified candidates for receiver who have consented to assume operation of the system of sewerage. The petition must also include a list of interested and qualified individuals, municipal corporations, and wastewater companies with experience in providing wastewater service and a history of satisfactory operation of a system of sewerage. If no other entity is willing and able to be appointed as the receiver, the court must appoint the county or other municipal corporation whose geographic boundaries include, in whole or in part, the system of sewerage at issue. The municipal corporation may designate one of its agencies or divisions to operate the system, or it may contract with another entity to operate the system. The department of health or department of ecology, whichever has jurisdiction, must provide regulatory oversight for managing the system of sewerage.

(2) In any petition for receivership under subsection (1) of this section, the commission must recommend that the court grant the receiver full authority to act in the best interests of the customers served by the system of sewerage. The receiver must assess the capability, in conjunction with the department of health or ecology, whichever has jurisdiction, and local government, for the system to operate in compliance with health and safety standards. The receiver must report to the court and the commission its recommendations for the company's future operation of the system, including the formation of a water-sewer district or other public entity, or ownership by another existing wastewater company capable of providing service.

(3) If a petition for receivership and verifying affidavit executed by an appropriate official allege an immediate and serious danger to residents constituting an emergency, the court must set the matter for hearing within three days and may appoint a temporary receiver ex parte upon the strength of such petition and affidavit pending a full evidentiary hearing, which must be held within fourteen days after receipt of the petition.

(4) If the court imposes a bond upon a receiver, the amount must reasonably relate to the level of operating revenue generated by, and the capital value of, the wastewater company. Any receiver appointed pursuant to this section may not be held personally liable for any good faith, reasonable effort to assume possession of, and to operate, the system in compliance with the court's orders, subject to the provisions of law governing clean water as referenced by the commission by rule.

(5) The court must authorize the receiver to impose reasonable assessments on the customers of the system of sewerage to recover expenditures for improvements necessary for the public health and safety.

(6) The commission must develop a plan for transfer of the system of sewerage to a new operator and submit its plan to the court. The commission must develop the plan after notice to, and an opportunity to participate by, the receiver, the municipal corporations whose geographic boundaries, in whole or in part, include the system of sewerage at issue, and

the public. The commission must complete the plan no later than twelve months after appointment of a receiver.

(a) If the commission finds that no private entity is able or willing to take over the system of sewerage and decides the system of sewerage should be taken over by a municipal corporation whose geographic boundaries include the system of sewerage at issue, in whole or in part, the commission must provide its findings to the court and the court may issue an order to that effect. If the court orders a municipal corporation to take over the system of sewerage, the municipal corporation must promptly institute negotiations to purchase the system. If, within six months of the court's order, the negotiations fail or otherwise do not result in a purchase, the municipal corporation must promptly initiate a condemnation proceeding to acquire the system. The court must terminate the receivership once the purchase is complete.

(b) If the commission decides the system of sewerage should be taken over by a private entity, such as an individual or business, the commission must provide its findings to the court and the court may issue an order to that effect. If the court orders a private entity to take over the system of sewerage, the private entity must promptly institute negotiations to purchase the system. If, within six months of the court's order, the negotiations fail or otherwise do not result in a purchase, the private entity must promptly exercise its power of eminent domain granted by the legislature in subsection (9) of this section to acquire the system. The court must terminate the receivership once the purchase is complete.

(7) Other than pursuant to subsection (6)(a) and (b) of this section, the court may not terminate the receivership, and order the return of the system to the owners, unless the commission approves that action. The court may impose reasonable conditions upon the return of the system to the owner, including the posting of a bond or other security, routine performance and financial audits, employment of qualified operators and other staff or contracted services, compliance with financial viability requirements, or other measures sufficient to ensure the ongoing proper operation of the system.

(8) If, as part of the ultimate disposition of the system, a condemnation proceeding is commenced to acquire the system of sewerage, the court shall oversee any appraisal of the system conducted under Title 7 RCW to assure that the appraised value properly reflects any reduced value because of the necessity to make improvements to the system. The court has the authority to approve the appraisal and to modify the appraisal based on any information provided at an evidentiary hearing. The court's determination of the proper value of the system, based on the appraisal, is final and only appealable if not supported by substantial evidence. If the appraised value is appealed, the court may order the system's ownership to be transferred upon payment of the approved appraised value.

(9) The legislature grants any municipal corporation, and any private entity the power of eminent domain under the circumstances described in this section. However, a private entity must obtain authorization from the city, town, or county with jurisdiction over the subject property after the legislative authority of the city, town, or county has passed an ordinance requiring that property be taken for public use. This subsection does not limit eminent domain authority granted by any other provision of law. [2011 c 214 § 6.]

**Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214:** See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

**80.28.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 186.]

### Chapter 80.32 RCW

#### ELECTRIC FRANCHISES AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY

##### Sections

80.32.010	Cities and counties may grant franchises—Procedure—Liability to restore road for travel.
80.32.040	Grant of franchise subject to referendum.
80.32.050	Sale or lease of plant and franchises.
80.32.060	Eminent domain.
80.32.070	Right of entry.
80.32.080	Duties of electrical companies exercising power of eminent domain.
80.32.090	Limitation on use of electricity.
80.32.100	Remedy for violations.

*Franchises on state highways: Chapter 47.44 RCW.*

**80.32.010 Cities and counties may grant franchises—Procedure—Liability to restore road for travel.** The legislative authority of the city or town having control of any public street or road, or, where the street or road is not within the limits of any incorporated city or town, then the county legislative authority of the county wherein the road or street is situated, may grant authority for the construction, maintenance and operation of transmission lines for transmitting electric power, together with poles, wires and other appurtenances, upon, over, along and across any such public street or road, and in granting this authority the legislative authority of the city or town, or the county legislative authority, as the case may be, may prescribe the terms and conditions on which the transmission line and its appurtenances, shall be constructed, maintained and operated upon, over, along and across the road or street, and the grade or elevation at which the same shall be constructed, maintained and operated: PROVIDED, That on application being made to the county legislative authority for such authority, the county legislative authority shall fix a time and place for hearing the same, and shall cause the county auditor to give public notice thereof at the expense of the applicant, by posting written or printed notices in three public places in the county seat of the county, and in at least one conspicuous place on the road or street or part thereof, for which application is made, at least fifteen days before the day fixed for such hearing, and by publishing a like notice once a week for two consecutive weeks in the

official county newspaper, the last publication to be at least five days before the day fixed for the hearing, which notice shall state the name or names of the applicant or applicants, a description of the roads or streets or parts thereof for which the application is made, and the time and place fixed for the hearing. The hearing may be adjourned from time to time by order of the county legislative authority. If after such hearing the county legislative authority shall deem it to be for the public interest to grant the authority in whole or in part, it may make and enter the proper order granting the authority applied for or such part thereof as it deems to be for the public interest, and shall require the transmission line and its appurtenances to be placed in such location on or along the road or street as it finds will cause the least interference with other uses of the road or street. In case any such transmission line is or shall be located in part on private right-of-way, the owner thereof shall have the right to construct and operate the same across any county road or county street which intersects the private right-of-way, if the crossing is so constructed and maintained as to do no unnecessary damage: PROVIDED, That any person or corporation constructing the crossing or operating the transmission line on or along the county road or county street shall be liable to the county for all necessary expense incurred in restoring the county road or county street to a suitable condition for travel. [1985 c 469 § 62; 1961 c 14 § 80.32.010. Prior: 1903 c 173 § 1; RRS § 5430. Formerly RCW 80.32.010, 80.32.020, and 80.32.030.]

#### **80.32.040 Grant of franchise subject to referendum.**

All grants of franchises or rights for the conduct or distribution of electric energy, electric power, or electric light within any city or town of the state of Washington by the city council or other legislative body or legislative authority thereof, whether granted by ordinance, resolution, or other form of grant, contract, permission or license, shall be subject to popular referendum under the general laws of this state heretofore or hereafter enacted, or as may be provided by the charter provisions, heretofore or hereafter adopted, of any such city or town: PROVIDED, That no petition for referendum may be filed after six months from the date of ordinance, resolution, or other form of grant, contract, permission, or license granting such franchise. [1961 c 14 § 80.32.040. Prior: (i) 1941 c 114 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5430-1. (ii) 1941 c 114 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5430-2.]

**80.32.050 Sale or lease of plant and franchises.** Any corporation incorporated or that may hereafter be incorporated under the laws of this state or any state or territory of the United States, for the purpose of manufacturing, transmitting or selling electric power, may lease or purchase and operate (except in cases where such lease or purchase is prohibited by the Constitution of this state) the whole or any part of the plant for manufacturing or distributing electric power or energy of any other corporation, heretofore or hereafter constructed, together with the franchises, powers, immunities and all other property or appurtenances appertaining thereto: PROVIDED, That such lease or purchase has been or shall be consented to by stockholders of record holding at least two-thirds in amount of the capital stock or the lessor or grantor corporation; and all such leases and purchases made or entered into prior to the effective date of chapter 173, Laws of

1903, by consent of stockholders as aforesaid are for all intents and purposes hereby ratified and confirmed, saving, however, any vested rights of private parties. [1961 c 14 § 80.32.050. Prior: 1903 c 173 § 3; RRS § 5431.]

**80.32.060 Eminent domain.** Every corporation, incorporated or that may hereafter be incorporated under the laws of this state, or of any other state or territory of the United States, and doing business in this state, for the purpose of manufacturing or transmitting electric power, shall have the right to appropriate real estate and other property for right-of-way or for any corporate purpose, in the same manner and under the same procedure as now is or may hereafter be provided by law in the case of ordinary railroad corporations authorized by the laws of this state to exercise the right of eminent domain: PROVIDED, That such right of eminent domain shall not be exercised with respect to any public road or street until the location of the transmission line thereon has been authorized in accordance with RCW 80.32.010. [1961 c 14 § 80.32.060. Prior: 1903 c 173 § 2; No RRS.]

*Eminent domain by corporations generally: Chapter 8.20 RCW.*

**80.32.070 Right of entry.** Every such corporation shall have the right to enter upon any land between the termini of the proposed lines for the purpose of examining, locating and surveying such lines, doing no unnecessary damage thereby. [1961 c 14 § 80.32.070. Prior: 1899 c 94 § 2; RRS § 11085.]

**80.32.080 Duties of electrical companies exercising power of eminent domain.** Any corporation authorized to do business in this state, which, under the present laws of the state, is authorized to condemn property for the purpose of generating and transmitting electrical power for the operation of railroads or railways, or for municipal lighting, and which by its charter or articles of incorporation, assumes the additional right to sell electric power and electric light to private consumers outside the limits of a municipality and to sell electric power to private consumers within the limits of a municipality, which shall provide in its articles that in respect of the purposes mentioned in this section it will assume and undertake to the state and to the inhabitants thereof the duties and obligations of a public service corporation, shall be deemed to be in respect of such purposes a public service corporation, and shall be held to all the duties, obligations and control, which by law are or may be imposed upon public service corporations. Any such corporation shall have the right to sell electric light outside the limits of a municipality and electric power both inside and outside such limits to private consumers from the electricity generated and transmitted by it for public purposes and not needed by it therefor: PROVIDED, That such corporation shall furnish such excess power at equal rates, quantity and conditions considered, to all consumers alike, and shall supply it to the first applicants therefor until the amount available shall be exhausted: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no such corporation shall be obliged to furnish such excess power to any one consumer to an amount exceeding twenty-five percent of the total amount of such excess power generated or transmitted by it. In exercising the power of eminent domain for public purposes it shall not be an objection thereto that a portion of the electric current generated will be applied to private purposes, pro-

vided the principal uses intended are public: PROVIDED, That all public service or quasi public service corporations shall at no time sell, deliver and dispose of electrical power in bulk to manufacturing concerns at the expense of its public service functions, and any person, firm or corporation that is a patron of such corporation as to such public function, shall have the right to apply to any court of competent jurisdiction to correct any violation of the provisions of RCW 80.32.080 through 80.32.100. [1961 c 14 § 80.32.080. Prior: 1907 c 159 § 1; RRS § 5432.]

**80.32.090 Limitation on use of electricity.** Whenever any corporation has acquired any property by decree of appropriation based on proceedings in court under the provisions of RCW 80.32.080 through 80.32.100, no portion of the electricity generated or transmitted by it by means of the property appropriated under the provisions of RCW 80.32.080 through 80.32.100 shall be used or applied by such corporation for or to a business or trade not under the present laws deemed public or quasi public conducted by itself. [1961 c 14 § 80.32.090. Prior: 1907 c 159 § 2; RRS § 5433.]

**80.32.100 Remedy for violations.** In the event of the violation of any of the requirements of RCW 80.32.080 and 80.32.090 by any corporation availing itself of its provisions, an appropriate suit may be maintained in the name of the state upon the relation of the attorney general, or, if he shall refuse or neglect to act, upon the relation of any individual aggrieved by the violation, or violations, complained of, to compel such corporation to comply with the requirements of RCW 80.32.080 and 80.32.090. A violation of RCW 80.32.080 and 80.32.090 shall cause the forfeiture of the corporate franchise if the corporation refuses or neglects to comply with the orders with respect thereto made in the suit herein provided for. [1961 c 14 § 80.32.100. Prior: 1907 c 159 § 3; RRS § 5434.]

## Chapter 80.36 RCW TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### Sections

80.36.005	Definitions.
80.36.010	Eminent domain.
80.36.020	Right of entry.
80.36.030	Extent of appropriation.
80.36.040	Use of road, street, and railroad right-of-way—When consent of city necessary.
80.36.050	Use of railroad right-of-way—Penalty for refusal by railroad.
80.36.060	Liability for wilful injury to telecommunications property.
80.36.070	Liability for negligent injury to property—Notice of underwater cable.
80.36.080	Rates, services, and facilities.
80.36.090	Service to be furnished on demand.
80.36.100	Tariff schedules to be filed and open to public—Exceptions.
80.36.110	Tariff changes—Statutory notice—Exception—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
80.36.120	Joint rates, contracts, etc.
80.36.130	Published rates to be charged—Exceptions.
80.36.135	Alternative regulation of telecommunications companies—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
80.36.140	Rates and services fixed by commission, when.
80.36.145	Formal investigation and fact-finding—Alternative to full adjudicative proceeding—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
80.36.150	Contracts filed with commission.
80.36.160	Physical connections may be ordered, routing prescribed, and joint rates established.
80.36.170	Unreasonable preference prohibited.

- 80.36.180 Rate discrimination prohibited.  
 80.36.183 Discounted message toll rates prohibited—Availability of statewide, averaged toll rates.  
 80.36.186 Pricing of or access to noncompetitive services—Unreasonable preference or advantage prohibited.  
 80.36.190 Long and short distance provision.  
 80.36.195 Telecommunications relay system—Long distance discount rates.  
 80.36.200 Transmission of messages of other lines.  
 80.36.210 Order of sending messages.  
 80.36.220 Duty to transmit messages—Penalty for refusal or neglect.  
 80.36.225 Pay telephones—Calls to operator without charge or coin insertion to be provided.  
 80.36.230 Exchange areas for telecommunications companies.  
 80.36.240 Exchange areas for telephone companies—Procedure to establish.  
 80.36.250 Commission may complain of interstate rates.  
 80.36.260 Betterments may be ordered.  
 80.36.270 Effect on existing contracts.  
 80.36.300 Policy declaration.  
 80.36.310 Classification as competitive telecommunications companies, services—Initiation of proceedings—Notice and publication—Effective date—Date for final order.  
 80.36.320 Classification as competitive telecommunications companies, services—Factors considered—Minimal regulation—Reclassification—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.  
 80.36.330 Classification as competitive telecommunications companies, services—Effective competition defined—Minimal regulation—Prices and rates—Reclassification—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.  
 80.36.332 Noncompetitive telecommunications companies, services—Minimal regulation.  
 80.36.333 Price lists in effect before June 7, 2006—Extension.  
 80.36.338 Withdrawal of price list—Customer information, opportunity to accept changes in rates, terms, or conditions—Cancellation period.  
 80.36.340 Banded rates.  
 80.36.350 Registration of new companies—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.  
 80.36.360 Exempted actions or transactions.  
 80.36.370 Certain services not regulated.  
 80.36.375 Personal wireless services—Siting microcells and/or minor facilities—Definitions.  
 80.36.390 Telephone solicitation.  
 80.36.400 Automatic dialing and announcing device—Commercial solicitation by.  
 80.36.410 Washington telephone assistance program—Findings.  
 80.36.420 Washington telephone assistance program—Availability, components.  
 80.36.430 Washington telephone assistance program—Excise tax—Expenses of community service voice mail.  
 80.36.440 Washington telephone assistance program—Rules.  
 80.36.450 Washington telephone assistance program—Limitation.  
 80.36.460 Washington telephone assistance program—Deposit waivers, connection fee discounts.  
 80.36.470 Washington telephone assistance program—Eligibility.  
 80.36.500 Information delivery services through exclusive number prefix or service access code.  
 80.36.510 Legislative finding.  
 80.36.520 Disclosure of alternate operator services.  
 80.36.522 Alternate operator service companies—Registration—Penalties.  
 80.36.524 Alternate operator service companies—Rules.  
 80.36.530 Violation of consumer protection act—Damages.  
 80.36.540 Telefacsimile messages—Unsolicited transmission—Penalties.  
 80.36.555 Enhanced 911 service—Residential service required.  
 80.36.560 Enhanced 911 service—Business service required.  
 80.36.600 Universal service program—Planning and preparation—Commission's duties—Approval of legislature required—Definitions.  
 80.36.610 Universal service program—Authority of commission—Rules—Fees—Legislative intent.  
 80.36.620 Universal service program—Rules.  
 80.36.850 Extended area service defined.  
 80.36.855 Extended area service program.  
 80.36.900 Severability—1985 c 450.  
 80.36.901 Legislative review of 1985 c 450—1989 c 101.

*Arrest by telegraph, validity of telegraphic copy: RCW 10.31.060.*

*Bills and notes drawn by telegraph, preservation of original: RCW 5.52.040.*

*Divulging telegraph message: RCW 9.73.010.*

*Telegraph and telephone companies: State Constitution Art. 12 § 19.*

*Telegraph communications, generally: Chapter 5.52 RCW.*

*Use of slugs to operate coin telephones: RCW 9.26A.120.*

**80.36.005 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 80.36.410 through \*80.36.475, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Community action agency" means local community action agencies or local community service agencies designated by the department of commerce under chapter 43.63A RCW.

(2) "Community agency" means local community agencies that administer community service voice mail programs.

(3) "Community service voice mail" means a computerized voice mail system that provides low-income recipients with: (a) An individually assigned telephone number; (b) the ability to record a personal greeting; and (c) a private security code to retrieve messages.

(4) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(5) "Service year" means the period between July 1st and June 30th. [2009 c 565 § 53; 2003 c 134 § 1; 2002 c 104 § 1; 1993 c 249 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 80.36.475 was repealed by 2009 c 518 § 10. (2) The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—2003 c 134:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003." [2003 c 134 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.010 Eminent domain.** The right of eminent domain is hereby extended to all telecommunications companies organized or doing business in this state. [1985 c 450 § 15; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.010. Prior: 1890 p 292 § 1; RRS § 11338.]

**80.36.020 Right of entry.** Every corporation incorporated under the laws of this state or any state or territory of the United States for the purpose of constructing, operating or maintaining any telecommunications line in this state shall have the right to enter upon any land between the termini of its proposed telecommunications lines for the purpose of examining, locating and surveying the telecommunications line, doing no unnecessary damage thereby. [1985 c 450 § 16; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.020. Prior: 1888 p 65 § 1; RRS § 11339.]

**80.36.030 Extent of appropriation.** Such telecommunications company may appropriate so much land as may be actually necessary for its telecommunications line, with the right to enter upon lands immediately adjacent thereto, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and operating its line and making all necessary repair. Such telecommunications company may also, for the purpose aforesaid, enter upon and appropriate such portion of the right-of-way of any railroad company as may be necessary for the construction, maintenance and operation of its telecommunications line: PROVIDED, That such appropriation shall not obstruct such railroad of the travel thereupon, nor interfere with the operation

of such railroad. [1985 c 450 § 17; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.030. Prior: 1888 p 66 § 2; RRS § 11342.]

**80.36.040 Use of road, street, and railroad right-of-way—When consent of city necessary.** Any telecommunications company, or the lessees thereof, doing business in this state, shall have the right to construct and maintain all necessary telecommunications lines for public traffic along and upon any public road, street or highway, along or across the right-of-way of any railroad corporation, and may erect poles, posts, piers or abutments for supporting the insulators, wires and any other necessary fixture of their lines, in such manner and at such points as not to incommode the public use of the railroad or highway, or interrupt the navigation of the waters: PROVIDED, That when the right-of-way of such corporation has not been acquired by or through any grant or donation from the United States, or this state, or any county, city or town therein, then the right to construct and maintain such lines shall be secured only by the exercise of right of eminent domain, as provided by law: PROVIDED FURTHER, That where the right-of-way as herein contemplated is within the corporate limits of any incorporated city, the consent of the city council thereof shall be first obtained before such telecommunications lines can be erected thereon. [1985 c 450 § 18; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.040. Prior: 1890 p 292 § 5; RRS § 11352.]

**80.36.050 Use of railroad right-of-way—Penalty for refusal by railroad.** Every railroad operated in this state, and carrying freight and passengers for hire, or doing business in this state, is and shall be designated a "post road," and the corporation or company owning the same shall allow telecommunications companies to construct and maintain telecommunications lines on and along the right-of-way of such railroad.

In case of the refusal or neglect of any railroad company or corporation to comply with the provisions of this section, said company or corporation shall be liable for damages in the sum of not less than one thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars for each offense, and one hundred dollars per day during the continuance thereof. [1985 c 450 § 19; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.050. Prior: (i) 1890 p 292 § 3; RRS § 11340. (ii) 1890 p 293 § 9; RRS § 11356.]

**80.36.060 Liability for wilful injury to telecommunications property.** Any person who wilfully and maliciously does any injury to any telecommunications property mentioned in RCW 80.36.070, is liable to the company for five times the amount of actual damages sustained thereby, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction. [1985 c 450 § 20; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.060. Prior: 1890 p 293 § 7; RRS § 11354.]

**80.36.070 Liability for negligent injury to property—Notice of underwater cable.** Any person who injures or destroys, through want of proper care, any necessary or useful fixtures of any telecommunications company, is liable to the company for all damages sustained thereby. Any vessel which, by dragging its anchor or otherwise, breaks, injures or destroys the subaqueous cable of a telecommunications com-

pany, subjects its owners to the damages hereinbefore specified.

No telecommunications company can recover damages for the breaking or injury of any subaqueous telecommunications cable, unless such company has previously erected on either bank of the waters under which the cable is placed, a monument indicating the place where the cable lies, and publishes for one month, in some newspaper most likely to give notice to navigators, a notice giving a description and the purpose of the monuments, and the general course, landings and termini of the cable. [1985 c 450 § 21; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.070. Prior: (i) 1890 p 293 § 6; RRS § 11353. (ii) 1890 p 293 § 10; RRS § 11357.]

**80.36.080 Rates, services, and facilities.** All rates, tolls, contracts and charges, rules and regulations of telecommunications companies, for messages, conversations, services rendered and equipment and facilities supplied, whether such message, conversation or service to be performed be over one company or line or over or by two or more companies or lines, shall be fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and the service so to be rendered any person, firm or corporation by any telecommunications company shall be rendered and performed in a prompt, expeditious and efficient manner and the facilities, instrumentalities and equipment furnished by it shall be safe, kept in good condition and repair, and its appliances, instrumentalities and service shall be modern, adequate, sufficient and efficient. [1985 c 450 § 22; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.080. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 35, part; RRS § 10371, part.]

**80.36.090 Service to be furnished on demand.** Every telecommunications company operating in this state shall provide and maintain suitable and adequate buildings and facilities therein, or connected therewith, for the accommodation, comfort and convenience of its patrons and employees.

Every telecommunications company shall, upon reasonable notice, furnish to all persons and corporations who may apply therefor and be reasonably entitled thereto suitable and proper facilities and connections for telephonic communication and furnish telephone service as demanded. [1985 c 450 § 23; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.090. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 35, part; RRS § 10371, part.]

**80.36.100 Tariff schedules to be filed and open to public—Exceptions.** (1) Every telecommunications company shall file with the commission and shall print and keep open to public inspection at such points as the commission may designate, schedules showing the rates, tolls, rentals, and charges of such companies for messages, conversations and services rendered and equipment and facilities supplied for messages and services to be performed within the state between each point upon its line and all other points thereon, and between each point upon its line and all points upon every other similar line operated or controlled by it, and between each point on its line or upon any line leased, operated or controlled by it and all points upon the line of any other similar company, whenever a through service and joint rate shall have been established or ordered between any two such points.

(2) If no joint rate covering a through service has been established, the several companies in such through service shall file, print and keep open to public inspection as aforesaid the separately established rates, tolls, rentals, and charges applicable for such through service.

(3) The schedules printed as aforesaid shall plainly state the places between which telecommunications service, or both, will be rendered, and shall also state separately all charges and all privileges or facilities granted or allowed, and any rules or regulations which may in anywise change, affect or determine any of the aggregate of the rates, tolls, rentals or charges for the service rendered.

(4) A schedule shall be plainly printed in large type, and a copy thereof shall be kept by every telecommunications company readily accessible to and for convenient inspection by the public at such places as may be designated by the commission, which schedule shall state the rates charged from such station to every other station on such company's line, or on any line controlled and used by it within the state.

(a) All or any of such schedules kept as aforesaid shall be immediately produced by such telecommunications company upon the demand of any person.

(b) A notice printed in bold type, and stating that such schedules are on file and open to inspection by any person, the places where the same are kept, and that the agent will assist such person to determine from such schedules any rate, toll, rental, rule or regulation which is in force shall be kept posted by every telecommunications company in a conspicuous place in every station or office of such company.

(5) This section does not apply to telecommunications companies classified as competitive under RCW 80.36.320 or to telecommunications services classified as competitive under RCW 80.36.330. [2006 c 347 § 1; 1989 c 101 § 9; 1985 c 450 § 24; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.100. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 36; RRS § 10372.]

**80.36.110 Tariff changes—Statutory notice—Exception—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, unless the commission otherwise orders, no change shall be made in any rate, toll, rental, or charge, that was filed and published by any telecommunications company in compliance with the requirements of RCW 80.36.100, except after notice as required in this subsection.

(a) For changes to any rate, toll, rental, or charge filed and published in a tariff, the company shall provide thirty days' notice to the commission and publication for thirty days as required in the case of original schedules in RCW 80.36.100. The notice shall plainly state the changes proposed to be made in the schedule then in force, and the time when the changed rate, toll, or charge will go into effect, and all proposed changes shall be shown by printing, filing and publishing new schedules, or shall be plainly indicated upon the schedules in force at the time and kept open to public inspection. Proposed changes may be suspended by the commission within thirty days or before the stated effective date of the proposed change, whichever is later.

(b) The commission for good cause shown may allow changes in rates, charges, tolls, or rentals without requiring the notice and publication provided for in (a) of this subsection, by an order or rule specifying the change to be made and

the time when it takes effect, and the manner in which the change will be filed and published.

(c) When any change is made in any rate, toll, rental, or charge, the effect of which is to increase any rate, toll, rental, or charge then existing, attention shall be directed on the copy filed with the commission to the increase by some character immediately preceding or following the item in the schedule, which character shall be in such a form as the commission may designate.

(2)(a) A telecommunications company may file a tariff that decreases any rate, charge, rental, or toll with ten days' notice to the commission and publication without receiving a special order from the commission when the filing does not contain an offsetting increase to another rate, charge, rental, or toll, and the filing company agrees not to file for an increase to any rate, charge, rental, or toll to recover the revenue deficit that results from the decrease for a period of one year.

(b) A telecommunications company may file a promotional offering to be effective, without receiving a special order from the commission, upon filing with the commission and publication. For the purposes of this section, "promotional offering" means a tariff that, for a period of up to ninety days, waives or reduces charges or conditions of service for existing or new subscribers for the purpose of retaining or increasing the number of customers who subscribe to or use a service.

[(3)] During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 403; 2006 c 347 § 2; 2003 c 189 § 2; 1997 c 166 § 1. Prior: 1989 c 152 § 2; 1989 c 101 § 10; 1985 c 450 § 25; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.110; prior: 1911 c 117 § 37; RRS § 10373.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**80.36.120 Joint rates, contracts, etc.** The names of the several companies which are parties to any joint rates, tolls, contracts or charges of telecommunications companies for messages, conversations and service to be rendered shall be specified therein, and each of the parties thereto, other than the one filing the same, shall file with the commission such evidence of concurrence therein or acceptance thereof as may be required or approved by the commission; and where such evidence of concurrence or acceptance is filed, it shall not be necessary for the companies filing the same to also file copies of the tariff in which they are named as parties. [1985 c 450 § 26; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.120. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 38; RRS § 10374.]

**80.36.130 Published rates to be charged—Exceptions.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 80.04.130 and 80.36.150, no telecommunications company shall charge, demand, collect or receive different compensation for any service rendered or to be rendered than the charge applicable to such service as specified in its schedule on file and in effect at that time, nor shall any telecommunications company

refund or remit, directly or indirectly, any portion of the rate or charge so specified, nor extend to any person or corporation any form of contract or agreement or any rule or regulation or any privilege or facility except such as are specified in its schedule filed and in effect at the time, and regularly and uniformly extended to all persons and corporations under like circumstances for like or substantially similar service.

(2) No telecommunications company subject to the provisions of this title shall, directly or indirectly, give any free or reduced service or any free pass or frank for the transmission of messages by telecommunications between points within this state, except to its officers, employees, agents, pensioners, surgeons, physicians, attorneys-at-law, and their families, and persons and corporations exclusively engaged in charitable and eleemosynary work, and ministers of religion, Young Men's Christian Associations, Young Women's Christian Associations; to indigent and destitute persons, and to officers and employees of other telecommunications companies, railroad companies, and street railroad companies.

(3) The commission may accept a tariff that gives free or reduced rate services for a temporary period of time in order to promote the use of the services. [1992 c 68 § 2; 1989 c 101 § 11; 1985 c 450 § 27; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.130. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 40; RRS § 10376. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 96 § 1, part now codified in RCW 81.28.080.]

**80.36.135 Alternative regulation of telecommunications companies—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) The legislature declares that:

(a) Changes in technology and the structure of the telecommunications industry may produce conditions under which traditional rate of return, rate base regulation of telecommunications companies may not in all cases provide the most efficient and effective means of achieving the public policy goals of this state as declared in RCW 80.36.300, this section, and RCW 80.36.145. The commission should be authorized to employ an alternative form of regulation if that alternative is better suited to achieving those policy goals.

(b) Because of the great diversity in the scope and type of services provided by telecommunications companies, alternative regulatory arrangements that meet the varying circumstances of different companies and their ratepayers may be desirable.

(2) Subject to the conditions set forth in this chapter and RCW 80.04.130, the commission may regulate telecommunications companies subject to traditional rate of return, rate base regulation by authorizing an alternative form of regulation. The commission may determine the manner and extent of any alternative forms of regulation as may in the public interest be appropriate. In addition to the public policy goals declared in RCW 80.36.300, the commission shall consider, in determining the appropriateness of any proposed alternative form of regulation, whether it will:

(a) Facilitate the broad deployment of technological improvements and advanced telecommunications services to underserved areas or underserved customer classes;

(b) Improve the efficiency of the regulatory process;

(c) Preserve or enhance the development of effective competition and protect against the exercise of market power during its development;

(d) Preserve or enhance service quality and protect against the degradation of the quality or availability of efficient telecommunications services;

(e) Provide for rates and charges that are fair, just, reasonable, sufficient, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential; and

(f) Not unduly or unreasonably prejudice or disadvantage any particular customer class.

(3) A telecommunications company or companies subject to traditional rate of return, rate base regulation may petition the commission to establish an alternative form of regulation. The company or companies shall submit with the petition a plan for an alternative form of regulation. The plan shall contain a proposal for transition to the alternative form of regulation and the proposed duration of the plan. The plan must also contain a proposal for ensuring adequate carrier-to-carrier service quality, including service quality standards or performance measures for interconnection, and appropriate enforcement or remedial provisions in the event the company fails to meet service quality standards or performance measures. The commission also may initiate consideration of alternative forms of regulation for a company or companies on its own motion. The commission, after notice and hearing, shall issue an order accepting, modifying, or rejecting the plan within nine months after the petition or motion is filed, unless extended by the commission for good cause. The commission shall order implementation of the alternative plan of regulation unless it finds that, on balance, an alternative plan as proposed or modified fails to meet the considerations stated in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Not later than sixty days from the entry of the commission's order, the company or companies affected by the order may file with the commission an election not to proceed with the alternative form of regulation as authorized by the commission.

(5) The commission may waive such regulatory requirements under Title 80 RCW for a telecommunications company subject to an alternative form of regulation as may be appropriate to facilitate the implementation of this section. However, the commission may not waive any grant of legal rights to any person contained in this chapter and chapter 80.04 RCW. The commission may waive different regulatory requirements for different companies or services if such different treatment is in the public interest.

(6) Upon petition by the company, and after notice and hearing, the commission may rescind or modify an alternative form of regulation in the manner requested by the company.

(7) The commission or any person may file a complaint under RCW 80.04.110 alleging that a telecommunications company under an alternative form of regulation has not complied with the terms and conditions set forth in the alternative form of regulation. The complainant shall bear the burden of proving the allegations in the complaint.

(8) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian pop-

ulation. [2008 c 181 § 414; 2000 c 82 § 1; 1995 c 110 § 5; 1989 c 101 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**80.36.140 Rates and services fixed by commission, when.** Whenever the commission shall find, after a hearing had upon its own motion or upon complaint, that the rates, charges, tolls or rentals demanded, exacted, charged or collected by any telecommunications company for the transmission of messages by telecommunications, or for the rental or use of any telecommunications line, instrument, wire, appliance, apparatus or device or any telecommunications receiver, transmitter, instrument, wire, cable, apparatus, conduit, machine, appliance or device, or any telecommunications extension or extension system, or that the rules, regulations or practices of any telecommunications company affecting such rates, charges, tolls, rentals or service are unjust, unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory or unduly preferential, or in anywise in violation of law, or that such rates, charges, tolls or rentals are insufficient to yield reasonable compensation for the service rendered, the commission shall determine the just and reasonable rates, charges, tolls or rentals to be thereafter observed and in force, and fix the same by order as provided in this title.

Whenever the commission shall find, after such hearing that the rules, regulations or practices of any telecommunications company are unjust or unreasonable, or that the equipment, facilities or service of any telecommunications company is inadequate, inefficient, improper or insufficient, the commission shall determine the just, reasonable, proper, adequate and efficient rules, regulations, practices, equipment, facilities and service to be thereafter installed, observed and used, and fix the same by order or rule as provided in this title. [1985 c 450 § 28; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.140. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 55; RRS § 10391.]

**80.36.145 Formal investigation and fact-finding—Alternative to full adjudicative proceeding—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) The legislature declares that the availability of an alternative abbreviated formal procedure for use by the commission instead of a full adjudicative proceeding may in appropriate circumstances advance the public interest by reducing the time required by the commission for decision and the costs incurred by interested parties and ratepayers. Therefore, the commission is authorized to use formal investigation and fact-finding instead of an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW when it determines that its use is in the public interest and that a full adjudicative hearing is not necessary to fully develop the facts relevant to the proceeding and the positions of the parties, including intervenors.

(2) The commission may use formal investigation and fact-finding instead of the hearing provided in the following circumstances:

(a) A complaint proceeding under RCW 80.04.110 with concurrence of the respondent when the commission is the complainant or with concurrence of the complainant and respondent when not the commission;

(b) A tariff suspension under RCW 80.04.130; or

(c) A competitive classification proceeding under RCW 80.36.320 and 80.36.330.

(3) In formal investigation and fact-finding the commission may limit the record to written submissions by the parties, including intervenors. The commission shall review the written submissions and, based thereon, shall enter appropriate findings of fact and conclusions of law and its order. When there is a reasonable expression of public interest in the issues under consideration, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing for the receipt of information from members of the public that are not formal intervenors in the proceeding and may elect to convert the proceeding to an adjudicative proceeding at any stage. The assignment of an agency employee or administrative law judge to preside at such public hearing shall not require the entry of an initial order.

(4) The commission shall adopt rules of practice and procedure including rules for discovery of information necessary for the use of formal investigation and fact-finding and for the filing of written submissions. The commission may provide by rule for a number of rounds of written comments: PROVIDED, That the party with the burden of proof shall always have the opportunity to file reply comments.

(5) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 407; 1989 c 101 § 3.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**80.36.150 Contracts filed with commission.** (1) Every telecommunications company shall file with the commission, as and when required by it, a copy of any contract, agreement or arrangement in writing with any other telecommunications company, or with any other corporation, association or person relating in any way to the construction, maintenance or use of a telecommunications line or service by, or rates and charges over and upon, any such telecommunications line. The commission shall adopt rules that provide for the filing by telecommunications companies on the public record of the essential terms and conditions of every contract for service. The commission shall not require that customer proprietary information contained in contracts be disclosed on the public record.

(2) The commission shall not treat contracts as tariffs or price lists. The commission may require noncompetitive service to be tariffed unless the company demonstrates that the use of a contract is in the public interest based upon a customer requirement or a competitive necessity for deviation from tariffed rates, terms and conditions, or that the contract is for a new service with limited demand.

(3) Contracts shall be for a stated time period and shall cover the costs for the service contracted for, as determined by commission rule or order. Contracts shall be enforceable by the contracting parties according to their terms, unless the contract has been rejected by the commission before its stated effective date as improper under the commission's rules and orders, or the requirements of this chapter. If the commission finds a contract to be below cost after it has gone into effect,

based on commission rules or orders or the requirements of this chapter in effect at the time of the execution of the contract, it may make the appropriate adjustment to the contracting company's revenue requirement in a subsequent proceeding.

(4) Contracts executed and filed prior to July 23, 1989, are deemed lawful and enforceable by the contracting parties according to the contract terms. If the commission finds that any existing contract provides for rates that are below cost, based on commission rules or orders or the requirements of this chapter in effect at the time of the execution of the contract, it may make the appropriate adjustment to the contracting company's revenue requirement in a subsequent proceeding.

(5) If a contract covers competitive and noncompetitive services, the noncompetitive services shall be unbundled and priced separately from all other services and facilities in the contract. Such noncompetitive services shall be made available to all purchasers under the same or substantially the same circumstances at the same rate, terms, and conditions. [1989 c 101 § 8; 1985 c 450 § 29; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.150. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 39; RRS § 10375.]

**80.36.160 Physical connections may be ordered, routing prescribed, and joint rates established.** In order to provide toll telephone service where no such service is available, or to promote the most expeditious handling or most direct routing of toll messages and conversations, or to prevent arbitrary or unreasonable practices which may result in the failure to utilize the toll facilities of all telecommunications companies equitably and effectively, the commission may, on its own motion, or upon complaint, notwithstanding any contract or arrangement between telecommunications companies, investigate, ascertain and, after hearing, by order (1) require the construction and maintenance of suitable connections between telephone lines for the transfer of messages and conversations at a common point or points and, if the companies affected fail to agree on the proportion of the cost thereof to be borne by each such company, prescribe said proportion of cost to be borne by each; and/or (2) prescribe the routing of toll messages and conversations over such connections and the practices and regulations to be followed with respect to such routing; and/or (3) establish reasonable joint rates or charges by or over said lines and connections and just, reasonable and equitable divisions thereof as between the telecommunications companies participating therein.

This section shall not be construed as conferring on the commission jurisdiction, supervision or control of the rates, service or facilities of any mutual, cooperative or farmer line company or association, except for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section. [1985 c 450 § 30; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.160. Prior: 1943 c 68 § 1; 1923 c 118 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 73; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10409.]

**80.36.170 Unreasonable preference prohibited.** No telecommunications company shall make or give any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any person, corporation or locality, or subject any particular person, corporation or locality to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever. The commission shall have primary jurisdiction to determine whether any rate, reg-

ulation, or practice of a telecommunications company violates this section. This section shall not apply to contracts offered by a telecommunications company classified as competitive or to contracts for services classified as competitive under RCW 80.36.320 and 80.36.330. [1989 c 101 § 4; 1985 c 450 § 31; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.170. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 42; RRS § 10378.]

**80.36.180 Rate discrimination prohibited.** No telecommunications company shall, directly or indirectly, or by any special rate, rebate, drawback or other device or method, unduly or unreasonably charge, demand, collect or receive from any person or corporation a greater or less compensation for any service rendered or to be rendered with respect to communication by telecommunications or in connection therewith, except as authorized in this title or Title 81 RCW than it charges, demands, collects or receives from any other person or corporation for doing a like and contemporaneous service with respect to communication by telecommunications under the same or substantially the same circumstances and conditions. The commission shall have primary jurisdiction to determine whether any rate, regulation, or practice of a telecommunications company violates this section. This section shall not apply to contracts offered by a telecommunications company classified as competitive or to contracts for services classified as competitive under RCW 80.36.320 or 80.36.330. [1989 c 101 § 5; 1985 c 450 § 32; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.180. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 41; RRS § 10377.]

**80.36.183 Discounted message toll rates prohibited—Availability of statewide, averaged toll rates.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, no telecommunications company shall offer a discounted message toll service based on volume that prohibits aggregation of volumes across all territory with respect to which that company functions as an interexchange carrier. The commission shall continue to have the authority to require statewide, averaged toll rates to be made available by any telecommunications company subject to its jurisdiction. [1989 c 101 § 6.]

**80.36.186 Pricing of or access to noncompetitive services—Unreasonable preference or advantage prohibited.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, no telecommunications company providing noncompetitive services shall, as to the pricing of or access to noncompetitive services, make or grant any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to itself or to any other person providing telecommunications service, nor subject any telecommunications company to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or competitive disadvantage. The commission shall have primary jurisdiction to determine whether any rate, regulation, or practice of a telecommunications company violates this section. [1989 c 101 § 7.]

**80.36.190 Long and short distance provision.** No telecommunications company subject to the provisions of this title shall charge or receive any greater compensation in the aggregate for the transmission of any long distance conversation or message of like kind for a shorter than for a longer distance over the same line, in the same direction, within this state, the shorter being included within the longer

distance, or charge any greater compensation for a through service than the aggregate of the intermediate rates subject to the provision of this title, but this shall not be construed as authorizing any such telecommunications company to charge and receive as great a compensation for a shorter as for a longer distance. Upon application of any telecommunications company the commission may, by order, authorize it to charge less for longer than for a shorter distance service for the transmission of conversation or messages in special cases after investigation, but the order must specify and prescribe the extent to which the telecommunications company making such application is relieved from the operation of this section, and only to the extent so specified and prescribed shall any telecommunications company be relieved from the requirements of this section. [1985 c 450 § 33; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.190. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 44; RRS § 10380.]

**80.36.195 Telecommunications relay system—Long distance discount rates.** Each telecommunications company providing intrastate interexchange voice transmission service shall offer discounts from otherwise applicable long distance rates for service used in conjunction with the state-wide relay service authorized under RCW 43.20A.725. Such long distance discounts shall be determined in relation to the additional time required to translate calls through relay operators. In the case of intrastate long distance services provided pursuant to tariff, the commission shall require the incorporation of such discounts. [1992 c 144 § 5.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—1992 c 144:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.720.

**80.36.200 Transmission of messages of other lines.** Every telecommunications company operating in this state shall receive, transmit and deliver, without discrimination or delay, the messages of any other telecommunications company. [1985 c 450 § 34; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.200. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 45; RRS § 10381.]

**80.36.210 Order of sending messages.** It shall be the duty of any telegraph company, doing business in this state, to transmit all dispatches in the order in which they are received, under the penalty of one hundred dollars, to be recovered with costs of suit, by the person or persons whose dispatch is postponed out of its order: PROVIDED, That communications to and from public officers on official business, may have precedence over all other communications: AND, PROVIDED FURTHER, That intelligence of general and public interest may be transmitted for publication out of its order. [1961 c 14 § 80.36.210. Prior: Code 1881 § 2361; RRS § 11344; prior: 1866 p 77 § 20.]

**80.36.220 Duty to transmit messages—Penalty for refusal or neglect.** Telecommunications companies shall receive, exchange and transmit each other's messages without delay or discrimination, and all telecommunications companies shall receive and transmit messages for any person.

In case of the refusal or neglect of any telecommunications company to comply with the provisions of this section, the penalty for the same shall be a fine of not more than five hundred nor less than one hundred dollars for each offense.

[1985 c 450 § 35; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.220. Prior: (i) 1890 p 292 § 2; RRS § 11343. (ii) 1890 p 293 § 8; RRS § 11355.]

**80.36.225 Pay telephones—Calls to operator without charge or coin insertion to be provided.** All telecommunications companies and customer-owned, pay telephone providers doing business in this state and utilizing pay telephones shall provide a system whereby calls may be made to the operator without charge and without requiring the use of credit cards or other payment devices, or insertion of any coins into such pay telephone. [1985 c 450 § 36; 1975 c 21 § 1.]

*Emergency calls, yielding line: Chapter 70.85 RCW.*

**80.36.230 Exchange areas for telecommunications companies.** The commission is hereby granted the power to prescribe exchange area boundaries and/or territorial boundaries for telecommunications companies. [1985 c 450 § 37; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.230. Prior: 1941 c 137 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11358-1.]

**80.36.240 Exchange areas for telephone companies—Procedure to establish.** The commission in conducting hearings, promulgating rules, and otherwise proceeding to make effective the provisions of RCW 80.36.230 and 80.36.240, shall be governed by, and shall have the powers provided in this title, as amended; all provisions as to review of the commission's orders and appeals to the supreme court or the court of appeals contained in said title, as amended, shall be available to all companies and parties affected by the commission's orders issued under authority of RCW 80.36.230 and 80.36.240. [1971 c 81 § 142; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.240. Prior: 1941 c 137 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11358-2.]

**80.36.250 Commission may complain of interstate rates.** The commission may investigate all interstate rates and charges, classifications, or rules or practices relating thereto, for or in relation to the transmission of messages or conversations. Where any acts in relation thereto take place within this state which, in the opinion of the commission, are excessive or discriminatory, or are levied or laid in violation of the federal communications act of June 19, 1934, and acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, or are in conflict with the rulings, orders, or regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the commission shall apply by petition to the Federal Communications Commission for relief, and may present to such federal commission all facts coming to its knowledge respecting violations of such act or the rulings, orders, or regulations of the federal commission. [1961 c 14 § 80.36.250. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 58; RRS § 10394.]

**80.36.260 Betterments may be ordered.** Whenever the commission shall find, after a hearing had on its own motion or upon complaint, that repairs or improvements to, or changes in, any telecommunications line ought reasonably be made, or that any additions or extensions should reasonably be made thereto in order to promote the security or convenience of the public or employees, or in order to secure adequate service or facilities for telecommunications com-

munications, the commission shall make and serve an order directing that such repairs, improvements, changes, additions or extensions be made in the manner to be specified therein. [1985 c 450 § 38; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.260. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 71; RRS § 10407.]

**80.36.270 Effect on existing contracts.** Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent any telecommunications company from continuing to furnish the use of its line, equipment or service under any contract or contracts in force on June 7, 1911 or upon the taking effect of any schedule or schedules of rates subsequently filed with the commission, as herein provided, at the rates fixed in such contract or contracts. [1989 c 101 § 12; 1985 c 450 § 39; 1961 c 14 § 80.36.270. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 43; RRS § 10379.]

**80.36.300 Policy declaration.** The legislature declares it is the policy of the state to:

- (1) Preserve affordable universal telecommunications service;
- (2) Maintain and advance the efficiency and availability of telecommunications service;
- (3) Ensure that customers pay only reasonable charges for telecommunications service;
- (4) Ensure that rates for noncompetitive telecommunications services do not subsidize the competitive ventures of regulated telecommunications companies;
- (5) Promote diversity in the supply of telecommunications services and products in telecommunications markets throughout the state; and
- (6) Permit flexible regulation of competitive telecommunications companies and services. [1985 c 450 § 1.]

**80.36.310 Classification as competitive telecommunications companies, services—Initiation of proceedings—Notice and publication—Effective date—Date for final order.** (1) Telecommunications companies may petition to be classified as competitive telecommunications companies under RCW 80.36.320 or to have services classified as competitive telecommunications services under RCW 80.36.330. The commission may initiate classification proceedings on its own motion. The commission may require all regulated telecommunications companies potentially affected by a classification proceeding to appear as parties for a determination of their classification.

(2) Any company petition or commission motion for competitive classification shall state an effective date not sooner than thirty days from the filing date. The company must provide notice and publication of the proposed competitive classification in the same manner as provided in RCW 80.36.110 for tariff changes. The proposed classification shall take effect on the stated effective date unless suspended by the commission and set for hearing under chapter 34.05 RCW or set for a formal investigation and fact-finding under RCW 80.36.145. The commission shall enter its final order with respect to any suspended classification within six months from the date of filing of a company's petition or the commission's motion. [1998 c 337 § 4; 1989 c 101 § 14; 1985 c 450 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.320 Classification as competitive telecommunications companies, services—Factors considered—Minimal regulation—Reclassification—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) The commission shall classify a telecommunications company as a competitive telecommunications company if the services it offers are subject to effective competition. Effective competition means that the company's customers have reasonably available alternatives and that the company does not have a significant captive customer base. In determining whether a company is competitive, factors the commission shall consider include but are not limited to:

- (a) The number and sizes of alternative providers of service;
- (b) The extent to which services are available from alternative providers in the relevant market;
- (c) The ability of alternative providers to make functionally equivalent or substitute services readily available at competitive rates, terms, and conditions; and
- (d) Other indicators of market power which may include market share, growth in market share, ease of entry, and the affiliation of providers of services.

The commission shall conduct the initial classification and any subsequent review of the classification in accordance with such procedures as the commission may establish by rule.

(2) Competitive telecommunications companies shall be subject to minimal regulation. The commission may waive any regulatory requirement under this title for competitive telecommunications companies when it determines that competition will serve the same purposes as public interest regulation. The commission may waive different regulatory requirements for different companies if such different treatment is in the public interest. A competitive telecommunications company shall at a minimum:

- (a) Keep its accounts according to regulations as determined by the commission;
- (b) File financial reports with the commission as required by the commission and in a form and at times prescribed by the commission; and
- (c) Cooperate with commission investigations of customer complaints.

(3) The commission may revoke any waivers it grants and may reclassify any competitive telecommunications company if the revocation or reclassification would protect the public interest.

(4) The commission may waive the requirements of RCW 80.36.170 and 80.36.180 in whole or in part for a competitive telecommunications company if it finds that competition will serve the same purpose and protect the public interest.

(5) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 408; 2006 c 347 § 3; 2003 c 189 § 3; 1998 c 337 § 5; 1989 c 101 § 15; 1985 c 450 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.330 Classification as competitive telecommunications companies, services—Effective competition defined—Minimal regulation—Prices and rates—Reclassification—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) The commission may classify a telecommunications service provided by a telecommunications company as a competitive telecommunications service if the service is subject to effective competition. Effective competition means that customers of the service have reasonably available alternatives and that the service is not provided to a significant captive customer base. In determining whether a service is competitive, factors the commission shall consider include but are not limited to:

(a) The number and size of alternative providers of services, including those not subject to commission jurisdiction;

(b) The extent to which services are available from alternative providers in the relevant market;

(c) The ability of alternative providers to make functionally equivalent or substitute services readily available at competitive rates, terms, and conditions; and

(d) Other indicators of market power, which may include market share, growth in market share, ease of entry, and the affiliation of providers of services.

(2) Competitive telecommunications services are subject to minimal regulation. The commission may waive any regulatory requirement under this title for companies offering a competitive telecommunications service when it determines that competition will serve the same purposes as public interest regulation. The commission may waive different regulatory requirements for different companies if such different treatment is in the public interest. A company offering a competitive telecommunications service shall at a minimum:

(a) Keep its accounts according to rules adopted by the commission;

(b) File financial reports for competitive telecommunications services with the commission as required by the commission and in a form and at times prescribed by the commission; and

(c) Cooperate with commission investigations of customer complaints.

(3) Prices or rates charged for competitive telecommunications services shall cover their cost. The commission shall determine proper cost standards to implement this section, provided that in making any assignment of costs or allocating any revenue requirement, the commission shall act to preserve affordable universal telecommunications service.

(4) The commission may investigate prices for competitive telecommunications services upon complaint. In any complaint proceeding initiated by the commission, the telecommunications company providing the service shall bear the burden of proving that the prices charged cover cost, and are fair, just, and reasonable.

(5) Telecommunications companies shall provide the commission with all data it deems necessary to implement this section.

(6) No losses incurred by a telecommunications company in the provision of competitive services may be recovered through rates for noncompetitive services. The commission may order refunds or credits to any class of subscribers

to a noncompetitive telecommunications service which has paid excessive rates because of below cost pricing of competitive telecommunications services.

(7) The commission may reclassify any competitive telecommunications service if reclassification would protect the public interest.

(8) The commission may waive the requirements of RCW 80.36.170 and 80.36.180 in whole or in part for a service classified as competitive if it finds that competition will serve the same purpose and protect the public interest.

(9) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 409; 2007 c 26 § 1; 2006 c 347 § 4; 2003 c 189 § 4; 1998 c 337 § 6; 1989 c 101 § 16; 1985 c 450 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.332 Noncompetitive telecommunications companies, services—Minimal regulation.** (1) A noncompetitive telecommunications company may petition to have packages or bundles of telecommunications services it offers be subject to minimal regulation. The commission shall grant the petition where:

(a) Each noncompetitive service in the packages or bundle is readily and separately available to customers at fair, just, and reasonable prices;

(b) The price of the package or bundle is equal to or greater than the cost for tariffed services plus the cost of any competitive services as determined in accordance with RCW 80.36.330(3); and

(c) The availability and price of the stand-alone noncompetitive services are displayed in the company's tariff and on its web site consistent with commission rules.

(2) For purposes of this section, "minimal regulation" shall have the same meaning as under RCW 80.36.330.

(3) The commission may waive any regulatory requirement under this title with respect to packages or bundles of telecommunications services if it finds those requirements are no longer necessary to protect public interest. [2007 c 26 § 2.]

**80.36.333 Price lists in effect before June 7, 2006—Extension.** (1) Until June 30, 2007, a telecommunications company may continue to maintain on file with the commission any price list that, pursuant to RCW 80.36.100, 80.36.320, and 80.36.330, was on file and in effect before June 7, 2006. The price list is subject to the statutes and rules in effect immediately before June 7, 2006.

(2) The commission may, upon petition by a company with a price list on file before June 7, 2006, extend the deadline in subsection (1) of this section until June 30, 2008. The commission may approve an extension only if the petitioning company demonstrates that it cannot reasonably implement a replacement for its price list by June 30, 2007, and that the

extension of time will not result in harm to customers or competition. [2006 c 347 § 5.]

**80.36.338 Withdrawal of price list—Customer information, opportunity to accept changes in rates, terms, or conditions—Cancellation period.** Each company withdrawing a filed price list shall provide each customer receiving service under the price list with information about the rates, terms, and conditions under which the service will continue to be provided. If the rates, terms, and conditions do not change upon withdrawal of the price list, such rates, terms, and conditions shall be binding to the same extent as the price list. If any of the rates, terms, and conditions do change upon withdrawal of the price list, the company must provide each customer with a reasonable opportunity to decide whether to accept the changed rate, term, or condition. If a customer does not cancel service within thirty days after notice of the change is given, the customer will be deemed to have accepted all the rates, terms, and conditions offered by the company. [2006 c 347 § 6.]

**80.36.340 Banded rates.** The commission may approve a tariff which includes banded rates for any telecommunications service if such tariff is in the public interest. "Banded rate" means a rate which has a minimum and a maximum rate. The minimum rate in the rate band shall cover the cost of the service. Rates may be changed within the rate band upon such notice as the commission may order. [1985 c 450 § 6.]

**80.36.350 Registration of new companies—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** Each telecommunications company not operating under tariff in Washington on January 1, 1985, shall register with the commission before beginning operations in this state. The registration shall be on a form prescribed by the commission and shall contain such information as the commission may by rule require, but shall include as a minimum the name and address of the company; the name and address of its registered agent, if any; the name, address, and title of each officer or director; its most current balance sheet; its latest annual report, if any; and a description of the telecommunications services it offers or intends to offer.

The commission may require as a precondition to registration the procurement of a performance bond sufficient to cover any advances or deposits the telecommunications company may collect from its customers, or order that such advances or deposits be held in escrow or trust.

The commission may deny registration to any telecommunications company which:

- (1) Does not provide the information required by this section;
- (2) Fails to provide a performance bond, if required;
- (3) Does not possess adequate financial resources to provide the proposed service; or
- (4) Does not possess adequate technical competency to provide the proposed service.

The commission shall take action to approve or issue a notice of hearing concerning any application for registration within thirty days after receiving the application. The commission may approve an application with or without a hear-

ing. The commission may deny an application after a hearing.

A telecommunications company may also submit a petition for competitive classification under RCW 80.36.310 at the time it applies for registration. The commission may act on the registration application and the competitive classification petition at the same time.

During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 410; 1990 c 10 § 1; 1985 c 450 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**80.36.360 Exempted actions or transactions.** For the purposes of RCW 19.86.170, actions or transactions of competitive telecommunications companies, or associated with competitive telecommunications services, shall not be deemed otherwise permitted, prohibited, or regulated by the commission. [1985 c 450 § 8.]

**80.36.370 Certain services not regulated.** The commission shall not regulate the following:

- (1) One way broadcast or cable television transmission of television or radio signals;
- (2) Private telecommunications systems;
- (3) Telegraph services;
- (4) Any sale, lease, or use of customer premises equipment except such equipment as is regulated on July 28, 1985;
- (5) Private shared telecommunications services, unless the commission finds, upon notice and investigation, that customers of such services have no alternative access to local exchange telecommunications companies. If the commission makes such a finding, it may require the private shared telecommunications services provider to make alternative facilities or conduit space available on reasonable terms and conditions at reasonable prices;
- (6) Radio communications services provided by a regulated telecommunications company, except that when those services are the only voice grade, local exchange telecommunications service available to a customer of the company the commission may regulate the radio communication service of that company. [1990 c 118 § 1; 1985 c 450 § 9.]

**80.36.375 Personal wireless services—Siting microcells and/or minor facilities—Definitions.** (1) If a personal wireless service provider applies to site several microcells and/or minor facilities in a single geographical area:

- (a) If one or more of the microcells and/or minor facilities are not exempt from the requirements of RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c), local governmental entities are encouraged: (i) To allow the applicant, at the applicant's discretion, to file a single set of documents required by chapter 43.21C RCW that will apply to all the microcells and/or minor facilities to be sited; and (ii) to render decisions under chapter 43.21C RCW regarding all the microcells and/or minor facilities in a single administrative proceeding; and

(b) Local governmental entities are encouraged: (i) To allow the applicant, at the applicant's discretion, to file a single set of documents for land use permits that will apply to all the microcells and/or minor facilities to be sited; and (ii) to render decisions regarding land use permits for all the microcells and/or minor facilities in a single administrative proceeding.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Personal wireless services" means commercial mobile services, unlicensed wireless services, and common carrier wireless exchange access services, as defined by federal laws and regulations.

(b) "Microcell" means a wireless communication facility consisting of an antenna that is either: (i) Four feet in height and with an area of not more than five hundred eighty square inches; or (ii) if a tubular antenna, no more than four inches in diameter and no more than six feet in length.

(c) "Minor facility" means a wireless communication facility consisting of up to three antennas, each of which is either: (i) Four feet in height and with an area of not more than five hundred eighty square inches; or (ii) if a tubular antenna, no more than four inches in diameter and no more than six feet in length; and the associated equipment cabinet that is six feet or less in height and no more than forty-eight square feet in floor area. [1997 c 219 § 2; 1996 c 323 § 3.]

**Findings—1996 c 323:** See note following RCW 43.70.600.

**80.36.390 Telephone solicitation.** (1) As used in this section, "telephone solicitation" means the unsolicited initiation of a telephone call by a commercial or nonprofit company or organization to a residential telephone customer and conversation for the purpose of encouraging a person to purchase property, goods, or services or soliciting donations of money, property, goods, or services. "Telephone solicitation" does not include:

(a) Calls made in response to a request or inquiry by the called party. This includes calls regarding an item that has been purchased by the called party from the company or organization during a period not longer than twelve months prior to the telephone contact;

(b) Calls made by a not-for-profit organization to its own list of bona fide or active members of the organization;

(c) Calls limited to polling or soliciting the expression of ideas, opinions, or votes; or

(d) Business-to-business contacts.

For purposes of this section, each individual real estate agent or insurance agent who maintains a separate list from other individual real estate or insurance agents shall be treated as a company or organization. For purposes of this section, an organization as defined in \*RCW 29.01.090 or 29.01.100 and organized pursuant to \*RCW 29.42.010 shall not be considered a commercial or nonprofit company or organization.

(2) A person making a telephone solicitation must identify him or herself and the company or organization on whose behalf the solicitation is being made and the purpose of the call within the first thirty seconds of the telephone call.

(3) If, at any time during the telephone contact, the called party states or indicates that he or she does not wish to be called again by the company or organization or wants to have his or her name and individual telephone number removed

from the telephone lists used by the company or organization making the telephone solicitation, then:

(a) The company or organization shall not make any additional telephone solicitation of the called party at that telephone number within a period of at least one year; and

(b) The company or organization shall not sell or give the called party's name and telephone number to another company or organization: PROVIDED, That the company or organization may return the list, including the called party's name and telephone number, to the company or organization from which it received the list.

(4) A violation of subsection (2) or (3) of this section is punishable by a fine of up to one thousand dollars for each violation.

(5) The attorney general may bring actions to enforce compliance with this section. For the first violation by any company or organization of this section, the attorney general shall notify the company with a letter of warning that the section has been violated.

(6) A person aggrieved by repeated violations of this section may bring a civil action in superior court to enjoin future violations, to recover damages, or both. The court shall award damages of at least one hundred dollars for each individual violation of this section. If the aggrieved person prevails in a civil action under this subsection, the court shall award the aggrieved person reasonable attorneys' fees and cost of the suit.

(7) The utilities and transportation commission shall by rule ensure that telecommunications companies inform their residential customers of the provisions of this section. The notification may be made by (a) annual inserts in the billing statements mailed to residential customers, or (b) conspicuous publication of the notice in the consumer information pages of local telephone directories. [1987 c 229 § 13; 1986 c 277 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 29.01.090, 29.01.100, and 29.42.010 were recodified as RCW 29A.04.085, 29A.04.097, and 29A.80.010, respectively, pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004. RCW 29A.04.085 and 29A.80.010 were subsequently repealed by 2004 c 271 § 193. Later enactment of RCW 29A.04.085 and 29A.80.010, see RCW 29A.04.086 and 29A.80.011.

**Legislative finding—1986 c 277:** "The legislature finds that certain kinds of telephone solicitation are increasing and that these solicitations interfere with the legitimate privacy rights of the citizens of the state. A study conducted by the utilities and transportation commission, as directed by the forty-ninth legislature, has found that the level of telephone solicitation in this state is significant to warrant regulatory action to protect the privacy rights of the citizens of the state. It is the intent of the legislature to clarify and establish the rights of individuals to reject unwanted telephone solicitations." [1986 c 277 § 1.]

*Charitable solicitations: Chapter 19.09 RCW.*

*Commercial telephone solicitation: Chapter 19.158 RCW.*

**80.36.400 Automatic dialing and announcing device—Commercial solicitation by.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) An automatic dialing and announcing device is a device which automatically dials telephone numbers and plays a recorded message once a connection is made.

(b) Commercial solicitation means the unsolicited initiation of a telephone conversation for the purpose of encouraging a person to purchase property, goods, or services.

(2) No person may use an automatic dialing and announcing device for purposes of commercial solicitation. This section applies to all commercial solicitation intended to be received by telephone customers within the state.

(3) A violation of this section is a violation of chapter 19.86 RCW. It shall be presumed that damages to the recipient of commercial solicitations made using an automatic dialing and announcing device are five hundred dollars.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the Washington utilities and transportation commission from adopting additional rules regulating automatic dialing and announcing devices. [1986 c 281 § 2.]

**Legislative finding—1986 c 281:** "The legislature finds that the use of automatic dialing and announcing devices for purposes of commercial solicitation: (1) Deprives consumers of the opportunity to immediately question a seller about the veracity of their claims; (2) subjects consumers to unwarranted invasions of their privacy; and (3) encourages inefficient and potentially harmful use of the telephone network. The legislature further finds that it is in the public interest to prohibit the use of automatic dialing and announcing devices for purposes of commercial solicitation." [1986 c 281 § 1.]

**80.36.410 Washington telephone assistance program—Findings.** (1) The legislature finds that universal telephone service is an important policy goal of the state. The legislature further finds that: (a) Recent changes in the telecommunications industry, such as federal access charges, raise concerns about the ability of low-income persons to continue to afford access to local exchange telephone service; and (b) many low-income persons making the transition to independence from receiving supportive services through community agencies do not qualify for economic assistance from the department.

(2) Therefore, the legislature finds that: (a) It is in the public interest to take steps to mitigate the effects of these changes on low-income persons; and (b) advances in telecommunications technologies, such as community service voice mail provide new and economically efficient ways to secure many of the benefits of universal service to low-income persons who are not customers of local exchange telephone service. [2003 c 134 § 2; 2002 c 104 § 2; 1987 c 229 § 3.]

**Effective date—2003 c 134:** See note following RCW 80.36.005.

**80.36.420 Washington telephone assistance program—Availability, components.** The Washington telephone assistance program shall be available to participants of programs set forth in RCW 80.36.470. Assistance shall consist of the following components:

(1) A discount on service connection fees of fifty percent or more as set forth in RCW 80.36.460.

(2) A waiver of deposit requirements on local exchange service, as set forth in RCW 80.36.460.

(3) A discounted flat rate service for local exchange service, which shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) The commission shall establish a single telephone assistance rate for all local exchange companies operating in the state of Washington. The telephone assistance rate shall include any federal end user charges and any other charges necessary to obtain local exchange service.

(b) The commission shall, in establishing the telephone assistance rate, consider all charges for local exchange ser-

vice, including federal end user charges, mileage charges, extended area service, and any other charges necessary to obtain local exchange service.

(c) The telephone assistance rate shall only be available to eligible customers subscribing to the lowest priced local exchange flat rate service, where the lowest priced local exchange flat rate service, including any federal end user charges and any other charges necessary to obtain local exchange service, is greater than the telephone assistance rate.

(d) The cost of providing the service shall be paid, to the maximum extent possible, by a waiver of all or part of federal end user charges and, to the extent necessary, from the telephone assistance fund created by RCW 80.36.430.

(4) A discount on a community service voice mailbox that provides recipients with (a) an individually assigned telephone number; (b) the ability to record a personal greeting; and (c) a secure private security code to retrieve messages. [2003 c 134 § 3; 1990 c 170 § 2; 1987 c 229 § 4.]

**Effective date—2003 c 134:** See note following RCW 80.36.005.

**80.36.430 Washington telephone assistance program—Excise tax—Expenses of community service voice mail.** (1) The Washington telephone assistance program shall be funded by a telephone assistance excise tax on all switched access lines and by funds from any federal government or other programs for this purpose. Switched access lines are defined in RCW 82.14B.020. The telephone assistance excise tax shall be applied equally to all residential and business access lines not to exceed fourteen cents per month. The department shall submit an approved annual budget for the Washington telephone assistance program to the department of revenue no later than March 1st prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The department of revenue shall then determine the amount of telephone assistance excise tax to be placed on each switched access line and shall inform local exchange companies and the utilities and transportation commission of this amount no later than May 1st. The department of revenue shall determine the amount of telephone assistance excise tax by dividing the total of the program budget funded by the telephone assistance excise tax, as submitted by the department, by the total number of switched access lines in the prior calendar year. The telephone assistance excise tax shall be separately identified on each ratepayer's bill as the "Washington telephone assistance program." All money collected from the telephone assistance excise tax shall be transferred to a telephone assistance fund administered by the department.

(2) Local exchange companies shall bill the fund for their expenses incurred in offering the telephone assistance program, including administrative and program expenses. The department shall disburse the money to the local exchange companies. The department is exempted from having to conclude a contract with local exchange companies in order to effect this reimbursement. The department shall recover its administrative costs from the fund. The department may specify by rule the range and extent of administrative and program expenses that will be reimbursed to local exchange companies.

(3) The department shall enter into an agreement with the department of commerce for an amount not to exceed

eight percent of the prior fiscal year's total revenue for the administrative and program expenses of providing community service voice mail services. The community service voice mail service may include toll-free lines in community action agencies through which recipients can access their community service voice mailboxes at no charge.

(4) During the 2009-2011 and 2011-2013 biennia, the department shall enter into an agreement with the WIN 211 organization for operational support. During the 2011-2013 biennium, the department shall provide five hundred thousand dollars per fiscal year for this purpose.

(5) During the 2009-2011 biennium, the telephone assistance fund shall also be used in support of the economic services administration call centers and related operations. [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 968; 2011 c 5 § 919; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 951; 2009 c 564 § 960; 2004 c 254 § 2; 2003 c 134 § 4; 1990 c 170 § 3; 1987 c 229 § 5.]

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2011 c 5:** See note following RCW 43.79.487.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 564:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Responsibility for collection of tax—Implementation—2004 c 254:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.725.

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

**Effective date—2003 c 134:** See note following RCW 80.36.005.

**80.36.440 Washington telephone assistance program—Rules.** (1) The commission and the department may adopt any rules necessary to implement RCW 80.36.410 through 80.36.470.

(2) Rules necessary for the implementation of community service voice mail services shall be made by the commission and the department in consultation with the \*department of community, trade, and economic development. [2003 c 134 § 5; 1990 c 170 § 4; 1987 c 229 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Effective date—2003 c 134:** See note following RCW 80.36.005.

**80.36.450 Washington telephone assistance program—Limitation.** The Washington telephone assistance program shall limit reimbursement to one residential switched access line per eligible household, or one discounted community service voice mailbox per eligible person. [2003 c 134 § 6; 1993 c 249 § 2; 1987 c 229 § 7.]

**Effective date—2003 c 134:** See note following RCW 80.36.005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.460 Washington telephone assistance program—Deposit waivers, connection fee discounts.** Local exchange companies shall waive deposits on local exchange service for eligible subscribers and provide a fifty percent discount on the company's customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for eligible subscribers. Part or all of the remaining fifty percent of service connection fees may be paid by funds from federal government or other programs for this purpose. The commission or other appropriate agency shall make timely application for any available federal funds. The remaining portion of the connection fee to be

paid by the subscriber shall be expressly payable by installment fees spread over a period of months. A subscriber may, however, choose to pay the connection fee in a lump sum. Costs associated with the waiver and discount shall be accounted for separately and recovered from the telephone assistance fund. [2003 c 134 § 7; 1990 c 170 § 5; 1987 c 229 § 8.]

**Effective date—2003 c 134:** See note following RCW 80.36.005.

**80.36.470 Washington telephone assistance program—Eligibility.** (1) Adult recipients of department-administered programs for the financially needy which provide continuing financial or medical assistance, food stamps, or supportive services to persons in their own homes are eligible for participation in the telephone assistance program. The department shall notify the participants of their eligibility.

(2) Participants in community service voice mail programs are eligible for participation in services available under RCW 80.36.420 (1), (2), and (3) after completing use of community service voice mail services. Eligibility shall be for a period including the remainder of the current service year and the following service year. Community agencies shall notify the department of participants eligible under this subsection. [2003 c 134 § 8; 2002 c 104 § 3; 1990 c 170 § 6; 1987 c 229 § 9.]

**Effective date—2003 c 134:** See note following RCW 80.36.005.

**80.36.500 Information delivery services through exclusive number prefix or service access code.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Information delivery services" means telephone recorded messages, interactive programs, or other information services that are provided for a charge to a caller through an exclusive telephone number prefix or service access code.

(b) "Information providers" means the persons or corporations that provide the information, prerecorded message, or interactive program for the information delivery service. The information provider generally receives a portion of the revenue from the calls.

(c) "Interactive program" means a program that allows an information delivery service caller, once connected to the information provider's announcement machine, to use the caller's telephone device to access more specific information.

(2) The utilities and transportation commission shall by rule require any local exchange company that offers information delivery services to a local telephone exchange to provide each residential telephone subscriber the opportunity to block access to all information delivery services offered through the local exchange company. The rule shall take effect by October 1, 1988.

(3) All costs of complying with this section shall be borne by the information providers.

(4) The local exchange company shall inform subscribers of the availability of the blocking service through a bill insert and by publication in a local telephone directory. [1991 c 191 § 8; 1988 c 123 § 2.]

**Legislative finding, intent—1988 c 123:** "(1) The legislature finds that throughout the state there is widespread use of information delivery services, which are also known as information-access telephone services and commonly provided on a designated telephone number prefix. These services

operate on a charge-per-call basis, providing revenue for both the information provider and the local exchange company. The marketing practices for these telephone services have at times been misleading to consumers and at other times specifically directed toward minors. The result has been placement of calls by individuals, particularly by children, who are uninformed about the charges that might apply. In addition, children may have secured access to obscene, indecent, and salacious material through these services. The legislature finds that these services can be blocked by certain local exchange companies at switching locations, and that devices exist which allow for blocking within a residence. Therefore, the legislature finds that residential telephone users in the state are entitled to the option of having their phones blocked from access to information delivery services.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that the utilities and transportation commission and local exchange companies, to the extent feasible, distinguish between information delivery services that are misleading to consumers, directed at minors, or otherwise objectionable and adopt policies and rules that accomplish the purposes of RCW 80.36.500 with the least adverse effect on information delivery services that are not misleading to consumers, directed at minors, or otherwise objectionable." [1988 c 123 § 1.]

**Investigation and report by commission:** "By October 1, 1988, the commission shall investigate and report to the committees on energy and utilities in the house of representatives and the senate on methods to protect minors from obscene, indecent, and salacious materials available through the use of information delivery services. The investigation shall include a study of personal identification numbers, credit cards, scramblers, and beep-tone devices as methods of limiting access." [1988 c 123 § 3.]

*Information delivery services: Chapter 19.162 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.510 Legislative finding.** The legislature finds that a growing number of companies provide, in a nonresidential setting, telecommunications services necessary to long distance service without disclosing the services provided or the rate, charge or fee. The legislature finds that provision of these services without disclosure to consumers is a deceptive trade practice. [1988 c 91 § 1.]

**80.36.520 Disclosure of alternate operator services.** The utilities and transportation commission shall by rule require, at a minimum, that any telecommunications company, operating as or contracting with an alternate operator services company, assure appropriate disclosure to consumers of the provision and the rate, charge or fee of services provided by an alternate operator services company.

For the purposes of this chapter, "alternate operator services company" means a person providing a connection to intrastate or interstate long-distance services from places including, but not limited to, hotels, motels, hospitals, and customer-owned pay telephones. [1988 c 91 § 2.]

**80.36.522 Alternate operator service companies—Registration—Penalties.** All alternate operator service companies providing services within the state shall register with the commission as a telecommunications company before providing alternate operator services. The commission may deny an application for registration of an alternate operator services company if, after a hearing, it finds that the services and charges to be offered by the company are not for the public convenience and advantage. The commission may suspend the registration of an alternate operator services company if, after a hearing, it finds that the company does not meet the service or disclosure requirements of the commission. Any alternate operator services company that provides service without being properly registered with the commission shall be subject to a penalty of not less than five hundred dollars and not more than one thousand dollars for each and

every offense. In case of a continuing offense, every day's continuance shall be a separate offense. The penalty shall be recovered in an action as provided in RCW 80.04.400. [1990 c 247 § 2.]

**80.36.524 Alternate operator service companies—Rules.** The commission may adopt rules that provide for minimum service levels for telecommunications companies providing alternate operator services. The rules may provide a means for suspending the registration of a company providing alternate operator services if the company fails to meet minimum service levels or if the company fails to provide appropriate disclosure to consumers of the protection afforded under this chapter. [1990 c 247 § 3.]

**80.36.530 Violation of consumer protection act—Damages.** In addition to the penalties provided in this title, a violation of RCW 80.36.510, 80.36.520, or 80.36.524 constitutes an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce in violation of chapter 19.86 RCW, the consumer protection act. Acts in violation of RCW 80.36.510, 80.36.520, or 80.36.524 are not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business, and constitute matters vitally affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. It shall be presumed that damages to the consumer are equal to the cost of the service provided plus two hundred dollars. Additional damages must be proved. [1990 c 247 § 4; 1988 c 91 § 3.]

**80.36.540 Telefacsimile messages—Unsolicited transmission—Penalties.** (1) As used in this section, "telefacsimile message" means the transmittal of electronic signals over telephone lines for conversion into written text.

(2) No person, corporation, partnership, or association shall initiate the unsolicited transmission of telefacsimile messages promoting goods or services for purchase by the recipient.

(3)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, this section shall not apply to telefacsimile messages sent to a recipient with whom the initiator has had a prior contractual or business relationship.

(b) A person shall not initiate an unsolicited telefacsimile message under the provisions of (a) of this subsection if the person knew or reasonably should have known that the recipient is a governmental entity.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, it is unlawful to initiate any telefacsimile message to a recipient who has previously sent a written or telefacsimile message to the initiator clearly indicating that the recipient does not want to receive telefacsimile messages from the initiator.

(5) The unsolicited transmission of telefacsimile messages promoting goods or services for purchase by the recipient is a matter affecting the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. The transmission of unsolicited telefacsimile messages is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. A violation of this section is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Damages to the recipient of telefacsimile messages in violation of this section

are five hundred dollars or actual damages, whichever is greater.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the Washington utilities and transportation commission from adopting additional rules regulating transmissions of telefacsimile messages. [1990 c 221 § 1.]

**80.36.555 Enhanced 911 service—Residential service required.** By January 1, 1997, or one year after enhanced 911 service becomes available or a private switch automatic location identification service approved by the Washington utilities and transportation commission is available from the serving local exchange telecommunications company, whichever is later, any private shared telecommunications services provider that provides service to residential customers shall assure that the telecommunications system is connected to the public switched network such that calls to 911 result in automatic location identification for each residential unit in a format that is compatible with the existing or planned county enhanced 911 system. [1995 c 243 § 3.]

**Findings—1995 c 243:** "The legislature finds that citizens of the state increasingly rely on the dependability of enhanced 911, a system that allows the person answering an emergency call to immediately determine the location of the emergency without the need of the caller to speak. The legislature further finds that in some cases, calls made from telephones connected to private telephone systems may not be precisely located by the answerer, eliminating some of the benefit of enhanced 911, and that this condition could additionally imperil citizens calling from these locations in an emergency. The legislature also finds that until national standards have been developed to address this condition, information-forwarding requirements should be mandated for only those settings with the most risk, including schools, residences, and some business settings." [1995 c 243 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.560 Enhanced 911 service—Business service required.** By January 1, 1997, or one year after enhanced 911 service becomes available or a private switch automatic location identification service approved by the Washington utilities and transportation commission is available from the serving local exchange telecommunications company, whichever is later, any commercial shared services provider of private shared telecommunications services for hire or resale to the general public to multiple unaffiliated business users from a single system shall assure that such a system is connected to the public switched network such that calls to 911 result in automatic location identification for each telephone in a format that is compatible with the existing or planned county enhanced 911 system. This section shall apply only to providers of service to businesses containing a physical area exceeding twenty-five thousand square feet, or businesses on more than one floor of a building, or businesses in multiple buildings. [1995 c 243 § 5.]

**Findings—Severability—1995 c 243:** See notes following RCW 80.36.555.

**80.36.600 Universal service program—Planning and preparation—Commission's duties—Approval of legislature required—Definitions.** (1) The commission shall plan and prepare to implement a program for the preservation and advancement of universal telecommunications service which shall not take effect until the legislature approves the program. The purpose of the universal service program is to benefit telecommunications ratepayers in the state by minimizing

implicit sources of support and maximizing explicit sources of support that are specific, sufficient, competitively neutral, and technologically neutral to support basic telecommunications services for customers of telecommunications companies in high-cost locations.

(2) In preparing a universal service program for approval by the legislature, the commission shall:

(a) Estimate the cost of supporting all lines located in high-cost locations and the cost of supporting one primary telecommunications line for each residential or business customer located in high-cost locations;

(b) Determine the assessments that must be made on all telecommunications carriers, and the manner of collection, to provide support for:

(i) All residential and business lines located in high-cost locations;

(ii) Only one primary line for each residential or business customer located in high-cost locations;

(c) Designate those telecommunications carriers serving high-cost locations that are eligible to receive support for the benefit of their customers in those locations;

(d) Adopt or prepare to adopt all necessary rules for administration of the program; and

(e) Provide a schedule of all fees and payments proposed or expected to be proposed by the commission under subsection (3)(d) of this section.

(3) Once a program is approved by the legislature and subsequently established, the following provisions apply unless otherwise directed by the legislature:

(a) All transfers of money necessary to provide the support shall be outside the state treasury and not be subject to appropriation;

(b) The commission may delegate to the commission secretary or other staff the authority to resolve disputes or make other decisions necessary to the administration of the program;

(c) The commission may contract with an independent program administrator subject to the direction and control of the commission and may authorize the establishment of an account or accounts in independent financial institutions should that be necessary for administration of the program;

(d) The expenses of an independent program administrator shall be authorized by the commission and shall be paid out of contributions by the telecommunications carriers participating in the program;

(e) The commission may require the carriers participating in the program, as part of their contribution, to pay into the public service revolving fund the costs of the commission attributable to supervision and administration of the program that are not otherwise recovered through fees paid to the commission.

(4) The commission shall establish standards for review or testing of all telecommunications carriers' compliance with the program for the purpose of ensuring the support received by a telecommunications carrier is used only for the purposes of the program and that each telecommunications carrier is making its proper contribution to the program. The commission may conduct the review or test, or contract with an independent administrator or other person to conduct the review or test.

(5) The commission shall coordinate administration of the program with any federal universal service program and may administer the federal fund in conjunction with the state program if so authorized by federal law.

(6) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Telecommunications carrier" has the same meaning as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 153(44).

(b) "Basic telecommunications services" means the following services:

- (i) Single-party service;
- (ii) Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- (iii) Support for local usage;
- (iv) Dual tone multifrequency signaling (touch-tone);
- (v) Access to emergency services (911);
- (vi) Access to operator services;
- (vii) Access to interexchange services;
- (viii) Access to directory assistance; and
- (ix) Toll limitation services.

(c) "High-cost location" means a location where the cost of providing telecommunications services is greater than a benchmark established by the commission by rule.

(7) Each telecommunications carrier that provides intrastate telecommunications services shall provide whatever information the commission may reasonably require in order to fulfill the commission's responsibilities under subsection (2) of this section. [1999 c 372 § 16; 1998 c 337 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.610 Universal service program—Authority of commission—Rules—Fees—Legislative intent.** (1) The commission is authorized to take actions, conduct proceedings, and enter orders as permitted or contemplated for a state commission under the federal telecommunications act of 1996, P.L. 104-104 (110 Stat. 56), but the commission's authority to either establish a new state program or to adopt new rules to preserve and advance universal service under section 254(f) of the federal act is limited to the actions expressly authorized by RCW 80.36.600. The commission may establish by rule fees to be paid by persons seeking commission action under the federal act, and by parties to proceedings under that act, to offset in whole or part the commission's expenses that are not otherwise recovered through fees in implementing the act, but new fees or assessments charged telecommunications carriers to either establish a state program or to adopt rules to preserve and advance universal service under section 254(f) of the federal act do not take effect until the legislature has approved a state universal service program.

(2) The legislature intends that under the future universal service program established in this state:

(a) Every telecommunications carrier that provides intrastate telecommunications services shall contribute, on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis, to the preservation and advancement of universal service in the state;

(b) The contributions shall be competitively and technologically neutral; and

(c) The universal service program to be established in accordance with RCW 80.36.600 shall not be inconsistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. Sec. 254. [1998 c 337 § 2.]

(2012 Ed.)

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.620 Universal service program—Rules.** Any rules regarding universal service adopted by the utilities and transportation commission shall comply with the purpose, as stated in RCW 80.36.600, for establishing a program for the preservation and advancement of universal telecommunications service. Services to be supported are only those basic services defined in \*RCW 80.36.600(7). [1998 c 337 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 80.36.600 was amended by 1999 c 372 § 16, changing subsection (7) to subsection (6).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.850 Extended area service defined.** As used in RCW 80.36.855, "extended area service" means the ability to call from one exchange to another exchange without incurring a toll charge. [1989 c 282 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.855 Extended area service program.** Any business, resident, or community may petition for and shall receive extended area service within the service territory of the local exchange company that provides service to the petitioner under the following conditions:

(1) Any customer, business or residential, interested in obtaining extended area service in their community must collect and submit to the commission the signatures of a representative majority of affected customers in the community. A "representative majority" for purposes of this section consists of fifteen percent of the access lines in that community;

(2) After receipt of the signatures, the commission shall authorize a study to be conducted by the affected local exchange company in order to determine whether a community of interest exists for the implementation of extended area service. For purposes of this section a community of interest shall be found if the average number of calls per customer per month from the area petitioning for extended area service to the area to which extended area service will be implemented is at least five;

(3) If a community of interest exists, the commission shall then calculate any increased rate that would be applied to the area which would have extended area service granted to it. This rate shall be based on the charges to a rate group having the same or similar calling capability as set forth in the tariffs of the local exchange telecommunications company involved;

(4) The affected telecommunications company shall be given the opportunity to propose an alternative plan that might be priced differently and that plan shall be included in the poll of subscribers as an alternative under subsection (5) of this section;

(5) After determining the amount of any additional rate, the commission shall notify the subscribers who will be affected by the increased rate and conduct a poll of those subscribers. If a simple majority votes its approval the commission shall order extended area service; and

(6) Any extended area service program adopted pursuant to this section shall be considered experimental and not binding on the commission in subsequent extended area service proceedings. If an extended area service program adopted pursuant to this section results in a revenue deficiency for a

local exchange company, the commission shall allocate the resulting revenue requirement in a manner which produces fair, just and reasonable rates for all classes of customers. [1989 c 282 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.36.900 Severability—1985 c 450.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1985 c 450 § 42.]

**80.36.901 Legislative review of 1985 c 450—1989 c 101.** The legislature shall conduct an intensive review of chapter 450, Laws of 1985 during the 1991-1993 biennium to determine whether the purposes of chapter 450, Laws of 1985 have been achieved and if further relaxation of regulatory requirements is in the public interest. [1989 c 101 § 18; 1985 c 450 § 44.]

### Chapter 80.40 RCW

#### UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS STORAGE ACT

##### Sections

80.40.010	Definitions.
80.40.020	Declaration concerning the public interest.
80.40.030	Eminent domain.
80.40.040	Eminent domain—Application to oil and gas conservation committee prerequisite to eminent domain—Procedure.
80.40.050	Rights of company using storage—Rights of owners of condemned land and interests therein.
80.40.060	Leases by commissioner of public lands.
80.40.070	Leases by county commissioners.
80.40.900	Short title.
80.40.910	Chapter to be liberally construed.
80.40.920	Severability—1963 c 201.

**80.40.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless specifically defined otherwise or unless the context indicates otherwise:

"Commission" shall mean the Washington utilities and transportation commission;

"Committee" shall mean the oil and gas conservation committee established by \*RCW 78.52.020;

"Natural gas" shall mean gas either in the earth in its original state or after the same has been produced by removal therefrom of component parts not essential to its use for light and fuel;

"Natural gas company" shall mean every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership or person authorized to do business in this state and engaged in the transportation, distribution, or underground storage of natural gas;

"Underground reservoir" shall mean any subsurface sand, strata, formation, aquifer, cavern or void whether natural or artificially created, suitable for the injection and storage of natural gas therein and the withdrawal of natural gas therefrom;

"Underground storage" shall mean the process of injecting and storing natural gas within and withdrawing natural gas from an underground reservoir: PROVIDED, The withdrawal of gas from an underground reservoir shall not be deemed a taking or producing within the terms of RCW 82.04.100. [1963 c 201 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 78.52.020 was repealed by 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 869, effective July 1, 1994.

#### **80.40.020 Declaration concerning the public interest.**

The underground storage of natural gas will promote the economic development of the state and provide for more economic distribution of natural gas to the domestic, commercial and industrial consumers of this state, thereby serving the public interest. [1963 c 201 § 3.]

**80.40.030 Eminent domain.** Any natural gas company having received an order under RCW 80.40.040 shall have the right of eminent domain to be exercised in the manner provided in and subject to the provisions of chapter 8.20 RCW to acquire for its use for the underground storage of natural gas any underground reservoir, as well as such other property or interests in property as may be required to adequately maintain and utilize the underground reservoir for the underground storage of natural gas, including easements and rights-of-way for access to and egress from the underground storage reservoir. The right of eminent domain granted hereby shall apply to property or property interests held in private ownership, provided condemnor has exercised good faith in negotiations for private sale or lease. No property shall be taken or damaged until the compensation to be made therefor shall have been ascertained and paid. Any property or interest therein so acquired by any natural gas company shall be used exclusively for the purposes for which it was acquired. Any decree of appropriation hereunder shall define and limit the rights condemned and shall provide for the reversion of such rights to the defendant or defendants or their successors in interest upon abandonment of the underground storage project. Good faith exploration work or development work relative to the storage reservoir is conclusive evidence that its use has not been abandoned. The court may include in such decree such other relevant conditions, covenants and restrictions as it may deem fair and equitable. [1963 c 201 § 4.]

**80.40.040 Eminent domain—Application to \*oil and gas conservation committee prerequisite to eminent domain—Procedure.** Any natural gas company desiring to exercise the right of eminent domain to condemn any property or interest in property for the underground storage of natural gas shall first make application to the \*oil and gas conservation committee for an order approving the proposed project. Notice of such application shall be given by the committee to the utilities and transportation commission, to the director of ecology, to the commissioner of public lands, and to all other persons known to have an interest in the property to be condemned. Said notice shall be given in the manner provided by RCW 8.20.020 as amended. The committee shall publish notice of said application at least once each week for three successive weeks in some newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties where the proposed underground storage project is located. If no written requests for hearing on the application are received by the committee within forty-five days from the date of service of notice of the application and publication thereof, the committee may proceed without hearing and issue its order. If a hearing is requested, a public hearing on the application will be held

within the county or one of the counties where the proposed underground storage project is located. Any order approving the proposed underground storage project shall contain findings that (1) the underground storage of natural gas in the lands or property sought to be condemned is in the public interest and welfare; (2) the underground reservoir is reasonably practicable, and the applicant has complied with all applicable oil and gas conservation laws of the state of Washington; (3) the underground reservoir sought to be condemned is nonproductive of economically recoverable valuable minerals or materials, or of oil or gas in commercial quantities under either primary or secondary recovery methods, and nonproductive of freshwater in commercial quantities with feasible and reasonable pumping lift; (4) the natural gas company has acquired the right by grant, lease or other agreement to store natural gas under at least sixty-five percent of the area of the surface of the land under which such proposed underground storage reservoir extends; (5) the natural gas company carries public liability insurance or has deposited collateral in amounts satisfactory to the committee or has furnished a financial statement showing assets in a satisfactory amount, to secure payment of any liability resulting from any occurrence arising out of or caused by the operation or use of any underground reservoir or facilities incidental thereto; (6) the underground storage project will not injure, pollute, or contaminate any usable freshwater resources; (7) the underground storage project will not injure, interfere with, or endanger any mineral resources or the development or extraction thereof. The order of the committee may be reviewed in the manner provided by chapter 34.05 RCW: PROVIDED, That if an appeal is not commenced within thirty days of the date of the order of the committee, the same shall be final and conclusive. [1988 c 127 § 35; 1963 c 201 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The duties of the oil and gas conservation committee were transferred to the department of natural resources by 1994 sp.s. c 9, effective July 1, 1994.

**80.40.050 Rights of company using storage—Rights of owners of condemned land and interests therein.** All natural gas in an underground reservoir utilized for underground storage, whether acquired by eminent domain or otherwise, shall at all times be the property of the natural gas company utilizing said underground storage, its heirs, successors, or assigns; and in no event shall such gas be subject to any right of the owner of the surface of the land under which said underground reservoir lies or of the owner of any mineral interest therein or of any person other than the said natural gas company, its heirs, successors and assigns to release, produce, take, reduce to possession, or otherwise interfere with or exercise any control thereof: PROVIDED, That the right of condemnation hereby granted shall be without prejudice to the rights of the owner of the condemned lands or of the rights and interest therein to drill or bore through the underground reservoir in such a manner as shall protect the underground reservoir against pollution and against the escape of natural gas in a manner which complies with the orders, rules and regulations of the \*oil and gas conservation committee issued for the purpose of protecting underground storage and shall be without prejudice to the rights of the owners of said lands or other rights or interests therein as to

all other uses thereof. The additional cost of complying with regulations or orders to protect the underground storage shall be paid by the condemnor. [1963 c 201 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The duties of the oil and gas conservation committee were transferred to the department of natural resources by 1994 sp.s. c 9, effective July 1, 1994.

**80.40.060 Leases by commissioner of public lands.** The commissioner of public lands is authorized to lease public lands, property, or any interest therein for the purpose of underground storage of natural gas. Any such lease shall be upon such terms and conditions as the said commissioner may deem for the best interests of the state and as are customary and proper for the protection of the rights of the state and of the lessee and of the owners of the surface of the leased lands, and may be for such primary term as said commissioner may determine and as long thereafter as the lessee continues to use such lands, property, or interest therein for underground storage of gas. [1963 c 201 § 7.]

**80.40.070 Leases by county commissioners.** Whenever it shall appear to the board of county commissioners of any county that it is for the best interests of said county, the taxing districts and the people thereof, that any county-owned or tax-acquired property owned by the county, either absolutely or as trustee, should be leased for the purpose of underground storage of natural gas therein, said board of county commissioners is hereby authorized to enter into written leases under the terms of which any county-owned lands, property, or interest therein are leased for the aforementioned purposes, with or without an option to purchase the land surface. Any such lease shall be upon such terms and conditions as said county commissioners may deem for the best interests of said county and the taxing districts, and may be for such primary term as said board may determine and as long thereafter as the lessee continues to use the said lands, property, or interest therein for underground storage of natural gas. [1963 c 201 § 8.]

**80.40.900 Short title.** This act shall be known as the "Underground Natural Gas Storage Act." [1963 c 201 § 9.]

**80.40.910 Chapter to be liberally construed.** It is intended that the provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purposes authorized and provided for. [1963 c 201 § 10.]

**80.40.920 Severability—1963 c 201.** If any part or parts of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held to be unconstitutional such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter, or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances. [1963 c 201 § 11.]

## Chapter 80.50 RCW ENERGY FACILITIES—SITE LOCATIONS

### Sections

80.50.010	Legislative finding—Policy—Intent.
80.50.020	Definitions.
80.50.030	Energy facility site evaluation council—Created—Membership—Support.

80.50.040	Energy facility site evaluation council—Powers enumerated.
80.50.045	Recommendations to secretary, federal energy regulatory commission—Siting electrical transmission corridors—Council designated as state authority for siting transmission facilities.
80.50.060	Energy facilities to which chapter applies—Applications for certification—Forms—Information.
80.50.071	Council to receive applications—Deposits or charges for application processing or certification monitoring.
80.50.075	Expedited processing of applications.
80.50.080	Counsel for the environment.
80.50.085	Council staff to assist applicants, make recommendations.
80.50.090	Public hearings.
80.50.100	Recommendations to governor—Expedited processing—Approval or rejection of certification—Reconsideration.
80.50.105	Transmission facilities for petroleum products—Recommendations to governor.
80.50.110	Chapter governs and supersedes other law or regulations—Preemption of regulation and certification by state.
80.50.120	Effect of certification.
80.50.130	Revocation or suspension of certification—Grounds.
80.50.140	Review.
80.50.150	Enforcement of compliance—Penalties.
80.50.160	Availability of information.
80.50.175	Study of potential sites—Fee—Disposition of payments.
80.50.180	Proposals and actions by other state agencies and local political subdivisions pertaining to energy facilities exempt from "detailed statement" required by RCW 43.21C.030.
80.50.190	Disposition of receipts from applicants.
80.50.300	Unfinished nuclear power projects—Transfer of all or a portion of a site to a political subdivision or subdivisions of the state—Water rights.
80.50.310	Council actions—Exemption from chapter 43.21C RCW.
80.50.320	Governor to evaluate council efficiency, make recommendations.
80.50.330	Preapplication—Siting electrical transmission facilities—Corridors.
80.50.340	Preapplication—Fees—Plans.
80.50.900	Severability—1970 ex.s. c 45.
80.50.901	Severability—1974 ex.s. c 110.
80.50.902	Severability—1977 ex.s. c 371.
80.50.903	Severability—1996 c 4.
80.50.904	Effective date—1996 c 4.

**Reviser's note:** Powers and duties of the department of social and health services and the secretary of social and health services transferred to the department of health and the secretary of health. See RCW 43.70.060.

*Energy supply emergencies: Chapter 43.21G RCW.*

*Regulation of dangerous wastes associated with energy facilities: RCW 70.105.110.*

*State energy office: Chapter 43.21F RCW.*

*Water pollution control, energy facilities, permits, etc., duties of energy facility site evaluation council: RCW 90.48.262.*

**80.50.010 Legislative finding—Policy—Intent.** The legislature finds that the present and predicted growth in energy demands in the state of Washington requires the development of a procedure for the selection and utilization of sites for energy facilities and the identification of a state position with respect to each proposed site. The legislature recognizes that the selection of sites will have a significant impact upon the welfare of the population, the location and growth of industry and the use of the natural resources of the state.

It is the policy of the state of Washington to recognize the pressing need for increased energy facilities, and to ensure through available and reasonable methods, that the location and operation of such facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment, ecology of the land and its wildlife, and the ecology of state waters and their aquatic life.

It is the intent to seek courses of action that will balance the increasing demands for energy facility location and oper-

ation in conjunction with the broad interests of the public. Such action will be based on these premises:

(1) To assure Washington state citizens that, where applicable, operational safeguards are at least as stringent as the criteria established by the federal government and are technically sufficient for their welfare and protection.

(2) To preserve and protect the quality of the environment; to enhance the public's opportunity to enjoy the esthetic and recreational benefits of the air, water and land resources; to promote air cleanliness; and to pursue beneficial changes in the environment.

(3) To provide abundant energy at reasonable cost.

(4) To avoid costs of complete site restoration and demolition of improvements and infrastructure at unfinished nuclear energy sites, and to use unfinished nuclear energy facilities for public uses, including economic development, under the regulatory and management control of local governments and port districts.

(5) To avoid costly duplication in the siting process and ensure that decisions are made timely and without unnecessary delay. [2001 c 214 § 1; 1996 c 4 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 29; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 1.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

*Nuclear power facilities, joint operation: Chapter 54.44 RCW.*

*State energy office: Chapter 43.21F RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Alternative energy resource" includes energy facilities of the following types: (a) Wind; (b) solar energy; (c) geothermal energy; (d) landfill gas; (e) wave or tidal action; or (f) biomass energy based on solid organic fuels from wood, forest, or field residues, or dedicated energy crops that do not include wood pieces that have been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol, or copper-chrome-arsenic.

(2) "Applicant" means any person who makes application for a site certification pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(3) "Application" means any request for approval of a particular site or sites filed in accordance with the procedures established pursuant to this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires.

(4) "Associated facilities" means storage, transmission, handling, or other related and supporting facilities connecting an energy plant with the existing energy supply, processing, or distribution system, including, but not limited to, communications, controls, mobilizing or maintenance equipment, instrumentation, and other types of ancillary transmission equipment, off-line storage or venting required for efficient operation or safety of the transmission system and overhead, and surface or subsurface lines of physical access for the inspection, maintenance, and safe operations of the transmission facility and new transmission lines constructed to operate at nominal voltages of at least 115,000 volts to connect a thermal power plant or alternative energy facilities to the northwest power grid. However, common carrier railroads or motor vehicles shall not be included.

(5) "Biofuel" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 43.325.010.

(6) "Certification" means a binding agreement between an applicant and the state which shall embody compliance to the siting guidelines, in effect as of the date of certification, which have been adopted pursuant to RCW 80.50.040 as now or hereafter amended as conditions to be met prior to or concurrent with the construction or operation of any energy facility.

(7) "Construction" means on-site improvements, excluding exploratory work, which cost in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

(8) "Council" means the energy facility site evaluation council created by RCW 80.50.030.

(9) "Counsel for the environment" means an assistant attorney general or a special assistant attorney general who shall represent the public in accordance with RCW 80.50.080.

(10) "Electrical transmission facilities" means electrical power lines and related equipment.

(11) "Energy facility" means an energy plant or transmission facilities: PROVIDED, That the following are excluded from the provisions of this chapter:

(a) Facilities for the extraction, conversion, transmission or storage of water, other than water specifically consumed or discharged by energy production or conversion for energy purposes; and

(b) Facilities operated by and for the armed services for military purposes or by other federal authority for the national defense.

(12) "Energy plant" means the following facilities together with their associated facilities:

(a) Any nuclear power facility where the primary purpose is to produce and sell electricity;

(b) Any nonnuclear stationary thermal power plant with generating capacity of three hundred fifty thousand kilowatts or more, measured using maximum continuous electric generating capacity, less minimum auxiliary load, at average ambient temperature and pressure, and floating thermal power plants of one hundred thousand kilowatts or more suspended on the surface of water by means of a barge, vessel, or other floating platform;

(c) Facilities which will have the capacity to receive liquefied natural gas in the equivalent of more than one hundred million standard cubic feet of natural gas per day, which has been transported over marine waters;

(d) Facilities which will have the capacity to receive more than an average of fifty thousand barrels per day of crude or refined petroleum or liquefied petroleum gas which has been or will be transported over marine waters, except that the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to storage facilities unless occasioned by such new facility construction;

(e) Any underground reservoir for receipt and storage of natural gas as defined in RCW 80.40.010 capable of delivering an average of more than one hundred million standard cubic feet of natural gas per day; and

(f) Facilities capable of processing more than twenty-five thousand barrels per day of petroleum or biofuel into refined products except where such biofuel production is undertaken at existing industrial facilities.

(13) "Independent consultants" means those persons who have no financial interest in the applicant's proposals and who are retained by the council to evaluate the applicant's proposals, supporting studies, or to conduct additional studies.

(14) "Land use plan" means a comprehensive plan or land use element thereof adopted by a unit of local government pursuant to chapter 35.63, 35A.63, 36.70, or 36.70A RCW, or as otherwise designated by chapter 325, Laws of 2007.

(15) "Person" means an individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

(16) "Preapplicant" means a person considering applying for a site certificate agreement for any transmission facility.

(17) "Preapplication process" means the process which is initiated by written correspondence from the preapplicant to the council, and includes the process adopted by the council for consulting with the preapplicant and with cities, towns, and counties prior to accepting applications for all transmission facilities.

(18) "Secretary" means the secretary of the United States department of energy.

(19) "Site" means any proposed or approved location of an energy facility, alternative energy resource, or electrical transmission facility.

(20) "Thermal power plant" means, for the purpose of certification, any electrical generating facility using any fuel for distribution of electricity by electric utilities.

(21) "Transmission facility" means any of the following together with their associated facilities:

(a) Crude or refined petroleum or liquid petroleum product transmission pipeline of the following dimensions: A pipeline larger than six inches minimum inside diameter between valves for the transmission of these products with a total length of at least fifteen miles;

(b) Natural gas, synthetic fuel gas, or liquefied petroleum gas transmission pipeline of the following dimensions: A pipeline larger than fourteen inches minimum inside diameter between valves, for the transmission of these products, with a total length of at least fifteen miles for the purpose of delivering gas to a distribution facility, except an interstate natural gas pipeline regulated by the United States federal power commission.

(22) "Zoning ordinance" means an ordinance of a unit of local government regulating the use of land and adopted pursuant to chapter 35.63, 35A.63, 36.70, or 36.70A RCW or Article XI of the state Constitution, or as otherwise designated by chapter 325, Laws of 2007. [2010 c 152 § 1; 2007 c 325 § 1. Prior: 2006 c 205 § 1; 2006 c 196 § 1; 2001 c 214 § 3; 1995 c 69 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 30; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Rule-making costs proportionately divided—2010 c 152:** See note following RCW 80.50.071.

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.030 Energy facility site evaluation council—Created—Membership—Support.** (1) There is created and established the energy facility site evaluation council.

(2)(a) The chair of the council shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, shall have a vote on matters before the council, shall serve for a term coextensive with the term of the governor, and is removable for cause. The chair may designate a member of the council to serve as acting chair in the event of the chair's absence. The salary of the chair shall be determined under RCW 43.03.040. The chair is a "state employee" for the purposes of chapter 42.52 RCW. As applicable, when attending meetings of the council, members may receive reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, and are eligible for compensation under RCW 43.03.250.

(b) The chair or a designee shall execute all official documents, contracts, and other materials on behalf of the council. The Washington utilities and transportation commission shall provide all administrative and staff support for the council. The commission has supervisory authority over the staff of the council and shall employ such personnel as are necessary to implement this chapter. Not more than three such employees may be exempt from chapter 41.06 RCW. The council shall otherwise retain its independence in exercising its powers, functions, and duties and its supervisory control over nonadministrative staff support. Membership, powers, functions, and duties of the Washington state utilities and transportation commission and the council shall otherwise remain as provided by law.

(3)(a) The council shall consist of the directors, administrators, or their designees, of the following departments, agencies, commissions, and committees or their statutory successors:

- (i) Department of ecology;
- (ii) Department of fish and wildlife;
- (iii) Department of commerce;
- (iv) Utilities and transportation commission; and
- (v) Department of natural resources.

(b) The directors, administrators, or their designees, of the following departments, agencies, and commissions, or their statutory successors, may participate as councilmembers at their own discretion provided they elect to participate no later than sixty days after an application is filed:

- (i) Department of agriculture;
- (ii) Department of health;
- (iii) Military department; and
- (iv) Department of transportation.

(c) Council membership is discretionary for agencies that choose to participate under (b) of this subsection only for applications that are filed with the council on or after May 8, 2001. For applications filed before May 8, 2001, council membership is mandatory for those agencies listed in (b) of this subsection.

(4) The appropriate county legislative authority of every county wherein an application for a proposed site is filed shall appoint a member or designee as a voting member to the council. The member or designee so appointed shall sit with the council only at such times as the council considers the proposed site for the county which he or she represents, and

such member or designee shall serve until there has been a final acceptance or rejection of the proposed site.

(5) The city legislative authority of every city within whose corporate limits an energy facility is proposed to be located shall appoint a member or designee as a voting member to the council. The member or designee so appointed shall sit with the council only at such times as the council considers the proposed site for the city which he or she represents, and such member or designee shall serve until there has been a final acceptance or rejection of the proposed site.

(6) For any port district wherein an application for a proposed port facility is filed subject to this chapter, the port district shall appoint a member or designee as a nonvoting member to the council. The member or designee so appointed shall sit with the council only at such times as the council considers the proposed site for the port district which he or she represents, and such member or designee shall serve until there has been a final acceptance or rejection of the proposed site. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply if the port district is the applicant, either singly or in partnership or association with any other person. [2010 c 271 § 601; 2010 c 152 § 2; 2001 c 214 § 4; 1996 c 186 § 108. Prior: 1994 c 264 § 75; 1994 c 154 § 315; 1990 c 12 § 3; 1988 c 36 § 60; 1986 c 266 § 51; prior: 1985 c 466 § 71; 1985 c 67 § 1; 1985 c 7 § 151; prior: 1984 c 125 § 18; 1984 c 7 § 372; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 31; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 46; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2010 c 152 § 2 and by 2010 c 271 § 601, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Purpose—Effective date—2010 c 271:** See notes following RCW 43.330.005.

**Rule-making costs proportionately divided—2010 c 152:** See note following RCW 80.50.071.

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 186:** See notes following RCW 43.330.904.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.040 Energy facility site evaluation council—Powers enumerated.** The council shall have the following powers:

(1) To adopt, promulgate, amend, or rescind suitable rules and regulations, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and the policies and practices of the council in connection therewith;

(2) To develop and apply environmental and ecological guidelines in relation to the type, design, location, construction, and operational conditions of certification of energy facilities subject to this chapter;

(3) To establish rules of practice for the conduct of public hearings pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, as found in chapter 34.05 RCW;

(4) To prescribe the form, content, and necessary supporting documentation for site certification;

(5) To receive applications for energy facility locations and to investigate the sufficiency thereof;

(6) To make and contract, when applicable, for independent studies of sites proposed by the applicant;

(7) To conduct hearings on the proposed location of the energy facilities;

(8) To prepare written reports to the governor which shall include: (a) A statement indicating whether the application is in compliance with the council's guidelines, (b) criteria specific to the site and transmission line routing, (c) a council recommendation as to the disposition of the application, and (d) a draft certification agreement when the council recommends approval of the application;

(9) To prescribe the means for monitoring of the effects arising from the construction and the operation of energy facilities to assure continued compliance with terms of certification and/or permits issued by the council pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW or subsection (12) of this section: PROVIDED, That any on-site inspection required by the council shall be performed by other state agencies pursuant to inter-agency agreement: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the council may retain authority for determining compliance relative to monitoring;

(10) To integrate its site evaluation activity with activities of federal agencies having jurisdiction in such matters to avoid unnecessary duplication;

(11) To present state concerns and interests to other states, regional organizations, and the federal government on the location, construction, and operation of any energy facility which may affect the environment, health, or safety of the citizens of the state of Washington;

(12) To issue permits in compliance with applicable provisions of the federally approved state implementation plan adopted in accordance with the Federal Clean Air Act, as now existing or hereafter amended, for the new construction, reconstruction, or enlargement or operation of energy facilities: PROVIDED, That such permits shall become effective only if the governor approves an application for certification and executes a certification agreement pursuant to this chapter: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That all such permits be conditioned upon compliance with all provisions of the federally approved state implementation plan which apply to energy facilities covered within the provisions of this chapter; and

(13) To serve as an interagency coordinating body for energy-related issues. [2001 c 214 § 6; 1990 c 12 § 4; 1985 c 67 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 254 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 4; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 32; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 4.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.045 Recommendations to secretary, federal energy regulatory commission—Siting electrical transmission corridors—Council designated as state authority for siting transmission facilities.** (1) The council shall consult with other state agencies, utilities, local municipal governments, public interest groups, tribes, and other interested persons to convey their views to the secretary and the federal energy regulatory commission regarding appropriate limits on federal regulatory authority in the siting of electrical transmission corridors in the state of Washington.

(2) The council is designated as the state authority for purposes of siting transmission facilities under the national energy policy act of 2005 and for purposes of other such rules or regulations adopted by the secretary. The council's authority regarding transmission facilities is limited to those

(2012 Ed.)

transmission facilities that are the subject of section 1221 of the national energy policy act and this chapter.

(3) For the construction and modification of transmission facilities that are the subject of section 1221 of the national energy policy act, the council may: (a) Approve the siting of the facilities; and (b) consider the interstate benefits expected to be achieved by the proposed construction or modification of the facilities in the state.

(4) When developing recommendations as to the disposition of an application for the construction or modification of transmission facilities under this chapter, the fuel source of the electricity carried by the transmission facilities shall not be considered. [2006 c 196 § 3.]

**80.50.060 Energy facilities to which chapter applies—Applications for certification—Forms—Information.** (1) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction of energy facilities which includes the new construction of energy facilities and the reconstruction or enlargement of existing energy facilities where the net increase in physical capacity or dimensions resulting from such reconstruction or enlargement meets or exceeds those capacities or dimensions set forth in \*RCW 80.50.020 (7) and (15). No construction of such energy facilities may be undertaken, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, after July 15, 1977, without first obtaining certification in the manner provided in this chapter.

(2) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction, reconstruction, or enlargement of a new or existing energy facility that exclusively uses alternative energy resources and chooses to receive certification under this chapter, regardless of the generating capacity of the project.

(3)(a) The provisions of this chapter apply to the construction, reconstruction, or modification of electrical transmission facilities when:

(i) The facilities are located in a national interest electric transmission corridor as specified in RCW 80.50.045;

(ii) An applicant chooses to receive certification under this chapter, and the facilities are: (A) Of a nominal voltage of at least one hundred fifteen thousand volts and are located in a completely new corridor, except for the terminus of the new facility or interconnection of the new facility with the existing grid, and the corridor is not otherwise used for electrical transmission facilities; and (B) located in more than one jurisdiction that has promulgated land use plans or zoning ordinances; or

(iii) An applicant chooses to receive certification under this chapter, and the facilities are: (A) Of a nominal voltage in excess of one hundred fifteen thousand volts; and (B) located outside an electrical transmission corridor identified in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (3).

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "modify" means a significant change to an electrical transmission facility and does not include the following: (i) Minor improvements such as the replacement of existing transmission line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures; (ii) the relocation of existing electrical transmission line facilities; (iii) the conversion of existing overhead lines to underground; or (iv) the placing of new or additional conductors, supporting structures, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built.

(4) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to normal maintenance and repairs which do not increase the capacity or dimensions beyond those set forth in \*RCW 80.50.020 (7) and (15).

(5) Applications for certification of energy facilities made prior to July 15, 1977, shall continue to be governed by the applicable provisions of law in effect on the day immediately preceding July 15, 1977, with the exceptions of RCW 80.50.190 and 80.50.071 which shall apply to such prior applications and to site certifications prospectively from July 15, 1977.

(6) Applications for certification shall be upon forms prescribed by the council and shall be supported by such information and technical studies as the council may require. [2007 c 325 § 2; 2006 c 196 § 4; 2001 c 214 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 5; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 34; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 6.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 80.50.020 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsections (7) and (15) to subsections (21) and (12), respectively.

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.071 Council to receive applications—Deposits or charges for application processing or certification monitoring.** (1) The council shall receive all applications for energy facility site certification. Each applicant shall pay such reasonable costs as are actually and necessarily incurred by the council in processing an application.

(a) Each applicant shall, at the time of application submission, deposit fifty thousand dollars, or such greater amount as may be specified by the council after consultation with the applicant. Costs that may be charged against the deposit include, but are not limited to, independent consultants' costs, councilmember's wages, employee benefits, costs of a hearing examiner, costs of a court reporter, staff salaries, wages and employee benefits, goods and services, travel expenses, and miscellaneous direct expenses as arise directly from processing an application.

(b) The council may commission its own independent consultant study to measure the consequences of the proposed energy facility on the environment or any matter that it deems essential to an adequate appraisal of the site. The council shall provide an estimate of the cost of the study to the applicant and consider applicant comments.

(c) The council shall submit to each applicant a statement of such expenditures made during the preceding calendar quarter which shall be in sufficient detail to explain such expenditures. The applicant shall pay the state treasurer the amount of such statement to restore the total amount on deposit to the originally established level: PROVIDED, That such applicant may, at the request of the council, increase the amount of funds on deposit to cover anticipated expenses during peak periods of application processing. Any funds remaining unexpended at the conclusion of application processing shall be refunded to the applicant, or at the applicant's option, credited against required deposits of certificate holders.

(2) Each certificate holder shall pay such reasonable costs as are actually and necessarily incurred by the council for inspection and determination of compliance by the certificate holder with the terms of the certification relative to

monitoring the effects of construction, operation, and site restoration of the facility.

(a) Each certificate holder, within thirty days of execution of the site certification agreement, shall have on deposit fifty thousand dollars, or such greater amount as may be specified by the council after consultation with the certificate holder. Costs that may be charged against the deposit include, but are not limited to, those specified in subsection (1)(a) of this section as arise from inspection and determination of compliance by the certificate holder with the terms of the certification.

(b) The council shall submit to each certificate holder a statement of such expenditures actually made during the preceding calendar quarter which shall be in sufficient detail to explain such expenditures. The certificate holder shall pay the state treasurer the amount of such statement to restore the total amount on deposit to the originally established level: PROVIDED, That if the actual expenditures for inspection and determination of compliance in the preceding calendar quarter have exceeded the amount of funds on deposit, such excess costs shall be paid by the certificate holder.

(3) If an applicant or certificate holder fails to provide the initial deposit, or if subsequently required payments are not received within thirty days following receipt of the statement from the council, the council may (a) in the case of the applicant, suspend processing of the application until payment is received; or (b) in the case of a certificate holder, suspend the certification.

(4) All payments required of the applicant or certificate holder under this section are to be made to the state treasurer who shall make payments as instructed by the council from the funds submitted. All such funds shall be subject to state auditing procedures. Any unexpended portions thereof shall be returned to the applicant or certificate holder.

(5)(a) Upon receipt of an application for an energy facility site certification proposing an energy plant or alternative energy resource that is connected to electrical transmission facilities of a nominal voltage of at least one hundred fifteen thousand volts, the council shall notify in writing the United States department of defense. The notification shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) A description of the proposed energy plant or alternative energy resource;
- (ii) The location of the site;
- (iii) The placement of the energy plant or alternative energy resource on the site;
- (iv) The date and time by which comments must be received by the council; and
- (v) Contact information of the council and the applicant.

(b) The purpose of the written notification is to provide an opportunity for the United States department of defense to comment upon the application, and to identify potential issues relating to the placement and operations of the energy plant or alternative energy resource, before a site certification application is approved. The time period set forth by the council for receipt of such comments shall not extend the time period for the council's processing of the application.

(c) In order to assist local governments required to notify the United States department of defense under RCW 35.63.270, 35A.63.290, and 36.01.320, the council shall post on its web site the appropriate information for contacting the

United States department of defense. [2011 c 261 § 1; 2010 c 152 § 3; 2006 c 196 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 16.]

**Rule-making costs proportionately divided—2010 c 152:** "Rule-making costs incurred by the energy facility site evaluation council in implementing and administering this act shall be proportionately divided among the certificate holders and applicants directly affected by this act." [2010 c 152 § 4.]

**80.50.075 Expedited processing of applications.** (1) Any person filing an application for certification of an energy facility or an alternative energy resource facility pursuant to this chapter may apply to the council for an expedited processing of such an application. The application for expedited processing shall be submitted to the council in such form and manner and accompanied by such information as may be prescribed by council rule. The council may grant an applicant expedited processing of an application for certification upon finding that the environmental impact of the proposed energy facility is not significant or will be mitigated to a nonsignificant level under RCW 43.21C.031 and the project is found under RCW 80.50.090(2) to be consistent and in compliance with city, county, or regional land use plans or zoning ordinances.

(2) Upon granting an applicant expedited processing of an application for certification, the council shall not be required to:

(a) Commission an independent study to further measure the consequences of the proposed energy facility or alternative energy resource facility on the environment, notwithstanding the other provisions of RCW 80.50.071; nor

(b) Hold an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act, on the application.

(3) The council shall adopt rules governing the expedited processing of an application for certification pursuant to this section. [2006 c 205 § 2; 1989 c 175 § 172; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.080 Counsel for the environment.** After the council has received a site application, the attorney general shall appoint an assistant attorney general as a counsel for the environment. The counsel for the environment shall represent the public and its interest in protecting the quality of the environment. Costs incurred by the counsel for the environment in the performance of these duties shall be charged to the office of the attorney general, and shall not be a charge against the appropriation to the energy facility site evaluation council. He shall be accorded all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of an attorney representing a party in a formal action. This section shall not be construed to prevent any person from being heard or represented by counsel in accordance with the other provisions of this chapter. [1977 ex.s. c 371 § 6; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 8.]

**80.50.085 Council staff to assist applicants, make recommendations.** (1) After the council has received a site application, council staff shall assist applicants in identifying issues presented by the application.

(2) Council staff shall review all information submitted and recommend resolutions to issues in dispute that would allow site approval.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) Council staff may make recommendations to the council on conditions that would allow site approval. [2001 c 214 § 5.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.090 Public hearings.** (1) The council shall conduct an informational public hearing in the county of the proposed site as soon as practicable but not later than sixty days after receipt of an application for site certification. However, the place of such public hearing shall be as close as practical to the proposed site.

(2) Subsequent to the informational public hearing, the council shall conduct a public hearing to determine whether or not the proposed site is consistent and in compliance with city, county, or regional land use plans or zoning ordinances. If it is determined that the proposed site does conform with existing land use plans or zoning ordinances in effect as of the date of the application, the city, county, or regional planning authority shall not thereafter change such land use plans or zoning ordinances so as to affect the proposed site.

(3) Prior to the issuance of a council recommendation to the governor under RCW 80.50.100 a public hearing, conducted as an adjudicative proceeding under chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act, shall be held. At such public hearing any person shall be entitled to be heard in support of or in opposition to the application for certification.

(4) Additional public hearings shall be held as deemed appropriate by the council in the exercise of its functions under this chapter. [2006 c 205 § 3; 2006 c 196 § 6; 2001 c 214 § 7; 1989 c 175 § 173; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 9.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2006 c 196 § 6 and by 2006 c 205 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.100 Recommendations to governor—Expedited processing—Approval or rejection of certification—Reconsideration.** (1)(a) The council shall report to the governor its recommendations as to the approval or rejection of an application for certification within twelve months of receipt by the council of such an application, or such later time as is mutually agreed by the council and the applicant.

(b) In the case of an application filed prior to December 31, 2025, for certification of an energy facility proposed for construction, modification, or expansion for the purpose of providing generating facilities that meet the requirements of RCW 80.80.040 and are located in a county with a coal-fired electric generating [generation] facility subject to RCW 80.80.040(3)(c), the council shall expedite the processing of the application pursuant to RCW 80.50.075 and shall report its recommendations to the governor within one hundred eighty days of receipt by the council of such an application, or a later time as is mutually agreed by the council and the applicant.

(2) If the council recommends approval of an application for certification, it shall also submit a draft certification agreement with the report. The council shall include conditions in the draft certification agreement to implement the

provisions of this chapter, including, but not limited to, conditions to protect state or local governmental or community interests affected by the construction or operation of the energy facility, and conditions designed to recognize the purpose of laws or ordinances, or rules or regulations promulgated thereunder, that are preempted or superseded pursuant to RCW 80.50.110 as now or hereafter amended.

(3)(a) Within sixty days of receipt of the council's report the governor shall take one of the following actions:

- (i) Approve the application and execute the draft certification agreement; or
- (ii) Reject the application; or
- (iii) Direct the council to reconsider certain aspects of the draft certification agreement.

(b) The council shall reconsider such aspects of the draft certification agreement by reviewing the existing record of the application or, as necessary, by reopening the adjudicative proceeding for the purposes of receiving additional evidence. Such reconsideration shall be conducted expeditiously. The council shall resubmit the draft certification to the governor incorporating any amendments deemed necessary upon reconsideration. Within sixty days of receipt of such draft certification agreement, the governor shall either approve the application and execute the certification agreement or reject the application. The certification agreement shall be binding upon execution by the governor and the applicant.

(4) The rejection of an application for certification by the governor shall be final as to that application but shall not preclude submission of a subsequent application for the same site on the basis of changed conditions or new information. [2011 c 180 § 109; 1989 c 175 § 174; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 8; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 36; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 10.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.50.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.105 Transmission facilities for petroleum products—Recommendations to governor.** In making its recommendations to the governor under this chapter regarding an application that includes transmission facilities for petroleum products, the council shall give appropriate weight to city or county facility siting standards adopted for the protection of sole source aquifers. [1991 c 200 § 1112.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.110 Chapter governs and supersedes other law or regulations—Preemption of regulation and certification by state.** (1) If any provision of this chapter is in conflict with any other provision, limitation, or restriction which is now in effect under any other law of this state, or any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder, this chapter shall govern and control and such other law or rule or regulation promulgated thereunder shall be deemed superseded for the purposes of this chapter.

(2) The state hereby preempts the regulation and certification of the location, construction, and operational conditions of certification of the energy facilities included under RCW 80.50.060 as now or hereafter amended. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 37; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.120 Effect of certification.** (1) Subject to the conditions set forth therein any certification shall bind the state and each of its departments, agencies, divisions, bureaus, commissions, boards, and political subdivisions, whether a member of the council or not, as to the approval of the site and the construction and operation of the proposed energy facility.

(2) The certification shall authorize the person named therein to construct and operate the proposed energy facility subject only to the conditions set forth in such certification.

(3) The issuance of a certification shall be in lieu of any permit, certificate or similar document required by any department, agency, division, bureau, commission, board, or political subdivision of this state, whether a member of the council or not. [1977 ex.s. c 371 § 10; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 38; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.130 Revocation or suspension of certification—Grounds.** Any certification may be revoked or suspended:

(1) For any material false statement in the application or in the supplemental or additional statements of fact or studies required of the applicant when a true answer would have warranted the council's refusal to recommend certification in the first instance; or

(2) For failure to comply with the terms or conditions of the original certification; or

(3) For violation of the provisions of this chapter, regulations issued thereunder or order of the council. [1970 ex.s. c 45 § 13.]

**80.50.140 Review.** (1) A final decision pursuant to RCW 80.50.100 on an application for certification shall be subject to judicial review pursuant to provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW and this section. Petitions for review of such a decision shall be filed in the Thurston county superior court. All petitions for review of a decision under RCW 80.50.100 shall be consolidated into a single proceeding before the Thurston county superior court. The Thurston county superior court shall certify the petition for review to the supreme court upon the following conditions:

(a) Review can be made on the administrative record;

(b) Fundamental and urgent interests affecting the public interest and development of energy facilities are involved which require a prompt determination;

(c) Review by the supreme court would likely be sought regardless of the determination of the Thurston county superior court; and

(d) The record is complete for review.

The Thurston county superior court shall assign a petition for review of a decision under RCW 80.50.100 for hearing at the earliest possible date and shall expedite such petition in every way possible. If the court finds that review cannot be limited to the administrative record as set forth in subparagraph (a) of this subsection because there are alleged irregularities in the procedure before the council not found in the record, but finds that the standards set forth in subparagraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection are met, the court shall proceed to take testimony and determine such factual issues raised by the alleged irregularities and certify the petition and its determination of such factual issues to the

supreme court. Upon certification, the supreme court shall assign the petition for hearing at the earliest possible date, and it shall expedite its review and decision in every way possible.

(2) Objections raised by any party in interest concerning procedural error by the council shall be filed with the council within sixty days of the commission of such error, or within thirty days of the first public hearing or meeting of the council at which the general subject matter to which the error is related is discussed, whichever comes later, or such objection shall be deemed waived for purposes of judicial review as provided in this section.

(3) The rules and regulations adopted by the council shall be subject to judicial review pursuant to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. [1988 c 202 § 62; 1981 c 64 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 11; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **80.50.150 Enforcement of compliance—Penalties.**

(1) The courts are authorized to grant such restraining orders, and such temporary and permanent injunctive relief as is necessary to secure compliance with this chapter and/or with a site certification agreement issued pursuant to this chapter or a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (hereafter in this section, NPDES) permit issued by the council pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW or any permit issued pursuant to RCW 80.50.040(14). The court may assess civil penalties in an amount not less than one thousand dollars per day nor more than twenty-five thousand dollars per day for each day of construction or operation in material violation of this chapter, or in material violation of any site certification agreement issued pursuant to this chapter, or in violation of any NPDES permit issued by the council pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW, or in violation of any permit issued pursuant to RCW 80.50.040(14). The court may charge the expenses of an enforcement action relating to a site certification agreement under this section, including, but not limited to, expenses incurred for legal services and expert testimony, against any person found to be in material violation of the provisions of such certification: PROVIDED, That the expenses of a person found not to be in material violation of the provisions of such certification, including, but not limited to, expenses incurred for legal services and expert testimony, may be charged against the person or persons bringing an enforcement action or other action under this section.

(2) Wilful violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a gross misdemeanor.

(3) Wilful or criminally negligent, as defined in RCW 9A.08.010[(1)](d), violation of any provision of an NPDES permit issued by the council pursuant to chapter 90.48 RCW or any permit issued by the council pursuant to RCW 80.50.040(14) or any emission standards promulgated by the council in order to implement the Federal Clean Air Act and the state implementation plan with respect to energy facilities under the jurisdiction provisions of this chapter shall be deemed a crime, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of up to twenty-five thousand dollars per day and costs of prosecution. Any violation of this subsection shall be a gross misdemeanor.

(4) Any person knowingly making any false statement, representation, or certification in any document in any

NPDES form, notice, or report required by an NPDES permit or in any form, notice, or report required for or by any permit issued pursuant to \*RCW 80.50.090(14) shall be deemed guilty of a crime, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of up to ten thousand dollars and costs of prosecution.

(5) Every person who violates the provisions of certificates and permits issued or administered by the council shall incur, in addition to any other penalty as provided by law, a penalty in an amount of up to five thousand dollars a day for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in case of a continuing violation, every day's continuance shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct violation. Every act of commission or omission which procures, aids, or abets in the violation shall be considered a violation under the provisions of this section and subject to the penalty provided in this section. The penalty provided in this section shall be imposed by a notice in writing, either by certified mail with return receipt requested or by personal service, to the person incurring the same from the council describing such violation with reasonable particularity. The council may, upon written application therefor received within fifteen days after notice imposing any penalty is received by the person incurring the penalty, and when deemed in the best interest to carry out the purposes of this chapter, remit or mitigate any penalty provided in this section upon such terms as the council shall deem proper, and shall have authority to ascertain the facts upon all such applications in such manner and under such regulations as it may deem proper. Any person incurring any penalty under this section may appeal the same to the council. Such appeals shall be filed within thirty days of receipt of notice imposing any penalty unless an application for remission or mitigation is made to the council. When an application for remission or mitigation is made, such appeals shall be filed within thirty days of receipt of notice from the council setting forth the disposition of the application. Any penalty imposed under this section shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of a notice imposing the same unless application for remission or mitigation is made or an appeal is filed. When an application for remission or mitigation is made, any penalty incurred hereunder shall become due and payable thirty days after receipt of notice setting forth the disposition of the application unless an appeal is filed from such disposition. Whenever an appeal of any penalty incurred hereunder is filed, the penalty shall become due and payable only upon completion of all review proceedings and the issuance of a final order confirming the penalty in whole or in part. If the amount of any penalty is not paid to the council within thirty days after it becomes due and payable, the attorney general, upon the request of the council, shall bring an action in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county or of any county in which such violator may do business, to recover such penalty. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as an ordinary civil action except as otherwise provided in this chapter. All penalties recovered under this section shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

(6) Civil proceedings to enforce this chapter may be brought by the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney of any county affected by the violation on his own motion or at

the request of the council. Criminal proceedings to enforce this chapter may be brought by the prosecuting attorney of any county affected by the violation on his own motion or at the request of the council.

(7) The remedies and penalties in this section, both civil and criminal, shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to any other penalties and remedies available at law, or in equity, to any person. [1979 ex.s. c 254 § 2; 1979 c 41 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 12; 1970 ex.s. c 45 § 15.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) This section was amended by 1979 c 41 § 1 and by 1979 ex.s. c 254 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

\* (2) The reference to RCW 80.50.090(14) appears to be in error; that section has only four subsections and concerns public hearings, not issuance of permits. RCW 80.50.040(12) relates to issuance of permits.

**80.50.160 Availability of information.** The council shall make available for public inspection and copying during regular office hours at the expense of any person requesting copies, any information filed or submitted pursuant to this chapter. [1970 ex.s. c 45 § 16.]

**80.50.175 Study of potential sites—Fee—Disposition of payments.** (1) In addition to all other powers conferred on the council under this chapter, the council shall have the powers set forth in this section.

(2) The council, upon request of any potential applicant, is authorized, as provided in this section, to conduct a preliminary study of any potential site prior to receipt of an application for site certification. A fee of ten thousand dollars for each potential site, to be applied toward the cost of any study agreed upon pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, shall accompany the request and shall be a condition precedent to any action on the request by the council.

(3) After receiving a request to study a potential site, the council shall commission its own independent consultant to study matters relative to the potential site. The study shall include, but need not be limited to, the preparation and analysis of environmental impact information for the proposed potential site and any other matter the council and the potential applicant deem essential to an adequate appraisal of the potential site. In conducting the study, the council is authorized to cooperate and work jointly with the county or counties in which the potential site is located, any federal, state, or local governmental agency that might be requested to comment upon the potential site, and any municipal or public corporation having an interest in the matter. The full cost of the study shall be paid by the potential applicant: PROVIDED, That such costs exceeding a total of ten thousand dollars shall be payable subject to the potential applicant giving prior approval to such excess amount.

(4) Any study prepared by the council pursuant to subsection (3) of this section may be used in place of the "detailed statement" required by RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) by any branch of government except the council created pursuant to chapter 80.50 RCW.

(5) All payments required of the potential applicant under this section are to be made to the state treasurer, who in turn shall pay the consultant as instructed by the council. All such funds shall be subject to state auditing procedures. Any

unexpended portions thereof shall be returned to the potential applicant.

(6) Nothing in this section shall change the requirements for an application for site certification or the requirement of payment of a fee as provided in RCW 80.50.071, or change the time for disposition of an application for certification as provided in RCW 80.50.100.

(7) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a city or county from requiring any information it deems appropriate to make a decision approving a particular location. [1983 c 3 § 205; 1977 ex.s. c 371 § 13; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 108 § 40; 1974 ex.s. c 110 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.180 Proposals and actions by other state agencies and local political subdivisions pertaining to energy facilities exempt from "detailed statement" required by RCW 43.21C.030.** Except for actions of the council under chapter 80.50 RCW, all proposals for legislation and other actions of any branch of government of this state, including state agencies, municipal and public corporations, and counties, to the extent the legislation or other action involved approves, authorizes, permits, or establishes procedures solely for approving, authorizing or permitting, the location, financing or construction of any energy facility subject to certification under chapter 80.50 RCW, shall be exempt from the "detailed statement" required by RCW 43.21C.030. Nothing in this section shall be construed as exempting any action of the council from any provision of chapter 43.21C RCW. [1977 ex.s. c 371 § 14.]

**80.50.190 Disposition of receipts from applicants.** The state general fund shall be credited with all receipts from applicants paid to the state pursuant to chapter 80.50 RCW. Such funds shall be used only by the council for the purposes set forth in chapter 80.50 RCW. All expenditures shall be authorized by law. [1977 ex.s. c 371 § 15.]

**80.50.300 Unfinished nuclear power projects—Transfer of all or a portion of a site to a political subdivision or subdivisions of the state—Water rights.** (1) This section applies only to unfinished nuclear power projects. If a certificate holder stops construction of a nuclear energy facility before completion, terminates the project or otherwise resolves not to complete construction, never introduces or stores fuel for the energy facility on the site, and never operates the energy facility as designed to produce energy, the certificate holder may contract, establish interlocal agreements, or use other formal means to effect the transfer of site restoration responsibilities, which may include economic development activities, to any political subdivision or subdivisions of the state composed of elected officials. The contracts, interlocal agreements, or other formal means of cooperation may include, but are not limited to provisions effecting the transfer or conveyance of interests in the site and energy facilities from the certificate holder to other political subdivisions of the state, including costs of maintenance and security, capital improvements, and demolition and salvage of the unused energy facilities and infrastructure.

(2) If a certificate holder transfers all or a portion of the site to a political subdivision or subdivisions of the state com-

posed of elected officials and located in the same county as the site, the council shall amend the site certification agreement to release those portions of the site that it finds are no longer intended for the development of an energy facility.

Immediately upon release of all or a portion of the site pursuant to this section, all responsibilities for maintaining the public welfare for portions of the site transferred, including but not limited to health and safety, are transferred to the political subdivision or subdivisions of the state. For sites located on federal land, all responsibilities for maintaining the public welfare for all of the site, including but not limited to health and safety, must be transferred to the political subdivision or subdivisions of the state irrespective of whether all or a portion of the site is released.

(3) The legislature finds that for all or a portion of sites that have been transferred to a political subdivision or subdivisions of the state prior to September 1, 1999, ensuring water for site restoration including economic development, completed pursuant to this section can best be accomplished by a transfer of existing surface water rights, and that such a transfer is best accomplished administratively through procedures set forth in existing statutes and rules. However, if a transfer of water rights is not possible, the department of ecology shall, within six months of the transfer of the site or portion thereof pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, create a trust water right under chapter 90.42 RCW containing between ten and twenty cubic feet per second for the benefit of the appropriate political subdivision or subdivisions of the state. The trust water right shall be used in fulfilling site restoration responsibilities, including economic development. The trust water right shall be from existing valid water rights within the basin where the site is located.

(4) For purposes of this section, "political subdivision or subdivisions of the state" means a city, town, county, public utility district, port district, or joint operating agency. [2000 c 243 § 1; 1996 c 4 § 2.]

**80.50.310 Council actions—Exemption from chapter 43.21C RCW.** Council actions pursuant to the transfer of the site or portions of the site under RCW 80.50.300 are exempt from the provisions of chapter 43.21C RCW. [1996 c 4 § 3.]

**80.50.320 Governor to evaluate council efficiency, make recommendations.** The governor shall undertake an evaluation of the operations of the council to assess means to enhance its efficiency. The assessment must include whether the efficiency of the siting process would be improved by conducting the process under the state environmental policy act in a particular sequence relative to the adjudicative proceeding. The results of this assessment may include recommendations for administrative changes, statutory changes, or expanded staffing levels. [2001 c 214 § 8.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.50.330 Preapplication—Siting electrical transmission facilities—Corridors.** (1) For applications to site electrical transmission facilities, the council shall conduct a pre-application process pursuant to rules adopted by the council to govern such process, receive applications as prescribed in

RCW 80.50.071, and conduct public meetings pursuant to RCW 80.50.090.

(2) The council shall consider and may recommend certification of electrical transmission facilities in corridors designated for this purpose by affected cities, towns, or counties:

(a) Where the jurisdictions have identified electrical transmission facility corridors as part of their land use plans and zoning maps based on policies adopted in their plans;

(b) Where the proposed electrical transmission facility is consistent with any adopted development regulations that govern the siting of electrical transmission facilities in such corridors; and

(c) Where contiguous jurisdictions and jurisdictions in which related regional electrical transmission facilities are located have either prior to or during the preapplication process undertaken good faith efforts to coordinate the locations of their corridors consistent with RCW 36.70A.100.

(3)(a) In the absence of a corridor designation in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) of this section, the council shall as part of the preapplication process require the pre-applicant to negotiate, as provided by rule adopted by the council, for a reasonable time with affected cities, towns, and counties to attempt to reach agreement about a corridor plan. The application for certification shall identify only the corridor agreed to by the applicant and cities, towns, and counties within the proposed corridor pursuant to the preapplication process.

(b) If no corridor plan is agreed to by the applicant and cities, towns, and counties pursuant to (a) of this subsection, the applicant shall propose a recommended corridor and electrical transmission facilities to be included within the proposed corridor.

(c) The council shall consider the applicant's proposed corridor and electrical transmission facilities as provided in RCW 80.50.090 (2) and (4), and shall make a recommendation consistent with RCW 80.50.090 and 80.50.100. [2007 c 325 § 3.]

**80.50.340 Preapplication—Fees—Plans.** (1) A preapplicant shall pay to the council a fee of ten thousand dollars to be applied to the cost of the preapplication process as a condition precedent to any action by the council, provided that costs in excess of this amount shall be paid only upon prior approval by the preapplicant, and provided further that any unexpended portions thereof shall be returned to the preapplicant.

(2) The council shall consult with the preapplicant and prepare a plan for the preapplication process which shall commence with an informational public hearing within sixty days after the receipt of the preapplication fee as provided in RCW 80.50.090.

(3) The preapplication plan shall include but need not be limited to:

(a) An initial consultation to explain the proposal and request input from council staff, federal and state agencies, cities, towns, counties, port districts, tribal governments, property owners, and interested individuals;

(b) Where applicable, a process to guide negotiations between the preapplicant and cities, towns, and counties within the corridor proposed pursuant to RCW 80.50.330. [2007 c 325 § 4.]

**80.50.900 Severability—1970 ex.s. c 45.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances, is not affected. [1970 ex.s. c 45 § 17.]

**80.50.901 Severability—1974 ex.s. c 110.** If any provision of this 1974 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances, is not affected. [1974 ex.s. c 110 § 3.]

**80.50.902 Severability—1977 ex.s. c 371.** If any provision of this 1977 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1977 ex.s. c 371 § 20.]

**80.50.903 Severability—1996 c 4.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1996 c 4 § 5.]

**80.50.904 Effective date—1996 c 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 6, 1996]. [1996 c 4 § 6.]

## Chapter 80.52 RCW

### ENERGY FINANCING VOTER APPROVAL ACT

#### Sections

80.52.010	Short title.
80.52.020	Purpose.
80.52.030	Definitions.
80.52.040	Election approval required before issuance of bonds.
80.52.050	Conduct of election.
80.52.060	Form of ballot propositions.
80.52.070	Approval of request for financing authority.
80.52.080	Priorities.
80.52.900	Severability—1981 2nd ex.s. c 6.
80.52.910	Effective dates—1981 2nd ex.s. c 6.

**80.52.010 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the Washington state energy financing voter approval act. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**80.52.020 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide a mechanism for citizen review and approval of proposed financing for major public energy projects. The development of dependable and economic energy sources is of paramount importance to the citizens of the state, who have an interest in insuring that major public energy projects make the best use of limited financial resources. Because the construction of major public energy projects will significantly increase utility rates for all citizens, the people of the state hereby establish a process of voter approval for such projects. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**80.52.030 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Public agency" means a public utility district, joint operating agency, city, county, or any other state governmental agency, entity, or political subdivision.

(2) "Major public energy project" means a plant or installation capable, or intended to be capable, of generating electricity in an amount greater than three hundred fifty megawatts, measured using maximum continuous electric generating capacity, less minimum auxiliary load, at average ambient temperature and pressure. Where two or more such plants are located within the same geographic site, each plant shall be considered a major public energy project. An addition to an existing facility is not deemed to be a major energy project unless the addition itself is capable, or intended to be capable, of generating electricity in an amount greater than three hundred fifty megawatts. A project which is under construction on July 1, 1982, shall not be considered a major public energy project unless the official agency budget or estimate for total construction costs for the project as of July 1, 1982, is more than two hundred percent of the first official estimate of total construction costs as specified in the senate energy and utilities committee WPPSS inquiry report, volume one, January 12, 1981, and unless, as of July 1, 1982, the projected remaining cost of construction for that project exceeds two hundred million dollars.

(3) "Cost of construction" means the total cost of planning and building a major public energy project and placing it into operation, including, but not limited to, planning cost, direct construction cost, licensing cost, cost of fuel inventory for the first year's operation, interest, and all other costs incurred prior to the first day of full operation, whether or not incurred prior to July 1, 1982.

(4) "Cost of acquisition" means the total cost of acquiring a major public energy project from another party, including, but not limited to, principal and interest costs.

(5) "Bond" means a revenue bond, a general obligation bond, or any other indebtedness issued by a public agency or its assignee.

(6) "Applicant" means a public agency, or the assignee of a public agency, requesting the secretary of state to conduct an election pursuant to this chapter.

(7) "Cost-effective" means that a project or resource is forecast:

(a) To be reliable and available within the time it is needed; and

(b) To meet or reduce the electric power demand of the intended consumers at an estimated incremental system cost no greater than that of the least-cost similarly reliable and available alternative project or resource, or any combination thereof.

(8) "System cost" means an estimate of all direct costs of a project or resource over its effective life, including, if applicable, the costs of distribution to the consumer, and, among other factors, waste disposal costs, end-of-cycle costs, and fuel costs (including projected increases), and such quantifiable environmental costs and benefits as are directly attributable to the project or resource. [2002 c 190 § 1; 1995 c 69 § 2; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**80.52.040 Election approval required before issuance of bonds.** No public agency or assignee of a public agency may issue or sell bonds to finance the cost of construction or the cost of acquisition of a major public energy project, or any portion thereof, unless it has first obtained authority for the expenditure of the funds to be raised by the sale of such bonds for that project at an election conducted in the manner provided in this chapter. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**80.52.050 Conduct of election.** The election required under RCW 80.52.040 shall be conducted in the manner provided in this section.

(1)(a) If the applicant is a public utility district, joint operating agency, city, or county, the election shall be among the voters of the public utility district, city, or county, or among the voters of the local governmental entities comprising the membership of the joint operating agency.

(b) If the applicant is any public agency other than those described in subsection (1)(a) of this section, or is an assignee of a joint operating agency and not itself a joint operating agency, the election shall be conducted statewide in the manner provided in \*Title 29 RCW for statewide elections.

(2) The election shall be held at the next statewide general election occurring more than ninety days after submission of a request by an applicant to the secretary of state unless a special election is requested by the applicant as provided in this section.

(3) If no statewide election can be held under subsection (2) of this section within one hundred twenty days of the submission to the secretary of state of a request by an applicant for financing authority under this chapter, the applicant may request that a special election be held if such election is necessary to avoid significant delay in construction or acquisition of the energy project. Within ten days of receipt of such a request for a special election, the secretary of state shall designate a date for the election pursuant to \*\*RCW 29.13.010 and certify the date to the county auditor of each county in which an election is to be held under this section.

(4) Prior to an election under this section, the applicant shall submit to the secretary of state a cost-effectiveness study, prepared by an independent consultant approved by the state finance committee, pertaining to the major public energy project under consideration. The study shall be available for public review and comment for thirty days. At the end of the thirty-day period, the applicant shall prepare a final draft of the study which includes the public comment, if any.

(5) The secretary of state shall certify the ballot issue for the election to be held under this section to the county auditor of each county in which an election is to be held. The certification shall include the statement of the proposition as provided in RCW 80.52.060. The costs of the election shall be relieved by the applicant in the manner provided by \*\*RCW 29.13.045. In addition, the applicant shall reimburse the secretary of state for the applicant's share of the costs related to the preparation and distribution of the voters' pamphlet required by subsection (6) of this section and such other costs as are attributable to any election held pursuant to this section.

(6) Prior to an election under this section, the secretary of state shall provide an opportunity for supporters and oppo-

nents of the requested financing authority to present their respective views in a voters' pamphlet which shall be distributed to the voters of the local governmental entities participating in the election. Upon submission of an applicant's request for an election pursuant to this section, the applicant shall provide the secretary of state with the following information regarding each major public energy project for which the applicant seeks financing authority at such election, which information shall be included in the voters' pamphlet:

(a) The name, location, and type of major public energy project, expressed in common terms;

(b) The dollar amount and type of bonds being requested;

(c) If the bond issuance is intended to finance the acquisition of all or a portion of the project, the anticipated total cost of the acquisition of the project;

(d) If the bond issuance is intended to finance the planning or construction of all or a portion of the project, the anticipated total cost of construction of the project;

(e) The projected average rate increase for consumers of the electricity to be generated by the project. The rate increase shall be that which will be necessary to repay the total indebtedness incurred for the project, including estimated interest;

(f) A summary of the final cost-effectiveness study conducted under subsection (4) of this section;

(g) The anticipated functional life of the project;

(h) The anticipated decommissioning costs of the project; and

(i) If a special election is requested by the applicant, the reasons for requesting a special election. [1982 c 88 § 1; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Title 29 RCW was repealed and/or recodified pursuant to 2003 c 111, effective July 1, 2004. See Title 29A RCW.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.045 were recodified as RCW 29A.04.320 and 29A.04.410, respectively, pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004. RCW 29A.04.320 was subsequently repealed by 2004 c 271 § 193. Later enactment of RCW 29A.04.320, see RCW 29A.04.321.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.52.060 Form of ballot propositions.** The proposition for each major public energy project listed upon a ballot pursuant to this chapter shall be in the form provided in this section.

(1) If the funds are intended to finance the planning or construction of all or a portion of the project, the proposition shall read substantially as follows:

"Shall (name of applicant) be authorized to spend (dollar amount of financing authority requested) to construct the (name of the project) (type of project) located at (location), the anticipated total construction cost of which is (anticipated cost of construction)?"

(2) If the financing authority is intended to finance the acquisition of all or a portion of the project from another party, the proposition shall read substantially as follows:

"Shall (name of applicant) be authorized to spend (dollar amount of financing authority

requested to acquire the (name of project) (type of project) located at (location), the anticipated total acquisition cost of which is (anticipated cost of acquisition) ?"

[1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**80.52.070 Approval of request for financing authority.** A request for financing authority pursuant to this chapter shall be considered approved if it receives the approval of a majority of those voting on the request. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 7 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**80.52.080 Priorities.** In planning for future energy expenditures, public agencies shall give priority to projects and resources which are cost-effective. Priority for future bond sales to finance energy expenditures by public agencies shall be given: First, to conservation; second, to renewable resources; third, to generating resources utilizing waste heat or generating resources of high fuel-conversion efficiency; and fourth, to all other resources. This section does not apply to projects which are under construction on December 3, 1981. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 8 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**80.52.900 Severability—1981 2nd ex.s. c 6.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 10 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

**80.52.910 Effective dates—1981 2nd ex.s. c 6.** Section 8 of this act shall take effect immediately. The remainder of this act shall take effect on July 1, 1982. Public agencies intending to submit a request for financing authority under this act are authorized to institute the procedures specified in section 5(4) of this act prior to the effective date of this act. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 6 § 11 (Initiative Measure No. 394, approved November 3, 1981).]

## Chapter 80.54 RCW

### ATTACHMENTS TO TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

#### Sections

80.54.010	Definitions.
80.54.020	Regulation of rates, terms, and conditions—Criteria.
80.54.030	Commission order fixing rates, terms, or conditions.
80.54.040	Criteria for just and reasonable rate.
80.54.050	Exemptions from chapter.
80.54.060	Adoption of rules.
80.54.070	Uniform attachment rates within utility service area.

**80.54.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Attachment" means any wire or cable for the transmission of intelligence by telecommunications or television, including cable television, light waves, or other phenomena, or for the transmission of electricity for light, heat, or power, and any related device, apparatus, or auxiliary equipment, installed upon any pole or in any telecommunications, electri-

cal, cable television, or communications right-of-way, duct, conduit, manhole or handhole, or other similar facilities owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by one or more utilities, where the installation has been made with the consent of the one or more utilities.

(2) "Licensee" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, company, association, joint stock association, or cooperatively organized association, other than a utility, which is authorized to construct attachments upon, along, under, or across the public ways.

(3) "Utility" means any electrical company or telecommunications company as defined in RCW 80.04.010, and does not include any entity cooperatively organized, or owned by federal, state, or local government, or a subdivision of state or local government. [1985 c 450 § 40; 1979 c 33 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**80.54.020 Regulation of rates, terms, and conditions—Criteria.** The commission shall have the authority to regulate in the public interest the rates, terms, and conditions for attachments by licensees or utilities. All rates, terms, and conditions made, demanded, or received by any utility for any attachment by a licensee or by a utility must be just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient. [1979 c 33 § 2.]

**80.54.030 Commission order fixing rates, terms, or conditions.** Whenever the commission shall find, after hearing had upon complaint by a licensee or by a utility, that the rates, terms, or conditions demanded, exacted, charged, or collected by any utility in connection with attachments are unjust, unreasonable, or that the rates or charges are insufficient to yield a reasonable compensation for the attachment, the commission shall determine the just, reasonable, or sufficient rates, terms, and conditions thereafter to be observed and in force and shall fix the same by order. In determining and fixing the rates, terms, and conditions, the commission shall consider the interest of the customers of the attaching utility or licensee, as well as the interest of the customers of the utility upon which the attachment is made. [1979 c 33 § 3.]

**80.54.040 Criteria for just and reasonable rate.** A just and reasonable rate shall assure the utility the recovery of not less than all the additional costs of procuring and maintaining pole attachments, nor more than the actual capital and operating expenses, including just compensation, of the utility attributable to that portion of the pole, duct, or conduit used for the pole attachment, including a share of the required support and clearance space, in proportion to the space used for the pole attachment, as compared to all other uses made of the subject facilities, and uses which remain available to the owner or owners of the subject facilities. [1979 c 33 § 4.]

**80.54.050 Exemptions from chapter.** Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to apply to any attachment by one or more electrical companies on the facilities of one or more other electrical companies. [1979 c 33 § 5.]

**80.54.060 Adoption of rules.** The commission shall adopt rules, regulations and procedures relative to the implementation of this chapter. [1979 c 33 § 6.]

**80.54.070 Uniform attachment rates within utility service area.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a utility as defined in RCW 80.54.010(3) and any utility not regulated by the utilities and transportation commission shall levy attachment rates which are uniform for all licensees within the utility service area. [1979 c 33 § 7.]

**Chapter 80.58 RCW  
NONPOLLUTING POWER  
GENERATION EXEMPTION**

Sections

80.58.010 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.

**80.58.010 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.** The generation of power by a nonpolluting, renewable energy source by an individual natural person not otherwise engaged in the business of power generation is declared to be exempt from all statutes and rules otherwise regulating the generation of power: PROVIDED, That such an individual is hereby authorized to provide such power to the utility servicing the property on which the power is generated and the servicing utility is hereby authorized to accept such power under such terms and conditions as may be agreed to between the parties. [1979 ex.s. c 191 § 11.]

**Chapter 80.60 RCW  
NET METERING OF ELECTRICITY**

Sections

80.60.005 Findings.  
80.60.010 Definitions.  
80.60.020 Available on first-come, first-served basis—Interconnected metering systems allowed—Charges to customer-generator.  
80.60.030 Net energy measurement—Required calculation—Unused credit—Meter aggregation.  
80.60.040 Safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements—Customer-generator's expense—Commission may adopt additional requirements.

**80.60.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to:

- (1) Encourage private investment in renewable energy resources;
- (2) Stimulate the economic growth of this state; and
- (3) Enhance the continued diversification of the energy resources used in this state. [1998 c 318 § 1.]

**80.60.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) "Commission" means the utilities and transportation commission.
- (2) "Customer-generator" means a user of a net metering system.
- (3) "Electrical company" means a company owned by investors that meets the definition of RCW 80.04.010.

(4) "Electric cooperative" means a cooperative or association organized under chapter 23.86 or 24.06 RCW.

(5) "Electric utility" means any electrical company, public utility district, irrigation district, port district, electric cooperative, or municipal electric utility that is engaged in the business of distributing electricity to retail electric customers in the state.

(6) "Irrigation district" means an irrigation district under chapter 87.03 RCW.

(7) "Meter aggregation" means the administrative combination of readings from and billing for all meters, regardless of the rate class, on premises owned or leased by a customer-generator located within the service territory of a single electric utility.

(8) "Municipal electric utility" means a city or town that owns or operates an electric utility authorized by chapter 35.92 RCW.

(9) "Net metering" means measuring the difference between the electricity supplied by an electric utility and the electricity generated by a customer-generator over the applicable billing period.

(10) "Net metering system" means a fuel cell, a facility that produces electricity and used and useful thermal energy from a common fuel source, or a facility for the production of electrical energy that generates renewable energy, and that:

- (a) Has an electrical generating capacity of not more than one hundred kilowatts;
- (b) Is located on the customer-generator's premises;
- (c) Operates in parallel with the electric utility's transmission and distribution facilities; and
- (d) Is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-generator's requirements for electricity.

(11) "Premises" means any residential property, commercial real estate, or lands, owned or leased by a customer-generator within the service area of a single electric utility.

(12) "Port district" means a port district within which an industrial development district has been established as authorized by Title 53 RCW.

(13) "Public utility district" means a district authorized by chapter 54.04 RCW.

(14) "Renewable energy" means energy generated by a facility that uses water, wind, solar energy, or biogas from animal waste as a fuel. [2007 c 323 § 1; 2006 c 201 § 1; 2000 c 158 § 1; 1998 c 318 § 2.]

**80.60.020 Available on first-come, first-served basis—Interconnected metering systems allowed—Charges to customer-generator.** (1) An electric utility:

- (a) Shall offer to make net metering available to eligible customers-generators on a first-come, first-served basis until the cumulative generating capacity of net metering systems equals 0.25 percent of the utility's peak demand during 1996. On January 1, 2014, the cumulative generating capacity available to net metering systems will equal 0.5 percent of the utility's peak demand during 1996. Not less than one-half of the utility's 1996 peak demand available for net metering systems shall be reserved for the cumulative generating capacity attributable to net metering systems that generate renewable energy;
- (b) Shall allow net metering systems to be interconnected using a standard kilowatt-hour meter capable of regis-

tering the flow of electricity in two directions, unless the commission, in the case of an electrical company, or the appropriate governing body, in the case of other electric utilities, determines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment:

(i) That the use of additional metering equipment to monitor the flow of electricity in each direction is necessary and appropriate for the interconnection of net metering systems, after taking into account the benefits and costs of purchasing and installing additional metering equipment; and

(ii) How the cost of purchasing and installing an additional meter is to be allocated between the customer-generator and the utility;

(c) Shall charge the customer-generator a minimum monthly fee that is the same as other customers of the electric utility in the same rate class, but shall not charge the customer-generator any additional standby, capacity, interconnection, or other fee or charge unless the commission, in the case of an electrical company, or the appropriate governing body, in the case of other electric utilities, determines, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment that:

(i) The electric utility will incur direct costs associated with interconnecting or administering net metering systems that exceed any offsetting benefits associated with these systems; and

(ii) Public policy is best served by imposing these costs on the customer-generator rather than allocating these costs among the utility's entire customer base.

(2) If a production meter and software is required by the electric utility to provide meter aggregation under RCW 80.60.030(4), the customer-generator is responsible for the purchase of the production meter and software. [2007 c 323 § 2; 2006 c 201 § 2; 2000 c 158 § 2; 1998 c 318 § 3.]

**80.60.030 Net energy measurement—Required calculation—Unused credit—Meter aggregation.** Consistent with the other provisions of this chapter, the net energy measurement must be calculated in the following manner:

(1) The electric utility shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed during the billing period, in accordance with normal metering practices.

(2) If the electricity supplied by the electric utility exceeds the electricity generated by the customer-generator and fed back to the electric utility during the billing period, the customer-generator shall be billed for the net electricity supplied by the electric utility, in accordance with normal metering practices.

(3) If electricity generated by the customer-generator exceeds the electricity supplied by the electric utility, the customer-generator:

(a) Shall be billed for the appropriate customer charges for that billing period, in accordance with RCW 80.60.020; and

(b) Shall be credited for the excess kilowatt-hours generated during the billing period, with this kilowatt-hour credit appearing on the bill for the following billing period.

(4) If a customer-generator requests, an electric utility shall provide meter aggregation.

(a) For customer-generators participating in meter aggregation, kilowatt-hours credits earned by a net metering sys-

tem during the billing period first shall be used to offset electricity supplied by the electric utility.

(b) Not more than a total of one hundred kilowatts shall be aggregated among all customer-generators participating in a generating facility under this subsection.

(c) Excess kilowatt-hours credits earned by the net metering system, during the same billing period, shall be credited equally by the electric utility to remaining meters located on all premises of a customer-generator at the designated rate of each meter.

(d) Meters so aggregated shall not change rate classes due to meter aggregation under this section.

(5) On April 30th of each calendar year, any remaining unused kilowatt-hour credit accumulated during the previous year shall be granted to the electric utility, without any compensation to the customer-generator. [2007 c 323 § 3; 2006 c 201 § 3; 1998 c 318 § 4.]

**80.60.040 Safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements—Customer-generator's expense—Commission may adopt additional requirements.** (1) A net metering system used by a customer-generator shall include, at the customer-generator's own expense, all equipment necessary to meet applicable safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements established by the national electrical code, national electrical safety code, the institute of electrical and electronics engineers, and underwriters laboratories.

(2) The commission, in the case of an electrical company, or the appropriate governing body, in the case of other electric utilities, after appropriate notice and opportunity for comment, may adopt by regulation additional safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements for customer-generators, including limitations on the number of customer-generators and total capacity of net metering systems that may be interconnected to any distribution feeder line, circuit, or network that the commission or governing body determines are necessary to protect public safety and system reliability.

(3) An electric utility may not require a customer-generator whose net metering system meets the standards in subsections (1) and (2) of this section to comply with additional safety or performance standards, perform or pay for additional tests, or purchase additional liability insurance. However, an electric utility shall not be liable directly or indirectly for permitting or continuing to allow an attachment of a net metering system, or for the acts or omissions of the customer-generator that cause loss or injury, including death, to any third party. [2006 c 201 § 4; 2000 c 158 § 3; 1998 c 318 § 5.]

## Chapter 80.66 RCW

### RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE COMPANIES

#### Sections

80.66.010 Scope of regulation—Filing of certain agreements.

**80.66.010 Scope of regulation—Filing of certain agreements.** The commission shall not regulate radio communications service companies, except that:

(1) The commission may regulate the rates, services, facilities, and practices of radio communications service companies, within a geographic service area or a portion of a geographic service area in which it is authorized to operate by

the federal communications commission if it is the only provider of basic telecommunications service within such geographic service area or such portion of a geographic service area. For purposes of this section, "basic telecommunications service" means voice grade, local exchange telecommunications service.

(2) Actions or transactions of radio communications service companies that are not regulated pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall not be deemed actions or transactions otherwise permitted, prohibited, or regulated by the commission for purposes of RCW 19.86.170.

(3) Radio communications service companies shall file with the commission copies of all agreements with any of their affiliated interests as defined in RCW 80.16.010, showing the rates, tolls, rentals, contracts, and charges of such affiliated interest for services rendered and equipment and facilities supplied to the radio communications service company, except that such agreements need not be filed where the services rendered and equipment and facilities supplied are provided by the affiliated interest under a tariff or price list filed with the commission. [1985 c 167 § 2.]

### Chapter 80.70 RCW CARBON DIOXIDE MITIGATION

#### Sections

80.70.010	Definitions.
80.70.020	Applicability of chapter—Carbon dioxide mitigation plan—Mitigation by a third party.
80.70.030	Permanent carbon credits.
80.70.040	Direct investment mitigation projects—Enforcement—Federal requirements may replace this section.
80.70.050	Independent qualified organizations with experience in mitigation activities—Council oversight—Reports.
80.70.060	Costs to be assessed against applicants and holders of site certification agreements.
80.70.070	Rules.
80.70.080	Certain applicants for a natural gas-fired generation plant exempt from chapter.

**80.70.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Applicant" has the meaning provided in RCW 80.50.020 and includes an applicant for a permit for a fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facility subject to RCW 70.94.152 and 80.70.020(1) (b) or (d).

(2) "Authority" means any air pollution control agency whose jurisdictional boundaries are coextensive with the boundaries of one or more counties.

(3) "Carbon credit" means a verified reduction in carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide equivalents that is registered with a state, national, or international trading authority or exchange that has been recognized by the council.

(4) "Carbon dioxide equivalents" means a metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential.

(5) "Cogeneration credit" means the carbon dioxide emissions that the council, department, or authority, as appropriate, estimates would be produced on an annual basis by a stand-alone industrial and commercial facility equivalent in operating characteristics and output to the industrial or commercial heating or cooling process component of the cogeneration plant.

(6) "Cogeneration plant" means a fossil-fueled thermal power plant in which the heat or steam is also used for industrial or commercial heating or cooling purposes and that meets federal energy regulatory commission standards for qualifying facilities under the public utility regulatory policies act of 1978.

(7) "Commercial operation" means the date that the first electricity produced by a facility is delivered for commercial sale to the power grid.

(8) "Council" means the energy facility site evaluation council created by RCW 80.50.030.

(9) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(10) "Fossil fuel" means natural gas, petroleum, coal, or any form of solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel derived from such material to produce heat for the generation of electricity.

(11) "Mitigation plan" means a proposal that includes the process or means to achieve carbon dioxide mitigation through use of mitigation projects or carbon credits.

(12) "Mitigation project" means one or more of the following:

(a) Projects or actions that are implemented by the certificate holder or order of approval holder, directly or through its agent, or by an independent qualified organization to mitigate the emission of carbon dioxide produced by the fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facility. This term includes but is not limited to the use of, energy efficiency measures, clean and efficient transportation measures, qualified alternative energy resources, demand side management of electricity consumption, and carbon sequestration programs;

(b) Direct application of combined heat and power (cogeneration);

(c) Verified carbon credits traded on a recognized trading authority or exchange; or

(d) Enforceable and permanent reductions in carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide equivalents through process change, equipment shutdown, or other activities under the control of the applicant and approved as part of a carbon dioxide mitigation plan.

(13) "Order of approval" means an order issued under RCW 70.94.152 with respect to a fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facility subject to RCW 80.70.020(1) (b) or (d).

(14) "Permanent" means that emission reductions used to offset emission increases are assured for the life of the corresponding increase, whether unlimited or limited in duration.

(15) "Qualified alternative energy resource" has the same meaning as in RCW 19.29A.090.

(16) "Station generating capability" means the maximum load a generator can sustain over a given period of time without exceeding design limits, and measured using maximum continuous electric generation capacity, less net auxiliary load, at average ambient temperature and barometric pressure.

(17) "Total carbon dioxide emissions" means:

(a) For a fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facility described under RCW 80.70.020(1) (a) and (b), the amount of carbon dioxide emitted over a thirty-year period based on the manufacturer's or designer's guaranteed total net station generating capability, new equipment heat rate, an assumed sixty percent capacity factor for facilities under the council's jurisdiction or sixty percent of the operational limitations on

facilities subject to an order of approval, and taking into account any enforceable limitations on operational hours or fuel types and use; and

(b) For a fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facility described under RCW 80.70.020(1) (c) and (d), the amount of carbon dioxide emitted over a thirty-year period based on the proposed increase in the amount of electrical output of the facility that exceeds the station generation capability of the facility prior to the applicant applying for certification or an order of approval pursuant to RCW 80.70.020(1) (c) and (d), new equipment heat rate, an assumed sixty percent capacity factor for facilities under the council's jurisdiction or sixty percent of the operational limitations on facilities subject to an order of approval, and taking into account any enforceable limitations on operational hours or fuel types and use. [2004 c 224 § 1.]

**80.70.020 Applicability of chapter—Carbon dioxide mitigation plan—Mitigation by a third party.** (1) The provisions of this chapter apply to:

(a) New fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities with station-generating capability of three hundred fifty thousand kilowatts or more and fossil-fueled floating thermal electric generation facilities of one hundred thousand kilowatts or more under \*RCW 80.50.020(14)(a), for which an application for site certification is made to the council after July 1, 2004;

(b) New fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities with station-generating capability of more than twenty-five thousand kilowatts, but less than three hundred fifty thousand kilowatts, except for fossil-fueled floating thermal electric generation facilities under the council's jurisdiction, for which an application for an order of approval has been submitted after July 1, 2004;

(c) Fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities with station-generating capability of three hundred fifty thousand kilowatts or more that have an existing site certification agreement and, after July 1, 2004, apply to the council to increase the output of carbon dioxide emissions by fifteen percent or more through permanent changes in facility operations or modification or equipment; and

(d) Fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities with station-generating capability of more than twenty-five thousand kilowatts, but less than three hundred fifty thousand kilowatts, except for fossil-fueled floating thermal electric generation facilities under the council's jurisdiction, that have an existing order of approval and, after July 1, 2004, apply to the department or authority, as appropriate, to permanently modify the facility so as to increase its station-generating capability by at least twenty-five thousand kilowatts or to increase the output of carbon dioxide emissions by fifteen percent or more, whichever measure is greater.

(2)(a) A proposed site certification agreement submitted to the governor under RCW 80.50.100 and a final site certification agreement issued under RCW 80.50.100 shall include an approved carbon dioxide mitigation plan.

(b) For fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities not under jurisdiction of the council, the order of approval shall require an approved carbon dioxide mitigation plan.

(c) Site certification agreement holders or order of approval holders may request, at any time, a change in condi-

tions of an approved carbon dioxide mitigation plan if the council, department, or authority, as appropriate, finds that the change meets all requirements and conditions for approval of such plans.

(3) An applicant for a fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facility shall include one or a combination of the following carbon dioxide mitigation options as part of its mitigation plan:

(a) Payment to a third party to provide mitigation;

(b) Direct purchase of permanent carbon credits; or

(c) Investment in applicant-controlled carbon dioxide mitigation projects, including combined heat and power (cogeneration).

(4) Fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities that receive site certification approval or an order of approval shall provide mitigation for twenty percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions produced by the facility.

(5) If the certificate holder or order of approval holder chooses to pay a third party to provide the mitigation, the mitigation rate shall be one dollar and sixty cents per metric ton of carbon dioxide to be mitigated. For a cogeneration plant, the monetary amount is based on the difference between twenty percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions and the cogeneration credit.

(a) Through rule making, the council may adjust the rate per ton biennially as long as any increase or decrease does not exceed fifty percent of the current rate. The department or authority shall use the adjusted rate established by the council pursuant to this subsection for fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(b) In adjusting the mitigation rate the council shall consider, but is not limited to, the current market price of a ton of carbon dioxide. The council's adjusted mitigation rate shall be consistent with RCW 80.50.010(3).

(6) The applicant may choose to make to the third party a lump sum payment or partial payment over a period of five years.

(a) Under the lump sum payment option, the payment amount is determined by multiplying the total carbon dioxide emissions by the twenty percent mitigation requirement under subsection (4) of this section and by the per ton mitigation rate established under subsection (5) of this section.

(b) No later than one hundred twenty days after the start of commercial operation, the certificate holder or order of approval holder shall make a one-time payment to the independent qualified organization for the amount determined under subsection (5) of this section.

(c) As an alternative to a one-time payment, the certificate holder or order of approval holder may make a partial payment of twenty percent of the amount determined under subsection (5) of this section no later than one hundred twenty days after commercial operation and a payment in the same amount or as adjusted according to subsection (5)(a) of this section, on the anniversary date of the initial payment in each of the following four years. With the initial payment, the certificate holder or order of approval holder shall provide a letter of credit or other comparable security acceptable to the council or the department for the remaining eighty percent mitigation payment amount including possible changes to the rate per metric ton from rule making under subsection (5)(a) of this section. [2004 c 224 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 80.50.020 was amended by 2007 c 325 § 1, changing subsection (14)(a) to subsection (15)(a). RCW 80.50.020 was subsequently amended by 2010 c 152 § 1 and alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (15)(a) to subsection (12)(b).

**80.70.030 Permanent carbon credits.** (1) Carbon dioxide mitigation plans relying on purchase of permanent carbon credits must meet the following criteria:

(a) Credits must derive from real, verified, permanent, and enforceable carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide equivalents emission mitigation not otherwise required by statute, regulation, or other legal requirements;

(b) The credits must be acquired after July 1, 2004; and

(c) The credits may not have been used for other carbon dioxide mitigation projects.

(2) Permanent carbon credits purchased for project mitigation shall not be resold unless approved by the council, department, or authority. [2004 c 224 § 3.]

**80.70.040 Direct investment mitigation projects—Enforcement—Federal requirements may replace this section.** (1) The carbon dioxide mitigation option that provides for direct investment shall be implemented through mitigation projects conducted directly by, or under the control of, the certificate holder or order of approval holder.

(2) Mitigation projects must be approved by the council, department, or authority, as appropriate, and made a condition of the proposed and final site certification agreement or order of approval. Direct investment mitigation projects shall be approved if the mitigation projects provide a reasonable certainty that the performance requirements of the mitigation projects will be achieved and the mitigation projects were implemented after July 1, 2004. No certificate holder or order of approval holder shall be required to make direct investments that would exceed the cost of making a lump sum payment to a third party, had the certificate holder or order of approval holder chosen that option under RCW 80.70.020.

(3) Mitigation projects must be fully in place within a reasonable time after the start of commercial operation. Failure to implement an approved mitigation plan is subject to enforcement under chapter 80.50 or 70.94 RCW.

(4) The certificate holder or order of approval holder may not use more than twenty percent of the total funds for the selection, monitoring, and evaluation of mitigation projects and the management and enforcement of contracts.

(5)(a) For facilities under the jurisdiction of the council, the implementation of a carbon dioxide mitigation project, other than purchase of a carbon credit shall be monitored by an independent entity for conformance with the performance requirements of the carbon dioxide mitigation plan. The independent entity shall make available the mitigation project monitoring results to the council.

(b) For facilities under the jurisdiction of the department or authority pursuant to RCW 80.70.020(1) (b) or (c), the implementation of a carbon dioxide mitigation project, other than a purchase of carbon dioxide equivalent emission reduction credits, shall be monitored by the department or authority issuing the order of approval.

(6) Upon promulgation of federal requirements for carbon dioxide mitigation for fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities, those requirements may be deemed by the

council, department, or authority to be equivalent and a replacement for the requirements of this section. [2004 c 224 § 4.]

**80.70.050 Independent qualified organizations with experience in mitigation activities—Council oversight—Reports.** (1) The council shall maintain a list of independent qualified organizations with proven experience in emissions mitigation activities and a demonstrated ability to carry out their activities in an efficient, reliable, and cost-effective manner.

(2) An independent qualified organization shall not use more than twenty percent of the total funds for selection, monitoring, and evaluation of mitigation projects and the management and enforcement of contracts. None of these funds shall be used to lobby federal, state, and local agencies, their elected officials, officers, or employees.

(3) Before signing contracts to purchase offsets with funds from certificate holders or order of approval holders, an independent qualified organization must demonstrate to the council that the mitigation projects it proposes to use provides a reasonable certainty that the performance requirements of the carbon dioxide mitigation projects will be achieved.

(4) The independent qualified organization shall permit the council to appoint up to three persons to inspect plans, operation, and compliance activities of the organization and to audit financial records and performance measures for carbon dioxide mitigation projects using carbon dioxide mitigation money paid by certificate holders or order of approval holders under this chapter.

(5) An independent qualified organization must file biennial reports with the council, the department, or authority on the performance of carbon dioxide mitigation projects, including the amount of carbon dioxide reductions achieved and a statement of cost for the mitigation period. [2004 c 224 § 5.]

**80.70.060 Costs to be assessed against applicants and holders of site certification agreements.** Reasonable and necessary costs incurred by the council in implementing and administering this chapter shall be assessed against applicants and holders of site certification agreements that are subject to the requirements of this chapter. [2004 c 224 § 6.]

**80.70.070 Rules.** The council, department, and authority shall adopt rules to carry out this chapter. [2004 c 224 § 7.]

**80.70.080 Certain applicants for a natural gas-fired generation plant exempt from chapter. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) An applicant for a natural gas-fired generation plant to be constructed in a county with a coal-fired electric generation facility subject to RCW 80.80.040(3)(c) is exempt from this chapter if the application is filed before December 31, 2025.

(2) For the purposes of this section, an applicant means the owner of a coal-fired electric generation facility subject to RCW 80.80.040(3)(c).

(3) This section expires December 31, 2025, or when the station-generating capability of all natural gas-fired genera-

tion plants approved under this section equals the station-generating capability from a coal-fired electric generation facility subject to RCW 80.80.040(3)(c). [2011 c 180 § 306.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**Chapter 80.80 RCW**  
**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS—**  
**BASELOAD ELECTRIC GENERATION**  
**PERFORMANCE STANDARD**

Sections

80.80.005	Findings—Intent.
80.80.010	Definitions.
80.80.030	Achieving greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals—Submission of policy recommendations to legislature by governor.
80.80.040	Greenhouse gas emissions performance standards—Rules—Sequestration.
80.80.050	Public comment—Commercially available turbines—Rate of greenhouse gases emissions—Reports—Rules.
80.80.060	Electrical companies—Baseload electric generation—Long-term financial commitments—Rules.
80.80.070	Consumer-owned utilities—Baseload electric generation—Long-term financial commitments.
80.80.080	Greenhouse gases emissions performance standards—Review—Report.
80.80.100	Memorandum of agreement with owners of a coal-fired baseload facility—Required provisions.
80.80.110	Limitation on adopting or imposing a greenhouse gas emission performance standard on certain facilities.
80.80.120	Memorandum of agreement—Authorized provisions.

**80.80.005 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Washington is especially vulnerable to climate change because of the state's dependence on snow pack for summer stream flows and because the expected rise in sea levels threatens our coastal communities. Extreme weather, a warming Pacific Northwest, reduced snow pack, and sea level rise are four major ways that climate change is disrupting Washington's economy, environment, and communities;

(b) Washington's greenhouse gases emissions are continuing to increase, despite international scientific consensus that worldwide emissions must be reduced significantly below current levels to avert catastrophic climate change;

(c) Washington state greenhouse gases are substantially caused by the transportation sector of the economy;

(d) Washington has been a leader in actions to slow the increase of greenhouse gases emissions, such as being the first state in the nation to adopt a carbon dioxide mitigation program for new thermal electric plants, mandating integrated resource planning for electric utilities to include life-cycle costs of carbon dioxide emissions, adopting clean car standards and stronger appliance energy efficiency standards, increasing production and use of renewable liquid fuels, and increasing renewable energy sources by electric utilities;

(e) A greenhouse gases emissions performance standard will work in unison with the state's carbon dioxide mitigation policy, chapter 80.70 RCW and its related rules, for fossil-fueled thermal electric generation facilities located in the state;

(f) While these actions are significant, there is a need to assess the trend of greenhouse gases emissions statewide over the next several decades, and to take sufficient actions so that Washington meets its responsibility to contribute to

the global actions needed to reduce the impacts and the pace of global warming;

(g) Actions to reduce greenhouse gases emissions will spur technology development and increase efficiency, thus resulting in benefits to Washington's economy and businesses; and

(h) The state of Washington has an obligation to provide clear guidance for the procurement of baseload electric generation to alleviate regulatory uncertainty while addressing risks that can affect the ability of electric utilities to make necessary and timely investments to ensure an adequate, reliable, and cost-effective supply of electricity.

(2) The legislature finds that companies that generate greenhouse gases emissions or manufacture products that generate such emissions are purchasing carbon credits from landowners and from other companies that provide carbon credits. Companies that are purchasing carbon credits would benefit from a program to trade and to bank carbon credits. Washington forests are one of the most effective resources that can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forests, and other planted lands and waters, provide carbon storage and mitigate greenhouse gases emissions. Washington contains the most productive forests in the world and both public and private landowners could benefit from a carbon storage trading and banking program.

(3) The legislature intends by this chapter to establish statutory goals for the statewide reduction in greenhouse gases emissions and to adopt the recommendations provided by the Washington climate change challenge stakeholder group, which is charged with designing and recommending a comprehensive set of policies to the legislature and the governor on how to achieve the goals. The legislature further intends by this chapter to authorize immediate actions in the electric power generation sector for the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions.

(4) The legislature finds that:

(a) To the extent energy efficiency and renewable resources are unable to satisfy increasing energy and capacity needs, the state will rely on clean and efficient fossil fuel-fired generation and will encourage the development of cost-effective, highly efficient, and environmentally sound supply resources to provide reliability and consistency with the state's energy priorities;

(b) It is vital to ensure all electric utilities internalize the significant and underrecognized cost of emissions and to reduce Washington consumers' exposure to costs associated with future regulation of these emissions, which is consistent with the objectives of integrated resource planning by electric utilities under chapter 19.280 RCW; and

(c) The state of California recently enacted a law establishing a greenhouse gases emissions performance standard for electric utility procurement of baseload electric generation that is based on the emissions of a combined-cycle thermal electric generation facility fueled by natural gas.

(5) The legislature finds that the climate change challenge stakeholder group provides a process for identifying the policies necessary to achieve the economic and emissions reduction goals in \*RCW 80.80.020 in a manner that maximizes economic opportunities and job creation in Washington. [2007 c 307 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 80.80.020 was repealed by 2008 c 14 § 13.

**80.80.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Attorney general" means the Washington state office of the attorney general.

(2) "Auditor" means: (a) The Washington state auditor's office or its designee for consumer-owned utilities under its jurisdiction; or (b) an independent auditor selected by a consumer-owned utility that is not under the jurisdiction of the state auditor.

(3) "Average available greenhouse gas emissions output" means the level of greenhouse gas emissions as surveyed and determined by the energy policy division of the department of commerce under RCW 80.80.050.

(4) "Baseload electric generation" means electric generation from a power plant that is designed and intended to provide electricity at an annualized plant capacity factor of at least sixty percent.

(5) "Coal transition power" means the output of a coal-fired electric generation facility that is subject to an obligation to meet the standards contained in RCW 80.80.040(3)(c).

(6) "Cogeneration facility" means a power plant in which the heat or steam is also used for industrial or commercial heating or cooling purposes and that meets federal energy regulatory commission standards for qualifying facilities under the public utility regulatory policies act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 824a-3), as amended.

(7) "Combined-cycle natural gas thermal electric generation facility" means a power plant that employs a combination of one or more gas turbines and steam turbines in which electricity is produced in the steam turbine from otherwise lost waste heat exiting from one or more of the gas turbines.

(8) "Commission" means the Washington utilities and transportation commission.

(9) "Consumer-owned utility" means a municipal utility formed under Title 35 RCW, a public utility district formed under Title 54 RCW, an irrigation district formed under chapter 87.03 RCW, a cooperative formed under chapter 23.86 RCW, a mutual corporation or association formed under chapter 24.06 RCW, or port district within which an industrial district has been established as authorized by Title 53 RCW, that is engaged in the business of distributing electricity to more than one retail electric customer in the state.

(10) "Department" means the department of ecology.

(11) "Distributed generation" means electric generation connected to the distribution level of the transmission and distribution grid, which is usually located at or near the intended place of use.

(12) "Electric utility" means an electrical company or a consumer-owned utility.

(13) "Electrical company" means a company owned by investors that meets the definition of RCW 80.04.010.

(14) "Governing board" means the board of directors or legislative authority of a consumer-owned utility.

(15) "Greenhouse gas" includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

(16) "Long-term financial commitment" means:

(a) Either a new ownership interest in baseload electric generation or an upgrade to a baseload electric generation facility; or

(b) A new or renewed contract for baseload electric generation with a term of five or more years for the provision of retail power or wholesale power to end-use customers in this state.

(17) "Memorandum of agreement" or "memorandum" means a binding and enforceable contract entered into pursuant to RCW 80.80.100 between the governor on behalf of the state and an owner of a baseload electric generation facility in the state that produces coal transition power.

(18) "Plant capacity factor" means the ratio of the electricity produced during a given time period, measured in kilowatt-hours, to the electricity the unit could have produced if it had been operated at its rated capacity during that period, expressed in kilowatt-hours.

(19) "Power plant" means a facility for the generation of electricity that is permitted as a single plant by a jurisdiction inside or outside the state.

(20) "Upgrade" means any modification made for the primary purpose of increasing the electric generation capacity of a baseload electric generation facility. "Upgrade" does not include routine or necessary maintenance, installation of emission control equipment, installation, replacement, or modification of equipment that improves the heat rate of the facility, or installation, replacement, or modification of equipment for the primary purpose of maintaining reliable generation output capability that does not increase the heat input or fuel usage as specified in existing generation air quality permits as of July 22, 2007, but may result in incidental increases in generation capacity. [2011 c 180 § 102. Prior: 2009 c 565 § 54; 2009 c 448 § 1; 2007 c 307 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** "(1) The legislature finds that generating electricity from the combustion of coal produces pollutants that are harmful to human health and safety and the environment. While the emission of many of these pollutants continues to be addressed through application of federal and state air quality laws, the emission of greenhouse gases resulting from the combustion of coal has not been addressed.

(2) The legislature finds that coal-fired electricity generation is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the state, and is the largest source of such emissions from the generation of electricity in the state.

(3) The legislature finds coal-fired electric generation may provide baseload power that is necessary in the near-term for the stability and reliability of the electrical transmission grid and that contributes to the availability of affordable power in the state. The legislature further finds that efforts to transition power to other fuels requires a reasonable period of time to ensure grid stability and to maintain affordable electricity resources.

(4) The legislature finds that coal-fired baseload electric generation facilities are a significant contributor to family-wage jobs and economic health in parts of the state and that transition of these facilities must address the economic future and the preservation of jobs in affected communities.

(5) Therefore, it is the purpose of this act to provide for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from large coal-fired baseload electric power generation facilities, to effect an orderly transition to cleaner fuels in a manner that ensures reliability of the state's electrical grid, to ensure appropriate cleanup and site restoration upon decommissioning of any of these facilities in the state, and to provide assistance to host communities planning for new economic development and mitigating the economic impacts of the closure of these facilities." [2011 c 180 § 101.]

**80.80.030 Achieving greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals—Submission of policy recommendations to legislature by governor.** (1) The governor shall develop policy recommendations to the legislature on how the state can achieve the greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals

established under \*RCW 80.80.020. These recommendations must include, but are not limited to:

(a) How market mechanisms, such as a load-based cap and trade system, would assist in achieving the greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals;

(b) How geologic injection, forest sequestration, and other carbon sequestration options could be used to achieve state greenhouse gases emissions reduction goals;

(c) A process for replacing the highest emitting thermal electric plants that have exceeded their expected useful life with newer technologies that have lower greenhouse gases emissions levels;

(d) Methods to utilize indigenous resources, such as landfill gas, geothermal resources, and other assets that might reduce greenhouse gases emissions consistent with the purposes of this chapter;

(e) How regulatory and tax policies for electric utilities could be improved to help achieve these goals in a manner that is equitable for electric utilities and consumers.

(2) Recommendations under subsection (1) of this section shall be submitted to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate for consideration in the 2008 legislative session. [2007 c 307 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 80.80.020 was repealed by 2008 c 14 § 13.

**80.80.040 Greenhouse gas emissions performance standards—Rules—Sequestration.** (1) Beginning July 1, 2008, the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard for all baseload electric generation for which electric utilities enter into long-term financial commitments on or after such date is the lower of:

(a) One thousand one hundred pounds of greenhouse gases per megawatt-hour; or

(b) The average available greenhouse gas emissions output as determined under RCW 80.80.050.

(2) This chapter does not apply to long-term financial commitments with the Bonneville power administration.

(3)(a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, all baseload electric generation facilities in operation as of June 30, 2008, are deemed to be in compliance with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under this section until the facilities are the subject of long-term financial commitments.

(b) All baseload electric generation that commences operation after June 30, 2008, and is located in Washington, must comply with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established in subsection (1) of this section.

(c)(i) A coal-fired baseload electric generation facility in Washington that emitted more than one million tons of greenhouse gases in any calendar year prior to 2008 must comply with the lower of the following greenhouse gas emissions performance standard such that one generating boiler is in compliance by December 31, 2020, and any other generating boiler is in compliance by December 31, 2025:

(A) One thousand one hundred pounds of greenhouse gases per megawatt-hour; or

(B) The average available greenhouse gas emissions output as determined under RCW 80.80.050.

(ii) This subsection (3)(c) does not apply to a coal-fired baseload electric generating [generation] facility in the event the department determines as a requirement of state or federal

law or regulation that selective catalytic reduction technology must be installed on any of its boilers.

(4) All electric generation facilities or power plants powered exclusively by renewable resources, as defined in RCW 19.280.020, are deemed to be in compliance with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under this section.

(5) All cogeneration facilities in the state that are fueled by natural gas or waste gas or a combination of the two fuels, and that are in operation as of June 30, 2008, are deemed to be in compliance with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under this section until the facilities are the subject of a new ownership interest or are upgraded.

(6) In determining the rate of emissions of greenhouse gases for baseload electric generation, the total emissions associated with producing electricity shall be included.

(7) In no case shall a long-term financial commitment be determined to be in compliance with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard if the commitment includes more than twelve percent of electricity from unspecified sources.

(8) For a long-term financial commitment with multiple power plants, each specified power plant must be treated individually for the purpose of determining the annualized plant capacity factor and net emissions, and each power plant must comply with subsection (1) of this section, except as provided in subsections (3) through (5) of this section.

(9) The department shall establish an output-based methodology to ensure that the calculation of emissions of greenhouse gases for a cogeneration facility recognizes the total usable energy output of the process, and includes all greenhouse gases emitted by the facility in the production of both electrical and thermal energy. In developing and implementing the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard, the department shall consider and act in a manner consistent with any rules adopted pursuant to the public utilities regulatory policy act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 824a-3), as amended.

(10) The following greenhouse gas emissions produced by baseload electric generation owned or contracted through a long-term financial commitment shall not be counted as emissions of the power plant in determining compliance with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard:

(a) Those emissions that are injected permanently in geological formations;

(b) Those emissions that are permanently sequestered by other means approved by the department; and

(c) Those emissions sequestered or mitigated as approved under subsection (16) of this section.

(11) In adopting and implementing the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard, the department of commerce energy policy division, in consultation with the commission, the department, the Bonneville power administration, the western electricity coordinating council, the energy facility site evaluation council, electric utilities, public interest representatives, and consumer representatives, shall consider the effects of the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard on system reliability and overall costs to electricity customers.

(12) In developing and implementing the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard, the department shall, with

assistance of the commission, the department of commerce energy policy division, and electric utilities, and to the extent practicable, address long-term purchases of electricity from unspecified sources in a manner consistent with this chapter.

(13) The directors of the energy facility site evaluation council and the department shall each adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW in coordination with each other to implement and enforce the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard. The rules necessary to implement this section shall be adopted by June 30, 2008.

(14) In adopting the rules for implementing this section, the energy facility site evaluation council and the department shall include criteria to be applied in evaluating the carbon sequestration plan, for baseload electric generation that will rely on subsection (10) of this section to demonstrate compliance, but that will commence sequestration after the date that electricity is first produced. The rules shall include but not be limited to:

(a) Provisions for financial assurances, as a condition of plant operation, sufficient to ensure successful implementation of the carbon sequestration plan, including construction and operation of necessary equipment, and any other significant costs;

(b) Provisions for geological or other approved sequestration commencing within five years of plant operation, including full and sufficient technical documentation to support the planned sequestration;

(c) Provisions for monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation of the sequestration plan;

(d) Penalties for failure to achieve implementation of the plan on schedule;

(e) Provisions for an owner to purchase emissions reductions in the event of the failure of a sequestration plan under subsection (16) of this section; and

(f) Provisions for public notice and comment on the carbon sequestration plan.

(15)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, as part of its role enforcing the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard, the department shall determine whether sequestration or a plan for sequestration will provide safe, reliable, and permanent protection against the greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere from the power plant and all ancillary facilities.

(b) For facilities under its jurisdiction, the energy facility site evaluation council shall contract for review of sequestration or the carbon sequestration plan with the department consistent with the conditions under (a) of this subsection, consider the adequacy of sequestration or the plan in its adjudicative proceedings conducted under RCW 80.50.090(3), and incorporate specific findings regarding adequacy in its recommendation to the governor under RCW 80.50.100.

(16) A project under consideration by the energy facility site evaluation council by July 22, 2007, is required to include all of the requirements of subsection (14) of this section in its carbon sequestration plan submitted as part of the energy facility site evaluation council process. A project under consideration by the energy facility site evaluation council by July 22, 2007, that receives final site certification agreement approval under chapter 80.50 RCW shall make a good faith effort to implement the sequestration plan. If the project owner determines that implementation is not feasible,

the project owner shall submit documentation of that determination to the energy facility site evaluation council. The documentation shall demonstrate the steps taken to implement the sequestration plan and evidence of the technological and economic barriers to successful implementation. The project owner shall then provide to the energy facility site evaluation council notification that they shall implement the plan that requires the project owner to meet the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard by purchasing verifiable greenhouse gas emissions reductions from an electric generation facility located within the western interconnection, where the reduction would not have occurred otherwise or absent this contractual agreement, such that the sum of the emissions reductions purchased and the facility's emissions meets the standard for the life of the facility. [2011 c 180 § 103; 2009 c 448 § 2; 2007 c 307 § 5.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**80.80.050 Public comment—Commercially available turbines—Rate of greenhouse gases emissions—Reports—Rules.**

The energy policy division of the \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the development of a survey of new combined-cycle natural gas thermal electric generation turbines commercially available and offered for sale by manufacturers and purchased in the United States to determine the average rate of emissions of greenhouse gases for these turbines. The \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall report the results of its survey to the legislature every five years, beginning June 30, 2013. The \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall adopt by rule the average available greenhouse gases emissions output every five years beginning five years after July 22, 2007. [2007 c 307 § 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**80.80.060 Electrical companies—Baseload electric generation—Long-term financial commitments—Rules.**

(1) No electrical company may enter into a long-term financial commitment unless the baseload electric generation supplied under such a long-term financial commitment complies with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under RCW 80.80.040.

(2) In order to enforce the requirements of this chapter, the commission shall review in a general rate case or as provided in subsection (5) of this section any long-term financial commitment entered into by an electrical company after June 30, 2008, to determine whether the baseload electric generation to be supplied under that long-term financial commitment complies with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under RCW 80.80.040.

(3) In determining whether a long-term financial commitment is for baseload electric generation, the commission shall consider the design of the power plant and its intended use, based upon the electricity purchase contract, if any, permits necessary for the operation of the power plant, and any other matter the commission determines is relevant under the circumstances.

(4) Upon application by an electric utility, the commission may provide a case-by-case exemption from the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard to address: (a) Unanticipated electric system reliability needs; (b) extraordinary cost impacts on utility ratepayers; or (c) catastrophic events or threat of significant financial harm that may arise from unforeseen circumstances.

(5) Upon application by an electrical company, the commission shall determine whether the company's proposed decision to acquire electric generation or enter into a power purchase agreement for electricity complies with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under RCW 80.80.040. The commission shall not decide in a proceeding under this subsection (5) issues involving the actual costs to construct and operate the selected resource, cost recovery, or other issues reserved by the commission for decision in a general rate case or other proceeding for recovery of the resource or contract costs.

(6) An electrical company may account for and defer for later consideration by the commission costs incurred in connection with a long-term financial commitment, including operating and maintenance costs, depreciation, taxes, and cost of invested capital. The deferral begins with the date on which the power plant begins commercial operation or the effective date of the power purchase agreement and continues for a period not to exceed twenty-four months; provided that if during such period the company files a general rate case or other proceeding for the recovery of such costs, deferral ends on the effective date of the final decision by the commission in such proceeding. Creation of such a deferral account does not by itself determine the actual costs of the long-term financial commitment, whether recovery of any or all of these costs is appropriate, or other issues to be decided by the commission in a general rate case or other proceeding for recovery of these costs. For the purpose of this subsection (6) only, the term "long-term financial commitment" also includes an electric company's ownership or power purchase agreement with a term of five or more years associated with an eligible renewable resource as defined in RCW 19.285.030.

(7) The commission shall consult with the department to apply the procedures adopted by the department to verify the emissions of greenhouse gases from baseload electric generation under RCW 80.80.040. The department shall report to the commission whether baseload electric generation will comply with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard for the duration of the period the baseload electric generation is supplied to the electrical company.

(8) The commission shall adopt rules for the enforcement of this section with respect to electrical companies and adopt procedural rules for approving costs incurred by an electrical company under subsection (4) of this section.

(9) This section does not apply to a long-term financial commitment for the purchase of coal transition power with termination dates consistent with the applicable dates in RCW 80.80.040(3)(c).

(10) The commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section by December 31, 2008. [2011 c 180 § 104. Prior: 2009 c 448 § 3; 2009 c 147 § 1; 2007 c 307 § 8.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**80.80.070 Consumer-owned utilities—Baseload electric generation—Long-term financial commitments.** (1) No consumer-owned utility may enter into a long-term financial commitment unless the baseload electric generation supplied under such a long-term financial commitment complies with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under RCW 80.80.040.

(2) The governing board shall review and make a determination on any long-term financial commitment by the utility, pursuant to this chapter and after consultation with the department, to determine whether the baseload electric generation to be supplied under that long-term financial commitment complies with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under RCW 80.80.040. No consumer-owned utility may enter into a long-term financial commitment unless the baseload electric generation to be supplied under that long-term financial commitment complies with the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard established under RCW 80.80.040.

(3) In confirming that a long-term financial commitment is for baseload electric generation, the governing board shall consider the design of the power plant and the intended use of the power plant based upon the electricity purchase contract, if any, permits necessary for the operation of the power plant, and any other matter the governing board determines is relevant under the circumstances.

(4) The governing board may provide a case-by-case exemption from the greenhouse gas emissions performance standard to address: (a) Unanticipated electric system reliability needs; or (b) catastrophic events or threat of significant financial harm that may arise from unforeseen circumstances.

(5) The governing board shall apply the procedures adopted by the department to verify the emissions of greenhouse gases from baseload electric generation under RCW 80.80.040, and may request assistance from the department in doing so.

(6) For consumer-owned utilities, the auditor is responsible for auditing compliance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter that apply to those utilities and the attorney general is responsible for enforcing that compliance.

(7) This section does not apply to long-term financial commitments for the purchase of coal transition power with termination dates consistent with the applicable dates in RCW 80.80.040(3)(c). [2011 c 180 § 105; 2007 c 307 § 9.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**80.80.080 Greenhouse gases emissions performance standards—Review—Report.** For the purposes of RCW 80.80.040 through 80.80.080 and 80.70.020, the department, in consultation with the \*department of community, trade, and economic development energy policy division, the energy facility site evaluation council, the commission, and the governing boards of consumer-owned utilities, shall review the greenhouse gases emissions performance standard established in this chapter to determine need, applicability, and effectiveness no less than every five years following July 22, 2007, or upon implementation of a federal or state law or rule regulating carbon dioxide emissions of electric utilities, and report to the legislature. [2007 c 307 § 10.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**80.80.100 Memorandum of agreement with owners of a coal-fired baseload facility—Required provisions.** (1)

By January 1, 2012, the governor on behalf of the state shall enter into a memorandum of agreement that takes effect on April 1, 2012, with the owners of a coal-fired baseload facility in Washington that emitted more than one million tons of greenhouse gases in any calendar year prior to 2008. The memorandum of agreement entered into by the governor may only contain provisions authorized in this section, except as provided under RCW 80.80.120.

(2) The memorandum of agreement must:

(a) Incorporate by reference RCW 80.80.040, 80.80.060, and 80.80.070 as of July 22, 2011;

(b) Incorporate binding commitments to install selective noncatalytic reduction pollution control technology in any coal-fired generating boilers by January 1, 2013, after discussing the proper use of ammonia in this technology.

(3)(a) The memorandum of agreement must include provisions by which the facility owner will provide financial assistance:

(i) To the affected community for economic development and energy efficiency and weatherization; and

(ii) For energy technologies with the potential to create considerable energy, economic development, and air quality, haze, or other environmental benefits.

(b) Except as described in (c) of this subsection, the financial assistance in (a)(i) of this subsection must be in the amount of thirty million dollars and the financial assistance in (a)(ii) of this subsection must be in the amount of twenty-five million dollars, with investments beginning January 1, 2012, and consisting of equal annual investments through December 31, 2023, or until the full amount has been provided. Only funds for energy efficiency and weatherization may be spent prior to December 31, 2015.

(c) If the tax exemptions provided under RCW 82.08.811 or 82.12.811 are repealed, any remaining financial assistance required by this section is no longer required.

(4) The memorandum of agreement must:

(a) Specify that the investments in subsection (3) of this section be held in independent accounts at an appropriate financial institution; and

(b) Identify individuals to approve expenditures from the accounts. Individuals must have relevant expertise and must include members representing the Lewis county economic development council, local elected officials, employees at the facility, and the facility owner.

(5) The memorandum of agreement must include a provision that allows for the termination of the memorandum of agreement in the event the department determines as a requirement of state or federal law or regulation that selective catalytic reduction technology must be installed on any of its boilers.

(6) The memorandum of agreement must include enforcement provisions to ensure implementation of the agreement by the parties.

(7) If the memorandum of agreement is not signed by January 1, 2012, the governor must impose requirements

(2012 Ed.)

consistent with the provisions in subsection (2)(b) of this section. [2011 c 180 § 106.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**80.80.110 Limitation on adopting or imposing a greenhouse gas emission performance standard on certain facilities.**

No state agency or political subdivision of the state may adopt or impose a greenhouse gas emission performance standard, or other operating or financial requirement or limitation relating to greenhouse gas emissions, on a coal-fired electric generation facility located in Washington in operation on or before July 22, 2011, or upon an electric utility's long-term purchase of coal transition power, that is inconsistent with or in addition to the provisions of RCW 80.80.040 or the memorandum of agreement entered into under RCW 80.80.100. [2011 c 180 § 107.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**80.80.120 Memorandum of agreement—Authorized provisions.** (1) A memorandum of agreement entered into pursuant to RCW 80.80.100 may include provisions to assist in the financing of emissions reductions that exceed those required by RCW 80.80.040(3)(c) by providing for the recognition of such reductions in applicable state policies and programs relating to greenhouse gas emissions, and by encouraging and advocating for the recognition of the reductions in all established and emerging emission reduction frameworks at the regional, national, or international level.

(2) The governor may recommend actions to the legislature to strengthen implementation of an agreement or a proposed agreement relating to recognition of investments in emissions reductions described in subsection (1) of this section. [2011 c 180 § 108.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**Chapter 80.82 RCW  
CLOSURE OF COAL-FIRED  
ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES**

Sections

80.82.010	Closure and postclosure plans for certain facilities.
80.82.020	Guarantee of funds to perform activities specified in a decommissioning plan—Letter of credit.

**80.82.010 Closure and postclosure plans for certain facilities.** (1) A facility subject to closure under either RCW 80.80.040(3)(c) or a memorandum of agreement under RCW 80.80.100, or both, must provide the department of ecology with a plan for the closure and postclosure of the facility at least twenty-four months prior to facility closure or twenty-four months prior to start of decommissioning work, whichever is earlier. This plan must be consistent with the rules established by the energy facility site evaluation council for site restoration and preservation applicable to facilities subject to a site certification agreement under chapter 80.50 RCW and include but not be limited to:

(a) A detailed estimate of the cost to implement the plan based on the cost of hiring a third party to conduct all activities;

(b) Demonstrating financial assurance to fund the closure and postclosure of the facility and providing methods by which this assurance may be demonstrated;

(c) Methods for estimating closure costs, including full site reclamation under all applicable federal and state clean-up standards; and

(d) A decommissioning and site restoration plan that addresses restoring physical topography, cleanup of all hazardous substances on the site, potential future uses of the site following restoration, and coordination with local and community plans for economic development in the vicinity of the site.

(2) All cost estimates in the plan must be in current dollars and may not include a net present value adjustment or offsets for salvage value of wastes or other property.

(3) Adoption of the plan and significant revisions to the plan must be approved by the department of ecology. [2011 c 180 § 201.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

**80.82.020 Guarantee of funds to perform activities specified in a decommissioning plan—Letter of credit.** (1) A facility subject to closure under either RCW 80.80.040(3)(c) or a memorandum of agreement under RCW 80.80.100, or both, must guarantee funds are available to perform all activities specified in the decommissioning plan developed under RCW 80.82.010. The amount must equal the cost estimates specified in the decommissioning plan and must be updated annually for inflation. All guarantees under this section must be assumed by any successor owner, parent company, or holding company.

(2) The guarantee required under subsection (1) of this section may be accomplished by letter of credit, surety bond, or other means acceptable to the department of ecology.

(3) The issuing institution of the letter of credit must be an entity that has the authority to issue letters of credit and whose letter of credit operations are regulated by a federal or state agency. The surety company issuing a surety bond must, at a minimum, be an entity listed as an acceptable surety on federal bonds in circular 570, published by the United States department of the treasury.

(4) A qualifying facility that uses a letter of credit or a surety bond to satisfy the requirements of chapter 180, Laws of 2011 must also establish a standby trust fund as a means to hold any funds issued from the letter of credit or a surety bond. Under the terms of the letter of credit or a surety bond, all amounts paid pursuant to a draft from the department of ecology must be deposited by the issuing institution directly into the standby trust fund in accordance with instructions from the department of ecology. This standby trust fund must be approved by the department of ecology.

(5) The letter of credit or a surety bond must be irrevocable and issued for a period of at least one year. The letter of credit or a surety bond must provide that the expiration date will be automatically extended for a period of at least one year unless, at least one hundred twenty days before the current expiration date, the issuing institution notifies both the qualifying facility and the department of ecology of a decision not to extend the expiration date. Under the terms of the letter of credit, the one hundred twenty days will begin on the

date when both the qualifying plant and the department of ecology have received the notice, as evidenced by certified mail return receipts or by overnight courier delivery receipts.

(6) If the qualifying facility does not establish an alternative method of guaranteeing decommissioning funds are available within ninety days after receipt by both the qualifying facility plant and the department of ecology of a notice from the issuing institution that it has decided not to extend the letter of credit beyond the current expiration date, the department of ecology must draw on the letter of credit or a surety bond. The department of ecology must approve any replacement or substitute guarantee method before the expiration of the ninety-day period.

(7) If a qualifying facility elects to use a letter of credit as the sole method for guaranteeing decommissioning funds are available, the face value of the letter of credit must meet or exceed the current inflation-adjusted cost estimate. If a qualifying facility elects to use a surety bond as the sole method for guaranteeing decommissioning funds are available, the penal sum of the surety bond must meet or exceed the current inflation-adjusted cost estimate.

(8) A qualifying facility must adjust the decommissioning costs and financial guarantees annually for inflation and may use an amendment to increase the face value of a letter of credit or a surety bond each year to account for this inflation. A qualifying facility is not required to obtain a new letter of credit or a surety bond to cover annual inflation adjustments. [2011 c 180 § 202.]

**Findings—Purpose—2011 c 180:** See note following RCW 80.80.010.

## Chapter 80.98 RCW CONSTRUCTION

### Sections

80.98.010	Continuation of existing law.
80.98.020	Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.
80.98.030	Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.
80.98.040	Repeals and saving.
80.98.050	Emergency—1961 c 14.

**80.98.010 Continuation of existing law.** The provisions of this title insofar as they are substantially the same as statutory provisions repealed by this chapter, and relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations, and not as new enactments. [1961 c 14 § 80.98.010.]

**80.98.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.** Title headings, chapter headings, and section or subsection headings, as used in this title do not constitute any part of the law. [1961 c 14 § 80.98.020.]

**80.98.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.** If any provision of this title, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the title, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1961 c 14 § 80.98.030.]

**80.98.040 Repeals and saving.** See 1961 c 14 § 80.98.040.

**80.98.050 Emergency—1961 c 14.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. [1961 c 14 § 80.98.050.]



# Title 81

## TRANSPORTATION

### Chapters

- 81.01** General provisions.
- 81.04** Regulations—General.
- 81.08** Securities.
- 81.12** Transfers of property.
- 81.16** Affiliated interests.
- 81.20** Investigation of public service companies.
- 81.24** Regulatory fees.
- 81.28** Common carriers in general.
- 81.29** Common carriers—Limitations on liability.
- 81.36** Railroads—Corporate powers and duties.
- 81.40** Railroads—Employee requirements and regulations.
- 81.44** Common carriers—Equipment.
- 81.48** Railroads—Operating requirements and regulations.
- 81.52** Railroads—Rights-of-way—Spurs—Fences.
- 81.53** Railroads—Crossings.
- 81.54** Railroads—Inspection of industrial crossings.
- 81.60** Railroads—Railroad police and regulations.
- 81.61** Railroads—Passenger-carrying vehicles for employees.
- 81.64** Street railways.
- 81.66** Transportation for persons with special needs.
- 81.68** Auto transportation companies.
- 81.70** Passenger charter carriers.
- 81.72** Taxicab companies.
- 81.75** Transportation centers.
- 81.77** Solid waste collection companies.
- 81.80** Motor freight carriers.
- 81.84** Commercial ferries.
- 81.88** Gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.
- 81.96** Western regional short-haul air transportation compact.
- 81.100** High occupancy vehicle systems.
- 81.104** High capacity transportation systems.
- 81.108** Low-level radioactive waste sites.
- 81.112** Regional transit authorities.
- 81.900** Construction.

*Assessment for property tax purposes, of private car companies: Chapter 84.16 RCW.*

*public service companies: Chapter 84.12 RCW.*

*Commencement of actions against certain railroad corporations, etc.: RCW 4.28.080.*

*Constitutional limitations on certain corporations: State Constitution Art. 12.*

*Corporate seals, effect of absence from instrument: RCW 64.04.105.*

*Counties, signs, signals, etc.: RCW 36.86.040.*

#### Easements

*of public service companies taxable as personalty: RCW 84.20.010. over certain public lands: Chapter 79.36 RCW.*

*Eminent domain by corporations: Chapter 8.20 RCW.*

*Flaggers—Safety standards: RCW 49.17.350.*

#### Franchises on

*county roads and bridges: Chapter 36.55 RCW.*

*state highways: Chapter 47.44 RCW.*

*Free transportation for public officers, prohibited: State Constitution Art. 12 § 20.*

*Highway user tax structure: Chapter 46.85 RCW.*

*Labor liens: Chapter 60.32 RCW.*

*Mechanics', materialmen's liens: Chapter 60.04 RCW.*

*Metropolitan municipal corporations: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*

*Public utility tax: Chapter 82.16 RCW.*

*Railroad grade crossings, traffic devices required by utilities and transportation commission: RCW 47.36.050.*

*Safety and health, tunnels and underground construction: Chapter 49.24 RCW.*

*Steam boilers, pressure vessels, construction, inspection, etc.: Chapter 70.79 RCW.*

*Taxation of rolling stock: State Constitution Art. 12 § 17.*

*Traffic control at work sites: Chapter 47.36 RCW.*

### Chapter 81.01 RCW GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sections

- 81.01.010 Adoption of provisions of chapter 80.01 RCW.

**81.01.010 Adoption of provisions of chapter 80.01 RCW.** The provisions of chapter 80.01 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, apply to Title 81 RCW as fully as though they were set forth herein. [1961 c 14 § 81.01.010.]

### Chapter 81.04 RCW REGULATIONS—GENERAL

#### Sections

- 81.04.010 Definitions.
- 81.04.020 Procedure before commission and courts.
- 81.04.030 Number of witnesses may be limited.
- 81.04.040 Witness fees and mileage.
- 81.04.050 Protection against self-incrimination.
- 81.04.060 Deposition—Service of process.
- 81.04.070 Inspection of books, papers, and documents.
- 81.04.075 Manner of serving papers.
- 81.04.080 Annual report—Other reports.
- 81.04.090 Forms of records to be prescribed.
- 81.04.100 Production of out-of-state books and records.
- 81.04.110 Complaint—Hearing.
- 81.04.120 Hearing—Order—Record.
- 81.04.130 Suspension of tariff change—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
- 81.04.140 Order requiring joint action.
- 81.04.150 Remunerative rate—Change without authorization prohibited—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
- 81.04.160 Rules.
- 81.04.200 Rehearing before commission.
- 81.04.210 Commission may change orders.
- 81.04.220 Reparations.
- 81.04.230 Overcharges—Refund.
- 81.04.235 Limitation of actions.
- 81.04.236 When cause of action deemed to accrue.
- 81.04.240 Action in court on reparations and overcharges—Procedure.
- 81.04.250 Determination of rates.
- 81.04.260 Summary proceedings.
- 81.04.270 Accounts to be kept separate.
- 81.04.280 Purchase and sale of stock by employees.
- 81.04.290 Sale of stock to employees and patrons.
- 81.04.300 Budgets to be filed—Supplementary budgets.
- 81.04.310 Commission's control over expenditures.

81.04.320	Budget rules and regulations.
81.04.330	Effect of unauthorized expenditure—Emergencies.
81.04.350	Depreciation and retirement accounts.
81.04.360	Excessive earnings to reserve fund.
81.04.380	Penalties—Violations by public service companies.
81.04.385	Penalties—Violations by officers, agents, and employees of public service companies and persons or entities acting as public service companies.
81.04.387	Penalties—Violations by other corporations.
81.04.390	Penalties—Violations by persons.
81.04.400	Actions to recover penalties—Disposition of fines, fees, penalties.
81.04.405	Additional penalties—Violations by public service companies and officers, agents, and employees.
81.04.410	Orders and rules conclusive.
81.04.420	Commission intervention where order or rule is involved.
81.04.430	Findings of department prima facie correct.
81.04.440	Companies liable for damages.
81.04.450	Certified copies of orders, rules, etc.—Evidentiary effect.
81.04.460	Commission to enforce public service laws—Employees as peace officers.
81.04.470	Right of action not released—Penalties cumulative.
81.04.490	Application to municipal utilities—Safety regulation of municipal gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.
81.04.500	Duties of attorney general.
81.04.510	Engaging in business or operating without approval or authority—Procedure.
81.04.530	Controlled substances, alcohol.
81.04.540	Regulation of common carriers, railroad safety practices.
81.04.550	Railroad safety administration.

**81.04.010 Definitions.** As used in this title, unless specially defined otherwise or unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) "Commission" means the utilities and transportation commission.

(2) "Commissioner" means one of the members of such commission.

(3) "Corporation" includes a corporation, company, association, or joint stock association.

(4) "Low-level radioactive waste site operating company" includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership, and person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever, owning, operating, controlling, or managing a low-level radioactive waste disposal site or sites located within the state of Washington.

(5) "Low-level radioactive waste" means low-level waste as defined by RCW 43.145.010.

(6) "Person" includes an individual, a firm, or copartnership.

(7) "Street railroad" includes every railroad by whatsoever power operated, or any extension or extensions, branch or branches thereof, for public use in the conveyance of persons or property for hire, being mainly upon, along, above, or below any street, avenue, road, highway, bridge, or public place within any one city or town, and includes all equipment, switches, spurs, tracks, bridges, right of trackage, subways, tunnels, stations, terminals, and terminal facilities of every kind used, operated, controlled, or owned by or in connection with any such street railroad, within this state.

(8) "Street railroad company" includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership, and person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever, and every city or town, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any street railroad or any cars or other equipment used thereon or in connection therewith within this state.

(9) "Railroad" includes every railroad, other than street railroad, by whatsoever power operated for public use in the conveyance of persons or property for hire, with all facilities and equipment, used, operated, controlled, or owned by or in connection with any such railroad.

(10) "Railroad company" includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership, or person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever, owning, operating, controlling, or managing any railroad or any cars or other equipment used thereon or in connection therewith within this state.

(11) "Common carrier" includes all railroads, railroad companies, street railroads, street railroad companies, commercial ferries, motor freight carriers, auto transportation companies, charter party carriers and excursion service carriers, private nonprofit transportation providers, solid waste collection companies, household goods carriers, hazardous liquid pipeline companies, and every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership, and person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever, and every city or town, owning, operating, managing, or controlling any such agency for public use in the conveyance of persons or property for hire within this state.

(12) "Vessel" includes every species of watercraft, by whatsoever power operated, for public use in the conveyance of persons or property for hire over and upon the waters within this state, excepting all towboats, tugs, scows, barges, and lighters, and excepting rowboats and sailing boats under twenty gross tons burden, open steam launches of five tons gross and under, and vessels under five tons gross propelled by gas, fluid, naphtha, or electric motors.

(13) "Commercial ferry" includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership, and person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers, appointed by any court whatsoever, owning, controlling, leasing, operating, or managing any vessel over and upon the waters of this state.

(14) "Transportation of property" includes any service in connection with the receiving, delivery, elevation, transfer in transit, ventilation, refrigeration, icing, storage, and handling of the property transported, and the transmission of credit.

(15) "Transportation of persons" includes any service in connection with the receiving, carriage, and delivery of persons transported and their baggage and all facilities used, or necessary to be used in connection with the safety, comfort, and convenience of persons transported.

(16) "Public service company" includes every common carrier.

(17) The term "service" is used in this title in its broadest and most inclusive sense. [2007 c 234 § 4; 1993 c 427 § 9; 1991 c 272 § 3; 1981 c 13 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.010. Prior: 1955 c 316 § 3; prior: 1929 c 223 § 1, part; 1923 c 116 § 1, part; 1911 c 117 § 8, part; RRS § 10344, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.04.020 Procedure before commission and courts.**

Each commissioner shall have power to administer oaths, certify to all official acts, and to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, waybills, books, accounts, documents and testimony in any inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding in any part of the state.

The superior court of the county in which any such inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding may be had, shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, waybills, books, accounts, documents and testimony as required by such subpoena. The commission or the commissioner before which the testimony is to be given or produced, in case of the refusal of any witness to attend or testify or produce any papers required by the subpoena, shall report to the superior court in and for the county in which the proceeding is pending by petition, setting forth that due notice has been given of the time and place of attendance of said witnesses, or the production of said papers, and that the witness has been summoned in the manner prescribed in this chapter, and that the fees and mileage of the witness have been paid or tendered to the witness for his attendance and testimony, and that the witness has failed and refused to attend or produce the papers required by the subpoena, before the commission, in the cause or proceedings named in the notice and subpoena, or has refused to answer questions propounded to him in the course of such proceeding, and ask an order of said court, compelling the witness to attend and testify before the commission. The court, upon the petition of the commission, shall enter an order directing the witness to appear before said court at a time and place to be fixed by the court in such order, and then and there show cause why he has not responded to said subpoena. A copy of said order shall be served upon said witness. If it shall appear to the court that said subpoena was regularly issued by the commission, the court shall thereupon enter an order that said witness appear before the commission at said time and place as fixed in said order, and testify or produce the required papers, and upon failing to obey said order, said witness shall be dealt with as for contempt of court. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.020. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 75, part; RRS § 10413, part.]

**81.04.030 Number of witnesses may be limited.** In all proceedings before the commission the commission shall have the right, in their discretion, to limit the number of witnesses testifying upon any subject or proceeding to be inquired of before the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.030. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 75, part; RRS § 10413, part.]

**81.04.040 Witness fees and mileage.** Each witness who appears under subpoena shall receive for his attendance four dollars per day and ten cents per mile traveled by the nearest practicable route in going to and returning from the place of hearing. No witness shall be entitled to fees or mileage from the state when summoned at the instance of the public service companies affected. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.040. Prior: 1955 c 79 § 3; 1911 c 117 § 76, part; RRS § 10414, part.]

**81.04.050 Protection against self-incrimination.** The claim by any witness that any testimony sought to be elicited may tend to incriminate him shall not excuse such witness from testifying, but such evidence or testimony shall not be used against such person on the trial of any criminal proceeding, excepting in a prosecution for perjury. The commissioner shall have power to compel the attendance of witnesses at any place within the state. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.050. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 76, part; RRS § 10414, part.]

**81.04.060 Deposition—Service of process.** The commission shall have the right to take the testimony of any witness by deposition, and for that purpose the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, waybills, documents, papers and accounts may be enforced in the same manner as in the case of hearings before the commission, or any member thereof. Process issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be served as in civil cases. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.060. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 76, part; RRS § 10414, part.]

**81.04.070 Inspection of books, papers, and documents.** The commission and each commissioner, or any person employed by the commission, shall have the right, at any and all times, to inspect the accounts, books, papers and documents of any public service company, and the commission, or any commissioner, may examine under oath any officer, agent or employee of such public service company in relation thereto, and with reference to the affairs of such company: PROVIDED, That any person other than a commissioner who shall make any such demand shall produce his authority from the commission to make such inspection. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.070. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 77; RRS § 10415.]

**81.04.075 Manner of serving papers.** All notices, applications, complaints, findings of fact, opinions and orders required by this title to be served may be served by mail and service thereof shall be deemed complete when a true copy of such paper or document is deposited in the post office properly addressed and stamped. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.075. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 7; RRS § 10458-1. Formerly RCW 81.04.370.]

**81.04.080 Annual report—Other reports.** Every public service company shall annually furnish to the commission a report in such form as the commission may require, and shall specifically answer all questions propounded to it by the commission. The commission may prescribe the period of time within which all public service companies subject to this title must have, as near as may be, a uniform system of accounts, and the manner in which the accounts must be kept. The detailed report must contain all the required statistics for the period of twelve months ending on the last day of any particular month prescribed by the commission for any public service company. The reports must be made out under oath and filed with the commission at its office in Olympia on a date the commission specifies by rule, unless additional time is granted by the commission. The commission may require any public service company to file monthly reports of earnings and expenses, and to file periodical or special reports, or both, concerning any matter the commission is authorized or required, by this or any other law, to inquire into or keep itself informed about, or which it is required to enforce, the periodical or special reports to be under oath whenever the commission so requires. [2007 c 234 § 5; 1989 c 107 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.080. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 78, part; RRS § 10416, part.]

**81.04.090 Forms of records to be prescribed.** The commission may, in its discretion, prescribe the forms of any and all accounts, records and memoranda to be kept by public service companies, including the accounts, records and mem-

oranda of the movement of traffic, sales of its product, the receipts and expenditures of money. The commission shall at all times have access to all accounts, records and memoranda kept by public service companies, and may employ special agents or examiners, who shall have power to administer oaths and authority, under the order of the commission, to examine witnesses and to inspect and examine any and all accounts, records and memoranda kept by such companies. The commission may, in its discretion, prescribe the forms of any and all reports, accounts, records and memoranda to be furnished and kept by any public service company whose line or lines extend beyond the limits of this state, which are operated partly within and partly without the state, so that the same shall show any information required by the commission concerning the traffic movement, receipts and expenditures appertaining to those parts of the line within the state. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.090. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 78, part; RRS § 10416, part.]

**81.04.100 Production of out-of-state books and records.** The commission may by order with or without hearing require the production within this state, at such time and place as it may designate, of any books, accounts, papers or records kept by any public service company in any office or place without this state, or at the option of the company verified copies thereof, so that an examination thereof may be made by the commission or under its direction. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.100. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 2; 1911 c 117 § 79; RRS § 10421.]

**81.04.110 Complaint—Hearing.** Complaint may be made by the commission of its own motion or by any person or corporation, chamber of commerce, board of trade, or any commercial, mercantile, agricultural or manufacturing society, or any body politic or municipal corporation, by petition or complaint in writing, setting forth any act or thing done or omitted to be done by any public service company or any person, persons, or entity acting as a public service company in violation, or claimed to be in violation, of any provision of law or of any order or rule of the commission.

When two or more public service companies or a person, persons, or entity acting as a public service company, (meaning to exclude municipal and other public corporations) are engaged in competition in any locality or localities in the state, either may make complaint against the other or others that the rates, charges, rules, regulations or practices of such other or others with or in respect to which the complainant is in competition, are unreasonable, unremunerative, discriminatory, illegal, unfair or intending or tending to oppress the complainant, to stifle competition, or to create or encourage the creation of monopoly, and upon such complaint or upon complaint of the commission upon its own motion, the commission shall have power, after notice and hearing as in other cases, to, by its order, subject to appeal as in other cases, correct the abuse complained of by establishing such uniform rates, charges, rules, regulations or practices in lieu of those complained of, to be observed by all of such competing public service companies in the locality or localities specified as shall be found reasonable, remunerative, nondiscriminatory, legal, and fair or tending to prevent oppression or monopoly or to encourage competition, and upon any such hearing it

shall be proper for the commission to take into consideration the rates, charges, rules, regulations and practices of the public service company or companies complained of in any other locality or localities in the state.

All matters upon which complaint may be founded may be joined in one hearing, and no motion shall be entertained against a complaint for misjoinder of complaints or grievances or misjoinder of parties; and in any review of the courts of orders of the commission the same rule shall apply and pertain with regard to the joinder of complaints and parties as herein provided: PROVIDED, All grievances to be inquired into shall be plainly set forth in the complaint. No complaint shall be dismissed because of the absence of direct damage to the complainant.

Upon the filing of a complaint, the commission shall cause a copy thereof to be served upon the person or company complained of, which shall be accompanied by a notice fixing the time when and place where a hearing will be had upon such complaint. The time fixed for such hearing shall not be less than ten days after the date of the service of such notice and complaint, excepting as herein provided. Rules of practice and procedure not otherwise provided for in this title may be prescribed by the commission. [1994 c 37 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.110. Prior: 1913 c 145 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 80; RRS § 10422.]

**Intent—1994 c 37:** "It is the intent of the legislature to clarify that the utilities and transportation commission has the authority to make more efficient use of its resources, provide quicker resolution of complaints regarding transportation tariff matters, eliminate duplicative hearings on classification and violation matters, and to make certain that criminal proceedings involving alleged violations of transportation tariffs not be dismissed because of confusion regarding whether a defendant has received a classification by the commission." [1994 c 37 § 1.]

**81.04.120 Hearing—Order—Record.** At the time fixed for the hearing mentioned in RCW 81.04.110, the complainant and the person or corporation complained of shall be entitled to be heard and introduce such evidence as he or it may desire. The commission shall issue process to enforce the attendance of all necessary witnesses. At the conclusion of such hearing the commission shall make and render findings concerning the subject matter and facts inquired into and enter its order based thereon. A copy of such order, certified under the seal of the commission, shall be served upon the person or corporation complained of, or his or its attorney, which order shall, of its own force, take effect and become operative twenty days after the service thereof, except as otherwise provided. Where an order cannot, in the judgment of the commission, be complied with within twenty days, the commission may prescribe such additional time as in its judgment is reasonably necessary to comply with the order, and may, on application and for good cause shown, extend the time for compliance fixed in its order. A full and complete record of all proceedings had before the commission, or any member thereof, on any formal hearing had, and all testimony shall be taken down by a stenographer appointed by the commission, and the parties shall be entitled to be heard in person or by attorney. In case of an action to review any order of the commission, a transcript of such testimony, together with all exhibits introduced, and of the record and proceedings in the cause, shall constitute the record of the commis-

sion. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.120. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 81; RRS § 10423.]

**81.04.130 Suspension of tariff change—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** Whenever any public service company, subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service, files with the commission any schedule, classification, rule, or regulation, the effect of which is to change any rate, fare, charge, rental, or toll previously charged, the commission may, either upon its own motion or upon complaint, upon notice, hold a hearing concerning the proposed change and the reasonableness and justness of it. Pending the hearing and the decision, the commission may suspend the operation of the rate, fare, charge, rental, or toll, if the change is proposed by a common carrier other than a solid waste collection company, for a period not exceeding seven months, and, if proposed by a solid waste collection company, for a period not exceeding ten months from the time the change would otherwise go into effect. After a full hearing the commission may make the order in reference to the change as would be provided in a hearing initiated after the change had become effective.

At any hearing involving any change in any schedule, classification, rule, or regulation the effect of which is to increase any rate, fare, charge, rental, or toll theretofore charged, the burden of proof to show that the increase is just and reasonable is upon the public service company. When any common carrier files any tariff, classification, rule, or regulation the effect of which is to decrease any rate, fare, or charge, the burden of proof to show that such decrease is just and reasonable is upon the common carrier.

During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 404; 2007 c 234 § 6; 1993 c 300 § 1; 1984 c 143 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.130. Prior: 1941 c 162 § 1; 1937 c 169 § 2; 1933 c 165 § 3; 1915 c 133 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 82; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10424.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**81.04.140 Order requiring joint action.** Whenever any order of the commission shall require joint action by two or more public service companies, such order shall specify that the same shall be made at their joint cost, and the companies affected shall have thirty days, or such further time, as the commission may prescribe, within which to agree upon the part or division of cost which each shall bear, and costs of operation and maintenance in the future, or the proportion of charges or revenue each shall receive from such joint service and the rules to govern future operations. If at the expiration of such time such companies shall fail to file with the commission a statement that an agreement has been made for the division or apportionment of such cost, the division of costs of operation and maintenance to be incurred in the future and the proportion of charges or revenue each shall receive from such joint service and the rules to govern future operations, the commission shall have authority, after further hearing, to

enter a supplemental order fixing the proportion of such cost or expense to be borne by each company, and the manner in which the same shall be paid and secured. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.140. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 83; RRS § 10425.]

**81.04.150 Remunerative rate—Change without authorization prohibited—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** Whenever the commission finds, after a hearing upon its own motion or upon complaint as provided in this chapter, that any rate, toll, rental, or charge that has been the subject of complaint and inquiry is sufficiently remunerative to the public service company subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service affected by it, the commission may order that the rate, toll, rental, or charge must not be changed, altered, abrogated, or discontinued, nor must there be any change in the classification that will change or alter the rate, toll, rental, or charge without first obtaining the consent of the commission authorizing the change to be made.

During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 405; 2007 c 234 § 7; 1984 c 143 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.150. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 84; RRS § 10426.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**81.04.160 Rules.** The commission may adopt rules that pertain to the comfort and convenience of the public using the services of public service companies that are subject to regulation by the commission as to services provided. [2007 c 234 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.160. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 85; RRS § 10427.]

**81.04.200 Rehearing before commission.** Any public service company affected by any order of the commission, and deeming itself aggrieved, may, after the expiration of two years from the date of such order taking effect, petition the commission for a rehearing upon the matters involved in such order, setting forth in such petition the grounds and reasons for such rehearing, which grounds and reasons may comprise and consist of changed conditions since the issuance of such order, or by showing a result injuriously affecting the petitioner which was not considered or anticipated at the former hearing, or that the effect of such order has been such as was not contemplated by the commission or the petitioner, or for any good and sufficient cause which for any reason was not considered and determined in such former hearing. Upon the filing of such petition, such proceedings shall be had thereon as are provided for hearings upon complaint, and such orders may be reviewed as are other orders of the commission: PROVIDED, That no order superseding the order of the commission denying such rehearing shall be granted by the court pending the review. In case any order of the commission shall not be reviewed, but shall be complied with by the public service company, such petition for rehearing may be filed within six months from and after the date of the taking effect of such

order, and the proceedings thereon shall be as in this section provided. The commission, may, in its discretion, permit the filing of a petition for rehearing at any time. No order of the commission upon a rehearing shall affect any right of action or penalty accruing under the original order unless so ordered by the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.200. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 89; RRS § 10431.]

**81.04.210 Commission may change orders.** The commission may at any time, upon notice to the public service company affected, and after opportunity to be heard as provided in the case of complaints rescind, alter or amend any order or rule made, issued or promulgated by it, and any order or rule rescinding, altering or amending any prior order or rule shall, when served upon the public service company affected, have the same effect as herein provided for original orders and rules. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.210. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 90; RRS § 10432.]

**81.04.220 Reparations.** After a complaint is made to the commission concerning the reasonableness of any rate, fare, toll, rental or charge for any service performed by any public service company subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service, and the complaint is investigated by the commission, and the commission determines both that the public service company has charged an excessive or exorbitant amount for the service and that any party complainant is entitled to an award of damages, the commission shall order the public service company to pay the complainant the excess amount found to have been charged, whether the excess amount was charged and collected before or after the filing of the complaint, with interest from the date of the collection of the excess amount. [2007 c 234 § 9; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.220. Prior: 1943 c 258 § 1; 1937 c 29 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10433.]

**81.04.230 Overcharges—Refund.** When complaint has been made to the commission that any public service company has charged an amount for any service rendered in excess of the lawful rate in force at the time such charge was made, and the same has been investigated and the commission has determined that the overcharge allegation is true, the commission may order that the public service company pay to the complainant the amount of the overcharge so found, whether such overcharge was made before or after the filing of said complaint, with interest from the date of collection of such overcharge. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.230. Prior: 1937 c 29 § 2; RRS § 10433-1.]

**81.04.235 Limitation of actions.** All complaints against public service companies for recovery of overcharges shall be filed with the commission within two years from the time the cause of action accrues, and not after, except as hereinafter provided, and except that if claim for the overcharge has been presented in writing to the public service company within the two-year period of limitation, said period shall be extended to include six months from the time notice in writing is given by the public service company to the claimant of disallowance of the claim, or any part or parts thereof, specified in the notice.

If on or before expiration of the two-year period of limitation for the recovery of overcharges, a public service company begins action under RCW 81.28.270 for recovery of charges in respect of the same transportation service, or, without beginning action, collects charges in respect of that service, said period of limitation shall be extended to include ninety days from the time such action is begun or such charges are collected by the carrier.

All complaints against public service companies for the recovery of damages not based on overcharges shall be filed with the commission within six months from the time the cause of action accrues except as hereinafter provided.

The six-month period of limitation for recovery of damages not based on overcharges shall be extended for a like period and under the same conditions as prescribed for recovery of overcharges. If the six-month period for recovery of damages not based on overcharges has expired at the time action is commenced under RCW 81.28.270 for recovery of charges with respect to the same transportation service, or, without beginning such action, charges are collected with respect to that service, complaints therefor shall be filed with the commission within ninety days from the commencement of such action or the collection of such charges by the carrier. [1963 c 59 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.235. Prior: 1955 c 79 § 5.]

**81.04.236 When cause of action deemed to accrue.** The cause of action for the purposes of RCW 81.04.235, 81.04.240, and 81.28.270 shall be deemed to accrue: (a) In respect of a shipment of property, upon delivery or tender of delivery thereof by the carrier, and not after; (b) in respect of goods or service or services other than a shipment of property, upon the rendering of an invoice or statement of charges by the public service company, and not after.

The provisions of this section shall extend to and embrace cases in which the cause of action has heretofore accrued as well as cases in which the cause of action may hereafter accrue. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.236. Prior: 1955 c 79 § 6.]

**81.04.240 Action in court on reparations and overcharges—Procedure.** If the public service company subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service does not comply with the order of the commission for the payment of damages or overcharges within the time limited in the order, action may be brought in any superior court where service may be had upon the company to recover the amount of damages or overcharges with interest. The commission shall certify and file its record in the case, including all exhibits, with the clerk of the court within thirty days after the action is started. The action must be heard on the evidence and exhibits introduced before and certified by the commission.

If the complainant prevails in the action, the court shall enter judgment for the amount of damages or overcharges with interest and award the complainant reasonable attorney's fees, and the cost of preparing and certifying the record for the benefit of and to be paid to the commission by complainant, and deposited by the commission in the public service revolving fund, the sums to be fixed and collected as a part of the costs of the action.

If the order of the commission is found contrary to law or erroneous by the rejection of testimony properly offered, the

court shall remand the cause to the commission with instructions to receive the testimony so proffered and rejected and enter a new order based upon the evidence theretofore taken and such as it is directed to receive.

The court may remand any action it reverses to the commission for further action.

Appeals to the supreme court shall lie as in other civil cases. Action to recover damages or overcharges must be filed in the superior court within one year from the date of the order of the commission.

The procedure provided in this section is exclusive, and neither the supreme court nor any superior court has jurisdiction except as provided. [2007 c 234 § 10; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.240. Prior: 1955 c 79 § 4; 1943 c 258 § 2; 1937 c 29 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10433-2.]

**81.04.250 Determination of rates.** The commission may, upon complaint or upon its own motion, prescribe and authorize just and reasonable rates for the transportation of persons or property for any public service company subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service, whenever and as often as it deems necessary or proper. The commission shall, before any hearing upon the complaint or motion, notify the complainants and the carrier concerned of the time and place of the hearing by giving at least ten days' written notice thereof, specifying that at the time and place designated a hearing will be held for the purpose of prescribing and authorizing the rates. The notice is sufficient to authorize the commission to inquire into and pass upon the matters designated in this section.

In exercising this power, the commission may use any standard, formula, method, or theory of valuation reasonably calculated to arrive at the objective of prescribing and authorizing just and reasonable rates.

In the exercise of this power, the commission may consider, in addition to other factors, the following:

(1) The effect of the rates upon movement of traffic by the carriers;

(2) The public need for adequate transportation facilities, equipment, and service at the lowest level of charges consistent with the provision, maintenance, and renewal of the facilities, equipment, and service; and

(3) The carrier need for revenue of a level that under honest, efficient, and economical management is sufficient to cover the cost, including all operating expenses, depreciation accruals, rents, and taxes of every kind, of providing adequate transportation service, plus an amount equal to the percentage of that cost as is reasonably necessary for the provision, maintenance, and renewal of the transportation facilities or equipment and a reasonable profit to the carrier. The relation of carrier expenses to carrier revenues may be deemed the proper test of a reasonable profit. [2007 c 234 § 11; 1984 c 143 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.250. Prior: 1951 c 75 § 1; 1933 c 165 § 4; 1913 c 182 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 92; RRS § 10441.]

**81.04.260 Summary proceedings.** Whenever the commission shall be of opinion that any public service company is failing or omitting, or about to fail or omit, to do anything required of it by law, or by order, direction or requirement of the commission, or is doing anything, or about to do anything, or permitting anything, or about to permit anything to

be done contrary to or in violation of law or of any order, direction or requirement of the commission authorized by this title, it shall direct the attorney general to commence an action or proceeding in the superior court of the state of Washington for Thurston county, or in the superior court of any county in which such company may do business, in the name of the state of Washington on the relation of the commission, for the purpose of having such violations or threatened violations stopped and prevented, either by mandamus or injunction. The attorney general shall thereupon begin such action or proceeding by petition to such superior court, alleging the violation complained of, and praying for appropriate relief by way of mandamus or injunction. It shall thereupon be the duty of the court to specify a time, not exceeding twenty days after the service of the copy of the petition, within which the public service company complained of must answer the petition. In case of default in answer or after answer, the court shall immediately inquire into the facts and circumstances in such manner as the court shall direct, without other or formal pleadings, and without respect to any technical requirement. Such persons or corporations as the court may deem necessary or proper to be joined as parties, in order to make its judgment, order or writ effective, may be joined as parties. The final judgment in any such action or proceeding shall either dismiss the action or proceeding or direct that the writ of mandamus or injunction, or both, issue as prayed for in the petition, or in such other modified form as the court may determine will afford appropriate relief. Appellate review of the final judgment may be sought in the same manner and with the same effect as review of judgments of the superior court in actions to review orders of the commission. All provisions of this chapter relating to the time of review, the manner of perfecting the same, the filing of briefs, hearings and supersedeas, shall apply to appeals to the supreme court or the court of appeals under the provisions of this section. [1988 c 202 § 64; 1971 c 81 § 143; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.260. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 93; RRS § 10442.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.04.270 Accounts to be kept separate.** Any public service company, subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and services [service], that engages in the sale of merchandise or appliances or equipment shall keep separate accounts, as prescribed by the commission, of its capital employed in such business and of its revenues therefrom and operating expenses thereof. The capital employed in such business is not a part of the fair value of the company's property for rate making purposes, and the revenues from or operating expenses of such business are not a part of the operating revenues and expenses of the company as a public service company. [2007 c 234 § 12; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.270. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 8; RRS § 10458-2.]

**81.04.280 Purchase and sale of stock by employees.** A public service company subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service shall not: (1) Permit any employee to sell, offer for sale, or solicit the purchase of any security of any other person or corporation during such hours as such employee is engaged to perform any duty of such public service company; (2) by any means or device, require any employee to purchase or contract to purchase any of its

securities or those of any other person or corporation; or (3) require any employee to permit the deduction from his wages or salary of any sum as a payment or to be applied as a payment of any purchase or contract to purchase any security of such public service company or of any other person or corporation. [2007 c 234 § 13; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.280. Prior: 1933 c 165 § 9; RRS § 10458-3.]

**81.04.290 Sale of stock to employees and patrons.** A corporate public service company, either heretofore or hereafter organized under the laws of this state, may sell to its employees and patrons any increase of its capital stock, or part thereof, without first offering it to existing stockholders: PROVIDED, That such sale is approved by the holders of a majority of the capital stock, at a regular or special meeting held after notice given as to the time, place, and object thereof as provided by law and the bylaws of the company. Such sales shall be at prices and in amounts for each purchaser and upon terms and conditions as set forth in the resolution passed at the stockholders' meeting, or in a resolution passed at a subsequent meeting of the board of trustees if the resolution passed at the stockholders' meeting shall authorize the board to determine prices, amounts, terms, and conditions, except that in either event a minimum price for the stock must be fixed in the resolution passed at the stockholders' meeting. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.290. Prior: 1955 c 79 § 7; 1923 c 110 § 1; RRS § 10344-1.]

**81.04.300 Budgets to be filed—Supplementary budgets.** The commission may regulate, restrict, and control the budgets of expenditures of public service companies subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service. The commission may require each company to prepare a budget showing the amount of money which, in its judgment, is needed during the ensuing year for maintenance, operation, and construction, classified by accounts as prescribed by the commission, and shall within ten days of the date it is approved by the company file it with the commission for its investigation and approval or rejection. When a budget has been filed, the commission shall examine into and investigate it to determine whether the expenditures therein proposed are fair and reasonable and not contrary to public interest.

Adjustments or additions to budget expenditures may be made from time to time during the year by filing a supplementary budget with the commission for its investigation and approval or rejection. [2007 c 234 § 14; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.300. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 15; prior: 1933 c 165 § 10, part; RRS § 10458-4, part.]

**81.04.310 Commission's control over expenditures.** The commission may, both as to original and supplementary budgets, prior to the making or contracting for the expenditure of any item therein, and after notice to the company and a hearing thereon, reject any item of the budget. The commission may require any company to furnish further information, data, or detail as to any proposed item of expenditure.

Failure of the commission to object to any item of expenditure within sixty days of the filing of any original budget or within thirty days of the filing of any supplementary budget shall constitute authority to the company to proceed with the making of or contracting for such expenditure, but such

authority may be terminated at any time by objection made thereto by the commission prior to the making of or contracting for such expenditure.

Examination, investigation, and determination of the budget by the commission shall not bar or estop it from later determining whether any of the expenditures made thereunder are fair, reasonable, and commensurate with the service, material, supplies, or equipment received. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.310. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 16; prior: 1933 c 165 § 10, part; RRS § 10458-4, part.]

**81.04.320 Budget rules and regulations.** The commission may prescribe the necessary rules and regulations to place RCW 81.04.300 through 81.04.330 in operation. It may by general order, exempt in whole or in part from the operation thereof companies whose gross operating revenues are less than twenty-five thousand dollars a year. The commission may upon request of any company withhold from publication during such time as the commission may deem advisable, any portion of any original or supplementary budget relating to proposed capital expenditures. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.320. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 17; prior: 1933 c 165 § 10, part; RRS § 10458-4, part.]

**81.04.330 Effect of unauthorized expenditure—Emergencies.** Any public service company subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service may make or contract for any rejected item of expenditure, but in such case the rejected item of expenditure shall not be allowed as an operating expense, or as to items of construction, as a part of the fair value of the company's property used and useful in serving the public: PROVIDED, That such items of construction may at any time thereafter be so allowed in whole or in part upon proof that they are used and useful. Any company may upon the happening of any emergency caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, riot, or insurrection, or for the immediate preservation or restoration to condition of usefulness of any of its property, the usefulness of which has been destroyed by accident, make the necessary expenditure therefor free from the operation of RCW 81.04.300 through 81.04.330.

Any finding and order entered by the commission is effective until vacated and set aside in proper proceedings for review thereof. [2007 c 234 § 15; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.330. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 18; prior: 1933 c 165 § 10, part; RRS § 10458-4, part.]

**81.04.350 Depreciation and retirement accounts.** The commission may after hearing require any public service company subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service to carry proper and adequate depreciation or retirement accounts in accordance with such rules, regulations, and forms of accounts as the commission may prescribe. The commission may from time to time ascertain and by order fix the proper and adequate rates of depreciation or retirement of the several classes of property of each public service company. Each public service company shall conform its depreciation or retirement accounts to the rates so prescribed. In fixing the rate of the annual depreciation or retirement charge, the commission may consider the rate and

amount theretofore charged by the company for depreciation or retirement.

The commission may exercise like power and authority over all other reserve accounts of public service companies. [2007 c 234 § 16; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.350. Prior: 1937 c 169 § 4; 1933 c 165 § 13; RRS § 10458-7.]

**81.04.360 Excessive earnings to reserve fund.** If any public service company subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service earns in the period of five consecutive years immediately preceding the commission order fixing rates for such company a net utility operating income in excess of a reasonable rate of return upon the fair value of its property used and useful in the public service, the commission shall take official notice of such fact and of whether any such excess earnings were invested in such company's plant or otherwise used for purposes beneficial to the consumers of such company and may consider such facts in fixing rates for such company. [2007 c 234 § 17; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.360. Prior: 1959 c 285 § 3; 1933 c 165 § 14; RRS § 10458-8.]

**81.04.380 Penalties—Violations by public service companies.** Every public service company, and all officers, agents and employees of any public service company, shall obey, observe and comply with every order, rule, direction or requirement made by the commission under authority of this title, so long as the same shall be and remain in force. Any public service company which shall violate or fail to comply with any provision of this title, or which fails, omits or neglects to obey, observe or comply with any order, rule, or any direction, demand or requirement of the commission, shall be subject to a penalty of not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars for each and every offense. Every violation of any such order, direction or requirement of this title shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in case of a continuing violation every day's continuance thereof shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct offense. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.380. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 94; RRS § 10443.]

**81.04.385 Penalties—Violations by officers, agents, and employees of public service companies and persons or entities acting as public service companies.** Every officer, agent or employee of any public service company or any person, persons, or entity acting as a public service company, who shall violate or fail to comply with, or who procures, aids or abets any violation by any public service company of any provision of this title, or who shall fail to obey, observe or comply with any order of the commission, or any provision of any order of the commission, or who procures, aids or abets any such public service company in its failure to obey, observe and comply with any such order or provision, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1994 c 37 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.385. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 95; RRS § 10444. Formerly RCW 81.04.390, part.]

**Intent—1994 c 37:** See note following RCW 81.04.110.

**81.04.387 Penalties—Violations by other corporations.** Every corporation, other than a public service company, which shall violate any provision of this title, or which shall fail to obey, observe or comply with any order of the commission under authority of this title, so long as the same

shall be and remain in force, shall be subject to a penalty of not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars for each and every offense. Every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense, and the penalty shall be recovered in an action as provided in RCW 81.04.400. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.387. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 96; RRS § 10445. Formerly RCW 81.04.380, part.]

**81.04.390 Penalties—Violations by persons.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, every person who, either individually, or acting as an officer or agent of a corporation other than a public service company, violates any provision of this title, or fails to observe, obey, or comply with any order made by the commission under this title, so long as the same is or remains in force, or who procures, aids, or abets any such corporation in its violation of this title, or in its failure to obey, observe, or comply with any such order, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) A violation pertaining to equipment on motor carriers transporting hazardous material is a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 385; 1980 c 104 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.390. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 97; RRS § 10446.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**81.04.400 Actions to recover penalties—Disposition of fines, fees, penalties.** Actions to recover penalties under this title shall be brought in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county, or in the superior court of any county in or through which such public service company may do business. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as in ordinary civil actions, except as otherwise herein provided. All fines and penalties recovered by the state under this title shall be paid into the treasury of the state and credited to the state general fund or such other fund as provided by law: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. [1987 c 202 § 241; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 38; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.400. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 98; RRS § 10447.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**81.04.405 Additional penalties—Violations by public service companies and officers, agents, and employees.** In addition to all other penalties provided by law every public service company subject to the provisions of this title and every officer, agent or employee of any such public service company who violates or who procures, aids or abets in the violation of any provision of this title or any order, rule, regulation or decision of the commission, every person or corporation violating the provisions of any cease and desist order issued pursuant to RCW 81.04.510, and every person or entity found in violation pursuant to a complaint under RCW 81.04.110, shall incur a penalty of one hundred dollars for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense and in case of a continuing violation every day's continuance shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct violation. Every act of commission or omission which procures, aids or abets in the violation shall

be considered a violation under the provisions of this section and subject to the penalty herein provided for.

The penalty herein provided for shall become due and payable when the person incurring the same receives a notice in writing from the commission describing such violation with reasonable particularity and advising such person that the penalty is due. The commission may, upon written application therefor, received within fifteen days, remit or mitigate any penalty provided for in this section or discontinue any prosecution to recover the same upon such terms as it in its discretion shall deem proper and shall have authority to ascertain the facts upon all such applications in such manner and under such regulations as it may deem proper. If the amount of such penalty is not paid to the commission within fifteen days after receipt of notice imposing the same or application for remission or mitigation has not been made within fifteen days after violator has received notice of the disposition of such application the attorney general shall bring an action in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county or of some other county in which such violator may do business, to recover such penalty. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as an ordinary civil action except as otherwise herein provided. All penalties recovered under this title shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the public service revolving fund. [1994 c 37 § 4; 1973 c 115 § 2; 1963 c 59 § 3.]

**Intent—1994 c 37:** See note following RCW 81.04.110.

**81.04.410 Orders and rules conclusive.** In all actions between private parties and public service companies involving any rule or order of the commission, and in all actions for the recovery of penalties provided for in this title, or for the enforcement of the orders or rules issued and promulgated by the commission, the said orders and rules shall be conclusive unless set aside or annulled in a review as in this title provided. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.410. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 99; RRS § 10448.]

**81.04.420 Commission intervention where order or rule is involved.** In all court actions involving any rule or order of the commission, where the commission has not been made a party, the commission shall be served with a copy of all pleadings, and shall be entitled to intervene. Where the fact that the action involves a rule or order of the commission does not appear until the time of trial, the court shall immediately direct the clerk to notify the commission of the pendency of such action, and shall permit the commission to intervene in such action.

The failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall render void and of no effect any judgment in such action, where the effect of such judgment is to modify or nullify any rule or order of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.420. Prior: 1943 c 67 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10448-1.]

**81.04.430 Findings of department prima facie correct.** Whenever the commission has issued or promulgated any order or rule, in any writ of review brought by a public service company to determine the reasonableness of such order or rule, the findings of fact made by the commission

shall be prima facie correct, and the burden shall be upon said public service company to establish the order or rule to be unreasonable or unlawful. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.430. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 100; RRS § 10449.]

**81.04.440 Companies liable for damages.** In case any public service company shall do, cause to be done or permit to be done any act, matter or thing prohibited, forbidden or declared to be unlawful, or shall omit to do any act, matter or thing required to be done, either by any law of this state, by this title or by any order or rule of the commission, such public service company shall be liable to the persons or corporations affected thereby for all loss, damage or injury caused thereby or resulting therefrom, and in case of recovery if the court shall find that such act or omission was wilful, it may, in its discretion, fix a reasonable counsel or attorney's fee, which shall be taxed and collected as part of the costs in the case. An action to recover for such loss, damage or injury may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction by any person or corporation. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.440. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 102; RRS § 10451.]

**81.04.450 Certified copies of orders, rules, etc.—Evidentiary effect.** Upon application of any person the commission shall furnish certified copies of any classification, rate, rule, regulation or order established by such commission, and the printed copies published by authority of the commission, or any certified copy of any such classification, rate, rule, regulation or order, with seal affixed, shall be admissible in evidence in any action or proceeding, and shall be sufficient to establish the fact that the charge, rate, rule, order or classification therein contained is the official act of the commission. When copies of any classification, rate, rule, regulation or order not contained in the printed reports, or copies of papers, accounts or records of public service companies filed with the commission shall be demanded from the commission for proper use, the commission shall charge a reasonable compensation therefor. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.450. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 103; RRS § 10452.]

**81.04.460 Commission to enforce public service laws—Employees as peace officers.** It shall be the duty of the commission to enforce the provisions of this title and all other acts of this state affecting public service companies, the enforcement of which is not specifically vested in some other officer or tribunal. Any employee of the commission may, without a warrant, arrest any person found violating in his presence any provision of this title, or any rule or regulation adopted by the commission: PROVIDED, That each such employee shall be first specifically designated in writing by the commission or a member thereof as having been found to be a fit and proper person to exercise such authority. Upon being so designated such person shall be a peace officer and a police officer for the purposes herein mentioned. [1961 c 173 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.460. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 101; RRS § 10450.]

**81.04.470 Right of action not released—Penalties cumulative.** This title shall not have the effect to release or waive any right of action by the state or any person for any right, penalty or forfeiture which may have arisen or may

hereafter arise under any law of this state; and all penalties accruing under this title shall be cumulative of each other, and a suit for the recovery of one penalty shall not be a bar to the recovery of any other: PROVIDED, That no contract, receipt, rule or regulation shall exempt any corporation engaged in transporting livestock by railway from liability of a common carrier, or carrier of livestock which would exist had no contract, receipt, rule or regulation been made or entered into. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.470. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 104; RRS § 10453. Formerly RCW 81.04.470 and 81.04.480.]

**81.04.490 Application to municipal utilities—Safety regulation of municipal gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.** Nothing in this title shall authorize the commission to make or enforce any order affecting rates, tolls, rentals, contracts or charges or service rendered, or the safety, adequacy or sufficiency of the facilities, equipment, instrumentalities or buildings, or the reasonableness of rules or regulations made, furnished, used, supplied or in force affecting any street railroad owned and operated by any city or town, but all other provisions enumerated herein shall apply to public utilities owned by any city or town. The commission shall regulate the safety of all hazardous liquid and gas pipelines constructed, owned, or operated by any city or town under chapter 81.88 RCW. [2007 c 142 § 10; 1961 c 14 § 81.04.490. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 105; RRS § 10454.]

**81.04.500 Duties of attorney general.** It shall be the duty of the attorney general to represent and appear for the people of the state of Washington and the commission in all actions and proceedings involving any question under this title, or under or in reference to any act or order of the commission; and it shall be the duty of the attorney general generally to see that all laws affecting any of the persons or corporations herein enumerated are complied with, and that all laws, the enforcement of which devolves upon the commission, are enforced, and to that end he is authorized to institute, prosecute and defend all necessary actions and proceedings. [1961 c 14 § 81.04.500. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 5; RRS § 10341.]

**81.04.510 Engaging in business or operating without approval or authority—Procedure.** Whether or not any person or corporation is conducting business requiring operating authority, or has performed or is performing any act requiring approval of the commission without securing such approval, shall be a question of fact to be determined by the commission. Whenever the commission believes that any person or corporation is engaged in operations without the necessary approval or authority required by any provision of this title, it may institute a special proceeding requiring such person or corporation to appear before the commission at a location convenient for witnesses and the production of evidence and bring with him books, records, accounts and other memoranda, and give testimony under oath as to his operations or acts, and the burden shall rest upon such person or corporation of proving that his operations or acts are not subject to the provisions of this chapter. The commission may consider any and all facts that may indicate the true nature and extent of the operations or acts and may subpoena such witnesses and documents as it deems necessary.

After having made the investigation herein described, the commission is authorized and directed to issue the necessary order or orders declaring the operations or acts to be subject to, or not subject to, the provisions of this title. In the event the operations or acts are found to be subject to the provisions of this title, the commission is authorized and directed to issue cease and desist orders to all parties involved in the operations or acts.

In proceedings under this section no person or corporation shall be excused from testifying or from producing any book, waybill, document, paper or account before the commission when ordered to do so, on the ground that the testimony or evidence, book, waybill, document, paper or account required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to penalty or forfeiture; but no person or corporation shall be prosecuted, punished or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any account, transaction, matter or thing concerning which he shall under oath have testified or produced documentary evidence in proceedings under this section: PROVIDED, That no person so testifying shall be exempt from prosecution or punishment for any perjury committed by him in his testimony. [1973 c 115 § 15.]

**81.04.530 Controlled substances, alcohol.** A person or employer operating as a motor carrier shall comply with the requirements of the United States department of transportation federal motor carrier safety regulations as contained in Title 49 C.F.R. Part 382, controlled substances and alcohol use and testing. A person or employer who begins or conducts commercial motor vehicle operations without having a controlled substance and alcohol testing program that is in compliance with the requirements of Title 49 C.F.R. Part 382 is subject to a penalty, under the process set forth in RCW 81.04.405, of up to one thousand five hundred dollars and up to an additional five hundred dollars for each motor vehicle driver employed by the person or employer who is not in compliance with the motor vehicle driver testing requirements. A person or employer having actual knowledge that a driver has tested positive for controlled substances or alcohol who allows a positively tested person to continue to perform a safety-sensitive function is subject to a penalty, under the process set forth in RCW 81.04.405, of one thousand five hundred dollars. [1999 c 351 § 6.]

**81.04.540 Regulation of common carriers, railroad safety practices.** (1) The commission shall cooperate with the federal government and the United States department of transportation, or its successor, or any other commission or agency delegated or authorized to regulate interstate or foreign commerce by common carriers, to the end that the transportation of property and passengers by common carriers in interstate or foreign commerce into and through the state of Washington may be regulated and that the laws of the United States and the state of Washington are enforced and administered cooperatively in the public interest.

(2) In addition to its authority concerning interstate commerce under this title, the commission may regulate common carriers in interstate commerce within the state under the authority of and in accordance with any act of congress that vests in or delegates to the commission such authority as an agency of the United States government or under an agree-

ment with the United States department of transportation, or its successor, or any other commission or agency delegated or authorized to regulate interstate or foreign commerce by common carriers.

(3) For the purpose of participating with the United States department of transportation in investigation and inspection activities necessary to enforce federal railroad safety regulations, the commission has regulatory jurisdiction over the safety practices for railroad equipment, facilities, rolling stock, and operations in the state. [2007 c 234 § 2.]

**81.04.550 Railroad safety administration.** The commission shall administer the railroad safety provisions of this title to the fullest extent allowed under 49 U.S.C. Sec. 20106 and state law. [2007 c 234 § 3.]

## Chapter 81.08 RCW SECURITIES

### Sections

81.08.010	Definition.
81.08.012	"Evidence of indebtedness"—Limitation of term.
81.08.020	Control vested in state.
81.08.030	Authority to issue.
81.08.040	Prior to issuance—Filing required—Contents.
81.08.080	Capitalization of franchise or merger contract prohibited.
81.08.090	Accounting for disposition of proceeds.
81.08.100	Issuance made contrary to this chapter—Penalties.
81.08.110	Penalty against company.
81.08.120	Penalty against individual.
81.08.130	Assumption of obligation or liability—Compliance with filing requirements.
81.08.140	State not obligated.
81.08.150	Authority of commission—Not affected by requirements of this chapter.

**81.08.010 Definition.** "Public service company," as used in this chapter, means every common carrier subject to regulation as to rates and service by the utilities and transportation commission under this title, except any "household goods carrier" subject to chapter 81.80 RCW or any "solid waste collection company" subject to chapter 81.77 RCW. [2007 c 234 § 18; 1981 c 13 § 3; 1965 ex.s. c 105 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.08.010. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 3; 1957 c 205 § 2; 1953 c 95 § 9; prior: 1933 c 151 § 1, part; RRS § 10439-1, part.]

**81.08.012 "Evidence of indebtedness"—Limitation of term.** The term "evidence of indebtedness," as used in this chapter, shall not include conditional sales contracts or purchase money chattel mortgages. [1961 c 14 § 81.08.012. Prior: 1951 c 227 § 2.]

**81.08.020 Control vested in state.** The power of public service companies to issue stocks and stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, and bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness and to create liens on their property situated within this state is a special privilege, the right of supervision, regulation, restriction, and control of which is and shall continue to be vested in the state, and such power shall be exercised as provided by law and under such rules and regulations as the commission may prescribe. [1961 c 14 § 81.08.020. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 2; RRS § 10439-2.]

**81.08.030 Authority to issue.** A public service company may issue stock and stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness payable on demand or at periods of more than twelve months after the date thereof, for the following purposes only: The acquisition of property, or the construction, completion, extension, or improvement of its facilities, or the improvement or maintenance of its service, or the issuance of stock dividends, or the discharge or refunding of its obligations, or the reimbursement of moneys actually expended from income or from any other moneys in the treasury of the company not secured by or obtained from the issue of stock or stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness of the company for any of the aforesaid purposes except maintenance of service, in cases where the applicant keeps its accounts and vouchers for such expenditures in such manner as to enable the commission to ascertain the amount of money so expended and the purpose for which the expenditure was made. [1961 c 14 § 81.08.030. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 10; 1937 c 30 § 1; 1933 c 151 § 3; RRS § 10439-3.]

**81.08.040 Prior to issuance—Filing required—Contents.** Any public service company that undertakes to issue stocks, stock certificates, other evidence of interest or ownership, bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness shall file with the commission before such issuance:

(1) A description of the purposes for which the issuance is made, including a certification by an officer authorized to do so that the proceeds from any such financing is for one or more of the purposes allowed by this chapter;

(2) A description of the proposed issuance including the terms of financing; and

(3) A statement as to why the transaction is in the public interest. [1994 c 251 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 81.08.040. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 4; RRS § 10439-4.]

**81.08.080 Capitalization of franchise or merger contract prohibited.** The commission shall have no power to authorize the capitalization of the right to be a corporation, or to authorize the capitalization of any franchise or permit whatsoever or the right to own, operate or enjoy any such franchise or permit in excess of the amount (exclusive of any tax or annual charge) actually paid to the state or to a political subdivision thereof as the consideration for the grant of such franchise, permit or right; nor shall any contract for consolidation or lease be capitalized, nor shall any public service company hereafter issue any bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness against or as a lien upon any contract for consolidation or merger. [1961 c 14 § 81.08.080. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 7; RRS § 10439-7.]

**81.08.090 Accounting for disposition of proceeds.** The commission shall have the power to require public service companies to account for the disposition of the proceeds of all sales of stocks and stock certificates or other evidence of interest or ownership, and bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness, in such form and detail as it may deem advisable, and to establish such rules and regulations as it may deem reasonable and necessary to insure the disposition of such proceeds for the purpose or purposes specified in

its order. [1961 c 14 § 81.08.090. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 8; RRS § 10439-8.]

**81.08.100 Issuance made contrary to this chapter—Penalties.** If a public service company issues any stock, stock certificate, or other evidence of interest or ownership, bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness, contrary to the provisions of this chapter, the company may be subject to penalty under RCW 81.08.110 and 81.08.120. [1994 c 251 § 9; 1961 c 14 § 81.08.100. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 9; RRS § 10439-9.]

**81.08.110 Penalty against company.** Every public service company which, directly or indirectly, issues or causes to be issued, any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness, in nonconformity with the provisions of this chapter, or which applies the proceeds from the sale thereof, or any part thereof, to any purpose other than the purpose or purposes allowed by this chapter shall be subject to a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars for each offense. Every violation of any such order, rules, direction, demand or requirement of the department, or of any provision of this chapter, shall be a separate and distinct offense and in case of a continuing violation every day's continuance thereof shall be deemed to be a separate and distinct offense.

The act, omission or failure of any officer, agent or employee of any public service company acting within the scope of his official duties or employment, shall in every case be deemed to be the act, omission or failure of such public service company. [1994 c 251 § 10; 1961 c 14 § 81.08.110. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 11; RRS § 10439-11.]

**81.08.120 Penalty against individual.** Every officer, agent, or employee of a public service company, and every other person who knowingly authorizes, directs, aids in, issues or executes, or causes to be issued or executed, any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness contrary to the provisions of this chapter, or who knowingly makes any false statement or representation or with knowledge of its falsity files or causes to be filed with the commission any false statement or representation or causes or assists to be applied the proceeds or any part thereof, from the sale of any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness, to any purpose not allowed by this chapter or who, with knowledge that any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness, has been issued or executed in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter negotiates, or causes the same to be negotiated, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1994 c 251 § 11; 1961 c 14 § 81.08.120. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 12; RRS § 10439-12.]

**81.08.130 Assumption of obligation or liability—Compliance with filing requirements.** Any public service company that assumes any obligation or liability as guarantor, indorser, surety or otherwise in respect to the securities of any other person, firm or corporation, when such securities are payable at periods of more than twelve months after the

date thereof, shall comply with the filing requirements of RCW 81.08.040. [1994 c 251 § 12; 1961 c 14 § 81.08.130. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 13; RRS § 10439-13.]

**81.08.140 State not obligated.** No provision of this chapter, and no deed or act done or performed under or in connection therewith, shall be held or construed to obligate the state of Washington to pay or guarantee, in any manner whatsoever, any stock or stock certificate or other evidence of interest or ownership, or bond, note or other evidence of indebtedness, authorized, issued or executed under the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 81.08.140. Prior: 1933 c 151 § 14; RRS § 10439-14.]

**81.08.150 Authority of commission—Not affected by requirements of this chapter.** No action by a public service company in compliance with nor by the commission in conformance with the requirements of this chapter may in any way affect the authority of the commission over rates, service, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determinations of costs, or any matters whatsoever that may come before it. [1994 c 251 § 13.]

## Chapter 81.12 RCW

### TRANSFERS OF PROPERTY

#### Sections

81.12.010	Definition.
81.12.020	Order required to sell, merge, etc.
81.12.030	Disposal without authorization void.
81.12.040	Authority required to acquire property or securities of company.
81.12.050	Rules and regulations.
81.12.060	Penalty.

**81.12.010 Definition.** "Public service company," as used in this chapter, means every common carrier subject to regulation as to rates and service by the utilities and transportation commission under the provisions of this title. It does not include common carriers subject to regulation by the federal energy regulatory commission or the United States department of transportation, household goods carriers subject to chapter 81.80 RCW, or solid waste collection companies subject to chapter 81.77 RCW. This section does not apply to transfers of permits or certificates. [2007 c 234 § 19; 1981 c 13 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 4; 1965 ex.s. c 105 § 4; 1963 c 59 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 81.12.010. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 12; 1941 c 159 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440a.]

**81.12.020 Order required to sell, merge, etc.** No public service company shall sell, lease, assign or otherwise dispose of the whole or any part of its franchises, properties or facilities whatsoever, which are necessary or useful in the performance of its duties to the public, and no public service company shall, by any means whatsoever, directly or indirectly, merge or consolidate any of its franchises, properties or facilities with any other public service company, without having secured from the commission an order authorizing it so to do: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to any sale, lease, assignment or other disposal of such franchises, properties or facilities to a public utility district.

[1961 c 14 § 81.12.020. Prior: 1945 c 75 § 1; 1941 c 159 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10440b.]

**81.12.030 Disposal without authorization void.** Any such sale, lease, assignment, or other disposition, merger or consolidation made without authority of the commission shall be void. [1961 c 14 § 81.12.030. Prior: 1941 c 159 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440c.]

**81.12.040 Authority required to acquire property or securities of company.** No public service company shall, directly or indirectly, purchase, acquire, or become the owner of any of the franchises, properties, facilities, capital stocks or bonds of any other public service company unless authorized so to do by the commission. Nothing contained in this chapter shall prevent the holding of stocks or other securities heretofore lawfully acquired or prohibit, upon the surrender or exchange of said stocks or other securities pursuant to a reorganization plan, the purchase, acquisition, taking or holding by the owner of a proportionate amount of the stocks or other securities of any new corporation organized to take over at foreclosure or other sale, the property of the corporation the stocks or securities of which have been thus surrendered or exchanged. Any contract by any public service company for the purchase, acquisition, assignment or transfer to it of any of the stocks or other securities of any other public service company, directly or indirectly, without the approval of the commission shall be void and of no effect. [1961 c 14 § 81.12.040. Prior: 1941 c 159 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440d.]

**81.12.050 Rules and regulations.** The commission shall have power to promulgate rules and regulations to make effective the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 81.12.050. Prior: 1941 c 159 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440e.]

**81.12.060 Penalty.** The provisions of RCW 81.04.380 and 81.04.385 as to penalties shall be applicable to public service companies, their officers, agents and employees failing to comply with the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 81.12.060. Prior: 1941 c 159 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440f.]

## Chapter 81.16 RCW AFFILIATED INTERESTS

### Sections

81.16.010	Definitions.
81.16.020	Dealings with affiliated interests—Prior filing with commission required—Commission may disapprove.
81.16.030	Payments to affiliated interest disallowed if not reasonable.
81.16.040	Satisfactory proof, what constitutes.
81.16.050	Commission's control is continuing.
81.16.060	Summary order on nonapproved payments.
81.16.070	Summary order on payments after disallowance.
81.16.075	Application of chapter—Solid waste collection companies.
81.16.080	Court action to enforce orders.
81.16.090	Review of orders.

**81.16.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Public service company" means every corporation engaged in business as a common carrier and subject to regu-

lation as to rates and service by the utilities and transportation commission under this title.

(2) "Affiliated interest" means:

(a) Every corporation and person owning or holding directly or indirectly five percent or more of the voting securities of any public service company engaged in any intrastate business in this state;

(b) Every corporation and person, other than those above specified, in any chain of successive ownership of five percent or more of voting securities, the chain beginning with the holder of the voting securities of such public service company;

(c) Every corporation five percent or more of whose voting securities are owned by any person or corporation owning five percent or more of the voting securities of such public service company or by any person or corporation in any such chain of successive ownership of five percent or more of voting securities;

(d) Every corporation or person with which the public service company has a management or service contract; and

(e) Every person who is an officer or director of such public service company or of any corporation in any chain of successive ownership of five percent or more of voting securities. [2007 c 234 § 20; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 81.16.010. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 13; 1933 c 152 § 1, part; RRS § 10440-1, part.]

**81.16.020 Dealings with affiliated interests—Prior filing with commission required—Commission may disapprove.** Every public service company shall file with the commission a verified copy, or a verified summary if unwritten, of a contract or arrangement providing for the furnishing of management, supervisory construction, engineering, accounting, legal, financial, or similar services, or any contract or arrangement for the purchase, sale, lease, or exchange of any property, right, or thing, or for the furnishing of any service, property, right, or thing, other than those enumerated in this section, hereafter made or entered into between a public service company and any affiliated interest as defined in this chapter, including open account advances from or to the affiliated interests. The filing must be made prior to the effective date of the contract or arrangement. Modifications or amendments to the contracts or arrangements with affiliated interests must be filed with the commission prior to the effective date of the modification or amendment. The commission may at any time after receipt of the contract or arrangement institute an investigation and disapprove the contract, arrangement, or amendment thereto if the commission finds the public service company has failed to prove that it is reasonable and consistent with the public interest. The commission may disapprove any such contract or arrangement if satisfactory proof is not submitted to the commission of the cost to the affiliated interest of rendering the services or of furnishing the property or service described in this section. [1998 c 47 § 6; 1961 c 14 § 81.16.020. Prior: 1941 c 160 § 1; 1933 c 152 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10440-2.]

**81.16.030 Payments to affiliated interest disallowed if not reasonable.** In any proceeding, whether upon the commission's own motion or upon complaint, involving the rates or practices of any public service company, the commission

may exclude from the accounts of the public service company any payment or compensation to an affiliated interest for any services rendered or property or service furnished, as described in this section, under existing contracts or arrangements with the affiliated interest unless the public service company establishes the reasonableness of the payment or compensation. In the proceeding the commission shall disallow the payment or compensation, in whole or in part, in the absence of satisfactory proof that it is reasonable in amount. In such a proceeding, any payment or compensation may be disapproved or disallowed by the commission, in whole or in part, if satisfactory proof is not submitted to the commission of the cost to the affiliated interest of rendering the service or furnishing the property or service described in this section. [1998 c 47 § 7; 1961 c 14 § 81.16.030. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 3; RRS § 10440-3.]

**81.16.040 Satisfactory proof, what constitutes.** No proof shall be satisfactory, within the meaning of RCW 81.16.010 through 81.16.030, unless it includes the original (or verified copies) of the relevant cost records and other relevant accounts of the affiliated interest, or such abstract thereof or summary taken therefrom, as the commission may deem adequate, properly identified and duly authenticated: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the commission may, where reasonable, approve or disapprove such contracts or arrangements without the submission of such cost records or accounts. [1961 c 14 § 81.16.040. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 4; RRS § 10440-4.]

**81.16.050 Commission's control is continuing.** The commission shall have continuing supervisory control over the terms and conditions of such contracts and arrangements as are herein described so far as necessary to protect and promote the public interest. The commission shall have the same jurisdiction over the modifications or amendment of contracts or arrangements as are herein described as it has over such original contracts or arrangements. The fact that a contract or arrangement has been filed with, or the commission has approved entry into such contracts or arrangements, as described herein, shall not preclude disallowance or disapproval of payments made pursuant thereto, if upon actual experience under such contract or arrangement, it appears that the payments provided for or made were or are unreasonable. Every order of the commission approving any such contract or arrangement shall be expressly conditioned upon the reserved power of the commission to revise and amend the terms and conditions thereof, if, when and as necessary to protect and promote the public interest. [1998 c 47 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 81.16.050. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 5; RRS § 10440-5.]

**81.16.060 Summary order on nonapproved payments.** Whenever the commission shall find upon investigation that any public service company is giving effect to any such contract or arrangement without such contract or arrangement having been filed or approved, the commission may issue a summary order prohibiting the public service company from treating any payments made under the terms of such contract or arrangement as operating expenses or as capital expenditures for rate or valuation purposes, unless and until such contract or arrangement has been filed with the

commission or until payments have received the approval of the commission. [1998 c 47 § 9; 1961 c 14 § 81.16.060. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 6; RRS § 10440-6.]

**81.16.070 Summary order on payments after disallowance.** Whenever the commission finds upon investigation that any public service company is making payments to an affiliated interest, although the payments have been disallowed or disapproved by the commission in a proceeding involving the public service company's rates or practices, the commission shall issue a summary order directing the public service company to not treat the payments as operating expenses or capital expenditures for rate or valuation purposes, unless and until the payments have received the approval of the commission. [1998 c 47 § 10; 1961 c 14 § 81.16.070. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 7; RRS § 10440-7.]

**81.16.075 Application of chapter—Solid waste collection companies.** This chapter does not apply to a determination of the base for collection rates for solid waste collection companies meeting the requirements under RCW 81.77.160(3). [1997 c 434 § 2.]

**81.16.080 Court action to enforce orders.** The superior court of Thurston county is authorized to enforce such orders to cease and desist by appropriate process, including the issuance of a preliminary injunction, upon the suit of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.16.080. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 8; RRS § 10440-8.]

**81.16.090 Review of orders.** Any public service company or affiliated interest deeming any decision or order of the commission to be in any respect or manner improper, unjust or unreasonable may have the same reviewed in the courts in the same manner and by the same procedure as is now provided by law for review of any other order or decision of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.16.090. Prior: 1933 c 152 § 9; RRS § 10440-9.]

## Chapter 81.20 RCW INVESTIGATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES

### Sections

81.20.010	Definition.
81.20.020	Cost of investigation may be assessed against company.
81.20.030	Interest on unpaid assessment—Action to collect.
81.20.040	Commission's determination of necessity as evidence.
81.20.050	Order of commission not subject to review.
81.20.060	Limitation on frequency of investigations.

**81.20.010 Definition.** As used in this chapter, the term "public service company" means any person, firm, association, or corporation, whether public or private, operating a utility or public service enterprise subject in any respect to regulation by the utilities and transportation commission under the provisions of this title or Title 22 RCW. [1961 c 14 § 81.20.010. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 14; 1939 c 203 § 1; RRS § 10458-6.]

**81.20.020 Cost of investigation may be assessed against company.** Whenever the commission in any pro-

ceeding upon its own motion or upon complaint shall deem it necessary in order to carry out the duties imposed upon it by law to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of, or make any valuation or appraisal of the property of any public service company, or to investigate or appraise any phase of its operations, or to render any engineering or accounting service to or in connection with any public service company, and the cost thereof to the commission exceeds in amount the ordinary regulatory fees paid by such public service company during the preceding calendar year or estimated to be paid during the current year, whichever is more, such public service company shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such investigation, valuation, appraisal or services. The commission shall ascertain such expenses, and, after giving notice and an opportunity to be heard, shall render a bill therefor by registered mail to the public service company, either at the conclusion of the investigation, valuation, appraisal or services, or from time to time during its progress. Within thirty days after a bill has been mailed such public service company shall pay to the commission the amount of the bill, and the commission shall transmit such payment to the state treasurer who shall credit it to the public service revolving fund. The total amount which any public service company shall be required to pay under the provisions of this section in any calendar year shall not exceed one percent of the gross operating revenues derived by such public service company from its intrastate operations during the last preceding calendar year. If such company did not operate during all of the preceding year the calculations shall be based upon estimated gross revenues for the current year. [1961 c 14 § 81.20.020. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(a); RRS § 10458-6a(a).]

**81.20.030 Interest on unpaid assessment—Action to collect.** Amounts so assessed against any public service company not paid within thirty days after mailing of the bill therefor, shall draw interest at the rate of six percent per annum from the date of mailing of the bill. Upon failure of the public service company to pay the bill, the attorney general shall proceed in the name of the state by civil action in the superior court for Thurston county against such public service company to collect the amount due, together with interest and costs of suit. [1961 c 14 § 81.20.030. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(b); RRS § 10458-6a(b).]

**81.20.040 Commission's determination of necessity as evidence.** In such action the commission's determination of the necessity of the investigation, valuation, appraisal or services shall be conclusive evidence of such necessity, and its findings and determination of facts expressed in bills rendered pursuant to RCW 81.20.020 through 81.20.060 or in any proceedings determinative of such bills shall be prima facie evidence of such facts. [1961 c 14 § 81.20.040. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(c); RRS § 10458-6a(c).]

**81.20.050 Order of commission not subject to review.** In view of the civil action provided for in RCW 81.20.020 through 81.20.060 any order made by the commission in determining the amount of such bill shall not be reviewable in court, but the mere absence of such right of review shall not prejudice the rights of defendants in the civil action. [1961 c

14 § 81.20.050. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(d); RRS § 10458-6a(d).]

**81.20.060 Limitation on frequency of investigations.** Expenses of a complete valuation, rate and service investigation shall not be assessed against a public service company under this chapter if such company shall have been subjected to and paid the expenses of a complete valuation, rate and service investigation during the preceding five years, unless the properties or operations of the company have materially changed or there has been a substantial change in its value for rate making purposes or in other circumstances and conditions affecting rates and services. [1961 c 14 § 81.20.060. Prior: 1939 c 203 § 2(e); RRS § 10458-6a(e).]

## Chapter 81.24 RCW REGULATORY FEES

### Sections

81.24.010	Companies to file reports of gross revenue and pay fees—Exempt companies.
81.24.020	Fees of auto transportation companies—Statement filing.
81.24.030	Fees of every commercial ferry—Statement filing.
81.24.050	Fees to approximate reasonable cost of regulation.
81.24.060	Intent of legislature—Regulatory cost records to be kept by commission.
81.24.070	Disposition of fees.
81.24.075	Delinquent fee payments.
81.24.080	Penalty for failure to pay fees—Disposition of fees and penalties.
81.24.090	Pipeline safety fee—Reports—Procedure to contest fees—Regulatory incentive program.
81.24.100	Mileage fees on stages—Penalty.

*Corporations, annual license fees of public service companies: RCW 23B.01.570.*

*Highway user tax structure: Chapter 46.85 RCW.*

*Mileage fees on auto stages: RCW 81.24.100.*

**81.24.010 Companies to file reports of gross revenue and pay fees—Exempt companies.** (1) Every company subject to regulation by the commission, except those listed in subsection (3) of this section, shall, on or before the date specified by the commission for filing annual reports under RCW 81.04.080, file with the commission a statement on oath showing its gross operating revenue from intrastate operations for the preceding calendar year, or portion thereof, and pay to the commission a fee equal to one-tenth of one percent of the first fifty thousand dollars of gross operating revenue, plus two-tenths of one percent of any gross operating revenue in excess of fifty thousand dollars, except railroad companies which shall each pay to the commission a fee equal to one and one-half percent of its intrastate gross operating revenue. The commission may, by rule, set minimum fees that do not exceed the cost of collecting the fees. The commission may by rule waive any or all of the minimum fee established pursuant to this section. Any railroad association that qualifies as a nonprofit charitable organization under the federal internal revenue code section 501(c)(3) is exempt from the fee required under this subsection.

(2) The percentage rates of gross operating revenue to be paid in any one year may be decreased by the commission for any class of companies subject to the payment of such fees, by general order entered before March 1st of such year, and for such purpose railroad companies are classified as class

two. Every other company subject to regulation by the commission, for which regulatory fees are not otherwise fixed by law, shall pay fees as herein provided and shall constitute additional classes according to kinds of businesses engaged in.

(3) This section does not apply to private nonprofit transportation providers, auto transportation companies, charter party carriers and excursion service carriers, solid waste collection companies, motor freight carriers, household goods carriers, commercial ferries, and low-level radioactive waste storage facilities. [2007 c 234 § 21; 2003 c 296 § 2; 1996 c 196 § 1; 1990 c 48 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 48 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 6; 1963 c 59 § 11; 1961 c 14 § 81.24.010. Prior: 1957 c 185 § 1; 1955 c 125 § 4; prior: 1939 c 123 § 1, part; 1937 c 158 § 1, part; 1929 c 107 § 1, part; 1923 c 107 § 1, part; 1921 c 113 § 1, part; RRS § 10417, part.]

**81.24.020 Fees of auto transportation companies—Statement filing.** On or before the date specified by the commission for filing annual reports under RCW 81.04.080, every auto transportation company must file with the commission a statement showing its gross operating revenue from intrastate operations for the preceding year and pay to the commission a fee of two-fifths of one percent of the amount of gross operating revenue. The commission may, by rule, set minimum fees that do not exceed the cost of collecting the fees. The commission may by rule waive any or all of the minimum fee established pursuant to this section.

The percentage rate of gross operating revenue to be paid in any period may be decreased by the commission by general order entered before the fifteenth day of the month preceding the month in which the fee is due. [2003 c 296 § 3; 1997 c 215 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.24.020. Prior: 1955 c 125 § 5; prior: 1937 c 158 § 2, part; RRS § 10417-1, part.]

**81.24.030 Fees of every commercial ferry—Statement filing.** Every commercial ferry shall, on or before the date specified by the commission for filing annual reports under RCW 81.04.080, file with the commission a statement on oath showing its gross operating revenue from intrastate operations for the preceding calendar year, or portion thereof, and pay to the commission a fee of two-fifths of one percent of the amount of gross operating revenue: PROVIDED, That the commission may, by rule, set minimum fees that do not exceed the cost of collecting the fees. The commission may by rule waive any or all of the minimum fee established pursuant to this section. The percentage rate of gross operating revenue to be paid in any year may be decreased by the commission by general order entered before March 1st of such year. [2003 c 296 § 4; 1993 c 427 § 10; 1981 c 13 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 81.24.030. Prior: 1955 c 125 § 6; prior: 1939 c 123 § 3, part; 1937 c 158 § 4, part; RRS § 10417-3, part.]

**81.24.050 Fees to approximate reasonable cost of regulation.** In fixing the percentage rates of gross operating revenue to be paid by companies under RCW 81.24.010, 81.24.020, and 81.24.030, the commission shall consider all moneys then in the public service revolving fund and the fees currently to be paid into such fund, to the end that the fees collected from the companies, or classes of companies, covered by each respective section shall be approximately the

same as the reasonable cost of supervising and regulating such companies, or classes of companies, respectively. [1983 c 3 § 206; 1961 c 14 § 81.24.050. Prior: 1955 c 125 § 8; prior: (i) 1939 c 123 § 1, part; 1937 c 158 § 1, part; RRS § 10417, part. (ii) 1937 c 158 § 2, part; RRS § 10417-1, part. (iii) 1939 c 123 § 3, part; 1937 c 158 § 4, part; RRS § 10417-3, part. (iv) 1939 c 123 § 2, part; 1937 c 158 § 3, part; RRS § 10417-2, part. (v) 1949 c 124 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10417-2, part.]

**81.24.060 Intent of legislature—Regulatory cost records to be kept by commission.** It is the intent and purpose of the legislature that the several groups of public service companies shall each contribute sufficient in fees to the commission to pay the reasonable cost of regulating the several groups respectively. The commission shall keep accurate records of the costs incurred in regulating and supervising the several groups of companies subject to regulation or supervision and such records shall be open to inspection by all interested parties. The records and data upon which the commission's determination is made shall be considered prima facie correct in any proceeding instituted to challenge the reasonableness or correctness of any order of the commission fixing fees and distributing regulatory expenses. [1961 c 14 § 81.24.060. Prior: 1937 c 158 § 7; RRS § 10417-5.]

**81.24.070 Disposition of fees.** All moneys collected under the provisions of this chapter shall within thirty days be paid to the state treasurer and by him deposited to the public service revolving fund. [1961 c 14 § 81.24.070. Prior: 1937 c 158 § 6; RRS § 10417-4.]

**81.24.075 Delinquent fee payments.** Any payment of a fee imposed by this chapter made after its due date shall include a late fee of two percent of the amount due. Delinquent fees shall accrue interest at the rate of one percent per month. [1994 c 83 § 2.]

**81.24.080 Penalty for failure to pay fees—Disposition of fees and penalties.** Every person, firm, company or corporation, or the officers, agents or employees thereof, failing or neglecting to pay the fees herein required shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. All fines and penalties collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be deposited into the public service revolving fund of the state treasury: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. [1987 c 202 § 242; 1979 ex.s. c 198 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.24.080. Prior: 1923 c 107 § 2; 1921 c 113 § 3; RRS § 10419.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**81.24.090 Pipeline safety fee—Reports—Procedure to contest fees—Regulatory incentive program.** (1)(a) Every hazardous liquid pipeline company as defined in RCW 81.88.010 shall pay an annual pipeline safety fee to the commission. The pipeline safety fees received by the commission shall be deposited in the pipeline safety account created in RCW 81.88.050.

(b) The aggregate amount of fees set shall be sufficient to recover the reasonable costs of administering the pipeline safety program, taking into account federal funds used to offset the costs. The fees established under this section shall be designed to generate revenue not exceeding appropriated levels of funding for the current fiscal year. At a minimum, the fees established under this section shall be sufficient to adequately fund pipeline inspection personnel, the timely review of pipeline safety and integrity plans, the timely development of spill response plans, the timely development of accurate maps of pipeline locations, participation in federal pipeline safety efforts to the extent allowed by law, and the staffing of the citizens committee on pipeline safety.

(c) Increases in the aggregate amount of fees over the immediately preceding fiscal year are subject to the requirements of RCW 43.135.055.

(2) The commission shall by rule establish the methodology it will use to set the appropriate fee for each entity subject to this section. The methodology shall provide for an equitable distribution of program costs among all entities subject to the fee. The fee methodology shall provide for:

(a) Direct assignment of average costs associated with annual standard inspections, including the average number of inspection days per year. In establishing these directly assignable costs, the commission shall consider the requirements and guidelines of the federal government, state safety standards, and good engineering practices; and

(b) A uniform and equitable means of estimating and allocating costs of other duties relating to inspecting pipelines for safety that are not directly assignable, including but not limited to design review and construction inspections, specialized inspections, incident investigations, geographic mapping system design and maintenance, and administrative support.

(3) The commission shall require reports from those entities subject to this section in the form and at such time as necessary to set the fees. After considering the reports supplied by the entities, the commission shall set the amount of the fee payable by each entity by general order entered before a date established by rule.

(4) For companies subject to RCW 81.24.010, the commission shall collect the pipeline safety fee as part of the fee specified in RCW 81.24.010. The commission shall allocate the moneys collected under RCW 81.24.010 between the pipeline safety program and for other regulatory purposes. The commission shall adopt rules that assure that fee moneys related to the pipeline safety program are maintained separately from other moneys collected by the commission under this chapter.

(5) Any payment of the fee imposed by this section made after its due date must include a late fee of two percent of the amount due. Delinquent fees accrue interest at the rate of one percent per month.

(6) The commission shall keep accurate records of the costs incurred in administering its hazardous liquid pipeline safety program, and the records are open to inspection by interested parties. The records and data upon which the commission's determination is made shall be prima facie correct in any proceeding to challenge the reasonableness or correctness of any order of the commission fixing fees and distributing regulatory expenses.

(7) If any entity seeks to contest the imposition of a fee imposed under this section, that entity shall pay the fee and request a refund within six months of the due date for the payment by filing a petition for a refund with the commission. The commission shall establish by rule procedures for handling refund petitions and may delegate the decisions on refund petitions to the secretary of the commission.

(8) After establishing the fee methodology by rule as required in subsection (2) of this section, the commission shall create a regulatory incentive program for pipeline safety programs in collaboration with the citizens committee on pipeline safety. The regulatory incentive program created by the commission shall not shift costs among companies paying pipeline safety fees and shall not decrease revenue to pipeline safety programs. [2009 c 91 § 2; 2001 c 238 § 3.]

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—2001 c 238:** See notes following RCW 80.24.060.

**81.24.100 Mileage fees on stages—Penalty.** In addition to the license fees required under RCW 46.17.355 for registering vehicles under RCW 46.16A.455, operators of auto stages with seating capacity over six shall pay, at the time they file gross earning returns with the utilities and transportation commission, the sum of fifteen cents for each one hundred vehicle miles operated by each auto stage over the public highways of this state. However, in the case of each auto stage propelled by steam, electricity, natural gas, diesel oil, butane, or propane, the payment required in this section is twenty cents per one hundred miles of such operation. The commission shall transmit all sums so collected to the state treasurer, who shall deposit the same in the motor vehicle fund. Any person failing to make any payment required by this section is subject to a penalty of one hundred percent of the payment due in this section, in addition to any penalty provided for failure to submit a report. Any penalties so collected shall be credited to the public service revolving fund. [2010 c 161 § 424; 1997 c 215 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 83 § 60; 1961 c 12 § 46.16.125. Prior: 1951 c 269 § 14. Formerly RCW 46.16.125.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 81.28 RCW COMMON CARRIERS IN GENERAL

### Sections

81.28.010	Duties as to rates, services, and facilities.
81.28.020	Duty of carriers to expedite traffic.
81.28.030	Routing of freight—Connecting companies—Damages.
81.28.040	Tariff schedules to be filed with commission—Public schedules—Commission's powers as to schedules.
81.28.050	Tariff changes—Notice—Exception—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
81.28.060	Joint rates, contracts, etc.
81.28.080	Published rates to be charged—Exceptions—Definitions.
81.28.180	Rate discrimination prohibited.
81.28.190	Unreasonable preferences and prejudices prohibited.
81.28.200	Long and short haul.
81.28.210	Transportation at less than published rates—Rebating—False representation.
81.28.220	Action for treble damages.
81.28.230	Commission to fix just, reasonable, and compensatory rates.
81.28.240	Commission may order improved facilities and service.

- 81.28.250 Investigation and determination of interstate rates—Application for federal relief.
- 81.28.260 Bicycles as baggage on commercial ferries.
- 81.28.270 Limitation of action for collection of transportation charges.
- 81.28.280 Reports of wrecks, etc.
- 81.28.290 Investigation of accidents, wrecks.
- 81.28.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Charges, prohibition against discrimination: State Constitution Art. 12 § 15.*

*Common carrier may bridge state waterway: RCW 79.110.130.*

*Constitutional limitations generally: State Constitution Art. 12.*

*Department of transportation as common carrier: RCW 47.60.220.*

*Free transportation to public officers prohibited: State Constitution Art. 2 § 39.*

*Legislature may establish maximum rates for transportation: State Constitution Art. 12 § 18.*

*Lien for transportation, storage, etc.: Chapter 60.60 RCW.*

*Monopolies and trusts prohibited: State Constitution Art. 12 § 22.*

*Municipal transportation systems: Title 35 RCW.*

*Regulation of common carriers: State Constitution Art. 12 § 13.*

### **81.28.010 Duties as to rates, services, and facilities.**

All charges made for any service rendered or to be rendered in the transportation of persons or property, or in connection therewith, by any common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service, or by any two or more such common carriers, must be just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient.

Every common carrier shall construct, furnish, maintain and provide, safe, adequate, and sufficient service facilities and equipment to enable it to promptly, expeditiously, safely, and properly receive, transport, and deliver all persons or property offered to or received by it for transportation, and to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, and the public.

All rules and regulations issued by any such common carrier affecting or pertaining to the transportation of persons or property must be just and reasonable. [2007 c 234 § 22; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.010. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 9; RRS § 10345.]

**81.28.020 Duty of carriers to expedite traffic.** Every common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service shall under reasonable rules and regulations promptly and expeditiously receive, transport, and deliver all persons or property offered to or received by it for transportation. [2007 c 234 § 23; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.020. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 10; RRS § 10346.]

**81.28.030 Routing of freight—Connecting companies—Damages.** All common carriers subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service and doing business wholly within this state shall, upon receipt of any article of freight, promptly forward the same to its marked destination, by the route directed by the shipper, or if no directions are given by shipper, then to any connecting company whose line or route reaches nearest to the point to which such freight is marked.

Any such common carrier failing to comply with this section is liable for any damages that may be sustained, either to the shipper or consignee, from any cause, upon proof that the damages resulted from a failure of the transportation company to comply with this section.

(2012 Ed.)

Suit for damages may be instituted either at the place of shipping or destination, either by the shipper or consignee, and before any court competent and qualified to hear and determine like causes between persons who reside in the court's district. [2007 c 234 § 24; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.030. Prior: (i) 1890 p 291 § 1; RRS § 10491. (ii) 1890 p 291 § 2; RRS § 10492. (iii) 1890 p 291 § 3; RRS § 10493.]

**81.28.040 Tariff schedules to be filed with commission—Public schedules—Commission's powers as to schedules.** Every common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service shall file with the commission and shall print and keep open for public inspection, schedules showing the rates, fares, charges, and classification for the transportation of persons and property within the state between each point upon the carrier's route and all other points thereon; and between each point upon its route and all points upon every route leased, operated, or controlled by it; and between each point on its route or upon any route leased, operated, or controlled by it and all points upon the route of any other common carrier, whenever a through route and joint rate have been established or ordered between any two such points. If no joint rate over a through route has been established, the several carriers participating in the through route shall file, print, and keep open for public inspection, the separately established rates, fares, charges, and classifications that apply to the through transportation. The schedules printed must: Plainly state the places between which property and persons are carried; contain classification of passengers or property in force; and state separately all terminal charges, storage charges, icing charges, all other charges that the commission may require to be stated, all privileges or facilities granted or allowed, and any rules or regulations that may in any way change, affect, or determine any part, or the aggregate of, such rates, fares, and charges, or the value of the service rendered to the passenger, shipper, or consignee. The schedule must be plainly printed in large type, and a copy of it shall be kept by every carrier readily accessible to inspection by the public in every station or office of the carrier where passengers or property are respectively received for transportation, when the station or office is in charge of any agent. All of the schedules kept as provided in this section must be immediately produced by the carrier for inspection upon the demand of any person. A notice printed in bold type and stating that the schedules are on file with the agent and open to inspection by any person and that the agent will assist any person to determine from the schedules any transportation rates or fares or rules or regulations that are in force must be kept posted by the carrier in two public and conspicuous places in every such station or office. The form of each schedule must be prescribed by the commission.

The commission may, from time to time, determine and prescribe by order such changes in the form of the schedules as may be found expedient, and modify the requirements of this section in respect to publishing, posting, and filing of schedules either in particular instances or by general rule or order applicable to special or peculiar circumstances or conditions.

The commission may suspend the operation of this section in whole or in part as applied to vessels engaged in jobbing business not operating on regular routes. [2007 c 234 §

25; 1984 c 143 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.040. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 14; RRS § 10350.]

**81.28.050 Tariff changes—Notice—Exception—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** Unless the commission otherwise orders, a change may not be made to any classification, rate, fare, charge, rule, or regulation filed and published by a common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service, except after thirty days' notice to the commission and to the public. In the case of a solid waste collection company, a change may not be made except after forty-five days' notice to the commission and to the public. The notice must be published as provided in RCW 81.28.040 and must plainly state the changes proposed to be made in the schedule then in force and the time when the changed rate, classification, fare, or charge will go into effect. All proposed changes must be shown by printing, filing, and publishing new schedules or must be plainly indicated upon the schedules in force at the time and kept open to public inspection. The commission, for good cause shown, may by order allow changes in rates without requiring the notice and the publication time periods specified in this section. When any change is made in any rate, fare, charge, classification, rule, or regulation, attention must be directed to the change by some character on the schedule. The character and its placement must be designated by the commission. The commission may, by order, for good cause shown, allow changes in any rate, fare, charge, classification, rule, or regulation without requiring any character to indicate each and every change to be made.

During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 406; 2007 c 234 § 26; 1993 c 300 § 2; 1984 c 143 § 5; 1981 c 116 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.050. Prior: 1957 c 205 § 3; 1911 c 117 § 15; RRS § 10351.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**81.28.060 Joint rates, contracts, etc.** The names of the several carriers which are parties to any joint tariff shall be specified therein, and each of the parties thereto, other than the one filing the same, shall file with the commission such evidence of concurrence therein or acceptance thereof as may be required or approved by the commission; and where such evidence of concurrence or acceptance is filed, it shall not be necessary for the carriers filing the same also to file copies of the tariffs in which they are named as parties.

Every common carrier shall file with the commission copies of every contract, agreement or arrangement with any other common carrier or common carriers relating in any way to the transportation of persons or property. [1961 c 14 § 81.28.060. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 16; RRS § 10352.]

**81.28.080 Published rates to be charged—Exceptions—Definitions.** (1) A common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service shall not charge, demand, collect, or receive a greater or less or differ-

ent compensation for transportation of persons or property, or for any service in connection therewith, than the rates, fares, and charges applicable to such transportation as specified in its schedules filed and in effect at the time and shall not refund or remit in any manner or by any device any portion of the rates, fares, or charges so specified excepting upon order of the commission as hereinafter provided, or extend to any shipper or person any privileges or facilities in the transportation of passengers or property except such as are regularly and uniformly extended to all persons and corporations under like circumstances. Any common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service shall not, directly or indirectly, issue or give any free ticket, free pass, or free or reduced transportation for passengers between points within this state, except to the carrier's employees and their families, surgeons and physicians and their families, the carrier's officers, agents, and attorneys-at-law; to ministers of religion, traveling secretaries of young men's christian associations, inmates of hospitals, charitable and eleemosynary institutions, and persons exclusively engaged in charitable and eleemosynary work; to indigent, destitute, and homeless persons; to inmates of the national homes or state homes for volunteer soldiers with disabilities and of soldiers' and sailors' homes, including those about to enter and those returning home after discharge; to necessary caretakers of livestock, poultry, milk, and fruit; to lineworkers of telegraph and telephone companies; to post office inspectors, customs inspectors, and immigration inspectors; to baggage agents and witnesses attending any legal investigation in which the common carrier is interested; to persons injured in accidents or wrecks and physicians and nurses attending such persons; to the national guard of Washington when on official duty; and students going to and returning from state institutions of learning. This section does not prohibit the interchange of passes for the officers, attorneys, agents and employees and their families, of commercial ferries or prohibit any common carrier from carrying passengers free with the object of providing relief in cases of general epidemic, pestilence, or other calamitous visitation.

(2) "Employee," as used in this section, includes furloughed, pensioned, and superannuated employees, persons who have become disabled or infirm in the service of any such common carrier, the remains of a person killed or dying in the employment of a carrier, those entering or leaving its service, and former employees traveling for the purpose of entering the service of any such common carrier.

(3) "Families," as used in this section, includes the families of those persons named in subsection (2) of this section, the families of persons killed and their surviving spouses prior to remarriage and minor children during minority, and the families of persons who died while in the service of any such common carrier.

(4) Nothing in this section prevents the issuance of mileage, commutation tickets, or excursion passenger tickets or prevents the issuance of free or reduced transportation by any street railroad company for mail carriers, or police officers or members of fire departments, city officers, and employees when engaged in the performance of their duties as city employees.

(5) Common carriers may carry, store, or handle, free or at reduced rates, property for the United States, state, county,

or municipal governments, for charitable purposes, or to or from fairs and exhibitions for exhibition, and may carry, store, or handle, free or at reduced rates, the household goods and personal effects of its employees, those entering or leaving its service, and those killed or dying while in its service. [2007 c 234 § 27; 2007 c 218 § 74; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 117; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.080. Prior: 1929 c 96 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 18; RRS § 10354. Formerly RCW 81.28.080 through 81.28.130, 81.28.150 through 81.28.170, and 80.36.130.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2007 c 218 § 74 and by 2007 c 234 § 27, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 1.08.130.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.28.180 Rate discrimination prohibited.** A common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service shall not, directly or indirectly, by any special rate, rebate, drawback, or other device or method, charge, demand, collect, or receive from any person or corporation a greater or lesser compensation for any service rendered or to be rendered in the transportation of persons or property, except as authorized in this title, than it charges, demands, collects, or receives from any person or corporation for doing a like and contemporaneous service in the transportation of a like kind of traffic under the same or substantially similar circumstances and conditions. [2007 c 234 § 28; 1984 c 143 § 6; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.180. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 20; RRS § 10356.]

**81.28.190 Unreasonable preferences and prejudices prohibited.** A common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service shall not make or give any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any person, corporation, locality, or particular description of traffic in any respect whatsoever, or subject any particular person, corporation, locality, or particular description of traffic, to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever. [2007 c 234 § 29; 1984 c 143 § 7; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.190. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 21; RRS § 10357.]

**81.28.200 Long and short haul.** A common carrier, subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service and this title, shall not charge or receive any greater compensation in the aggregate for the transportation of persons or a like kind of property for a shorter distance than for a longer distance over the same line in the same direction, the shorter distance being included within the longer distance, or to charge any greater compensation as a through rate than the aggregate of the intermediate rates subject to this title. The common carriers may not charge and receive as great a compensation for a shorter as for a longer distance or haul. Upon the application of a common carrier, the commission may by order authorize the common carrier to charge less for a longer distance than for a shorter distance for the transportation of persons or property in special cases after investigation by the commission, but the order must specify and prescribe the extent to which the common carrier making the application is relieved from the operation of this section. Only to the extent so specified and prescribed is any common carrier relieved

from the operation and requirements of this section. [2007 c 234 § 30; 1984 c 143 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.200. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 22; RRS § 10358.]

**81.28.210 Transportation at less than published rates—Rebating—False representation.** (1) A common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service, or any officer or agent thereof, or any person acting for or employed by the common carrier, shall not assist, suffer, or permit any person or corporation to obtain transportation for any person or property between points within this state at less than the rates then established and in force in accordance with the schedules filed and published under this title, by false billing, false classification, false weight or weighing, or false report of weight, or by any other device or means. Any person, corporation, or any officer, agent, or employee of a corporation, who delivers property for transportation within the state to a common carrier, shall not seek to obtain or obtain such transportation for such property at less than the rates then established and in force, by false billing, false or incorrect classification, false weight or weighing, false representation of the contents or substance of a package, or false report or statement of weight, or by any device or means, whether with or without the consent or connivance of a common carrier or any of its officers, agents, or employees.

(2) A person, corporation, or any officer, agent, or employee of a corporation, shall not knowingly or wilfully, directly or indirectly, by false statement or representation as to the cost, value, nature, or extent of injury, or by the use of any false billing, bill of lading, receipt, voucher, roll, account, claim, certificate, affidavit, or deposition, knowing the same to be false, fictitious, or fraudulent, or to upon any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry, obtain or attempt to obtain any allowance, rebate, or payment for damage, or otherwise, in connection with or growing out of the transportation of persons or property, or agreement to transport such persons or property, whether with or without the consent or connivance of such common carrier or any of its officers, agents, or employees, when the compensation of such carrier for such transportation is less than the rates then established and in force.

(3) A person, corporation, or any officer, agent, or employee of a corporation, who delivers property for transportation within the state to a common carrier, shall not seek to obtain or obtain such transportation by any false representation or false statement of false paper or token as to the contents or substance thereof, when the transportation of such property is prohibited by law. [2007 c 234 § 31; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.210. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 23; RRS § 10359.]

**81.28.220 Action for treble damages.** The attorney general of the state of Washington shall, whenever he or she has reasonable grounds to believe that any person, firm, or corporation has knowingly accepted or received from any carriers of persons or property subject to the jurisdiction of the commission, either directly or indirectly, any unlawful rebate, discount, deduction, concession, refund, or remittance from the rates or charges filed and open to public inspection as provided for in the public service laws of this state, prosecute a civil action in the name of the people of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county to col-

lect three times the total sum of such rebates, discounts, deductions, concessions, refunds, or remittances so accepted or received within three years prior to the commencement of such action.

All penalties imposed under the provisions of this section shall be paid to the state treasurer and by him or her deposited in the public service revolving fund. [2007 c 234 § 32; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.220. Prior: 1937 c 169 § 5; RRS § 10447-1.]

**81.28.230 Commission to fix just, reasonable, and compensatory rates.** Whenever the commission finds, after a hearing had upon its own motion or upon complaint, as provided in this chapter, that the rates, fares, or charges demanded, exacted, charged, or collected by any common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service for the transportation of persons or property within the state or in connection therewith, or that the regulations or practices of the common carrier affecting those rates are unjust, unreasonable, unjustly discriminatory, or unduly preferential, or in any way are in violation of the provisions of law, or that the rates, fares, or charges are insufficient to yield a reasonable compensation for the service rendered, the commission shall determine and fix by order the just, reasonable, or sufficient rates, fares, or charges, or the regulations or practices to be thereafter observed and enforced. [2007 c 234 § 33; 1984 c 143 § 9; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.230. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 53, part; RRS § 10389, part.]

**81.28.240 Commission may order improved facilities and service.** Whenever the commission shall find, after such hearing, that the rules, regulations, practices, equipment, appliances, facilities or service of any such common carrier in respect to the transportation of persons or property are unjust, unreasonable, unsafe, improper, inadequate or insufficient, the commission shall determine the just, reasonable, safe, adequate, sufficient and proper rules, regulations, practices, equipment, appliances, facilities or service to be observed, furnished, constructed or enforced and be used in the transportation of persons and property by such common carrier, and fix the same by its order or rule. [1961 c 14 § 81.28.240. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 53, part; RRS § 10389, part.]

**81.28.250 Investigation and determination of interstate rates—Application for federal relief.** The commission shall investigate all interstate, rates, fares, charges, classifications, or rules or practices in relation to the transportation of persons or property within this state, and if the commission determines that these rates, fares, charges, classification, or rules or practices are excessive or discriminatory, or are applied in violation of the act of congress entitled "An act to regulate commerce," approved February 4, 1887, as amended or supplemented, or in conflict with the rulings, orders, or regulations of the applicable federal regulatory agency, the commission shall apply, by petition, to the applicable federal regulatory agency for relief, and may present to the agency all facts concerning violations of the rulings, orders, or regulations of that agency, or violations of the act to regulate commerce as amended or supplemented. [2007 c 234 § 34; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.250. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 58; RRS § 10394.]

**81.28.260 Bicycles as baggage on commercial ferries.**

Bicycles must be transported as baggage for passengers by commercial ferries and are subject to the same liabilities as other baggage. A passenger is not required to crate, cover, or otherwise protect any bicycle. A commercial ferry is not required to transport more than one bicycle for one person. [2007 c 234 § 35; 1961 c 14 § 81.28.260. Prior: 1899 c 15 § 1; RRS § 10495.]

**81.28.270 Limitation of action for collection of transportation charges.**

All actions at law by railroads, common and contract carriers by motor truck and all other public carriers for recovery of their charges, or any part of them, for any common carrier service performed by said carriers, shall be begun within two years from the time the cause of action accrues, and not after. [1961 c 14 § 81.28.270. Prior: 1945 c 117 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 167-1.]

**81.28.280 Reports of wrecks, etc.** Every public service company shall give immediate notice to the commission of every accident resulting in death or injury to any person occurring on its lines or system, in such manner as the commission may prescribe.

Such notice shall not be admitted as evidence or used for any purpose against the company giving it in any action for damages growing out of any matter mentioned in the notice. The commission may require reports to be made by any common carrier of all wrecks, collisions, or derailments occurring on its line. [1961 c 14 § 81.28.280. Prior: 1953 c 104 § 3; prior: 1911 c 117 § 63, part; RRS § 10399, part.]

**81.28.290 Investigation of accidents, wrecks.** The commission shall investigate all accidents that may occur upon the lines of any common carrier resulting in loss of life, to any passenger or employee, and may investigate any and all accidents or wrecks occurring on the line of any common carrier. Notice of the investigation shall be given in all cases for a sufficient length of time to enable the company affected to participate in the hearing and may be given orally or in writing, in such manner as the commission may prescribe.

Such witnesses may be examined as the commission deems necessary and proper to thoroughly ascertain the cause of the accident or wreck and fix the responsibility therefor. The examination and investigation may be conducted by an inspector or deputy inspector, and they may administer oaths, issue subpoenas, and compel the attendance of witnesses, and when the examination is conducted by an inspector or deputy inspector, he shall make a full and complete report thereof to the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.28.290. Prior: 1953 c 104 § 4; prior: 1911 c 117 § 63, part; RRS § 10399, part.]

**81.28.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.**

For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that

such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 187.]

**Chapter 81.29 RCW**  
**COMMON CARRIERS—**  
**LIMITATIONS ON LIABILITY**

Sections

81.29.010	Definition.
81.29.020	Carrier's liability for loss—Exceptions—Tariff schedule— Time for filing claims or instituting suits.
81.29.030	Carrier's right of action against other carrier.
81.29.040	Penalty for violations.
81.29.050	Liability for baggage.

**81.29.010 Definition.** "Common carrier," as used in this chapter, means every common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service. [2007 c 234 § 36; 1961 c 14 § 81.29.010. Prior: 1945 c 203 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 3673-0. Formerly RCW 81.32.010, part.]

**81.29.020 Carrier's liability for loss—Exceptions—Tariff schedule—Time for filing claims or instituting suits.** (1) Any common carrier subject to regulation by the commission as to rates and service, receiving property for transportation wholly within the state of Washington from one point in the state of Washington to another point in the state of Washington, shall issue a receipt or bill of lading and is liable to the lawful holder thereof for any loss, damage, or injury to such property caused by it, or by any common carrier to which such property may be delivered, or over whose line or lines such property may pass when transported on a through bill of lading, and a contract, receipt, rule, regulation, or other limitation of any character, does not exempt such common carrier from the liability imposed; and any such common carrier receiving property for transportation wholly within the state of Washington, or any common carrier delivering property received and transported, is liable to the lawful holder of the receipt or bill of lading, or to any party entitled to recover thereon, whether such receipt or bill of lading has been issued or not, for the full actual loss, damage, or injury to such property caused by it or by any such common carrier to which such property may be delivered, or over whose line or lines such property may pass, when transported on a through bill of lading. Any limitation of liability, limitation of the amount of recovery, or representation or agreement as to value in any such receipt or bill of lading, or in any contract, rule, or regulation, or in any tariff filed with the commission is unlawful and void.

(2) Liability for full actual loss, damage, or injury, notwithstanding any limitation of liability or recovery or representation, agreement, or release as to value, and declaring any such limitation to be unlawful and void, does not apply: First, to baggage carried on commercial ferries or motor vehicles, or commercial ferries or motor vehicles carrying passengers; second, to property, concerning which the carrier is expressly authorized or required by order of the commission, to establish and maintain rates dependent upon the value

declared in writing by the shipper or agreed upon in writing as the released value of the property, in which case such declaration or agreement has no other effect than to limit liability and recovery to an amount not exceeding the value so declared or released; and any tariff schedule that may be filed with the commission pursuant to such order must contain specific reference thereto and may establish rates varying with the value so declared and agreed upon; and the commission may make such order in cases where rates dependent upon and varying with declared or agreed values would, in its opinion, be just and reasonable under the circumstances and conditions surrounding the transportation.

(3) This section does not deprive any holder of a receipt or bill of lading of any remedy or right of action which he or she has under the existing law.

(4) It is unlawful for any receiving or delivering common carrier to provide by rule, contract, regulation, or otherwise a shorter period for the filing of claims than nine months, and for the institution of suits than two years, such period for institution of suits to be computed from the day when notice in writing is given by the carrier to the claimant that the carrier has disallowed the claim or any part or parts thereof specified in the notice.

(5) The liability imposed by this section applies to property reconsigned or diverted in accordance with the applicable tariffs filed with the commission. [2007 c 234 § 37; 1982 c 83 § 1; 1980 c 132 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.29.020. Prior: 1945 c 203 § 2; 1923 c 149 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 3673-1. Formerly RCW 81.32.290 through 81.32.330.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.29.030 Carrier's right of action against other carrier.** The common carrier issuing such receipt or bill of lading, or delivering such property so received and transported, shall be entitled to recover from the common carrier on whose line the loss, damage, or injury shall have been sustained, the amount of such loss, damage, or injury as it may be required to pay to the owners of such property, as may be evidenced by any receipt, judgment or transcript thereof. [1961 c 14 § 81.29.030. Prior: 1945 c 203 § 3; 1923 c 149 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 3673-2. Formerly RCW 81.32.340.]

**81.29.040 Penalty for violations.** Any common carrier subject to the provisions of this chapter, or whenever such common carrier is a corporation, any director or officer thereof, or any receiver, trustee, lessee, agent, or person acting for or employed by such corporation, who, alone, or with any other corporation, company, person, or party, shall wilfully do or cause to be done, or shall willingly suffer or permit to be done, any act, matter, or thing in this chapter prohibited or declared to be unlawful, or who shall aid or abet therein, or shall wilfully omit or fail to do any act, matter or thing in this chapter required to be done, or shall cause or required by this chapter to be done, or not to be so done, or shall aid or abet any such omission or failure, or shall be guilty of any infraction of this chapter for which no penalty is otherwise provided, or who shall aid or abet therein, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall upon conviction thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction, be subject to a fine of not to exceed five thousand dollars for each offense.

[1961 c 14 § 81.29.040. Prior: 1923 c 149 § 3; RRS § 3673-3. Formerly RCW 81.32.350.]

**81.29.050 Liability for baggage.** The liability of any common carrier subject to regulation by the commission for the loss of or damage to any baggage shall be set by the commission. The commission will review the amounts periodically and adjust the rate accordingly. [1991 c 21 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.29.050. Prior: 1945 c 209 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10495-1. Formerly RCW 81.32.360.]

### Chapter 81.36 RCW

## RAILROADS—CORPORATE POWERS AND DUTIES

### Sections

81.36.010	Right of eminent domain.
81.36.020	Right of entry.
81.36.030	Intersections and connections with other roads or canals.
81.36.040	Line or canal across or along watercourses.
81.36.050	Change of grade or location of road or canal.
81.36.060	Extensions, branch lines.
81.36.075	Proceedings prior to March 18, 1909, validated.
81.36.090	Requisites to building extension or branch line.
81.36.100	Bridges over navigable streams.
81.36.120	May own securities of irrigation companies.
81.36.130	May construct and operate ditches and canals.

*Assessment of private car companies for property tax purposes: Chapter 84.16 RCW.*

*Consolidation of competing railroads prohibited: State Constitution Art. 12 § 16.*

*Constitutional limitations, generally: State Constitution Art. 12.*

*Express companies: State Constitution Art. 12 § 21.*

*Rights-of-way over public lands, bridges, etc.: Chapter 79.36 RCW.*

*Taxation of rolling stock: State Constitution Art. 12 § 17.*

**81.36.010 Right of eminent domain.** Every corporation organized for the construction of any railway, macadamized road, plank road, clay road, canal or bridge, is hereby authorized and empowered to appropriate, by condemnation, land and any interest in land or contract right relating thereto, including any leasehold interest therein and any rights-of-way for tunnels beneath the surface of the land, and any elevated rights-of-way above the surface thereof, including lands granted to the state for university, school or other purposes, and also tide and shore lands belonging to the state (but not including harbor areas), which may be necessary for the line of such road, railway or canal, or site of such bridge, not exceeding two hundred feet in width, besides a sufficient quantity thereof for toll houses, workshops, materials for construction, excavations and embankments and a right-of-way over adjacent lands or property, to enable such corporation to construct and prepare its road, railway, canal or bridge, and to make proper drains; and in case of a canal, whenever the court shall deem it necessary, to appropriate a sufficient quantity of land, including lands granted to the state for university, school or other purposes, in addition to that before specified in this section, for the construction and excavation of such canal and of the slopes and bermes thereof, not exceeding one thousand feet in total width; and in case of a railway to appropriate a sufficient quantity of any such land, including lands granted to the state for university, schools and other purposes and also tide and shore lands belonging to the state (but not including harbor areas) in addi-

tion to that before specified in this section, for the necessary side tracks, depots and water stations, and the right to conduct water thereto by aqueduct, and for yards, terminal, transfer and switching grounds, docks and warehouses required for receiving, delivering, storage and handling of freight, and such land, or any interest therein, as may be necessary for the security and safety of the public in the construction, maintenance and operation of its railways; compensation therefor to be made to the owner thereof irrespective of any benefit from any improvement proposed by such corporation, in the manner provided by law: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That if such corporation locate the bed of such railway or canal upon any part of the track now occupied by any established state or county road, said corporation shall be responsible to the state or county in which such state or county road so appropriated is located, for all expenses incurred by the state or county in relocating and opening the part of such road so appropriated. The term land as herein used includes tide and shore lands but not harbor areas; it also includes any interest in land or contract right relating thereto, including any leasehold interest therein. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.010. Prior: 1907 c 244 § 1; 1903 c 180 § 1; 1895 c 80 § 2; 1888 p 63 § 2; Code 1881 § 2456; 1869 p 343 § 2; RRS § 10539.]

**81.36.020 Right of entry.** A corporation organized for the construction of any railway, macadamized road, plank road, clay road, canal or bridge, shall have a right to enter upon any land, real estate or premises, or any of the lands granted to the state of Washington for school, university or other purposes, between the termini thereof, for the purpose of examining, locating and surveying the line of such road or canal, or the site of such bridge, doing no unnecessary damage thereby. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.020. Prior: 1895 c 80 § 1; 1888 p 63 § 1; Code 1881 § 2455; 1869 p 34 § 1; RRS § 10538.]

**81.36.030 Intersections and connections with other roads or canals.** Every corporation formed under the laws of this state for the construction of a railroad shall have the power to cross, intersect, join and unite its railway with any other railway before constructed, at any point in its route, and upon the grounds of such other railway company, with the necessary turn-outs, sidings, switches and other conveniences in furtherance of the objects of its connections, and every corporation whose railway is or shall be hereafter intersected by any new railway shall unite with the corporation owning such new railway in forming such intersections and connections and grant the facilities aforesaid; and if the two corporations cannot agree upon the amount of compensation to be made therefor, or the points and manner of such crossings and connections, the same shall be ascertained and determined in the manner provided by law for the taking of lands and other property which shall be necessary for the construction of its road, and every corporation formed under the laws of this state for the construction of a canal shall have the power to cross and intersect any railway before constructed at any point in its road and upon the grounds of such other railway company, and every corporation whose railway is or shall hereafter be crossed or intersected by any canal shall unite with the corporation owning such canal in forming such crossings and intersections and grant the facilities therefor;

and if the two corporations cannot agree upon the compensation to be made therefor, or the points and manner of such crossings and connections, the same shall be ascertained and determined in the manner provided by law for the taking of lands and other property which shall be necessary for the construction of said canal. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.030. Prior: 1895 c 80 § 3; 1888 p 64 § 3; Code 1881 § 2456 1/2; RRS § 10535.]

**81.36.040 Line or canal across or along water-courses.** Every corporation formed under the laws of this state for the construction of railroads or canals shall possess the power to construct its railway or canal, as the case may be, across, along or upon any river, stream of water, water-courses, plank road, turnpike or canal, which the route of such railway or canal shall intersect or touch; but such corporation shall restore the river, stream, watercourse, plank road or turnpike thus intersected or touched to its former state as near as may be, and pay any damages caused by such construction: PROVIDED, That the construction of any railway or canal by such corporation along, across or upon any of the navigable rivers or waters of this state shall be in such manner as to not interfere with, impede or obstruct the navigation thereof; and all rights, privileges and powers of every description by law conferred upon road or railroad companies are hereby given and granted to canal companies so far as the same may be applicable, and all power and authority possessed by the public or municipal corporations of the state or their local authorities, with reference to road or railroad companies, may be exercised by them with reference to canal companies. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.040. Prior: 1895 c 80 § 4; 1888 p 64 § 3; RRS § 10536.]

**81.36.050 Change of grade or location of road or canal.** Any corporation may change the grade or location of its road, or canal, not departing from the general route specified in the articles of incorporation, for the purpose of avoiding annoyances to public travel or dangerous or deficient curves or grades, or unsafe or unsubstantial grounds or foundation, or for other like reasonable causes, and for the accomplishment of such change, shall have the same right to enter upon, examine, survey and appropriate the necessary lands and materials, as in the original location and construction of such road or canal. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.050. Prior: Code 1881 § 2457; 1869 p 343 § 3; RRS § 10537.]

**81.36.060 Extensions, branch lines.** Any railroad corporation chartered by, or organized under, the laws of the state, or of any state or territory, or under the laws of the United States, and authorized to do business in this state, may extend its railroads from any point named in its charter or articles of incorporation, or may build branch roads either from any point on its line of road or from any point on the line of any other railroad connecting, or to be connected, with its road, the use of which other road between such points and the connection with its own road such corporation shall have secured by lease or agreement for a term of not less than ten years from its date. Before making any such extension or building any such branch road, such corporation shall, by resolution of its directors or trustees, to be entered in the record of its proceedings, designate the route of such proposed extension or branch by indicating the place from and to which

said railroad is to be constructed, and the estimated length of such railroad, and the name of each county in this state through or into which it is constructed or intended to be constructed, and file a copy of such record, certified by the president and secretary, in the office of the secretary of state, who shall endorse thereon the date of the filing thereof and record the same. Thereupon such corporation shall have all the rights and privileges to make such extension or build such branch and receive aid thereto which it would have had if it had been authorized in its charter or articles of incorporation. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.060. Prior: 1890 p 526 § 1; RRS § 10460.]

**81.36.075 Proceedings prior to March 18, 1909, validated.** Any sale or purchase of, and any consolidation by sale, or otherwise, or any lease, or agreement to sell, consolidate with or lease, the whole or any part of any railroad, or the branch lines of any company, whether organized or located within or without this state, with the franchises appertaining thereto, to, from or with any railroad company organized under the laws of the United States or of this state or any other state or territory, or any consolidation between such companies, executed prior to March 18, 1909 by the proper officers of the respective companies, parties to such sale, lease or consolidation or contract, is hereby legalized and made in all respects valid and binding from the date of its execution: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall not apply when the railroads or transportation corporations involved are competing lines. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.075. Prior: 1909 c 196 § 2; RRS § 10464.]

**81.36.090 Requisites to building extension or branch line.** Any railroad corporation chartered by or organized under the laws of the United States, or of any state or territory, whose constructed railroad shall reach or intersect the boundary line of this state at any point, may extend its railroad into this state from any such point or points to any place or places within the state, and may build branches from any point on such extension. Before making such extension or building any such branch road, such corporation shall, by resolution of its directors or trustees, to be entered in the record of its proceedings, designate the route of such proposed extension or branch by indicating the place from and to which such extension or branch is to be constructed, and the estimated length of such extension or branch, and the name of each county in this state through or into which it is constructed or intended to be constructed, and file a copy of such record, certified by the president and secretary, in the office of the secretary of state, who shall endorse thereon the date of filing thereof, and record the same. Thereupon such corporation shall have all the rights and privileges to make such extension or build such branch and receive such aid thereto as it would have had had it been authorized so to do by articles of incorporation duly filed in accordance with the laws of this state. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.090. Prior: 1890 p 527 § 3; RRS § 10466.]

**81.36.100 Bridges over navigable streams.** Any railroad corporation heretofore duly incorporated and organized under the laws of this state or of the territory of Washington, or which may hereafter be duly incorporated and organized

under the laws of this state, or heretofore or hereafter incorporated and organized under the laws of any other state or territory of the United States, and authorized to do business in this state and to construct and operate railroads therein, shall have and hereby is given the right to construct bridges across the navigable streams within this state over which the projected line or lines of railway of said railroad corporations will run: PROVIDED, That said bridges are constructed in good faith for the purpose of being made a part of the constructed line of said railroad: AND PROVIDED, That they shall be constructed in the course of the construction of said railroad or thereafter for the more convenient operation thereof: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That such bridges shall be so constructed as not to interfere with, impede or obstruct the navigation of such streams. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.100. Prior: 1890 p 53 § 1; RRS § 10468.]

*Bridges and trestles across state waterways: RCW 79.110.130, 79.110.140.  
Railroad bridges across navigable streams: RCW 79.110.110.*

**81.36.120 May own securities of irrigation companies.** It shall be lawful for any corporation, whether such corporation is organized under the laws of the territory or state of Washington, the laws of any other state or territory, or the laws of the United States owning, leasing or operating any line or lines of railway within the state of Washington, or which may own, lease or operate in the future any such line or lines of railway within this state, to take, acquire, own, negotiate, sell and guarantee bonds and stocks of companies or corporations which are or may hereafter be organized for the purpose of irrigating and reclaiming lands within this state. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.120. Prior: 1890 p 529 § 1; RRS § 10461.]

**81.36.130 May construct and operate ditches and canals.** It shall be lawful for any such corporation to build, own and operate irrigating ditches and canals in this state for the purpose of irrigating and reclaiming arid lands contiguous to or tributary to such line or lines of railway. [1961 c 14 § 81.36.130. Prior: 1890 p 529 § 2; RRS § 10462.]

### Chapter 81.40 RCW

#### RAILROADS—EMPLOYEE REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS

##### Sections

81.40.010	Full train crews—Passenger—Safety review—Penalty—Enforcement.
81.40.035	Freight train crews.
81.40.060	Purchase of apparel by employees—Penalty.
81.40.080	Employee shelters—Penalty.
81.40.095	Rules and regulations—Railroad employees—Sanitation, shelter.
81.40.110	Flagman must read, write, and speak English.
81.40.130	Cost of records or medical examinations—Unlawful to require employee or applicant to pay—Penalty—Definitions.

*Industrial insurance, employments covered: Chapter 51.12 RCW.*

*Intoxication of railway employees: RCW 9.91.020.*

**81.40.010 Full train crews—Passenger—Safety review—Penalty—Enforcement.** (1) No law or order of any regulatory agency of this state shall prevent a common carrier by railroad from staffing its passenger trains in accordance with collective bargaining agreements or any national

or other applicable settlement of train crew size. In the absence of a collective bargaining agreement or any national or other applicable settlement of train crew size, any common carrier railroad operating a passenger train with a crew of less than two members shall be subject to a safety review by the Washington utilities and transportation commission, which, as to staffing, may issue an order requiring as many as two crew members.

(2) Each train or engine run in violation of this section is a separate offense: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall be construed as applying in the case of disability of one or more of any train crew while out on the road between division terminals, wrecking trains, or to any line, or part of line, where not more than two trains are run in each twenty-four hours.

(3) Any person, corporation, company, or officer of court operating any railroad or railway, or part of any railroad or railway in the state of Washington, and engaged as a common carrier, in the transportation of freight or passengers, who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars for each offense.

(4) It is the duty of the commission to enforce this section. [2003 c 53 § 386; 1992 c 102 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.40.010. Prior: 1911 c 134 § 1; RRS § 10486.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**81.40.035 Freight train crews.** No law or order of any regulatory agency of this state shall prevent a common carrier by railroad from manning its freight trains in accordance with collective bargaining agreements or any national or other settlement of train crew size. The size of passenger train crews shall not be affected by \*this act. [1967 c 2 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 233, approved November 8, 1966).]

**\*Reviser's note:** This act [chapter 2, Laws of 1967], consisting of this section and the repeal of RCW 81.40.020, was Initiative Measure No. 233 adopted by the people November 8, 1966, and declared effective law by proclamation signed by the governor December 8, 1966.

**Repeal of conflicting acts:** "All acts or parts of acts in conflict with or in derogation of this act are hereby repealed insofar as the same are in conflict with, or in derogation of, this act or any part thereof." [1967 c 2 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 233, approved November 8, 1966).]

**81.40.060 Purchase of apparel by employees—Penalty.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any railroad or other transportation company doing business in the state of Washington, or of any officer, agent or servant of such railroad or other transportation company, to require any conductor, engineer, brakeman, fireman, purser, or other employee, as a condition of his or her continued employment, or otherwise to require or compel, or attempt to require or compel, any such employees to purchase of any such railroad or other transportation company or of any particular person, firm or corporation or at any particular place or places, any uniform or other clothing or apparel, required by any such railroad or other transportation company to be used by any such employee in the performance of his or her duties as such; and any such railroad or transportation company or any officer, agent or servant thereof, who shall order or require any conductor, engineer, brakeman, fireman, purser, or other person in its employ, to purchase any uniform or other clothing or apparel as afore-

said, shall be deemed to have required such purchase as a condition of such employee's continued employment.

(2) Any railroad or other transportation company doing business in the state of Washington, or any officer, agent, or servant thereof, violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine in any sum not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail of the county where the misdemeanor is committed, not exceeding six months. [2003 c 53 § 388; 1961 c 14 § 81.40.060. Prior: 1907 c 224 § 1; RRS § 10504.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**81.40.080 Employee shelters—Penalty.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any railroad company, corporation, association or other person owning, controlling or operating any line of railroad in the state of Washington, to build, construct, reconstruct, or repair railroad car equipment or motive power in this state without first erecting and maintaining at every point where five employees or more are regularly employed on such work, a shed over a sufficient portion of the tracks used for such work, so as to provide that all persons regularly employed in such work shall be sheltered and protected from rain and other inclement weather: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall not apply at points where it is necessary to make light repairs only on equipment or motive power, nor to equipment loaded with time or perishable freight, nor to equipment when trains are being held for the movement of equipment, nor to equipment on tracks where trains arrive or depart or are assembled or made up for departure. The term "light repairs," as herein used, shall not include repairs usually made in roundhouse, shop or shed upon well equipped railroads.

(2) Any railroad company or officer or agent thereof, or any other person, who violates this section by failing or refusing to comply with its provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor, and each day's failure or refusal to comply shall be considered a separate offense. [2009 c 549 § 1030; 2003 c 53 § 389; 1961 c 14 § 81.40.080. Prior: 1941 c 238 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-40.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**81.40.095 Rules and regulations—Railroad employees—Sanitation, shelter.** The utilities and transportation commission shall adopt and enforce rules and regulations relating to sanitation and adequate shelter as it affects the health of all railroad employees, including but not limited to railroad workers, maintenance of way employees, highway crossing watchpersons, clerical, platform, freight house and express employees. [2007 c 218 § 82; 1961 c 14 § 81.40.095. Prior: 1957 c 71 § 1. Formerly RCW 81.04.162.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 1.08.130.

**81.40.110 Flagman must read, write, and speak English.** Any railroad operating within this state, shall not employ or use as flagman any person or persons who cannot read, write and speak the English language. [1961 c 14 § 81.40.110. Prior: 1907 c 138 § 1, part; 1899 c 35 § 1, part; RRS § 10480, part.]

(2012 Ed.)

**81.40.130 Cost of records or medical examinations—Unlawful to require employee or applicant to pay—Penalty—Definitions.** (1) It is unlawful for any employer to require any employee or applicant for employment to pay the cost of a medical examination or the cost of furnishing any records required by the employer as a condition of employment.

(2) Any employer who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Employer" means any common carrier by rail, doing business in or operating within the state, and any subsidiary thereof.

(b) "Employee" means every person who may be permitted, required, or directed by any employer, in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit, to engage in any employment. [2003 c 53 § 390; 1961 c 14 § 81.40.130. Prior: 1955 c 228 § 2.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

## Chapter 81.44 RCW COMMON CARRIERS—EQUIPMENT

### Sections

81.44.010	Order for improved equipment and facilities.
81.44.020	Correction of unsafe or defective conditions—Walkways and handrails as unsafe or defective condition, when.
81.44.040	Streetcars.
81.44.070	Duties of inspector of safety appliances.
81.44.085	First aid kits and drinking water—Penalty.
81.44.130	Safeguarding frogs, switches, and guard rails.

*Excessive steam in boilers, penalty:* RCW 70.54.080.

*Safety and health, tunnels and underground construction:* Chapter 49.24 RCW.

*Steam boilers, pressure vessels, construction, inspection, etc.:* Chapter 70.79 RCW.

*Tampering with signals, lights, etc.:* RCW 88.08.020.

**81.44.010 Order for improved equipment and facilities.** Whenever the commission, after a hearing had upon its own motion or upon complaint, finds that any equipment or facility for use by any common carrier in, or in connection with the transportation of persons or property, ought reasonably to be provided, or any repairs or improvements to, or changes in, any theretofore in use ought reasonably to be made, or any additions or changes in construction should reasonably be made thereto, in order to promote the security or convenience of the public or employees, or in order to secure adequate service or facilities for the transportation of passengers or property, the commission may, after a hearing, either on its own motion or after complaint, serve an order directing such repairs, improvements, changes, or additions to be made. [2007 c 234 § 38; 1961 c 14 § 81.44.010. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 64; RRS § 10400.]

**81.44.020 Correction of unsafe or defective conditions—Walkways and handrails as unsafe or defective condition, when.** If upon investigation the commission finds that the equipment, facilities, tracks, bridges, or other structures of any common carrier are defective, and that the oper-

ation thereof is dangerous to the employees of the common carrier or to the public, it shall immediately give notice to the superintendent or other officer of the common carrier of the repairs or reconstruction necessary to place the same in a safe condition. The commission may also prescribe the rate of speed for trains or cars passing over the dangerous or defective track, bridge, or other structure until the repairs or reconstruction required are made, and may also prescribe the time when the repairs or reconstruction must be made; or if, in the commission's opinion, it is needful or proper, the commission may forbid trains or cars to run over any defective track, bridge, or structure until the track, bridge, or structure is repaired and placed in a safe condition. Railroad bridges or trestles without walkways and handrails may be identified as an unsafe or defective condition under this section after a hearing by the commission upon complaint or on its own motion. The commission, in making the determination, shall balance considerations of employee and public safety with the potential for increased danger to the public resulting from adding walkways or handrails to railway bridges. A railroad company and its employees are not liable for injury to or death of any person occurring on or about any railway bridge or trestle if the person was not a railway employee but was a trespasser or was otherwise not authorized to be in the location where the injury or death occurred.

Appeal from or action to review any order of the commission made under this section is not available if the commission finds that immediate compliance is necessary for the protection of employees or the public. [2007 c 234 § 39; 1982 c 141 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 46 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.44.020. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 65; RRS § 10401.]

**81.44.040 Streetcars.** Every streetcar must be equipped with proper and efficient brakes, steps, grab irons or hand rails, fenders or aprons or pilots, and with such other appliances, apparatus, and machinery necessary for the safe operation of the streetcar as the commission may prescribe. [2007 c 234 § 40; 1961 c 14 § 81.44.040. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 66, part; RRS § 10402, part. Formerly RCW 81.44.040 and 81.64.120, part.]

**81.44.070 Duties of inspector of safety appliances.** It shall be the duty of the inspector of tracks, bridges, structures, and equipment, and such deputies as may be appointed, to inspect all equipment, and appliances connected therewith, and all apparatus, tracks, bridges and structures, depots and facilities and accommodations connected therewith, and employees, and make such reports of his inspection to the commission as may be required. He shall, on discovering any defective equipment or appliances connected therewith, rendering the use of such equipment dangerous, immediately report the same to the superintendent of the road on which it is found, and to the proper official at the nearest point where such defect is discovered, describing the defect. Such inspector may, on the discovery of any defect rendering the use of any car, motor or locomotive dangerous, condemn such car, motor or locomotive, and order the same out of service until repaired and put in good working order. He shall, on discovering any track, bridge or structure defective or unsafe in any particular, report such condition to the commission, and, in

addition thereto, report the same to the official in charge of the division of such railroad upon which such defect is found. In case any track, bridge or structure is found so defective as to be dangerous to the employees or public for a train or trains to be operated over the same, the inspector is hereby authorized to condemn such track, bridge or structure and notify the commission and the office in charge of the division of such railroad where such defect is found of his action concerning the same, reporting in detail the defect complained of, and the work or improvements necessary to repair such defect. He shall also report to the commission the violation of any law governing, controlling or affecting the conduct of public service companies in this state, as such companies are defined in this title or in Title 80 RCW.

The inspector, or such deputies as may be appointed, shall have the right and privilege of riding on any locomotive, either on freight or passenger trains, or on the caboose of any freight train, for the purpose of inspecting the track on any railroad in this state: PROVIDED, That the engineer or conductor in charge of any such locomotive or caboose may require such inspector to produce his authority, under the seal of the commission, showing that he is such inspector or deputy inspector.

The inspector, or such deputy inspector or inspectors as may be appointed, shall, when required by the commission, inspect any street railroad, gas plant, electrical plant, water system, telephone line or telegraph line, and upon discovering any defective or dangerous track, bridge, structure, equipment, apparatus, machinery, appliance, facility, instrumentality or building, rendering the use of the same dangerous to the public or to the employees of the company owning or operating the same, report the same to the commission, and to the official in charge of such road, plant, system or line. [1961 c 14 § 81.44.070. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 67; RRS § 10403. Formerly RCW 81.44.070 and 81.44.080.]

**81.44.085 First aid kits and drinking water—Penalty.** (1) Every person operating a common carrier railroad in this state shall equip each locomotive and caboose used in train or yard switching service, and every car used in passenger service with a first aid kit of a type to be approved by the commission, which kit shall be plainly marked and be readily visible and accessible and be maintained in a fully quipped condition: PROVIDED, That such kits shall not be required on equipment used exclusively in yard or switching service where such kits are maintained in the yard or terminal.

(2) Each locomotive and caboose shall also be furnished with sanitary cups and sanitary ice-cooled drinking water.

(3) For the purpose of this section a "locomotive" shall include all railroad engines propelled by any form of energy and used in rail line haul or yard switching service.

(4) Any person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 391; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 7; 1961 c 14 § 81.44.085. Prior: 1951 c 66 §§ 1, 2, 3.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**81.44.130 Safeguarding frogs, switches, and guard rails.** Every railroad and street railroad operating in this state shall so adjust, fill, block and securely guard all frogs, switches and guard rails so as to protect and prevent the feet

of persons being caught therein. [1961 c 14 § 81.44.130. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 68; RRS § 10404.]

**Chapter 81.48 RCW**  
**RAILROADS—OPERATING REQUIREMENTS**  
**AND REGULATIONS**

Sections

81.48.020	Obstructing or delaying train—Penalty.
81.48.030	Regulating speed within cities and towns and at grade crossings—Exception.
81.48.040	Procedure to fix or change speed limits.
81.48.050	Trains to stop at railroad crossings.
81.48.060	Penalty for violation of duty endangering safety.
81.48.070	Cruelty to stock in transit—Penalty.

*Excessive steam in boilers, penalty: RCW 70.54.080.*

*Steam boilers, pressure vessels, construction, inspection, etc.: Chapter 70.79 RCW.*

**81.48.020 Obstructing or delaying train—Penalty.**

Every person who shall wilfully obstruct, hinder or delay the passage of any car lawfully operated upon any railway, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1961 c 14 § 81.48.020. Prior: 1909 c 249 § 278; RRS § 2530.]

**81.48.030 Regulating speed within cities and towns and at grade crossings—Exception.** Except to the extent preempted by federal law, the right to fix and regulate the speed of railway trains within the limits of any city or town other than a first-class city, and at grade crossings as defined in RCW 81.53.010 where such grade crossings are outside the limits of cities and towns, is vested exclusively in the commission: PROVIDED, That RCW 81.48.030 and 81.48.040 shall not apply to street railways which may be operating or hereafter operated within the limits of said cities and towns. [2006 c 70 § 1; 1994 c 81 § 83; 1973 c 115 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 143 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.48.030. Prior: 1943 c 228 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10547-1.]

**81.48.040 Procedure to fix or change speed limits. (1)**

After due investigation, the commission shall make and issue an order fixing and regulating the speed of railway trains within the limits of cities and towns other than first-class cities. Except to the extent preempted by federal law, the speed limit to be fixed by the commission shall be discretionary, and it may fix different rates of speed for different cities and towns, which rates of speed shall be commensurate with the hazard presented and the practical operation of the trains. Except to the extent preempted by federal law, the commission shall also fix and regulate the speed of railway trains at grade crossings as defined in RCW 81.53.010 where such grade crossings are outside the limits of cities and towns when in the judgment of the commission the public safety so requires; such speed limit to be fixed shall be discretionary with the commission and may be different for different grade crossings and shall be commensurate with the hazard presented and the practical operation of trains. The commission shall have the right from time to time, as conditions change, to either increase or decrease speed limits established under RCW 81.48.030 and 81.48.040.

(2) Any speed limit that the commission fixed by order prior to June 7, 2006, but without making a finding permitted

(2012 Ed.)

under P.L. 91-458, Sec. 205 (49 U.S.C. Sec. 20106), has no force or effect.

(3) Before increasing operating speeds, the railroad company, government agency, or jurisdiction that owns or operates the railroad must provide a sixty-day written notice to the commission and to either the governing body of the city or town within which the limit applies or the road authority that has control over the grade crossing at which the limit applies. In the notice, the railroad company, government agency, or jurisdiction must provide the existing timetable speed limits and new passenger and freight speed limits, the milepost limits where the speed increase is to occur, and the federal track class standard to which the track will be maintained. At the end of sixty days, the railroad company, government agency, or jurisdiction may raise the speed limit unless the commission staff, after investigation, finds that a lower limit is necessary to address local conditions consistent with P.L. 91-458, Sec. 205 (49 U.S.C. Sec. 20106). In the event of such a finding by the staff that is not agreed to by the railroad company, government agency, or jurisdiction, the matter shall be scheduled for a hearing before the commission. A railroad company, government agency, or jurisdiction may provide no more than five notices in any sixty-day period without the consent of the commission. The railroad company, government agency, or jurisdiction and the commission may extend the sixty-day period by mutual consent. [2006 c 70 § 2; 1994 c 81 § 84; 1971 ex.s. c 143 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.48.040. Prior: 1943 c 228 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 10547-2.]

**81.48.050 Trains to stop at railroad crossings.** All railroads and street railroads, operating in this state shall cause their trains and cars to come to a full stop at a distance not greater than five hundred feet before crossing the tracks of another railroad crossing at grade, excepting at crossings where there are established signal towers, and signal operators, interlocking plants or gates. [2009 c 549 § 1031; 1961 c 14 § 81.48.050. Prior: 1911 c 117 § 69; RRS § 10405.]

**81.48.060 Penalty for violation of duty endangering safety.** Every engineer, motorman, gripman, conductor, brakeman, switch tender, train dispatcher or other officer, agent or servant of any railway company, who shall be guilty of any wilful violation or omission of his duty as such officer, agent or servant, by which human life or safety shall be endangered, for which no punishment is specially prescribed, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1961 c 14 § 81.48.060. Prior: 1909 c 249 § 277; RRS § 2529.]

**81.48.070 Cruelty to stock in transit—Penalty.** Railroad companies in carrying or transporting animals shall not permit them to be confined in cars for a longer period than forty-eight consecutive hours without unloading them for rest, water and feeding for a period of at least two consecutive hours, unless prevented from so unloading them by unavoidable accident. In estimating such confinement, the time during which the animals have been confined without such rest on connecting roads from which they are received shall be included. Animals so unloaded shall, during such rest, be properly fed, watered by the owner or person having the custody of them, or in case of his default in so doing, then by the railroad company transporting them, at the expense of said

owner or person in custody thereof, and said company shall in such case have a lien upon such animals for food, care and custody furnished, and shall not be liable for such detention of such animals. If animals are transported where they can and do have proper food, water, space and opportunity for rest, the foregoing provision in regard to their being unloaded shall not apply. Violators of this section shall be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars per animal. [1994 c 261 § 19; 1961 c 14 § 81.56.120. Prior: 1893 c 27 § 4; RRS § 10494. Formerly RCW 81.56.120.]

**Finding—Intent—1994 c 261:** See note following RCW 16.52.011.

### Chapter 81.52 RCW RAILROADS—RIGHTS-OF-WAY— SPURS—FENCES

#### Sections

81.52.050 Fences—Crossings—Cattle guards.  
81.52.060 Fences—Liability for injury to stock.  
81.52.070 Fences—Negligence—Evidence.

*Eminent domain by corporations: Chapter 8.20 RCW.*

*Forest protection: Chapter 76.04 RCW.*

*Public lands, rights-of-way, easements, etc.: Chapter 79.36 RCW.*

**81.52.050 Fences—Crossings—Cattle guards.** Every person, company or corporation having the control or management of any railroad shall, outside of any corporate city or town, and outside the limits of any sidetrack or switch, cause to be constructed and maintained in good repair on each side of said railroad, along the line of said right-of-way of such person, company or corporation operating the same, a substantial fence, and at every point where any roadway or other public highway shall cross said railroad, a safe and sufficient crossing must be built and maintained, and on each side of such crossing and at each end of such sidetrack or switch, outside of any incorporated city or town, a sufficient cattle guard: PROVIDED, That any person holding land on both sides of said right-of-way shall have the right to put in gates for his own use at such places as may be convenient. [1961 c 14 § 81.52.050. Prior: 1907 c 88 § 1; RRS § 10507.]

**81.52.060 Fences—Liability for injury to stock.** Every such person, company or corporation owning or operating such railroad shall be liable for all damages sustained in the injury or killing of stock in any manner by reason of the failure of such person, company or corporation, to construct and maintain such fence or such crossing or cattle guard; but when such fences, crossings and guards have been duly made, and shall be kept in good repair, such person, company or corporation shall not be liable for any such damages, unless negligently or unlawfully done. [1961 c 14 § 81.52.060. Prior: 1907 c 88 § 2; RRS § 10508.]

**81.52.070 Fences—Negligence—Evidence.** In all actions against persons, companies or corporations, operating steam or electric railroads in the state of Washington, for injury to stock by collision with moving trains, it is prima facie evidence of negligence on the part of such person, company or corporation, to show that the railroad track was not fenced with a substantial fence or protected by a sufficient

cattle guard at the place where the stock was injured or killed. [1961 c 14 § 81.52.070. Prior: 1907 c 88 § 3; RRS § 10509.]

### Chapter 81.53 RCW RAILROADS—CROSSINGS

#### Sections

81.53.010 Definitions.  
81.53.020 Grade separation required where practicable.  
81.53.030 Petition for crossing—Hearing—Order.  
81.53.040 Supplemental hearing—Change of route.  
81.53.050 Requirements of order on change of route.  
81.53.060 Petition for alteration of crossing—Closure of grade crossing without hearing.  
81.53.070 Hearing.  
81.53.080 Restrictions on structures, railway equipment, in proximity of crossings—Minimum clearance for under-crossings.  
81.53.090 Duty to maintain crossings.  
81.53.100 Cost when railroad crosses highway.  
81.53.110 Cost when highway crosses railroad.  
81.53.120 Cost when railroad crosses railroad.  
81.53.130 Apportionment of cost.  
81.53.140 Time for performance.  
81.53.150 Practice and procedure.  
81.53.160 Service of process.  
81.53.170 Judicial review.  
81.53.180 Eminent domain.  
81.53.190 Abatement of illegal crossings.  
81.53.200 Mandamus to compel performance.  
81.53.210 Penalty.  
81.53.220 Obstructions in highways.  
81.53.230 No new right of action conferred.  
81.53.240 Scope of chapter.  
81.53.250 Employment of experts.  
81.53.261 Crossing signals, warning devices—Petition—Hearing—Order—Costs apportionment—Records not evidence for actions—Appeal.  
81.53.271 Crossing signals, warning devices—Petition contents—Apportionment of installation and maintenance costs.  
81.53.275 Crossing signals, warning devices—Apportionment when funds not available from grade crossing protective fund.  
81.53.281 Crossing signals, warning devices—Grade crossing protective fund—Created—Transfer of funds—Allocation of costs—Procedure—Federal funding.  
81.53.291 Crossing signals, warning devices—Operational scope—Election by first-class cities—Procedure.  
81.53.295 Crossing signals, warning devices, etc.—Federal funds used to pay installation costs—Grade crossing protective fund—State and local authorities to pay remaining installation costs—Railroad to pay maintenance costs.  
81.53.400 Traffic control devices during construction, repair, etc. of crossing or overpass—Required.  
81.53.410 Traffic control devices during construction, repair, etc. of crossing or overpass—Standards and conditions.  
81.53.420 Traffic control devices during construction, repair, etc. of crossing or overpass—Rules.  
81.53.900 Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 189.

*Counties, signs, signals, etc.: RCW 36.86.040.*

*Railroad intersections, crossings, etc.: State Constitution Art. 12 § 13.*

*Traffic devices required by utilities and transportation commission: RCW 47.36.050.*

*Underpasses, overpasses constructed with federal funds, maintenance cost apportionment for: RCW 47.28.150.*

**81.53.010 Definitions.** The term "commission," when used in this chapter, means the utilities and transportation commission of Washington.

The term "highway," when used in this chapter, includes all state and county roads, streets, alleys, avenues, boulevards, parkways and other public places actually open and in use, or to be opened and used, for travel by the public.

The term "railroad," when used in this chapter, means every railroad, including interurban and suburban electric railroads, by whatsoever power operated, for the public use in

the conveyance of persons or property for hire, with all bridges, ferries, tunnels, equipment, switches, spurs, sidings, tracks, stations and terminal facilities of every kind, used, operated, controlled, managed, or owned by or in connection therewith. The said term shall also include every logging and other industrial railway owned or operated primarily for the purpose of carrying the property of its owners or operators or of a limited class of persons, with all tracks, spurs and sidings used in connection therewith. The said term shall not include street railways operating within the limits of any incorporated city or town.

The term "railroad company," when used in this chapter, includes every corporation, company, association, joint stock association, partnership or person, its, their or his lessees, trustees or receivers appointed by any court whatsoever, owning, operating, controlling or managing any railroad, as that term is defined in this section.

The term "over-crossing," when used in this chapter, means any point or place where a highway crosses a railroad by passing above the same.

The term "under-crossing," when used in this chapter, means any point or place where a highway crosses a railroad by passing under the same.

The term "over-crossing" or "under-crossing," shall also mean any point or place where one railroad crosses another railroad not at grade.

The term "grade crossing," when used in this chapter, means any point or place where a railroad crosses a highway or a highway crosses a railroad or one railroad crosses another, at a common grade. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.010. Prior: 1959 c 283 § 2; prior: (i) 1913 c 30 § 1; RRS § 10511. (ii) 1941 c 161 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10511-1. Formerly RCW 81.52.080, part.]

**81.53.020 Grade separation required where practicable.** All railroads and extensions of railroads hereafter constructed shall cross existing railroads and highways by passing either over or under the same, when practicable, and shall in no instance cross any railroad or highway at grade without authority first being obtained from the commission to do so. All highways and extensions of highways hereafter laid out and constructed shall cross existing railroads by passing either over or under the same, when practicable, and shall in no instance cross any railroad at grade without authority first being obtained from the commission to do so: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be construed to prohibit a railroad company from constructing tracks at grade across other tracks owned or operated by it within established yard limits. In determining whether a separation of grades is practicable, the commission shall take into consideration the amount and character of travel on the railroad and on the highway; the grade and alignment of the railroad and the highway; the cost of separating grades; the topography of the country, and all other circumstances and conditions naturally involved in such an inquiry. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.020. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 2; RRS § 10512. Formerly RCW 81.52.090.]

**81.53.030 Petition for crossing—Hearing—Order.** Whenever a railroad company desires to cross a highway or railroad at grade, it shall file a written petition with the commission setting forth the reasons why the crossing cannot be

made either above or below grade. Whenever the legislative authority of a county, or the municipal authorities of a city, or the state officers authorized to lay out and construct state roads, or the state parks and recreation commission, desire to extend a highway across a railroad at grade, they shall file a written petition with the commission, setting forth the reasons why the crossing cannot be made either above or below grade. Upon receiving the petition the commission shall immediately investigate it, giving at least ten days' notice to the railroad company and the county or city affected thereby, of the time and place of the investigation, to the end that all parties interested may be present and heard. If the highway involved is a state road or parkway, the secretary of transportation or the state parks and recreation commission shall be notified of the time and place of hearing. The evidence introduced shall be reduced to writing and be filed by the commission. If it finds that it is not practicable to cross the railroad or highway either above or below grade, the commission shall enter a written order in the cause, either granting or denying the right to construct a grade crossing at the point in question. The commission may provide in the order authorizing a grade crossing, or at any subsequent time, that the railroad company shall install and maintain proper signals, warnings, flagmen, interlocking devices, or other devices or means to secure the safety of the public and its employees. In respect to existing railroad grade crossings over highways the construction of which grade crossings was accomplished other than under a commission order authorizing it, the commission may in any event require the railroad company to install and maintain, at or near each crossing, on both sides of it, a sign known as the sawbuck crossing sign with the lettering "Railroad Crossing" inscribed thereon with a suitable inscription indicating the number of tracks. The sign shall be of standard design conforming to specifications furnished by the Washington state department of transportation. [1984 c 7 § 373; 1961 c 14 § 81.53.030. Prior: 1959 c 283 § 1; 1955 c 310 § 3; prior: 1937 c 22 § 1, part; 1913 c 30 § 3, part; RRS § 10513, part. Formerly RCW 81.52.100.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.040 Supplemental hearing—Change of route.** If the commission finds that it is impracticable to construct an over-crossing or under-crossing on the established or proposed highway, and shall find that by deflecting the established or proposed highway a practicable and feasible over-crossing or under-crossing or a safer grade crossing can be provided, it shall continue the hearing and hold a supplemental hearing thereon. At least ten days' notice of the time and place of the supplemental hearing shall be given to all landowners that may be affected by the proposed change in location of the highways. At the supplemental hearing the commission shall inquire into the propriety and necessity of changing and deflecting the highway as proposed. If the proposed change in route of the highway involves the abandonment and vacation of a portion of an established highway, the owners of land contiguous to the portion of the highway to be vacated shall, in like manner, be notified of the time and place of the supplemental hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the commission shall enter its findings in writing, and shall determine the location of the crossing which may be constructed, and whether it shall be an under-crossing, over-

crossing or grade crossing, and shall determine whether or not any proposed change in the route of an existing highway, or the abandonment of a portion thereof is advisable or necessary to secure an over-crossing, under-crossing, or safer grade crossing. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.040. Prior: 1955 c 310 § 4; prior: 1937 c 22 § 1, part; 1913 c 30 § 3, part; RRS § 10513, part. Formerly RCW 81.52.110.]

**81.53.050 Requirements of order on change of route.**

If the commission finds and determines that a change in route of an existing highway, or vacation of a portion thereof, is necessary or advisable, it shall further find and determine what private property or property rights it is necessary to take, damage, or injuriously affect for the purpose of constructing the highway along a new route, and what private property or property rights, will be affected by the proposed vacation of a portion of an existing highway. The property and property rights found necessary to be taken, damaged, or affected shall be described in the findings with reasonable accuracy. In any action brought to acquire the right to take or damage any such property or property rights, the findings of the commission shall be conclusive as to the necessity therefor. A copy of the findings shall be served upon all parties to the cause. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.050. Prior: 1955 c 310 § 5; 1937 c 22 § 1, part; 1913 c 30 § 3, part; RRS § 10513, part. Formerly RCW 81.52.120.]

**81.53.060 Petition for alteration of crossing—Closure of grade crossing without hearing.** The mayor and city council, or other governing body of any city or town, or the legislative authority of any county within which there exists any under-crossing, over-crossing, or grade crossing, or where any street or highway is proposed to be located or established across any railroad, or any railroad company whose road is crossed by any highway, may file with the commission their or its petition in writing, alleging that the public safety requires the establishment of an under-crossing or over-crossing, or an alteration in the method and manner of an existing crossing and its approaches, or in the style and nature of construction of an existing over-crossing, under-crossing, or grade crossing, or a change in the location of an existing highway or crossing, the closing or discontinuance of an existing highway crossing, and the diversion of travel thereon to another highway or crossing, or if not practicable, to change the crossing from grade or to close and discontinue the crossing, the opening of an additional crossing for the partial diversion of travel, and praying that this relief may be ordered. If the existing or proposed crossing is on a state road, highway, or parkway, the petition may be filed by the secretary of transportation or the state parks and recreation commission. If the existing crossing is adjacent to a project funded in part or in full by the state of Washington and managed by the department of transportation, and closure of the crossing is part of the project, the petition may be filed by the secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee, or if the petition is filed by another entity, the secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee shall intervene as a party in any hearing at which the closure of the crossing is contested. If the department of transportation is not a lead agency under chapter 43.21C RCW, a lead agency shall also intervene as a party in any hearing at which the closure of the

crossing is contested. Upon the petition being filed, the commission shall fix a time and place for hearing the petition and shall give not less than twenty days' notice to the petitioner, the railroad company, and the municipality or county in which the crossing is situated. If the highway involved is a state highway or parkway, or if the crossing is adjacent to a project funded in part or in full by the state of Washington and managed by the department of transportation and closure of the crossing is part of the project, like notice shall be given to the secretary of transportation or the state parks and recreation commission. If the change petitioned for requires that private lands, property, or property rights be taken, damaged, or injuriously affected to open up a new route for the highway, or requires that any portion of any existing highway be vacated and abandoned, twenty days' notice of the hearing shall be given to the owner or owners of the private lands, property, and property rights which it is necessary to take, damage, or injuriously affect, and to the owner or owners of the private lands, property, or property rights that will be affected by the proposed vacation and abandonment of the existing highway. The commission shall also cause notice of the hearing to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the community where the crossing is situated, which publication shall appear at least two days before the date of hearing. At the time and place fixed in the notice, all persons and parties interested are entitled to be heard and introduce evidence. In the case of a petition for closure of a grade crossing the commission may order the grade crossing closed without hearing where: (1) Notice of the filing of the petition is posted at, or as near as practical to, the crossing; (2) notice of the filing of the petition is published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the community or area where the crossing is situated, which publication shall appear within the same week that the notice referred to in subsection (1) of this section is posted; and (3) no objections are received by the commission within twenty days from the date of the publication of the notice. [2010 c 82 § 1; 1984 c 7 § 374; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 81.53.060. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 2, part; 1921 c 138 § 1, part; 1913 c 30 § 4, part; RRS § 10514, part. Formerly RCW 81.52.130.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.070 Hearing.** At the conclusion of the hearing the commission shall make and file its written findings of fact concerning the matters inquired into in like manner as provided for findings of fact upon petition for new crossings. The commission shall also enter its order based upon said findings of fact, which shall specify whether the highway shall continue at grade or whether it shall be changed to cross over or under the railroad in its existing location or at some other point, and whether an over-crossing or under-crossing shall be established at the proposed location of any street or highway or at some other point, or whether the style and nature of construction of an existing crossing shall be changed, or whether said highway shall be closed and travel thereon diverted to another channel, or any other change that the commission may find advisable or necessary: PROVIDED, That in an emergency where a highway is relocated to avoid a grade crossing, or a new crossing is constructed in the vicinity of an existing crossing in the interest of public safety, the commission may order such existing crossing

closed without notice or hearing as specified herein. In case the order made requires that private lands, property, or property rights be taken, damaged or injuriously affected, the right to take, damage or injuriously affect the same shall be acquired as hereinafter provided.

Any petition herein authorized may be filed by the commission on its own motion, and proceedings thereon shall be the same as herein provided for the hearing and determination of a petition filed by a railroad company. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.070. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 2, part; 1921 c 138 § 1, part; 1913 c 30 § 4, part; RRS § 10514, part. Formerly RCW 81.52.140.]

**81.53.080 Restrictions on structures, railway equipment, in proximity of crossings—Minimum clearance for under-crossings.** After February 24, 1937, no building, loading platform, or other structure which will tend to obstruct the vision of travelers on a highway or parkway, of approaching railway traffic, shall be erected or placed on railroad or public highway rights-of-way within a distance of one hundred feet of any grade crossing located outside the corporate limits of any city or town unless authorized by the commission, and no trains, railway cars or equipment shall be spotted less than one hundred feet from any grade crossing within or without the corporate limits of any city or town except to serve station facilities and existing facilities of industries.

The commission shall have the power to specify the minimum vertical and horizontal clearance of under-crossings constructed, repaired or reconstructed after February 24, 1937, except as to primary state highways. [1969 ex.s. c 210 § 9; 1961 c 14 § 81.53.080. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 2, part; 1921 c 138 § 1, part; 1913 c 30 § 4, part; RRS § 10514, part. Formerly RCW 81.52.150.]

**81.53.090 Duty to maintain crossings.** When a highway crosses a railroad by an over-crossing or under-crossing, the framework and abutments of the over-crossing or under-crossing, as the case may be, shall be maintained and kept in repair by the railroad company, and the roadway thereover or thereunder and approaches thereto shall be maintained and kept in repair by the county or municipality in which the same are situated, or if the highway is a state road or parkway, the roadway over or under the railroad shall be maintained and kept in repair as provided by law for the maintenance and repair of state roads and parkways.

The railings of over-crossings shall be considered a part of the roadway. Whenever a highway intersects a railroad at common grade, the roadway approaches within one foot of the outside of either rail shall be maintained and kept in repair by highway authority, and the planking or other materials between the rails and for one foot on the outside thereof shall be installed and maintained by the railroad company. At crossings involving more than one track, maintenance by the railroad company shall include that portion of the crossing between and for one foot on the outside of each outside rail. The minimum length of such planking or other materials shall be twenty feet on installation or repairs made after February 24, 1937. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.090. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 3; 1913 c 30 § 5; RRS § 10515. Formerly RCW 81.52.160.]

(2012 Ed.)

**81.53.100 Cost when railroad crosses highway.**

Whenever, under the provisions of this chapter, new railroads are constructed across existing highways, or highway changes are made either for the purpose of avoiding grade crossings on such new railroads, or for the purpose of crossing at a safer and more accessible point than otherwise available, the entire expense of crossing above or below the grade of the existing highway, or changing the route thereof, for the purpose mentioned in this section, shall be paid by the railroad company. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.100. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 4A; 1925 ex.s. c 73 § 1A; 1921 c 138 § 2A; 1913 c 30 § 6A; RRS § 10516A. Formerly RCW 81.52.170.]

**81.53.110 Cost when highway crosses railroad.**

Whenever, under the provisions of this chapter, a new highway is constructed across a railroad, or an existing grade crossing is eliminated or changed (or the style or nature of construction of an existing crossing is changed), the entire expense of constructing a new grade crossing, an overcrossing, under-crossing, or safer grade crossing, or changing the nature and style of construction of an existing crossing, including the expense of constructing approaches to such crossing and the expense of securing rights-of-way for such approaches, as the case may be, shall be apportioned by the commission between the railroad, municipality or county affected, or if the highway is a state road or parkway, between the railroad and the state, in such manner as justice may require, regard being had for all facts relating to the establishment, reason for, and construction of said improvement. If the highway involved is a state road or parkway, the amount not apportioned to the railroad company shall be paid as provided by law for constructing such state road or parkway. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.110. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 4B; 1925 ex.s. c 73 § 1B; 1921 c 138 § 2B; 1913 c 30 § 6B; RRS § 10516B. Formerly RCW 81.52.180.]

**81.53.120 Cost when railroad crosses railroad.**

Whenever two or more lines of railroad owned or operated by different companies cross a highway, or each other, by an over-crossing, under-crossing, or grade crossing required or permitted by this chapter or by an order of the commission, the portion of the expense of making such crossing not chargeable to any municipality, county or to the state, and the expense of constructing and maintaining such signals, warnings, flagmen, interlocking devices, or other devices or means to secure the safety of the public and the employees of the railroad company, as the commission may require to be constructed and maintained, shall be apportioned between said railroad companies by the commission in such manner as justice may require, regard being had for all facts relating to the establishment, reason for, and construction of said improvement, unless said companies shall mutually agree upon an apportionment. If it becomes necessary for the commission to make an apportionment between the railroad companies, a hearing for that purpose shall be held, at least ten days' notice of which shall be given. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.120. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 4C; 1925 ex.s. c 73 § 1C; 1921 c 138 § 2C; 1913 c 30 § 6C; RRS § 10516C. Formerly RCW 81.52.190.]

**81.53.130 Apportionment of cost.** In the construction of new railroads across existing highways, the railroads shall

do or cause to be done all the work of constructing the crossings and road changes that may be required, and shall acquire and furnish whatever property or easements may be necessary, and shall pay, as provided in RCW 81.53.100 through 81.53.120, the entire expense of such work including all compensation or damages for property or property rights taken, damaged or injuriously affected. In all other cases the construction work may be apportioned by the commission between the parties who may be required to contribute to the cost thereof as the parties may agree, or as the commission may consider advisable. All work within the limits of railroad rights-of-way shall in every case be done by the railroad company owning or operating the same. The cost of acquiring additional lands, rights or easements to provide for the change of existing crossings shall, unless the parties otherwise agree, in the first instance be paid by the municipality or county within which the crossing is located; or in the case of a state road or parkway, shall be paid in the manner provided by law for paying the cost of acquiring lands, rights or easements for the construction of state roads or parkways. The expense accruing on account of property taken or damaged shall be divided and paid in the manner provided for dividing and paying other costs of construction. Upon the completion of the work and its approval by the commission, an accounting shall be had, and if it shall appear that any party has expended more than its proportion of the total cost, a settlement shall be forthwith made. If the parties shall be unable to agree upon a settlement, the commission shall arbitrate, adjust and settle the account after notice to the parties. In the event of failure and refusal of any party to pay its proportion of the expense, the sum with interest from the date of the settlement may be recovered in a civil action by the party entitled thereto. In cases where the commission has settled the account, the finding of the commission as to the amount due shall be conclusive in any civil action brought to recover the same if such finding has not been reviewed or appealed from as herein provided, and the time for review or appeal has expired. If any party shall seek review of any finding or order of the commission apportioning the cost between the parties liable therefor, the superior court, the court of appeals, or the supreme court, as the case may be, shall cause judgment to be entered in such review proceedings for such sum or sums as may be found lawfully or justly due by one party to another. [1988 c 202 § 65; 1971 c 81 § 144; 1961 c 14 § 81.53.130. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 5; 1913 c 30 § 7; RRS § 10517. Formerly RCW 81.52.200.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.140 Time for performance.** The commission, in any order requiring work to be done, shall have power to fix the time within which the same shall be performed and completed: PROVIDED, That if any party having a duty to perform within a fixed time under any order of the commission shall make it appear to the commission that the order cannot reasonably be complied with within the time fixed by reason either of facts arising after the entry of the order or of facts existing prior to the entry thereof that were not presented, and with reasonable diligence could not have been sooner presented to the commission, such party shall be entitled to a reasonable extension of time within which to perform the work. An order of the commission refusing to grant an extension of

time may be reviewed as provided for the review of other orders of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.140. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 10; RRS § 10520. Formerly RCW 81.52.210.]

**81.53.150 Practice and procedure.** Modes of procedure under this chapter, unless otherwise provided in this chapter, shall be as provided in other provisions of this title. The commission is hereby given power to adopt rules to govern its proceedings and to regulate the mode and manner of all investigations and hearings under this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.150. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 11; RRS § 10521. Formerly RCW 81.52.220.]

**81.53.160 Service of process.** All notices required to be served by this chapter shall be in writing, and shall briefly state the nature of the matter to be inquired into and investigated. Notices may be served in the manner provided by law for the service of summons in civil cases, or by registered United States mail. When service is made by registered mail, the receipt of the receiving post office shall be sufficient proof of service. When, under the provisions of this chapter, it is necessary to serve notice of hearings before the commission on owners of private lands, property, or property rights, and such owners cannot be found, service may be made by publication in the manner provided by law for the publication of summons in civil actions, except that publication need be made but once each week for three consecutive weeks, and the hearing may be held at any time after the expiration of thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.160. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 12; RRS § 10522. Formerly RCW 81.52.230.]

**81.53.170 Judicial review.** Upon the petition of any party to a proceeding before the commission, any finding or findings, or order or orders of the commission, made under color of authority of this chapter, except as otherwise provided, may be reviewed in the superior court of the county wherein the crossing is situated, and the reasonableness and lawfulness of such finding or findings, order or orders inquired into and determined, as provided in this title for the review of the commission's orders generally. Appellate review of the judgment of the superior court may be sought in like manner as provided in said utilities and transportation commission law for review by the supreme court or the court of appeals. [1988 c 202 § 66; 1971 c 81 § 145; 1961 c 14 § 81.53.170. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 6; 1913 c 30 § 13; RRS § 10523. Formerly RCW 81.52.240.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.180 Eminent domain.** Whenever to carry out any work undertaken under this chapter it is necessary to take, damage, or injuriously affect any private lands, property, or property rights, the right so to take, damage, or injuriously affect the same may be acquired by condemnation as hereinafter provided:

(1) In cases where new railroads are constructed and laid out by railroad company authorized to exercise the power of eminent domain, the right to take, damage, or injuriously affect private lands, property, or property rights shall be acquired by the railroad company by a condemnation proceedings brought in its own name and prosecuted as provided

by law for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by railroad companies, and the right of eminent domain is hereby conferred on railroad companies for the purpose of carrying out the requirements of this chapter or the requirements of any order of the commission.

(2) In cases where it is necessary to take, damage, or injuriously affect private lands, property, or property rights to permit the opening of a new highway or highway crossing across a railroad, the right to take, damage, or injuriously affect such lands, property, or property rights shall be acquired by the municipality or county petitioning for such new crossing by a condemnation proceeding brought in the name of such municipality or county as provided by law for the exercise of the power of eminent domain by such municipality or county. If the highway involved be a state highway, then the right to take, damage, or injuriously affect private lands, property, or property rights shall be acquired by a condemnation proceeding prosecuted under the laws relative to the exercise of the power of eminent domain in aid of such state road.

(3) In cases where the commission orders changes in existing crossings to secure an under-crossing, over-crossing, or safer grade crossing, and it is necessary to take, damage, or injuriously affect private lands, property, or property rights to execute the work, the right to take, damage, or injuriously affect such lands, property, or property rights shall be acquired in a condemnation proceeding prosecuted in the name of the state of Washington by the attorney general under the laws relating to the exercise of the power of eminent domain by cities of the first class for street and highway purposes: PROVIDED, That in the cases mentioned in this subdivision the full value of any lands taken shall be awarded, together with damages, if any accruing to the remainder of the land not taken by reason of the severance of the part taken, but in computing the damages to the remainder, if any, the jury shall offset against such damages, if any, the special benefits, if any, accruing to such remainder by reason of the proposed improvement. The right of eminent domain for the purposes mentioned in this subdivision is hereby granted. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.180. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 15; RRS § 10525. Formerly RCW 81.52.250.]

**81.53.190 Abatement of illegal crossings.** If an under-crossing, over-crossing, or grade crossing is constructed, maintained, or operated, or is about to be constructed, operated, or maintained, in violation of the provisions of this chapter, or in violation of any order of the commission, such construction, operation, or maintenance may be enjoined, or may be abated, as provided by law for the abatement of nuisances. Suits to enjoin or abate may be brought by the attorney general, or by the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the unauthorized crossing is located. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.190. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 16; RRS § 10526. Formerly RCW 81.52.260.]

**81.53.200 Mandamus to compel performance.** If any railroad company, county, municipality, or officers thereof, or other person, shall fail, neglect, or refuse to perform or discharge any duty required of it or them under this chapter or any order of the commission, the performance of such duty may be compelled by mandamus, or other appropriate pro-

ceeding, prosecuted by the attorney general upon request of the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.200. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 17; RRS § 10527. Formerly RCW 81.52.270.]

**81.53.210 Penalty.** If any railroad company shall fail or neglect to obey, comply with, or carry out the requirements of this chapter, or any order of the commission made under it, such company shall be liable to a penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars, such penalty to be recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the state of Washington by the attorney general. All penalties recovered shall be paid into the state treasury. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.210. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 18; RRS § 10528. Formerly RCW 81.52.280.]

**81.53.220 Obstructions in highways.** Whenever, to carry out any work ordered under RCW 81.53.010 through 81.53.281 and 81.54.010, it is necessary to erect and maintain posts, piers, or abutments in a highway, the right and authority to erect and maintain the same is hereby granted: PROVIDED, That, in case of a state highway the same shall be placed only at such points on such state highway as may be approved by the state secretary of transportation and fixed after such approval by order of the commission. [1983 c 3 § 210; 1961 c 14 § 81.53.220. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 179 § 2; 1913 c 30 § 19; RRS § 10529. Formerly RCW 81.52.290.]

**81.53.230 No new right of action conferred.** Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as conferring a right of action for the abandonment or vacation of any existing highway or portion thereof in cases where no right of action exists independent of this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.230. Prior: 1913 c 30 § 20; RRS § 10530.]

**81.53.240 Scope of chapter.** Except to the extent necessary to permit participation by first-class cities in the grade crossing protective fund, when an election to participate is made as provided in RCW 81.53.261 through 81.53.291, chapter 81.53 RCW is not operative within the limits of first-class cities, and does not apply to street railway lines operating on or across any street, alley, or other public place within the limits of any city, except that a streetcar line outside of cities of the first class shall not cross a railroad at grade without express authority from the commission. The commission may not change the location of a state highway without the approval of the secretary of transportation, or the location of any crossing thereon adopted or approved by the department of transportation, or grant a railroad authority to cross a state highway at grade without the consent of the secretary of transportation. [1984 c 7 § 375; 1969 c 134 § 8; 1961 c 14 § 81.53.240. Prior: (i) 1953 c 95 § 15; 1925 ex.s. c 179 § 3; 1913 c 30 § 21; RRS § 10531. (ii) 1959 c 283 § 7. Formerly RCW 81.52.300 and 81.52.380.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.250 Employment of experts.** The commission may employ temporarily such experts, engineers, and inspectors as may be necessary to supervise changes in existing crossings undertaken under this chapter; the expense thereof shall be paid by the railroad upon the request and certificate of the commission, said expense to be included in the cost of

the particular change of grade on account of which it is incurred, and apportioned as provided in this chapter.

The commission may also employ such engineers and other persons as permanent employees as may be necessary to properly administer this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 81.53.250. Prior: 1937 c 22 § 7; 1913 c 30 § 14; RRS § 10524. Formerly RCW 81.52.330.]

**81.53.261 Crossing signals, warning devices—Petition—Hearing—Order—Costs apportionment—Records not evidence for actions—Appeal.** Whenever the secretary of transportation or the governing body of any city, town, or county, or any railroad company whose road is crossed by any highway, shall deem that the public safety requires signals or other warning devices, other than sawbuck signs, at any crossing of a railroad at common grade by any state, city, town, or county highway, road, street, alley, avenue, boulevard, parkway, or other public place actually open and in use or to be opened and used for travel by the public, he or it shall file with the utilities and transportation commission a petition in writing, alleging that the public safety requires the installation of specified signals or other warning devices at such crossing or specified changes in the method and manner of existing crossing warning devices. Upon receiving such petition, the commission shall promptly set the matter for hearing, giving at least twenty days notice to the railroad company or companies and the county or municipality affected thereby, or the secretary of transportation in the case of a state highway, of the time and place of such hearing. At the time and place fixed in the notice, all persons and parties interested shall be entitled to be heard and introduce evidence, which shall be reduced to writing and filed by the commission. If the commission shall determine from the evidence that public safety does not require the installation of the signal, other warning device or change in the existing warning device specified in the petition, it shall make determinations to that effect and enter an order denying said petition in toto. If the commission shall determine from the evidence that public safety requires the installation of such signals or other warning devices at such crossing or such change in the existing warning devices at said crossing, it shall make determinations to that effect and enter an order directing the installation of such signals or other warning devices or directing that such changes shall be made in existing warning devices. The commission shall also at said hearing apportion the entire cost of installation and maintenance of such signals or other warning devices, other than sawbuck signs, as provided in RCW 81.53.271: PROVIDED, That upon agreement by all parties to waive hearing, the commission shall forthwith enter its order.

No railroad shall be required to install any such signal or other warning device until the public body involved has either paid or executed its promise to pay to the railroad its portion of the estimated cost thereof.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to foreclose the right of the interested parties to enter into an agreement, franchise, or permit arrangement providing for the installation of signals or other warning devices at any such crossing or for the apportionment of the cost of installation and maintenance thereof, or compliance with an existing agreement, franchise, or permit arrangement providing for the same.

The hearing and determinations authorized by this section may be instituted by the commission on its own motion, and the proceedings, hearing, and consequences thereof shall be the same as for the hearing and determination of any petition authorized by this section.

No part of the record, or a copy thereof, of the hearing and determination provided for in this section and no finding, conclusion, or order made pursuant thereto shall be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident at or in the vicinity of any crossing prior to installation of signals or other warning devices pursuant to an order of the commission as a result of any such investigation.

Any order entered by the utilities and transportation commission under this section shall be subject to review, supersedeas and appeal as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to relieve any railroad from liability on account of failure to provide adequate protective devices at any such crossing. [2007 c 234 § 99; 1982 c 94 § 1; 1969 c 134 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.271 Crossing signals, warning devices—Petition contents—Apportionment of installation and maintenance costs.** The petition shall set forth by description the location of the crossing or crossings, the type of signal or other warning device to be installed, the necessity from the standpoint of public safety for such installation, the approximate cost of installation and related work, and the approximate annual cost of maintenance. If the commission directs the installation of a grade crossing protective device, and a federal-aid funding program is available to participate in the costs of such installation, installation and maintenance costs of the device shall be apportioned in accordance with the provisions of RCW 81.53.295. Otherwise if installation is directed by the commission, it shall apportion the cost of installation and maintenance as provided in this section:

(1) Installation: (a) The first twenty thousand dollars shall be apportioned to the grade crossing protective fund created by RCW 81.53.281; and

(b) The remainder of the cost shall be apportioned as follows:

(i) Sixty percent to the grade crossing protective fund, created by RCW 81.53.281;

(ii) Thirty percent to the city, town, county, or state; and

(iii) Ten percent to the railroad:

PROVIDED, That, if the proposed installation is located at a new crossing requested by a city, town, county, or state, forty percent of the cost shall be apportioned to the city, town, county, or state, and none to the railroad. If the proposed installation is located at a new crossing requested by a railroad, then the entire cost shall be apportioned to the railroad. In the event the city, town, county, or state should concurrently petition the commission and secure an order authorizing the closure of an existing crossing or crossings in proximity to the crossing for which installation of signals or other warning devices shall have been directed, the apportionment to the petitioning city, town, county, or state shall be reduced by ten percent of the total cost for each crossing ordered closed and the apportionment from the grade crossing protective fund increased accordingly. This exception shall not be construed to permit a charge to the grade crossing protective

fund in an amount greater than the total cost otherwise apportionable to the city, town, county, or state. No reduction shall be applied where one crossing is closed and another opened in lieu thereof, nor to crossings of a private nature.

(2) Maintenance: (a) Twenty-five percent to the grade crossing protective fund, created by RCW 81.53.281; and

(b) Seventy-five percent to the railroad:

PROVIDED, That if the proposed installation is located at a new crossing requested by a railroad, then the entire cost shall be apportioned to the railroad. [2003 c 190 § 2; 1982 c 94 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 189 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 77 § 1; 1969 c 134 § 2.]

**Findings—2003 c 190:** "The legislature finds that grade crossing, rail trespass, and other safety issues continue to present a public safety problem.

The legislature further finds that with the increased importance of rail to freight and commuter mobility, there is a direct public benefit in assisting local communities and railroads to work together to address rail-related public safety concerns." [2003 c 190 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.275 Crossing signals, warning devices—Apportionment when funds not available from grade crossing protective fund.** In the event funds are not available from the grade crossing protective fund, the commission shall apportion to the parties on the basis of the benefits to be derived by the public and the railroad, respectively, that part of the cost which would otherwise be assigned to the fund: PROVIDED, That in such instances the city, town, county or state shall not be assessed more than sixty percent of the total cost of installation on other than federal aid designated highway projects: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That in such instances the entire cost of maintenance shall be apportioned to the railroad. [1969 ex.s. c 281 § 18; 1969 c 134 § 7.]

**81.53.281 Crossing signals, warning devices—Grade crossing protective fund—Created—Transfer of funds—Allocation of costs—Procedure—Federal funding.** There is hereby created in the state treasury a "grade crossing protective fund" to carry out the provisions of RCW 81.53.261, 81.53.271, 81.53.281, 81.53.291, and 81.53.295; for grants and/or subsidies to public, private, and nonprofit entities for rail safety projects authorized or ordered by the commission; and for personnel and associated costs related to supervising and administering rail safety grants and/or subsidies. The commission shall transfer from the public service revolving fund's miscellaneous fees and penalties accounts moneys appropriated for these purposes as needed. At the time the commission makes each allocation of cost to said grade crossing protective fund, it shall certify that such cost shall be payable out of said fund. When federal-aid highway funds are involved, the department of transportation shall, upon entry of an order by the commission requiring the installation or upgrading of a grade crossing protective device, submit to the commission an estimate for the cost of the proposed installation and related work. Upon receipt of the estimate the commission shall pay to the department of transportation the percentage of the estimate specified in RCW 81.53.295, as now or hereafter amended, to be used as the grade crossing protective fund portion of the cost of the installation and related work.

The commission may adopt rules for the allocation of money from the grade crossing protective fund. [2003 c 190

(2012 Ed.)

§ 3; 1998 c 245 § 166; 1987 c 257 § 1; 1985 c 405 § 509; 1982 c 94 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 189 § 2; 1973 c 115 § 4; 1969 c 134 § 3.]

**Findings—2003 c 190:** See note following RCW 81.53.271.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.291 Crossing signals, warning devices—Operational scope—Election by first-class cities—Procedure.** RCW 81.53.261 through 81.53.291 shall be operative within the limits of all cities, towns and counties, except cities of the first class. Cities of the first class may elect as to each particular crossing whether RCW 81.53.261 through 81.53.291 shall apply. Such election shall be made by the filing by such city of a petition as provided for in RCW 81.53.261 with the utilities and transportation commission, or by a statement filed with the commission accepting jurisdiction, when such petition is filed by others. [1969 c 134 § 4.]

**81.53.295 Crossing signals, warning devices, etc.—Federal funds used to pay installation costs—Grade crossing protective fund—State and local authorities to pay remaining installation costs—Railroad to pay maintenance costs.** Whenever federal-aid highway funds are available and are used to pay a portion of the cost of installing a grade crossing protective device, and related work, at a railroad crossing of any state highway, city or town street, or county road at the then prevailing federal-aid matching rate, the grade crossing protective fund shall pay ten percent of the remaining cost of such installation and related work. The state or local authority having jurisdiction of such highway, street, or road shall pay the balance of the remaining cost of such installation and related work. The railroad whose road is crossed by the highway, street, or road shall thereafter pay the entire cost of maintaining the device. [1982 c 94 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 189 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.53.400 Traffic control devices during construction, repair, etc. of crossing or overpass—Required.** Whenever any railroad company engages in the construction, maintenance, or repair of a crossing or overpass, the company shall install and maintain traffic control devices adequate to protect the public and railroad employees, subject to the requirements of RCW 81.53.410 and 81.53.420. [1977 ex.s. c 168 § 1.]

**81.53.410 Traffic control devices during construction, repair, etc. of crossing or overpass—Standards and conditions.** All traffic control devices used under RCW 81.53.400 shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Any traffic control devices shall be used at a repair or construction site only so long as the devices are needed or applicable. Any devices that are no longer needed or applicable shall be removed or inactivated so as to prevent confusion;

(2) All barricades, signs, and similar devices shall be constructed and installed in a workmanlike manner;

(3) Bushes, weeds, or any other material or object shall not be allowed to obscure any traffic control devices;

(4) All signs, barricades, and other control devices intended for use during hours of darkness shall be adequately

illuminated or reflectorized, with precautions taken to protect motorists from glare; and

(5) Flagpersons shall be provided where necessary to adequately protect the public and railroad employees. The flagpersons shall be responsible and competent and possess at least average intelligence, vision, and hearing. They shall be neat in appearance and courteous to the public. [1977 ex.s. c 168 § 2.]

**81.53.420 Traffic control devices during construction, repair, etc. of crossing or overpass—Rules.** The utilities and transportation commission shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of RCW 81.53.400 and 81.53.410 pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. The commission shall invite the participation of all interested parties in any hearings or proceedings taken under this section, including any parties who request notice of any proceedings.

Any rules adopted under this section and any devices employed under RCW 81.53.410 shall conform to the national standards established by the current manual, including any future revisions, on the Uniform Traffic Control Devices as approved by the American National Standards Institute as adopted by the federal highway administrator of the United States department of transportation.

Rules adopted by the commission shall specifically prescribe the duties, procedures, and equipment to be used by the flagpersons required by RCW 81.53.410.

RCW 81.53.400 through 81.53.420 and rules adopted thereunder shall be enforced by the commission under the provisions of chapter 81.04 RCW: PROVIDED, That rules adopted by the commission shall recognize that cities with a population in excess of four hundred thousand are responsible for specific public thoroughfares and have the specific responsibility and authority for determining the practices relating to safeguarding the public during construction, repair, and maintenance activities. [1977 ex.s. c 168 § 3.]

**81.53.900 Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 189.** This 1975 amendatory act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1975. [1975 1st ex.s. c 189 § 4.]

### Chapter 81.54 RCW RAILROADS—INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL CROSSINGS

#### Sections

81.54.010	Definitions.
81.54.020	Annual inspection of industrial crossings.
81.54.030	Reimbursement of inspection cost.
81.54.040	Chapter not operative within first-class cities.

**81.54.010 Definitions.** The term "grade crossing" when used in this chapter means any point or place where a logging or industrial railroad crosses a highway or a highway crosses such railroad or such railroad crosses any other railroad, at a common grade.

The term "over-crossing" when used in this chapter means any point or place where a highway crosses a railroad by passing above the same.

The term "under-crossing" when used in this chapter means any point or place where a highway crosses a railroad by passing under the same.

The term "over-crossing" or "under-crossing" shall also mean any point or place where one railroad crosses another railroad not at grade.

The term "logging" or "industrial" railroad when used in this chapter shall include every railway owned or operated primarily for the purpose of carrying the property of its owners or operators or a limited class of persons, with all tracks, spurs and sidings used in connection therewith. [1961 c 14 § 81.54.010. Prior: 1941 c 161 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10511-1. Formerly RCW 81.52.080, part.]

**81.54.020 Annual inspection of industrial crossings.** All grade crossings, under-crossings and over-crossings on the line of every logging and other industrial railway as herein defined shall be inspected annually by the commission as to condition, also maintenance, and safety in the interest of the public, for the purpose that the commission may, if it shall deem it necessary, require such improvements, changes and repairs as in its judgment are proper to the end that adequate safety shall be provided for the public. [1961 c 14 § 81.54.020. Prior: 1941 c 161 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10511-2. Formerly RCW 81.52.310.]

**81.54.030 Reimbursement of inspection cost.** (1) Every person operating any logging railroad or industrial railway shall, prior to July 1st of each year, file with the commission a statement showing the number of, and location, by name of highway, quarter section, section, township, and range of all crossings on his or her line and pay with the filing a fee for each crossing so reported. The commission shall, by order, fix the exact fee based on the cost of rendering such inspection service. All fees collected shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the public service revolving fund. Intersections having one or more tracks shall be treated as a single crossing. Tracks separated a distance in excess of one hundred feet from the nearest track or group of tracks shall constitute an additional crossing. Where two or more independently operated railroads cross each other or the same highway intersection, each independent track shall constitute a separate crossing.

(2) Every person failing to make the report and pay the fees as required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and in addition subject to a penalty of twenty-five dollars for each day that the fee remains unpaid after it becomes due. [2003 c 53 § 392; 1991 c 46 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.54.030. Prior: 1951 c 111 § 1; 1941 c 161 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 10511-3. Formerly RCW 81.52.320.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**81.54.040 Chapter not operative within first-class cities.** This chapter shall not be operative within the limits of cities of the first class. [1961 c 14 § 81.54.040. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 16; 1951 c 111 § 2. Formerly RCW 81.52.325.]

**Chapter 81.60 RCW**  
**RAILROADS—RAILROAD POLICE**  
**AND REGULATIONS**

(Formerly: Railroads—Special police and police regulations)

Sections

81.60.010	Criminal justice training commission may appoint railroad police officers.
81.60.020	Application for appointment.
81.60.030	Oath.
81.60.040	Duties.
81.60.050	Badge.
81.60.060	Liability for unlawful acts.
81.60.070	Malicious injury to railroad property.
81.60.080	Sabotaging rolling stock—Receiving stolen railroad property.

*Intoxication of railway employee: RCW 9.91.020.*

*Tampering with lights, signals, etc.: RCW 88.08.020.*

**81.60.010 Criminal justice training commission may appoint railroad police officers.** The criminal justice training commission shall have the power to and may in its discretion appoint and commission railroad police officers at the request of any railroad corporation and may revoke any appointment at its pleasure. [2001 c 72 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.60.010. Prior: 1915 c 118 § 1; RRS § 10542.]

**81.60.020 Application for appointment.** Any railroad corporation desiring the appointment of any of its officers, agents, or servants not exceeding twenty-five in number for any one division of any railroad operating in this state as railroad police officers shall file a request with the criminal justice training commission on an approved application form. The application shall be signed by the president or some managing officer of the railroad corporation and shall be accompanied by an affidavit stating that the officer is acquainted with the person whose appointment is sought, that the officer believes the person to be of good moral character, and that the person is of such character and experience that he or she can be safely entrusted with the powers of a police officer.

For the purposes of this section, "division" means the part of any railroad or railroads under the jurisdiction of any one division superintendent. [2001 c 72 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.60.020. Prior: 1955 c 99 § 1; 1915 c 118 § 2; RRS § 10543.]

**81.60.030 Oath.** Before receiving a commission each person appointed under the provisions of RCW 81.60.010 through 81.60.060 shall successfully complete a course of training prescribed or approved by the criminal justice training commission, and shall take, subscribe, and file with the commission an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington, and to faithfully perform the duties of the office. The corporation requesting appointment of a railroad police officer shall bear the full cost of training.

Railroad police officers appointed and commissioned under RCW 81.60.010 through 81.60.060 are subject to rules and regulations adopted by the commission. [2001 c 72 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.60.030. Prior: 1915 c 118 § 3; RRS § 10544.]

**81.60.040 Duties.** Every police officer appointed and commissioned under the provisions of RCW 81.60.010 through 81.60.060 shall when on duty have the power and authority conferred by law on peace officers, but shall exer-

(2012 Ed.)

cise such power only in the protection of the property belonging to or under the control of the corporation at whose instance the officer is appointed and in preventing, and making arrest for, violations of law upon or in connection with such property. [2001 c 72 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 81.60.040. Prior: 1915 c 118 § 4; RRS § 10545.]

**81.60.050 Badge.** Every railroad police officer shall, when on duty, wear in plain view a badge bearing the words "railroad police" and the name of the corporation by which the officer is employed, or carry, and present upon request, official credentials identifying the railroad police officer and corporation. [2001 c 72 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 81.60.050. Prior: 1915 c 118 § 5; RRS § 10546.]

**81.60.060 Liability for unlawful acts.** The corporation procuring the appointment of any railroad police shall be solely responsible for the compensation for the officer's services and shall be liable civilly for any unlawful act of the officer resulting in damage to any person or corporation. [2001 c 72 § 6; 1961 c 14 § 81.60.060. Prior: 1915 c 118 § 6; RRS § 10547.]

**81.60.070 Malicious injury to railroad property.** Every person who, in such manner as might, if not discovered, endanger the safety of any engine, motor, car or train, or any person thereon, shall in any manner interfere or tamper with or obstruct any switch, frog, rail, roadbed, sleeper, viaduct, bridge, trestle, culvert, embankment, structure, or appliance pertaining to or connected with any railway, or any train, engine, motor, or car on such railway, and every person who shall discharge any firearm or throw any dangerous missile at any train, engine, motor, or car on any railway, is guilty of a class B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for not more than ten years. [2003 c 53 § 394; 1999 c 352 § 4; 1992 c 7 § 60; 1961 c 14 § 81.60.070. Prior: 1909 c 249 § 398; RRS § 2650.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.60.080 Sabotaging rolling stock—Receiving stolen railroad property.** (1) Any person or persons who shall willfully or maliciously, with intent to injure or deprive the owner thereof, take, steal, remove, change, add to, alter, or in any manner interfere with any journal bearing, brass, waste, packing, triple valve, pressure cock, brake, air hose, or any other part of the operating mechanism of any locomotive, engine, tender, coach, car, caboose, or motor car used or capable of being used by any railroad or railway company in this state, is guilty of a class C felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for not more than five years, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Every person who buys or receives any of the property described in subsection (1) of this section, knowing the same to have been stolen, is guilty of a class C felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided in subsection (1) of this section. [2003 c 53 § 395; 1992 c 7 § 61;

1961 c 14 § 81.60.080. Prior: 1941 c 212 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 2650-1.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Chapter 81.61 RCW**  
**RAILROADS—PASSENGER-CARRYING**  
**VEHICLES FOR EMPLOYEES**

## Sections

81.61.010	"Passenger-carrying vehicle" defined.
81.61.020	Minimum standards for safe maintenance and operation—Rules and orders—Scope.
81.61.030	Rules and orders—Adoption and enforceability—Hearings—Notice.
81.61.040	Inspection authorized in enforcing rules and orders.

**81.61.010 "Passenger-carrying vehicle" defined.**

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the term "passenger-carrying vehicle" as used in this chapter means those buses and trucks owned, operated and maintained by a railroad company which transports railroad employees in other than the cab of such vehicle and designed primarily for operation on roads which may or may not be equipped with retractable flanged wheels for operation on railroad tracks. [1977 ex.s. c 2 § 1.]

**81.61.020 Minimum standards for safe maintenance and operation—Rules and orders—Scope.** The utilities and transportation commission shall adopt rules and orders necessary to ensure that every passenger-carrying vehicle provided by a railroad company to transport employees in the course of their employment is maintained and operated in a safe manner when it is used on a public or private road. The rules and orders must establish minimum standards for:

(1) The construction and mechanical equipment of the passenger-carrying vehicles, including lighting devices and reflectors, exhaust system, rear vision mirrors, service and parking brakes, steering mechanisms, tires, warning and signaling devices, windshield wipers, and heating equipment capable of maintaining a reasonable temperature in passenger areas;

(2) The operation of passenger-carrying vehicles, including driving rules, the loading and carrying of passengers, maximum daily hours of service by drivers, minimum age and skill of drivers, physical condition of drivers, refueling, road warning devices, and the transportation of gasoline and explosives;

(3) The safety of passengers in a passenger-carrying vehicle, including emergency exits, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, facilities for communication between cab and rear compartments, means of ingress and egress, side walls, canopy, tail gates, or other means of retaining passengers within the passenger-carrying vehicle. [2007 c 234 § 41; 1977 ex.s. c 2 § 2.]

**81.61.030 Rules and orders—Adoption and enforceability—Hearings—Notice.** Any rules or orders adopted under this chapter shall be subject to the requirements of, and enforceable by the penalties imposed by chapter 81.04 RCW. Any interested person or group may request notice of, and participate in any hearings or proceedings held pursuant to

this chapter. The commission shall conduct a hearing prior to the adoption of any rule or order under this chapter. [1977 ex.s. c 2 § 3.]

**81.61.040 Inspection authorized in enforcing rules and orders.** The commission may, in enforcing rules and orders under this chapter, inspect any passenger-carrying vehicle provided by a railroad company to transport employees in the course of their employment. Upon request, the chief of the state patrol may assist the commission in these inspections. [1977 ex.s. c 2 § 4.]

**Chapter 81.64 RCW**  
**STREET RAILWAYS**

## Sections

81.64.010	Grant of franchise.
81.64.020	Application to county legislative authority—Notice—Hearing—Order.
81.64.030	May cross public road.
81.64.040	Eminent domain.
81.64.050	Right of entry.
81.64.060	Purchase or lease of street railway property.
81.64.070	Consolidation of companies.
81.64.080	Fares and transfers.
81.64.090	Competent employees required—"Competent" defined—Penalty.
81.64.120	Car equipment specified.
81.64.130	Penalty.
81.64.140	Weather guards.
81.64.150	Penalty.
81.64.160	Hours of labor—Penalty.

*Bridges across navigable waters:* RCW 79.110.110 through 79.110.140.

*Municipal transportation systems:* Title 35 RCW.

**81.64.010 Grant of franchise.** The legislative authority of the city or town having control of any public street or road, or where such street or road is not within the limits of any incorporated city or town, then the board of county commissioners wherein such road or street is situated, may grant authority for the construction, maintenance and operation of electric railroads or railways, motor railroads or railways and railroads and railways of which the motive power is any power other than steam, together with such poles, wires and other appurtenances upon, over, along and across any such public street or road and in granting such authority the legislative authority of such city or town or the board of county commissioners, as the case may be, may prescribe the terms and conditions on which such railroads or railways and their appurtenances shall be constructed, maintained and operated upon, over, along and across such road or street, and the grade or elevation at which the same shall be maintained and operated. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.010. Prior: 1907 c 99 § 1, part; 1903 c 175 § 1, part; RRS § 11082, part.]

**81.64.020 Application to county legislative authority—Notice—Hearing—Order.** On application being made to the county legislative authority for such authority, the county legislative authority shall fix a time and place for hearing the same, and shall cause the county auditor to give public notice thereof at the expense of the applicant, by posting written or printed notices in three public places in the county seat of the county, and in at least one conspicuous place on the road or street or part thereof, for which application is made, at least thirty days before the day fixed for the

hearing, and by publishing a like notice once a week for two consecutive weeks in the official county newspaper, the last publication to be at least five days before the day fixed for the hearing, which notice shall state the name or names of the applicant or applicants, a description of the roads or streets or parts thereof for which the application is made, and the time and place fixed for the hearing. The hearing may be adjourned from time to time by order of the county legislative authority. If, after the hearing, the county legislative authority shall deem it to be for the public interest to grant the authority in whole or in part, it may make and enter the proper order granting the authority applied for or such part thereof as it deems to be for the public interest, and shall require such railroad or railway and its appurtenances to be placed in such location on or along the road or street as it finds will cause the least interference with other uses of the road or street. [1985 c 469 § 63; 1961 c 14 § 81.64.020. Prior: 1907 c 99 § 1, part; 1903 c 175 § 1, part; RRS § 11082, part.]

**81.64.030 May cross public road.** In case any such railroad or railway, is or shall be located in part on private right-of-way, the owner thereof shall have the right to construct and operate the same across any county road or county street which intersects such private right-of-way, if such crossing is so constructed and maintained as to do no unnecessary damage: PROVIDED, That any person or corporation constructing such crossing or operating such railroad or railway on or along such county road or public street shall be liable to the county for all necessary expense incurred in restoring such county road or public street to a suitable condition for travel. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.030. Prior: 1907 c 99 § 1, part; 1903 c 175 § 1, part; RRS § 11082, part.]

**81.64.040 Eminent domain.** Every corporation incorporated or that may hereafter be incorporated under the laws of this state, or of any other state or territory of the United States and doing business in this state for the purpose of operating railroads or railways by electric power, shall have the right to appropriate real estate and other property for right-of-way or for any corporate purpose, in the same manner and under the same procedure as now is or may hereafter be provided by law in the case of ordinary railroad corporations authorized by the laws of this state to exercise the right of eminent domain: PROVIDED, That such right of eminent domain shall not be exercised with respect to any public road or street until the location of the electric railroad or railway thereon has been authorized in accordance with RCW 81.64.010 through 81.64.030. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.040. Prior: 1903 c 175 § 2; RRS § 11083.]

**81.64.050 Right of entry.** Every such corporation shall have the right to enter upon any land between the termini of the proposed lines for the purpose of examining, locating and surveying such lines, doing no unnecessary damage thereby. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.050. Prior: 1899 c 94 § 2; RRS § 11085.]

**81.64.060 Purchase or lease of street railway property.** Any corporation incorporated or that may hereafter be incorporated under the laws of this state or any state or territory of the United States, for the purpose of constructing, owning or operating railroads or railways by electric power,

may lease or purchase and operate (except in cases where such lease or purchase is prohibited by the Constitution of this state) the whole or any part of the electric railroad or electric railway, of any other corporation heretofore or hereafter constructed, together with the franchises, powers, immunities and all other property or appurtenances appertaining thereto: PROVIDED, That such lease or purchase has been or shall be consented to by stockholders of record holding at least two-thirds in amount of the capital stock of the lessor or grantor corporation; and all such leases and purchases made or entered into prior to the effective date of chapter 175, Laws of 1903, by consent of stockholders as aforesaid are for all intents and purposes hereby ratified and confirmed, saving, however, any vested rights of private parties. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.060. Prior: 1903 c 175 § 3; RRS § 11084.]

**81.64.070 Consolidation of companies.** With the consent of the majority in interest of their shareholders, two or more corporations operating street railway lines within or in the suburbs of the same municipality, may amalgamate their businesses and properties by consolidation, sale, lease, or other appropriate means, and either by conveyance to a third corporation or one to the other. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.070. Prior: 1917 c 170 § 1; RRS § 11086.]

**81.64.080 Fares and transfers.** No street railroad company shall charge, demand or collect more than five cents for one continuous ride within the corporate limits of any city or town: PROVIDED, That such rate may be exceeded or lowered as to any municipally owned street railroad when the corporate authorities of the municipality owning such railroad shall, by an ordinance duly passed, authorize the collection of a higher or lower rate of fare, to be specified in such ordinance, and as to any other street railroad company, such rate may be exceeded or lowered with the permission or upon the order of the commission after the filing of a tariff or a complaint by such street railroad company and a hearing thereon as provided in this title. Every street railroad company shall, upon such terms as shall be just and reasonable, furnish to its passengers transfers entitling such passenger to one continuous trip over and upon portions of its lines within the said city or town not reached by the originating car. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.080. Prior: 1919 c 33 § 1; 1911 c 117 § 25; RRS § 10361.]

**81.64.090 Competent employees required—"Competent" defined—Penalty.** (1) Street railway or streetcar companies, or streetcar corporations, shall employ none but competent persons to operate or assist as conductors, motor operators, or grip operators upon any street railway, or streetcar line in this state.

(2) A person shall be deemed competent to operate or assist in operating cars or (dummies) usually used by street railway or streetcar companies, or corporations, only after first having served at least three days under personal instruction of a regularly employed conductor, motor operator, or grip operator on a car or dummy in actual service on the particular street railway or streetcar line for which the service of an additional person or additional persons may be required: PROVIDED, That during a strike on the streetcar lines the

railway companies may employ competent persons who have not worked three days on the particular streetcar line.

(3) Any violation of this section by the president, secretary, manager, superintendent, assistant superintendent, stockholder, or other officer or employee of any company or corporation owning or operating any street railway or streetcar line or any receiver of street railway or streetcar company, or street railway or streetcar corporations appointed by any court within this state to operate such car line is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine in any amount not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail for a term of thirty days, or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court. [2009 c 549 § 1032; 2003 c 53 § 396; 1961 c 14 § 81.64.090. Prior: 1901 c 103 § 1; RRS § 11073.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**81.64.120 Car equipment specified.** Every streetcar run or used on any streetcar line in the state of Washington shall be provided with good and substantial aprons, pilots or fenders, and which shall be so constructed as to prevent any person from being thrown down and run over or caught beneath or under such car. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.120. Prior: 1897 c 94 § 1; RRS § 11076. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1911 c 117 § 66, part now codified in RCW 81.44.040.]

**81.64.130 Penalty.** The owners or managers operating any streetcar line failing to comply with the provisions of RCW 81.64.120 shall forfeit and pay to the state of Washington a penalty of not less than twenty-five dollars for each and every violation of RCW 81.64.120 and each car run shall be considered a separate violation of RCW 81.64.120 and every period of five days shall be deemed a separate violation of RCW 81.64.120. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.130. Prior: 1897 c 94 § 2; RRS § 11077.]

**81.64.140 Weather guards.** All corporations, companies or individuals owning, managing or operating any street railway or line in the state of Washington, shall provide, during the rain or winter season, all cars run or used on its or their respective roads with good, substantial and sufficient vestibules, or weather guards, for the protection of the employees of such corporation, company or individual.

The vestibules or weather guards shall be so constructed as to protect the employees of such company, corporation or individual from the wind, rain or snow. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.140. Prior: (i) 1895 c 144 § 1; RRS § 11078. (ii) 1895 c 144 § 2; RRS § 11079.]

**81.64.150 Penalty.** Any such street railway company, corporation or individual, as mentioned in RCW 81.64.140, failing to comply with the provisions of RCW 81.64.140, shall forfeit and pay to the state of Washington a penalty of not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars for each and every violation of RCW 81.64.140, and each period of ten days that any such company, corporation or individual shall fail to comply with the provisions of RCW 81.64.140, or for each car used by such corporation, company, or individual not in conformity with RCW 81.64.140,

shall be taken and deemed to be a separate violation of RCW 81.64.140. [1961 c 14 § 81.64.150. Prior: 1895 c 144 § 3; RRS § 11080.]

**81.64.160 Hours of labor—Penalty.** (1) No person, agent, officer, manager, or superintendent or receiver of any corporation or owner of streetcars shall require his, her, or its gripmen, motormen, drivers, or conductors to work more than ten hours in any twenty-four hours.

(2) Any person, agent, officer, manager, superintendent, or receiver of any corporation, or owner of streetcar or cars, violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined in any sum not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for each day in which such gripman, motorman, driver, or conductor in the employ of such person, agent, officer, manager, superintendent, or receiver of such corporation or owner is required to work more than ten hours during each twenty-four hours, as provided in this section.

(3) It is the duty of the prosecuting attorney of each county of this state to institute the necessary proceedings to enforce the provisions of this section. [2003 c 53 § 397; 1961 c 14 § 81.64.160. Prior: 1895 c 100 § 1; RRS § 7648.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

## Chapter 81.66 RCW

### TRANSPORTATION FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

(Formerly: Transportation for the elderly and the handicapped)

#### Sections

81.66.005	Scope—Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.
81.66.010	Definitions.
81.66.020	Private, nonprofit transportation provider required to operate in accordance with this chapter.
81.66.030	Authority of commission.
81.66.040	Certificate required—Transferability—Application—Carried in vehicle.
81.66.050	Insurance or bond required.
81.66.060	Suspension, revocation, or alteration of certificate.

**81.66.005 Scope—Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.** This chapter applies to persons and motor vehicles engaged in interstate or foreign commerce to the full extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

It is unlawful for any motor carrier to perform a transportation service for compensation upon the public highways of this state without first having secured appropriate federal authority from the United States department of transportation, if such authority is required, and without first having registered with the commission either directly or through a federally authorized uniform registration program. [2007 c 234 § 42.]

**81.66.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section shall apply throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Corporation" means a corporation, company, association, or joint stock association.

(2) "Person" means an individual, firm, or a copartner-ship.

(3) "Persons with special transportation needs" means those persons, including their personal attendants, who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or to purchase appropriate transportation.

(4) "Private, nonprofit transportation provider" means any private, nonprofit corporation providing transportation services for compensation solely to persons with special transportation needs, or pursuant to a contract with a state agency or funded by a grant issued by the department of transportation. [2009 c 557 § 3; 1996 c 244 § 1; 1979 c 111 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.66.020 Private, nonprofit transportation provider required to operate in accordance with this chapter.** No person or corporation, their lessees, trustees, receivers, or trustees appointed by any court, may operate as a private, nonprofit transportation provider except in accordance with this chapter. [1979 c 111 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.66.030 Authority of commission.** The commission shall regulate every private, nonprofit transportation provider in this state but has authority only as follows: To issue certificates to such providers; to set forth insurance requirements; to adopt reasonable rules to insure that any vehicles used by such providers will be adequate for the proposed service; and to inspect the vehicles and otherwise regulate the safety of operations of each provider. The commission may charge fees to private, nonprofit transportation providers, which shall be approximately the same as the reasonable cost of regulating such providers. [1998 c 173 § 4; 1979 c 111 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.66.040 Certificate required—Transferability—Application—Carried in vehicle.** A private, nonprofit transportation provider may not operate in this state without first having obtained from the commission under this chapter a certificate. Any right, privilege, or certificate held, owned, or obtained by a private, nonprofit transportation provider may be sold, assigned, leased, transferred, or inherited as other property only upon authorization by the commission. The commission shall issue a certificate to any person or corporation who files an application, in a form to be determined by the commission, which sets forth:

(1) Satisfactory proof of its status as a private, nonprofit corporation;

(2) The kind of service to be provided;

(3) The number and type of vehicles to be operated, together with satisfactory proof that the vehicles are adequate for the proposed service and that drivers of such vehicles will be adequately trained and qualified;

(4) Satisfactory proof of insurance or surety bond, in accordance with RCW 81.66.050.

The commission may deny a certificate to a provider who does not meet the requirements of this section. Each vehicle of a private, nonprofit transportation provider must carry a

(2012 Ed.)

copy of the provider's certificate. [2007 c 234 § 43; 1979 c 111 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.66.050 Insurance or bond required.** The commission shall, in the granting of certificates to operate any private, nonprofit transportation provider, require the owner or operator to first procure liability and property damage insurance from a company licensed to make liability insurance in the state of Washington or a surety bond of a company licensed to write surety bonds in the state of Washington on each vehicle used or to be used in transporting persons for compensation. The commission shall fix the amount of the insurance policy or policies or surety bond, giving due consideration to the character and amount of traffic, the number of persons affected, and the degree of danger which the proposed operation involves. Such liability and property damage insurance or surety bond shall be maintained in force on each vehicle while so used. Each policy for liability of property damage insurance or surety bond required herein, shall be filed with the commission and kept in full force and effect, and failure to do so shall be cause for the revocation of the certificate. [1979 c 111 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.66.060 Suspension, revocation, or alteration of certificate.** The commission may, at any time, by its order duly entered after notice to the holder of any certificate issued under this chapter, and an opportunity for a hearing, at which it is proven that the holder has willfully violated or refused to observe any of the commission's proper orders, rules, or regulations, suspend, revoke, alter, or amend any certificate issued under this chapter, but the holder of the certificate shall have all the rights of rehearing, review, and appeal as to the order of the commission as is provided for in chapter 34.05 RCW. [2007 c 234 § 44; 2005 c 121 § 1; 1979 c 111 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 81.68 RCW

### AUTO TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES

#### Sections

81.68.010	Definitions.
81.68.015	Application of chapter restricted.
81.68.020	Compliance with chapter required.
81.68.030	Regulation by commission.
81.68.040	Certificate of convenience and necessity.
81.68.046	Temporary certificates—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
81.68.050	Filing fees.
81.68.060	Liability and property damage insurance—Surety bond.
81.68.065	Self-insurers exempt as to insurance or bond.
81.68.080	Penalty.
81.68.090	Scope of chapter.
81.68.100	Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.

*Auto stages, licensing, etc.:* Title 46 RCW.

*Certificate required for carrier service provided pursuant to state agency contract or department of transportation grant:* RCW 81.70.220.

*Highway user tax structure:* Chapter 46.85 RCW.

*Mileage fees:* RCW 81.24.100.

*Penalty for carrying passengers without license:* RCW 46.16A.530.

*Seating capacity fees:* RCW 46.17.340.

**81.68.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Corporation" means a corporation, company, association, or joint stock association.

(2) "Person" means an individual, firm, or a copartnership.

(3) "Auto transportation company" means every corporation or person, their lessees, trustees, receivers, or trustees appointed by any court whatsoever, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any motor-propelled vehicle used in the business of transporting persons and their baggage on the vehicles of auto transportation companies carrying passengers, for compensation over any public highway in this state between fixed termini or over a regular route, and not operating exclusively within the incorporated limits of any city or town.

(4) "Public highway" means every street, road, or highway in this state.

(5) The words "between fixed termini or over a regular route" mean the termini or route between or over which any auto transportation company usually or ordinarily operates any motor-propelled vehicle, even though there may be departure from the termini or route, whether the departures are periodic or irregular. Whether or not any motor-propelled vehicle is operated by any auto transportation company "between fixed termini or over a regular route" within the meaning of this section is a question of fact, and the finding of the commission thereon is final and is not subject to review. [2007 c 234 § 46; 1989 c 163 § 1; 1984 c 166 § 1; 1979 c 111 § 16; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 121 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 10; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.010. Prior: 1935 c 120 § 1; 1921 c 111 § 1; RRS § 6387.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.68.015 Application of chapter restricted.** This chapter does not apply to corporations or persons, their lessees, trustees, receivers, or trustees appointed by any court whatsoever insofar as they own, control, operate, or manage taxicabs, hotel buses, school buses, or any other carrier that does not come within the term "auto transportation company" as defined in RCW 81.68.010.

This chapter does not apply to persons operating motor vehicles when operated wholly within the limits of incorporated cities or towns, and for a distance not exceeding three road miles beyond the corporate limits of the city or town in Washington in which the original starting point of the vehicle is located, and which operation either alone or in conjunction with another vehicle or vehicles is not a part of any journey beyond the three-mile limit.

This chapter does not apply to commuter ride sharing or ride sharing for persons with special transportation needs in accordance with RCW 46.74.010, so long as the ride-sharing operation does not compete with or infringe upon comparable service actually being provided before the initiation of the ride-sharing operation by an existing auto transportation company certificated under this chapter.

This chapter does not apply to a service carrying passengers for compensation over any public highway in this state between fixed termini or over a regular route if the commission finds, with or without a hearing, that the service does not

serve an essential transportation purpose, is solely for recreation, and would not adversely affect the operations of the holder of a certificate under this chapter, and that exemption from this chapter is otherwise in the public interest. Companies providing these services must, however, obtain a permit under chapter 81.70 RCW.

This chapter does not apply to a service carrying passengers for compensation over any public highway in this state between fixed termini or over a regular route if the commission finds, with or without a hearing, that the service is provided pursuant to a contract with a state agency, or funded by a grant issued by the department of transportation, and that exemption from this chapter is otherwise in the public interest. Companies providing these services must, however, obtain a permit under chapter 81.70 RCW. [2009 c 557 § 1; 2007 c 234 § 47; 1989 c 163 § 2; 1984 c 166 § 2.]

**81.68.020 Compliance with chapter required.** A corporation or person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers or trustees appointed by any court whatsoever, may not engage in the business of operating as a common carrier any motor-propelled vehicle for the transportation of persons and their baggage on the vehicles of auto transportation companies carrying passengers, between fixed termini or over a regular route for compensation on any public highway in this state, except in accordance with this chapter. [2007 c 234 § 48; 1989 c 163 § 3; 1984 c 166 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.020. Prior: 1927 c 166 § 1; 1921 c 111 § 2; RRS § 6388.]

**81.68.030 Regulation by commission.** The commission is vested with power and authority, and it is its duty to supervise and regulate every auto transportation company in this state as provided in this section. Under this authority, it shall for each auto transportation company:

(1) Fix, alter, and amend just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient rates, fares, charges, classifications, rules, and regulations;

(2) Regulate the accounts, service, and safety of operations;

(3) Require the filing of annual and other reports and of other data;

(4) Supervise and regulate the companies in all other matters affecting the relationship between such companies and the traveling and shipping public;

(5) By general order or otherwise, prescribe rules and regulations in conformity with this chapter, applicable to any and all such companies, and within such limits make orders.

The commission may, at any time, by its order duly entered after notice to the holder of any certificate under this chapter, and an opportunity for a hearing, at which it shall be proven that the holder willfully violates or refuses to observe any of the commission's proper orders, rules, or regulations, suspend, revoke, alter, or amend any certificate issued under the provisions of this chapter, but the holder of the certificate has all the rights of rehearing, review, and appeal as to the order of the commission as is provided for in chapter 34.05 RCW. [2007 c 234 § 96; 2005 c 121 § 2; 1989 c 163 § 4; 1984 c 166 § 4; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.030. Prior: 1921 c 111 § 3; RRS § 6389.]

**81.68.040 Certificate of convenience and necessity.**

An auto transportation company shall not operate for the transportation of persons and their baggage for compensation between fixed termini or over a regular route in this state, without first having obtained from the commission under this chapter a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity require such operation. Any right, privilege, certificate held, owned, or obtained by an auto transportation company may be sold, assigned, leased, transferred, or inherited as other property, only if authorized by the commission. The commission may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, when the applicant requests a certificate to operate in a territory already served by a certificate holder under this chapter, only when the existing auto transportation company or companies serving such territory will not provide the same to the satisfaction of the commission, or when the existing auto transportation company does not object, and in all other cases with or without hearing, issue the certificate as prayed for; or for good cause shown, may refuse to issue same, or issue it for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the rights granted by the certificate to such terms and conditions as, in its judgment, the public convenience and necessity may require. [2007 c 234 § 49; 2005 c 121 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.040. Prior: 1921 c 111 § 4; RRS § 6390.]

**81.68.046 Temporary certificates—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** The commission may, with or without a hearing, issue temporary certificates to engage in the business of operating an auto transportation company, but only after it finds that the issuance of the temporary certificate is consistent with the public interest. The temporary certificate may be issued for a period up to one hundred eighty days. The commission may prescribe rules and impose terms and conditions as in its judgment are reasonable and necessary in carrying out this chapter. The commission may by rule, prescribe a fee for an application for the temporary certificate. The commission shall not issue a temporary certificate to operate in a territory: (1) For which a certificate has been issued, unless the existing certificate holder, upon twenty days' notice, does not object to the issuance of the certificate or is not providing service; or (2) for which an application is pending unless the filing for a temporary certificate is made by the applicant or the applicant does not object to the issuance of the certificate.

During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 415; 2005 c 121 § 8.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**81.68.050 Filing fees.** Any application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity or amendment thereof, or application to sell, lease, mortgage, or transfer a certificate of public convenience and necessity or any interest therein, shall be accompanied by such filing fees as the commission may prescribe by rule: PROVIDED, That such fee shall not

(2012 Ed.)

exceed two hundred dollars. [1973 c 115 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.050. Prior: 1955 c 125 § 9; prior: 1937 c 158 § 2, part; RRS § 10417-1, part.]

**81.68.060 Liability and property damage insurance—Surety bond.** In granting certificates to operate any auto transportation company, for transporting for compensation persons and their baggage on the vehicles of auto transportation companies carrying passengers, the commission shall require the owner or operator to first procure liability and property damage insurance from a company licensed to make liability insurance in the state of Washington or a surety bond of a company licensed to write surety bonds in the state of Washington on each motor-propelled vehicle used or to be used in transporting persons for compensation, in an amount of no less than one hundred thousand dollars for any recovery for personal injury by one person, no less than three hundred thousand dollars for any vehicle having a capacity of sixteen passengers or less, no less than five hundred thousand dollars for any vehicle having a capacity of seventeen passengers or more for all persons receiving personal injury by reason of at least one act of negligence, and no less than fifty thousand dollars for damage to property of any person other than the insured. The commission shall fix the amount of the insurance policy or policies or security deposit by giving due consideration to the character and amount of traffic, the number of persons affected, and the degree of danger that the proposed operation involves. The liability and property damage insurance or surety bond must be maintained in force on the motor-propelled vehicle while in use, and each policy for liability or property damage insurance or surety bond required by this section must be filed with the commission and kept in full force and effect. Failure to file and maintain the required insurance is cause for the revocation of the certificate. [2007 c 234 § 50; 1989 c 163 § 5; 1984 c 166 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 298 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.060. Prior: 1921 c 111 § 5; RRS § 6391.]

**81.68.065 Self-insurers exempt as to insurance or bond.** Any auto transportation company authorized to transport persons for compensation on the highways and engaging in interstate, or interstate and intrastate, operations within the state of Washington which is or becomes qualified as a self-insurer with the federal motor carrier safety administration of the United States department of transportation under the United States interstate commerce act applicable to self insurance by motor carriers, is exempt, so long as such qualification remains effective, from all provisions of law relating to the carrying or filing of insurance policies or bonds in connection with such operations.

The commission may require auto transportation companies to prove the existence and continuation of such qualification with the federal motor carrier safety administration by affidavit in any form the commission prescribes. [2007 c 234 § 51; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.065. Prior: (i) 1949 c 127 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6386-5a. (ii) 1949 c 127 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6386-5b.]

**81.68.080 Penalty.** Every officer, agent, or employee of any corporation, and every other person who violates or fails to comply with, or who procures, aids, or abets in the viola-

tion of any provisions of this chapter, or who fails to obey, observe, or comply with any order, decision, rule or regulation, direction, demand, or requirement, or any part of provision thereof, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2007 c 234 § 52; 2003 c 53 § 398; 1979 ex.s. c 136 § 106; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.080. Prior: 1921 c 111 § 7; RRS § 6393.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.68.090 Scope of chapter.** This chapter applies to persons and motor vehicles engaged in interstate or foreign commerce to the full extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of the United States. [2007 c 234 § 53; 1961 c 14 § 81.68.090. Prior: 1921 c 111 § 8; RRS § 6394.]

**81.68.100 Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.** It is unlawful for any motor carrier to perform a transportation service for compensation upon the public highways of this state without first having secured appropriate federal authority from the United States department of transportation, if such authority is required, and without first having registered with the commission either directly or through a federally authorized uniform registration program. [2007 c 234 § 45.]

## Chapter 81.70 RCW

### PASSENGER CHARTER CARRIERS

#### Sections

81.70.010	Business affected with the public interest—Declaration of purpose.
81.70.020	Definitions.
81.70.030	Exclusions.
81.70.220	Certificate or registration required.
81.70.230	Certificates—Application, issuance.
81.70.240	Certificates—Transfer restricted.
81.70.250	Certificates—Grounds for cancellation.
81.70.260	Unlawful operation after certificate or registration canceled, etc.
81.70.270	Scope of regulation.
81.70.280	Insurance or bond for liability and property damage.
81.70.290	Self-insurers exempt as to insurance or bond.
81.70.310	Application of Title 81 RCW.
81.70.320	Fees—Amounts, deposit.
81.70.330	Vehicle identification.
81.70.340	Application to interstate or foreign carriers.
81.70.350	Annual regulatory fee—Delinquent fee payments.
81.70.360	Excursion service companies—Certificate.
81.70.370	Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.

**81.70.010 Business affected with the public interest—Declaration of purpose.** The use of the public highways for the transportation of passengers for compensation is a business affected with the public interest. It is the purpose of this chapter to preserve for the public full benefit in use of public highways consistent with the needs of commerce, without unnecessary congestion or wear and tear upon such highways; to secure to the people safe, adequate and dependable transportation by carriers operating upon such highways; and to secure full and unrestricted flow of traffic by motor carriers over such highways which will adequately meet reasonable public demands by providing for the regulation of all transportation agencies with respect to safety of operations and accident indemnity so that safe, adequate and dependable service by all necessary transportation agencies shall be

maintained, and the full use of the highway reserved to the public. [1965 c 150 § 2.]

**81.70.020 Definitions.** Unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions and general provisions in this section govern the construction of this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Washington utilities and transportation commission;

(2) "Person or persons" means an individual, a corporation, association, joint stock association, and partnership, their lessees, trustees, or receivers;

(3) "Public highway" includes every public street, road, or highway in this state;

(4) "Motor vehicle" means every self-propelled vehicle with seating capacity for seven or more persons, excluding the driver;

(5) Subject to the exclusions of RCW 81.70.030, "charter party carrier" means every person engaged in the transportation over any public highways in this state of a group of persons, who, pursuant to a common purpose and under a single contract, acquire the use of a motor vehicle to travel together as a group to a specified destination or for a particular itinerary, either agreed upon in advance or modified by the chartered group after leaving the place of origin;

(6) Subject to the exclusion of RCW 81.70.030, "excursion service carrier" means every person engaged in the transportation of persons for compensation over any public highway in this state from points of origin within the incorporated limits of any city or town or area, to any other location within the state of Washington and returning to that origin. The service must not pick up or drop off passengers after leaving and before returning to the area of origin. The excursions may be regularly scheduled. Compensation for the transportation offered or afforded must be computed, charged, or assessed by the excursion service company on an individual fare basis. [2007 c 234 § 55; 1989 c 163 § 6; 1988 c 30 § 1; 1969 c 132 § 1; 1965 c 150 § 3.]

**81.70.030 Exclusions.** This chapter does not apply to:

(1) Persons operating motor vehicles wholly within the limits of incorporated cities;

(2) Persons or their lessees, receivers, or trustees insofar as they own, control, operate, or manage taxicabs, hotel buses, or school buses, when operated as such;

(3) Passenger vehicles carrying passengers on a noncommercial enterprise basis; or

(4) Limousine charter party carriers of passengers under chapter 46.72A RCW. [2007 c 234 § 56; 1989 c 283 § 17; 1965 c 150 § 4.]

**81.70.220 Certificate or registration required.** (1) No person may engage in the business of a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier of persons over any public highway without first having obtained a certificate from the commission to do so or having registered as an interstate carrier.

(2) An auto transportation company carrying passengers for compensation over any public highway in this state between fixed termini or over a regular route that is not required to hold an auto transportation certificate because of a commission finding under RCW 81.68.015 must obtain a

certificate under this chapter. [2009 c 557 § 4; 1989 c 163 § 7; 1988 c 30 § 2.]

**81.70.230 Certificates—Application, issuance.** (1) Applications for certificates must be made to the commission in writing, verified under oath, and shall be in a form and contain information as the commission by regulation may require. Every application must be accompanied by a fee as the commission may prescribe by rule.

(2) A certificate must be issued to any applicant who establishes proof of safety fitness and insurance coverage under this chapter. [2007 c 234 § 57; 1988 c 30 § 3.]

**81.70.240 Certificates—Transfer restricted.** No certificate issued under this chapter or rights to conduct services under it may be leased, assigned, or otherwise transferred or encumbered, unless authorized by the commission. [1988 c 30 § 4.]

**81.70.250 Certificates—Grounds for cancellation.** The commission may cancel, revoke, or suspend any certificate issued under this chapter on any of the following grounds:

(1) The violation of any of the provisions of this chapter;  
 (2) The violation of an order, decision, rule, regulation, or requirement established by the commission under this chapter;

(3) Failure of a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier of passengers to pay a fee, under this chapter, imposed on the carrier within the time required by law; or

(4) Failure of a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier to maintain required insurance coverage in full force and effect. [2007 c 234 § 58; 1989 c 163 § 8; 1988 c 30 § 5.]

**81.70.260 Unlawful operation after certificate or registration canceled, etc.** After the cancellation or revocation of a certificate or interstate registration or during the period of its suspension, it is unlawful for a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier of passengers to conduct any operations as such a carrier. [1989 c 163 § 9; 1988 c 30 § 6.]

**81.70.270 Scope of regulation.** It is the duty of the commission to regulate charter party carriers and excursion service carriers with respect to safety of equipment, driver qualifications, and safety of operations. The commission shall establish such rules and regulations and require such reports as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. [1989 c 163 § 10; 1988 c 30 § 7.]

**81.70.280 Insurance or bond for liability and property damage.** (1) In issuing certificates under this chapter, the commission shall require charter party carriers and excursion service carriers to procure and continue in effect during the life of the certificate, liability and property damage insurance from a company licensed to make liability insurance in the state of Washington or a surety bond of a company licensed to write surety bonds in the state of Washington on each motor-propelled vehicle used or to be used in transporting persons for compensation, in the following amounts:

(a) Not less than one hundred thousand dollars for any recovery for personal injury by one person; and

(b) Not less than three hundred thousand dollars for any vehicle having a capacity of sixteen passengers or less; and

(c) Not less than five hundred thousand dollars for any vehicle having a capacity of seventeen passengers or more for all receiving personal injury by at least one act of negligence; and

(d) Not less than fifty thousand dollars for damage to property of any person other than the insured.

(2) The commission shall fix the amount of the insurance policy or policies or security deposit by giving consideration to the character and amount of traffic, the number of persons affected, and the degree of danger which the proposed operation involves. The liability and property damage insurance or surety bond must be maintained in force on each motor-propelled vehicle while in use. Each policy for liability or property damage insurance or surety bond required by this section must be filed with the commission and kept in effect. Failure to file and maintain the required insurance is cause for the revocation of the certificate. [2007 c 234 § 59; 1989 c 163 § 11; 1988 c 30 § 8.]

**81.70.290 Self-insurers exempt as to insurance or bond.** A charter party carrier or excursion service carrier of passengers, authorized to transport persons for compensation on the highways and engaging in interstate, or interstate and intrastate, operations within the state of Washington which is or becomes qualified as a self-insurer with the federal motor carrier safety administration of the United States department of transportation in accordance with the United States interstate commerce act applicable to self-insurance by motor carriers, is exempt from RCW 81.70.280 relating to the carrying or filing of insurance policies or bonds in connection with charter operations as long as the qualification remains effective.

The commission may require the charter party carrier or excursion service carrier to prove the existence and continuation of qualification with the federal motor carrier safety administration by affidavit in a form the commission may prescribe. [2007 c 234 § 60; 1989 c 163 § 12; 1988 c 30 § 9.]

**81.70.310 Application of Title 81 RCW.** All applicable provisions of this title relating to procedure, powers of the commission, and penalties shall apply to the operation and regulation of persons under this chapter, except as those provisions may conflict with the provisions of this chapter and rules and regulations issued thereunder by the commission. [1988 c 30 § 11.]

**81.70.320 Fees—Amounts, deposit.** (1) An application for a certificate, amendment of a certificate, or transfer of a certificate must be accompanied by a filing fee the commission may prescribe by rule. The fee must not exceed two hundred dollars.

(2) All fees paid to the commission under this chapter must be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the public service revolving fund.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature that all fees collected under this chapter must reasonably approximate the cost of supervising and regulating charter party carriers and excursion service carriers subject thereto, and to that end the commission may decrease the schedule of fees provided for in

RCW 81.70.350 by general order entered before November 1st of any year in which the commission determines that the moneys, then in the charter party carrier and excursion service carrier account of the public service revolving fund, and the fees currently owed will exceed the reasonable cost of supervising and regulating such carriers during the succeeding calendar year. Whenever the cost accounting records of the commission indicate that the schedule of fees previously reduced should be increased, the increase, not to exceed the schedule set forth in this chapter, may be effected by a similar general order entered before November 1st of any calendar year. [2007 c 234 § 61; 1989 c 163 § 13; 1988 c 30 § 12.]

**81.70.330 Vehicle identification.** (1) It is unlawful for a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier to operate a motor vehicle upon the highways of this state unless there is firmly affixed to both sides of the vehicle, the name of the carrier and the certificate or permit number of the carrier. The characters composing the identification must be of sufficient size to be clearly distinguishable at a distance of at least fifty feet from the vehicle.

(2) A charter party carrier or excursion service carrier holding both intrastate and interstate authority may identify its vehicles with either the commission permit number or the federal vehicle marking requirement established by the United States department of transportation for interstate motor carriers. [2007 c 234 § 62; 1989 c 163 § 14; 1988 c 30 § 13.]

**81.70.340 Application to interstate or foreign carriers.** This chapter applies to persons and motor carriers engaged in interstate or foreign commerce to the full extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of the United States. [2007 c 234 § 63; 1989 c 163 § 15; 1988 c 30 § 14.]

**81.70.350 Annual regulatory fee—Delinquent fee payments.** (1) The commission shall collect from each charter party carrier and excursion service carrier holding a certificate issued pursuant to this chapter and from each interstate or foreign carrier subject to this chapter an annual regulatory fee, to be established by the commission but which in total shall not exceed the cost of supervising and regulating such carriers, for each bus used by such carrier.

(2) All fees prescribed by this section shall be due and payable on or before December 31 of each year, to cover the ensuing year beginning February 1.

(3) Any payment of the fee imposed by this section made after its due date shall include a late fee of two percent of the amount due. Delinquent fees shall accrue interest at the rate of one percent per month. [1994 c 83 § 3; 1989 c 163 § 16; 1988 c 30 § 15.]

**81.70.360 Excursion service companies—Certificate.** No excursion service company may operate for the transportation of persons for compensation without first having obtained from the commission under the provisions of this chapter a certificate to do so.

A certificate shall be issued to any qualified applicant therefor, authorizing the whole or any part of the operations covered by the application, if it is found that the applicant is fit, willing, and able to properly perform the services pro-

posed and conform to the provisions of this chapter and the rules of the commission adopted under this chapter, and that such operations will be consistent with the public interest. However, a certificate shall be granted when it appears to the satisfaction of the commission that the person, firm, or corporation was actually operating in good faith that type of service for which the certificate was sought on January 15, 1983. Any right, privilege, or certificate held, owned, or obtained by an excursion service company may be sold, assigned, leased, transferred, or inherited as other property only upon authorization by the commission. For good cause shown the commission may refuse to issue the certificate, or issue it for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the rights granted by the certificate such terms and conditions as, in its judgment, the public interest may require. [1984 c 166 § 5. Formerly RCW 81.68.045.]

**81.70.370 Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.** It is unlawful for any motor carrier to perform a transportation service for compensation upon the public highways of this state without first having secured appropriate federal authority from the United States department of transportation, if such authority is required, and without first having registered with the commission either directly or through a federally authorized uniform registration program. [2007 c 234 § 54.]

## Chapter 81.72 RCW TAXICAB COMPANIES

### Sections

81.72.200	Legislative intent.
81.72.210	Local regulatory powers listed.
81.72.220	Cooperative agreements—Joint regulation.
81.72.230	License suspension or revocation—Failure to pay industrial insurance premiums—Rules—Cooperative agreements.
81.72.240	Rate adjustments—Industrial insurance, other costs—Requirement to train for hire operator.

*Transportation of passengers in for hire vehicles: Chapter 46.72 RCW.*

**81.72.200 Legislative intent.** The legislature finds and declares that privately operated taxicab transportation service is a vital part of the transportation system within the state and provides demand-responsive services to state residents, tourists, and out-of-state business people. Consequently, the safety, reliability, and economic viability and stability of privately operated taxicab transportation service are matters of statewide importance. The regulation of privately operated taxicab transportation services is thus an essential governmental function. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to permit political subdivisions of the state to regulate taxicab transportation services without liability under federal anti-trust laws. [1984 c 126 § 1.]

**81.72.210 Local regulatory powers listed.** To protect the public health, safety, and welfare, cities, towns, counties, and port districts of the state may license, control, and regulate privately operated taxicab transportation services operating within their respective jurisdictions. The power to regulate includes:

- (1) Regulating entry into the business of providing taxicab transportation services;
- (2) Requiring a license to be purchased as a condition of operating a taxicab and the right to revoke, cancel, or refuse to reissue a license for failure to comply with regulatory requirements;
- (3) Controlling the rates charged for providing taxicab transportation service and the manner in which rates are calculated and collected, including the establishment of zones as the basis for rates;
- (4) Regulating the routes of taxicabs, including restricting access to airports;
- (5) Establishing safety, equipment, and insurance requirements; and
- (6) Any other requirements adopted to ensure safe and reliable taxicab service. [1984 c 126 § 2.]

**81.72.220 Cooperative agreements—Joint regulation.** A city, town, county, or port district may enter into cooperative agreements with any other city, town, county, or port district for the joint regulation of taxicabs. Cooperative agreements may provide for, but are not limited to, the granting, revocation, and suspension of joint taxicab licenses. [1984 c 126 § 3.]

**81.72.230 License suspension or revocation—Failure to pay industrial insurance premiums—Rules—Cooperative agreements.** (1) A license issued pursuant to this chapter must be suspended or revoked and may not be renewed in the event of failure to pay the mandatory for hire vehicle operator industrial insurance premium as charged by the department of labor and industries under RCW 51.12.183 and 51.16.240.

(2)(a) A taxicab vehicle and its operator must have evidence of payment in good standing with the department of labor and industries of the for hire vehicle operator industrial insurance premium, whenever the taxicab vehicle is operated on public streets and highways for compensation.

(b) Failure to produce evidence of payment of the for hire vehicle insurance premium upon demand by a law enforcement officer or other government agent acting under the authority of this chapter is a civil infraction punishable by a fine of not more than two hundred fifty dollars per infraction separately upon both the taxicab vehicle owner and the taxicab vehicle operator if they are not one and the same.

(3) Taxicab vehicle license suspension or revocation and the administration thereof for failure to pay the mandatory industrial insurance premium must be at the direction and expense of the department of labor and industries.

(4)(a) The department of labor and industries, the department of licensing, cities, towns, counties, and port districts may enter into cooperative agreements to implement this section.

(b) The department of licensing and the department of labor and industries may adopt rules to implement this section.

(c) Cities, towns, counties, and port districts may take legislative action to implement this section. [2011 c 190 § 7.]

**Effective date—2011 c 190:** See note following RCW 51.12.180.

**81.72.240 Rate adjustments—Industrial insurance, other costs—Requirement to train for hire operator.** (1) Any city, town, county, or port district setting the rates charged for taxicab services under this chapter must adjust rates to accommodate changes in the cost of industrial insurance or in other industry-wide costs.

(2) Any business that as owner leases a taxicab licensed under this chapter to a for hire operator must make a reasonable effort to train the for hire operator in motor vehicle operation and safety requirements and monitor operator compliance. Monitoring operator compliance may include the use of vehicle operator monitoring cameras. [2011 c 190 § 8.]

**Effective date—2011 c 190:** See note following RCW 51.12.180.

**Chapter 81.75 RCW  
TRANSPORTATION CENTERS**

Sections

81.75.010	Authorization to own and operate—Purpose.
81.75.020	Method of acquisition and operation prescribed—Grants—Consolidation of activities.
81.75.030	Services available—Terms of usage.
81.75.900	Severability—1977 ex.s. c 217.

**81.75.010 Authorization to own and operate—Purpose.** It is desirable to a transportation system that convenient and comfortable terminals be established and maintained with the services of all modes of public transportation available to the public at such a center to the extent feasible. It is proper that cities, towns, counties, public transportation benefit area authorities, and municipal corporations of this state be authorized to own and operate transportation centers. [1977 ex.s. c 217 § 1.]

**81.75.020 Method of acquisition and operation prescribed—Grants—Consolidation of activities.** Through its council or other legislative body, any city, town, county, public transportation benefit area authority, or other municipal corporation, authorized to operate public transportation services, may construct or otherwise acquire intermodal transportation centers by donation, lease, or purchase and may operate or let for purposes of leasing space at fair market value for the services set forth in RCW 81.75.030, and to perform other functions permitted by law, the centers or portions of the centers, for public or private purposes or for compensation or rental upon such conditions as its council or other legislative body shall from time to time prescribe. The city, town, county, public transportation benefit area authority, or municipal corporation, may apply for and receive grants from the federal government for purposes of funding a transportation center and may consolidate a transportation center with other lawful city or town activities. [1977 ex.s. c 217 § 2.]

**81.75.030 Services available—Terms of usage.** To the extent feasible, the services available to the public at any transportation center may include taxi, auto rental, passenger trains, motor buses, travel agents, restrooms, food, telegraph, baggage handling, transfer and delivery of light freight and packages, commercial airlines, air charter, place of temporary rest for citizens and travelers (but not overnight), mail, private auto parking for users of public transportation

through the transportation center, local transit, limousine, and any other use necessary to the foregoing.

Any city, town, county, public transportation benefit area authority, or municipal corporation, which elects to operate a transportation center shall operate the center for the general public good. The operator may establish the terms of use for the various modes of transportation and for others that utilize its facilities, may make reasonable rules concerning public and private use, and may exclude all persons therefrom who refuse to comply with the terms or rules of use. The operator may own, operate, maintain, and manage a transportation center, but shall not engage in providing a transportation or other related service at the center unless otherwise authorized by law. [1977 ex.s. c 217 § 3.]

**81.75.900 Severability—1977 ex.s. c 217.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1977 ex.s. c 217 § 5.]

### Chapter 81.77 RCW

#### SOLID WASTE COLLECTION COMPANIES

(Formerly: Garbage and refuse collection companies)

##### Sections

81.77.010	Definitions.
81.77.020	Compliance with chapter required—Exemption for cities.
81.77.0201	Jurisdiction of commission upon discontinuation of jurisdiction by municipality.
81.77.030	Supervision and regulation by commission.
81.77.040	Certificate of convenience and necessity required—Issuance—Transferability—Solid waste categories.
81.77.050	Filing fees.
81.77.060	Liability and property damage insurance—Surety bond.
81.77.080	Companies to file reports of gross operating revenue and pay fees—Legislative intent—Disposition of revenue.
81.77.090	Penalty.
81.77.100	Application to foreign or interstate commerce—Regulation of solid waste collection companies.
81.77.110	Temporary certificates.
81.77.120	Service to unincorporated areas of counties.
81.77.130	Application of chapter to collection or transportation of source separated recyclable materials.
81.77.140	Application of chapter—Collection and transportation of recyclable materials by recycling companies or nonprofit entities—Reuse or reclamation.
81.77.160	Pass-through rates—Rules.
81.77.170	Fees, charges, or taxes—Normal operating expense.
81.77.180	Recyclable materials collection—Processing and marketing.
81.77.185	Recyclable materials collection—Revenue sharing—Report.
81.77.190	Curbside recycling—Reduced rate.
81.77.195	Discounts for low-income customers.
81.77.200	Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.

*Unlawful diversion of recyclable material: RCW 70.95.235.*

#### **81.77.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Motor vehicle" means any truck, trailer, semitrailer, tractor, or any self-propelled or motor driven vehicle used upon any public highway of this state for the purpose of transporting solid waste, for the collection or disposal, or both, of solid waste;

(2) "Public highway" means every street, road, or highway in this state;

(3) "Common carrier" means any person who collects and transports solid waste for disposal by motor vehicle for compensation, whether over regular or irregular routes, or by regular or irregular schedules;

(4) "Contract carrier" means all solid waste transporters not included under the terms "common carrier" and "private carrier," as defined in this section, and further, includes any person who under special and individual contracts or agreements transports solid waste by motor vehicle for compensation;

(5) "Private carrier" means a person who, in his or her own vehicle, transports solid waste purely as an incidental adjunct to some other established private business owned or operated by the person in good faith. A person who transports solid waste from residential sources in a vehicle designed or used primarily for the transport of solid waste is not a private carrier;

(6) "Vehicle" means every device capable of being moved upon a public highway and in, upon, or by which any solid waste is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, except devices moved by human or animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rail or tracks;

(7) "Solid waste collection company" means every person or his or her lessees, receivers, or trustees, owning, controlling, operating, or managing vehicles used in the business of transporting solid waste for collection or disposal, or both, for compensation, except septic tank pumpers, over any public highway in this state as a "common carrier" or as a "contract carrier";

(8) "Solid waste collection" does not include collecting or transporting recyclable materials from a drop-box or recycling buy-back center, or collecting or transporting recyclable materials by or on behalf of a commercial or industrial generator of recyclable materials to a recycler for use or reclamation. Transportation of these materials is regulated under chapter 81.80 RCW;

(9) "Solid waste" means the same as defined under RCW 70.95.030, except for the purposes of this chapter solid waste does not include recyclable materials except for source separated recyclable materials collected from residences; and

(10) When the phrase "garbage and refuse" is used as a qualifying phrase or otherwise, it means "solid waste." [2007 c 234 § 65; 1989 c 431 § 17; 1961 c 295 § 2.]

**81.77.020 Compliance with chapter required—Exemption for cities.** No person, his lessees, receivers, or trustees, shall engage in the business of operating as a solid waste collection company in this state, except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the operations of any solid waste collection company under a contract of solid waste disposal with any city or town, nor to any city or town which itself undertakes the disposal of solid waste. [1989 c 431 § 18; 1961 c 295 § 3.]

**81.77.0201 Jurisdiction of commission upon discontinuation of jurisdiction by municipality.** A city, town, or combined city-county may at any time reverse its decision to exercise its authority under RCW 81.77.020. In such an event, the commission shall issue a certificate to the last holder of a valid commission certificate of public convenience and necessity, or its successors or assigns, for the area reverting to commission jurisdiction. If there was no certificate existing for the area, or the previous holder was compensated for its certificate property right, the commission shall

consider applications for authority under RCW 81.77.040. [1997 c 171 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.77.030 Supervision and regulation by commission.** The commission shall supervise and regulate every solid waste collection company in this state,

(1) By fixing and altering its rates, charges, classifications, rules and regulations;

(2) By regulating the accounts, service, and safety of operations;

(3) By requiring the filing of annual and other reports and data;

(4) By supervising and regulating such persons or companies in all other matters affecting the relationship between them and the public which they serve;

(5) By requiring compliance with local solid waste management plans and related implementation ordinances;

(6) By requiring certificate holders under chapter 81.77 RCW to use rate structures and billing systems consistent with the solid waste management priorities set forth under RCW 70.95.010 and the minimum levels of solid waste collection and recycling services pursuant to local comprehensive solid waste management plans. The commission may order consolidated billing and provide for reasonable and necessary expenses to be paid to the administering company if more than one certificate is granted in an area.

The commission, on complaint made on its own motion or by an aggrieved party, at any time, after providing the holder of any certificate with notice and an opportunity for a hearing at which it shall be proven that the holder has willfully violated or refused to observe any of the commission's orders, rules, or regulations, or has failed to operate as a solid waste collection company for a period of at least one year preceding the filing of the complaint, may suspend, revoke, alter, or amend any certificate issued under the provisions of this chapter. [2005 c 121 § 5; 1989 c 431 § 20; 1987 c 239 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 105 § 1; 1961 c 295 § 4.]

**81.77.040 Certificate of convenience and necessity required—Issuance—Transferability—Solid waste categories.** A solid waste collection company shall not operate for the hauling of solid waste for compensation without first having obtained from the commission a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity require such operation. Operating for the hauling of solid waste for compensation includes advertising, soliciting, offering, or entering into an agreement to provide that service. To operate a solid waste collection company in the unincorporated areas of a county, the company must comply with the solid waste management plan prepared under chapter 70.95 RCW in the company's franchise area.

Issuance of the certificate of necessity must be determined on, but not limited to, the following factors: The present service and the cost thereof for the contemplated area to be served; an estimate of the cost of the facilities to be utilized in the plant for solid waste collection and disposal, set out in an affidavit or declaration; a statement of the assets on hand of the person, firm, association, or corporation that will be expended on the purported plant for solid waste collection and disposal, set out in an affidavit or declaration; a statement

(2012 Ed.)

of prior experience, if any, in such field by the petitioner, set out in an affidavit or declaration; and sentiment in the community contemplated to be served as to the necessity for such a service.

When an applicant requests a certificate to operate in a territory already served by a certificate holder under this chapter, the commission may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, issue the certificate only if the existing solid waste collection company or companies serving the territory will not provide service to the satisfaction of the commission or if the existing solid waste collection company does not object.

In all other cases, the commission may, with or without hearing, issue certificates, or for good cause shown refuse to issue them, or issue them for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the rights granted such terms and conditions as, in its judgment, the public convenience and necessity may require.

Any right, privilege, certificate held, owned, or obtained by a solid waste collection company may be sold, assigned, leased, transferred, or inherited as other property, only if authorized by the commission.

For purposes of issuing certificates under this chapter, the commission may adopt categories of solid wastes as follows: Garbage, refuse, recyclable materials, and demolition debris. A certificate may be issued for one or more categories of solid waste. Certificates issued on or before July 23, 1989, shall not be expanded or restricted by operation of this chapter. [2010 c 24 § 1; 2007 c 234 § 66; 2005 c 121 § 6; 1989 c 431 § 21; 1987 c 239 § 2; 1961 c 295 § 5.]

**Effective date—2010 c 24:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2010." [2010 c 24 § 3.]

**81.77.050 Filing fees.** Any application for a certificate issued under this chapter or amendment thereof, or application to sell, lease, mortgage, or transfer a certificate issued under this chapter or any interest therein, shall be accompanied by such filing fee as the commission may prescribe by rule: PROVIDED, That such fee shall not exceed two hundred dollars. [1989 c 431 § 22; 1973 c 115 § 9; 1961 c 295 § 6.]

**81.77.060 Liability and property damage insurance—Surety bond.** The commission, in granting certificates to operate a solid waste collection company, shall require the owner or operator to first procure liability and property damage insurance from a company licensed to make liability insurance in the state or a surety bond of a company licensed to write surety bonds in the state, on each motor propelled vehicle used or to be used in transporting solid waste for compensation in the amount of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars for any recovery for personal injury by one person, and not less than ten thousand dollars and in such additional amount as the commission shall determine, for all persons receiving personal injury by reason of one act of negligence, and not less than ten thousand dollars for damage to property of any person other than the assured, and to maintain such liability and property damage insurance or surety bond in force on each motor propelled vehicle while so used. Each policy for liability or property damage insurance or surety bond required herein shall be filed with the commission and

kept in full force and effect and failure so to do shall be cause for revocation of the delinquent's certificate. [1989 c 431 § 23; 1961 c 295 § 7.]

**81.77.080 Companies to file reports of gross operating revenue and pay fees—Legislative intent—Disposition of revenue.** Every solid waste collection company shall, on or before the date specified by the commission for filing annual reports under RCW 81.04.080, file with the commission a statement on oath showing its gross operating revenue from intrastate operations for the preceding calendar year, or portion thereof, and pay to the commission a fee equal to one percent of the amount of gross operating revenue: PROVIDED, That the commission may, by rule, set minimum fees that do not exceed the cost of collecting the fees. The commission may by rule waive any or all of the minimum fee established pursuant to this section.

It is the intent of the legislature that the fees collected under the provisions of this chapter shall reasonably approximate the cost of supervising and regulating motor carriers subject thereto, and to that end the utilities and transportation commission is authorized to decrease the schedule of fees provided in this section by general order entered before March 1st of any year in which it determines that the moneys then in the solid waste collection companies account of the public service revolving fund and the fees currently to be paid will exceed the reasonable cost of supervising and regulating such carriers.

All fees collected under this section or under any other provision of this chapter shall be paid to the commission and shall be by it transmitted to the state treasurer within thirty days to be deposited to the credit of the public service revolving fund. [2003 c 296 § 5; 1989 c 431 § 24; 1971 ex.s. c 143 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 11; 1963 c 59 § 12; 1961 c 295 § 9.]

**81.77.090 Penalty.** (1) Every person who violates or fails to comply with, or who procures, aids, or abets in the violation of any provisions of this chapter, or who fails to obey, or comply with any order, decision, rule, regulation, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission, or any part or provision thereof, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) Each advertisement reproduced, broadcast, or displayed via a particular medium constitutes a separate violation under this chapter. [2010 c 24 § 2; 1961 c 295 § 10.]

**Effective date—2010 c 24:** See note following RCW 81.77.040.

**81.77.100 Application to foreign or interstate commerce—Regulation of solid waste collection companies.** This chapter applies to persons and motor vehicles engaged in interstate or foreign commerce to the full extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

To protect public health and safety and to ensure solid waste collection services are provided to all areas of the state, the commission, in accordance with this chapter, shall regulate all solid waste collection companies conducting business in the state. [2007 c 234 § 67; 1989 c 431 § 25; 1985 c 436 § 2; 1961 c 295 § 11.]

**81.77.110 Temporary certificates.** The commission may with or without a hearing issue temporary certificates to engage in the business of operating a solid waste collection

company, but only after it finds that the issuance of such temporary certificate is consistent with the public interest. Such temporary certificate may be issued for a period up to one hundred eighty days where the area or territory covered thereby is not contained in the certificate of any other solid waste collection company. In all other cases such temporary certificate may be issued for a period not to exceed one hundred twenty days. The commission may prescribe such special rules and regulations and impose such special terms and conditions with reference thereto as in its judgment are reasonable and necessary in carrying out the provisions of this chapter. The commission shall collect a fee of twenty-five dollars for an application for such temporary certificate. [1989 c 431 § 26; 1965 ex.s. c 105 § 2.]

**81.77.120 Service to unincorporated areas of counties.** A county legislative authority shall periodically comment to the commission in writing concerning the authority's perception of the adequacy of service being provided by regulated franchisees serving the unincorporated areas of the county. The county legislative authority shall also receive and forward to the commission all letters of comment on services provided by regulated franchise holder(s) serving unincorporated areas of the county. Any such written comments or letters shall become part of the record of any rate, compliance, or any other hearing held by the commission on the issuance, revocation, or reissuance of a certificate provided for in RCW 81.77.040. [1987 c 239 § 3.]

**81.77.130 Application of chapter to collection or transportation of source separated recyclable materials.** The provisions of chapter 81.77 RCW shall not apply to the collection or transportation of source separated recyclable materials from residences under a contract with any county, city, or town, nor to any city or town which itself undertakes the collection and transportation of source separated recyclable materials from residences. [1989 c 431 § 19.]

**81.77.140 Application of chapter—Collection and transportation of recyclable materials by recycling companies or nonprofit entities—Reuse or reclamation.** Nothing in this chapter shall prevent a recycling company or nonprofit entity from collecting and transporting recyclable materials from a buy-back center, drop-box, or from a commercial or industrial generator of recyclable materials, or upon agreement with a solid waste collection company.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting a commercial or industrial generator of commercial recyclable materials from selling, conveying, or arranging for transportation of such material to a recycler for reuse or reclamation. [1989 c 431 § 31.]

**81.77.160 Pass-through rates—Rules.** (1) The commission, in fixing and altering collection rates charged by every solid waste collection company under this section, shall include in the base for the collection rates:

(a) All charges for the disposal of solid waste at the facility or facilities designated by a local jurisdiction under a local comprehensive solid waste management plan or ordinance; and

(b) All known and measurable costs related to implementation of the approved county or city comprehensive solid waste management plan.

(2) If a solid waste collection company files a tariff to recover the costs specified under this section, and the commission suspends the tariff, the portion of the tariff covering costs specified in this section shall be placed in effect by the commission at the request of the company on an interim basis as of the originally filed effective date, subject to refund, pending the commission's final order. The commission may adopt rules to implement this section.

(3) This section applies to a solid waste collection company that has an affiliated interest under chapter 81.16 RCW with a facility, if the total cost of disposal, including waste transfer, transport, and disposal charges, at the facility is equal to or lower than any other reasonable and currently available option. [1997 c 434 § 1; 1989 c 431 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.77.170 Fees, charges, or taxes—Normal operating expense.** For rate-making purposes, a fee, charge, or tax on the disposal of solid waste shall be considered a normal operating expense of the solid waste collection company. [1989 c 431 § 36.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.77.180 Recyclable materials collection—Processing and marketing.** (1) A solid waste collection company collecting recyclable materials from residences shall utilize one or more private recycling businesses when arranging for the processing and marketing of such materials, if the following conditions are met:

(a) A recycling business is located within the county at the time the collection program commences or at any time that the solid waste collection company changes its existing processor;

(b) A local private recycling business is capable and competent to provide the processing and marketing service; and

(c) A local private recycling business offers to pay a price for the recyclable materials which is equal to or greater than the price offered by out-of-county private recyclers, or proposes a charge for the processing and marketing service which is equal to or less than the charge for the service available from an out-of-county private recycler.

(2) This section shall not apply to:

(a) Cities or towns who exercise their authority under RCW 81.77.130 to provide residential curbside collection of recyclable materials;

(b) A solid waste collection company that is directed by a city, town, or county to utilize a publicly owned recyclable processing facility located within such city, town, or county; or

(c) Counties which exercise their authority under RCW 36.58.040 to contract for the residential curbside collection of source separated recyclables.

This section shall not apply to programs for the collection of source separated recyclable materials where rates to implement the programs have been filed with the commission prior to May 21, 1991.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) For the purposes of this section, "private recycling business" means any private for-profit or private not-for-profit firm that engages in the processing and marketing of recyclable materials.

(4) This section is not enforceable by complaint filed with the commission. [1991 c 319 § 403.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.77.185 Recyclable materials collection—Revenue sharing—Report.** (1) The commission shall allow solid waste collection companies collecting recyclable materials to retain up to fifty percent of the revenue paid to the companies for the material if the companies submit a plan to the commission that is certified by the appropriate local government authority as being consistent with the local government solid waste plan and that demonstrates how the revenues will be used to increase recycling. The remaining revenue shall be passed to residential customers.

(2) By December 2, 2005, the commission shall provide a report to the legislature that evaluates:

(a) The effectiveness of revenue sharing as an incentive to increase recycling in the state; and

(b) The effect of revenue sharing on costs to customers. [2010 c 154 § 3; 2002 c 299 § 6.]

**Intent—Scope of authority—2010 c 154:** See notes following RCW 70.95.080.

**81.77.190 Curbside recycling—Reduced rate.** (1) If the commission authorizes a surcharge or reduced rate incentive based on a customer's participation in a company's curbside residential recycling program, customers participating in any other noncurbside recycling program approved by the jurisdiction shall be eligible for such incentives.

(2) For the purpose of this section, "reduced rate" means a residential solid waste collection rate incorporating a rebate, refund, or discount. It does not include any residential solid waste collection rate based on the volume or weight of solid waste set out for collection. [1991 c 319 § 406.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.77.195 Discounts for low-income customers.** Upon request of a county, the commission may approve rates, charges, or services at a discount for low-income senior customers and low-income customers, as adopted by the county in its comprehensive solid waste management plan. Expenses and lost revenues as a result of these discounts must be included in the company's cost of service and recovered in rates to other customers. [2010 c 154 § 4.]

**Intent—Scope of authority—2010 c 154:** See notes following RCW 70.95.080.

**81.77.200 Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.** It is unlawful for any motor carrier to perform a transportation service for compensation upon the public highways of this state without first having secured appropriate federal authority from the United States department of transportation, if such authority is required, and without first having registered with the commission either directly or through a federally authorized uniform registration program. [2007 c 234 § 64.]

**Chapter 81.80 RCW**  
**MOTOR FREIGHT CARRIERS**

## Sections

81.80.010	Definitions.
81.80.020	Declaration of policy.
81.80.040	Exempt vehicles.
81.80.045	Exemption—Freight consolidators.
81.80.050	Compliance required.
81.80.060	Combination of services.
81.80.070	Common carriers, contract carriers, and temporary carriers—Permit required.
81.80.075	Household goods carriers—Permit required, penalty, cease and desist orders.
81.80.080	Application for permit.
81.80.090	Form of application—Filing fees.
81.80.100	Form and contents of permit.
81.80.110	Limitation on renewal of application.
81.80.115	Fees imposed under this chapter—Procedure for contesting—Rules.
81.80.120	Classification of carriers.
81.80.130	Regulatory power over common carriers.
81.80.132	Common carriers—Estimate of charges for household goods—Penalty.
81.80.140	Regulatory power over contract carriers.
81.80.150	Tariffs to be compiled and sold.
81.80.170	Temporary permits.
81.80.190	Insurance or deposit of security required.
81.80.195	Liability insurance requirements exclusive.
81.80.200	Conditions may be attached to permits.
81.80.211	Hours of operators—Rules and regulations.
81.80.220	Tariff rates to be charged.
81.80.230	Penalty for rebating, etc.—Procedure for collection.
81.80.250	Bond to protect shippers and consignees.
81.80.260	Operation in more than one class.
81.80.270	Permits—Acquisition of carrier holding permit—Commission approval—Duties on cessation of operation.
81.80.272	Transfer of decedent's interest—Temporary continuance of operations.
81.80.280	Cancellation, suspension, and alteration of permits—Notice by household goods carriers.
81.80.290	Rules and regulations.
81.80.305	Markings required—Exemptions.
81.80.321	Regulatory fee—Based on gross income—Legislative intent—Delinquent fee payments—Public service revolving fund.
81.80.330	Enforcement of chapter.
81.80.345	Venue—Hearings on applications.
81.80.355	Unlawful advertising—Penalty.
81.80.357	Advertising—Household goods—Permit number required—Penalty.
81.80.360	Procedure—Penalties—General statute invoked.
81.80.370	Application to interstate and foreign commerce.
81.80.371	Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.
81.80.372	Rights or privileges for compensatory services.
81.80.430	Brokers and forwarders.
81.80.470	Recyclable materials collection and transportation—Construction.
81.80.900	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Reciprocal or proportional registration of vehicles: Chapter 46.85 RCW.*

*Taxation of motor carriers of freight for hire—Allocation of gross receipts: RCW 35.21.840.*

**81.80.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Common carrier" means any person who undertakes to transport property for the general public by motor vehicle for compensation, whether over regular or irregular routes, or regular or irregular schedules, including motor vehicle operations of other carriers by rail or water and of express or forwarding companies.

(2) "Contract carrier" includes all motor vehicle operators not included under the terms "common carrier" and "private carrier" as defined in this section, and further includes any person who under special and individual contracts or

agreements transports property by motor vehicle for compensation.

(3) "Common carrier" and "contract carrier" includes persons engaged in the business of providing, contracting for, or undertaking to provide transportation of property for compensation over the public highways of the state of Washington as brokers or forwarders.

(4) "Exempt carrier" means any person operating a vehicle exempted under RCW 81.80.040.

(5) "Household goods carrier" means a person who transports for compensation, by motor vehicle within this state, or who advertises, solicits, offers, or enters into an agreement to transport household goods as defined by the commission.

(6) "Motor carrier" includes "common carrier," "contract carrier," "private carrier," and "exempt carrier" as defined in this section.

(7) "Motor vehicle" means any truck, trailer, semitrailer, tractor, dump truck which uses a hydraulic or mechanical device to dump or discharge its load, or any self-propelled or motor-driven vehicle used upon any public highway of this state for the purpose of transporting property, but not including baggage, mail, and express transported on the vehicles of auto transportation companies carrying passengers.

(8) "Person" includes an individual, firm, copartnership, corporation, company, or association or their lessees, trustees, or receivers.

(9) A "private carrier" is a person who transports by his or her own motor vehicle, with or without compensation, property which is owned or is being bought or sold by the person, or property where the person is the seller, purchaser, lessee, or bailee and the transportation is incidental to and in furtherance of some other primary business conducted by the person in good faith.

(10) "Public highway" means every street, road, or highway in this state.

(11) "Vehicle" means every device capable of being moved upon a public highway and in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, except devices moved by human or animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rail or tracks. [2009 c 94 § 1; 2007 c 234 § 68; 1989 c 60 § 1; 1988 c 31 § 1; 1982 c 71 § 1; 1967 c 69 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.010. Prior: 1937 c 166 § 2; 1935 c 184 § 2; RRS § 6382-2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.80.020 Declaration of policy.** The business of operating as a motor carrier of freight for compensation along the highways of this state is declared to be a business affected with a public interest. The rapid increase of motor carrier freight traffic and the fact that under the existing law many motor trucks are not effectively regulated have increased the dangers and hazards on public highways and make it imperative that regulation to the fullest extent allowed under 49 U.S.C. Sec. 14501 should be employed to the end that the highways may be rendered safer for the use of the general public; that the wear of such highways may be reduced; that congestion on highways may be minimized; that the shippers of the state may be provided with a stabilized service and rate

structure; that sound economic conditions in such transportation and among such carriers may be fostered in the public interest; that adequate, economical, and efficient service by motor carriers, and reasonable charges therefor, without unjust discrimination, undue preferences or advantages, or unfair or destructive competitive practices may be promoted; that the common carriage of commodities by motor carrier may be preserved in the public interest; that the relations between, and transportation by and regulation of, motor carriers and other carriers may be improved and coordinated so that the highways of the state of Washington may be properly developed and preserved, and the public may be assured adequate, complete, dependable, and stable transportation service in all its phases. [2007 c 234 § 69; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.020. Prior: 1937 c 166 § 1; 1935 c 184 § 1; RRS § 6382-1.]

**81.80.040 Exempt vehicles.** (1) The provisions of this chapter, except where specifically otherwise provided, and except the provisions providing for licenses, shall not apply to:

(a) Motor vehicles when operated in transportation exclusively within the corporate limits of any city or town of less than ten thousand population unless contiguous to a city or town of ten thousand population or over, nor between contiguous cities or towns both or all of which are less than ten thousand population;

(b) Motor vehicles when operated in transportation wholly within the corporate limits of cities or towns of ten thousand or more but less than thirty thousand population, or between such cities or towns when contiguous, as to which the commission, after investigation and the issuance of an order thereon, has determined that no substantial public interest exists which requires that such transportation be subject to regulation under this chapter;

(c) Motor vehicles when transporting exclusively the United States mail or in the transportation of newspapers or periodicals;

(d) Motor vehicles owned and operated by the United States, the state of Washington, or any county, city, town, or municipality therein, or by any department of them, or either of them;

(e) Motor vehicles specially constructed for towing not more than two disabled, unauthorized, or repossessed motor vehicles, wrecking, or exchanging an operable vehicle for a disabled vehicle and not otherwise used in transporting goods for compensation. For the purposes of this subsection (1)(e), a vehicle is considered to be repossessed only from the time of its actual repossession through the end of its initial tow;

(f) Motor vehicles normally owned and operated by farmers in the transportation of their own farm, orchard, or dairy products, including livestock and plant or animal wastes, from point of production to market, or in the infrequent or seasonal transportation by one farmer for another farmer, if their farms are located within twenty miles of each other, of products of the farm, orchard, or dairy, including livestock and plant or animal wastes, or of supplies or commodities to be used on the farm, orchard, or dairy;

(g) Motor vehicles when transporting exclusively water in connection with construction projects only;

(h) Motor vehicles of less than 8,000 pounds gross vehicle weight when transporting exclusively legal documents, pleadings, process, correspondence, depositions, briefs, medical records, photographs, books or papers, cash or checks, when moving shipments of the documents described at the direction of an attorney as part of providing legal services.

(2) The exemptions set forth in subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section do not apply to household goods carriers. [2009 c 94 § 2; 1993 c 121 § 4; 1984 c 171 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 6 § 1; 1963 c 59 § 7; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.040. Prior: 1957 c 205 § 4; 1949 c 133 § 1; 1947 c 263 § 1; 1937 c 166 § 4; 1935 c 184 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6382-3.]

**81.80.045 Exemption—Freight consolidators.** This chapter does not apply to the operations of a shipper or a group or association of shippers in consolidating or distributing freight for themselves or for their members on a nonprofit basis for the purpose of securing the benefits of carload, truckload, or other volume rates, when the services of a common carrier are used for the transportation of such shipments. [2007 c 234 § 70; 1979 ex.s. c 138 § 1.]

**81.80.050 Compliance required.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate as a "motor carrier" on any public highway of this state except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.050. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 4; RRS § 6382-4.]

**81.80.060 Combination of services.** Every person who engages for compensation to perform a combination of services, a substantial portion of which includes transportation of property of others upon the public highways, is subject to the jurisdiction of the commission as to such transportation and shall not engage in such transportation without first having obtained a common carrier or contract carrier permit to do so. A combination of services includes, but is not limited to, the delivery of household appliances for others where the delivering carrier also unpacks or uncrates the appliances and makes the initial installation. Any person engaged in extracting or processing, or both, and, in connection therewith, hauling materials exclusively for the maintenance, construction, or improvement of a public highway is not engaged in performing a combination of services. [2007 c 234 § 71; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 17; 1969 c 33 § 1. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 145 § 77; 1967 c 69 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 170 § 40; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.060; prior: 1937 c 166 § 5; RRS § 6382-4a.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.80.070 Common carriers, contract carriers, and temporary carriers—Permit required.** (1) A common carrier, contract carrier, or temporary carrier shall not operate for the transportation of property for compensation in this state without first obtaining from the commission a permit for such operation.

(2) The commission shall issue a common carrier permit to any qualified applicant if it is found the applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the service and conform to the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission.

(3) Before a permit is issued, the commission shall require the applicant to establish safety fitness and proof of

minimum financial responsibility as provided in this chapter. [2009 c 94 § 3; 2007 c 234 § 72; 1999 c 79 § 1; 1963 c 242 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.070. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 17; 1947 c 264 § 2; 1941 c 163 § 1; 1937 c 166 § 6; 1935 c 184 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6382-5.]

**81.80.075 Household goods carriers—Permit required, penalty, cease and desist orders.** (1) No person shall engage in business as a household goods carrier without first obtaining a household goods carrier permit from the commission.

(2) Permits issued to any household goods carrier must be exercised by the carrier to the fullest extent to render reasonable service to the public. Applications for household goods carrier permits or permit extensions must be on file for a period of at least thirty days before issuance unless the commission finds that special conditions require earlier issuance.

(3) The commission must issue a permit or permit extension to any qualified applicant, authorizing the whole or any part of the operations covered by the application, if it is found that: The applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the services proposed and conform to this chapter and the requirements, rules, and regulations of the commission; the operations are consistent with the public interest; and, in the case of common carriers, they are required by the present or future public convenience and necessity; otherwise, the application must be denied.

(4) Any person who engages in business as a household goods carrier in violation of subsection (1) of this section is subject to a penalty of up to five thousand dollars per violation.

(a) If the basis for the violation is advertising, each advertisement reproduced, broadcast, or displayed via a particular medium constitutes a separate violation.

(b) In deciding the amount of penalty to be imposed per violation, the commission shall consider the following factors:

(i) The carrier's willingness to comply with the requirements of RCW 81.80.070 and the commission's rules under this chapter; and

(ii) The carrier's history with respect to compliance with this section.

(5) Any person who engages in business as a household goods carrier in violation of a cease and desist order issued by the commission under RCW 81.04.510 is subject to a penalty of up to ten thousand dollars per violation. [2009 c 94 § 4.]

**81.80.080 Application for permit.** Application for permits must be made to the commission in writing and must state the ownership, financial condition, equipment to be used and physical property of the applicant, the territory or route or routes in or over which the applicant proposes to operate, the nature of the transportation to be engaged in, and other information as the commission may require. [2007 c 234 § 73; 1991 c 41 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.080. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 6; RRS § 6382-6.]

**81.80.090 Form of application—Filing fees.** The commission shall prescribe forms of application for permits and for extensions thereof for the use of prospective applicants, and for transfer of permits and for acquisition of con-

trol of carriers holding permits, and shall make regulations for the filing thereof. Any such application shall be accompanied by such filing fee as the commission may prescribe by rule: PROVIDED, That such fee shall not exceed five hundred fifty dollars. [1993 c 97 § 5; 1973 c 115 § 10; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.090. Prior: 1941 c 163 § 2; 1937 c 166 § 7; 1935 c 184 § 7; RRS § 6382-7.]

**81.80.100 Form and contents of permit.** Permits granted by the commission shall be in such form as the commission shall prescribe and shall set forth the name and address of the person to whom the permit is granted, the nature of the transportation service to be engaged in and the principal place of operation, termini or route to be used or territory to be served by the operation. No permit holder shall operate except in accordance with the permit issued to him. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.100. Prior: 1935 c 194 § 8; RRS § 6382-8.]

**81.80.110 Limitation on renewal of application.** No person whose application for a permit has been denied after hearing under any of the provisions of this chapter shall be eligible to renew the application for a period of six months from the date of the order denying such application. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.110. Prior: 1947 c 264 § 3; 1935 c 184 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6382-9.]

**81.80.115 Fees imposed under this chapter—Procedure for contesting—Rules.** If a person seeks to contest the imposition of a fee imposed under this chapter, the person shall pay the fee and request a refund within six months of the due date for the payment by filing a petition for a refund with the commission. The commission shall establish by rule procedures for handling refund petitions and may delegate the decisions on refund petitions to the secretary of the commission. [1993 c 97 § 6.]

**81.80.120 Classification of carriers.** The commission may from time to time establish such just and reasonable classifications of the groups of carriers included in the terms "common carriers" and "contract carriers" as the special nature of the services performed by such carriers shall require, and such just and reasonable rules, regulations and requirements, consistent with the provisions of this chapter, to be observed by the carriers so classified or grouped, as the commission deems necessary or advisable in the public interest. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.120. Prior: 1937 c 166 § 8; 1935 c 184 § 10; RRS § 6382-10.]

**81.80.130 Regulatory power over common carriers.** To the extent allowed under 49 U.S.C. Sec. 14501, the commission shall: Supervise and regulate every common carrier in this state; make, fix, alter, and amend, just, fair, reasonable, minimum, maximum, or minimum and maximum, rates, charges, classifications, rules, and regulations for all common carriers; regulate the accounts, service, and safety of operations thereof; require the filing of reports and other data thereby; and supervise and regulate all common carriers in all other matters affecting their relationship with competing carriers of every kind and the shipping and general public. The commission may by order approve rates filed by common

carriers in respect to certain designated commodities and services when, in the opinion of the commission, it is impractical for the commission to make, fix, or prescribe rates covering the commodities and services. [2007 c 234 § 74; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.130. Prior: 1957 c 205 § 5; 1937 c 166 § 9; 1935 c 184 § 11; RRS § 6382-11.]

**81.80.132 Common carriers—Estimate of charges for household goods—Penalty.** When a common carrier gives an estimate of charges for services in carrying household goods, the carrier will endeavor to accurately reflect the actual charges. The carrier is subject to a monetary penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars per violation when the actual charges exceed the percentages allowed by the commission. [1993 c 392 § 1.]

**81.80.140 Regulatory power over contract carriers.** To the extent allowed under 49 U.S.C. Sec. 14501, the commission shall: Supervise and regulate every contract carrier in this state; fix, alter, and amend, just, fair, and reasonable classifications, rules, and regulations and minimum rates and charges of each contract carrier; regulate the account, service, and safety of contract carriers' operations; require the filing of reports and of other data thereby; and supervise and regulate contract carriers in all other matters affecting their relationship with both the shipping and the general public. [2007 c 234 § 75; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.140. Prior: 1937 c 166 § 11; 1935 c 184 § 12; RRS § 6382-12.]

**81.80.150 Tariffs to be compiled and sold.** The commission shall make, fix, construct, compile, promulgate, publish, and distribute tariffs containing compilations of rates, charges, classifications, rules, and regulations to be used by all household goods carriers. In compiling these tariffs, the commission shall include within any given tariff compilation the carriers, groups of carriers, commodities, or geographical areas it determines are in the public interest. The compilations and publications may be made by the commission by compiling the rates, charges, classifications, rules, and regulations now in effect, and as they may be amended and altered from time to time after notice and hearing, by issuing and distributing revised pages or supplements to the tariffs or reissues of tariffs in accordance with the orders of the commission. The commission, upon good cause shown, may establish temporary rates, charges, or classification changes which may be made permanent only after publication in an applicable tariff for not less than sixty days and a determination by the commission that the rates, charges, or classifications are just, fair, and reasonable. If a shipper or common carrier, or representative of either, files a protest with the commission, within sixty days from the date of publication, stating that the temporary rates are unjust, unfair, or unreasonable, the commission must hold a hearing to consider the protest. Publication of these temporary rates in the tariff is adequate public notice. The commission may, upon notice and hearing, fix and determine just, fair, and reasonable rates, charges, and classifications. Each common carrier shall purchase from the commission and post tariffs applicable to its authority. The commission shall set fees for the sale, supplements, and corrections of the tariffs at rates to cover all costs of making, fixing, constructing, compiling, promulgating, publishing, and

distributing the tariffs. The proper tariff, or tariffs, applicable to a carrier's operations must be available to the public at each agency and office of all common carriers operating within this state. The compilations and publications must be sold by the commission for the established fee. However, copies may be furnished for free to other regulatory bodies and departments of government and to colleges, schools, and libraries. All copies of the compilations, whether sold or given for free, must be issued and distributed under rules fixed by the commission. The commission may by order authorize common carriers to publish and file tariffs with the commission and be governed by the tariffs in respect to certain designated commodities and services when, in the opinion of the commission, it is impractical for the commission to make, fix, construct, compile, publish, and distribute tariffs covering such commodities and services. [2007 c 234 § 76; 1993 c 97 § 4; 1981 c 116 § 2; 1973 c 115 § 11; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.150. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 5; 1957 c 205 § 6; 1947 c 264 § 4; 1941 c 163 § 3; 1937 c 166 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6382-11a.]

**81.80.170 Temporary permits.** The commission may issue temporary permits to temporary household goods carriers for no more than one hundred eighty days, but only after the commission finds that the issuance of the temporary permits is consistent with the public interest. The commission may prescribe special rules and regulations and impose special terms and conditions as in its judgment are reasonable and necessary in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

The commission may also issue temporary permits pending the determination of an application filed with the commission for approval of a consolidation or merger of the properties of two or more household goods carriers or of a purchase or lease of one or more household goods carriers. [2007 c 234 § 77; 1963 c 242 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.170. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 18; 1947 c 264 § 5; 1937 c 166 § 12; 1935 c 184 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6382-14.]

**81.80.190 Insurance or deposit of security required.** The commission shall, in issuing permits to common carriers and contract carriers under this chapter, require the carriers to either procure and file liability and property damage insurance from a company licensed to write such insurance in the state of Washington, or deposit security, for the limits of liability and on terms and conditions that the commission determines are necessary for the reasonable protection of the public against damage and injury for which the carrier may be liable by reason of the operation of any motor vehicle.

In fixing the amount of the insurance policy or policies, or deposit of security, the commission shall consider the character and amount of traffic and the number of persons affected and the degree of danger that the proposed operation involves. [2007 c 234 § 78; 1986 c 191 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.190. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 16; RRS § 6382-16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.80.195 Liability insurance requirements exclusive.** This chapter shall exclusively govern the liability insurance requirements for motor vehicle common and contract carriers. Any motor vehicle that meets the public liability requirements prescribed under RCW 81.80.190 shall not be

required to comply with any ordinances of a city or county prescribing insurance requirements. [1989 c 264 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.80.200 Conditions may be attached to permits.**

The commission is hereby vested with power and authority in issuing permits to any of the carriers classified in accordance with RCW 81.80.120 to attach thereto such terms and conditions and to require such insurance or security as it may deem necessary for the protection of the public highways and to be for the best interest of the shipping and the general public. All such regulations and conditions shall be deemed temporary and may be revoked by the commission upon recommendation of the state or county authorities in charge of highway maintenance or safety when in the judgment of such authorities such revocation is required in order to protect the public or preserve the public highways. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.200. Prior: 1937 c 166 § 14; 1935 c 184 § 17; RRS § 6382-17.]

**81.80.211 Hours of operators—Rules and regulations.** The commission may adopt rules and regulations relating to the hours of duty of motor carrier drivers and operators. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.211. Prior: 1953 c 95 § 23.]

**81.80.220 Tariff rates to be charged.** A household goods carrier shall not collect or receive a greater, less, or different remuneration for the transportation of property or for any service in connection therewith than the rates and charges that are either legally established and filed with the commission or are specified in the contract or contracts filed. A household goods carrier shall not refund or remit in any manner or by any device any portion of the rates and charges required to be collected by each tariff or contract or filing with the commission.

The commission may check the records of all carriers under this chapter and of those employing the services of the carrier to discover all discriminations, under or overcharges, and rebates, and may suspend or revoke permits for violations of this section.

The commission may refuse to accept any time schedule, tariff, or contract that, in the opinion of the commission, limits the service of a carrier to profitable trips only or to the carrying of high class commodities in competition with other carriers who give a complete service affording one carrier an unfair advantage over a competitor. [2007 c 234 § 79; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.220. Prior: 1937 c 166 § 16; 1935 c 184 § 19; RRS § 6382-19.]

**81.80.230 Penalty for rebating, etc.—Procedure for collection.** Any person, whether a household goods carrier subject to this chapter, shipper, or consignee, or any officer, employee, agent, or representative thereof, who: (1) Offers, grants, gives, solicits, accepts, or receives any rebate, concession, or discrimination in violation of this chapter; (2) by means of any false statement or representation, or by the use of any false or fictitious bill, bill of lading, receipt, voucher, roll, account, claim, certificate, affidavit, deposition, lease, or bill of sale, or by any other means or device assists, suffers, or permits any person or persons, natural or artificial, to obtain transportation of property subject to this chapter for less than the applicable rate, fare, or charge; or (3) fraudu-

lently seeks to evade or defeat regulation of motor carriers under this chapter is subject to a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars for each violation. Each and every violation is a separate and distinct offense, and in case of a continuing violation every day's continuance is a separate and distinct violation. Every act or omission that procures, aids, or abets in the violation is also a violation under this section and subject to the penalty under this section.

The penalty under this section is due and payable when the person incurring the penalty receives a notice in writing from the commission describing the violation with reasonable particularity and advising the person that the penalty is due. The commission may, upon a written application received within fifteen days, remit or mitigate any penalty under this section or discontinue any prosecution to recover the penalty upon such terms as the commission in its discretion deems proper. The commission may ascertain the facts on all applications. If the penalty is not paid to the commission within fifteen days after receipt of the notice imposing the penalty, or the application for remission or mitigation is not made within fifteen days after the violator has received notice of the disposition of the application, the attorney general shall bring an action in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county or another county where the violator may do business, to recover the penalty. In all such actions, the procedure and rules of evidence are the same as in an ordinary civil action except as otherwise provided in this section. All penalties recovered under this section must be paid into the state treasury and credited to the public service revolving fund. [2007 c 234 § 80; 1980 c 132 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.230. Prior: 1947 c 264 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6382-19a.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.80.250 Bond to protect shippers and consignees.**

The commission may require any household goods carrier to file a surety bond, or deposit security, in an amount determined by the commission, that is conditioned on the carrier compensating the shippers and consignees for all money belonging to the shippers and consignees, and coming into the possession of the carrier in connection with its transportation service. Any household goods carrier required by law to compensate a shipper or consignee for any loss, damage, or default, for which a connecting common carrier is legally responsible, must be subrogated to the rights of the shipper or consignee under any bond or deposit of security to the extent of the amount paid. [2007 c 234 § 81; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.250. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 21; RRS § 6382-21.]

**81.80.260 Operation in more than one class.** It is unlawful for any household goods carrier to operate any vehicle at the same time in more than one class of operation, except upon approval of the commission and a finding that the operation is in the public interest.

An exempt carrier shall not transport property for compensation except as provided under this chapter. [2007 c 234 § 82; 1967 c 69 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.260. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 22; RRS § 6382-22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.80.270 Permits—Acquisition of carrier holding permit—Commission approval—Duties on cessation of operation.** Permits issued under this chapter are neither irrevocable nor subject to transfer or assignment except upon a proper showing that property rights might be affected thereby, and then in the discretion of the commission.

Any person, partnership, or corporation, singly or in combination with any other person, partnership, or corporation, whether a household goods carrier holding a permit or otherwise, or any combination of such, shall not acquire control or enter into any agreement or arrangement to acquire control of a household goods carrier holding a permit through ownership of its stock or through purchase, lease, or contract to manage the business, or otherwise, except after and with the approval and authorization of the commission. However, upon the dissolution of a partnership, which holds a permit, because of the death, bankruptcy, or withdrawal of a partner where the partner's interest is transferred to his or her spouse or to one or more remaining partners, or in the case of a corporation which holds a permit, in the case of the death of a shareholder where a shareholder's interest upon death is transferred to his or her spouse or to one or more of the remaining shareholders, the commission shall transfer the permit to the newly organized partnership that is substantially composed of the remaining partners, or continue the corporation's permit without hearing and protest. In all other cases, any transaction either directly or indirectly entered into without approval of the commission is void, and it is unlawful for any person seeking to acquire or divest control of the permit to be a party to the transaction without approval of the commission.

Every carrier who ceases operation and abandons his or her rights under the permits issued to him or her shall notify the commission within thirty days of the cessation or abandonment. [2007 c 234 § 83; 1973 c 115 § 12; 1969 ex.s. c 210 § 12; 1965 ex.s. c 134 § 1; 1963 c 59 § 6; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.270. Prior: 1959 c 248 § 24; 1937 c 166 § 18; 1935 c 184 § 23; RRS § 6382-23.]

**81.80.272 Transfer of decedent's interest—Temporary continuance of operations.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 81.80.270, any permit granted or issued to any household goods carrier under this chapter and held by a person alone or in conjunction with others other than as stockholders in a corporation at the time of his or her death is transferable as any other right or interest of the person's estate subject to the following:

(1) Application for transfer must be made to the commission in a form and contain information prescribed by the commission. The transfer described in the application must be approved if it appears from the application or from any hearing held thereon or from any investigation thereof that the proposed transferee is fit, willing, and able properly to perform the services authorized by the permit to be transferred and to conform to the provisions of this chapter and the requirements, rules, and regulations of the commission, otherwise the application must be denied.

(2) Temporary continuance of motor carrier operations without prior compliance with this section is recognized as justified by the public interest when the personal representatives, heirs, or surviving spouses of deceased persons desire

to continue the operations of the carriers whom they succeed in interest subject to reasonable rules and regulations prescribed by the commission.

In case of temporary continuance under this section, the successor shall immediately procure insurance or deposit security as required by RCW 81.80.190.

Immediately upon any temporary continuance of motor carrier operations and in any event not more than thirty days thereafter, the successor shall give notice of the succession by written notice to the commission containing information prescribed by the commission. [2007 c 234 § 84; 1973 c 115 § 13; 1965 ex.s. c 134 § 2.]

**81.80.280 Cancellation, suspension, and alteration of permits—Notice by household goods carriers.** (1) Permits may be canceled, suspended, altered, or amended by the commission upon complaint by any interested party, or upon the commission's own motion after notice and opportunity for hearing, when the permittee or permittee's agent has repeatedly violated this chapter, the rules and regulations of the commission, or the motor laws of this state or of the United States, or the household goods carrier has made unlawful rebates or has not conducted its operation in accordance with the permit. The commission may enjoin any person from any violation of this chapter, or any order, rule, or regulation made by the commission pursuant to the terms hereof. If the suit is instituted by the commission, a bond is not required as a condition to the issuance of the injunction.

(2) When the commission has canceled a household goods carrier permit, the carrier must, when directed by the commission, provide notice to every customer that its permit has been canceled, and provide proof of such notice to the commission. [2009 c 94 § 7; 2007 c 234 § 85; 1987 c 209 § 1; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.280. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 24; RRS § 6382-24.]

**81.80.290 Rules and regulations.** The commission shall have power and authority, by general order or otherwise, to prescribe rules and regulations in conformity with this chapter to carry out the purposes thereof, applicable to any and all "motor carriers," or to any persons transporting property by motor vehicle for compensation even though they do not come within the term "motor carrier" as herein defined.

The commission shall mail each holder of a permit under this chapter a copy of such rules and regulations. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.290. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 25; RRS § 6382-25.]

*Violation of rules pertaining to vehicle equipment on motor carriers transporting hazardous material: RCW 46.48.175.*

**81.80.305 Markings required—Exemptions.** (1) All motor vehicles, other than those exempt under subsection (2) of this section, must display a permanent marking identifying the name or number, or both, on each side of the power units. For a motor vehicle that is a common or contract carrier under permit by the commission as described in subsection (3)(a) of this section, a private carrier under subsection (4) of this section, or a leased carrier as described in subsection (5) of this section, any required identification that is added, modified, or renewed after September 1, 1991, must be displayed on the driver and passenger doors of the power unit. The

identification must be in a clearly legible style with letters no less than three inches high and in a color contrasting with the surrounding body panel.

(2) This section does not apply to (a) vehicles exempt under RCW 81.80.040, and (b) vehicles operated by private carriers that singly or in combination are less than thirty-six thousand pounds gross vehicle weight.

(3) If the motor vehicle is operated as (a) a common or contract carrier under a permit by the commission, the identification must contain the name of the permittee, or business name, and the permit number, or (b) a common or contract carrier holding both intrastate and interstate authority, the identification may be either the commission permit number or the federal vehicle marking requirement established by the United States department of transportation for interstate motor carriers.

(4) If the motor vehicle is a private carrier, the identification must contain the name and address of either the business operating the vehicle or the registered owner.

(5) If the motor vehicle is operated under lease, the vehicle must display either permanent markings or placards on the driver and passenger doors of the power unit. A motor vehicle under lease (a) that is operated as a common or contract carrier under permit by the commission must display identification as provided in subsection (3)(a) of this section, and (b) that is operated as a private carrier must display identification as provided in subsection (4) of this section. [2007 c 234 § 86; 1991 c 241 § 1.]

**81.80.321 Regulatory fee—Based on gross income—Legislative intent—Delinquent fee payments—Public service revolving fund.** In addition to all other fees to be paid, a common carrier and contract carrier shall pay a regulatory fee of no more than 0.0025 of its gross income from intrastate operations for the previous calendar year, or such other period as the commission designates by rule. The carrier shall pay the fee no later than four months after the end of the appropriate period and shall include with the payment such information as the commission requires by rule.

The legislature intends that the fees collected under this chapter shall reasonably approximate the cost of supervising and regulating motor carriers subject to this chapter, and to that end the commission may by general order decrease fees provided in this section if it determines that the moneys then in the motor carrier account of the public service revolving fund and the fees currently to be paid will exceed the reasonable cost of supervising and regulating carriers.

Any payment of the fee imposed by this section made after its due date shall include a late fee of two percent of the amount due. Delinquent fees shall accrue interest at the rate of one percent per month.

All fees collected under any other provision of this chapter must be paid to the commission. The commission shall transmit the fees to the state treasurer within thirty days for deposit to the credit of the public service revolving fund. [1994 c 83 § 4; 1993 c 97 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.80.330 Enforcement of chapter.** The commission may administer and enforce all provisions of this chapter and inspect the vehicles, books, and documents of all motor carriers

and the books, documents, and records of those using the service of the carriers for the purpose of discovering all discriminations and rebates and other information pertaining to the enforcement of this chapter and shall prosecute violations thereof. The commission shall employ auditors, inspectors, clerks, and assistants necessary for the enforcement of this chapter. The Washington state patrol shall perform all motor carrier safety inspections required by this chapter, including terminal safety audits, except for (1) those carriers subject to the economic regulation of the commission, or (2) a vehicle owned or operated by a carrier affiliated with a solid waste company subject to economic regulation by the commission. The Washington state patrol and the sheriffs of the counties shall make arrests and the county attorneys shall prosecute violations of this chapter. [2007 c 234 § 87; 1995 c 272 § 5; 1980 c 132 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.330. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 29; RRS § 6382-29.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.80.345 Venue—Hearings on applications.** Hearings on applications shall be heard in the county or adjoining county for which authority to operate is being applied. If more than one county is involved, the commission may hold the hearings at a location that will afford the greatest opportunity for testimony by witnesses representing the area for which authority to operate is being applied. [1988 c 58 § 1; 1963 c 242 § 3.]

**81.80.355 Unlawful advertising—Penalty.** Any person not holding a permit authorizing him to operate as a common carrier, contract carrier, or temporary carrier for the transportation of property for compensation in this state, or an exempt carrier, who displays on any building, vehicle, billboard or in any manner, any advertisement of, or by circular, letter, newspaper, magazine, poster, card or telephone directory, advertises the transportation of property for compensation shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punishable as such. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.355. Prior: 1957 c 205 § 8; 1953 c 95 § 22.]

**81.80.357 Advertising—Household goods—Permit number required—Penalty.** (1) No person in the business of transporting household goods as defined by the commission in intrastate commerce shall advertise without listing the carrier's Washington utilities and transportation commission permit number, physical address, and telephone number in the advertisement.

(2) All advertising, contracts, correspondence, cards, signs, posters, papers, and documents, including web sites or other online advertising, which show a household goods carrier name shall also show the carrier's Washington utilities and transportation commission permit number, physical address, and telephone number. The alphabetized listing of household goods carriers appearing in the advertising sections of telephone books or other directories and all advertising that shows the carrier's name or address shall show the carrier's current Washington utilities and transportation commission permit number.

(3) Radio or television advertising need not contain the carrier's Washington utilities and transportation commission permit number if the carrier provides its permit number,

physical address, and telephone number to the person selling the advertisement and it is recorded in the advertising contract.

(4) No person shall falsify a Washington utilities and transportation commission permit number or use a false or inaccurate Washington utilities and transportation commission permit number in connection with any solicitation or identification as an authorized household goods carrier.

(5) If, upon investigation, the commission determines that a household goods carrier or person acting in the capacity of a household goods carrier has violated this section, the commission may issue a penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars for every violation. [2009 c 94 § 6; 1994 c 168 § 1.]

**81.80.360 Procedure—Penalties—General statute invoked.** All applicable provisions of this title, relating to procedure, powers of the department and penalties, shall apply to the operation and regulation of persons under this chapter, except insofar as such provisions may conflict with provisions of this chapter and rules and regulations issued thereunder by the commission. [1961 c 14 § 81.80.360. Prior: 1937 c 166 § 22; RRS § 6382-31a.]

**81.80.370 Application to interstate and foreign commerce.** This chapter applies to persons and motor vehicles engaged in interstate or foreign commerce to the full extent permitted by the Constitution and laws of the United States. [2007 c 234 § 88; 1961 c 14 § 81.80.370. Prior: 1935 c 184 § 32; RRS § 6382-32.]

**81.80.371 Federal authority and registration for compensatory services.** It is unlawful for any motor carrier to perform a transportation service for compensation upon the public highways of this state without first having secured appropriate federal authority from the United States department of transportation, if the authority is required, and without first having registered with the commission either directly or through a federally authorized uniform registration program. [2007 c 234 § 89; 1963 c 59 § 9.]

**81.80.372 Rights or privileges for compensatory services.** This chapter does not confer on any person or persons the exclusive right or privilege of transporting property for compensation over the public highways of the state. [2009 c 94 § 5.]

**81.80.430 Brokers and forwarders.** (1) A person who provides brokering or forwarding services for the transportation of property in intrastate commerce shall file with the commission and keep in effect, a surety bond or deposit of satisfactory security, in a sum to be determined by the commission, but not less than five thousand dollars, conditioned upon the broker or forwarder compensating shippers, consignees, and carriers for all moneys belonging to them and coming into the broker's or forwarder's possession in connection with the transportation service.

(2) Failure to file the bond or deposit security is sufficient cause for the commission to refuse to grant the application for a permit or registration. Failure to maintain the bond or the deposit of security is sufficient cause for cancellation

of a permit or registration. [2007 c 234 § 90; 1991 c 146 § 1; 1990 c 109 § 1; 1989 c 60 § 2; 1988 c 31 § 2.]

**81.80.470 Recyclable materials collection and transportation—Construction.** (1) The collection or transportation of recyclable materials from a drop box or recycling buy-back center, or collection or transportation of recyclable materials by or on behalf of a commercial or industrial generator of recyclable materials to a recycler for use or reclamation is subject to regulation under this chapter.

(2) Nothing in this chapter changes RCW 81.77.010(8), to allow any entity, other than a solid waste collection company authorized by the commission or an entity collecting solid waste from a city or town under chapter 35.21 or 35A.21 RCW, to collect solid waste that may incidentally contain recyclable materials. [2007 c 234 § 91.]

**81.80.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 188.]

## Chapter 81.84 RCW COMMERCIAL FERRIES (Formerly: Steamboat companies)

### Sections

81.84.010	Certificate of convenience and necessity required—Recreation exemption—Service initiation—Progress reports.
81.84.020	Application—Hearing—Issuance of certificate—Determining factors.
81.84.025	Certificate—Insurance or bond required—Amounts.
81.84.030	Certificate—Transfer.
81.84.040	Filing fees.
81.84.050	Penalties—Remission, mitigation.
81.84.060	Certificate—Grounds for cancellation, revocation, suspension, alteration, or amendment.
81.84.070	Temporary certificate—Immediate and urgent need—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.

*Cities and towns may acquire and operate ferries: RCW 35.21.110.*

*Department of transportation as common carrier: RCW 47.60.220.*

*Excessive steam in boilers: RCW 70.54.080.*

*Lien on ships, equipment for labor, material, handling cargo, etc.: Chapter 60.36 RCW.*

*Navigation and harbor improvements: Title 88 RCW.*

*Privately owned ferries, county licensing: Chapter 36.53 RCW.*

*Tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas: Chapters 79.115, 79.125 RCW.*

**81.84.010 Certificate of convenience and necessity required—Recreation exemption—Service initiation—Progress reports.** (1) A commercial ferry may not operate any vessel or ferry for the public use for hire between fixed

termini or over a regular route upon the waters within this state, including the rivers and lakes and Puget Sound, without first applying for and obtaining from the commission a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity require such operation. Service authorized by certificates issued to a commercial ferry operator must be exercised by the operator in a manner consistent with the conditions established in the certificate and tariff filed under chapter 81.28 RCW. However, a certificate is not required for a vessel primarily engaged in transporting freight other than vehicles, whose gross earnings from the transportation of passengers or vehicles, or both, are not more than ten percent of the total gross annual earnings of such vessel.

(2) If the commission finds, after a hearing, that an existing or a proposed commercial ferry service does not serve an essential transportation purpose and is solely for recreation, the commission may, by order, exempt that service from the requirements of certification and regulation under this chapter. If the nonessential service is a proposed service not already provided by an existing certificate holder, the commission must also find, after notice to any existing certificate holder operating within the same territory and an opportunity to be heard, that the proposed service would not adversely affect the rates or services of any existing certificate holder.

(3) This section does not affect the right of any county public transportation benefit area or other public agency within this state to construct, condemn, purchase, operate, or maintain, itself or by contract, agreement, or lease, with any person, firm, or corporation, ferries or boats across the waters within this state, including rivers and lakes and Puget Sound, if the operation is not over the same route or between the same districts being served by a certificate holder without first acquiring the rights granted to the certificate holder under the certificate.

(4) The holder of a certificate of public convenience and necessity granted under this chapter must initiate service within five years of obtaining the certificate, except that the holder of a certificate of public convenience and necessity for passenger-only ferry service in Puget Sound must initiate service within twenty months of obtaining the certificate. The certificate holder shall report to the commission every six months after the certificate is granted on the progress of the certificated route. The reports shall include, but not be limited to, the progress of environmental impact, parking, local government land use, docking, and financing considerations. Except in the case of passenger-only ferry service in Puget Sound, if service has not been initiated within five years of obtaining the certificate, the commission may extend the certificate on a twelve-month basis for up to three years if the six-month progress reports indicate there is significant advancement toward initiating service. [2009 c 557 § 2; 2007 c 234 § 92. Prior: 2003 c 373 § 4; 2003 c 83 § 211; 1993 c 427 § 2; 1961 c 14 § 81.84.010; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 6 § 1, part; 1927 c 248 § 1, part; RRS § 10361-1, part.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 373:** See note following RCW 47.64.090.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**81.84.020 Application—Hearing—Issuance of certificate—Determining factors.** (1) Upon the filing of an application, the commission shall give reasonable notice to the

department, affected cities, counties, and public transportation benefit areas and any common carrier which might be adversely affected, of the time and place for hearing on such application. The commission may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, issue the certificate as prayed for, or refuse to issue it, or issue it for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the rights granted by the certificate any terms and conditions as in its judgment the public convenience and necessity may require; but the commission may not grant a certificate to operate between districts or into any territory prohibited by RCW 47.60.120 or already served by an existing certificate holder, unless the existing certificate holder has failed or refused to furnish reasonable and adequate service, has failed to provide the service described in its certificate or tariffs after the time allowed to initiate service has elapsed, or has not objected to the issuance of the certificate as prayed for.

(2) Before issuing a certificate, the commission shall determine that the applicant has the financial resources to operate the proposed service for at least twelve months, based upon the submission by the applicant of a pro forma financial statement of operations. Issuance of a certificate must be determined upon, but not limited to, the following factors: Ridership and revenue forecasts; the cost of service for the proposed operation; an estimate of the cost of the assets to be used in providing the service; a statement of the total assets on hand of the applicant that will be expended on the proposed operation; and a statement of prior experience, if any, in such field by the applicant. The documentation required of the applicant under this section must comply with the provisions of RCW 9A.72.085.

(3) In granting a certificate for passenger-only ferries and determining what conditions to place on the certificate, the commission shall consider and give substantial weight to the effect of its decisions on public agencies operating, or eligible to operate, passenger-only ferry service.

(4) Until July 1, 2007, the commission shall not accept or consider an application for passenger-only ferry service serving any county in the Puget Sound area with a population of over one million people. Applications for passenger-only ferry service serving any county in the Puget Sound area with a population of over one million pending before the commission as of May 9, 2005, must be held in abeyance and not be considered before July 1, 2007. [2007 c 234 § 93; 2006 c 332 § 11. Prior: 2005 c 313 § 609; 2005 c 121 § 7; 2003 c 373 § 5; 2003 c 83 § 212; 1993 c 427 § 3; 1961 c 14 § 81.84.020; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 6 § 1, part; 1927 c 248 § 1, part; RRS § 10361-1, part.]

**Severability—2005 c 313:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2005 c 313 § 901.]

**Effective date—2005 c 313:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 9, 2005]." [2005 c 313 § 902.]

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 373:** See note following RCW 47.64.090.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**81.84.025 Certificate—Insurance or bond required—Amounts.** The commission, in granting a certifi-

icate to operate as a commercial ferry, shall require the operator to first obtain liability and property damage insurance from a company licensed to write liability insurance in the state or a surety bond of a company licensed to write surety bonds in the state, on each vessel or ferry to be used, in the amount of not less than one hundred thousand dollars for any recovery for personal injury by one person, and not less than one million dollars and in such additional amount as the commission shall determine, for all persons receiving personal injury and property damage by reason of one act of negligence, and not less than fifty thousand dollars for damage to property of any person other than the insured; or combined bodily injury and property damage liability insurance of not less than one million dollars, and to maintain such liability and property damage insurance or surety bond in force on each vessel or ferry while so used. Each policy for liability or property damage insurance or surety bond required by this section must be filed with the commission and kept in full force and effect, and failure to do so is cause for revocation of the operator's certificate. [1993 c 427 § 4.]

**81.84.030 Certificate—Transfer.** No certificate or any right or privilege thereunder held, owned, or obtained under the provisions of this chapter shall be sold, assigned, leased, mortgaged, or in any manner transferred, either by the act of the parties or by operation of law, except upon authorization by the commission first obtained. [1993 c 427 § 5; 1961 c 14 § 81.84.030. Prior: 1950 ex.s. c 6 § 1, part; 1927 c 248 § 1, part; RRS § 10361-1, part.]

**81.84.040 Filing fees.** Any application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity or amendment thereof, or application to sell, lease, mortgage, or transfer a certificate of public convenience and necessity or any interest therein, shall be accompanied by such filing fee as the commission may prescribe by rule: PROVIDED, That such fee shall not exceed two hundred dollars. [1973 c 115 § 14; 1961 c 14 § 81.84.040. Prior: 1955 c 125 § 10; prior: 1939 c 123 § 3, part; 1937 c 158 § 4, part; RRS § 10417-3, part.]

**81.84.050 Penalties—Remission, mitigation.** Every commercial ferry and every officer, agent, or employee of any commercial ferry who violates or who procures, aids, or abets in the violation of any provision of this title, or any order, rule, regulation, or decision of the commission shall incur a penalty of one hundred dollars for every such violation. Each and every such violation shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in case of a continuing violation every day's continuance shall be and be deemed to be a separate and distinct violation. Every act of commission or omission which procures, aids, or abets in the violation shall be considered a violation under the provisions of this section and subject to the penalty herein provided for.

The penalty herein provided for shall become due and payable when the person incurring the same receives a notice in writing from the commission describing such violation with reasonable particularity and advising such person that the penalty is due.

The commission may, upon written application therefor, received within fifteen days, remit or mitigate any penalty provided for in this section or discontinue any prosecution to

(2012 Ed.)

recover the same upon such terms as it in its discretion shall deem proper, and shall have authority to ascertain the facts upon all such applications in such manner and under such regulations as it may deem proper.

If the amount of such penalty is not paid to the commission within fifteen days after receipt of notice imposing the same or, if application for remission or mitigation has not been made, within fifteen days after the violator has received notice of the disposition of such application, the attorney general shall bring an action to recover the penalty in the name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston county or of some other county in which such violator may do business. In all such actions the procedure and rules of evidence shall be the same as in ordinary civil actions except as otherwise herein provided. All penalties recovered by the state under this chapter shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the public service revolving fund. [1993 c 427 § 6; 1961 c 14 § 81.84.050. Prior: 1937 c 169 § 6; RRS § 10361-2.]

**81.84.060 Certificate—Grounds for cancellation, revocation, suspension, alteration, or amendment.** The commission, upon complaint by an interested party, or upon its own motion after notice and opportunity for hearing, may cancel, revoke, suspend, alter, or amend a certificate issued under this chapter on any of the following grounds:

(1) Failure of the certificate holder to initiate service by the conclusion of the fifth year after the certificate has been granted or by the conclusion of an extension granted under \*RCW 81.84.010(2), if the commission has considered the progress report information required under \*RCW 81.84.010(2);

(2) Failure of a certificate holder for passenger-only ferry service in Puget Sound to initiate service by the conclusion of the twentieth month after the certificate has been granted;

(3) Failure of the certificate holder to file an annual report;

(4) The filing by a certificate holder of an annual report that shows no revenue in the previous twelve-month period after service has been initiated;

(5) The violation of any provision of this chapter;

(6) The violation of or failure to observe the provisions or conditions of the certificate or tariffs;

(7) The violation of an order, decision, rule, regulation, or requirement established by the commission under this chapter;

(8) Failure of a certificate holder to maintain the required insurance coverage in full force and effect; or

(9) Failure or refusal to furnish reasonable and adequate service after initiating service.

The commission shall take appropriate action within thirty days upon a complaint by an interested party or of its own finding that a provision of this section has been violated. [2007 c 234 § 97; 2003 c 373 § 6; 2003 c 83 § 213; 1993 c 427 § 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 81.84.010 was amended by 2009 c 557 § 2, changing subsection (2) to subsection (4).

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 373:** See note following RCW 47.64.090.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**81.84.070 Temporary certificate—Immediate and urgent need—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** The commission may, with or without a hearing, issue temporary certificates to operate under this chapter, but only after it finds that the issuance of the temporary certificate is necessary due to an immediate and urgent need and is otherwise consistent with the public interest. The certificate may be issued for a period of up to one hundred eighty days. The commission may prescribe such special rules and impose special terms and conditions on the granting of the certificate as in its judgment are reasonable and necessary in carrying out this chapter. The commission shall collect a filing fee, not to exceed two hundred dollars, for each application for a temporary certificate. The commission shall not issue a temporary certificate to operate on a route for which a certificate has been issued or for which an application by another commercial ferry operator is pending.

During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 416; 1993 c 427 § 8.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

### Chapter 81.88 RCW

#### GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID PIPELINES

##### Sections

81.88.005	Intent—Findings.
81.88.010	Definitions.
81.88.020	Pipeline corporations—Regulation—Eminent domain.
81.88.030	Pipeline carriers regulated as common carriers.
81.88.040	Violations—Rules—Penalties—Injunctive relief.
81.88.050	Pipeline safety account.
81.88.060	Hazardous liquid pipelines—Safety—Commission's duties.
81.88.065	Gas pipelines—Safety—Commission's duties.
81.88.070	Prevention of third-party excavation damage—Development and distribution of training curricula.
81.88.080	Pipeline mapping system—Commission specifications and evaluations.
81.88.090	Federal certification for pipeline safety program—Commission's duties.
81.88.100	Commission inspection of records, maps, or written procedures.
81.88.110	Pipeline company duties after notice of excavation.
81.88.140	Citizens committee on pipeline safety—Duties—Membership.
81.88.900	Conflict with federal requirements—2000 c 191.
81.88.901	Short title—2000 c 191.
81.88.902	Effective date—2000 c 191.

**81.88.005 Intent—Findings.** (1) The intent of chapter 191, Laws of 2000 is to protect the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Washington and the quality of the state's environment by developing and implementing environmental and public safety measures applicable to persons transporting hazardous liquids and gas by pipeline within the state of Washington. The legislature finds that public safety and the environment may best be protected by adopting standards that are equal to, or more stringent than, those adopted by the federal government, so long as they do not impermissibly interfere with interstate commerce.

(2) The legislature recognizes that additional federal authority is needed to implement a comprehensive pipeline

safety program and by chapter 191, Laws of 2000 and other measures directs the state to seek that authority.

(3) It is also the intent of the legislature that the governor work with the state congressional delegation in seeking:

(a) To amend the federal pipeline safety act to delegate authority to qualified states to adopt and enforce standards equal to or more stringent than federal standards;

(b) State authority to administer and enforce federal requirements related to pipeline safety; and

(c) Higher levels of funding for state and federal pipeline safety activities and for states to respond to pipeline accident emergencies.

(4) While the legislature acknowledges that serious accidents have occurred for hazardous liquid and gas pipelines in this nation and elsewhere, it recognizes that there are fundamental differences between hazardous liquid pipelines and gas pipelines and that a different system of safety regulations must be applied for each kind of pipeline. [2000 c 191 § 1.]

**81.88.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commission" means the utilities and transportation commission.

(2) "Gas" means natural gas, flammable gas, or toxic or corrosive gas.

(3) "Gas pipeline" means all parts of a pipeline facility through which gas moves in transportation, including, but not limited to, line pipe, valves, and other appurtenances connected to line pipe, compressor units, metering stations, regulator stations, delivery stations, holders, and fabricated assemblies. "Gas pipeline" does not include any pipeline facilities, other than a master meter system, owned by a consumer or consumers of the gas, located exclusively on the consumer or consumers' property, and none of the gas leaves that property through a pipeline.

(4) "Gas pipeline company" means a person or entity constructing, owning, or operating a gas pipeline for transporting gas. "Gas pipeline company" includes a person or entity owning or operating a master meter system. "Gas pipeline company" does not include excavation contractors or other contractors that contract with a gas pipeline company.

(5) "Hazardous liquid" means: (a) Petroleum, petroleum products, or anhydrous ammonia as those terms are defined in 49 C.F.R. Part 195; and (b) carbon dioxide.

(6) "Hazardous liquid pipeline" means all parts of a pipeline facility through which a hazardous liquid moves in transportation including, but not limited to, line pipe, valves, and other appurtenances connected to line pipe, pumping units, fabricated assemblies associated with pumping units, metering and delivery stations and fabricated assemblies therein, and breakout tanks. "Hazardous liquid pipeline" does not include all parts of a pipeline facility through which a hazardous liquid moves in transportation through refining or manufacturing facilities or storage or in-plant piping systems associated with such facilities, a pipeline subject to safety regulations of the United States coast guard, or a pipeline that serves refining, manufacturing, or truck, rail, or vessel terminal facilities, if the pipeline is less than one mile long, measured outside facility grounds, and does not cross an offshore area or a waterway used for commercial navigation.

(7) "Hazardous liquid pipeline company" means a person or entity constructing, owning, or operating a hazardous liquid pipeline. "Hazardous liquid pipeline company" does not include excavation contractors or other contractors that contract with a hazardous liquid pipeline company.

(8) "Line pipe" means a tube, usually cylindrical, through which a hazardous liquid or gas is transported from one point to another.

(9) "Local government" means a political subdivision of the state.

(10) "Master meter system" means a pipeline system for distributing gas within, but not limited to, a definable area, such as a mobile home park, housing project, or apartment complex, where the operator purchases metered gas from an outside source for resale through a gas distribution pipeline system. The gas distribution pipeline system supplies the ultimate consumer who either purchases the gas directly through a meter or by any other means, such as by rents.

(11) "Person" means an individual, partnership, franchise holder, association, corporation, a state, a city, a town, a county, or any other political subdivision or instrumentality of a state, and its employees, agents, or legal representatives.

(12) "Pipeline company," without further qualification, means a hazardous liquid pipeline company or a gas pipeline company. [2007 c 142 § 1; 2001 c 238 § 6; 2000 c 191 § 2.]

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—2001 c 238:** See notes following RCW 80.24.060.

**81.88.020 Pipeline corporations—Regulation—Eminent domain.** All corporations having for one of their principal purposes the construction, maintenance and operation of pipelines and appurtenances for the conveyance and transportation as common carriers of oils, gas, gasoline and other petroleum products shall be subject to control and regulation by the commission in the same manner and to the same extent as other public service corporations. The power of eminent domain is hereby conferred upon such corporations to be used for acquiring rights-of-way for common carrier pipelines and they shall have the right to condemn and appropriate lands and property and interests therein for their use under the same procedure as is provided for the condemnation and appropriation of private property by railway companies, but no private property shall be taken or damaged until the compensation to be made therefor shall have been ascertained and paid as provided in the case of condemnation and appropriation by railway companies. Any property or interest therein acquired by any corporation under the provisions of this section by the exercise of the right of eminent domain shall be used exclusively for the purposes for which it was acquired. In all actions brought under this section to enforce the right of eminent domain, courts wherein such actions are brought may give such actions preference over all other civil actions in the matter of setting the same for hearing or trial and in hearing the same. [1961 c 14 § 81.88.020. Prior: 1951 c 94 § 2; 1915 c 132 § 2; RRS § 9965.]

**81.88.030 Pipeline carriers regulated as common carriers.** Every person, copartnership, corporation or other association now or hereafter engaged in the business of producing from natural deposits and/or carrying or transporting natural gas and/or crude oil or petroleum or the products

thereof for hire, by pipelines within this state shall be a common carrier within the meaning and subject to the provisions of this title: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to distribution systems owned and operated under franchise for the sale, delivery, or distribution of natural gas at retail. [1961 c 14 § 81.88.030. Prior: 1933 ex.s. c 61 § 1; RRS § 9965-1.]

**81.88.040 Violations—Rules—Penalties—Injunctive relief.** (1) A person, officer, agent, or employee of a pipeline company who, as an individual or acting as an officer, agent, or employee of such a company, violates or fails to comply with this chapter or a rule adopted under RCW 81.88.060 or 81.88.065, or who procures, aids, or abets another person or entity in the violation of or noncompliance with this chapter or a rule adopted under RCW 81.88.060 or 81.88.065, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2)(a) A pipeline company, or any person, officer, agent, or employee of a pipeline company that violates a provision of this chapter, or a rule adopted under RCW 81.88.060 or 81.88.065, is subject to a civil penalty to be assessed by the commission.

(b) The commission shall adopt rules: (i) Setting penalty amounts, but may not exceed the penalties specified in the federal pipeline safety laws, 49 U.S.C. Sec. 60101 et seq.; and (ii) establishing procedures for mitigating penalties assessed.

(c) In determining the amount of the penalty in a particular instance, the commission shall consider: (i) The appropriateness of the penalty in relation to the position of the person charged with the violation; (ii) the gravity of the violation; and (iii) the good faith of the person or company charged in attempting to achieve compliance after notification of the violation.

(d) The amount of the penalty may be recovered in a civil action in the superior court of Thurston county or of some other county in which the violator may do business. In all actions for recovery, the rules of evidence shall be the same as in ordinary civil actions. All penalties recovered under this section must be paid into the state treasury and credited to the pipeline safety account.

(3) The commission shall adopt rules incorporating by reference other substances designated as hazardous by the secretary of transportation under 49 U.S.C. Sec. 60101(a)(4).

(4) The commission may seek injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(5) Nothing in this section duplicates the authority of the energy facility site evaluation council under chapter 80.50 RCW. [2007 c 142 § 2; 2000 c 191 § 3; 1998 c 123 § 1.]

**81.88.050 Pipeline safety account.** The pipeline safety account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All fees received by the commission for the pipeline safety program according to RCW 80.24.060 and 81.24.090 and all receipts from the federal office of pipeline safety and any other state or federal funds provided for pipeline safety shall be deposited in the account. Any penalties collected under this chapter, or otherwise designated to this account must be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the

account may be used only for funding pipeline safety. [2007 c 142 § 3; 2001 c 238 § 7; 2000 c 191 § 4.]

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—2001 c 238:** See notes following RCW 80.24.060.

**81.88.060 Hazardous liquid pipelines—Safety—Commission’s duties.** (1) Each hazardous liquid pipeline company shall design, construct, operate, and maintain its hazardous liquid pipeline so that it is safe and efficient. Each hazardous liquid pipeline company is responsible for the conduct of its contractors regarding compliance with pipeline safety requirements.

(2) The commission shall develop and administer a comprehensive program of pipeline safety in accordance with this chapter.

(3) The commission may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter as long as the rules are compatible with minimum federal requirements.

(4) The commission shall coordinate information related to hazardous liquid pipeline safety by providing technical assistance to local planning and siting authorities. [2007 c 142 § 4; 2001 c 238 § 9; 2000 c 191 § 5.]

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—2001 c 238:** See notes following RCW 80.24.060.

**81.88.065 Gas pipelines—Safety—Commission’s duties.** (1) Each gas pipeline company shall design, construct, operate, and maintain its gas pipeline so that it is safe and efficient. Each gas pipeline company is responsible for the conduct of its contractors regarding compliance with pipeline safety requirements.

(2) The commission shall develop and administer a comprehensive program of gas pipeline safety in accordance with this chapter.

(3) The commission may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter as long as the rules are compatible with minimum federal requirements.

(4) The commission shall coordinate information related to natural gas pipeline safety by providing technical assistance to local planning and siting authorities. [2007 c 142 § 5.]

**81.88.070 Prevention of third-party excavation damage—Development and distribution of training curricula.** (1) The commission shall develop, in consultation with representatives of hazardous liquid pipeline companies, gas pipeline companies, local governments, and the excavation and construction industries: (a) A curricula aimed at the prevention of third-party excavation damage to hazardous liquid pipelines and gas pipelines; and (b) a plan for distribution of the curricula.

(2) The curricula shall include training on:

(a) Prevention of damage to hazardous liquid and gas pipelines;

(b) The danger involved if a hazardous liquid or gas pipeline is damaged;

(c) The significance of hazardous liquid or gas pipeline damage that does not cause immediate failure; and

(d) The importance of immediately reporting damage to a hazardous liquid or gas pipeline and the importance of

immediately repairing a damaged hazardous liquid or gas pipeline. [2000 c 191 § 6.]

**81.88.080 Pipeline mapping system—Commission specifications and evaluations.** (1) The commission shall require hazardous liquid pipeline companies, and gas pipeline companies with interstate pipelines, or gas pipelines operating over two hundred fifty pounds per square inch gauge, to provide accurate maps of these pipelines to specifications developed by the commission sufficient to meet the needs of first responders.

(2) The commission shall evaluate the sufficiency of the maps and consolidate the maps into a statewide geographic information system. The commission shall assist local governments in obtaining hazardous liquid and gas pipeline location information and maps. The maps shall be made available to the one-number locator services as provided in chapter 19.122 RCW. The mapping system shall be consistent with the United States department of transportation national pipeline mapping program.

(3) The commission shall periodically update the mapping system. [2007 c 142 § 6; 2000 c 191 § 7.]

**81.88.090 Federal certification for pipeline safety program—Commission’s duties.** The commission shall maintain federal certification for the state’s pipeline safety program. The commission, at a minimum, shall do the following:

(1) Inspect hazardous liquid pipelines and gas pipelines periodically as specified in the inspection program;

(2) Collect fees;

(3) Order and oversee the testing of hazardous liquid pipelines and gas pipelines as authorized by federal law and regulation; and

(4) File reports with the United States secretary of transportation as required to maintain federal certification. [2007 c 142 § 7; 2001 c 238 § 10; 2000 c 191 § 9.]

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—2001 c 238:** See notes following RCW 80.24.060.

**81.88.100 Commission inspection of records, maps, or written procedures.** The commission may inspect any record, map, or written procedure required by federal law to be kept by a pipeline company concerning releases, and the design, construction, testing, or operation and maintenance of pipelines. Nothing in this section affects the commission’s access to records under any other provision of law. [2007 c 142 § 8; 2000 c 191 § 11.]

**81.88.110 Pipeline company duties after notice of excavation.** A pipeline company that has been notified by an excavator that excavation work will occur near a hazardous liquid pipeline shall ensure that the pipeline company’s representative consults with the excavator on-site prior to the excavation. The pipeline company has the discretion to require that the pipeline section in the vicinity of the excavation is fully uncovered and examined for damage prior to being reburied. [2000 c 191 § 21.]

**81.88.140 Citizens committee on pipeline safety—Duties—Membership.** (1) The citizens committee on pipe-

line safety is established to advise the state agencies and other appropriate federal and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation, and maintenance. The committee shall serve as an advisory committee for the commission on matters relating to the commission's pipeline safety programs and activities. The commission shall consult with and provide periodic reports to the committee on matters related to the commission's pipeline safety programs and activities, including but not limited to the development and regular review of funding elements for pipeline safety programs and activities.

(2) The committee shall have thirteen total members who shall be appointed by the governor to staggered three-year terms and shall consist of: (a) Nine members representing local government, including elected officials and the public; and (b) four nonvoting members, representing owners and operators of hazardous liquid and gas pipelines. All members of the committee, voting and nonvoting, may participate fully in the committee's meetings, activities, and deliberations and shall timely receive all notices and information related to committee business and decisions.

(3) The committee shall review and comment on proposed rules and the operation of the state pipeline safety programs.

(4) The committee may create one or more technical advisory committees comprised of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline owners or operators, agency representatives, natural resource and environmental interests, or other interested parties.

(5) The committee established in this section constitutes a class one group under RCW 43.03.220. Expenses for this group, as well as staff support, shall be provided by the utilities and transportation commission. [2001 c 238 § 11; 2000 c 191 § 14.]

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—2001 c 238:** See notes following RCW 80.24.060.

**81.88.900 Conflict with federal requirements—2000 c 191.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [2000 c 191 § 26.]

**81.88.901 Short title—2000 c 191.** This act may be known and cited as the Washington state pipeline safety act. [2000 c 191 § 27.]

**81.88.902 Effective date—2000 c 191.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 28, 2000]. [2000 c 191 § 29.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Chapter 81.96 RCW**  
**WESTERN REGIONAL SHORT-HAUL**  
**AIR TRANSPORTATION COMPACT**

Sections

81.96.010	Ratification and approval—Adherence.
81.96.020	Terms and provisions.
81.96.030	Service of secretary of transportation as state member—Execution of compact.

**81.96.010 Ratification and approval—Adherence.**

The western regional short-haul air transportation compact proposed for adoption by the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, is hereby ratified and approved and the adherence of this state to the provisions of this compact, upon its ratification and approval by at least six of the other twelve states, is hereby declared. [1972 ex.s. c 36 § 2.]

**81.96.020 Terms and provisions.** The terms and provisions of the compact referred to in RCW 81.96.010 are as follows:

WESTERN REGIONAL SHORT-HAUL  
AIR TRANSPORTATION COMPACT

Article I  
PURPOSE

The party states recognize that short-haul air transportation is essential to a balanced and efficient transportation system in the West, meeting special needs created by particular geographic and population patterns in both rural and urban areas. They further recognize that it is not economically feasible for the commercial airlines to provide a full complement of short-haul air services or to explore fully the capabilities and limitations of the various types and locations of such services. They also recognize that careful planning, experimentation, and testing are needed before appropriate short-haul air transportation can be developed for all the situations in which it would be beneficial to the economy and general welfare of the western states. To meet this need, the party states agree that a regional compact should be established for the purpose of organizing and conducting a series of demonstration programs to test the feasibility of new short-haul air transportation concepts in the West.

Article II  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

A. There is hereby established an agency of the party states to be known as the Western Regional Short-Haul Air Transportation Commission (hereinafter called the "Commission").

B. The Commission shall be composed of one member from each party state and one federal member, if authorized by federal law, who shall be the Secretary of Transportation or his designee. Each state member shall be appointed, suspended, or removed and shall serve subject to and in accordance with the laws of the state which he represents.

C. The state members shall each be entitled to one vote on the Commission. No action of the Commission shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority of all members representing the party states are present, and unless

a majority of the total number of votes on the Commission are cast in favor thereof. The federal member shall not be entitled to a vote on the Commission unless authorized by a majority vote of the state members. The state members may provide that decisions of the Commission shall require the affirmative vote of the federal member and of a majority of the state members, if such provision is necessary in order to meet the requirements of federal law. In matters coming before the Commission, the state members shall, to the extent practicable, consult with representatives of appropriate local subdivisions within their respective states and the federal member, if any, shall consult with the federal departments and agencies having an interest in the subject matter.

D. The state members of the Commission shall elect annually, from among their number, a chairman and a vice chairman. The state members may provide that the chairman so elected shall be designated as the state cochairman and the federal member shall be designated as the federal cochairman, if such provision is necessary in order to meet the requirements of federal law.

E. Each state member shall have an alternate appointed in accordance with the laws of the state which he represents. The federal member, if any, shall have an alternate appointed in accordance with federal law. An alternate shall be entitled to vote in the event of the absence, death, disability, removal, or resignation of the state or federal member for whom he is an alternate.

### Article III FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

A. It shall be the primary function of the Commission to authorize and effect a series of demonstration programs to test the feasibility of new short-haul air transportation concepts in the West. To carry out this function, the Commission shall have power to:

- (1) Establish basic regional demonstration policy and coordinate with federal policymakers where appropriate;
- (2) Create a management plan and implement programs through a suitable staff;
- (3) Designate demonstration arenas and facilities;
- (4) Select demonstration operators;
- (5) Establish a funding plan for the demonstration programs selected; and
- (6) Establish means of monitoring and evaluating the demonstration programs.

### Article IV ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

A. The Commission shall adopt bylaws, rules, and regulations for the conduct of its business and the performance of its functions, and shall have the power to amend and rescind such bylaws, rules, and regulations. The Commission shall publish its bylaws, rules, and regulations in convenient form and shall file a copy thereof, and shall also file a copy of any amendment thereto, with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the party states.

B. The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, for any of its purposes and functions under this compact.

C. The Commission may enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary in carrying out its functions and on such terms as it may deem appropriate, with any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or with any state, or any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, or with any person, firm, association, or corporation.

D. In order to obtain information needed to carry out its duties, the Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and print or otherwise reproduce and distribute so much of its proceedings and reports thereon as it may deem advisable. The chairman of the Commission, or any member designated by the Commission for the purpose, shall have authority to administer oaths when it is determined by the Commission that testimony shall be taken or evidence received under oath.

E. The Commission may arrange for the head of any federal, state, or local department or agency to furnish to the Commission such information as may be available to or procurable by such department or agency, relating to the duties and functions of the Commission.

F. The Commission annually shall make to the Governor of each party state, a report covering the activities of the Commission for the preceding year, and embodying such recommendations as may have been adopted by the Commission, which report shall be transmitted to the legislature of said state. The Commission may issue such additional reports as it may deem desirable.

### Article V FINANCES

A. The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation from the Commission, but the compensation and expenses of each state member in attending Commission meetings may be paid by the state he represents in accordance with the laws of that state. All other expenses incurred by the Commission shall be paid by the Commission.

B. The Commission shall submit periodically to the executive head or designated officer of each party state a budget of its estimated expenditures for such period as may be required by the laws of that state for presentation to the legislature thereof. Each such budget shall contain specific recommendations of the amount or amounts to be appropriated by each of the party states. The share to be paid by each party state shall be determined by a majority vote of the state members of the Commission. The federal member, if any, shall not participate or vote in such determination. The costs shall be allocated equitably among the party states in accordance with their respective interests.

C. The Commission may meet any of its obligations in whole or in part with funds available to it from the federal government or other sources under Article IV(B) of this compact, provided that the Commission takes specific action setting aside such funds prior to the incurring of any obligation to be met in whole or in part in this manner. Except where the Commission makes use of funds available to it under Article IV(B) of this compact, the Commission shall not incur any obligation prior to the allotment of funds by the party states adequate to meet the same.

Article VI  
PERSONNEL

A. The Commission may appoint and fix the compensation of an Executive Director, who shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the operations conducted by the Commission. The Executive Director shall act as secretary-treasurer for the Commission and he, together with such other personnel as the Commission may direct, shall be bonded in such amounts as the Commission may require.

B. The Executive Director shall, with the approval of the Commission, appoint and remove or discharge such technical, clerical or other personnel on a regular, part-time, or consulting basis as may be necessary for the performance of the Commission's functions.

C. Officers and employees of the Commission shall be eligible for social security coverage in respect to old age and survivors' insurance provided the Commission takes such steps as may be necessary pursuant to federal law to participate in such program of insurance as a governmental agency or unit. The Commission may establish and maintain or participate in such additional programs of employee benefits as may be appropriate to afford the officers and employees of the Commission terms and conditions of employment similar to those enjoyed by employees of the party states generally. The Commission shall not be bound by any statute or regulation of any party state in the employment or discharge of any officer or employee.

Article VII  
RECORDS AND AUDIT

A. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the report of the audit shall be included in and become a part of the annual report of the Commission.

B. The audit authorities of each of the party states and of the appropriate federal departments and agencies, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Commission that are pertinent.

C. The Commission shall keep books and records in compliance with federal requirements and standards where necessary to qualify for federal assistance, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition of the proceeds of federal assistance the Commission has received, the total cost of the plan, program, or project or undertaking in connection with which such assistance is given or used, and the amount and nature of that portion of the cost of the plan, program, or project or undertaking supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit.

Article VIII  
ELIGIBLE PARTIES, ENTRY INTO  
FORCE AND WITHDRAWAL

A. Any or all of the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, (2012 Ed.)

Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming shall be eligible to become party to this compact.

B. As to any eligible party state, this compact shall become effective when its legislature shall have enacted the same into law; provided, that it shall not become initially effective until enacted into law by 7 states.

C. Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until one year after the Governor of the withdrawing state has given notice to the Governors of all other party states. No withdrawal shall affect any liability already incurred by or chargeable to a party state prior to the time of such withdrawal.

Article IX  
CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

It is intended that the provisions of this compact shall be reasonably and liberally construed to effectuate its purposes. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any party state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters. [1972 ex.s. c 36 § 3.]

**81.96.030 Service of secretary of transportation as state member—Execution of compact.** The secretary of transportation or his designee may serve as the Washington state member to the western regional short-haul air transportation compact and may execute the compact on behalf of this state with any other state or states legally joining therein. [1984 c 7 § 376; 1972 ex.s. c 36 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

Chapter 81.100 RCW  
HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE SYSTEMS

Sections

81.100.010	Purpose.
81.100.020	Definitions.
81.100.030	Employer tax.
81.100.040	Adoption of goals.
81.100.050	Survey of tax use.
81.100.060	Imposition of surcharge ( <i>as amended by 2006 c 311</i> ).
81.100.060	Excise tax ( <i>as amended by 2006 c 318</i> ).
81.100.070	High occupancy vehicle account.
81.100.080	Use of funds.
81.100.090	Interlocal agreements.
81.100.100	Urban public transportation system.
81.100.900	Construction—Severability—Headings—1990 c 43.

*Use of moneys, construction priority: See 1990 c 298 § 35.*

**81.100.010 Purpose.** The need for mobility, growing travel demand, and increasing traffic congestion in urban areas necessitate accelerated development and increased utilization of the high occupancy vehicle system. RCW 81.100.030 and 81.100.060 provide taxing authority that

counties or regional transportation investment districts can use in the near term to accelerate development and increase utilization of the high occupancy vehicle system by supplementing available federal, state, and local funds. [2002 c 56 § 409; 1990 c 43 § 12.]

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.100.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Transit agency" means a city that operates a transit system, a public transportation benefit area, a county transportation authority, or a metropolitan municipal corporation.

(2) The "high occupancy vehicle system" includes high occupancy vehicle lanes, related high occupancy vehicle facilities, and high occupancy vehicle programs.

(3) "High occupancy vehicle lanes" mean lanes reserved for public transportation vehicles only or public transportation vehicles and private vehicles carrying no fewer than a specified number of passengers under RCW 46.61.165.

(4) "Related facilities" means park and ride lots, park and pool lots, ramps, bypasses, turnouts, signal preemption, and other improvements designed to maximize use of the high occupancy vehicle system.

(5) "High occupancy vehicle program" means advertising the high occupancy vehicle system, promoting carpool, vanpool, and transit use, providing vanpool vehicles, and enforcement of driving restrictions governing high occupancy vehicle lanes. [1990 c 43 § 13.]

**81.100.030 Employer tax.** (1) A county with a population of one million or more, or a county with a population of from two hundred ten thousand to less than one million that is adjoining a county with a population of one million or more, and having within its boundaries existing or planned high occupancy vehicle lanes on the state highway system, or a regional transportation investment district for capital improvements, but only to the extent that the tax has not already been imposed by the county, may, with voter approval impose an excise tax of up to two dollars per employee per month on all employers or any class or classes of employers, public and private, including the state located in the agency's jurisdiction, measured by the number of full-time equivalent employees. In no event may the total taxes imposed under this section exceed two dollars per employee per month for any single employer. The county or investment district imposing the tax authorized in this section may provide for exemptions from the tax to such educational, cultural, health, charitable, or religious organizations as it deems appropriate.

Counties or investment districts may contract with the state department of revenue or other appropriate entities for administration and collection of the tax. Such contract shall provide for deduction of an amount for administration and collection expenses.

(2) The tax shall not apply to employment of a person when the employer has paid for at least half of the cost of a transit pass issued by a transit agency for that employee, valid for the period for which the tax would otherwise be owed.

(3) A county or investment district shall adopt rules that exempt from all or a portion of the tax any employer that has entered into an agreement with the county or investment district that is designed to reduce the proportion of employees who drive in single-occupant vehicles during peak commuting periods in proportion to the degree that the agreement is designed to meet the goals for the employer's location adopted under RCW 81.100.040.

The agreement shall include a list of specific actions that the employer will undertake to be entitled to the exemption. Employers having an exemption from all or part of the tax through this subsection shall annually certify to the county or investment district that the employer is fulfilling the terms of the agreement. The exemption continues as long as the employer is in compliance with the agreement.

If the tax authorized in RCW 81.100.060 is also imposed, the total proceeds from both tax sources each year shall not exceed the maximum amount which could be collected under RCW 81.100.060. [2002 c 56 § 410; 1991 c 363 § 153; 1990 c 43 § 14.]

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**81.100.040 Adoption of goals.** The legislature encourages counties, in conjunction with cities, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit agencies in metropolitan areas to adopt goals for reducing the proportion of commuters who drive in single-occupant vehicles during peak commuting periods. Any county imposing a tax under this chapter must adopt such goals. In adopting these goals, counties shall consider at least the following:

(1) Existing and anticipated levels of peak-period traffic congestion on roadways used by employees in commuting to work;

(2) Existing and anticipated levels of transit and vanpool service and carpool programs available to and from the work-site;

(3) Variations in employment density and employer size;

(4) Availability and cost of parking; and

(5) Consistency of the goals with the regional transportation plan. [1990 c 43 § 15.]

**81.100.050 Survey of tax use.** The department of transportation shall include in the annual transit report under RCW 35.58.2795 and 35.58.2796 an element describing actions taken under this chapter. On at least two occasions prior to December 31, 1998, the department shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of such actions. [1990 c 43 § 16.]

**81.100.060 Imposition of surcharge (as amended by 2006 c 311).** A county with a population of one million or more and a county with a population of from two hundred ten thousand to less than one million that is adjoining a county with a population of one million or more, having within their boundaries existing or planned high occupancy vehicle lanes on the state highway system, or a regional transportation investment district (~~for capital improvements~~), but only to the extent that the surcharge has not already been imposed by the county, may, with voter approval, impose a local surcharge of not more than three-tenths of one percent in the case of a county, or eight-tenths of one percent in the case of a regional transportation investment district, of the value on vehicles registered to a person residing within

the county or investment district and not more than 13.64 percent on the state sales and use taxes paid under the rate in RCW 82.08.020(2) on retail car rentals within the county or investment district. A county may impose the surcharge only to the extent that it has not been imposed by the district. No surcharge may be imposed on vehicles licensed under \*RCW 46.16.070 except vehicles with an unladen weight of six thousand pounds or less, RCW \*\*46.16.079, \*\*46.16.085, or \*46.16.090.

Counties or investment districts imposing a ((tax)) surcharge under this section shall contract, before the effective date of the resolution or ordinance imposing a surcharge, administration and collection to the state department of licensing, and department of revenue, as appropriate, which shall deduct ((an)) a percentage amount, as provided by contract, not to exceed \*\*\*two percent of the taxes, for administration and collection expenses incurred by the department. All administrative provisions in chapters 82.03, 82.32, and \*\*\*82.44 RCW shall, insofar as they are applicable to motor vehicle excise taxes, be applicable to surcharges imposed under this section. All administrative provisions in chapters 82.03, 82.08, 82.12, and 82.32 RCW shall, insofar as they are applicable to state sales and use taxes, be applicable to surcharges imposed under this section. A surcharge imposed under this section, or a change to the surcharge, shall take effect no sooner than seventy-five days after the department of licensing or the department of revenue receives notice of the surcharge or change to the surcharge, and shall take effect only on the first day of January, April, July, or October. Unless waived by the department of licensing or the department of revenue, notice includes providing the appropriate department with digital mapping and legal descriptions of areas in which the \*\*\*tax will be collected.

If the tax authorized in RCW 81.100.030 is also imposed, the total proceeds from tax sources imposed under this section and RCW 81.100.030 each year shall not exceed the maximum amount which could be collected under this section. [2006 c 311 § 15; 2002 c 56 § 411; 1998 c 321 § 34 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1992 c 194 § 12; 1991 c 363 § 154; 1990 c 43 § 17.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 46.16.070 and 46.16.090 were recodified as RCW 46.16A.455 and 46.16A.425, respectively, pursuant to 2010 c 161 § 1217, effective July 1, 2011.

\*\* (2) RCW 46.16.079 and 46.16.085 were repealed by 2010 c 161 § 438, effective July 1, 2011.

\*\*\* (3) RCW 82.44.135 authorizes a one percent deduction for the administration and collection of the vehicle surcharge. Both deduction percentages were enacted during the 2006 legislative session. See RCW 1.12.025 for rule of construction.

\*\*\*\* (4) The term "tax" referred to here apparently refers to the term "surcharge" as implemented in 2006 c 311 § 15.

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**81.100.060 Excise tax (as amended by 2006 c 318).** A county with a population of one million or more and a county with a population of from two hundred ten thousand to less than one million that is adjoining a county with a population of one million or more, having within their boundaries existing or planned high occupancy vehicle lanes on the state highway system, or a regional transportation investment district for capital improvements, but only to the extent that the surcharge has not already been imposed by the county, may, with voter approval, impose a local surcharge of not more than three-tenths of one percent of the value on vehicles registered to a person residing within the county and not more than 13.64 percent on the state sales and use taxes paid under the rate in RCW 82.08.020(2) on retail car rentals within the county or investment district. A county may impose the surcharge only to the extent that it has not been imposed by the district. No surcharge may be imposed on vehicles licensed under \*RCW 46.16.070 except vehicles with an unladen weight of six thousand pounds or less, RCW \*\*46.16.079, \*\*46.16.085, or \*46.16.090.

Counties or investment districts imposing a tax under this section shall contract, before the effective date of the resolution or ordinance imposing a surcharge, administration and collection to the state department of licensing, and department of revenue, as appropriate, which shall deduct an amount, as provided by contract, for administration and collection expenses incurred by the department. All administrative provisions in chapters 82.03, 82.32, and 82.44 RCW, as existing on January 1, 2006, shall, insofar as they are applicable to motor vehicle excise taxes, be applicable to surcharges imposed under this section before June 7, 2006. Motor vehicles subject to the local surcharge authorized in this section shall be administered in accordance with \*\*\*this act if the surcharge is first imposed on or after June 7, 2006. All administrative provisions in chapters 82.03, 82.08, 82.12, and 82.32 RCW shall, insofar as they are applicable to state sales and use taxes, be applicable to surcharges imposed under this section.

(2012 Ed.)

If the tax authorized in RCW 81.100.030 is also imposed, the total proceeds from tax sources imposed under this section and RCW 81.100.030 each year shall not exceed the maximum amount which could be collected under this section. [2006 c 318 § 2; 2002 c 56 § 411; 1998 c 321 § 34 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1992 c 194 § 12; 1991 c 363 § 154; 1990 c 43 § 17.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 46.16.070 and 46.16.090 were recodified as RCW 46.16A.455 and 46.16A.425, respectively, pursuant to 2010 c 161 § 1217, effective July 1, 2011.

\*\* (2) RCW 46.16.079 and 46.16.085 were repealed by 2010 c 161 § 438, effective July 1, 2011.

\*\*\* (3) RCW 82.44.135 authorizes a one percent deduction for the administration and collection of the vehicle surcharge. Both deduction percentages were enacted during the 2006 legislative session. See RCW 1.12.025 for rule of construction.

(4) RCW 81.100.060 was amended twice during the 2006 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 35.58.410.

**Legislative intent—1992 c 194:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Changes in tax law—Liability:* RCW 82.08.064, 82.14.055, and 82.32.430.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.100.070 High occupancy vehicle account.** Funds collected by the department of revenue or other entity under RCW 81.100.030, or by the department of licensing under RCW 81.100.060, less the deduction for collection expenses, shall be deposited in the high occupancy vehicle account hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer. On the first day of the months of January, April, July, and October of each year, the state treasurer shall distribute the funds in the account to the counties on whose behalf the funds were received. The state treasurer shall make the distribution under this section without appropriation. [1991 sp.s. c 13 §§ 105, 119; 1990 c 43 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.100.080 Use of funds.** (1) Funds collected under RCW 81.100.030 or 81.100.060 and any investment earnings accruing thereon shall be used by the county or the regional transportation investment district in a manner consistent with the regional transportation plan only for costs of collection, costs of preparing, adopting, and enforcing agreements under RCW 81.100.030(3), for construction of high occupancy vehicle lanes and related facilities, mitigation of environmental concerns that result from construction or use of high occupancy vehicle lanes and related facilities, payment of principal and interest on bonds issued for the purposes of this section, for high occupancy vehicle programs as defined in RCW 81.100.020(5), or for commuter rail projects in accordance with RCW 81.104.120. Except for funds raised by an investment district, no funds collected under RCW 81.100.030 or 81.100.060 after June 30, 2000, may be pledged for the payment or security of the principal or interest on any bonds issued for the purposes of this section. Not more than ten percent of the funds may be used for transit agency high occupancy vehicle programs.

[Title 81 RCW—page 71]

(2) Notwithstanding the limitations in this chapter, a regional transportation investment district may use funds collected under RCW 81.100.030 or 81.100.060 and any investment earnings accruing thereon for projects contained in a plan developed under chapter 36.120 RCW. These expenditures shall not be limited to high occupancy vehicle systems.

(3) Priorities for construction of high occupancy vehicle lanes and related facilities shall be as follows:

(a)(i) To accelerate construction of high occupancy vehicle lanes on the interstate highway system, as well as related facilities;

(ii) To finance or accelerate construction of high occupancy vehicle lanes on the noninterstate state highway system, as well as related facilities.

(b) To finance construction of high occupancy vehicle lanes on local arterials, as well as related facilities.

(4) Moneys received by a county under this chapter shall be used in addition to, and not as a substitute for, moneys currently used by the county for the purposes specified in this section.

(5) Counties and investment districts may contract with cities or the state department of transportation for construction of high occupancy vehicle lanes and related facilities, and may issue general obligation bonds to fund such construction and use funds received under this chapter to pay the principal and interest on such bonds. [2006 c 311 § 14; 1990 c 43 § 19.]

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**81.100.090 Interlocal agreements.** Counties imposing a tax under this chapter shall enter into an agreement through the interlocal cooperation act with the department of transportation. The agreement shall provide an opportunity for the department of transportation, cities and transit agencies having within their boundaries a portion of the existing or planned high occupancy vehicle system as contained in the regional transportation plan, to coordinate programming and operational decisions affecting the high occupancy vehicle system. If two or more adjoining counties impose a tax under RCW 81.100.030 or 81.100.060, the counties shall jointly enter one interlocal agreement with the department of transportation. [1990 c 43 § 20.]

**81.100.100 Urban public transportation system.** The high occupancy vehicle system is an urban public transportation system as defined in RCW 47.04.082. [1990 c 43 § 21.]

**81.100.900 Construction—Severability—Headings—1990 c 43.** See notes following RCW 81.100.010.

## Chapter 81.104 RCW

### HIGH CAPACITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

#### Sections

81.104.010	Purpose.
81.104.015	Definitions.
81.104.020	State policy roles.
81.104.030	Policy development outside central Puget Sound—Voter approval.
81.104.040	Policy development in central Puget Sound—Voter approval.
81.104.050	Expansion of service.
81.104.060	State role in planning and implementation.
81.104.070	Responsibility for system implementation.

81.104.080	Regional transportation planning.
81.104.090	Department of transportation responsibilities—Funding of planning projects.
81.104.100	Planning process.
81.104.110	Independent system plan oversight.
81.104.115	Rail fixed guideway system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.
81.104.120	Commuter rail service—Voter approval.
81.104.130	Financial responsibility.
81.104.140	Dedicated funding sources.
81.104.150	Employer tax.
81.104.160	Sales and use tax on car rentals—Motor vehicle excise tax repealed.
81.104.170	Sales and use tax.
81.104.180	Pledge of revenues for bond retirement.
81.104.190	Contract for collection of taxes.
81.104.200	High capacity transportation corridor areas.
81.104.210	High capacity transportation corridor areas—Issuance of bonds.

*High capacity transportation account: RCW 47.78.010.*

**81.104.010 Purpose.** Increasing congestion on Washington's roadways calls for identification and implementation of high capacity transportation system alternatives. The legislature believes that local jurisdictions should coordinate and be responsible for high capacity transportation policy development, program planning, and implementation. The state should assist by working with local agencies on issues involving rights-of-way, partially financing projects meeting established state criteria including development and completion of the high occupancy vehicle lane system, authorizing local jurisdictions to finance high capacity transportation systems through voter-approved tax options, and providing technical assistance and information. [1992 c 101 § 18; 1991 c 318 § 1; 1990 c 43 § 22.]

**81.104.015 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "High capacity transportation corridor area" means a quasi-municipal corporation and independent taxing authority within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution, and a taxing district within the meaning of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution, created by a transit agency governing body.

(2) "High capacity transportation system" means a system of public transportation services within an urbanized region operating principally on exclusive rights-of-way, and the supporting services and facilities necessary to implement such a system, including interim express services and high occupancy vehicle lanes, which taken as a whole, provides a substantially higher level of passenger capacity, speed, and service frequency than traditional public transportation systems operating principally in general purpose roadways.

(3) "Rail fixed guideway system" means a light, heavy, or rapid rail system, monorail, inclined plane, funicular, trolley, or other fixed rail guideway component of a high capacity transportation system that is not regulated by the Federal Railroad Administration, or its successor. "Rail fixed guideway system" does not mean elevators, moving sidewalks or stairs, and vehicles suspended from aerial cables, unless they are an integral component of a station served by a rail fixed guideway system.

(4) "Regional transit system" means a high capacity transportation system under the jurisdiction of one or more transit agencies except where a regional transit authority cre-

ated under chapter 81.112 RCW exists, in which case "regional transit system" means the high capacity transportation system under the jurisdiction of a regional transit authority.

(5) "Transit agency" means city-owned transit systems, county transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, and public transportation benefit areas. [2009 c 280 § 1; 1999 c 202 § 9; 1992 c 101 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.104.020 State policy roles.** The department of transportation's current policy role in transit is expanded to include other high capacity transportation development as part of a multimodal transportation system.

(1) The department of transportation shall implement a program for high capacity transportation coordination, planning, and technical studies with appropriations from the high capacity transportation account.

(2) The department shall assist local jurisdictions and regional transportation planning organizations with high capacity transportation planning efforts. [1991 c 318 § 2; 1990 c 43 § 23.]

**81.104.030 Policy development outside central Puget Sound—Voter approval.** (1) In any county that has a population of one hundred seventy-five thousand or more and has an interstate highway within its borders, except for any county having a population of more than one million or a county that has a population more than four hundred thousand and is adjacent to a county with a population of more than one million, transit agencies may elect to establish high capacity transportation service. Such agencies shall form a regional policy committee with proportional representation based upon population distribution within the designated service area and a representative of the department of transportation, or such agencies may use the designated metropolitan planning organization as the regional policy committee.

Transit agencies participating in joint regional policy committees shall seek voter approval within their own service boundaries of a high capacity transportation system plan and financing plan. For transit agencies in counties adjoining state or international boundaries where the high capacity transportation system plan and financing plan propose a bistate or international high capacity transportation system, such voter approval shall be required from only those voters residing within the service area in the state of Washington.

(2) Transit agencies in counties adjoining state or international boundaries are authorized to participate in the regional high capacity transportation programs of an adjoining state or Canadian province. [1995 2nd sp.s. c 14 § 541; 1993 c 428 § 1; 1992 c 101 § 20; 1991 c 318 § 3; 1991 c 309 § 2; (1991 c 363 § 155 repealed by 1991 c 309 § 6); 1990 c 43 § 24.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.104.040 Policy development in central Puget Sound—Voter approval.** Transit agencies in each county with a population of one million or more, and in each county with a population of from two hundred ten thousand to less than one million bordering a county with a population of one million or more that are authorized on January 1, 1991, to

provide high capacity transportation planning and operating services must establish through interlocal agreements a joint regional policy committee with proportional representation based upon the population distribution within each agency's designated service area, as determined by the parties to the agreement.

(1) The membership of the joint regional policy committee shall consist of locally elected officials who serve on the legislative authority of the existing transit systems and a representative from the department of transportation. Nonvoting membership for elected officials from adjoining counties may be allowed at the committee's discretion.

(2) The joint regional policy committee shall be responsible for the preparation and adoption of a regional high capacity transportation implementation program, which shall include the system plan, project plans, and a financing plan. This program shall be in conformance with the regional transportation planning organization's regional transportation plan and consistent with RCW 81.104.080.

(3) The joint regional policy committee shall present an adopted high capacity transportation system plan and financing plan to the boards of directors of the transit agencies within the service area or to the regional transit authority, if such authority has been formed. The authority shall proceed as prescribed in RCW 81.112.030. [1992 c 101 § 21; 1991 c 318 § 4; 1990 c 43 § 25.]

**81.104.050 Expansion of service.** Regional high capacity transportation service may be expanded beyond the established district boundaries through interlocal agreements among the transit agencies and any regional transit authorities in existence. [1992 c 101 § 22; 1991 c 318 § 5; 1990 c 43 § 26.]

**81.104.060 State role in planning and implementation.** (1) The state's planning role in high capacity transportation development as one element of a multimodal transportation system should facilitate cooperative state and local planning efforts.

(2) The department of transportation may serve as a contractor for high capacity transportation system and project design, administer construction, and assist agencies authorized to provide service in the acquisition, preservation, and joint use of rights-of-way.

(3) The department and local jurisdictions shall continue to cooperate with respect to the development of high occupancy vehicle lanes and related facilities, associated roadways, transfer stations, people mover systems developed either by the public or private sector, and other related projects.

(4) The department in cooperation with local jurisdictions shall develop policies which enhance the development of high speed interregional systems by both the private and the public sector. These policies may address joint use of rights-of-way, identification and preservation of transportation corridors, and joint development of stations and other facilities. [1991 c 318 § 6; 1990 c 43 § 27.]

**81.104.070 Responsibility for system implementation.** (1) The state shall not become an operating agent for regional high capacity transportation systems.

(2) Agencies providing high capacity transportation service are responsible for planning, construction, operations, and funding including station area design and development, and parking facilities. Agencies may implement necessary contracts, joint development agreements, and interlocal government agreements. Agencies providing service shall consult with affected local jurisdictions and cooperate with comprehensive planning processes. [1990 c 43 § 28.]

**81.104.080 Regional transportation planning.** Where applicable, regional transportation plans and local comprehensive plans shall address the relationship between urban growth and an effective high capacity transportation system plan, and provide for cooperation between local jurisdictions and transit agencies.

(1) Regional high capacity transportation plans shall be included in the designated regional transportation planning organization's regional transportation plan review and update process to facilitate development of a coordinated multimodal transportation system and to meet federal funding requirements.

(2) Interlocal agreements between transit authorities, cities, and counties shall set forth conditions for assuring land uses compatible with development of high capacity transportation systems. These include developing sufficient land use densities through local actions in high capacity transportation corridors and near passenger stations, preserving transit rights-of-way, and protecting the region's environmental quality. The implementation program for high capacity transportation systems shall favor cities and counties with supportive land use plans. In developing local actions intended to carry out these policies cities and counties shall insure the opportunity for public comment and participation in the siting of such facilities, including stations or transfer facilities. Agencies providing high capacity transportation services, in cooperation with public and private interests, shall promote transit-compatible land uses and development which includes joint development.

(3) Interlocal agreements shall be consistent with state planning goals as set forth in chapter 36.70A RCW. Agreements shall also include plans for concentrated employment centers, mixed-use development, and housing densities that support high capacity transportation systems.

(4) Agencies providing high capacity transportation service and other transit agencies shall develop a cooperative process for the planning, development, operations, and funding of feeder transportation systems. Feeder systems may include existing and future intercity passenger systems and alternative technology people mover systems which may be developed by the private or public sector.

(5) Cities and counties along corridors designated in a high capacity transportation system plan shall enter into agreements with their designated regional transportation planning organizations, for the purpose of participating in a right-of-way preservation review process which includes activities to promote the preservation of the high capacity transportation rights-of-way. The regional transportation planning organization shall serve as the coordinator of the review process.

(a) Cities and counties shall forward all development proposals for projects within and adjoining to the

rights-of-way proposed for preservation to the designated regional transportation planning organizations, which shall distribute the proposals for review by parties to the right-of-way preservation review process.

(b) The regional transportation planning organizations shall also review proposals for conformance with the regional transportation plan and associated regional development strategies. The designated regional transportation planning organization shall within ninety days compile local and regional agency comments and communicate the same to the originating jurisdiction and the joint regional policy committee. [1991 c 318 § 7; 1990 c 43 § 29.]

**81.104.090 Department of transportation responsibilities—Funding of planning projects.** The department of transportation shall be responsible for distributing amounts appropriated from the high capacity transportation account, which shall be allocated by the department of transportation based on criteria in subsection (2) of this section. The department shall assemble and participate in a committee comprised of transit agencies eligible to receive funds from the high capacity transportation account for the purpose of reviewing fund applications.

(1) State high capacity transportation account funds may provide up to eighty percent matching assistance for high capacity transportation planning efforts.

(2) Authorizations for state funding for high capacity transportation planning projects shall be subject to the following criteria:

(a) Conformance with the designated regional transportation planning organization's regional transportation plan;

(b) Local matching funds;

(c) Demonstration of projected improvement in regional mobility;

(d) Conformance with planning requirements prescribed in RCW 81.104.100, and if five hundred thousand dollars or more in state funding is requested, conformance with the requirements of RCW 81.104.110; and

(e) Establishment, through interlocal agreements, of a joint regional policy committee as defined in RCW 81.104.030 or 81.104.040.

(3) The department of transportation shall provide general review and monitoring of the system and project planning process prescribed in RCW 81.104.100. [1995 c 269 § 2602; 1993 c 393 § 2; 1991 c 318 § 8; 1990 c 43 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.104.100 Planning process.** To assure development of an effective high capacity transportation system, local authorities shall follow the following planning process only if their system plan includes a rail fixed guideway system component or a bus rapid transit component that is planned by a regional transit authority:

(1) Regional, multimodal transportation planning is the ongoing urban transportation planning process conducted in each urbanized area by its regional transportation planning organization. During this process, regional transportation goals are identified, travel patterns are analyzed, and future land use and travel are projected. The process provides a comprehensive view of the region's transportation needs but does not select specified modes to serve those needs. The

process shall identify a priority corridor or corridors for further study of high capacity transportation facilities if it is deemed feasible by local officials.

(2) High capacity transportation system planning is the detailed evaluation of a range of high capacity transportation system options, including: Do nothing, low capital, and ranges of higher capital facilities. To the extent possible this evaluation shall take into account the urban mass transportation administration's requirements identified in subsection (3) of this section.

High capacity transportation system planning shall proceed as follows:

(a) Organization and management. The responsible local transit agency or agencies shall define roles for various local agencies, review background information, provide for public involvement, and develop a detailed work plan for the system planning process.

(b) Development of options. Options to be studied shall be developed to ensure an appropriate range of technologies and service policies can be evaluated. A do-nothing option and a low capital option that maximizes the current system shall be developed. Several higher capital options that consider a range of capital expenditures for several candidate technologies shall be developed.

(c) Analysis methods. The local transit agency shall develop reports describing the analysis and assumptions for the estimation of capital costs, operating and maintenance costs, methods for travel forecasting, a financial plan and an evaluation methodology.

(d) The system plan submitted to the voters pursuant to RCW 81.104.140 shall address, but is not limited to the following issues:

(i) Identification of level and types of high capacity transportation services to be provided;

(ii) A plan of high occupancy vehicle lanes to be constructed;

(iii) Identification of route alignments and station locations with sufficient specificity to permit calculation of costs, ridership, and system impacts;

(iv) Performance characteristics of technologies in the system plan;

(v) Patronage forecasts;

(vi) A financing plan describing: Phasing of investments; capital and operating costs and expected revenues; cost-effectiveness represented by a total cost per system rider and new rider estimate; estimated ridership and the cost of service for each individual high capacity line; and identification of the operating revenue to operating expense ratio.

The financing plan shall specifically differentiate the proposed use of funds between high capacity transportation facilities and services, and high occupancy vehicle facilities;

(vii) Description of the relationship between the high capacity transportation system plan and adopted land use plans;

(viii) An assessment of social, economic, and environmental impacts; and

(ix) Mobility characteristics of the system presented, including but not limited to: Qualitative description of system/service philosophy and impacts; qualitative system reliability; travel time and number of transfers between

selected residential, employment, and activity centers; and system and activity center mode splits.

(3) High capacity transportation project planning is the detailed identification of alignments, station locations, equipment and systems, construction schedules, environmental effects, and costs. High capacity transportation project planning shall proceed as follows: The local transit agency shall analyze and produce information needed for the preparation of environmental impact statements. The impact statements shall address the impact that development of such a system will have on abutting or nearby property owners. The process of identification of alignments and station locations shall include notification of affected property owners by normal legal publication. At minimum, such notification shall include notice on the same day for at least three weeks in at least two newspapers of general circulation in the county where such project is proposed. Special notice of hearings by the conspicuous posting of notice, in a manner designed to attract public attention, in the vicinity of areas identified for station locations or transfer sites shall also be provided.

In order to increase the likelihood of future federal funding, the project planning processes shall follow the urban mass transportation administration's requirements as described in "Procedures and Technical Methods for Transit Project Planning", published by the United States department of transportation, urban mass transportation administration, September 1986, or the most recent edition. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude detailed evaluation of more than one corridor in the planning process.

The department of transportation shall provide system and project planning review and monitoring in cooperation with the expert review panel identified in RCW 81.104.110. In addition, the local transit agency shall maintain a continuous public involvement program and seek involvement of other government agencies. [2011 c 127 § 1; 1992 c 101 § 23; 1991 sp.s. c 15 § 68; 1991 c 318 § 9; 1990 c 43 § 31.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.104.110 Independent system plan oversight.** (1)

The legislature recognizes that the planning processes described in RCW 81.104.100 provide a recognized framework for guiding high capacity transportation studies. However, the process cannot guarantee appropriate decisions unless key study assumptions are reasonable.

(2) To assure appropriate system plan assumptions and to provide for review of system plan results, an expert review panel shall be appointed to provide independent technical review for development of any system plan which:

(a) Is to be funded in whole or in part by the imposition of any voter-approved local option funding sources enumerated in RCW 81.104.140; and

(b) Includes a rail fixed guideway system component or a bus rapid transit component that is planned by a regional transit authority.

(3) The expert review panel shall consist of five to ten members who are recognized experts in relevant fields, such as transit operations, planning, emerging transportation technologies, engineering, finance, law, the environment, geography, economics, and political science.

(4) The expert review panel shall be selected cooperatively by the chairs of the senate and house transportation

committees, the secretary of the department of transportation, and the governor to assure a balance of disciplines. In the case of counties adjoining another state or Canadian province the expert review panel membership shall be selected cooperatively with representatives of the adjoining state or Canadian province.

(5) The chair of the expert review panel shall be designated by the appointing authorities.

(6) The expert review panel shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses according to RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Reimbursement shall be paid from within the existing resources of the local authority planning under this chapter.

(7) The panel shall carry out the duties set forth in subsections (8) and (9) of this section until the date on which an election is held to consider the high capacity transportation system and financing plans.

(8) The expert panel shall review all reports required in RCW 81.104.100(2) and shall concentrate on service modes and concepts, costs, patronage and financing evaluations.

(9) The expert panel shall provide timely reviews and comments on individual reports and study conclusions to the department of transportation, the regional transportation planning organization, the joint regional policy committee, and the submitting lead transit agency. In the case of counties adjoining another state or Canadian province, the expert review panel shall provide its reviews, comments, and conclusions to the representatives of the adjoining state or Canadian province.

(10) The local authority planning under this chapter shall contract for consulting services for expert review panels. The amount of consultant support shall be negotiated with each expert review panel by the local authority and shall be paid from within the local authority's existing resources. [2011 c 127 § 2; 2005 c 319 § 136; 1998 c 245 § 165. Prior: 1991 c 318 § 10; 1991 c 309 § 3; 1990 c 43 § 32.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings—Effective dates—2005 c 319:** See notes following RCW 43.17.020.

**81.104.115 Rail fixed guideway system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.** (1) The department may collect and review the system safety program plan and the system security and emergency preparedness plan prepared by each owner or operator of a rail fixed guideway system. In carrying out this function, the department may adopt rules specifying the elements and standard to be contained in a system safety program plan and a system security and emergency preparedness plan, and the content of any investigation report, corrective action plan, and accompanying implementation schedule resulting from a reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach. These rules may include due dates for the department's timely receipt of and response to required documents.

(2) The system security and emergency preparedness plan as described in subsection (1)(d) of RCW 35.21.228, 35A.21.300, 36.01.210, 36.57.120, 36.57A.170, and 81.112.180 is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW by the department when collected from the owners and operators of fixed railway systems. However, the system safety program plan as described in RCW 35.21.228,

35A.21.300, 36.01.210, 36.57.120, 36.57A.170, and 81.112.180 is not exempt from public disclosure.

(3) The department shall audit each system safety program plan and each system security and emergency preparedness plan at least once every three years. The department may contract with other persons or entities for the performance of duties required by this subsection. The department shall provide at least thirty days' advance notice to the owner or operator of a rail fixed guideway system before commencing the audit. The owner or operator of each rail fixed guideway system shall reimburse the reasonable expenses of the department in carrying out its responsibilities of this subsection within ninety days after receipt of an invoice. The department shall notify the owner or operator of the estimated expenses at least six months in advance of when the department audits the system.

(4) In the event of a reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach, the department shall review the investigation report, corrective action plan, and accompanying implementation schedule, submitted by the owner or operator of the rail fixed guideway system to ensure that it meets the goal of preventing and mitigating a recurrence of the reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach.

(a) The department may, at its option, perform a separate, independent investigation of a reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach. The department may contract with other persons or entities for the performance of duties required by this subsection.

(b) If the department does not concur with the investigation report, corrective action plan, and accompanying implementation schedule, submitted by the owner or operator, the department shall notify that owner or operator in writing within forty-five days of its receipt of the complete investigation report, corrective action plan, and accompanying implementation schedule.

(5) The secretary may adopt rules to implement this section and RCW 35.21.228, 35A.21.300, 36.01.210, 36.57.120, 36.57A.170, and 81.112.180, including rules establishing procedures and timelines for owners and operators of rail fixed guideway systems to comply with RCW 35.21.228, 35A.21.300, 36.01.210, 36.57.120, 36.57A.170, and 81.112.180 and the rules adopted under this section. If non-compliance by an owner or operator of a rail fixed guideway system results in the loss of federal funds to the state of Washington or a political subdivision of the state, the owner or operator is liable to the affected entity or entities for the amount of the lost funds.

(6) The department may impose sanctions upon owners and operators of rail fixed guideway systems, but only for failure to meet reasonable deadlines for submission of required reports and audits. The department is expressly prohibited from imposing sanctions for any other purposes, including, but not limited to, differences in format or content of required reports and audits.

(7) The department and its employees have no liability arising from the adoption of rules; the review of or concurrence in a system safety program plan and a system security and emergency preparedness plan; the separate, independent investigation of a reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach; and the review of or con-

currence in a corrective action plan for a reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach.

(8) The department shall set by rule an annual fee for owners and operators of rail fixed guideway systems to defray the department's direct costs associated only with the system safety program plans, system security and emergency preparedness plans, and incident investigations, as described in this section, and the fee shall not be a flat fee but shall be imposed on each owner and operator in proportion to the effort expended by the department in relation to individual plans. The department shall establish by rule the manner and timing of the collection of the fee. [2007 c 422 § 7; 2005 c 274 § 359; 2001 c 127 § 1; 1999 c 202 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **81.104.120 Commuter rail service—Voter approval.**

(1) Transit agencies and regional transit authorities may operate or contract for commuter rail service where it is deemed to be a reasonable alternative transit mode. A reasonable alternative is one whose passenger costs per mile, including costs of trackage, equipment, maintenance, operations, and administration are equal to or less than comparable bus, entrained bus, trolley, or personal rapid transit systems.

(2) A county may use funds collected under RCW 81.100.030 or 81.100.060 to contract with one or more transit agencies or regional transit authorities for planning, operation, and maintenance of commuter rail projects which: (a) Are consistent with the regional transportation plan; (b) have met the project planning and oversight requirements of RCW 81.104.100 and 81.104.110; and (c) have been approved by the voters within the service area of each transit agency or regional transit authority participating in the project. For transit agencies in counties adjoining state or international boundaries where the high capacity transportation system plan and financing plan propose a bistate or international high capacity transportation system, such voter approval shall be required from only those voters residing within the service area in the state of Washington. The phrase "approved by the voters" includes specific funding authorization for the commuter rail project.

(3) The utilities and transportation commission shall maintain safety responsibility for passenger rail service operating on freight rail lines. Agencies providing passenger rail service on lines other than freight rail lines shall maintain safety responsibility for that service. [1993 c 428 § 2; 1992 c 101 § 24; 1990 c 43 § 33.]

**81.104.130 Financial responsibility.** Agencies providing high capacity transportation service shall determine optimal debt-to-equity ratios, establish capital and operations allocations, and establish fare-box recovery return policy. [1990 c 43 § 34.]

**81.104.140 Dedicated funding sources.** (1) Agencies authorized to provide high capacity transportation service, including transit agencies and regional transit authorities, and regional transportation investment districts acting with the agreement of an agency, are hereby granted dedicated funding sources for such systems. These dedicated funding

sources, as set forth in RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170, are authorized only for agencies located in (a) each county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more and (b) each county with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand except for those counties that do not border a county with a population as described under (a) of this subsection. In any county with a population of one million or more or in any county having a population of four hundred thousand or more bordering a county with a population of one million or more, these funding sources may be imposed only by a regional transit authority or a regional transportation investment district. Regional transportation investment districts may, with the approval of the regional transit authority within its boundaries, impose the taxes authorized under this chapter, but only upon approval of the voters and to the extent that the maximum amount of taxes authorized under this chapter have not been imposed.

(2) Agencies planning to construct and operate a high capacity transportation system should also seek other funds, including federal, state, local, and private sector assistance.

(3) Funding sources should satisfy each of the following criteria to the greatest extent possible:

- (a) Acceptability;
- (b) Ease of administration;
- (c) Equity;
- (d) Implementation feasibility;
- (e) Revenue reliability; and
- (f) Revenue yield.

(4) Agencies participating in regional high capacity transportation system development are authorized to levy and collect the following voter-approved local option funding sources:

- (a) Employer tax as provided in RCW 81.104.150, other than by regional transportation investment districts;
- (b) Special motor vehicle excise tax as provided in RCW 81.104.160; and
- (c) Sales and use tax as provided in RCW 81.104.170.

Revenues from these taxes may be used only to support those purposes prescribed in subsection (10) of this section. Before the date of an election authorizing an agency to impose any of the taxes enumerated in this section and authorized in RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170, the agency must comply with the process prescribed in RCW 81.104.100 (1) and (2) and 81.104.110. No construction on exclusive right-of-way may occur before the requirements of RCW 81.104.100(3) are met.

(5) Authorization in subsection (4) of this section shall not adversely affect the funding authority of transit agencies not provided for in this chapter. Local option funds may be used to support implementation of interlocal agreements with respect to the establishment of regional high capacity transportation service. Except when a regional transit authority exists, local jurisdictions shall retain control over moneys generated within their boundaries, although funds may be commingled with those generated in other areas for planning, construction, and operation of high capacity transportation systems as set forth in the agreements.

(6) Agencies planning to construct and operate high capacity transportation systems may contract with the state

for collection and transference of voter-approved local option revenue.

(7) Dedicated high capacity transportation funding sources authorized in RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170 shall be subject to voter approval by a simple majority. A single ballot proposition may seek approval for one or more of the authorized taxing sources. The ballot title shall reference the document identified in subsection (8) of this section.

(8) Agencies shall provide to the registered voters in the area a document describing the systems plan and the financing plan set forth in RCW 81.104.100. It shall also describe the relationship of the system to regional issues such as development density at station locations and activity centers, and the interrelationship of the system to adopted land use and transportation demand management goals within the region. This document shall be provided to the voters at least twenty days prior to the date of the election.

(9) For any election in which voter approval is sought for a high capacity transportation system plan and financing plan pursuant to RCW 81.104.040, a local voter's pamphlet shall be produced as provided in \*chapter 29.81A RCW.

(10) Agencies providing high capacity transportation service shall retain responsibility for revenue encumbrance, disbursement, and bonding. Funds may be used for any purpose relating to planning, construction, and operation of high capacity transportation systems and commuter rail systems, personal rapid transit, busways, bus sets, and entrained and linked buses. [2002 c 56 § 202; 1992 c 101 § 25. Prior: 1991 c 318 § 11; 1991 c 309 § 4; (1991 c 363 § 157 repealed by 1991 c 309 § 6); 1990 c 43 § 35.]

\***Reviser's note:** Chapter 29.81A RCW was recodified as chapter 29A.32 RCW pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004.

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**81.104.150 Employer tax.** Cities that operate transit systems, county transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, public transportation benefit areas, high capacity transportation corridor areas, and regional transit authorities may submit an authorizing proposition to the voters and if approved may impose an excise tax of up to two dollars per month per employee on all employers located within the applicable jurisdiction, measured by the number of full-time equivalent employees, solely for the purpose of providing high capacity transportation service. The rate of tax shall be approved by the voters. This tax may not be imposed by: (1) A transit agency or high capacity transportation corridor area when the county within which it is located is imposing an excise tax pursuant to RCW 81.100.030; or (2) a regional transit authority when any county within the authority's boundaries is imposing an excise tax pursuant to RCW 81.100.030. The agency or high capacity transportation corridor area imposing the tax authorized in this section may provide for exemptions from the tax to such educational, cultural, health, charitable, or religious organizations as it deems appropriate. [2009 c 280 § 3; 1992 c 101 § 26; 1990 c 43 § 41.]

**81.104.160 Sales and use tax on car rentals—Motor vehicle excise tax repealed.** An agency and high capacity

transportation corridor area may impose a sales and use tax solely for the purpose of providing high capacity transportation service, in addition to the tax authorized by RCW 82.14.030, upon retail car rentals within the applicable jurisdiction that are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The rate of tax shall not exceed 2.172 percent. The base of the tax shall be the selling price in the case of a sales tax or the rental value of the vehicle used in the case of a use tax.

Any motor vehicle excise tax previously imposed under the provisions of RCW 81.104.160(1) shall be repealed, terminated, and expire on December 5, 2002, except for a motor vehicle excise tax for which revenues have been contractually pledged to repay a bonded debt issued before December 5, 2002, as determined by *Pierce County et al. v. State*, 159 Wn.2d 16, 148 P.3d 1002 (2006). In the case of bonds that were previously issued, the motor vehicle excise tax must comply with chapter 82.44 RCW as it existed on January 1, 1996. [2010 c 161 § 903; 2009 c 280 § 4; 2003 c 1 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002); 1998 c 321 § 35 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998). Prior: 1992 c 194 § 13; 1992 c 101 § 27; 1991 c 318 § 12; 1990 c 43 § 42.]

**Reviser's note:** In *Pierce County v. State*, 159 Wn.2d 16 (2006), the supreme court held that section 6, chapter 1, Laws of 2003 (Initiative Measure No. 776) impermissibly impairs the contractual obligations between Sound Transit and its bondholders in violation of the contract clause and, as a result, has no legal effect of preventing Sound Transit from continuing to fulfill its contractual obligation to levy the motor vehicle excise tax for so long as the bonds remain outstanding.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Severability—Savings—2003 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 776):** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. If the repeal of taxes in section 6 of this act is judicially held to impair any contract in existence as of the effective date of this act, the repeal shall apply to any other contract, including novation, renewal, or refunding (in the case of bond contract)." [2003 c 1 § 10 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).]

**Repeal of taxes by 2003 c 1 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 776):** "If the repeal of taxes in section 6 of this act affects any bonds previously issued for any purpose relating to light rail, the people expect transit agencies to retire these bonds using reserve funds including accrued interest, sale of property or equipment, new voter approved tax revenues, or any combination of these sources of revenue. Taxing districts should abstain from further bond sales for any purpose relating to light rail until voters decide this measure. The people encourage transit agencies to put another tax revenue measure before voters if they want to continue with a light rail system dramatically changed from that previously represented to and approved by voters." [2003 c 1 § 7 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).]

**Construction—Intent—2003 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 776):** See notes following RCW 46.16A.455.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

**Legislative intent—1992 c 194:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.104.170 Sales and use tax.** (1) Cities that operate transit systems, county transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, public transportation benefit areas, high capacity transportation corridor areas, and regional transit authorities may submit an authorizing proposition to the voters and if approved by a majority of persons voting, fix and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with

the terms of this chapter, solely for the purpose of providing high capacity transportation service.

(2) The tax authorized pursuant to this section shall be in addition to the tax authorized by RCW 82.14.030 and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state pursuant to chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the taxing district. The maximum rate of such tax shall be approved by the voters and shall not exceed one percent of the selling price (in the case of a sales tax) or value of the article used (in the case of a use tax). The maximum rate of such tax that may be imposed shall not exceed nine-tenths of one percent in any county that imposes a tax under RCW 82.14.340, or within a regional transit authority if any county within the authority imposes a tax under RCW 82.14.340.

(3)(a) The exemptions in RCW 82.08.820 and 82.12.820 are for the state portion of the sales and use tax and do not extend to the tax authorized in this section.

(b) The exemptions in RCW 82.08.962 and 82.12.962 are for the state and local sales and use taxes and include the tax authorized by this section. [2009 c 469 § 106; 2009 c 280 § 5; 1997 c 450 § 5; 1992 c 101 § 28; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 902; 1990 c 43 § 43.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 280 § 5 and by 2009 c 469 § 106, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Findings—Intent—Report—Effective date—1997 c 450:** See notes following RCW 82.08.820.

*Changes in tax law—Liability:* RCW 82.08.064, 82.14.055, and 82.32.430.

*Local retail sales and use taxes:* Chapter 82.14 RCW.

*Sales tax imposed—Retail sales—Retail car rental:* RCW 82.08.020.

*Use tax imposed:* RCW 82.12.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **81.104.180 Pledge of revenues for bond retirement.**

Cities that operate transit systems, county transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, public transportation benefit areas, high capacity transportation corridor areas, and regional transit authorities are authorized to pledge revenues from the employer tax authorized by RCW 81.104.150, the taxes authorized by RCW 81.104.160, and the sales and use tax authorized by RCW 81.104.170, to retire bonds issued solely for the purpose of providing high capacity transportation service. [2009 c 280 § 6; 1992 c 101 § 29; 1990 c 43 § 44.]

**81.104.190 Contract for collection of taxes.** Cities that operate transit systems, county transportation authorities, metropolitan municipal corporations, public transportation benefit areas, high capacity transportation corridor areas, and regional transit systems may contract with the state department of revenue or other appropriate entities for administration and collection of any tax authorized by RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170. [2009 c 280 § 7; 1992 c 101 § 30; 1990 c 43 § 45.]

**81.104.200 High capacity transportation corridor areas.** (1) A governing body of a transit agency in a county that has a population of more than four hundred thousand and

(2012 Ed.)

that adjoins a state boundary may establish one or more high capacity transportation corridor areas within all or a portion of the boundaries of the transit agency establishing the high capacity transportation corridor area. A high capacity transportation corridor area may include all or a portion of a city or town as long as all or a portion of the city or town boundaries are within the boundaries of the establishing transit agency. The members of the transit agency governing body proposing to establish the high capacity transportation corridor area, acting ex officio and independently, shall constitute the governing body of the high capacity transportation corridor area.

(2) A high capacity transportation corridor area may establish, finance, and provide a high capacity transportation system within its boundaries in the same manner as authorized for transit agencies under this chapter, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) Any combined tax rates imposed under this chapter within the boundaries of the transit agency establishing a high capacity transportation corridor area or areas may not exceed the maximum rates authorized under RCW 81.104.150, 81.104.160, and 81.104.170;

(b) If a majority of the voters within the boundaries of a high capacity transportation corridor area approve a proposition imposing any high capacity transportation taxes, the governing body of the high capacity transportation corridor area may not seek subsequent voter approval of any additional high capacity transportation taxes, notwithstanding any remaining authorized taxing capacity; and

(c) The governing body of a high capacity transportation corridor area may not submit any authorizing proposition for voter-approved taxes prior to July 1, 2012.

(3) A high capacity transportation corridor area constitutes a body corporate and possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may be conferred by statute including, but not limited to, the authority to hire employees, staff, and services, to enter into contracts, to acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property, and to sue and be sued. Public works contract limits applicable to the transit agency that established the high capacity transportation corridor area apply to the area.

(4) A high capacity transportation corridor area may exercise the power of eminent domain to obtain property for its authorized purposes in the same manner as authorized for the transit agency that established the area.

(5) A high capacity transportation corridor area may be dissolved by a majority vote of the governing body when all obligations under any general obligation bonds issued by the high capacity transportation corridor area have been discharged and any other contractual obligations of the high capacity transportation corridor area have either been discharged or assumed by another governmental entity. [2009 c 280 § 2.]

**81.104.210 High capacity transportation corridor areas—Issuance of bonds.** (1) To carry out the purposes of this chapter, a high capacity transportation corridor area may issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed an amount, together with any other outstanding nonvoter-approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to one and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property within the area, as

the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. A high capacity transportation corridor area may also issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, not to exceed an amount equal to five percent of the value of the taxable property within the area, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, when authorized by the voters of the area pursuant to Article VIII, section 6 of the state Constitution.

(2) General obligation bonds with a maturity in excess of twenty-five years shall not be issued. The governing body of the high capacity transportation corridor area shall by resolution determine for each general obligation bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, manner of execution, manner of sale, callable provisions, if any, covenants, and form, including registration as to principal and interest, registration as to principal only, or bearer. Registration may include, but not be limited to: (a) A book entry system of recording the ownership of a bond whether or not physical bonds are issued; or (b) recording the ownership of a bond together with the requirement that the transfer of ownership may only be effected by the surrender of the old bond and either the reissuance of the old bond or the issuance of a new bond to the new owner. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. Refunding general obligation bonds may be issued in the same manner as general obligation bonds are issued.

(3) Whenever general obligation bonds are issued to fund specific projects or enterprises that generate revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments, the high capacity transportation corridor area may specifically pledge all or a portion of the revenues, charges, user fees, or special assessments to refund the general obligation bonds. The high capacity transportation corridor area may also pledge any other revenues that may be available to the area.

(4) In addition to general obligation bonds, a high capacity transportation corridor area may issue revenue bonds to be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2009 c 280 § 8.]

### Chapter 81.108 RCW

#### LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE SITES

##### Sections

81.108.010	Purpose.
81.108.020	Definitions.
81.108.030	Commission—Powers.
81.108.040	Rates—Initial determination—Fees.
81.108.050	Maximum rates—Revisions—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
81.108.060	Contracted disposal rates—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
81.108.070	Extraordinary volume adjustment.
81.108.080	Complaint—Hearing.
81.108.090	Revenue statement—Fees—Delinquent fee payments.
81.108.100	Exemptions—Monopolies—Hearings—Rates.
81.108.110	Competitive companies—Exemptions—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.
81.108.900	Construction.
81.108.901	Effective dates—1991 c 272.

**81.108.010 Purpose.** State and national policy directs that the management of low-level radioactive waste be

accomplished by a system of interstate compacts and the development of regional disposal sites. The Northwest regional compact, comprised of the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, has as its disposal facility the low-level radioactive waste disposal site located near Richland, Washington. This site is expected to be the sole site for disposal of low-level radioactive waste for compact members effective January 1, 1993. Future closure of this site will require significant financial resources.

Low-level radioactive waste is generated by essential activities and services that benefit the citizens of the state. Washington state's low-level radioactive waste disposal site has been used by the nation and the Northwest compact as a disposal site since 1965. The public has come to rely on access to this site for disposal of low-level radioactive waste, which requires separate handling from other solid and hazardous wastes. The price of disposing of low-level radioactive waste at the Washington state low-level radioactive waste disposal site is anticipated to increase when the federal low-level radioactive waste policy amendments act of 1985 is implemented and waste generated outside the Northwest compact states is excluded.

When these events occur, to protect Washington and other Northwest compact states' businesses and services, such as electrical production, medical and university research, and private industries, upon which the public relies, there will be a need to regulate the rates charged by the operator of Washington's low-level radioactive waste disposal site. This chapter is adopted pursuant to section 8, chapter 21, Laws of 1990. [1991 c 272 § 1.]

**81.108.020 Definitions.** Definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Commission" means the Washington utilities and transportation commission.

(2) "Effective rate" means the highest permissible rate, calculated as the lowest contract rate plus an administrative fee, if applicable, determined pursuant to RCW 81.108.040.

(3) "Extraordinary volume" means volumes of low-level radioactive waste delivered to a site caused by nonrecurring events, outside normal operations of a generator, that are in excess of twenty thousand cubic feet or twenty percent of the preceding year's total volume at such site, whichever is less.

(4) "Extraordinary volume adjustment" means a mechanism that allocates the potential rate reduction benefits of an extraordinary volume between all generators and the generator responsible for such extraordinary volume as described in RCW 81.108.070.

(5) "Generator" means a person, partnership, association, corporation, or any other entity whatsoever that, as a part of its activities, produces low-level radioactive waste.

(6) "Inflation adjustment" means a mechanism that adjusts the maximum disposal rate by a percentage equal to the change in price levels in the preceding period, as measured by a common, verifiable price index as determined in RCW 81.108.040.

(7) "Initial rate proceeding" means the proceeding described in RCW 81.108.040.

(8) "Maximum disposal rate" means the rate described in RCW 81.108.050.

(9) "Site" means a location, structure, or property used or to be used for the storage, treatment, or disposal of low-level radioactive waste for compensation within the state of Washington.

(10) "Site operator" means a low-level radioactive waste site operating company as defined in RCW 81.04.010.

(11) "Volume adjustment" means a mechanism that adjusts the maximum disposal rate in response to material changes in volumes of waste deposited at the site during the preceding period so as to provide a level of total revenues sufficient to recover the costs to operate and maintain the site. [1991 c 272 § 2.]

**81.108.030 Commission—Powers.** (1) The commission shall have jurisdiction over the sites and site operators as set forth in this chapter.

(2)(a) The commission shall establish rates to be charged by site operators. In establishing the rates, the commission shall assure that they are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient considering the value of the site operator's leasehold and license interests, the unique nature of its business operations, the site operator's liability associated with the site, its investment incurred over the term of its operations, and the rate of return equivalent to that earned by comparable enterprises. The rates shall only take effect following a finding that the site operator is a monopoly pursuant to RCW 81.108.100.

(b) In exercising the power in this subsection the commission may use any standard, formula, method, or theory of valuation reasonably calculated to arrive at the objective of prescribing and authorizing fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient rates. The relation of site operator expenses to site operator revenues may be deemed the proper test of a reasonable return.

(3) In all respects in which the commission has power and authority under this chapter, applications and complaints may be made and filed with it, process issued, hearings held, opinions, orders, and decisions made and filed, petitions for rehearing filed and acted upon, and petitions for review to the superior court filed therewith, appeals filed with the appellate courts of this state, considered and disposed of by said courts in the manner, under the conditions, and subject to the limitations, and with the effect specified in this title for public service companies generally.

(4) At any time after January 1, 1992, the commission may: (a) Prescribe a system of accounts for site operators using as a starting point the existing system used by site operators; (b) audit the books of site operators; (c) obtain books and records from site operators; (d) assess penalties; and (e) require semiannual reports regarding the results of operations for the site.

(5) The commission may adopt rules necessary to carry out its functions under this chapter. [1991 c 272 § 4.]

**81.108.040 Rates—Initial determination—Fees.** (1) On or before March 1, 1992, site operators shall file a request with the commission to establish an initial maximum disposal rate. The filing shall include, at a minimum, testimony, exhibits, workpapers, summaries, annual reports, cost studies, proposed tariffs, and other documents as required by the commission in rate cases generally under its jurisdiction.

(2) After receipt of a request, the commission shall set the request for a hearing and require the site operator to provide for notice to all known customers that ship or deliver waste to the site. The proceedings before the commission shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW and rules of procedure established by the commission.

(3) No later than January 1, 1993, the commission shall establish the initial maximum disposal rates that may be charged by site operators.

(4) In the initial rate proceeding the commission also shall determine the factors necessary to calculate the inflation, volume, and extraordinary volume adjustments.

(5) The commission also shall determine the administrative fee, which shall be a percentage or an amount that represents increased administrative costs associated with acceptance of small volumes of waste by a site operator. The administrative fee may be revised by the commission from time to time upon its own motion or upon the petition of an interested person.

(6) The rates specified in this section shall only take effect following a finding that the site operator is a monopoly pursuant to RCW 81.108.100. [1991 c 272 § 5.]

**81.108.050 Maximum rates—Revisions—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) The maximum disposal rates that a site operator may charge generators shall be determined in accordance with this section. The rates shall include all charges for disposal services at the site.

(2) Initially, the maximum disposal rates shall be the initial rates established pursuant to RCW 81.108.040.

(3) Subsequently, the maximum disposal rates shall be adjusted in January of each year to incorporate inflation and volume adjustments. Such adjustments shall take effect thirty days after filing with the commission unless the commission authorizes that the adjustments take effect earlier, or the commission contests the calculation of the adjustments, in which case the commission may suspend the filing. A site operator shall provide notice to its customers concurrent with the filing.

(4)(a) Subsequently, a site operator may also file for revisions to the maximum disposal rates due to:

(i) Changes in any governmentally imposed fee, surcharge, or tax assessed on a volume or a gross revenue basis against or collected by the site operator, including site closure fees, perpetual care and maintenance fees, business and occupation taxes, site surveillance fees, leasehold excise taxes, commission regulatory fees, municipal taxes, and a tax or payment in lieu of taxes authorized by the state to compensate the county in which a site is located for that county's legitimate costs arising out of the presence of that site within that county; or

(ii) Factors outside the control of the site operator such as a material change in regulatory requirements regarding the physical operation of the site.

(b) Revisions to the maximum disposal rate shall take effect thirty days after filing with the commission unless the commission suspends the filing or authorizes the proposed adjustments to take effect earlier.

(5) Upon establishment of a contract rate pursuant to RCW 81.108.060 for a disposal fee, the site operator may not collect a disposal fee that is greater than the effective rate.

The effective rate shall be in effect so long as such contract rate remains in effect. Adjustments to the maximum disposal rates may be made during the time an effective rate is in place. Contracts for disposal of extraordinary volumes pursuant to RCW 81.108.070 shall not be considered in determining the effective rate.

(6) The site operator may petition the commission for new maximum disposal rates at any time. Upon receipt of such a petition, the commission shall set the matter for hearing and shall issue an order within seven months of the filing of the petition. The petition shall be accompanied by the documents required to accompany the filing for initial rates. The hearing on the petition shall be conducted in accordance with the commission's rules of practice and procedure.

(7) This section shall only take effect following a finding that the site operator is a monopoly pursuant to RCW 81.108.100.

(8) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 411; 1997 c 243 § 1; 1991 c 272 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**81.108.060 Contracted disposal rates—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) At any time, a site operator may contract with any person to provide a contracted disposal rate lower than the maximum disposal rate.

(2) A contract or contract amendment shall be submitted to the commission for approval at least thirty days before its effective date. The commission may approve the contract or suspend the contract and set it for hearing. If the commission takes no action within thirty days of filing, the contract or amendment shall go into effect according to its terms. Each contract filing shall be accompanied with documentation to show that the contract does not result in discrimination between generators receiving like and contemporaneous service under substantially similar circumstances and provides for the recovery of all costs associated with the provision of the service.

(3) This section shall only take effect following a finding that the site operator is a monopoly pursuant to RCW 81.108.100.

(4) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 412; 1991 c 272 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**81.108.070 Extraordinary volume adjustment.** (1) In establishing the extraordinary volume adjustment, unless the site operator and generator of the extraordinary volume agree to a contract disposal rate, one-half of the extraordinary volume delivery shall be priced at the maximum disposal rate

and one-half shall be priced at the site operator's incremental cost to receive the delivery. Such incremental cost shall be determined in the initial rate proceeding.

(2) For purposes of the subsequent calculation of the volume adjustment, one-half of the total extraordinary volume shall be included in the calculation.

(3) This section shall only take effect following a finding that the site operator is a monopoly pursuant to RCW 81.108.100. [1991 c 272 § 8.]

**81.108.080 Complaint—Hearing.** (1) At any time, the commission or an interested person may file a complaint against a site operator alleging that the rates established pursuant to RCW 81.108.040 or 81.108.050 are not in conformity with the standards set forth in RCW 81.108.030 or that the site operator is otherwise not acting in conformity with the requirements of this chapter. Upon filing of the complaint, the commission shall cause a copy of the complaint to be served upon the site operator. The complaining party shall have the burden of proving that the maximum disposal rates determined pursuant to RCW 81.108.050 are not just, fair, reasonable, or sufficient. The hearing shall conform to the rules of practice and procedure of the commission for other complaint cases.

(2) The commission shall encourage alternate forms of dispute resolution to resolve disputes between a site operator and any other person regarding matters covered by this chapter. [1991 c 272 § 9.]

**81.108.090 Revenue statement—Fees—Delinquent fee payments.** (1) A site operator shall, on or before May 1, 1992, and each year thereafter, file with the commission a statement showing its gross operating revenue from intrastate operations for the preceding calendar year, or portion thereof, and pay to the commission a fee equal to one percent of the amount of the gross operating revenue, exclusive of site surveillance fees, perpetual care and maintenance fees, site closure fees, and state or federally imposed out-of-region surcharges.

(2) Fees collected under this chapter shall reasonably approximate the cost of supervising and regulating site operators. The commission may order a decrease in fees by March 1st of any year in which it determines that the moneys then in the radioactive waste disposal companies account of the public service revolving fund and the fees currently to be paid will exceed the reasonable cost of supervising and regulating site operators.

(3) Fees collected under this section or under any other provision of this chapter shall be paid to the commission and shall be transmitted to the state treasurer within thirty days to be deposited to the credit of the public service revolving fund.

(4) Any payment of a fee imposed by this chapter made after its due date shall include a late fee of two percent of the amount due. Delinquent fees shall accrue interest at the rate of one percent per month. [1994 c 83 § 5; 1991 c 272 § 10.]

**81.108.100 Exemptions—Monopolies—Hearings—Rates.** (1) A low-level waste disposal site operator is exempt as specified in RCW 81.108.030(2)(a), 81.108.040(6), 81.108.050(7), 81.108.060(3), and 81.108.070(3) unless a

monopoly situation exists with respect to the site operated by such site operator. A monopoly situation exists if either of the following is present:

(a) No disposal facility is available to Northwest compact generators of low-level radioactive waste other than the site or sites operated by such site operator or its affiliates; or

(b) Disposal rates at other sites are not reasonable alternatives for Northwest compact generators, considering: Disposal rates at other facilities; current disposal rates charged by the site operator; historic relationships between the site operator's rates and rates at other facilities; and changes in the operator's rates considering changes in waste volumes, taxes, and fees. A monopoly situation does not exist if either of the following facilities operates or is projected to operate after December 31, 1992:

(i) Any existing low-level radioactive waste disposal site outside the state of Washington, other than facilities operated by affiliates of a site operator, provided that such site or sites do not charge disposal rates that discriminate against Northwest compact generators, except to the extent, through December 31, 1994, such discrimination is authorized by amendment of current federal law.

(ii) An existing facility within the Northwest compact not receiving low-level radioactive waste offers to receive such waste under substantially similar terms and conditions.

(2) The exemption shall be in effect until such time as the commission finds, after notice and hearing, upon motion by the commission or upon petition by any interested party, that a monopoly situation exists or will exist as of January 1, 1993. The finding shall be based upon application of the criteria set forth in this section. The commission may assess a site operator for all of the commission's costs of supervision and regulation prior to and relative to determining whether the exemption applies to the site operator. If the commission determines that a site operator is not subject to the exemption, it shall collect its costs of supervision and regulation under RCW 81.108.090.

(3) When an exemption is in effect, any increase in the rates charged by the operator effective January 1, 1993, for services other than the base rate for disposal of solid material in packages of twelve cubic feet or less shall be no more than the percentage increase in the base rate in effect on January 1, 1993. [1991 c 272 § 11.]

**81.108.110 Competitive companies—Exemptions—Waiver of provisions during state of emergency.** (1) At any time after this chapter has been implemented with respect to a site operator, such site operator may petition the commission to be classified as competitive. The commission may initiate classification proceedings on its own motion. The commission shall enter its final order with respect to classification within seven months from the date of filing of a company's petition or the commission's motion.

(2) The commission shall classify a site operator as a competitive company if the commission finds, after notice and hearing, that the disposal services offered are subject to competition because the company's customers have reasonably available alternatives. In determining whether a company is competitive, the commission's consideration shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Whether the system of interstate compacts and regional disposal sites established by federal law has been implemented so that the Northwest compact site located near Richland, Washington is the exclusive site option for disposal by customers within the Northwest compact states;

(b) Whether waste generated outside the Northwest compact states is excluded; and

(c) The ability of alternative disposal sites to make functionally equivalent services readily available at competitive rates, terms, and conditions.

(3) The commission may reclassify a competitive site operator if reclassification would protect the public interest as set forth in this section.

(4) Competitive low-level radioactive waste disposal companies shall be exempt from commission regulation and fees during the time they are so classified.

(5) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the governor may waive or suspend the operation or enforcement of this section or any portion of this section or under any administrative rule, and issue any orders to facilitate the operation of state or local government or to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population. [2008 c 181 § 413; 1991 c 272 § 12.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**81.108.900 Construction.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to affect the jurisdiction of another state agency. [1991 c 272 § 13.]

**81.108.901 Effective dates—1991 c 272.** (1) Sections 1 through 15 and 22 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions. Sections 1 through 14 and 22 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1991, and section 15 of this act shall take effect immediately [May 20, 1991].

(2) Sections 16 through 21 and 23 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1993. [1991 c 272 § 24.]

## Chapter 81.112 RCW REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITIES

(Formerly: Regional transportation authorities)

### Sections

81.112.010	Findings—Intent.
81.112.020	Definitions.
81.112.030	Formation—Submission of ballot propositions to voters.
81.112.040	Board appointments—Voting—Expenses.
81.112.050	Area included—Elections—Expiration of subsection.
81.112.060	Powers.
81.112.070	General powers.
81.112.080	Additional powers—Acquisition of facilities—Disposal of property—Rates, tolls, fares, charges.
81.112.086	Maintenance plan.
81.112.090	Agreements with operators of high capacity transportation services.
81.112.100	Transfer of local government powers to authority.
81.112.110	Acquisition of existing system—Components.
81.112.120	Treasurer—Funds—Auditor—Bond.
81.112.130	General obligation bonds.
81.112.140	Revenue bonds.
81.112.150	Local improvement districts authorized—Special assessment bonds.
81.112.160	County assessor's duties.
81.112.170	Interim financing.

- 81.112.180 Rail fixed guideway system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.
- 81.112.190 Requirements for signage.
- 81.112.210 Fare payment—Fines and penalties established—Enforcement.
- 81.112.220 Fare payment—Proof of payment—Civil infractions.
- 81.112.230 Fare payment—Prosecution for theft, trespass, or other charges.
- 81.112.235 Power conferred is supplemental.
- 81.112.300 Sale and leaseback, similar transactions—Authorized.
- 81.112.310 Sale and leaseback—Conditions.
- 81.112.320 Sale and leaseback—Creation of public entity.
- 81.112.330 Sale and leaseback—Restrictions, requirements.
- 81.112.340 Supplemental transportation improvements.
- 81.112.900 Section headings not part of law—1992 c 101.
- 81.112.901 Severability—1992 c 101.
- 81.112.902 Effective date—1992 c 101.

*Additional powers: RCW 81.104.120.*

*Funding sources*

*employer taxes: RCW 81.104.150.*

*sales and use taxes: RCW 81.104.170.*

*vehicle taxes: RCW 81.104.160.*

**81.112.010 Findings—Intent.** The legislature recognizes that existing transportation facilities in the central Puget Sound area are inadequate to address mobility needs of the area. The geography of the region, travel demand growth, and public resistance to new roadways combine to further necessitate the rapid development of alternative modes of travel.

The legislature finds that local governments have been effective in cooperatively planning a multicounty, high capacity transportation system. However, a continued multi-jurisdictional approach to funding, construction, and operation of a multicounty high capacity transportation system may impair the successful implementation of such a system.

The legislature finds that a single agency will be more effective than several local jurisdictions working collectively at planning, developing, operating, and funding a high capacity transportation system. The single agency's services must be carefully integrated and coordinated with public transportation services currently provided. As the single agency's services are established, any public transportation services currently provided that are duplicative should be eliminated. Further, the single agency must coordinate its activities with other agencies providing local and state roadway services, implementing comprehensive planning, and implementing transportation demand management programs and assist in developing infrastructure to support high capacity systems including but not limited to feeder systems, park and ride facilities, intermodal centers, and related roadway and operational facilities. Coordination can be best achieved through common governance, such as integrated governing boards.

It is therefore the policy of the state of Washington to empower counties in the state's most populous region to create a local agency for planning and implementing a high capacity transportation system within that region. The authorization for such an agency, except as specifically provided in this chapter, is not intended to limit the powers of existing transit agencies. [1992 c 101 § 1.]

**81.112.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Authority" means a regional transit authority authorized under this chapter.

(2) "Board" means the board of a regional transit authority.

(3) "Facilities" means any lands, interest in land, air rights over lands, and improvements thereto including vessel terminals, and any equipment, vehicles, vessels, trains, stations, designated passenger waiting areas, and other components necessary to support the system.

(4) "Proof of payment" means evidence of fare prepayment authorized by a regional transit authority for the use of its facilities.

(5) "Service area" or "area" means the area included within the boundaries of a regional transit authority.

(6) "System" means a regional transit system authorized under this chapter and under the jurisdiction of a regional transit authority. [2009 c 279 § 4; 1999 c 20 § 2; 1992 c 101 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Purpose—Intent—1999 c 20:** See note following RCW 81.112.210.

**81.112.030 Formation—Submission of ballot propositions to voters.** Two or more contiguous counties each having a population of four hundred thousand persons or more may establish a regional transit authority to develop and operate a high capacity transportation system as defined in chapter 81.104 RCW.

The authority shall be formed in the following manner:

(1) The joint regional policy committee created pursuant to RCW 81.104.040 shall adopt a system and financing plan, including the definition of the service area. This action shall be completed by September 1, 1992, contingent upon satisfactory completion of the planning process defined in RCW 81.104.100. The final system plan shall be adopted no later than June 30, 1993. In addition to the requirements of RCW 81.104.100, the plan for the proposed system shall provide explicitly for a minimum portion of new tax revenues to be allocated to local transit agencies for interim express services. Upon adoption the joint regional policy committee shall immediately transmit the plan to the county legislative authorities within the adopted service area.

(2) The legislative authorities of the counties within the service area shall decide by resolution whether to participate in the authority. This action shall be completed within forty-five days following receipt of the adopted plan or by August 13, 1993, whichever comes first.

(3) Each county that chooses to participate in the authority shall appoint its board members as set forth in RCW 81.112.040 and shall submit its list of members to the secretary of the Washington state department of transportation. These actions must be completed within thirty days following each county's decision to participate in the authority.

(4) The secretary shall call the first meeting of the authority, to be held within thirty days following receipt of the appointments. At its first meeting, the authority shall elect officers and provide for the adoption of rules and other operating procedures.

(5) The authority is formally constituted at its first meeting and the board shall begin taking steps toward implementation of the system and financing plan adopted by the joint regional policy committee. If the joint regional policy committee fails to adopt a plan by June 30, 1993, the authority

shall proceed to do so based on the work completed by that date by the joint regional policy committee. Upon formation of the authority, the joint regional policy committee shall cease to exist. The authority may make minor modifications to the plan as deemed necessary and shall at a minimum review local transit agencies' plans to ensure feeder service/high capacity transit service integration, ensure fare integration, and ensure avoidance of parallel competitive services. The authority shall also conduct a minimum thirty-day public comment period.

(6) If the authority determines that major modifications to the plan are necessary before the initial ballot proposition is submitted to the voters, the authority may make those modifications with a favorable vote of two-thirds of the entire membership. Any such modification shall be subject to the review process set forth in RCW 81.104.110. The modified plan shall be transmitted to the legislative authorities of the participating counties. The legislative authorities shall have forty-five days following receipt to act by motion or ordinance to confirm or rescind their continued participation in the authority.

(7) If any county opts to not participate in the authority, but two or more contiguous counties do choose to continue to participate, the authority's board shall be revised accordingly. The authority shall, within forty-five days, redefine the system and financing plan to reflect elimination of one or more counties, and submit the redefined plan to the legislative authorities of the remaining counties for their decision as to whether to continue to participate. This action shall be completed within forty-five days following receipt of the redefined plan.

(8) The authority shall place on the ballot within two years of the authority's formation, a single ballot proposition to authorize the imposition of taxes to support the implementation of an appropriate phase of the plan within its service area. In addition to the system plan requirements contained in RCW 81.104.100(2)(d), the system plan approved by the authority's board before the submittal of a proposition to the voters shall contain an equity element which:

(a) Identifies revenues anticipated to be generated by corridor and by county within the authority's boundaries;

(b) Identifies the phasing of construction and operation of high capacity system facilities, services, and benefits in each corridor. Phasing decisions should give priority to jurisdictions which have adopted transit-supportive land use plans; and

(c) Identifies the degree to which revenues generated within each county will benefit the residents of that county, and identifies when such benefits will accrue.

A simple majority of those voting within the boundaries of the authority is required for approval. If the vote is affirmative, the authority shall begin implementation of the projects identified in the proposition. However, the authority may not submit any authorizing proposition for voter-approved taxes prior to July 1, 1993; nor may the authority issue bonds or form any local improvement district prior to July 1, 1993.

(9) If the vote on a proposition fails, the board may redefine the proposition, make changes to the authority boundaries, and make corresponding changes to the composition of the board. If the composition of the board is changed, the

participating counties shall revise the membership of the board accordingly. The board may then submit the revised proposition or a different proposition to the voters. No single proposition may be submitted to the voters more than twice. Beginning no sooner than the 2007 general election, the authority may place additional propositions on the ballot to impose taxes to support additional phases of plan implementation.

(10) At the 2007 general election, the authority shall submit a proposition to support a system and financing plan or additional implementation phases of the authority's system and financing plan as part of a single ballot proposition that includes a plan to support a regional transportation investment plan developed under chapter 36.120 RCW. The authority's plan shall not be considered approved unless both a majority of the persons voting on the proposition residing within the authority vote in favor of the proposition and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition residing within the proposed regional transportation investment district vote in favor of the proposition.

(11) Additional phases of plan implementation may include a transportation subarea equity element which (a) identifies the combined authority and regional transportation investment district revenues anticipated to be generated by corridor and by county within the authority's boundaries, and (b) identifies the degree to which the combined authority and regional transportation investment district revenues generated within each county will benefit the residents of that county, and identifies when such benefits will accrue. For purposes of the transportation subarea equity principle established under this subsection, the authority may use the five subareas within the authority's boundaries as identified in the authority's system plan adopted in May 1996.

(12) If the authority is unable to achieve a positive vote on a proposition within two years from the date of the first election on a proposition, the board may, by resolution, reconstitute the authority as a single-county body. With a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the voting members, the board may also dissolve the authority. [2007 c 509 § 3; 2006 c 311 § 12; 1994 c 44 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 23 § 62; 1992 c 101 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—Constitutional challenges—Expedited appeals—Severability—Effective date—2007 c 509:** See notes following RCW 36.120.070.

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.112.040 Board appointments—Voting—Expenses.** (1) The regional transit authority shall be governed by a board consisting of representatives appointed by the county executive and confirmed by the council or other legislative authority of each member county. Membership shall be based on population from that portion of each county which lies within the service area. Board members shall be appointed initially on the basis of one for each one hundred forty-five thousand population within the county. Such appointments shall be made following consultation with city and town jurisdictions within the service area. In addition, the secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee shall serve as a member of the board and may have voting status with approval of a majority of the other members of the

board. Only board members, not including alternates or designees, may cast votes.

Each member of the board, except the secretary of transportation or the secretary's designee, shall be:

(a) An elected official who serves on the legislative authority of a city or as mayor of a city within the boundaries of the authority;

(b) On the legislative authority of the county, if fifty percent of the population of the legislative official's district is within the authority boundaries; or

(c) A county executive from a member county within the authority boundaries.

When making appointments, each county executive shall ensure that representation on the board includes an elected city official representing the largest city in each county and assures proportional representation from other cities, and representation from unincorporated areas of each county within the service area. At least one-half of all appointees from each county shall serve on the governing authority of a public transportation system.

Members appointed from each county shall serve staggered four-year terms. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term of the position being vacated.

The governing board shall be reconstituted, with regard to the number of representatives from each county, on a population basis, using the official office of financial management population estimates, five years after its initial formation and, at minimum, in the year following each official federal census. The board membership may be reduced, maintained, or expanded to reflect population changes but under no circumstances may the board membership exceed twenty-five.

(2) Major decisions of the authority shall require a favorable vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the voting members. "Major decisions" include at least the following: System plan adoption and amendment; system phasing decisions; annual budget adoption; authorization of annexations; modification of board composition; and executive director employment.

(3) Each member of the board is eligible to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 and to receive compensation as provided in RCW 43.03.250. [1994 c 109 § 1; 1992 c 101 § 4.]

**81.112.050 Area included—Elections—Expiration of subsection.** (1) At the time of formation, the area to be included within the boundary of the authority shall be that area set forth in the system plan adopted by the joint regional policy committee. Prior to submitting the system and financing plan to the voters, the authority may make adjustments to the boundaries as deemed appropriate but must assure that, to the extent possible, the boundaries: (a) Include the largest-population urban growth area designated by each county under chapter 36.70A RCW; and (b) follow election precinct boundaries. If a portion of any city is determined to be within the service area, the entire city must be included within the boundaries of the authority. Subsequent to formation, when territory is annexed to a city located within the boundaries of the authority, the territory is simultaneously included within the boundaries of the authority and subject to all taxes and

other liabilities and obligations applicable within the city with respect to the authority as provided in RCW 35.13.500 and 35A.14.475 and notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(2) After voters within the authority boundaries have approved the system and financing plan, elections to add areas contiguous to the authority boundaries may be called by resolution of the regional transit authority, after consultation with affected transit agencies and with the concurrence of the legislative authority of the city or town if the area is incorporated, or with the concurrence of the county legislative authority if the area is unincorporated. Only those areas that would benefit from the services provided by the authority may be included and services or projects proposed for the area must be consistent with the regional transportation plan. The election may include a single ballot proposition providing for annexation to the authority boundaries and imposition of the taxes at rates already imposed within the authority boundaries.

(3) Upon receipt of a resolution requesting exclusion from the boundaries of the authority from a city whose municipal boundaries cross the boundaries of an authority and thereby result in only a portion of the city being subject to local option taxes imposed by the authority under chapters 81.104 and 81.112 RCW in order to implement a high capacity transit plan, and where the vote to approve the city's incorporation occurred simultaneously with an election approving the local option taxes, then upon a two-thirds majority vote of the governing board of the authority, the governing board shall redraw the boundaries of the authority to exclude that portion of the city that is located within the authority's boundaries, and the excluded area is no longer subject to local option taxes imposed by the authority. This subsection expires December 31, 1998. [2010 c 19 § 3; 1998 c 192 § 1; 1992 c 101 § 5.]

**81.112.060 Powers.** An authority shall have the following powers:

(1) To establish offices, departments, boards, and commissions that are necessary to carry out the purposes of the authority, and to prescribe the functions, powers, and duties thereof.

(2) To appoint or provide for the appointment of, and to remove or to provide for the removal of, all officers and employees of the authority.

(3) To fix the salaries, wages, and other compensation of all officers and employees of the authority.

(4) To employ such engineering, legal, financial, or other specialized personnel as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the authority.

(5) To determine risks, hazards, and liabilities in order to obtain insurance consistent with these determinations. This insurance may include any types of insurance covering, and for the benefit of, one or more parties with whom the authority contracts for any purpose, and insurance for the benefit of its board members, authority officers, and employees to insure against liability for acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. All insurance obtained for construction of authority projects with a total project cost exceeding one hundred million dollars may be acquired by bid or by negotiation. In order to

allow the authority flexibility to secure appropriate insurance by negotiation, the authority is exempt from RCW 48.30.270. [2007 c 166 § 1; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 32; 1992 c 101 § 6.]

**81.112.070 General powers.** In addition to the powers specifically granted by this chapter an authority shall have all powers necessary to implement a high capacity transportation system and to develop revenues for system support. An authority may contract with the United States or any agency thereof, any state or agency thereof, any public transportation benefit area, any county, county transportation authority, city, metropolitan municipal corporation, special district, or governmental agency, within or without the state, and any private person, firm, or corporation for: (1) The purpose of receiving gifts or grants or securing loans or advances for preliminary planning and feasibility studies; (2) the design, construction, or operation of high capacity transportation system facilities; or (3) the provision or receipt of services, facilities, or property rights to provide revenues for the system. An authority shall have the power to contract pursuant to RCW 39.33.050. In addition, an authority may contract with any governmental agency or with any private person, firm, or corporation for the use by either contracting party of all or any part of the facilities, structures, lands, interests in lands, air rights over lands and rights-of-way of all kinds which are owned, leased, or held by the other party and for the purpose of planning, constructing, or operating any facility or performing any service that the authority may be authorized to operate or perform, on such terms as may be agreed upon by the contracting parties. Before any contract for the lease or operation of any authority facilities is let to any private person, firm, or corporation, a general schedule of rental rates for equipment with or without operators applicable to all private certificated carriers shall be publicly posted, and for other facilities competitive bids shall first be called upon such notice, bidder qualifications, and bid conditions as the board shall determine. This shall allow use of negotiated procurements. [1992 c 101 § 7.]

**81.112.080 Additional powers—Acquisition of facilities—Disposal of property—Rates, tolls, fares, charges.** An authority shall have the following powers in addition to the general powers granted by this chapter:

(1) To carry out the planning processes set forth in RCW 81.104.100;

(2) To acquire by purchase, condemnation, gift, or grant and to lease, construct, add to, improve, replace, repair, maintain, operate, and regulate the use of high capacity transportation facilities and properties within authority boundaries including surface, underground, or overhead railways, tramways, busways, buses, bus sets, entrained and linked buses, ferries, or other means of local transportation except taxis, and including escalators, moving sidewalks, personal rapid transit systems or other people-moving systems, passenger terminal and parking facilities and properties, and such other facilities and properties as may be necessary for passenger, vehicular, and vessel access to and from such people-moving systems, terminal and parking facilities and properties, together with all lands, rights-of-way, property, equipment, and accessories necessary for such high capacity transportation systems. When developing specifications for high capac-

ity transportation system operating equipment, an authority shall take into account efforts to establish or sustain a domestic manufacturing capacity for such equipment. The right of eminent domain shall be exercised by an authority in the same manner and by the same procedure as or may be provided by law for cities of the first class, except insofar as such laws may be inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. Public transportation facilities and properties which are owned by any city, county, county transportation authority, public transportation benefit area, or metropolitan municipal corporation may be acquired or used by an authority only with the consent of the agency owning such facilities. Such agencies are hereby authorized to convey or lease such facilities to an authority or to contract for their joint use on such terms as may be fixed by agreement between the agency and the authority.

The facilities and properties of an authority whose vehicles will operate primarily within the rights-of-way of public streets, roads, or highways, may be acquired, developed, and operated without the corridor and design hearings that are required by \*RCW 35.58.273 for mass transit facilities operating on a separate right-of-way;

(3) To dispose of any real or personal property acquired in connection with any authority function and that is no longer required for the purposes of the authority, in the same manner as provided for cities of the first class. When an authority determines that a facility or any part thereof that has been acquired from any public agency without compensation is no longer required for authority purposes, but is required by the agency from which it was acquired, the authority shall by resolution transfer it to such agency;

(4) To fix rates, tolls, fares, and charges for the use of such facilities and to establish various routes and classes of service. Fares or charges may be adjusted or eliminated for any distinguishable class of users. [1992 c 101 § 8.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 35.58.273 was repealed by 2002 c 6 § 2.

**81.112.086 Maintenance plan.** As a condition of receiving state funding, a regional transit authority shall submit a maintenance and preservation management plan for certification by the department of transportation. The plan must inventory all transportation system assets within the direction and control of the transit authority, and provide a plan for preservation of assets based on lowest life-cycle cost methodologies. [2006 c 334 § 28; 2003 c 363 § 306.]

**Effective date—2006 c 334:** See note following RCW 47.01.051.

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 363:** See note following RCW 35.84.060.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 363:** See notes following RCW 47.28.241.

**81.112.090 Agreements with operators of high capacity transportation services.** Except in accordance with an agreement made as provided in this section, upon the date an authority begins high capacity transportation service, no person or private corporation may operate a high capacity transportation service within the authority boundary with the exception of services owned or operated by any corporation or organization solely for the purposes of the corporation or organization and for the use of which no fee or fare is charged.

The authority and any person or corporation legally operating a high capacity transportation service wholly within or partly within and partly without the authority boundary on the date an authority begins high capacity transportation service may enter into an agreement under which such person or corporation may continue to operate such service or any part thereof for such time and upon such terms and conditions as provided in such agreement. Such agreement shall provide for a periodic review of the terms and conditions contained therein. Where any such high capacity transportation service will be required to cease to operate within the authority boundary, the authority may agree with the owner of such service to purchase the assets used in providing such service, or if no agreement can be reached, an authority shall condemn such assets in the manner and by the same procedure as is or may be provided by law for the condemnation of other properties for cities of the first class, except insofar as such laws may be inconsistent with this chapter.

Wherever a privately owned public carrier operates wholly or partly within an authority boundary, the Washington utilities and transportation commission shall continue to exercise jurisdiction over such operation as provided by law. [1992 c 101 § 9.]

**81.112.100 Transfer of local government powers to authority.** An authority shall have and exercise all rights with respect to the construction, acquisition, maintenance, operation, extension, alteration, repair, control and management of high capacity transportation system facilities that are identified in the system plan developed pursuant to RCW 81.104.100 that any city, county, county transportation authority, metropolitan municipal corporation, or public transportation benefit area within the authority boundary has been previously empowered to exercise and such powers shall not thereafter be exercised by such agencies without the consent of the authority. Nothing in this chapter shall restrict development, construction, or operation of a personal rapid transit system by a city or county.

An authority may adopt, in whole or in part, and may complete, modify, or terminate any planning, environmental review, or procurement processes related to the high capacity transportation system that had been commenced by a joint regional policy committee or a city, county, county transportation authority, metropolitan municipality, or public transportation benefit area prior to the formation of the authority. [1992 c 101 § 10.]

**81.112.110 Acquisition of existing system—Components.** If an authority acquires any existing components of a high capacity transportation system, it shall assume and observe all existing labor contracts relating to the transportation system and, to the extent necessary for operation of facilities, all of the employees of such acquired transportation system whose duties are necessary to operate efficiently the facilities acquired shall be appointed to comparable positions to those which they held at the time of such transfer, and no employee or retired or pensioned employee of such transportation systems shall be placed in any worse position with respect to pension seniority, wages, sick leave, vacation or other benefits that he or she enjoyed as an employee of the

transportation system prior to such acquisition. At such times as may be required by such contracts, the authority shall engage in collective bargaining with the duly appointed representatives of any employee labor organization having existing contracts with the acquired transportation system and may enter into labor contracts with such employee labor organization. Facilities and equipment which are acquired after July 1, 1993, related to high capacity transportation services which are to be assumed by the authority as specifically identified in the adopted system plan shall be acquired by the authority in a manner consistent with RCW 81.112.070 through 81.112.100. [1992 c 101 § 11.]

**81.112.120 Treasurer—Funds—Auditor—Bond.** The board of an authority, by resolution, shall designate a person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the authority. The board may designate, with the concurrence of the treasurer, the treasurer of a county within which the authority is located. Such a treasurer shall possess all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties the county treasurer possesses for a public transportation benefit area authority related to investing surplus authority funds. The board shall require a bond with a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington in an amount and under the terms and conditions the board, by resolution, from time to time finds will protect the authority against loss. The premium on any such bond shall be paid by the authority.

All authority funds shall be paid to the treasurer and shall be disbursed by the treasurer only on warrants issued by the authority upon orders or vouchers approved by the board.

The treasurer shall establish a special fund, into which shall be paid all authority funds, and the treasurer shall maintain such special accounts as may be created by the authority into which shall be placed all money as the board may, by resolution, direct.

If the treasurer of the authority is the treasurer of a county, all authority funds shall be deposited with the county depository under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for county depositories. If the treasurer of the authority is some other person, all funds shall be deposited in such bank or banks authorized to do business in this state that have qualified for insured deposits under any federal deposit insurance act as the board, by resolution, shall designate.

The authority may by resolution designate a person having experience in financial or fiscal matters, as the auditor of the authority. Such auditor shall possess all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties related to creating and maintaining funds, issuing warrants, and maintaining a record of receipts and disbursements.

The board may provide and require a reasonable bond of any other person handling moneys or securities of the authority, but the authority shall pay the premium on the bond. [1992 c 101 § 12.]

**81.112.130 General obligation bonds.** Notwithstanding RCW 39.36.020(1), an authority may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for authority purposes and may issue general obligation bonds in an amount not exceeding, together with any existing indebtedness of the authority not authorized by the voters, one and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property within the boundaries of the

authority; and with the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election called for that purpose, may contract indebtedness or borrow money for authority purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor, provided the total indebtedness of the authority shall not exceed five percent of the value of the taxable property therein. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

The term "value of the taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in RCW 39.36.015. [1992 c 101 § 13.]

**81.112.140 Revenue bonds.** (1) An authority may issue revenue bonds to provide funds to carry out its authorized functions without submitting the matter to the voters of the authority. The authority shall create a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the bonds of each such issue, into which fund or funds the authority may obligate itself to pay such amounts of the gross revenue of the high capacity transportation system constructed, acquired, improved, added to, or repaired out of the proceeds of sale of such bonds, as the authority shall determine and may obligate the authority to pay such amounts out of otherwise unpledged revenue that may be derived from the ownership, use, or operation of properties or facilities owned, used, or operated incident to the performance of the authorized function for which such bonds are issued or out of otherwise unpledged fees, tolls, charges, tariffs, fares, rentals, special taxes, or other sources of payment lawfully authorized for such purpose, as the authority shall determine. The principal of, and interest on, such bonds shall be payable only out of such special fund or funds, and the owners of such bonds shall have a lien and charge against the gross revenue of such high capacity transportation system or any other revenue, fees, tolls, charges, tariffs, fares, special taxes, or other authorized sources pledged to the payment of such bonds.

Such revenue bonds and the interest thereon issued against such fund or funds shall be a valid claim of the owners thereof only as against such fund or funds and the revenue pledged therefor, and shall not constitute a general indebtedness of the authority.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1992 c 101 § 14.]

**81.112.150 Local improvement districts authorized—Special assessment bonds.** (1) An authority may form a local improvement district to provide any transportation improvement it has the authority to provide, impose special assessments on all property specially benefited by the transportation improvements, and issue special assessment bonds or revenue bonds to fund the costs of the transportation improvement. Local improvement districts shall be created and assessments shall be made and collected pursuant to chapters 35.43, 35.44, 35.49, 35.50, 35.51, 35.53, and 35.54 RCW.

(2) The board shall by resolution establish for each special assessment bond issue the amount, date, terms, conditions, denominations, maximum fixed or variable interest rate or rates, maturity or maturities, redemption rights, registration privileges, if any, covenants, and form, including registration as to principal and interest, registration as to principal

only, or bearer. Registration may include, but not be limited to: (a) A book entry system of recording the ownership of a bond whether or not physical bonds are issued; or (b) recording the ownership of a bond together with the requirement that the transfer of ownership may only be effected by the surrender of the old bond and either the reissuance of the old bond or the issuance of a new bond to the new owner. Facsimile signatures may be used on the bonds and any coupons. The maximum term of any special assessment bonds shall not exceed thirty years beyond the date of issue. Special assessment bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be an indebtedness of the authority issuing the bonds, and the interest and principal on the bonds shall only be payable from special assessments made for the improvement for which the bonds were issued and any local improvement guaranty fund that the authority has created. The owner or bearer of a special assessment bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section shall not have any claim against the authority arising from the bond or coupon except for the payment from special assessments made for the improvement for which the bonds were issued and any local improvement guaranty fund the authority has created. The authority issuing the special assessment bonds is not liable to the owner or bearer of any special assessment bond or any interest coupon issued pursuant to this section for any loss occurring in the lawful operation of its local improvement guaranty fund. The substance of the limitations included in this subsection shall be plainly printed, written, or engraved on each special assessment bond issued pursuant to this section.

(3) Assessments shall reflect any credits given by the authority for real property or property right donations made pursuant to RCW 47.14.030.

(4) The board may establish and pay moneys into a local improvement guaranty fund to guarantee special assessment bonds issued by the authority. [1992 c 101 § 15.]

**81.112.160 County assessor's duties.** It shall be the duty of the assessor of each component county to certify annually to a regional transit authority the aggregate assessed valuation of all taxable property within the boundaries of the authority as the same appears from the last assessment roll of the county. [1992 c 101 § 16.]

**81.112.170 Interim financing.** A regional transit authority may apply for high capacity transportation account funds and for central Puget Sound account funds for high capacity transit planning and system development.

Transit agencies contained wholly or partly within a regional transit authority may make grants or loans to the authority for high capacity transportation planning and system development. [1992 c 101 § 17.]

**81.112.180 Rail fixed guideway system—Safety program plan and security and emergency preparedness plan.** (1) Each regional transit authority that owns or operates a rail fixed guideway system as defined in RCW 81.104.015 shall submit a system safety program plan and a system security and emergency preparedness plan for that guideway to the state department of transportation by September 1, 1999, or at least one hundred eighty calendar days before beginning operations or instituting revisions to its

plans. These plans must describe the authority's procedures for (a) reporting and investigating reportable accidents, unacceptable hazardous conditions, and security breaches, (b) submitting corrective action plans and annual safety and security audit reports, (c) facilitating on-site safety and security reviews by the state department of transportation, and (d) addressing passenger and employee security. The plans must, at a minimum, conform to the standards adopted by the state department of transportation. If required by the department, the regional transit authority shall revise its plans to incorporate the department's review comments within sixty days after their receipt, and resubmit its revised plans for review.

(2) Each regional transit authority shall implement and comply with its system safety program plan and system security and emergency preparedness plan. The regional transit authority shall perform internal safety and security audits to evaluate its compliance with the plans, and submit its audit schedule to the department of transportation no later than December 15th each year. The regional transit authority shall prepare an annual report for its internal safety and security audits undertaken in the prior year and submit it to the department no later than February 15th. This annual report must include the dates the audits were conducted, the scope of the audit activity, the audit findings and recommendations, the status of any corrective actions taken as a result of the audit activity, and the results of each audit in terms of the adequacy and effectiveness of the plans.

(3) Each regional transit authority shall notify the department of transportation within two hours of an occurrence of a reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach. The department may adopt rules further defining a reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach. The regional transit authority shall investigate all reportable accidents, unacceptable hazardous conditions, or security breaches and provide a written investigation report to the department within forty-five calendar days after the reportable accident, unacceptable hazardous condition, or security breach.

(4) The system security and emergency preparedness plan required in subsection (1)(d) of this section is exempt from public disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW. However, the system safety program plan as described in this section is not subject to this exemption. [2007 c 422 § 6; 2005 c 274 § 360; 1999 c 202 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.112.190 Requirements for signage.** Each authority shall incorporate in plans for stations along any light-rail facility signing that is easily understood by the traveling public, including, but not limited to, persons with disabilities, non-English speaking persons, and visitors from other nations. The signage must employ graphics consistent with international symbols for transportation facilities and signage that are consistent with department of transportation guidelines and programs. The signage must also use distinguishing symbols or pictograms developed by the authority as a means to identify stations and may identify points of interest along the corridor for persons who use languages that are not

Roman-alphabet based. These requirements are intended to apply to new sign installation and not to existing signs, installed before July 24, 2005. The authority may replace existing signs as it chooses; however, it shall use the new signing designs when existing signs are replaced. All signage must comply with requirements of applicable federal law and may include recommendations contained in federal publications providing directions on way-finding for persons with disabilities. [2005 c 19 § 3.]

**Intent—Findings—2005 c 19:** See note following RCW 35.95A.140.

**81.112.210 Fare payment—Fines and penalties established—Enforcement.** (1) An authority is authorized to establish, by resolution, a schedule of fines and penalties for civil infractions established in RCW 81.112.220. Fines established by a regional transit authority shall not exceed those imposed for class 1 infractions under RCW 7.80.120.

(2)(a) A regional transit authority may designate persons to monitor fare payment who are equivalent to and are authorized to exercise all the powers of an enforcement officer, defined in RCW 7.80.040. An authority is authorized to employ personnel to either monitor fare payment, or to contract for such services, or both.

(b) In addition to the specific powers granted to enforcement officers under RCW 7.80.050 and 7.80.060, persons designated to monitor fare payment also have the authority to take the following actions:

- (i) Request proof of payment from passengers;
- (ii) Request personal identification from a passenger who does not produce proof of payment when requested;
- (iii) Issue a citation conforming to the requirements established in RCW 7.80.070; and
- (iv) Request that a passenger leave the regional transit authority facility when the passenger has not produced proof of payment after being asked to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment.

(3) Regional transit authorities shall keep records of citations in the manner prescribed by RCW 7.80.150. All civil infractions established by chapter 20, Laws of 1999 shall be heard and determined by a district or municipal court as provided in RCW 7.80.010 (1), (2), and (4). [2009 c 279 § 5; 1999 c 20 § 3.]

**Purpose—Intent—1999 c 20:** "The purpose of this act is to facilitate ease of boarding of commuter trains and light rail trains operated by regional transit authorities by allowing for barrier free entry ways. This act provides regional transit authorities with the power to require proof of payment; to set a schedule of fines and penalties not to exceed those classified as class 1 infractions under RCW 7.80.120; to employ individuals to monitor fare payment or contract for such services; to issue citations for fare nonpayment or related activities; and to keep records regarding citations issued for the purpose of tracking violations and issuing citations consistent with established schedules. This act is intended to be consistent with and implemented pursuant to chapter 7.80 RCW with regard to civil infractions, the issuance of citations, and the maintenance of citation records." [1999 c 20 § 1.]

**81.112.220 Fare payment—Proof of payment—Civil infractions.** (1) Persons traveling on facilities operated by an authority shall pay the fare established by the authority and shall produce proof of payment in accordance with the terms of use established by the authority. Such persons shall produce proof of payment when requested by a person designated to monitor fare payment. The required manner of producing proof of payment specified in the terms of use estab-

lished by the authority may include, but is not limited to, requiring a person using an electronic fare payment card to validate the card by presenting the card to an electronic card reader before or upon entering a public transportation vehicle or a restricted fare paid area.

(2) The following constitute civil infractions punishable according to the schedule of fines and penalties established by the authority under RCW 81.112.210(1):

(a) Failure to pay the required fare, except when the authority fails to meet the requirements of subsection (3) of this section;

(b) Failure to produce proof of payment in the manner required by the terms of use established by the authority including, but not limited to, the failure to produce a validated fare payment card when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment; and

(c) Failure to depart the facility when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment.

(3) If fare payment is required before entering a transit vehicle, as defined in RCW 9.91.025(2)(b), or before entering a fare paid area in a transit facility, as defined in RCW 9.91.025(2)(a), signage must be conspicuously posted at the place of boarding or within ten feet of the nearest entrance to a transit facility that clearly indicates: (a) The locations where tickets or fare media may be purchased; and (b) that a person using an electronic fare payment card must present the card to an electronic card reader before entering a transit vehicle or before entering a restricted fare paid area. [2012 c 68 § 3; 2009 c 279 § 6; 1999 c 20 § 4.]

**Purpose—Intent—1999 c 20:** See note following RCW 81.112.210.

**81.112.230 Fare payment—Prosecution for theft, trespass, or other charges.** Nothing in RCW 81.112.020 and 81.112.210 through 81.112.230 shall be deemed to prevent law enforcement authorities from prosecuting for theft, trespass, or other charges by any individual who:

(1) Fails to pay the required fare on more than one occasion within a twelve-month period;

(2) Fails to timely select one of the options for responding to the notice of civil infraction after receiving a statement of the options provided in this chapter for responding to the notice of infraction and the procedures necessary to exercise these options; or

(3) Fails to depart the facility when requested to do so by a person designated to monitor fare payment. [2009 c 279 § 7; 2006 c 270 § 12; 1999 c 20 § 5.]

**Purpose—Intent—1999 c 20:** See note following RCW 81.112.210.

**81.112.235 Power conferred is supplemental.** The powers and authority conferred by RCW 81.112.210 through 81.112.230 are in addition and supplemental to powers or authority conferred by any other law. RCW 81.112.210 through 81.112.230 do not limit any other powers or authority of a regional transit authority. [2009 c 279 § 8.]

**81.112.300 Sale and leaseback, similar transactions—Authorized.** (1) In order to enable regional transit authorities to acquire or finance equipment or facilities, or reduce the cost of equipment or facilities, regional transit authorities may enter into sale and leaseback, leaseout and leaseback, and other similar transactions with respect to

equipment, facilities, and other real and personal property. In connection with any such transaction, a regional transit authority may execute, as it considers appropriate, contracts, agreements, notes, security agreements, conveyances, bills of sale, deeds, leases as lessee or lessor, and currency hedges, defeasance arrangements, interest rate, currency or other swap transactions, one or more payment undertaking agreements, and agreements relating to foreign and domestic currency. These agreements or instruments must have terms, maturities, durations, provisions as to governing laws, grants of security interests, and other provisions that are approved by the board of the regional transit authority.

(2) "Payment undertaking agreement" means one or more agreements, undertakings or arrangements under which all or a portion of the funds generated by a sale and leaseback, leaseout and leaseback, or other similar transaction are directed or paid over to a financial institution, insurance company, or other entity that agrees to meet or fulfill, in consideration for the funds, some or all of the obligations of the regional transit authority, or any public corporation or other entity created under RCW 81.112.320, to make future rent, debt service, or purchase price installment payments in connection with the transaction. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 18.]

**Findings—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** "The legislature finds that additional funds or other benefits can be made available to Washington regional transit authorities by facilitating their entry into sale and leaseback, leaseout and leaseback, and similar transactions that provide to private parties, in consideration for the funds or other benefits obtained by the regional transit authorities, tax benefits that are not otherwise available to regional transit authorities. The legislature further finds that such transactions have been encouraged by agencies of the federal government as ways to provide additional funds for public facilities. To facilitate such transactions for regional transit authorities, the legislature has determined that while regional transit authorities may currently have the necessary statutory authority and may currently enjoy exemptions from Washington state taxes for such transactions, an explicit statement of statutory authority and exemption from Washington state taxes is necessary and helpful for the parties to such transactions. In recognition of the complexity of such transactions, the legislature desires that the authority and exemptions provided by RCW 81.112.300, 81.112.310, 81.112.320, 82.08.834, 82.12.834, 82.04.050, 82.04.4201, 82.29A.134, 82.45.010, 84.36.605, 35.21.756, 35.21.755, and 81.112.330 be subject to certain limitations and be granted for a period as specified in RCW 81.112.330." [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.112.310 Sale and leaseback—Conditions.** Transactions undertaken under RCW 81.112.300 are subject to the following conditions:

(1) The financial institution, insurance company, or other entity that enters into a payment undertaking agreement with the regional transit authority or public development corporation or entity created under RCW 81.112.320 as a counterparty must have a rating from at least two nationally recognized credit rating agencies, as of the date of execution of the payment undertaking agreement, that is within the two highest long-term investment grade rating categories, without regard to subcategories, or the obligations of the counterparty must be guaranteed by a financial institution, insurance company, or other entity with that credit rating. The payment undertaking agreement must require that the obligations of the counterparty or the guarantor, as the case may be, must be collateralized by collateral of a type and in an amount specified by the governing body of the regional transit authority if

the credit ratings of the counterparty or its guarantor fall below the level required by this subsection.

(2) The amount to be paid by the counterparties under payment undertaking agreements for a transaction under the terms of the agreements, when combined with the amount of securities, deposits, and investments set aside by the regional transit authority for payment in respect of the transactions, together with interest or other earnings on the securities, deposits, or investments, must be sufficient to pay when due all amounts required to be paid by the regional transit authority, or public corporation or entity created under RCW 81.112.320, as rent, debt service, or installments of purchase price, as the case may be, over the full term of the transaction plus any optional purchase price due under the transaction. A certification by an independent financial expert, banker, or certified public accountant, who is not an employee of the regional transit authority or public corporation or entity created under RCW 81.112.320, certifying compliance with this requirement is conclusive evidence that the arrangements, by their terms, comply with the requirement under this subsection on the sufficiency of the amount.

(3) The payment undertaking agreements, and all other basic and material agreements entered into in connection with the transactions, must specify that the parties to the agreements consent to the jurisdiction of state courts of Washington for disputes arising out of the agreements and agree not to contest venue before such courts. Regardless of the choice of law specified in the foregoing agreements, the agreements must acknowledge that the regional transit authority or public development corporation or entity created under RCW 81.112.320 that is a party to the agreements is an entity created under the laws of the state of Washington whose power and authority and limitations and restrictions on the power and authority are governed by the laws of the state of Washington.

Payment undertaking agreements that meet the foregoing requirement must be treated for all relevant purposes as agreements under which future services are performed for a present payment and shall not be treated as payment agreements within the meaning of chapter 39.96 RCW. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 19.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**81.112.320 Sale and leaseback—Creation of public entity.** To accomplish any of the activities under RCW 81.112.300, a regional transit authority may create a public corporation, commission, or authority under RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755, and authorize the corporation, commission, or authority to provide any of the facilities and services that a regional transit authority may provide including any activities under RCW 81.112.300. A regional transit authority has all the powers, authorities, and rights granted to any city, town, or county or their agents under RCW 35.21.730 through 35.21.755 for the purposes of entering into and implementing transactions under RCW 81.112.300. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 20.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**81.112.330 Sale and leaseback—Restrictions, requirements.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, no regional transit authority may initiate a transaction authorized under RCW 81.112.300 after June 30, 2007.

(2) The termination of authority to enter into transactions after June 30, 2007, does not affect the validity of any transactions entered into under RCW 81.112.300.

(3) A regional transit authority may enter into a transaction in accordance with RCW 81.112.300 after June 30, 2007, to replace or refinance a transaction that relates to specific obligations entered into on or before that date and that has terminated, or is, under the terms of the replacement or refinance, to terminate, before the final stated term of that transaction. The exemptions from taxes provided by RCW 82.08.834, 82.12.834, 82.04.4201, 82.29A.134, 82.36.605 [84.36.605], 35.21.756, 82.04.050, 82.45.010, and 35.21.755 apply to the replacement or refinance transactions.

(4) A regional transit authority, or public corporation or entity created under RCW 81.112.320, that undertakes a transaction authorized by RCW 81.112.300, shall provide to the state finance committee, or its financial advisor, at the state finance committee's discretion, a copy of all material agreements executed in connection with the transaction within three months of the closing of the transaction and shall make a report to the state finance committee, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives on transactions authorized by RCW 81.112.300. The report must include the amount of the transactions, the expected savings or losses resulting from the transactions, the transaction costs, including fees and detailed pricing information, the risks associated with the transaction, and any other information the regional transit authority determines relevant. The report must be submitted within six months of the closing of each transaction. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 30.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**81.112.340 Supplemental transportation improvements.** If the legislative authority of a city provides or contracts for supplemental transportation improvements, as described in RCW 35.21.925 or under chapter 36.73 RCW, a regional transit authority serving the city or border jurisdictions shall coordinate its services with the supplemental transportation improvements to maximize efficiencies in public transportation services within and across service boundaries. [2010 c 251 § 6.]

**81.112.900 Section headings not part of law—1992 c 101.** Section headings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law. [1992 c 101 § 33.]

**81.112.901 Severability—1992 c 101.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1992 c 101 § 34.]

**81.112.902 Effective date—1992 c 101.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1992. [1992 c 101 § 35.]

**Chapter 81.900 RCW**  
**CONSTRUCTION**

## Sections

- 81.900.010 Continuation of existing law.
- 81.900.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.
- 81.900.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.
- 81.900.040 Repeals and saving.
- 81.900.050 Emergency—1961 c 14.

**81.900.010 Continuation of existing law.** The provisions of this title insofar as they are substantially the same as statutory provisions repealed by this chapter, and relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations, and not as new enactments. [1961 c 14 § 81.98.010. Formerly RCW 81.98.010.]

**81.900.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.** Title headings, chapter headings, and section or subsection headings, as used in this title do not constitute any part of the law. [1961 c 14 § 81.98.020. Formerly RCW 81.98.020.]

**81.900.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.** If any provision of this title, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the title, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1961 c 14 § 81.98.030. Formerly RCW 81.98.030.]

**81.900.040 Repeals and saving.** See 1961 c 14 § 81.98.040. Formerly RCW 81.98.040.

**81.900.050 Emergency—1961 c 14.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. [1961 c 14 § 81.98.050. Formerly RCW 81.98.050.]



# Title 82

## EXCISE TAXES

**Chapters**

**82.01** Department of revenue.  
**82.02** General provisions.  
**82.03** Board of tax appeals.  
**82.04** Business and occupation tax.  
**82.08** Retail sales tax.  
**82.12** Use tax.  
**82.14** Local retail sales and use taxes.  
**82.14A** Cities and towns—License fees and taxes on financial institutions.  
**82.14B** Counties—Tax on telephone access line use.  
**82.16** Public utility tax.  
**82.18** Solid waste collection tax.  
**82.19** Litter tax.  
**82.21** Hazardous substance tax—Model toxics control act.  
**82.23A** Petroleum products—Underground storage tank program funding.  
**82.23B** Oil spill response tax.  
**82.24** Tax on cigarettes.  
**82.26** Tax on tobacco products.  
**82.27** Tax on enhanced food fish.  
**82.29A** Leasehold excise tax.  
**82.32** General administrative provisions.  
**82.32A** Taxpayer rights and responsibilities.  
**82.33** Economic and revenue forecasts.  
**82.33A** Economic climate council.  
**82.34** Pollution control facilities—Tax exemptions and credits.  
**82.36** Motor vehicle fuel tax.  
**82.38** Special fuel tax act.  
**82.41** Multistate motor fuel tax agreement.  
**82.42** Aircraft fuel tax.  
**82.44** Motor vehicle excise tax.  
**82.45** Excise tax on real estate sales.  
**82.46** Counties and cities—Excise tax on real estate sales.  
**82.47** Border area motor vehicle fuel and special fuel tax.  
**82.48** Aircraft excise tax.  
**82.49** Watercraft excise tax.  
**82.50** Travel trailers and campers excise tax.  
**82.52** Extension of excises to federal areas.  
**82.56** Multistate tax compact.  
**82.58** Simplified sales and use tax administration act.  
**82.60** Tax deferrals for investment projects in rural counties.  
**82.62** Tax credits for eligible business projects in rural counties.  
**82.63** Tax deferrals for high technology businesses.  
**82.64** Syrup tax.  
**82.65A** Intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities.  
**82.66** Tax deferrals for new thoroughbred race tracks.  
**82.70** Commute trip reduction incentives.  
**82.72** Telephone program excise tax administration.  
**82.73** Washington main street program tax incentives.

**82.74** Tax deferrals for fruit and vegetable businesses.  
**82.75** Tax deferrals for biotechnology and medical device manufacturing businesses.  
**82.80** Local option transportation taxes.  
**82.82** Community empowerment zones—Tax deferral program.  
**82.98** Construction.

*Additional taxes, see titles pertaining to particular taxing authorities, e.g., counties, cities, school districts, public utility districts.*

*Expenditure limitations: Chapter 43.135 RCW.*

*Hotels, motels, special excise tax on charges for furnishing lodging: Chapter 67.28 RCW.*

*Termination of tax preferences: Chapter 43.136 RCW.*

### Chapter 82.01 RCW DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

**Sections**

**82.01.050** Department established—Director of revenue.  
**82.01.060** Director—Powers and duties—Rule-making authority.  
**82.01.070** Director—General supervision—Appointment of assistant director, personnel—Personal service contracts for out-of-state auditing services.  
**82.01.080** Director—Delegation of powers and duties—Responsibility.  
**82.01.090** Director—Exercise of powers, duties and functions formerly vested in tax commission.  
**82.01.100** Assistance to other state agencies in administration and collection of taxes.  
**82.01.115** Listing of reduction in revenues from tax exemptions to be submitted to legislature by department of revenue—Periodic review and submission of recommendations to legislature by governor.

*Apportionment factors (for school districts) to be based on current figures—Rules and regulations: RCW 28A.150.400.*

*Escheat of postal savings system accounts, director's duties: Chapter 63.48 RCW.*

*Gambling activities, reports to department of revenue: RCW 9.46.130.*

*Motor vehicle fund, distribution of amount to counties, department to furnish information: RCW 46.68.124.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts—Fees: RCW 19.16.500.*

*Questionnaires—Job opportunities for welfare recipients—Department to mail: RCW 74.08A.350.*

*Refunds of erroneous or excessive payments: RCW 43.88.170.*

*Termination of tax preferences: Chapter 43.136 RCW.*

**82.01.050 Department established—Director of revenue.** There is established a department of state government to be known as the department of revenue of the state of Washington, of which the chief executive officer shall be known as the director of revenue. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.01.060 Director—Powers and duties—Rule-making authority.** The director of revenue, hereinafter in chapter 26, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. referred to as the director, through

the department of revenue, hereinafter in chapter 26, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. referred to as the department, must:

(1) Assess and collect all taxes and administer all programs relating to taxes which are the responsibility of the tax commission at the time chapter 26, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. takes effect or which the legislature may hereafter make the responsibility of the director or of the department;

(2) Make, adopt and publish such rules as he or she may deem necessary or desirable to carry out the powers and duties imposed upon him or her or the department by the legislature. However, the director may not adopt rules after July 23, 1995, that are based solely on a section of law stating a statute's intent or purpose, on the enabling provisions of the statute establishing the agency, or on any combination of such provisions, for statutory authority to adopt any rule;

(3) Rules adopted by the tax commission before July 23, 1995, remain in force until such time as they may be revised or rescinded by the director;

(4) Provide by general regulations for an adequate system of departmental review of the actions of the department or of its officers and employees in the assessment or collection of taxes;

(5) Maintain a tax research section with sufficient technical, clerical and other employees to conduct constant observation and investigation of the effectiveness and adequacy of the revenue laws of this state and of the sister states in order to assist the governor, the legislature and the director in estimation of revenue, analysis of tax measures, and determination of the administrative feasibility of proposed tax legislation and allied problems;

(6) Recommend to the governor such amendments, changes in, and modifications of the revenue laws as seem proper and requisite to remedy injustice and irregularities in taxation, and to facilitate the assessment and collection of taxes in the most economical manner;

(7) Provide the opportunity for any person feeling aggrieved by any action taken against the person by the department in the administration of chapters 19.02, 19.80, and 59.30 RCW to request a review of the department's action. Such review may be conducted as a brief adjudicative proceeding under RCW 34.05.485 through 34.05.494. [2011 c 298 § 36; 1995 c 403 § 106; 1977 c 75 § 92; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 3.]

**Purpose—Intent—Agency transfer—Contracting—Effective date—2011 c 289:** See notes following RCW 19.02.020.

**Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403:** See note following RCW 34.05.328.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.01.070 Director—General supervision—Appointment of assistant director, personnel—Personal service contracts for out-of-state auditing services.** The director shall have charge and general supervision of the department of revenue. The director shall appoint an assistant director for administration, hereinafter in chapter 26, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. referred to as the assistant director, and subject to the provisions of chapter 41.06 RCW may appoint and employ such clerical, technical and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the powers and duties of the department. The director may also enter into personal service contracts with out-of-state individuals or business entities for the perfor-

mance of auditing services outside the state of Washington when normal efforts to recruit classified employees are unsuccessful. The director may agree to pay to the department's employees or contractors who reside out of state such amounts in addition to their ordinary rate of compensation as are necessary to defray the extra costs of facilities, living, and other costs reasonably related to the out-of-state services, subject to legislative appropriation for those purposes. The special allowances shall be in such amounts or at such rates as are approved by the office of financial management. This section does not apply to audit functions performed in states contiguous to the state of Washington. [1997 c 156 § 1; 1982 c 128 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.01.080 Director—Delegation of powers and duties—Responsibility.** The director may delegate any power or duty vested in or transferred to the director by law, or executive order, to the assistant director or to any of the director's subordinates; but the director shall be responsible for the official acts of the officers and employees of the department. [1997 c 156 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 5.]

**82.01.090 Director—Exercise of powers, duties and functions formerly vested in tax commission.** Except for the powers and duties devolved upon the board of tax appeals by the provisions of RCW 82.03.010 through 82.03.190, the director of revenue shall, after July 1, 1967, exercise those powers, duties and functions theretofore vested in the tax commission of the state of Washington, including all powers, duties and functions of the commission acting as the commission or as the state board of equalization or in any other capacity. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 6.]

**82.01.100 Assistance to other state agencies in administration and collection of taxes.** Assistance of the department of revenue in the administration or collection of those state taxes which are administered or collected by other state agencies may be requested by the agencies concerned. Such assistance may be given by the director to the extent that the limitations of time, personnel and the conduct of the duties of the department shall allow. The department shall be reimbursed by any agency to which assistance is rendered. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 11.]

**82.01.115 Listing of reduction in revenues from tax exemptions to be submitted to legislature by department of revenue—Periodic review and submission of recommendations to legislature by governor.** See RCW 43.06.400.

## Chapter 82.02 RCW GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Sections

82.02.010	Definitions.
82.02.020	State preempts certain tax fields—Fees prohibited for the development of land or buildings—Voluntary payments by developers authorized—Limitations—Exceptions.
82.02.030	Additional tax rates.
82.02.040	Authority of operating agencies to levy taxes.
82.02.050	Impact fees—Intent—Limitations.
82.02.060	Impact fees—Local ordinances—Required provisions.

- 82.02.070 Impact fees—Retained in special accounts—Limitations on use—Administrative appeals.
- 82.02.080 Impact fees—Refunds.
- 82.02.090 Impact fees—Definitions.
- 82.02.100 Impact fees—Exception, mitigation fees paid under chapter 43.21C RCW.
- 82.02.110 Impact fees—Extending use of school impact fees.
- 82.02.200 Contract to issue conditional federal employer identification numbers, credentials, and documents in conjunction with license applications.
- 82.02.210 Washington compliance with streamlined sales and use tax agreement—Intent.
- 82.02.220 Exclusion of steam, electricity, or electrical energy from definition of certain terms.
- 82.02.230 One statewide rate and one jurisdiction-wide rate for sales and use taxes.
- 82.02.240 Professional employer organizations—Liability for certain taxes and fees.

**82.02.010 Definitions.** For the purpose of this title, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Department" means the department of revenue of the state of Washington;
- (2) "Director" means the director of the department of revenue of the state of Washington;
- (3) "Taxpayer" includes any individual, group of individuals, corporation, or association liable for any tax or the collection of any tax hereunder, or who engages in any business or performs any act for which a tax is imposed by this title. "Taxpayer" also includes any person liable for any fee or other charge collected by the department under any provision of law, including registration assessments and delinquency fees imposed under RCW 59.30.050; and
- (4) Words in the singular number include the plural and the plural include the singular. Words in one gender include all other genders. [2011 c 298 § 37; 1979 c 107 § 9; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 14; 1961 c 15 § 82.02.010. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 3; RRS § 8370-3.]

**Purpose—Intent—Agency transfer—Contracting—Effective date—2011 c 289:** See notes following RCW 19.02.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.020 State preempts certain tax fields—Fees prohibited for the development of land or buildings—Voluntary payments by developers authorized—Limitations—Exceptions.** Except only as expressly provided in chapters 67.28, 81.104, and 82.14 RCW, the state preempts the field of imposing retail sales and use taxes and taxes upon parimutuel wagering authorized pursuant to RCW 67.16.060, conveyances, and cigarettes, and no county, town, or other municipal subdivision shall have the right to impose taxes of that nature. Except as provided in RCW 64.34.440 and 82.02.050 through 82.02.090, no county, city, town, or other municipal corporation shall impose any tax, fee, or charge, either direct or indirect, on the construction or reconstruction of residential buildings, commercial buildings, industrial buildings, or on any other building or building space or appurtenance thereto, or on the development, subdivision, classification, or reclassification of land. However, this section does not preclude dedications of land or easements within the proposed development or plat which the county, city, town, or other municipal corporation can demonstrate are reasonably necessary as a direct result of the proposed development or plat to which the dedication of land or easement is to apply.

(2012 Ed.)

This section does not prohibit voluntary agreements with counties, cities, towns, or other municipal corporations that allow a payment in lieu of a dedication of land or to mitigate a direct impact that has been identified as a consequence of a proposed development, subdivision, or plat. A local government shall not use such voluntary agreements for local off-site transportation improvements within the geographic boundaries of the area or areas covered by an adopted transportation program authorized by chapter 39.92 RCW. Any such voluntary agreement is subject to the following provisions:

- (1) The payment shall be held in a reserve account and may only be expended to fund a capital improvement agreed upon by the parties to mitigate the identified, direct impact;
- (2) The payment shall be expended in all cases within five years of collection; and
- (3) Any payment not so expended shall be refunded with interest to be calculated from the original date the deposit was received by the county and at the same rate applied to tax refunds pursuant to RCW 84.69.100; however, if the payment is not expended within five years due to delay attributable to the developer, the payment shall be refunded without interest.

No county, city, town, or other municipal corporation shall require any payment as part of such a voluntary agreement which the county, city, town, or other municipal corporation cannot establish is reasonably necessary as a direct result of the proposed development or plat.

Nothing in this section prohibits cities, towns, counties, or other municipal corporations from collecting reasonable fees from an applicant for a permit or other governmental approval to cover the cost to the city, town, county, or other municipal corporation of processing applications, inspecting and reviewing plans, or preparing detailed statements required by chapter 43.21C RCW, including reasonable fees that are consistent with RCW 43.21C.420(6).

This section does not limit the existing authority of any county, city, town, or other municipal corporation to impose special assessments on property specifically benefited thereby in the manner prescribed by law.

Nothing in this section prohibits counties, cities, or towns from imposing or permits counties, cities, or towns to impose water, sewer, natural gas, drainage utility, and drainage system charges. However, no such charge shall exceed the proportionate share of such utility or system's capital costs which the county, city, or town can demonstrate are attributable to the property being charged. Furthermore, these provisions may not be interpreted to expand or contract any existing authority of counties, cities, or towns to impose such charges.

Nothing in this section prohibits a transportation benefit district from imposing fees or charges authorized in RCW 36.73.120 nor prohibits the legislative authority of a county, city, or town from approving the imposition of such fees within a transportation benefit district.

Nothing in this section prohibits counties, cities, or towns from imposing transportation impact fees authorized pursuant to chapter 39.92 RCW.

Nothing in this section prohibits counties, cities, or towns from requiring property owners to provide relocation assistance to tenants under RCW 59.18.440 and 59.18.450.

Nothing in this section limits the authority of counties, cities, or towns to implement programs consistent with RCW 36.70A.540, nor to enforce agreements made pursuant to such programs.

This section does not apply to special purpose districts formed and acting pursuant to Title 54, 57, or 87 RCW, nor is the authority conferred by these titles affected. [2010 c 153 § 3; 2009 c 535 § 1103; 2008 c 113 § 2; 2006 c 149 § 3; 2005 c 502 § 5; 1997 c 452 § 21; 1996 c 230 § 1612; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 42; 1988 c 179 § 6; 1987 c 327 § 17; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 196 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 94 § 8; 1967 c 236 § 16; 1961 c 15 § 82.02.020. Prior: (i) 1935 c 180 § 29; RRS § 8370-29. (ii) 1949 c 228 § 28; 1939 c 225 § 22; 1937 c 227 § 24; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-219. Formerly RCW 82.32.370.]

**Intent—2010 c 153:** See note following RCW 43.21C.420.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Application—Effective date—2008 c 113:** See notes following RCW 64.34.440.

**Findings—Construction—2006 c 149:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.540.

**Effective date—2005 c 502:** See note following RCW 1.12.070.

**Intent—Severability—1997 c 452:** See notes following RCW 67.28.080.

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.030 Additional tax rates.** The rate of the additional taxes under RCW 54.28.020(2), 54.28.025(2), 66.24.210(2), 82.16.020(2), 82.27.020(5), and 82.29A.030(2) shall be seven percent. [1993 sp.s. c 25 § 107; 1993 c 492 § 312; 1990 c 42 § 319. Prior: 1987 1st ex.s. c 9 § 6; 1987 c 472 § 15; 1987 c 80 § 4; 1986 c 296 § 5; 1985 c 471 § 9; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 6; 1983 c 7 § 8; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 14 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 31.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.040 Authority of operating agencies to levy taxes.** Nothing in this title may be deemed to grant to any operating agency organized under chapter 43.52 RCW, or a project of any such operating agency, the authority to levy any tax or assessment not otherwise authorized by law. [1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 55.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.050 Impact fees—Intent—Limitations.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature:

(a) To ensure that adequate facilities are available to serve new growth and development;

(b) To promote orderly growth and development by establishing standards by which counties, cities, and towns may require, by ordinance, that new growth and development pay a proportionate share of the cost of new facilities needed to serve new growth and development; and

(c) To ensure that impact fees are imposed through established procedures and criteria so that specific develop-

ments do not pay arbitrary fees or duplicative fees for the same impact.

(2) Counties, cities, and towns that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 are authorized to impose impact fees on development activity as part of the financing for public facilities, provided that the financing for system improvements to serve new development must provide for a balance between impact fees and other sources of public funds and cannot rely solely on impact fees.

(3) The impact fees:

(a) Shall only be imposed for system improvements that are reasonably related to the new development;

(b) Shall not exceed a proportionate share of the costs of system improvements that are reasonably related to the new development; and

(c) Shall be used for system improvements that will reasonably benefit the new development.

(4) Impact fees may be collected and spent only for the public facilities defined in RCW 82.02.090 which are addressed by a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive land use plan adopted pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.70A.070 or the provisions for comprehensive plan adoption contained in chapter 36.70, 35.63, or 35A.63 RCW. After the date a county, city, or town is required to adopt its development regulations under chapter 36.70A RCW, continued authorization to collect and expend impact fees shall be contingent on the county, city, or town adopting or revising a comprehensive plan in compliance with RCW 36.70A.070, and on the capital facilities plan identifying:

(a) Deficiencies in public facilities serving existing development and the means by which existing deficiencies will be eliminated within a reasonable period of time;

(b) Additional demands placed on existing public facilities by new development; and

(c) Additional public facility improvements required to serve new development.

If the capital facilities plan of the county, city, or town is complete other than for the inclusion of those elements which are the responsibility of a special district, the county, city, or town may impose impact fees to address those public facility needs for which the county, city, or town is responsible. [1994 c 257 § 24; 1993 sp.s. c 6 § 6; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 43.]

SEPA: RCW 43.21C.065.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.060 Impact fees—Local ordinances—Required provisions.** The local ordinance by which impact fees are imposed:

(1) Shall include a schedule of impact fees which shall be adopted for each type of development activity that is subject to impact fees, specifying the amount of the impact fee to be imposed for each type of system improvement. The schedule shall be based upon a formula or other method of calculating such impact fees. In determining proportionate share, the formula or other method of calculating impact fees shall incorporate, among other things, the following:

(a) The cost of public facilities necessitated by new development;

(b) An adjustment to the cost of the public facilities for past or future payments made or reasonably anticipated to be made by new development to pay for particular system

improvements in the form of user fees, debt service payments, taxes, or other payments earmarked for or prorable to the particular system improvement;

(c) The availability of other means of funding public facility improvements;

(d) The cost of existing public facilities improvements; and

(e) The methods by which public facilities improvements were financed;

(2) May provide an exemption for low-income housing, and other development activities with broad public purposes, from these impact fees, provided that the impact fees for such development activity shall be paid from public funds other than impact fee accounts;

(3) May provide an exemption from impact fees for low-income housing. Local governments that grant exemptions for low-income housing under this subsection (3) may either: Grant a partial exemption of not more than eighty percent of impact fees, in which case there is no explicit requirement to pay the exempted portion of the fee from public funds other than impact fee accounts; or provide a full waiver, in which case the remaining percentage of the exempted fee must be paid from public funds other than impact fee accounts. An exemption for low-income housing granted under subsection (2) of this section or this subsection (3) must be conditioned upon requiring the developer to record a covenant that, except as provided otherwise by this subsection, prohibits using the property for any purpose other than for low-income housing. At a minimum, the covenant must address price restrictions and household income limits for the low-income housing, and that if the property is converted to a use other than for low-income housing, the property owner must pay the applicable impact fees in effect at the time of conversion. Covenants required by this subsection must be recorded with the applicable county auditor or recording officer. A local government granting an exemption under subsection (2) of this section or this subsection (3) for low-income housing may not collect revenue lost through granting an exemption by increasing impact fees unrelated to the exemption. A school district who receives school impact fees must approve any exemption under subsection (2) of this section or this subsection (3);

(4) Shall provide a credit for the value of any dedication of land for, improvement to, or new construction of any system improvements provided by the developer, to facilities that are identified in the capital facilities plan and that are required by the county, city, or town as a condition of approving the development activity;

(5) Shall allow the county, city, or town imposing the impact fees to adjust the standard impact fee at the time the fee is imposed to consider unusual circumstances in specific cases to ensure that impact fees are imposed fairly;

(6) Shall include a provision for calculating the amount of the fee to be imposed on a particular development that permits consideration of studies and data submitted by the developer to adjust the amount of the fee;

(7) Shall establish one or more reasonable service areas within which it shall calculate and impose impact fees for various land use categories per unit of development; and

(8) May provide for the imposition of an impact fee for system improvement costs previously incurred by a county,

(2012 Ed.)

city, or town to the extent that new growth and development will be served by the previously constructed improvements provided such fee shall not be imposed to make up for any system improvement deficiencies.

For purposes of this section, "low-income housing" means housing with a monthly housing expense, that is no greater than thirty percent of eighty percent of the median family income adjusted for family size, for the county where the project is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development. [2012 c 200 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 44.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.070 Impact fees—Retained in special accounts—Limitations on use—Administrative appeals.**

(1) Impact fee receipts shall be earmarked specifically and retained in special interest-bearing accounts. Separate accounts shall be established for each type of public facility for which impact fees are collected. All interest shall be retained in the account and expended for the purpose or purposes for which the impact fees were imposed. Annually, each county, city, or town imposing impact fees shall provide a report on each impact fee account showing the source and amount of all moneys collected, earned, or received and system improvements that were financed in whole or in part by impact fees.

(2) Impact fees for system improvements shall be expended only in conformance with the capital facilities plan element of the comprehensive plan.

(3)(a) Except as provided otherwise by (b) of this subsection, impact fees shall be expended or encumbered for a permissible use within ten years of receipt, unless there exists an extraordinary and compelling reason for fees to be held longer than ten years. Such extraordinary or compelling reasons shall be identified in written findings by the governing body of the county, city, or town.

(b) School impact fees must be expended or encumbered for a permissible use within ten years of receipt, unless there exists an extraordinary and compelling reason for fees to be held longer than ten years. Such extraordinary or compelling reasons shall be identified in written findings by the governing body of the county, city, or town.

(4) Impact fees may be paid under protest in order to obtain a permit or other approval of development activity.

(5) Each county, city, or town that imposes impact fees shall provide for an administrative appeals process for the appeal of an impact fee; the process may follow the appeal process for the underlying development approval or the county, city, or town may establish a separate appeals process. The impact fee may be modified upon a determination that it is proper to do so based on principles of fairness. The county, city, or town may provide for the resolution of disputes regarding impact fees by arbitration. [2011 c 353 § 8; 2009 c 263 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 46.]

**Intent—2011 c 353:** See note following RCW 36.70A.130.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.080 Impact fees—Refunds.** (1) The current owner of property on which an impact fee has been paid may receive a refund of such fees if the county, city, or town fails to expend or encumber the impact fees within ten years of

when the fees were paid or other such period of time established pursuant to RCW 82.02.070(3) on public facilities intended to benefit the development activity for which the impact fees were paid. In determining whether impact fees have been encumbered, impact fees shall be considered encumbered on a first in, first out basis. The county, city, or town shall notify potential claimants by first-class mail deposited with the United States postal service at the last known address of claimants.

The request for a refund must be submitted to the county, city, or town governing body in writing within one year of the date the right to claim the refund arises or the date that notice is given, whichever is later. Any impact fees that are not expended within these time limitations, and for which no application for a refund has been made within this one-year period, shall be retained and expended on the indicated capital facilities. Refunds of impact fees under this subsection shall include interest earned on the impact fees.

(2) When a county, city, or town seeks to terminate any or all impact fee requirements, all unexpended or unencumbered funds, including interest earned, shall be refunded pursuant to this section. Upon the finding that any or all fee requirements are to be terminated, the county, city, or town shall place notice of such termination and the availability of refunds in a newspaper of general circulation at least two times and shall notify all potential claimants by first-class mail to the last known address of claimants. All funds available for refund shall be retained for a period of one year. At the end of one year, any remaining funds shall be retained by the local government, but must be expended for the indicated public facilities. This notice requirement shall not apply if there are no unexpended or unencumbered balances within an account or accounts being terminated.

(3) A developer may request and shall receive a refund, including interest earned on the impact fees, when the developer does not proceed with the development activity and no impact has resulted. [2011 c 353 § 9; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 47.]

**Intent—2011 c 353:** See note following RCW 36.70A.130.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.090 Impact fees—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following definitions shall apply in RCW 82.02.050 through 82.02.090:

(1) "Development activity" means any construction or expansion of a building, structure, or use, any change in use of a building or structure, or any changes in the use of land, that creates additional demand and need for public facilities. "Development activity" does not include buildings or structures constructed by a regional transit authority.

(2) "Development approval" means any written authorization from a county, city, or town which authorizes the commencement of development activity.

(3) "Impact fee" means a payment of money imposed upon development as a condition of development approval to pay for public facilities needed to serve new growth and development, and that is reasonably related to the new development that creates additional demand and need for public facilities, that is a proportionate share of the cost of the public facilities, and that is used for facilities that reasonably benefit

the new development. "Impact fee" does not include a reasonable permit or application fee.

(4) "Owner" means the owner of record of real property, although when real property is being purchased under a real estate contract, the purchaser shall be considered the owner of the real property if the contract is recorded.

(5) "Project improvements" mean site improvements and facilities that are planned and designed to provide service for a particular development project and that are necessary for the use and convenience of the occupants or users of the project, and are not system improvements. No improvement or facility included in a capital facilities plan approved by the governing body of the county, city, or town shall be considered a project improvement.

(6) "Proportionate share" means that portion of the cost of public facility improvements that are reasonably related to the service demands and needs of new development.

(7) "Public facilities" means the following capital facilities owned or operated by government entities: (a) Public streets and roads; (b) publicly owned parks, open space, and recreation facilities; (c) school facilities; and (d) fire protection facilities.

(8) "Service area" means a geographic area defined by a county, city, town, or intergovernmental agreement in which a defined set of public facilities provide service to development within the area. Service areas shall be designated on the basis of sound planning or engineering principles.

(9) "System improvements" mean public facilities that are included in the capital facilities plan and are designed to provide service to service areas within the community at large, in contrast to project improvements. [2010 c 86 § 1; 2008 c 42 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 48.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.02.100 Impact fees—Exception, mitigation fees paid under chapter 43.21C RCW.** (1) A person required to pay a fee pursuant to RCW 43.21C.060 for system improvements shall not be required to pay an impact fee under RCW 82.02.050 through 82.02.090 for those same system improvements.

(2) A person installing a residential fire sprinkler system in a single-family home shall not be required to pay the fire operations portion of the impact fee. The exempted fire operations impact fee shall not include the proportionate share related to the delivery of emergency medical services. [2011 c 331 § 3; 1992 c 219 § 2.]

**Intent—2011 c 331:** "The legislature recognizes that fire sprinkler systems in private residences may prevent catastrophic losses of life and property, but that financial, technical, and other issues often discourage property owners from installing these protective systems.

It is the intent of the legislature to eradicate barriers that prevent the voluntary installation of sprinkler systems in private residences by promoting education regarding the effectiveness of residential fire sprinklers, and by providing financial and regulatory incentives to homeowners, builders, and water purveyors for voluntarily installing the systems. It is the further intent of the legislature to fully preserve the rulings of *Fisk v. City of Kirkland*, 164 Wn.2d 891 (2008), *Stiefel v. City of Kent*, 132 Wn. App.523 (2006), and similar cases." [2011 c 331 § 1.]

**82.02.110 Impact fees—Extending use of school impact fees.** Criteria must be developed by the office of the

superintendent of public instruction for extending the use of school impact fees from six to ten years and this extension must require an evaluation for each respective school board of the appropriateness of the extension. [2009 c 263 § 2.]

**82.02.200 Contract to issue conditional federal employer identification numbers, credentials, and documents in conjunction with license applications.** The director may contract with the federal internal revenue service, or other appropriate federal agency, to issue conditional federal employer identification numbers, or other federal credentials or documents, at specified offices and locations of the agency in conjunction with any application for state licenses under chapter 19.02 RCW. [1997 c 51 § 6.]

**Intent—1997 c 51:** See note following RCW 19.02.300.

**82.02.210 Washington compliance with streamlined sales and use tax agreement—Intent.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature that Washington join as a member state in the streamlined sales and use tax agreement referred to in chapter 82.58 RCW. The agreement provides for a simpler and more uniform sales and use tax structure among states that have sales and use taxes. The intent of the legislature is to bring Washington's sales and use tax system into compliance with the agreement so that Washington may join as a member state and have a voice in the development and administration of the system, and to substantially reduce the burden of tax compliance on sellers.

(2) Chapter 168, Laws of 2003 does not include changes to Washington law that may be required in the future and that are not fully developed under the agreement. These include, but are not limited to, changes relating to online registration, reporting, and remitting of payments by businesses for sales and use tax purposes, monetary allowances for sellers and their agents, sourcing, and amnesty for businesses registering under the agreement.

(3) It is the intent of the legislature that the provisions of this title relating to the administration and collection of state and local sales and use taxes be interpreted and applied consistently with the agreement.

(4) The department of revenue shall report to the fiscal committees of the legislature on January 1, 2004, and each January 1st thereafter, on the development of the agreement and shall recommend changes to the sales and use tax structure and propose legislation as may be necessary to keep Washington in compliance with the agreement. [2007 c 6 § 105; 2003 c 168 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See note following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.02.220 Exclusion of steam, electricity, or electrical energy from definition of certain terms.** When the terms "ingredient," "component part," "incorporated into," "goods," "products," "by-products," "materials," "consumables," and other similar terms denoting tangible items that may be used, sold, or consumed are used in this title, the terms do not include steam, electricity, or electrical energy. [2003 c 168 § 701.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.02.230 One statewide rate and one jurisdiction-wide rate for sales and use taxes.** (1) There shall be one statewide rate for sales and use taxes imposed at the state level. This subsection does not apply to the taxes imposed by RCW 82.08.150, 82.12.022, or 82.18.020, or to taxes imposed on the sale, rental, lease, or use of motor vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, modular homes, manufactured homes, or mobile homes.

(2) There shall be one jurisdiction-wide rate for local sales and use taxes imposed at levels below the state level. This subsection does not apply to the taxes imposed by chapter 67.28 RCW, RCW 35.21.280, 36.38.010, 36.38.040, \*67.40.090, 82.80.030, or 82.14.360, or to taxes imposed on the sale, rental, lease, or use of motor vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, modular homes, manufactured homes, or mobile homes. [2009 c 289 § 3; 2004 c 153 § 405; 2003 c 168 § 801.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 67.40.090 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 14, effective November 30, 2010.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.02.240 Professional employer organizations—Liability for certain taxes and fees.** (1) A professional employer organization is not liable for any tax imposed by or under the authority of this title or Title 35 RCW or any other tax, fee, or charge that the department administers based solely on the activities or status of a covered employee having a coemployment relationship with the professional employer organization.

(2) This subsection does not exempt a professional employer organization from:

(a) Any tax imposed by or under the authority of this or any other title based on:

(i) Professional employer services provided by the professional employer organization; or

(ii) The status or activities of employees of the professional employer organization that are not covered employees coemployed with a client; or

(b) The duty to withhold, collect, report, and remit payroll-related and unemployment taxes as required by state law and regulation.

(3) The definitions in RCW 82.04.540 apply to this section. [2006 c 301 § 8.]

**Effective date—Act does not affect application of Title 50 or 51 RCW—2006 c 301:** See notes following RCW 82.32.710.

## Chapter 82.03 RCW BOARD OF TAX APPEALS

### Sections

82.03.010	Board created.
82.03.020	Members—Number—Qualifications—Appointment.
82.03.030	Terms—Vacancies.
82.03.040	Removal of members—Grounds—Procedure.
82.03.050	Operation on part time or full time basis—Salary—Compensation—Travel expenses.

[Title 82 RCW—page 7]

- 82.03.060 Members not to be candidate or hold public office, engage in inconsistent occupation nor be on political committee—Restriction on leaving board.
- 82.03.070 Executive director, tax referees, clerk, assistants.
- 82.03.080 Chairman.
- 82.03.090 Office of board—Quorum—Hearings.
- 82.03.100 Findings and decisions—Signing—Filing—Public inspection.
- 82.03.110 Publication of findings and decisions.
- 82.03.120 Journal of final findings and decisions.
- 82.03.130 Appeals to board—Jurisdiction as to types of appeals—Filing.
- 82.03.140 Appeals to board—Election of formal or informal hearing.
- 82.03.150 Appeals to board—Informal hearings, powers of board or tax referees—Assistance.
- 82.03.160 Appeals to board—Formal hearings, powers of board or tax referees—Assistance.
- 82.03.170 Rules of practice and procedure.
- 82.03.180 Judicial review.
- 82.03.190 Appeal to board from denial of petition or notice of determination as to reduction or refund—Procedure—Notice.
- 82.03.200 Appeals from county board of equalization—Evidence submission in advance of hearing.

*Limitation on increase in property value in appeals to board of tax appeals from county board of equalization: RCW 84.08.060.*

*Review of sale price established for certain shorelands: RCW 79.125.450.*

**82.03.010 Board created.** There is hereby created the board of tax appeals of the state of Washington as an agency of state government. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 30.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.03.020 Members—Number—Qualifications—Appointment.** The board of tax appeals, hereinafter in chapter 26, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. referred to as the board, shall consist of three members qualified by experience and training in the field of state and local taxation, appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, and no more than two of whom at the time of appointment or during their terms shall be members of the same political party. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 31.]

**82.03.030 Terms—Vacancies.** Members of the board shall be appointed for a term of six years and until their successors are appointed and have qualified. In case of a vacancy, it shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the unexpired portion of the term in which said vacancy occurs: PROVIDED, That the terms of the first three members of the board shall be staggered so that one member shall be appointed to serve until March 1, 1969, one member until March 1, 1971, and one member until March 1, 1973. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 32.]

**82.03.040 Removal of members—Grounds—Procedure.** Any member of the board may be removed for inefficiency, malfeasance or misfeasance in office, upon specific written charges filed by the governor, who shall transmit such written charges to the member accused and to the chief justice of the supreme court. The chief justice shall thereupon designate a tribunal composed of three judges of the superior court to hear and adjudicate the charges. Such tribunal shall fix the time of the hearing, which shall be public, and the procedure for the hearing, and the decision of such tribunal shall be final and not subject to review by the supreme court. Removal of any member of the board by the tribunal shall disqualify such member for reappointment. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 33.]

**82.03.050 Operation on part time or full time basis—Salary—Compensation—Travel expenses.** The board shall operate on either a part time or a full time basis, as determined by the governor. If it is determined that the board shall operate on a full time basis, each member of the board shall receive an annual salary to be determined by the governor. If it is determined that the board shall operate on a part time basis, each member of the board shall receive compensation on the basis of seventy-five dollars for each day spent in performance of his duties, but such compensation shall not exceed ten thousand dollars in a fiscal year. Each board member shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred in the discharge of his duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 176; 1970 ex.s. c 65 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 34.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.03.060 Members not to be candidate or hold public office, engage in inconsistent occupation nor be on political committee—Restriction on leaving board.** Each member of the board of tax appeals:

(1) Shall not be a candidate for nor hold any other public office or trust, and shall not engage in any occupation or business interfering with or inconsistent with his duty as a member of the board, nor shall he serve on or under any committee of any political party; and

(2) Shall not for a period of one year after the termination of his membership on the board, act in a representative capacity before the board on any matter. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 35.]

**82.03.070 Executive director, tax referees, clerk, assistants.** The board may appoint, discharge and fix the compensation of an executive director, tax referees, a clerk, and such other clerical, professional and technical assistants as may be necessary. Tax referees shall not be subject to chapter 41.06 RCW. [1988 c 222 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 36.]

**82.03.080 Chairman.** The board shall as soon as practicable after the initial appointment of the members thereof, meet and elect from among its members a chairman, and shall at least biennially thereafter meet and elect such a chairman. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 37.]

**82.03.090 Office of board—Quorum—Hearings.** The principal office of the board shall be at the state capital, but it may sit or hold hearings at any other place in the state. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for making orders or decisions, promulgating rules and regulations necessary for the conduct of its powers and duties, or transacting other official business, and may act though one position on the board be vacant. One or more members may hold hearings and take testimony to be reported for action by the board when authorized by rule or order of the board. The board shall perform all the powers and duties specified in this chapter or as otherwise provided by law. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 38.]

**82.03.100 Findings and decisions—Signing—Filing—Public inspection.** The board shall make findings of fact and prepare a written decision in each case decided by it, and such findings and decision shall be effective upon being

signed by two or more members of the board and upon being filed at the board's principal office, and shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 39.]

**82.03.110 Publication of findings and decisions.** The board shall either publish at its expense or make arrangements with a publishing firm for the publication of those of its findings and decisions which are of general public interest, in such form as to assure reasonable distribution thereof. [1967 ex.s. c 26 § 40.]

**82.03.120 Journal of final findings and decisions.** The board shall maintain at its principal office a copy of its final findings and decisions. The findings and decisions shall be available for public inspection at the principal office of the board at all reasonable times. [1988 c 222 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 41.]

**82.03.130 Appeals to board—Jurisdiction as to types of appeals—Filing.** (1) The board shall have jurisdiction to decide the following types of appeals:

(a) Appeals taken pursuant to RCW 82.03.190.

(b) Appeals from a county board of equalization pursuant to RCW 84.08.130.

(c) Appeals by an assessor or landowner from an order of the director of revenue made pursuant to RCW 84.08.010 and 84.08.060, if filed with the board of tax appeals within thirty days after the mailing of the order, the right to such an appeal being hereby established.

(d) Appeals by an assessor or owner of an intercounty public utility or private car company from determinations by the director of revenue of equalized assessed valuation of property and the apportionment thereof to a county made pursuant to chapter 84.12 and 84.16 RCW, if filed with the board of tax appeals within thirty days after mailing of the determination, the right to such appeal being hereby established.

(e) Appeals by an assessor, landowner, or owner of an intercounty public utility or private car company from a determination of any county indicated ratio for such county compiled by the department of revenue pursuant to RCW 84.48.075: PROVIDED, That

(i) Said appeal be filed after review of the ratio under RCW 84.48.075(3) and not later than fifteen days after the mailing of the certification; and

(ii) The hearing before the board shall be expeditiously held in accordance with rules prescribed by the board and shall take precedence over all matters of the same character.

(f) Appeals from the decisions of sale price of second-class shorelands on navigable lakes by the department of natural resources pursuant to \*RCW 79.94.210.

(g) Appeals from urban redevelopment property tax apportionment district proposals established by governmental ordinances pursuant to RCW 39.88.060.

(h) Appeals from interest rates as determined by the department of revenue for use in valuing farmland under current use assessment pursuant to RCW 84.34.065.

(i) Appeals from revisions to stumpage value tables used to determine value by the department of revenue pursuant to RCW 84.33.091.

(j) Appeals from denial of tax exemption application by the department of revenue pursuant to RCW 84.36.850.

(k) Appeals pursuant to RCW 84.40.038(3).

(l) Appeals pursuant to RCW 84.39.020.

(2) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law hereafter, the provisions of RCW 1.12.070 shall apply to all notices of appeal filed with the board of tax appeals. [2005 c 253 § 7; 1998 c 54 § 1; 1994 c 123 § 3; 1992 c 206 § 9; 1989 c 378 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 284 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 42.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 79.94.210 was recodified as RCW 79.125.450 pursuant to 2005 c 155 § 1008.

**Application—2005 c 253:** See note following RCW 84.39.010.

**Purpose—Intent—1977 ex.s. c 284:** See note following RCW 84.48.075.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.03.140 Appeals to board—Election of formal or informal hearing.** In all appeals over which the board has jurisdiction under RCW 82.03.130, a party taking an appeal may elect either a formal or an informal hearing, such election to be made according to rules of practice and procedure to be promulgated by the board: PROVIDED, That nothing shall prevent the assessor or taxpayer, as a party to an appeal pursuant to RCW 84.08.130, within twenty days from the date of the receipt of the notice of appeal, from filing with the clerk of the board notice of intention that the hearing be a formal one: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall be construed to modify the provisions of RCW 82.03.190: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That upon an appeal under RCW 82.03.130(1)(e), the director of revenue may, within ten days from the date of its receipt of the notice of appeal, file with the clerk of the board notice of its intention that the hearing be held pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. In the event that appeals are taken from the same decision, order, or determination, as the case may be, by different parties and only one of such parties elects a formal hearing, a formal hearing shall be granted. [2000 c 103 § 1; 1988 c 222 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 8; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 43.]

**82.03.150 Appeals to board—Informal hearings, powers of board or tax referees—Assistance.** In all appeals involving an informal hearing, the board or its tax referees shall have all powers relating to administration of oaths, issuance of subpoenas, and taking of depositions as are granted to agencies by chapter 34.05 RCW. The board, or its tax referees, shall also have all powers granted the department of revenue pursuant to RCW 82.32.110. In the case of appeals within the scope of RCW 82.03.130(1)(b) the board or any member thereof may obtain such assistance, including the making of field investigations, from the staff of the director of revenue as the board or any member thereof may deem necessary or appropriate. [2000 c 103 § 2; 1988 c 222 § 5; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 44.]

**82.03.160 Appeals to board—Formal hearings, powers of board or tax referees—Assistance.** In all appeals involving a formal hearing the board or its tax referees shall have all powers relating to administration of oaths, issuance of subpoenas, and taking of depositions as are granted to agencies in chapter 34.05 RCW; and the board, and each member thereof, or its tax referees, shall be subject to all duties imposed upon, and shall have all powers granted to an

agency by those provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW relating to adjudicative proceedings. The board, or its tax referees, shall also have all powers granted the department of revenue pursuant to RCW 82.32.110. In the case of appeals within the scope of RCW 82.03.130(1)(b), the board, or any member thereof, may obtain such assistance, including the making of field investigations, from the staff of the director of revenue as the board, or any member thereof, may deem necessary or appropriate: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any communication, oral or written, from the staff of the director to the board or its tax referees shall be presented only in open hearing. [2000 c 103 § 3; 1989 c 175 § 175; 1988 c 222 § 6; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 45.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.03.170 Rules of practice and procedure.** All proceedings, including both formal and informal hearings, before the board or any of its members or tax referees shall be conducted in accordance with such rules of practice and procedure as the board may prescribe. The board shall publish such rules and arrange for the reasonable distribution thereof. [1988 c 222 § 7; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 46.]

**82.03.180 Judicial review.** Judicial review of a decision of the board of tax appeals shall be de novo in accordance with the provisions of RCW 82.32.180 or 84.68.020 as applicable except when the decision has been rendered pursuant to a formal hearing elected under RCW 82.03.140 or 82.03.190, in which event judicial review may be obtained only pursuant to RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall be construed to modify the rights of a taxpayer conferred by RCW 82.32.180 and 84.68.020 to sue for tax refunds: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That no review from a decision made pursuant to RCW 82.03.130(1)(a) may be obtained by a taxpayer unless within the petition period provided by RCW 34.05.542 the taxpayer shall have first paid in full the contested tax, together with all penalties and interest thereon, if any. The director of revenue shall have the same right of review from a decision made pursuant to RCW 82.03.130(1)(a) as does a taxpayer; and the director of revenue and all parties to an appeal under RCW 82.03.130(1)(e) shall have the right of review from a decision made pursuant to RCW 82.03.130(1)(e). [2000 c 103 § 4; 1989 c 175 § 176; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 9; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 47.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.03.190 Appeal to board from denial of petition or notice of determination as to reduction or refund—Procedure—Notice.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, any person having received notice of a denial of a petition or a notice of determination made under RCW 82.32.160, 82.32.170, 82.34.110, or 82.49.060 may appeal by filing in accordance with RCW 1.12.070 a notice of appeal with the board of tax appeals within thirty days after the mailing of the notice of such denial or determination. In the notice of appeal the taxpayer must set forth the amount of the tax which the taxpayer contends should be reduced or refunded and the reasons for such reduction or refund, in accordance with rules of practice and procedure prescribed by the board. However, if the notice of appeal relates to an

application made to the department under chapter 82.34 RCW, the taxpayer must set forth the amount to which the taxpayer claims the credit or exemption should apply, and the grounds for such contention, in accordance with rules of practice and procedure prescribed by the board. The board must transmit a copy of the notice of appeal to the department and all other named parties within thirty days of its receipt by the board. If the taxpayer intends that the hearing before the board be held pursuant to the administrative procedure act (chapter 34.05 RCW), the notice of appeal must also so state. In the event that the notice of appeal does not so state, the department may, within thirty days from the date of its receipt of the notice of appeal, file with the board notice of its intention that the hearing be held pursuant to the administrative procedure act.

(2) No person may file a notice of appeal with the board of tax appeals to contest the amount of spirits taxes assessed or asserted to be due by the department of revenue unless the person has first paid the full amount of the contested spirits taxes. For purposes of this subsection, "spirits taxes" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.155. [2012 c 39 § 3; 1998 c 54 § 2; 1989 c 378 § 5; 1983 c 3 § 211; 1979 ex.s. c 209 § 50; 1975 1st ex.s. c 158 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 48.]

**Construction—Effective date—2012 c 39:** See notes following RCW 82.08.155.

*Review of disputes as to appraised value of watercraft:* RCW 82.49.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.03.200 Appeals from county board of equalization—Evidence submission in advance of hearing.** In all appeals taken pursuant to RCW 84.08.130 the assessor or taxpayer shall submit evidence of comparable sales to be used in a hearing to the board and to all parties at least ten business days in advance of such hearing. Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in this section shall be grounds for the board, upon objection, to continue the hearing or refuse to consider evidence not timely submitted. [1994 c 301 § 17.]

## Chapter 82.04 RCW BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX

### Sections

82.04.010	Introductory.
82.04.020	"Tax year," "taxable year."
82.04.030	"Person," "company."
82.04.035	"Plantation Christmas trees."
82.04.040	"Sale," "casual or isolated sale," "lease or rental."
82.04.050	"Sale at retail," "retail sale."
82.04.051	"Services rendered in respect to"—Taxation of hybrid or subsequent agreements.
82.04.060	"Sale at wholesale," "wholesale sale."
82.04.062	"Sale at wholesale," "sale at retail" excludes sale of precious metal bullion and monetized bullion—Computation of tax.
82.04.065	Telephone, telecommunications, and ancillary services—Definitions.
82.04.066	"Engaging within this state," "engaging within the state."
82.04.067	Substantial nexus—Engaging in business.
82.04.070	"Gross proceeds of sales."
82.04.080	"Gross income of the business."
82.04.090	"Value proceeding or accruing."
82.04.100	"Extractor."
82.04.110	"Manufacturer."
82.04.120	"To manufacture."
82.04.130	"Commercial or industrial use."
82.04.140	"Business."
82.04.150	"Engaging in business."

82.04.160	"Cash discount."	82.04.332	Exemptions—Buying and selling at wholesale unprocessed milk, wheat, oats, dry peas, dry beans, lentils, triticale, canola, corn, rye, and barley.
82.04.170	"Tuition fee."	82.04.333	Exemptions—Small harvesters.
82.04.180	"Successor."	82.04.334	Exemptions—Standing timber.
82.04.190	"Consumer."	82.04.335	Exemptions—Agricultural fairs.
82.04.192	Digital products definitions.	82.04.337	Exemptions—Amounts received by hop growers or dealers for processed hops shipped outside the state.
82.04.200	"In this state," "within this state."	82.04.338	Exemptions—Hop commodity commission or hop commodity board business.
82.04.210	"By-product."	82.04.339	Exemptions—Day care provided by churches.
82.04.212	"Retail store or outlet."	82.04.3395	Exemptions—Child care resource and referral services by nonprofit organizations.
82.04.213	"Agricultural product," "farmer."	82.04.340	Exemptions—Boxing, sparring, or wrestling matches.
82.04.214	"Newspaper."	82.04.350	Exemptions—Racing.
82.04.215	"Computer," "computer software," "custom software," "customization of prewritten computer software," "master copies," "prewritten computer software," "retained rights."	82.04.355	Exemptions—Ride sharing.
82.04.216	Exclusion of steam, electricity, or electrical energy from definition of certain terms.	82.04.360	Exemptions—Employees—Independent contractors—Booth renters.
82.04.217	"Direct service industrial customer," "aluminum smelter."	82.04.363	Exemptions—Camp or conference center—Items sold or furnished by nonprofit organization.
82.04.220	Business and occupation tax imposed.	82.04.3651	Exemptions—Amounts received by nonprofit organizations for fund-raising activities.
82.04.230	Tax upon extractors.	82.04.367	Exemptions—Nonprofit organizations that are guarantee agencies, issue debt, or provide guarantees for student loans.
82.04.240	Tax on manufacturers.	82.04.368	Exemptions—Nonprofit organizations—Credit and debt services.
82.04.2403	Manufacturer tax not applicable to cleaning fish.	82.04.370	Exemptions—Certain fraternal and beneficiary organizations.
82.04.2404	Manufacturers—Processors for hire—Semiconductor materials.	82.04.380	Exemptions—Certain corporations furnishing aid and relief.
82.04.250	Tax on retailers.	82.04.385	Exemptions—Operation of sheltered workshops.
82.04.255	Tax on real estate brokers.	82.04.390	Exemptions—Amounts derived from sale of real estate.
82.04.257	Tax on digital products and services.	82.04.392	Exemptions—Mortgage brokers' third-party provider services trust accounts.
82.04.258	Digital products—Apportionable income.	82.04.395	Exemptions—Certain materials printed in school district and educational service district printing facilities.
82.04.260	Tax on manufacturers and processors of various foods and by-products—Research and development organizations—Travel agents—Certain international activities—Stevedoring and associated activities—Low-level waste disposers—Insurance producers, surplus line brokers, and title insurance agents—Hospitals—Commercial airplane activities—Timber product activities—Canned salmon processors.	82.04.397	Exemptions—Certain materials printed in county, city, or town printing facilities.
82.04.261	Surcharge on timber and wood product manufacturers, extractors, and wholesalers.	82.04.399	Exemptions—Sales of academic transcripts.
82.04.263	Tax on cleaning up radioactive waste and other by-products of weapons production and nuclear research and development.	82.04.405	Exemptions—Credit unions.
82.04.270	Tax on wholesalers.	82.04.408	Exemptions—Housing finance commission.
82.04.272	Tax on warehousing and reselling prescription drugs.	82.04.410	Exemptions—Hatching eggs and poultry.
82.04.280	Tax on printers, publishers, highway contractors, extracting or processing for hire, cold storage warehouse or storage warehouse operation, insurance general agents, radio and television broadcasting, government contractors—Cold storage warehouse defined—Storage warehouse defined—Periodical or magazine defined.	82.04.415	Exemptions—Sand, gravel and rock taken from county or city pits or quarries, processing and handling costs.
82.04.285	Tax on contests of chance.	82.04.416	Exemptions—Operation of state route No. 16.
82.04.286	Tax on horse races.	82.04.418	Exemptions—Grants by United States government to municipal corporations or political subdivisions.
82.04.290	Tax on international investment management services or other business or service activities.	82.04.419	Exemptions—County, city, town, school district, or fire district activity.
82.04.29001	Creation and distribution of custom software—Customization of prewritten computer software—Taxable services.	82.04.4201	Exemptions—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.
82.04.29002	Additional tax on certain business and service activities.	82.04.421	Exemptions—Out-of-state membership sales in discount programs.
82.04.29005	Tax on loan interest—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6.	82.04.422	Exemptions—Wholesale sales of motor vehicles.
82.04.2905	Tax on providing day care.	82.04.423	Exemptions—Sales by certain out-of-state persons to or through direct seller's representatives.
82.04.2906	Tax on certain chemical dependency services.	82.04.424	Exemptions—Certain in-state activities.
82.04.2907	Tax on royalties.	82.04.425	Exemptions—Accommodation sales.
82.04.2908	Tax on provision of room and domiciliary care to assisted living facility residents.	82.04.4251	Exemptions—Convention and tourism promotion.
82.04.2909	Tax on aluminum smelters.	82.04.426	Exemptions—Semiconductor microchips.
82.04.293	International investment management services—Definitions.	82.04.4261	Exemptions—Federal small business innovation research program.
82.04.294	Tax on manufacturers or wholesalers of solar energy systems.	82.04.4262	Exemptions—Federal small business technology transfer program.
82.04.297	Internet access—Definitions.	82.04.4263	Exemptions—Income received by the life sciences discovery fund authority.
82.04.298	Tax on qualified grocery distribution cooperatives.	82.04.4264	Exemptions—Nonprofit assisted living facilities—Room and domiciliary care.
82.04.310	Exemptions—Public utilities—Electrical energy—Natural or manufactured gas.	82.04.4265	Exemptions—Comprehensive cancer centers.
82.04.311	Exemptions—Tobacco settlement authority.	82.04.4266	Exemptions—Fruit and vegetable businesses.
82.04.315	Exemptions—International banking facilities.	82.04.4267	Exemptions—Operation of parking/business improvement areas.
82.04.317	Exemptions—Motor vehicle sales by manufacturers at wholesale auctions to dealers.	82.04.4268	Exemptions—Dairy product businesses.
82.04.320	Exemptions—Insurance business.	82.04.4269	Exemptions—Seafood product businesses.
82.04.322	Exemptions—Health maintenance organization, health care service contractor, certified health plan.	82.04.427	Exemptions and credits—Pollution control facilities.
82.04.324	Exemptions—Qualifying blood, tissue, or blood and tissue banks.	82.04.4271	Deductions—Membership fees and certain service fees by nonprofit youth organization.
82.04.326	Exemptions—Qualified organ procurement organizations.	82.04.4272	Deductions—Direct mail delivery charges.
82.04.327	Exemptions—Adult family homes.	82.04.4274	Deductions—Nonprofit management companies—Personnel performing on-site functions.
82.04.330	Exemptions—Sales of agricultural products.	82.04.4275	Deductions—Child welfare services.
82.04.331	Exemptions—Wholesale sales to farmers of seed for planting, conditioning seed for planting owned by others.	82.04.4277	Deductions—Health and social welfare organizations—Mental health services.
		82.04.4281	Deductions—Investments, dividends, interest on loans.

82.04.4282	Deductions—Fees, dues, charges.	82.04.4486	Credit—Syrup taxes paid by buyer.
82.04.4283	Deductions—Cash discount taken by purchaser.	82.04.4489	Credit—Motion picture competitiveness program.
82.04.4284	Deductions—Bad debts.	82.04.449	Credit—Washington customized employment training program.
82.04.4285	Deductions—Motor vehicle fuel and special fuel taxes.	82.04.4494	Credit—Forest derived biomass.
82.04.4286	Deductions—Nontaxable business.	82.04.450	Value of products, how determined.
82.04.4287	Deductions—Compensation for receiving, washing, etc., horticultural products for person exempt under RCW 82.04.330—Materials and supplies used.	82.04.460	Apportionable income—Taxable in Washington and another state.
82.04.4289	Exemption—Compensation for patient services or attendant sales of drugs dispensed pursuant to prescription by certain nonprofit organizations.	82.04.462	Apportionable income.
82.04.4291	Deductions—Compensation received by a political subdivision from another political subdivision for services taxable under RCW 82.04.290.	82.04.470	Wholesale sale—Reseller permit—Exemption certificates—Burden of proof—Tax liability.
82.04.4292	Deductions—Interest on investments or loans secured by mortgages or deeds of trust.	82.04.480	Sales in own name—Sales as agent.
82.04.4293	Deductions—Interest on obligations of the state, its political subdivisions, and municipal corporations.	82.04.500	Tax part of operating overhead.
82.04.4294	Deductions—Interest on loans to farmers and ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or their cooperatives.	82.04.510	General administrative provisions invoked.
82.04.4295	Deductions—Manufacturing activities completed outside the United States.	82.04.520	Administrative provisions for motor vehicle sales by courtesy dealers.
82.04.4296	Deductions—Reimbursement for accommodation expenditures by funeral homes.	82.04.530	Telecommunications service providers—Calculation of gross proceeds.
82.04.4297	Deductions—Compensation from public entities for health or social welfare services—Exception.	82.04.535	Gross proceeds of sales calculation for mobile telecommunications service provider.
82.04.4298	Deductions—Repair, maintenance, replacement, etc., of residential structures and commonly held property—Eligible organizations.	82.04.540	Professional employer organizations—Taxable under RCW 82.04.290(2)—Deduction.
82.04.431	"Health or social welfare organization" defined—Conditions for exemption—"Health or social welfare services" defined.	82.04.600	Exemptions—Materials printed in county, city, town, school district, educational service district, library or library district.
82.04.4311	Deductions—Compensation received under the federal medicare program by certain hospitals or health centers.	82.04.601	Exemptions—Affixing stamp services for cigarette sales.
82.04.432	Deductions—Municipal sewer service fees or charges.	82.04.610	Exemptions—Import or export commerce.
82.04.4322	Deductions—Artistic or cultural organization—Compensation from United States, state, etc., for artistic or cultural exhibitions, performances, or programs.	82.04.615	Exemptions—Certain limited purpose public corporations, commissions, and authorities.
82.04.4324	Deductions—Artistic or cultural organization—Deduction for tax under RCW 82.04.240—Value of articles for use in displaying art objects or presenting artistic or cultural exhibitions, performances, or programs.	82.04.620	Exemptions—Certain prescription drugs.
82.04.4326	Deductions—Artistic or cultural organizations—Tuition charges for attending artistic or cultural education programs.	82.04.625	Exemptions—Custom farming services.
82.04.4327	Deductions—Artistic and cultural organizations—Income from business activities.	82.04.627	Exemptions—Commercial airplane parts.
82.04.4328	"Artistic or cultural organization" defined.	82.04.629	Exemptions—Honey bee products.
82.04.433	Deductions—Sales of fuel for consumption outside United States' waters by vessels in foreign commerce.	82.04.630	Exemptions—Bee pollination services.
82.04.4331	Deductions—Insurance claims for state health care coverage.	82.04.635	Exemptions—Nonprofits providing legal services to low-income persons.
82.04.4332	Deductions—Tuition fees of foreign degree-granting institutions.	82.04.640	Exemptions—Washington vaccine association—Certain assessments received.
82.04.4333	Credit—Job training services—Approval.	82.04.645	Exemptions—Financial institutions—Amounts received from certain affiliated persons.
82.04.4334	Deductions—Sale or distribution of biodiesel or E85 motor fuels.	82.04.650	Exemptions—Investment conduits and securitization entities.
82.04.4337	Deductions—Certain amounts received by assisted living facilities.	82.04.655	Exemptions—Joint municipal utility services authorities.
82.04.4338	Deductions—Amounts received from sale, lease, or rental of electrification systems.	82.04.750	Exemptions—Restaurant employee meals.
82.04.4339	Deductions—Grants to support salmon restoration.	82.04.900	Construction—1961 c 15.
82.04.43391	Deductions—Commercial aircraft loan interest and fees.		
82.04.43392	Deductions—Qualified dispute resolution centers.		
82.04.434	Credit—Public safety standards and testing.		
82.04.440	Credit—Persons taxable on multiple activities.		
82.04.4451	Credit against tax due—Maximum credit—Table.		
82.04.4452	Credit—Research and development spending.		
82.04.44525	Credit—New employment for international service activities in eligible areas—Designation of census tracts for eligibility—Records—Tax due upon ineligibility—Interest assessment—Information from employment security department.		
82.04.4461	Credit—Preproduction development expenditures.		
82.04.4463	Credit—Property and leasehold taxes paid on property used for manufacture of commercial airplanes.		
82.04.447	Credit—Natural or manufactured gas purchased by direct service industrial customers—Reports.		
82.04.448	Credit—Manufacturing semiconductor materials.		
82.04.4481	Credit—Property taxes paid by aluminum smelter.		
82.04.4482	Credit—Sales of electricity or gas to an aluminum smelter.		
82.04.4483	Credit—Programming or manufacturing software in rural counties.		
82.04.4485	Credit—Mechanical lifting devices purchased by hospitals.		
			<i>Admission tax</i>
			<i>cities: RCW 35.21.280.</i>
			<i>counties: Chapter 36.38 RCW.</i>
			<i>Commute trip reduction incentives: Chapter 82.70 RCW.</i>
			<i>Housing authorities, tax exemption: Chapter 35.82 RCW.</i>
			<i>Public utility districts, privilege taxes: Chapter 54.28 RCW.</i>
			<b>82.04.010 Introductory.</b> Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions set forth in the sections preceding RCW 82.04.220 apply throughout this chapter. [1996 c 93 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.010. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 2; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]
			<b>82.04.020 "Tax year," "taxable year."</b> "Tax year" or "taxable year" means either the calendar year, or the taxpayer's fiscal year when permission is obtained from the department of revenue to use a fiscal year in lieu of the calendar year. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 39; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.020. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 3; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1937 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.030 "Person," "company."** "Person" or "company", herein used interchangeably, means any individual, receiver, administrator, executor, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm, copartnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state of Washington, corporation, limited liability company, association, society, or any group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative, fraternal, nonprofit, or otherwise and the United States or any instrumentality thereof. [1995 c 318 § 1; 1963 ex.s. c 28 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.030. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 4; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

*International companies investing in Washington—Eligibility for excise tax incentives: RCW 43.330.068.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.035 "Plantation Christmas trees."** "Plantation Christmas trees" means Christmas trees which are exempt from the timber excise tax under RCW 84.33.170. [1987 c 23 § 1.]

**82.04.040 "Sale," "casual or isolated sale," "lease or rental."** (1) "Sale" means any transfer of the ownership of, title to, or possession of property for a valuable consideration and includes any activity classified as a "sale at retail" or "retail sale" under RCW 82.04.050. It includes lease or rental, conditional sale contracts, and any contract under which possession of the property is given to the purchaser but title is retained by the vendor as security for the payment of the purchase price. It also includes the furnishing of food, drink, or meals for compensation whether consumed upon the premises or not.

(2) "Casual or isolated sale" means a sale made by a person who is not engaged in the business of selling the type of property involved.

(3)(a) "Lease or rental" means any transfer of possession or control of tangible personal property for a fixed or indeterminate term for consideration. A lease or rental may include future options to purchase or extend. "Lease or rental" includes agreements covering motor vehicles and trailers where the amount of consideration may be increased or decreased by reference to the amount realized upon sale or disposition of the property as defined in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 7701(h)(1), as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003. The definition in this subsection (3) shall be used for sales and use tax purposes regardless if a transaction is characterized as a lease or rental under generally accepted accounting principles, the United States internal revenue code, Washington state's commercial code, or other provisions of federal, state, or local law.

(b) "Lease or rental" does not include:

(i) A transfer of possession or control of property under a security agreement or deferred payment plan that requires the transfer of title upon completion of the required payments;

(ii) A transfer of possession or control of property under an agreement that requires the transfer of title upon completion of required payments, and payment of an option price

does not exceed the greater of one hundred dollars or one percent of the total required payments; or

(iii) Providing tangible personal property along with an operator for a fixed or indeterminate period of time. A condition of this exclusion is that the operator is necessary for the tangible personal property to perform as designed. For the purpose of this subsection (3)(b)(iii), an operator must do more than maintain, inspect, or set up the tangible personal property. [2004 c 153 § 402; 2003 c 168 § 103; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.040. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 1; 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1955 c 389 § 5; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.04.050 "Sale at retail," "retail sale."** (1)(a) "Sale at retail" or "retail sale" means every sale of tangible personal property (including articles produced, fabricated, or imprinted) to all persons irrespective of the nature of their business and including, among others, without limiting the scope hereof, persons who install, repair, clean, alter, improve, construct, or decorate real or personal property of or for consumers other than a sale to a person who:

(i) Purchases for the purpose of resale as tangible personal property in the regular course of business without intervening use by such person, but a purchase for the purpose of resale by a regional transit authority under RCW 81.112.300 is not a sale for resale; or

(ii) Installs, repairs, cleans, alters, imprints, improves, constructs, or decorates real or personal property of or for consumers, if such tangible personal property becomes an ingredient or component of such real or personal property without intervening use by such person; or

(iii) Purchases for the purpose of consuming the property purchased in producing for sale as a new article of tangible personal property or substance, of which such property becomes an ingredient or component or is a chemical used in processing, when the primary purpose of such chemical is to create a chemical reaction directly through contact with an ingredient of a new article being produced for sale; or

(iv) Purchases for the purpose of consuming the property purchased in producing ferrosilicon which is subsequently used in producing magnesium for sale, if the primary purpose of such property is to create a chemical reaction directly through contact with an ingredient of ferrosilicon; or

(v) Purchases for the purpose of providing the property to consumers as part of competitive telephone service, as defined in RCW 82.04.065; or

(vi) Purchases for the purpose of satisfying the person's obligations under an extended warranty as defined in subsection (7) of this section, if such tangible personal property replaces or becomes an ingredient or component of property covered by the extended warranty without intervening use by such person.

(b) The term includes every sale of tangible personal property that is used or consumed or to be used or consumed in the performance of any activity defined as a "sale at retail"

or "retail sale" even though such property is resold or used as provided in (a)(i) through (vi) of this subsection following such use.

(c) The term also means every sale of tangible personal property to persons engaged in any business that is taxable under RCW 82.04.280(1) (a), (b), and (g), 82.04.290, and 82.04.2908.

(2) The term "sale at retail" or "retail sale" includes the sale of or charge made for tangible personal property consumed and/or for labor and services rendered in respect to the following:

(a) The installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, imprinting, or improving of tangible personal property of or for consumers, including charges made for the mere use of facilities in respect thereto, but excluding charges made for the use of self-service laundry facilities, and also excluding sales of laundry service to nonprofit health care facilities, and excluding services rendered in respect to live animals, birds and insects;

(b) The constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving of new or existing buildings or other structures under, upon, or above real property of or for consumers, including the installing or attaching of any article of tangible personal property therein or thereto, whether or not such personal property becomes a part of the realty by virtue of installation, and also includes the sale of services or charges made for the clearing of land and the moving of earth excepting the mere leveling of land used in commercial farming or agriculture;

(c) The constructing, repairing, or improving of any structure upon, above, or under any real property owned by an owner who conveys the property by title, possession, or any other means to the person performing such construction, repair, or improvement for the purpose of performing such construction, repair, or improvement and the property is then reconveyed by title, possession, or any other means to the original owner;

(d) The cleaning, fumigating, razing, or moving of existing buildings or structures, but does not include the charge made for janitorial services; and for purposes of this section the term "janitorial services" means those cleaning and caretaking services ordinarily performed by commercial janitor service businesses including, but not limited to, wall and window washing, floor cleaning and waxing, and the cleaning in place of rugs, drapes and upholstery. The term "janitorial services" does not include painting, papering, repairing, furnace or septic tank cleaning, snow removal or sandblasting;

(e) Automobile towing and similar automotive transportation services, but not in respect to those required to report and pay taxes under chapter 82.16 RCW;

(f) The furnishing of lodging and all other services by a hotel, rooming house, tourist court, motel, trailer camp, and the granting of any similar license to use real property, as distinguished from the renting or leasing of real property, and it is presumed that the occupancy of real property for a continuous period of one month or more constitutes a rental or lease of real property and not a mere license to use or enjoy the same. For the purposes of this subsection, it is presumed that the sale of and charge made for the furnishing of lodging for a continuous period of one month or more to a person is a rental or lease of real property and not a mere license to enjoy the same;

(g) The installing, repairing, altering, or improving of digital goods for consumers;

(h) Persons taxable under (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of this subsection when such sales or charges are for property, labor and services which are used or consumed in whole or in part by such persons in the performance of any activity defined as a "sale at retail" or "retail sale" even though such property, labor and services may be resold after such use or consumption. Nothing contained in this subsection may be construed to modify subsection (1) of this section and nothing contained in subsection (1) of this section may be construed to modify this subsection.

(3) The term "sale at retail" or "retail sale" includes the sale of or charge made for personal, business, or professional services including amounts designated as interest, rents, fees, admission, and other service emoluments however designated, received by persons engaging in the following business activities:

(a) Amusement and recreation services including but not limited to golf, pool, billiards, skating, bowling, ski lifts and tows, day trips for sightseeing purposes, and others, when provided to consumers;

(b) Abstract, title insurance, and escrow services;

(c) Credit bureau services;

(d) Automobile parking and storage garage services;

(e) Landscape maintenance and horticultural services but excluding (i) horticultural services provided to farmers and (ii) pruning, trimming, repairing, removing, and clearing of trees and brush near electric transmission or distribution lines or equipment, if performed by or at the direction of an electric utility;

(f) Service charges associated with tickets to professional sporting events; and

(g) The following personal services: Physical fitness services, tanning salon services, tattoo parlor services, steam bath services, turkish bath services, escort services, and dating services.

(4)(a) The term also includes the renting or leasing of tangible personal property to consumers.

(b) The term does not include the renting or leasing of tangible personal property where the lease or rental is for the purpose of sublease or subrent.

(5) The term also includes the providing of "competitive telephone service," "telecommunications service," or "ancillary services," as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065, to consumers.

(6)(a) The term also includes the sale of prewritten computer software to a consumer, regardless of the method of delivery to the end user. For purposes of this subsection (6)(a), the sale of prewritten computer software includes the sale of or charge made for a key or an enabling or activation code, where the key or code is required to activate prewritten computer software and put the software into use. There is no separate sale of the key or code from the prewritten computer software, regardless of how the sale may be characterized by the vendor or by the purchaser.

The term "retail sale" does not include the sale of or charge made for:

(i) Custom software; or

(ii) The customization of prewritten computer software.

(b)(i) The term also includes the charge made to consumers for the right to access and use prewritten computer software, where possession of the software is maintained by the seller or a third party, regardless of whether the charge for the service is on a per use, per user, per license, subscription, or some other basis.

(ii)(A) The service described in (b)(i) of this subsection (6) includes the right to access and use prewritten computer software to perform data processing.

(B) For purposes of this subsection (6)(b)(ii), "data processing" means the systematic performance of operations on data to extract the required information in an appropriate form or to convert the data to usable information. Data processing includes check processing, image processing, form processing, survey processing, payroll processing, claim processing, and similar activities.

(7) The term also includes the sale of or charge made for an extended warranty to a consumer. For purposes of this subsection, "extended warranty" means an agreement for a specified duration to perform the replacement or repair of tangible personal property at no additional charge or a reduced charge for tangible personal property, labor, or both, or to provide indemnification for the replacement or repair of tangible personal property, based on the occurrence of specified events. The term "extended warranty" does not include an agreement, otherwise meeting the definition of extended warranty in this subsection, if no separate charge is made for the agreement and the value of the agreement is included in the sales price of the tangible personal property covered by the agreement. For purposes of this subsection, "sales price" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.010.

(8)(a) The term also includes the following sales to consumers of digital goods, digital codes, and digital automated services:

(i) Sales in which the seller has granted the purchaser the right of permanent use;

(ii) Sales in which the seller has granted the purchaser a right of use that is less than permanent;

(iii) Sales in which the purchaser is not obligated to make continued payment as a condition of the sale; and

(iv) Sales in which the purchaser is obligated to make continued payment as a condition of the sale.

(b) A retail sale of digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services under this subsection (8) includes any services provided by the seller exclusively in connection with the digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services, whether or not a separate charge is made for such services.

(c) For purposes of this subsection, "permanent" means perpetual or for an indefinite or unspecified length of time. A right of permanent use is presumed to have been granted unless the agreement between the seller and the purchaser specifies or the circumstances surrounding the transaction suggest or indicate that the right to use terminates on the occurrence of a condition subsequent.

(9) The term also includes the charge made for providing tangible personal property along with an operator for a fixed or indeterminate period of time. A consideration of this is that the operator is necessary for the tangible personal property to perform as designed. For the purpose of this subsection (9), an operator must do more than maintain, inspect, or set up the tangible personal property.

(10) The term does not include the sale of or charge made for labor and services rendered in respect to the building, repairing, or improving of any street, place, road, highway, easement, right-of-way, mass public transportation terminal or parking facility, bridge, tunnel, or trestle which is owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state or by the United States and which is used or to be used primarily for foot or vehicular traffic including mass transportation vehicles of any kind.

(11) The term also does not include sales of chemical sprays or washes to persons for the purpose of postharvest treatment of fruit for the prevention of scald, fungus, mold, or decay, nor does it include sales of feed, seed, seedlings, fertilizer, agents for enhanced pollination including insects such as bees, and spray materials to: (a) Persons who participate in the federal conservation reserve program, the environmental quality incentives program, the wetlands reserve program, and the wildlife habitat incentives program, or their successors administered by the United States department of agriculture; (b) farmers for the purpose of producing for sale any agricultural product; and (c) farmers acting under cooperative habitat development or access contracts with an organization exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code or the Washington state department of fish and wildlife to produce or improve wildlife habitat on land that the farmer owns or leases.

(12) The term does not include the sale of or charge made for labor and services rendered in respect to the constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving of new or existing buildings or other structures under, upon, or above real property of or for the United States, any instrumentality thereof, or a county or city housing authority created pursuant to chapter 35.82 RCW, including the installing, or attaching of any article of tangible personal property therein or thereto, whether or not such personal property becomes a part of the realty by virtue of installation. Nor does the term include the sale of services or charges made for the clearing of land and the moving of earth of or for the United States, any instrumentality thereof, or a county or city housing authority. Nor does the term include the sale of services or charges made for cleaning up for the United States, or its instrumentalities, radioactive waste and other by-products of weapons production and nuclear research and development.

(13) The term does not include the sale of or charge made for labor, services, or tangible personal property pursuant to agreements providing maintenance services for bus, rail, or rail fixed guideway equipment when a regional transit authority is the recipient of the labor, services, or tangible personal property, and a transit agency, as defined in RCW 81.104.015, performs the labor or services.

(14) The term does not include the sale for resale of any service described in this section if the sale would otherwise constitute a "sale at retail" and "retail sale" under this section. [2011 c 174 § 202. Prior: 2010 c 112 § 14; 2010 c 111 § 201; 2010 c 106 § 202; prior: 2009 c 563 § 301; 2009 c 535 § 301; prior: 2007 c 54 § 4; 2007 c 6 § 1004; prior: 2005 c 515 § 2; 2005 c 514 § 101; prior: 2004 c 174 § 3; 2004 c 153 § 407; 2003 c 168 § 104; 2002 c 178 § 1; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 23; prior: 1998 c 332 § 2; 1998 c 315 § 1; 1998 c 308 § 1; 1998 c 275 § 1; 1997 c 127 § 1; prior: 1996 c 148 § 1; 1996 c 112

§ 1; 1995 1st sp.s. c 12 § 2; 1995 c 39 § 2; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 301; 1988 c 253 § 1; prior: 1987 c 285 § 1; 1987 c 23 § 2; 1986 c 231 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 25; 1981 c 144 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 90 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 145 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 8 § 1; prior: 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 30; 1969 ex.s. c 255 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 4; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 1; 1963 c 7 § 1; prior: 1961 ex.s. c 24 § 1; 1961 c 293 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.050; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 2; 1957 c 279 § 1; 1955 c 389 § 6; 1953 c 91 § 3; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 28 § 3; 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Purpose—2010 c 111:** "The 2009 legislature enacted Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2075 (chapter 535, Laws of 2009), an act relating to the excise taxation of certain products and services provided or furnished electronically. The bill took effect July 26, 2009.

Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2075, at eighty-five pages, was a comprehensive piece of legislation that made major changes to state and local sales and use taxes, as well as the state business and occupation tax. Moreover, Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2075 was a complex piece of legislation because of the intricate interrelationship between the sales tax and the business and occupation tax and also because the bill affects the taxation of products and services that involve technologies that are changing rapidly.

Because of the complexity and length of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2075, it was the legislature's expectation that, in the course of implementing the bill, ambiguities and unintended consequences would be discovered, which, if not corrected, will unsettle expectations. Thus, the legislature further anticipated that it would need to consider legislation in the 2010 legislative session to address these issues.

Therefore, the purpose of this act is to clarify ambiguities, correct unintended consequences, restore expectations, and conform the law to the original intent of the legislature." [2010 c 111 § 101.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 111:** "(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, this act applies both prospectively and retroactively to July 26, 2009.

(2) Sections 202, 402, and 502 of this act, and those provisions of sections 401 and 501 of this act that eliminate the sales and use tax exemptions in RCW 82.08.02082 and 82.12.02082, apply prospectively only." [2010 c 111 § 902.]

**Effective date—2010 c 111:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2010." [2010 c 111 § 903.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2007 c 54 § 32.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Findings—2005 c 515:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Public entities that receive tax dollars must continuously improve the way they operate and deliver service so citizens receive maximum value for their tax dollars; and

(2) An explicit statement clarifying that no sales or use tax shall apply to the entire charge paid by regional transit authorities for bus or rail combined operations and maintenance agreements that are provided to such authorities in support of their provision of urban transportation or transportation services is necessary to improve efficient service." [2005 c 515 § 1.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Effective date—2004 c 174:** See note following RCW 82.04.2908.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Retroactive application—Effective date—2002 c 178:** See notes following RCW 67.28.180.

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1998 c 332:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29001.

**Intent—1995 1st sp.s. c 12:** "It is the intent of the legislature that massage services be recognized as health care practitioners for the purposes of business and occupation tax application. To achieve this intent massage services are being removed from the definition of sale at retail and retail sale." [1995 1st sp.s. c 12 § 1.]

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1981 c 144:** See notes following RCW 82.16.010.

*Credit for retail sales or use taxes paid to other jurisdictions with respect to property used:* RCW 82.12.035.

*"Services rendered in respect to" defined:* RCW 82.04.051.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.051 "Services rendered in respect to"—Taxation of hybrid or subsequent agreements.** (1) As used in RCW 82.04.050, the term "services rendered in respect to" means those services that are directly related to the constructing, building, repairing, improving, and decorating of buildings or other structures and that are performed by a person who is responsible for the performance of the constructing, building, repairing, improving, or decorating activity. The term does not include services such as engineering, architectural, surveying, flagging, accounting, legal, consulting, or administrative services provided to the consumer of, or person responsible for performing, the constructing, building, repairing, improving, or decorating services.

(2) A contract or agreement under which a person is responsible for both services that would otherwise be subject to tax as a service under RCW 82.04.290(2) and also constructing, building, repairing, improving, or decorating activities that would otherwise be subject to tax under another section of this chapter is subject to the tax that applies to the predominant activity under the contract or agreement.

(3) Unless otherwise provided by law, a contract or agreement under which a person is responsible for activities that are subject to tax as a service under RCW 82.04.290(2), and a subsequent contract or agreement under which the same person is responsible for constructing, building, repairing, improving, or decorating activities subject to tax under another section of this chapter, shall not be combined and taxed as a single activity if at the time of the first contract or agreement it was not contemplated by the parties, as evidenced by the facts, that the same person would be awarded both contracts.

(4) As used in this section "responsible for the performance" means that the person is obligated to perform the activities, either personally or through a third party. A person who reviews work for a consumer, retailer, or wholesaler but does not supervise or direct the work is not responsible for the performance of the work. A person who is financially obligated for the work, such as a bank, but who does not have

control over the work itself is not responsible for the performance of the work. [1999 c 212 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 212:** "(1) The legislature finds that the taxation of "services rendered in respect to constructing buildings or other structures" has generally included the entire transaction for construction, including certain services provided directly to the consumer or owner rather than the person engaged in the performance of the constructing activity. Changes in business practices and recent administrative and court decisions have confused the issue. It is the intent of the legislature to clarify which services, if standing alone and not part of the construction agreement, are taxed as retail or wholesale sales, and which services will continue to be taxed as a service.

(2) It is further the intent of the legislature to confirm that the entire price for the construction of a building or other structure for a consumer or owner continues to be a retail sale, even though some of the individual services reflected in the price, if provided alone, would be taxed as services and not as separate retail or wholesale sales.

(3) Therefore, the intent of this act is to maintain the application of the law and not to extend retail treatment to activities not previously treated as retail activities. Services that are otherwise subject to tax as a service under RCW 82.04.290(2), including but not limited to engineering, architectural, surveying, flagging, accounting, legal, consulting, or administrative services, remain subject to tax as a service under RCW 82.04.290(2), if the person responsible for the performance of those services is not also responsible for the performance of the constructing, building, repairing, improving, or decorating activities. Additionally, unless otherwise provided by law, a person entering into an agreement to be responsible for the performance of services otherwise subject to tax as a service under RCW 82.04.290(2), and subsequently entering into a separate agreement to be responsible for the performance of constructing, building, repairing, improving, or decorating activities, is subject to tax as a service under RCW 82.04.290(2) with respect to the first agreement, and is subject to tax under the appropriate section of chapter 82.04 RCW with respect to the second agreement, if at the time of the first agreement there was no contemplation by the parties, as evidenced by the facts, that the agreements would be awarded to the same person." [1999 c 212 § 1.]

### **82.04.060 "Sale at wholesale," "wholesale sale."**

"Sale at wholesale" or "wholesale sale" means:

- (1) Any sale, which is not a sale at retail, of:
  - (a) Tangible personal property;
  - (b) Services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(2) (a) or (g);
  - (c) Amusement or recreation services as defined in RCW 82.04.050(3)(a);
  - (d) Prewritten computer software;
  - (e) Services described in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b);
  - (f) Extended warranties as defined in RCW 82.04.050(7);
  - (g) Competitive telephone service, ancillary services, or telecommunications service as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065; or
  - (h) Digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services;
- (2) Any charge made for labor and services rendered for persons who are not consumers, in respect to real or personal property, if such charge is expressly defined as a retail sale by RCW 82.04.050 when rendered to or for consumers. For the purposes of this subsection (2), "real or personal property" does not include any natural products named in RCW 82.04.100; and

(3) The sale of any service for resale, if the sale is excluded from the definition of "sale at retail" and "retail sale" in RCW 82.04.050(14). [2010 c 106 § 203; 2009 c 535 § 403; 2007 c 6 § 1007; 2005 c 514 § 102; 2002 c 367 § 1; 1998 c 332 § 5; 1996 c 148 § 3; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 26; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.060. Prior: 1955 ex.s. c 10 § 4; 1955 c 389 § 7; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156

(2012 Ed.)

§ 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Severability—2002 c 367:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2002 c 367 § 7.]

**Effective date—2002 c 367:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect June 1, 2002." [2002 c 367 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1998 c 332:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.062 "Sale at wholesale," "sale at retail" excludes sale of precious metal bullion and monetized bullion—Computation of tax.** (1) For purposes of this chapter, "wholesale sale," "sale at wholesale," "retail sale," and "sale at retail" do not include the sale of precious metal bullion or monetized bullion.

(2) In computing tax under this chapter on the business of making sales of precious metal bullion or monetized bullion, the tax shall be imposed on the amounts received as commissions upon transactions for the accounts of customers over and above the amount paid to other dealers associated in such transactions, but no deduction or offset is allowed on account of salaries or commissions paid to salesmen or other employees.

(3) For purposes of this section, "precious metal bullion" means any precious metal which has been put through a process of smelting or refining, including, but not limited to, gold, silver, platinum, rhodium, and palladium, and which is in such state or condition that its value depends upon its contents and not upon its form. For purposes of this section, "monetized bullion" means coins or other forms of money manufactured from gold, silver, or other metals and heretofore, now, or hereafter used as a medium of exchange under the laws of this state, the United States, or any foreign nation, but does not include coins or money sold to be manufactured into jewelry or works of art. [1985 c 471 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.065 Telephone, telecommunications, and ancillary services—Definitions.** (1) "800 service" means a telecommunications service that allows a caller to dial a toll-free number without incurring a charge for the call. The service is typically marketed under the name "800," "855," "866," "877," and "888" toll-free calling, and any subsequent numbers designated by the federal communications commission.

(2) "900 service" means an inbound toll "telecommunications service" purchased by a subscriber that allows the subscriber's customers to call in to the subscriber's prere-

corded announcement or live service. "900 service" does not include the charge for: Collection services provided by the seller of the telecommunications services to the subscriber, or services or products sold by the subscriber to the subscriber's customer. The service is typically marketed under the name "900" service, and any subsequent numbers designated by the federal communications commission.

(3) "Ancillary services" means services that are associated with or incidental to the provision of "telecommunications services," including but not limited to "detailed telecommunications billing," "directory assistance," "vertical service," and "voice mail services."

(4) "Charges for mobile telecommunications services" means any charge for, or associated with, the provision of commercial mobile radio service, as defined in section 20.3, Title 47 C.F.R. as in effect on June 1, 1999, or any charge for, or associated with, a service provided as an adjunct to a commercial mobile radio service, regardless of whether individual transmissions originate or terminate within the licensed service area of the mobile telecommunications service provider.

(5) "Competitive telephone service" means the providing by any person of telecommunications equipment or apparatus, or service related to that equipment or apparatus such as repair or maintenance service, if the equipment or apparatus is of a type which can be provided by persons that are not subject to regulation as telephone companies under Title 80 RCW and for which a separate charge is made.

(6) "Conference-bridging service" means an ancillary service that links two or more participants of an audio or videoconference call and may include the provision of a telephone number. "Conference-bridging service" does not include the telecommunications services used to reach the conference bridge.

(7) "Customer" means: (a) The person or entity that contracts with the home service provider for mobile telecommunications services; or (b) the end user of the mobile telecommunications service, if the end user of mobile telecommunications services is not the contracting party, but this subsection (7)(b) applies only for the purpose of determining the place of primary use. The term does not include a reseller of mobile telecommunications service, or a serving carrier under an arrangement to serve the customer outside the home service provider's licensed service area.

(8) "Designated database provider" means a person representing all the political subdivisions of the state that is:

(a) Responsible for providing an electronic database prescribed in 4 U.S.C. Sec. 119(a) if the state has not provided an electronic database; and

(b) Approved by municipal and county associations or leagues of the state whose responsibility it would otherwise be to provide a database prescribed by 4 U.S.C. Secs. 116 through 126.

(9) "Detailed telecommunications billing service" means an ancillary service of separately stating information pertaining to individual calls on a customer's billing statement.

(10) "Directory assistance" means an ancillary service of providing telephone number information, and/or address information.

(11) "Enhanced zip code" means a United States postal zip code of nine or more digits.

(12) "Fixed wireless service" means a telecommunications service that provides radio communication between fixed points.

(13) "Home service provider" means the facilities-based carrier or reseller with whom the customer contracts for the provision of mobile telecommunications services.

(14) "Licensed service area" means the geographic area in which the home service provider is authorized by law or contract to provide commercial mobile radio service to the customer.

(15) "Mobile telecommunications service" means commercial mobile radio service, as defined in section 20.3, Title 47 C.F.R. as in effect on June 1, 1999.

(16) "Mobile telecommunications service provider" means a home service provider or a serving carrier.

(17) "Mobile wireless service" means a telecommunications service that is transmitted, conveyed, or routed regardless of the technology used, whereby the origination and/or termination points of the transmission, conveyance, or routing are not fixed, including, by way of example only, telecommunications services that are provided by a commercial mobile radio service provider.

(18) "Paging service" means a telecommunications service that provides transmission of coded radio signals for the purpose of activating specific pagers; these transmissions may include messages and/or sounds.

(19) "Place of primary use" means the street address representative of where the customer's use of the mobile telecommunications service primarily occurs, which must be:

(a) The residential street address or the primary business street address of the customer; and

(b) Within the licensed service area of the home service provider.

(20) "Prepaid calling service" means the right to access exclusively telecommunications services, which must be paid for in advance and which enable the origination of calls using an access number or authorization code, whether manually or electronically dialed, and that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(21) "Prepaid telephone calling service" means the right to purchase exclusively telecommunications services that must be paid for in advance, that enables the origination of calls using an access number, authorization code, or both, whether manually or electronically dialed, if the remaining amount of units of service that have been prepaid is known by the provider of the prepaid service on a continuous basis.

(22) "Prepaid wireless calling service" means a telecommunications service that provides the right to use mobile wireless service as well as other nontelecommunications services including the download of digital products delivered electronically, content, and ancillary services, which must be paid for in advance and that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(23) "Private communications service" means a telecommunications service that entitles the customer to exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group of channels between or among termination points, regardless of the manner in which the channel or channels are connected, and includes switching capacity, extension lines, stations, and

any other associated services that are provided in connection with the use of the channel or channels.

(24) "Reseller" means a provider who purchases telecommunications services from another telecommunications service provider and then resells, uses as a component part of, or integrates the purchased services into a mobile telecommunications service. "Reseller" does not include a serving carrier with whom a home service provider arranges for the services to its customers outside the home service provider's licensed service area.

(25) "Serving carrier" means a facilities-based carrier providing mobile telecommunications service to a customer outside a home service provider's or reseller's licensed service area.

(26) "Taxing jurisdiction" means any of the several states, the District of Columbia, or any territory or possession of the United States, any municipality, city, county, township, parish, transportation district, or assessment jurisdiction, or other political subdivision within the territorial limits of the United States with the authority to impose a tax, charge, or fee.

(27) "Telecommunications service" means the electronic transmission, conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or any other information or signals to a point, or between or among points. "Telecommunications service" includes such transmission, conveyance, or routing in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, code, or protocol of the content for purposes of transmission, conveyance, or routing without regard to whether such service is referred to as voice over internet protocol services or is classified by the federal communications commission as enhanced or value added. "Telecommunications service" does not include:

(a) Data processing and information services that allow data to be generated, acquired, stored, processed, or retrieved and delivered by an electronic transmission to a purchaser where such purchaser's primary purpose for the underlying transaction is the processed data or information;

(b) Installation or maintenance of wiring or equipment on a customer's premises;

(c) Tangible personal property;

(d) Advertising, including but not limited to directory advertising;

(e) Billing and collection services provided to third parties;

(f) Internet access service;

(g) Radio and television audio and video programming services, regardless of the medium, including the furnishing of transmission, conveyance, and routing of such services by the programming service provider. Radio and television audio and video programming services include but are not limited to cable service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Sec. 522(6) and audio and video programming services delivered by commercial mobile radio service providers, as defined in section 20.3, Title 47 C.F.R.;

(h) Ancillary services;

(i) Digital products delivered electronically, including but not limited to music, video, reading materials, or ring tones; or

(j) Software delivered electronically.

(28) "Value-added nonvoice data service" means a service that otherwise meets the definition of telecommunications services in which computer processing applications are used to act on the form, content, code, or protocol of the information or data primarily for a purpose other than transmission, conveyance, or routing.

(29) "Vertical service" means an ancillary service that is offered in connection with one or more telecommunications services, that offers advanced calling features that allow customers to identify callers and to manage multiple calls and call connections, including conference-bridging services.

(30) "Voice mail service" means an ancillary service that enables the customer to store, send, or receive recorded messages. "Voice mail service" does not include any vertical services that the customer may be required to have in order to use the voice mail service. [2009 c 535 § 413; 2007 c 6 § 1003; 2007 c 6 § 1002; 2002 c 67 § 2; 1997 c 304 § 5; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 24.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**\*Contingent effective date—2007 c 6 §§ 1003, 1006, 1014, and 1018:** "Sections 1003, 1006, 1014, and 1018 of this act take effect the later of: The date chapter 67, Laws of 2002, becomes null and void; or July 1, 2008." [2007 c 6 § 1707.]

**\*Reviser's note:** 2002 C 67 § 18 was repealed by 2007 c 54 § 2 without cognizance of its amendment by 2007 c 6 § 1701. That section has been decodified for publication purposes under RCW 1.12.025.

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**Findings—Severability—Effective date—1997 c 304:** See notes following RCW 35.21.717.

*License fees or taxes on telephone business by cities:* RCW 35.21.712 through 35.21.715.

*Sales tax exemption for certain telephone, telecommunications, and ancillary services:* RCW 82.08.0289.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.066 "Engaging within this state," "engaging within the state."** "Engaging within this state" and "engaging within the state," when used in connection with any apportionable activity as defined in RCW 82.04.460, means that a person generates gross income of the business from sources within this state, such as customers or intangible property located in this state, regardless of whether the person is physically present in this state. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 103.]

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**82.04.067 Substantial nexus—Engaging in business.**

(1) A person engaging in business is deemed to have substantial nexus with this state if the person is:

(a) An individual and is a resident or domiciliary of this state;

(b) A business entity and is organized or commercially domiciled in this state; or

(c) A nonresident individual or a business entity that is organized or commercially domiciled outside this state, and in any tax year the person has:

(i) More than fifty thousand dollars of property in this state;

(ii) More than fifty thousand dollars of payroll in this state;

(iii) More than two hundred fifty thousand dollars of receipts from this state; or

(iv) At least twenty-five percent of the person's total property, total payroll, or total receipts in this state.

(2)(a) Property counting toward the thresholds in subsection (1)(c)(i) and (iv) of this section is the average value of the taxpayer's property, including intangible property, owned or rented and used in this state during the tax year.

(b)(i) Property owned by the taxpayer, other than loans and credit card receivables owned by the taxpayer, is valued at its original cost basis. Loans and credit card receivables owned by the taxpayer are valued at their outstanding principal balance, without regard to any reserve for bad debts. However, if a loan or credit card receivable is charged off in whole or in part for federal income tax purposes, the portion of the loan or credit card receivable charged off is deducted from the outstanding principal balance.

(ii) Property rented by the taxpayer is valued at eight times the net annual rental rate. For purposes of this subsection, "net annual rental rate" means the annual rental rate paid by the taxpayer less any annual rental rate received by the taxpayer from subrentals.

(c) The average value of property must be determined by averaging the values at the beginning and ending of the tax year; but the department may require the averaging of monthly values during the tax year if reasonably required to properly reflect the average value of the taxpayer's property.

(d)(i) For purposes of this subsection (2), loans and credit card receivables are deemed owned and used in this state as follows:

(A) Loans secured by real property, personal property, or both real and personal property, are deemed owned and used in the state if the real property or personal property securing the loan is located within this state. If the property securing the loan is located both within this state and one or more other states, the loan is deemed owned and used in this state if more than fifty percent of the fair market value of the real or personal property is located within this state. If more than fifty percent of the fair market value of the real or personal property is not located within any one state, then the loan is deemed owned and used in this state if the borrower is located in this state. The determination of whether the real or personal property securing a loan is located within this state must be made, as of the time the original agreement was made, and any and all subsequent substitutions of collateral must be disregarded.

(B) Loans not secured by real or personal property are deemed owned and used in this state if the borrower is located in this state.

(C) Credit card receivables are deemed owned and used in this state if the billing address of the cardholder is in this state.

(ii)(A) Except as otherwise provided in (d)(ii)(B) of this subsection (2), the definitions in the multistate tax commission's recommended formula for the apportionment and allocation of net income of financial institutions as existing on June 1, 2010, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section, apply to this section.

(B) "Credit card" means a card or device existing for the purpose of obtaining money, property, labor, or services on credit.

(e) Notwithstanding anything else to the contrary in this subsection, property counting toward the thresholds in subsection (1)(c)(i) and (iv) of this section does not include a person's ownership of, or rights in, computer software as defined in RCW 82.04.215, including computer software used in providing a digital automated service; master copies of software; and digital goods and digital codes residing on servers located in this state.

(3)(a) Payroll counting toward the thresholds in subsection (1)(c)(ii) and (iv) of this section is the total amount paid by the taxpayer for compensation in this state during the tax year plus nonemployee compensation paid to representative third parties in this state. Nonemployee compensation paid to representative third parties includes the gross amount paid to nonemployees who represent the taxpayer in interactions with the taxpayer's clients and includes sales commissions.

(b) Employee compensation is paid in this state if the compensation is properly reportable to this state for unemployment compensation tax purposes, regardless of whether the compensation was actually reported to this state.

(c) Nonemployee compensation is paid in this state if the service performed by the representative third party occurs entirely or primarily within this state.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, "compensation" means wages, salaries, commissions, and any other form of remuneration paid to employees or nonemployees and defined as gross income under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 61 of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as existing on June 1, 2010.

(4) Receipts counting toward the thresholds in subsection (1)(c)(iii) and (iv) of this section are those amounts included in the numerator of the receipts factor under RCW 82.04.462 and, for financial institutions, those amounts included in the numerator of the receipts factor under the rule adopted by the department as authorized in RCW 82.04.460(2).

(5)(a) Each December, the department must review the cumulative percentage change in the consumer price index. The department must adjust the thresholds in subsection (1)(c)(i) through (iii) of this section if the consumer price index has changed by five percent or more since the later of June 1, 2010, or the date that the thresholds were last adjusted under this subsection. For purposes of determining the cumulative percentage change in the consumer price index, the department must compare the consumer price index available as of December 1st of the current year with the consumer price index as of the later of June 1, 2010, or the date that the thresholds were last adjusted under this subsection. The thresholds must be adjusted to reflect that cumulative percentage change in the consumer price index. The adjusted thresholds must be rounded to the nearest one thousand dol-

lars. Any adjustment will apply to tax periods that begin after the adjustment is made.

(b) As used in this subsection, "consumer price index" means the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) available from the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of labor.

(6) Subsections (1) through (5) of this section only apply with respect to the taxes imposed under this chapter on apportionable activities as defined in RCW 82.04.460. For purposes of the taxes imposed under this chapter on any activity not included in the definition of apportionable activities in RCW 82.04.460, a person is deemed to have a substantial nexus with this state if the person has a physical presence in this state, which need only be demonstrably more than a slightest presence. For purposes of this subsection, a person is physically present in this state if the person has property or employees in this state. A person is also physically present in this state if the person, either directly or through an agent or other representative, engages in activities in this state that are significantly associated with the person's ability to establish or maintain a market for its products in this state. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 104.]

**Contingency—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** "If a court of competent jurisdiction, in a final judgment not subject to appeal, adjudges any provision of section 104(1)(c) of this act unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, Part I of this act is null and void in its entirety." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1701.]

**Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** "Part I of this act applies with respect to gross income of the business, as defined in RCW 82.04.080, including gross income from royalties as defined in RCW 82.04.2907, generated on and after June 1, 2010. For purposes of calculating the thresholds in section 104(1)(c) of this act for the 2010 tax year, property, payroll, and receipts are based on the entire 2010 tax year." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1702.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.04.070 "Gross proceeds of sales."** "Gross proceeds of sales" means the value proceeding or accruing from the sale of tangible personal property, digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, and/or for other services rendered, without any deduction on account of the cost of property sold, the cost of materials used, labor costs, interest, discount paid, delivery costs, taxes, or any other expense whatsoever paid or accrued and without any deduction on account of losses. [2009 c 535 § 404; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.070. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 8; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.04.080 "Gross income of the business."** (1) "Gross income of the business" means the value proceeding or accruing by reason of the transaction of the business engaged in and includes gross proceeds of sales, compensation for the rendition of services, gains realized from trading in stocks, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness, interest, discount, rents, royalties, fees, commissions, dividends, and other emoluments however designated, all without any deduction on account of the cost of tangible property sold, the cost of materials used, labor costs, interest, discount, delivery costs,

taxes, or any other expense whatsoever paid or accrued and without any deduction on account of losses.

(2) Financial institutions must determine gains realized from trading in stocks, bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness on a net annualized basis. For purposes of this subsection, a financial institution means a person within the scope of the rule adopted by the department under the authority of RCW 82.04.460(2). [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 109; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.080. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 9; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.04.090 "Value proceeding or accruing."** "Value proceeding or accruing" means the consideration, whether money, credits, rights, or other property expressed in terms of money, actually received or accrued. The term shall be applied, in each case, on a cash receipts or accrual basis according to which method of accounting is regularly employed in keeping the books of the taxpayer. However, persons operating grain warehouses licensed under chapter 22.09 RCW may elect to report the value proceeding or accruing from grain warehouse operations on either a cash receipts or accrual basis. The department of revenue may provide by regulation that the value proceeding or accruing from sales on the installment plan under conditional contracts of sale may be reported as of the dates when the payments become due. [2001 c 20 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 40; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.090. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 10; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.100 "Extractor."** "Extractor" means every person who from the person's own land or from the land of another under a right or license granted by lease or contract, either directly or by contracting with others for the necessary labor or mechanical services, for sale or for commercial or industrial use mines, quarries, takes or produces coal, oil, natural gas, ore, stone, sand, gravel, clay, mineral or other natural resource product, or fells, cuts or takes timber, Christmas trees other than plantation Christmas trees, or other natural products, or takes fish, shellfish, or other sea or inland water foods or products. "Extractor" does not include persons performing under contract the necessary labor or mechanical services for others; or persons meeting the definition of farmer under RCW 82.04.213. [2001 c 118 § 1; 1987 c 23 § 3; 1985 c 148 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.100. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 11; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

*Withdrawal of gas from underground reservoir not deemed taking or producing under RCW 82.04.100: RCW 80.40.010.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.110 "Manufacturer."** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, "manufacturer" means every person who, either directly or by contracting with others for the necessary labor or mechanical services, manufactures for sale or for commercial or industrial use from his or her own materials or ingredients any articles, substances, or commodities.

(2)(a) When the owner of equipment or facilities furnishes, or sells to the customer prior to manufacture, all or a portion of the materials that become a part or whole of the manufactured article, the department shall prescribe equitable rules for determining tax liability.

(b) A person who produces aluminum master alloys is a processor for hire rather than a manufacturer, regardless of the portion of the aluminum provided by that person's customer. For the purposes of this subsection (2)(b), "aluminum master alloy" means an alloy registered with the aluminum association as a grain refiner or a hardener alloy using the American national standards institute designating system H35.3.

(3) A nonresident of this state who is the owner of materials processed for it in this state by a processor for hire shall not be deemed to be engaged in business in this state as a manufacturer because of the performance of such processing work for it in this state.

(4) The owner of materials from which a nuclear fuel assembly is made for it by a processor for hire shall not be subject to tax under this chapter as a manufacturer of the fuel assembly.

(5) For purposes of this section, the terms "articles," "substances," "materials," "ingredients," and "commodities" do not include digital goods. [2009 c 535 § 405; 1997 c 453 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 186 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.110. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 12; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.120 "To manufacture."** (1) "To manufacture" embraces all activities of a commercial or industrial nature wherein labor or skill is applied, by hand or machinery, to materials so that as a result thereof a new, different or useful substance or article of tangible personal property is produced for sale or commercial or industrial use, and includes:

(a) The production or fabrication of special made or custom made articles;

(b) The production or fabrication of dental appliances, devices, restorations, substitutes, or other dental laboratory products by a dental laboratory or dental technician;

(c) Cutting, delimiting, and measuring of felled, cut, or taken trees; and

(d) Crushing and/or blending of rock, sand, stone, gravel, or ore.

(2) "To manufacture" does not include:

(a) Conditioning of seed for use in planting; cubing hay or alfalfa;

(b) Activities which consist of cutting, grading, or ice glazing seafood which has been cooked, frozen, or canned outside this state;

(c) The growing, harvesting, or producing of agricultural products;

(d) Packing of agricultural products, including sorting, washing, rinsing, grading, waxing, treating with fungicide, packaging, chilling, or placing in controlled atmospheric storage;

(e) The production of digital goods;

(f) The production of computer software if the computer software is delivered from the seller to the purchaser by means other than tangible storage media, including the delivery by use of a tangible storage media where the tangible storage media is not physically transferred to the purchaser; and

(g) Any activity that is integral to any public service business as defined in RCW 82.16.010 and with respect to which the gross income associated with such activity: (i) Is subject to tax under chapter 82.16 RCW; or (ii) would be subject to tax under chapter 82.16 RCW if such activity were conducted in this state or if not for an exemption or deduction.

(3) With respect to wastewater treatment facilities:

(a) "To manufacture" does not include the treatment of wastewater, the production of reclaimed water, and the production of class B biosolids; and

(b) "To manufacture" does include the production of class A or exceptional quality biosolids, but only with respect to the processing activities that occur after the biosolids have reached class B standards. [2011 c 23 § 3; 2009 c 535 § 406; 2003 c 168 § 604; 1999 sp.s. c 9 § 1; 1999 c 211 § 2; 1998 c 168 § 1; 1997 c 384 § 1; 1989 c 302 § 201. Prior: 1989 c 302 § 101; 1987 c 493 § 1; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 6; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.120; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 2; 1955 c 389 § 13; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Findings—Application—2011 c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

**Effective date—Construction—2011 c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Intent—1999 sp.s. c 9:** "This act is intended to clarify that this is the intent of the legislature both retroactively and prospectively." [1999 sp.s. c 9 § 4.]

**Intent—1999 c 211 §§ 2 and 3:** "The legislature intends that sections 2 and 3 of this act be clarifying in nature and are retroactive in response to the administrative difficulties encountered in implementing the original legislation." [1999 c 211 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 211:** See note following RCW 82.08.02565.

**Finding—Purpose—1989 c 302:** "(1) The legislature finds that chapter 9, Laws of 1982 2nd ex. sess. was intended to extend state public utility taxation to electrical energy generated in this state for eventual distribution outside this state. The legislature further finds that chapter 9, Laws of 1982 2nd ex. sess. was held unconstitutional by the Thurston county superior court in *Washington Water Power v. State of Washington* (memorandum opinion No. 83-2-00977-1). The purpose of \*Part I of this act is to recognize the effect of that decision by correcting the relevant RCW sections to read as though the legislature had not enacted chapter 9, Laws of 1982 2nd ex. sess.,

and thereby make clear the effect of subsequent amendments in \*Part II of this act.

(2) The purpose of \*Part II of this act is to provide a constitutional means of replacing the revenue lost as a result of the Washington Water Power decision." [1989 c 302 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "Part" division see 1989 c 302.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.130 "Commercial or industrial use."** "Commercial or industrial use" means the following uses of products, including by-products, by the extractor or manufacturer thereof:

(1) Any use as a consumer; and

(2) The manufacturing of articles, substances or commodities. [1967 ex.s. c 149 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.130. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 14; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**82.04.140 "Business."** "Business" includes all activities engaged in with the object of gain, benefit, or advantage to the taxpayer or to another person or class, directly or indirectly. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.140. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 15; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**82.04.150 "Engaging in business."** "Engaging in business" means commencing, conducting, or continuing in business and also the exercise of corporate or franchise powers as well as liquidating a business when the liquidators thereof hold themselves out to the public as conducting such business. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.150. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 16; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**82.04.160 "Cash discount."** "Cash discount" means a deduction from the invoice price of goods or charge for services which is allowed if the bill is paid on or before a specified date. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.160. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 17; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**82.04.170 "Tuition fee."** "Tuition fee" includes library, laboratory, health service and other special fees, and amounts charged for room and board by an educational institution when the property or service for which such charges are made is furnished exclusively to the students or faculty of such institution. "Educational institution," as used in this section, means only those institutions created or generally accredited as such by the state and includes educational programs that such educational institution cosponsors with a nonprofit organization, as defined by the internal revenue code Sec. 501(c)(3), if such educational institution grants college credit for coursework successfully completed through the educational program, or an approved branch campus of a

(2012 Ed.)

foreign degree-granting institution in compliance with chapter 28B.90 RCW, and in accordance with RCW 82.04.4332 or defined as a degree-granting institution under RCW 28B.85.010(3) and accredited by an accrediting association recognized by the United States secretary of education, and offering to students an educational program of a general academic nature or those institutions which are not operated for profit and which are privately endowed under a deed of trust to offer instruction in trade, industry, and agriculture, but not including specialty schools, business colleges, other trade schools, or similar institutions. [1993 sp.s. c 18 § 37; 1993 c 181 § 13; 1992 c 206 § 1; 1985 c 135 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.170. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 18; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 181 § 13 and by 1993 sp.s. c 18 § 37, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.180 "Successor."** (1) "Successor" means:

(a) Any person to whom a taxpayer quitting, selling out, exchanging, or disposing of a business sells or otherwise conveys, directly or indirectly, in bulk and not in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's business, more than fifty percent of the fair market value of either the (i) tangible assets or (ii) intangible assets of the taxpayer; or

(b) A surviving corporation of a statutory merger.

(2) Any person obligated to fulfill the terms of a contract shall be deemed a successor to any contractor defaulting in the performance of any contract as to which such person is a surety or guarantor. [2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 11; 1985 c 414 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.180. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 19; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 63.29.020.

**82.04.190 "Consumer."** "Consumer" means the following:

(1) Any person who purchases, acquires, owns, holds, or uses any article of tangible personal property irrespective of the nature of the person's business and including, among others, without limiting the scope hereof, persons who install, repair, clean, alter, improve, construct, or decorate real or personal property of or for consumers other than for the purpose of:

(a) Resale as tangible personal property in the regular course of business;

(b) Incorporating such property as an ingredient or component of real or personal property when installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, imprinting, improving, constructing, or decorating such real or personal property of or for consumers;

(c) Consuming such property in producing for sale as a new article of tangible personal property or a new substance, of which such property becomes an ingredient or component or as a chemical used in processing, when the primary purpose of such chemical is to create a chemical reaction directly

through contact with an ingredient of a new article being produced for sale;

(d) Consuming the property purchased in producing ferrosilicon which is subsequently used in producing magnesium for sale, if the primary purpose of such property is to create a chemical reaction directly through contact with an ingredient of ferrosilicon; or

(e) Satisfying the person's obligations under an extended warranty as defined in RCW 82.04.050(7), if such tangible personal property replaces or becomes an ingredient or component of property covered by the extended warranty without intervening use by such person;

(2)(a) Any person engaged in any business activity taxable under RCW 82.04.290 or 82.04.2908; (b) any person who purchases, acquires, or uses any competitive telephone service, ancillary services, or telecommunications service as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065, other than for resale in the regular course of business; (c) any person who purchases, acquires, or uses any service defined in RCW 82.04.050(2) (a) or (g), other than for resale in the regular course of business or for the purpose of satisfying the person's obligations under an extended warranty as defined in RCW 82.04.050(7); (d) any person who purchases, acquires, or uses any amusement and recreation service defined in RCW 82.04.050(3)(a), other than for resale in the regular course of business; (e) any person who purchases or acquires an extended warranty as defined in RCW 82.04.050(7) other than for resale in the regular course of business; and (f) any person who is an end user of software. For purposes of this subsection (2)(f) and RCW 82.04.050(6), a person who purchases or otherwise acquires prewritten computer software, who provides services described in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) and who will charge consumers for the right to access and use the prewritten computer software, is not an end user of the prewritten computer software;

(3) Any person engaged in the business of contracting for the building, repairing or improving of any street, place, road, highway, easement, right-of-way, mass public transportation terminal or parking facility, bridge, tunnel, or trestle which is owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state of Washington or by the United States and which is used or to be used primarily for foot or vehicular traffic including mass transportation vehicles of any kind as defined in RCW 82.04.280, in respect to tangible personal property when such person incorporates such property as an ingredient or component of such publicly owned street, place, road, highway, easement, right-of-way, mass public transportation terminal or parking facility, bridge, tunnel, or trestle by installing, placing or spreading the property in or upon the right-of-way of such street, place, road, highway, easement, bridge, tunnel, or trestle or in or upon the site of such mass public transportation terminal or parking facility;

(4) Any person who is an owner, lessee or has the right of possession to or an easement in real property which is being constructed, repaired, decorated, improved, or otherwise altered by a person engaged in business, excluding only (a) municipal corporations or political subdivisions of the state in respect to labor and services rendered to their real property which is used or held for public road purposes, and (b) the United States, instrumentalities thereof, and county and city housing authorities created pursuant to chapter 35.82

RCW in respect to labor and services rendered to their real property. Nothing contained in this or any other subsection of this definition shall be construed to modify any other definition of "consumer";

(5) Any person who is an owner, lessee, or has the right of possession to personal property which is being constructed, repaired, improved, cleaned, imprinted, or otherwise altered by a person engaged in business;

(6) Any person engaged in the business of constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving new or existing buildings or other structures under, upon, or above real property of or for the United States, any instrumentality thereof, or a county or city housing authority created pursuant to chapter 35.82 RCW, including the installing or attaching of any article of tangible personal property therein or thereto, whether or not such personal property becomes a part of the realty by virtue of installation; also, any person engaged in the business of clearing land and moving earth of or for the United States, any instrumentality thereof, or a county or city housing authority created pursuant to chapter 35.82 RCW. Any such person is a consumer within the meaning of this subsection in respect to tangible personal property incorporated into, installed in, or attached to such building or other structure by such person, except that consumer does not include any person engaged in the business of constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving new or existing buildings or other structures under, upon, or above real property of or for the United States, or any instrumentality thereof, if the investment project would qualify for sales and use tax deferral under chapter 82.63 RCW if undertaken by a private entity;

(7) Any person who is a lessor of machinery and equipment, the rental of which is exempt from the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 under RCW 82.08.02565, with respect to the sale of or charge made for tangible personal property consumed in respect to repairing the machinery and equipment, if the tangible personal property has a useful life of less than one year. Nothing contained in this or any other subsection of this section may be construed to modify any other definition of "consumer";

(8) Any person engaged in the business of cleaning up for the United States, or its instrumentalities, radioactive waste and other by-products of weapons production and nuclear research and development;

(9) Any person who is an owner, lessee, or has the right of possession of tangible personal property that, under the terms of an extended warranty as defined in RCW 82.04.050(7), has been repaired or is replacement property, but only with respect to the sale of or charge made for the repairing of the tangible personal property or the replacement property;

(10) Any person who purchases, acquires, or uses services described in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) other than:

(a) For resale in the regular course of business; or

(b) For purposes of consuming the service described in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) in producing for sale a new product, but only if such service becomes a component of the new product. For purposes of this subsection (10), "product" means a digital product, an article of tangible personal property, or the service described in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b);

(11)(a) Any end user of a digital product or digital code. "Consumer" does not include any person who is not an end

user of a digital product or a digital code and purchases, acquires, owns, holds, or uses any digital product or digital code for purposes of consuming the digital product or digital code in producing for sale a new product, but only if the digital product or digital code becomes a component of the new product. A digital code becomes a component of a new product if the digital good or digital automated service acquired through the use of the digital code becomes incorporated into a new product. For purposes of this subsection, "product" has the same meaning as in subsection (10) of this section.

(b)(i) For purposes of this subsection, "end user" means any taxpayer as defined in RCW 82.12.010 other than a taxpayer who receives by contract a digital product for further commercial broadcast, rebroadcast, transmission, retransmission, licensing, relicensing, distribution, redistribution or exhibition of the product, in whole or in part, to others. A person that purchases digital products or digital codes for the purpose of giving away such products or codes will not be considered to have engaged in the distribution or redistribution of such products or codes and will be treated as an end user;

(ii) If a purchaser of a digital code does not receive the contractual right to further redistribute, after the digital code is redeemed, the underlying digital product to which the digital code relates, then the purchaser of the digital code is an end user. If the purchaser of the digital code receives the contractual right to further redistribute, after the digital code is redeemed, the underlying digital product to which the digital code relates, then the purchaser of the digital code is not an end user. A purchaser of a digital code who has the contractual right to further redistribute the digital code is an end user if that purchaser does not have the right to further redistribute, after the digital code is redeemed, the underlying digital product to which the digital code relates; and

(12) Any person who provides services described in RCW 82.04.050(9). Any such person is a consumer with respect to the purchase, acquisition, or use of the tangible personal property that the person provides along with an operator in rendering services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(9). Any such person may also be a consumer under other provisions of this section. [2010 c 111 § 202; 2010 c 106 § 204; 2009 c 535 § 302; 2007 c 6 § 1008; 2005 c 514 § 103. Prior: 2004 c 174 § 4; 2004 c 2 § 8; 2002 c 367 § 2; prior: 1998 c 332 § 6; 1998 c 308 § 2; prior: 1996 c 173 § 2; 1996 c 148 § 4; 1996 c 112 § 2; 1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 4; 1986 c 231 § 2; 1985 c 134 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 27; 1975 1st ex.s. c 90 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 255 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 6; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.190; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 3; 1957 c 279 § 2; 1955 c 389 § 20; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2010 c 106 § 204 and by 2010 c 111 § 202, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

(2012 Ed.)

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Effective date—2004 c 174:** See note following RCW 82.04.2908.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 367:** See notes following RCW 82.04.060.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1998 c 332:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29001.

**Findings—Intent—1996 c 173:** See note following RCW 82.08.02565.

**Findings—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.192 Digital products definitions.** (1) "Digital audio works" means works that result from the fixation of a series of musical, spoken, or other sounds, including ringtones.

(2) "Digital audio-visual works" means a series of related images which, when shown in succession, impart an impression of motion, together with accompanying sounds, if any.

(3)(a) "Digital automated service," except as provided in (b) of this subsection (3), means any service transferred electronically that uses one or more software applications.

(b) "Digital automated service" does not include:

(i) Any service that primarily involves the application of human effort by the seller, and the human effort originated after the customer requested the service;

(ii) The loaning or transferring of money or the purchase, sale, or transfer of financial instruments. For purposes of this subsection (3)(b)(ii), "financial instruments" include cash, accounts receivable and payable, loans and notes receivable and payable, debt securities, equity securities, as well as derivative contracts such as forward contracts, swap contracts, and options;

(iii) Dispensing cash or other physical items from a machine;

(iv) Payment processing services;

(v) Parimutuel wagering and handicapping contests as authorized by chapter 67.16 RCW;

(vi) Telecommunications services and ancillary services as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065;

(vii) The internet and internet access as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.297;

(viii) The service described in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b);

(ix) Online educational programs provided by a:

(A) Public or private elementary or secondary school; or

(B) An institution of higher education as defined in sections 1001 or 1002 of the federal higher education act of 1965 (Title 20 U.S.C. Secs. 1001 and 1002), as existing on July 1, 2009. For purposes of this subsection (3)(b)(ix)(B), an online educational program must be encompassed within the institution's accreditation;

(x) Live presentations, such as lectures, seminars, workshops, or courses, where participants are connected to other participants via the internet or telecommunications equip-

ment, which allows audience members and the presenter or instructor to give, receive, and discuss information with each other in real time;

(xi) Travel agent services, including online travel services, and automated systems used by travel agents to book reservations;

(xii)(A) A service that allows the person receiving the service to make online sales of products or services, digital or otherwise, using either: (I) The service provider's web site; or (II) the service recipient's web site, but only when the service provider's technology is used in creating or hosting the service recipient's web site or is used in processing orders from customers using the service recipient's web site.

(B) The service described in this subsection (3)(b)(xii) does not include the underlying sale of the products or services, digital or otherwise, by the person receiving the service;

(xiii) Advertising services. For purposes of this subsection (3)(b)(xiii), "advertising services" means all services directly related to the creation, preparation, production, or the dissemination of advertisements. Advertising services include layout, art direction, graphic design, mechanical preparation, production supervision, placement, and rendering advice to a client concerning the best methods of advertising that client's products or services. Advertising services also include online referrals, search engine marketing and lead generation optimization, web campaign planning, the acquisition of advertising space in the internet media, and the monitoring and evaluation of web site traffic for purposes of determining the effectiveness of an advertising campaign. Advertising services do not include web hosting services and domain name registration;

(xiv) The mere storage of digital products, digital codes, computer software, or master copies of software. This exclusion from the definition of digital automated services includes providing space on a server for web hosting or the backing up of data or other information;

(xv) Data processing services. For purposes of this subsection (3)(b)(xv), "data processing service" means a primarily automated service provided to a business or other organization where the primary object of the service is the systematic performance of operations by the service provider on data supplied in whole or in part by the customer to extract the required information in an appropriate form or to convert the data to usable information. Data processing services include check processing, image processing, form processing, survey processing, payroll processing, claim processing, and similar activities. Data processing does not include the service described in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b); and

(xvi) Digital goods.

(4) "Digital books" means works that are generally recognized in the ordinary and usual sense as books.

(5) "Digital code" means a code that provides a purchaser with the right to obtain one or more digital products, if all of the digital products to be obtained through the use of the code have the same sales and use tax treatment. "Digital code" does not include a code that represents a stored monetary value that is deducted from a total as it is used by the purchaser. "Digital code" also does not include a code that represents a redeemable card, gift card, or gift certificate that entitles the holder to select digital products of an indicated

cash value. A digital code may be obtained by any means, including e-mail or by tangible means regardless of its designation as song code, video code, book code, or some other term.

(6)(a) "Digital goods," except as provided in (b) of this subsection (6), means sounds, images, data, facts, or information, or any combination thereof, transferred electronically, including, but not limited to, specified digital products and other products transferred electronically not included within the definition of specified digital products.

(b) The term "digital goods" does not include:

(i) Telecommunications services and ancillary services as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065;

(ii) Computer software as defined in RCW 82.04.215;

(iii) The internet and internet access as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.297;

(iv)(A) Except as provided in (b)(iv)(B) of this subsection (6), the representation of a personal or professional service in electronic form, such as an electronic copy of an engineering report prepared by an engineer, where the service primarily involves the application of human effort by the service provider, and the human effort originated after the customer requested the service.

(B) The exclusion in (b)(iv)(A) of this subsection (6) does not apply to photographers in respect to amounts received for the taking of photographs that are transferred electronically to the customer, but only if the customer is an end user, as defined in RCW 82.04.190(11), of the photographs. Such amounts are considered to be for the sale of digital goods; and

(v) Services and activities excluded from the definition of digital automated services in subsection (3)(b)(i) through (xv) of this section and not otherwise described in (b)(i) through (iv) of this subsection (6).

(7) "Digital products" means digital goods and digital automated services.

(8) "Electronically transferred" or "transferred electronically" means obtained by the purchaser by means other than tangible storage media. It is not necessary that a copy of the product be physically transferred to the purchaser. So long as the purchaser may access the product, it will be considered to have been electronically transferred to the purchaser.

(9) "Specified digital products" means electronically transferred digital audio-visual works, digital audio works, and digital books.

(10) "Subscription radio services" means the sale of audio programming by a radio broadcaster as defined in RCW 82.08.02081, except as otherwise provided in this subsection. "Subscription radio services" does not include audio programming that is sold on a pay-per-program basis or that allows the buyer to access a library of programs at any time for a specific charge for that service.

(11) "Subscription television services" means the sale of video programming by a television broadcaster as defined in RCW 82.08.02081, except as otherwise provided in this subsection. "Subscription television services" does not include video programming that is sold on a pay-per-program basis or that allows the buyer to access a library of programs at any time for a specific charge for that service, but only if the seller is not subject to a franchise fee in this state under the

authority of Title 47 U.S.C. Sec. 542(a) on the gross revenue derived from the sale. [2010 c 111 § 203; 2009 c 535 § 201.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—2009 c 535:** "(1) In 2007, the legislature directed the department of revenue (department) to conduct a study of the taxation of electronically delivered products (digital products). In conducting the study, the department was assisted by a committee comprised of legislators, academics, and individuals representing different segments of government and industry (the "study committee").

(2) At the conclusion of the study, the department issued its final report December 5, 2008. The final report noted that any recommendations to the legislature should promote the following goals: (a) Simplicity and fairness; (b) conformity with the streamlined sales and use tax agreement; (c) neutrality regardless of industry, content, and delivery method while taking the purchaser's underlying property rights into account; (d) consideration given to the revenue impact of potential changes to the tax base; (e) consideration given to the impact caused by the pyramiding of business inputs; (f) maintaining or enhancing the competitiveness of businesses located in Washington; and (g) maintaining certainty, consistency, durability, and equity despite changes in technology and business models.

(3) While the department's final report did not contain recommendations for the legislature, the report's conclusion notes that the study committee found that legislation implementing digital products tax policy is necessary in 2009 to: (a) Protect the sales and use tax base; (b) establish certainty in our tax code; (c) maintain conformity with the streamlined sales and use tax agreement; and (d) encourage economic development.

(4) This act is the outgrowth of the work of the department and the study committee. The purpose of this act is to implement those findings of the study committee noted in subsection (3) of this section. This act also takes into account the goals noted in subsection (2) of this section. Moreover, this act contains specific provisions to: (a) Provide protections for taxpayers who failed to pay or collect tax on digital products for periods before July 26, 2009; and (b) promote the location of server farms and data centers in this state by preventing the department from considering a person's ownership of, or rights in, digital goods or digital codes residing on servers located in this state in determining whether the person has nexus with this state for purposes of the taxes imposed in Title 82 RCW." [2009 c 535 § 101.]

**Construction—2009 c 535:** "This act does not have any impact whatsoever on the characterization of digital goods and digital codes as tangible or intangible personal property for purposes of property taxation and may not be used in any way in construing any provision of Title 84 RCW." [2009 c 535 § 1201.]

**Construction—2009 c 535:** "The repeals in sections 515 and 623 of this act do not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the statutes repealed or under any rule or order adopted under those statutes nor do they affect any proceedings instituted under them." [2009 c 535 § 1203.]

**82.04.200 "In this state," "within this state."** "In this state" or "within this state" includes all federal areas lying within the exterior boundaries of the state. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.200. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 21; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

**82.04.210 "By-product."** "By-product" means any additional product, other than the principal or intended product, which results from extracting or manufacturing activities and which has a market value, without regard to whether or not such additional product was an expected or intended result of the extracting or manufacturing activities. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.210. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 22; prior: 1949 c 228 § 2, part; 1945 c 249 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 2, part; 1941 c 178 § 2, part; 1939 c 225 § 2, part; 1937 c 227 § 2, part; 1935 c 180 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-5, part.]

(2012 Ed.)

**82.04.212 "Retail store or outlet."** "Retail store or outlet" does not mean a device or apparatus through which sales are activated by coin deposits but the phrase shall include automats or business establishments retailing diversified goods primarily through the use of such devices or apparatus. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.212. Prior: 1959 c 232 § 1.]

**82.04.213 "Agricultural product," "farmer."** (1) "Agricultural product" means any product of plant cultivation or animal husbandry including, but not limited to: A product of horticulture, grain cultivation, vermiculture, viticulture, or aquaculture as defined in RCW 15.85.020; plantation Christmas trees; short-rotation hardwoods as defined in RCW 84.33.035; turf; or any animal including but not limited to an animal that is a private sector cultured aquatic product as defined in RCW 15.85.020, or a bird, or insect, or the substances obtained from such an animal. "Agricultural product" does not include animals defined as pet animals under RCW 16.70.020.

(2) "Farmer" means any person engaged in the business of growing, raising, or producing, upon the person's own lands or upon the lands in which the person has a present right of possession, any agricultural product to be sold. "Farmer" does not include a person growing, raising, or producing such products for the person's own consumption; a person selling any animal or substance obtained therefrom in connection with the person's business of operating a stockyard or a slaughter or packing house; or a person in respect to the business of taking, cultivating, or raising timber. [2001 c 118 § 2; 2001 c 97 § 3; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 302.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2001 c 97 § 3 and by 2001 c 118 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.214 "Newspaper." (Effective until July 1, 2015.)** (1) "Newspaper" means:

(a) A publication issued regularly at stated intervals at least twice a month and printed on newsprint in tabloid or broadsheet format folded loosely together without stapling, glue, or any other binding of any kind, including any supplement of a printed newspaper; and

(b) An electronic version of a printed newspaper that:

(i) Shares content with the printed newspaper; and

(ii) Is prominently identified by the same name as the printed newspaper or otherwise conspicuously indicates that it is a complement to the printed newspaper.

(2) For purposes of this section, "supplement" means a printed publication, including a magazine or advertising section, that is:

(a) Labeled and identified as part of the printed newspaper; and

(b) Circulated or distributed:

(i) As an insert or attachment to the printed newspaper;

or

(ii) Separate and apart from the printed newspaper so long as the distribution is within the general circulation area of the newspaper. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 601; 2008 c 273 § 1; 1994 c 22 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 304.]

**Expiration date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 §§ 601 and 602:** "Part VI of this act expires July 1, 2015." [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 704.]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Effective date—2008 c 273:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 273 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.214 "Newspaper." (Effective July 1, 2015.)**

(1)(a) Until June 30, 2011, "newspaper" means:

(i) A publication issued regularly at stated intervals at least twice a month and printed on newsprint in tabloid or broadsheet format folded loosely together without stapling, glue, or any other binding of any kind, including any supplement of a printed newspaper; and

(ii) An electronic version of a printed newspaper that:

(A) Shares content with the printed newspaper; and

(B) Is prominently identified by the same name as the printed newspaper or otherwise conspicuously indicates that it is a complement to the printed newspaper.

(b) For purposes of this section, "supplement" means a printed publication, including a magazine or advertising section, that is:

(i) Labeled and identified as part of the printed newspaper; and

(ii) Circulated or distributed:

(A) As an insert or attachment to the printed newspaper; or

(B) Separate and apart from the printed newspaper so long as the distribution is within the general circulation area of the newspaper.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2011, "newspaper" means a publication issued regularly at stated intervals at least twice a month and printed on newsprint in tabloid or broadsheet format folded loosely together without stapling, glue, or any other binding of any kind, including any supplement of a printed newspaper as defined in subsection (1)(b) of this section. [2008 c 273 § 1; 1994 c 22 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 304.]

**Effective date—2008 c 273:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 273 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.215 "Computer," "computer software," "custom software," "customization of prewritten computer software," "master copies," "prewritten computer software," "retained rights."** (1) "Computer" means an electronic device that accepts information in digital or similar form and manipulates it for a result based on a sequence of instructions.

(2) "Computer software" means a set of coded instructions designed to cause a computer or automatic data processing equipment to perform a task. All software is classified as either prewritten or custom. Consistent with this definition "computer software" includes only those sets of coded instructions intended for use by an end user and specifically excludes retained rights in software and master copies of software.

(3) "Custom software" means software created for a single person.

(4) "Customization of prewritten computer software" means any alteration, modification, or development of applications using or incorporating prewritten computer software for a specific person. "Customization of prewritten computer

software" includes individualized configuration of software to work with other software and computer hardware but does not include routine installation. Customization of prewritten computer software does not change the underlying character or taxability of the original prewritten computer software.

(5) "Master copies" of software means copies of software from which a software developer, author, inventor, publisher, licensor, sublicensor, or distributor makes copies for sale or license.

(6) "Prewritten computer software" means computer software, including prewritten upgrades, that is not designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser. The combining of two or more prewritten computer software programs or prewritten portions thereof does not cause the combination to be other than prewritten computer software. Prewritten computer software includes software designed and developed by the author or other creator to the specifications of a specific purchaser when it is sold to a person other than such purchaser. Where a person modifies or enhances computer software of which such persons is not the author or creator, the person shall be deemed to be the author or creator only of the person's modifications or enhancements. Prewritten computer software or a prewritten portion thereof that is modified or enhanced to any degree, where such modification or enhancement is designed and developed to the specifications of a specific purchaser, remains prewritten computer software; however where there is a reasonable, separately stated charge or an invoice or other statement of the price given to the purchaser for the modification or enhancement, the modification or enhancement shall not constitute prewritten computer software.

(7) "Retained rights" means any and all rights, including intellectual property rights such as those rights arising from copyrights, patents, and trade secret laws, that are owned or are held under contract or license by a software developer, author, inventor, publisher, licensor, sublicensor, or distributor. [2003 c 168 § 601; 1998 c 332 § 3.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1998 c 332:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29001.

**82.04.216 Exclusion of steam, electricity, or electrical energy from definition of certain terms.** Consistent with RCW 82.02.220, when the terms "tangible personal property," "ingredient," "component part," "incorporated into," "goods," "products," "by-products," "materials," "consumables," and other similar terms denoting tangible items that may be used, sold, or consumed are used in this chapter, the terms do not include steam, electricity, or electrical energy. [2003 c 168 § 702.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.04.217 "Direct service industrial customer," "aluminum smelter."** (1) "Direct service industrial customer" means the same as in RCW 82.16.0495.

(2) "Aluminum smelter" means the manufacturing facility of any direct service industrial customer that processes alumina into aluminum. [2004 c 24 § 2.]

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**82.04.220 Business and occupation tax imposed. (1)**

There is levied and collected from every person that has a substantial nexus with this state a tax for the act or privilege of engaging in business activities. The tax is measured by the application of rates against value of products, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income of the business, as the case may be.

(2) A person who has a substantial nexus with this state in any tax year under the provisions of RCW 82.04.067 will be deemed to have a substantial nexus with this state for the following tax year. [2011 1st sp.s. c 20 § 101; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 102; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.220. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 42; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** "In order to preserve funding for education, public safety, health care, environmental protection, and safety net services for children, elderly, disabled, and vulnerable people, it is the intent of the legislature to close obsolete tax preferences, clarify the legislature's intent regarding existing tax policy, and to ensure balanced tax policy while bolstering emerging industries." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** "(1) The legislature finds that out-of-state businesses that do not have a physical presence in Washington earn significant income from Washington residents from providing services or collecting royalties on the use of intangible property in this state. The legislature further finds that these businesses receive significant benefits and opportunities provided by the state, such as: Laws providing protection of business interests or regulating consumer credit; access to courts and judicial process to enforce business rights, including debt collection and intellectual property rights; an orderly and regulated marketplace; and police and fire protection and a transportation system benefitting in-state agents and other representatives of out-of-state businesses. Therefore, the legislature intends to extend the state's business and occupation tax to these companies to ensure that they pay their fair share of the cost of services that this state renders and the infrastructure it provides.

(2)(a) The legislature also finds that the current cost apportionment method in RCW 82.04.460(1) for apportioning most service income has been difficult for both taxpayers and the department to apply due in large part (i) to the difficulty in assigning certain costs of doing business inside or outside of this state, and (ii) to its dissimilarity with the apportionment methods used in other states for their business activity taxes.

(b) The legislature further finds that there is a trend among states to adopt a single factor apportionment formula based on sales. The legislature recognizes that adoption of a sales factor only apportionment method has the advantages of simplifying apportionment and making Washington a more attractive place for businesses to expand their property and payroll. For these reasons, the legislature adopts single factor sales apportionment for purposes of apportioning royalty income and certain service income for state business and occupation tax purposes.

(c) Nothing in this act may be construed, however, to authorize apportionment of the gross income or value of products taxable under the following business and occupation tax classifications: Retailing, wholesaling, manufacturing, processing for hire, extracting, extracting for hire, printing, government contracting, public road construction, the classifications in RCW 82.04.280(1) (b), (d), (f), and (g), and any other activity not specifically included in the definition of apportionable activities in RCW 82.04.460.

(d) Nothing in this part is intended to modify the nexus and apportionment requirements for local gross receipts business and occupation taxes." [2011 c 174 § 208; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 101.]

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**82.04.230 Tax upon extractors.** Upon every person engaging within this state in business as an extractor, except

(2012 Ed.)

persons taxable as an extractor under any other provision in this chapter; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the value of the products, including by-products, extracted for sale or for commercial or industrial use, multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

The measure of the tax is the value of the products, including by-products, so extracted, regardless of the place of sale or the fact that deliveries may be made to points outside the state. [2006 c 300 § 5; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 101; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 33; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.230. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 43; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.240 Tax on manufacturers. (Contingent expiration date.)** Upon every person engaging within this state in business as a manufacturer, except persons taxable as manufacturers under other provisions of this chapter; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the value of the products, including byproducts, manufactured, multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

The measure of the tax is the value of the products, including byproducts, so manufactured regardless of the place of sale or the fact that deliveries may be made to points outside the state. [2004 c 24 § 4; 1998 c 312 § 3; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 102; 1981 c 172 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 196 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 34; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 8; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.240. Prior: 1959 c 211 § 1; 1955 c 389 § 44; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.240 Tax on manufacturers. (Contingent effective date; contingent expiration of subsection.) (1)** Upon every person engaging within this state in business as a manufacturer, except persons taxable as manufacturers under other provisions of this chapter; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the products, including byproducts, manufactured, multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(2)(a) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing semiconductor materials, as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of the product manufactured, or, in the case of processors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent. For the purposes of this subsection "semiconductor materials" means silicon crystals, silicon ingots, raw polished semiconductor wafers, compound semiconductors, integrated circuits, and microchips.

(b) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this subsection (2) must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(c) This subsection (2) expires twelve years after \*the effective date of this act.

(3) The measure of the tax is the value of the products, including byproducts, so manufactured regardless of the place of sale or the fact that deliveries may be made to points outside the state. [2010 c 114 § 104; 2003 c 149 § 3; 1998 c 312 § 3; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 102; 1981 c 172 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 196 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 34; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 8; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.240. Prior: 1959 c 211 § 1; 1955 c 389 § 44; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

**\*Contingent effective date—2010 c 114:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** See note following RCW 82.04.426.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.2403 Manufacturer tax not applicable to cleaning fish.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.04.240 does not apply to cleaning fish. "Cleaning fish" means the removal of the head, fins, or viscera from fresh fish without further processing, other than freezing. [1994 c 167 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.2404 Manufacturers—Processors for hire—Semiconductor materials. (Expires December 1, 2018.)**

(1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing or processing for hire semiconductor materials, as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of the product manufactured, or, in the case of processors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent.

(2) For the purposes of this section "semiconductor materials" means silicon crystals, silicon ingots, raw polished semiconductor wafers, and compound semiconductor wafers.

(3) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(4) This section expires December 1, 2018. [2010 c 114 § 105; 2006 c 84 § 2.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2007 c 54 § 22; 2006 c 84 §§ 2-8:** "(1)(a) Sections 2 through 8, chapter 84, Laws of 2006 and section 22, chapter 54, Laws of 2007 are contingent upon the siting, expansion, or renovation, and commercial operation of a significant semiconductor materials fabrication facility or facilities in the state of Washington.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(i) "Commercial operation" means the equipment and process qualifications in the new, expanded, or renovated building are completed and production for sale has begun.

(ii) "Semiconductor materials fabrication" means the manufacturing of silicon crystals, silicon ingots that are at least three hundred millimeters in diameter, raw polished semiconductor wafers that are at least three hundred millimeters in diameter, and compound semiconductor wafers that are at least three hundred millimeters in diameter.

(iii) "Significant" means that the combined investment or investments by a single person, occurring at any time before December 1, 2006, of new buildings, expansion or renovation of existing buildings, tenant improve-

ments to buildings, and machinery and equipment in the buildings, at the commencement of commercial production, is at least three hundred fifty million dollars based on actual expenditures by the person.

(2) Except for section 1 of this act and this section, this act takes effect the first day of the month immediately following the department's determination that the contingency in subsection (1) of this section has occurred. The department shall make its determination regarding the contingency in subsection (1) of this section based on information provided to the department by affected taxpayers or representatives of affected taxpayers.

(3) The department of revenue shall provide notice of the effective date of sections 2 through 8, chapter 84, Laws of 2006 [December 1, 2006] to affected taxpayers, the legislature, the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by the department." [2007 c 54 § 29; 2006 c 84 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 84:** "The legislature finds that the welfare of the people of the state of Washington is positively impacted through the encouragement and expansion of family wage employment in the state's manufacturing industries. The legislature further finds that targeting tax incentives to focus on key industry clusters is an important business climate strategy. Washington state has recognized the semiconductor industry, which includes the design and manufacture of semiconductor materials, as one of the state's existing key industry clusters. Businesses in this cluster in the state of Washington are facing increasing pressure to expand elsewhere. The sales and use tax exemptions for manufacturing machinery and equipment enacted by the 1995 legislature improved Washington's ability to compete with other states for manufacturing investment. In 2003 the legislature enacted comprehensive tax incentives for the semiconductor cluster that address activities of the lead product industry and its suppliers and customers. These tax incentives are contingent on the investment of at least one billion dollars in a new semiconductor microchip fabrication facility in this state, which has not occurred. This investment criteria failed to recognize the significance of potential investment in the advanced semiconductor materials sector. Therefore, the legislature intends to complement existing comprehensive tax incentives for the semiconductor cluster to address activities of the advanced semiconductor materials product industry and its suppliers and customers. Tax incentives for the semiconductor cluster are important in both retention and expansion of existing businesses and attraction of new businesses, all of which will strengthen this cluster. The legislature also recognizes that the semiconductor industry involves major investment that results in significant construction projects, which will create jobs and bring many indirect benefits to the state during the construction phase." [2006 c 84 § 1.]

**82.04.250 Tax on retailers.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of making sales at retail, except persons taxable as retailers under other provisions of this chapter, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.471 percent.

(2) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of making sales at retail that are exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 82.08 RCW by reason of RCW 82.08.0261, 82.08.0262, or 82.08.0263, except persons taxable under \*RCW 82.04.260(10) or subsection (3) of this section, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(3) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person classified by the federal aviation administration as a federal aviation regulation part 145 certificated repair station and that is engaging within this state in the business of making sales at retail that are exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 82.08 RCW by reason of RCW 82.08.0261, 82.08.0262, or 82.08.0263, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the business, multiplied by the rate of .2904 percent. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 509; (2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 508 expired July 1, 2011); (2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 507 expired July 13, 2010); 2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 1; (2010 c 114 § 106 expired July 1, 2011); 2008 c 81 § 5; (2007 c 54 § 5 repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 7); 2006 c 177

§ 5; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 2; (2003 1st sp.s. c 2 § 1 expired July 1, 2006). Prior: 1998 c 343 § 5; 1998 c 312 § 4; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 103; 1981 c 172 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 186 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 35; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.250; prior: 1955 c 389 § 45; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.04.260 was amended by 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), changing subsection (10) to subsection (11).

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 509:** "Section 509 of this act takes effect July 1, 2011." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1717.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 508:** "Section 508 of this act takes effect July 13, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1715.]

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 508:** "Section 508 of this act expires July 1, 2011." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1716.]

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 507:** "Section 507 of this act expires July 13, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1714.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Expiration date—2010 c 114 § 106:** "Section 106 of this act expires July 1, 2011." [2010 c 114 § 204.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Expiration date—2008 c 81 § 5:** "Section 5 of this act expires July 1, 2011." [2008 c 81 § 19.] This expiration date was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 7.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Effective date—2007 c 54 § 5:** "Section 5 of this act takes effect July 1, 2011." [2007 c 54 § 30.] This effective date was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 7.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Expiration date—2006 c 177 § 5:** "Section 5 of this act expires July 1, 2011." [2006 c 177 § 14.] This expiration date was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 7.

**Effective date—2006 c 177 §§ 1-9:** "Sections 1 through 9 of this act take effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 177 § 12.]

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**Expiration date—2003 1st sp.s. c 2:** "This act expires July 1, 2006." [2003 1st sp.s. c 2 § 3.]

**Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 2:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2003." [2003 1st sp.s. c 2 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.255 Tax on real estate brokers.** (1) Upon every person engaging within the state in the business of providing real estate brokerage services; as to such persons, the amount of the tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 1.5 percent.

(2) The measure of the tax on real estate commissions earned by the real estate firm is the gross commission earned by the particular real estate firm including that portion of the commission paid to brokers, including designated and managing brokers, in the same firm on a particular transaction. However, when a real estate commission on a particular transaction is divided among real estate firms at the closing of the transaction, including a firm located out of state, each firm must pay the tax only upon its respective shares of said commission. Moreover, when the real estate firm has paid the tax as provided herein, brokers, including designated and

(2012 Ed.)

managing brokers, within the same real estate firm may not be required to pay a similar tax upon the same transaction. If any firm located out of state receives a share of commission on a particular transaction, that company or broker must pay the tax based on the requirements of this section and RCW 82.04.067.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "broker," "designated broker," "managing broker," and "real estate firm" have the same meaning as provided in RCW 18.85.011. [2011 c 322 § 2; 1997 c 7 § 1; 1996 c 1 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 202; 1985 c 32 § 2; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1983 c 9 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 65 § 3.]

**Intent—2011 c 322:** "The legislature intends to clarify existing law that the basis for determining the business and occupation tax for real estate firms is the commission amount received by each real estate firm involved in a real estate transaction. In clarifying existing law, the legislature intends to preserve the historic method of calculating business and occupation tax for real estate firms." [2011 c 322 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) "Sections 42 through 50 and 52" consist of the 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 amendments to RCW 82.49.010, 88.02.020, 88.02.030, 88.02.050, and 88.02.110 and the enactment of RCW 43.51.400, 82.49.020, 82.49.070, 88.02.070, and 88.02.080. "Section 53" consists of the enactment of a new section which appears as a footnote to RCW 88.02.020, and "sections 65 and 66" consist of the enactment of new sections which appear as footnotes to RCW 82.04.255 above.

(2) "Sections 1 through 4" consist of the 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 §§ 1-4 amendments to RCW 82.04.255, 82.04.290, 82.04.2904, and 82.04.2901, respectively.

(3) "Sections 21, 22, and 51" consist of the 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 amendments to RCW 82.48.010, 82.48.030, and 84.36.080, respectively.

(4) "Section 63" consists of the 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 amendment to RCW 82.32.045.

(5) "Sections 61 and 62" consist of the 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 §§ 61 and 62 amendments to RCW 82.04.2901 and 82.08.020, respectively. For the effective date of sections 61 and 62, see *Bond v. Burrows*, 103 Wn.2d 153 (1984).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.257 Tax on digital products and services.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of making sales at retail or wholesale of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or services described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) or (6)(b), as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.471 percent in the case of retail sales and by the rate of 0.484 percent in the case of wholesale sales.

(2) Persons providing subscription television services or subscription radio services are subject to tax under RCW 82.04.290(2) on the gross income of the business received from providing such services.

(3) For purposes of this section, a person is considered to be engaging within this state in the business of making sales of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or services described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) or (6)(b), if the person makes sales of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or services described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) or (6)(b) and the sales are sourced to this state under RCW 82.32.730 for sales tax purposes or would have been sourced to this state under RCW 82.32.730 if the sale had been taxable under chapter 82.08 RCW.

(4) A person subject to tax under this section is subject to the mandatory electronic filing and payment requirements in RCW 82.32.080. [2010 c 111 § 301; 2009 c 535 § 401.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

### 82.04.258 Digital products—Apportionable income.

(1)(a) Any person subject to tax under RCW 82.04.257 engaging both within and outside this state in the business of making sales at retail or wholesale of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or services described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) or (6)(b), must apportion to this state that portion of apportionable income derived from activity performed within this state as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, a person is considered to be engaging outside this state in the business of making sales of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or services described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) or (6)(b) if the person makes any sales of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or services described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) or (6)(b) that are sourced to a jurisdiction other than Washington under RCW 82.32.730 for sales tax purposes or would have been sourced to a jurisdiction other than Washington under RCW 82.32.730 if the sale had been a retail sale.

(2) Apportionable income must be apportioned to Washington by multiplying the apportionable income by the sales factor.

(3)(a) The sales factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total receipts of the taxpayer from making sales of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, and services described in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(g) or (6)(b) in this state during the tax period, and the denominator of which is the total receipts of the taxpayer derived from such activity everywhere during the tax period.

(b) For purposes of computing the sales factor, sales are considered in this state if the sale was sourced to this state under RCW 82.32.730 for sales tax purposes or would have been sourced to this state under RCW 82.32.730 if the sale had been taxable under chapter 82.08 RCW.

(4) For purposes of this section, "apportionable income" means the gross income of the business taxable under RCW 82.04.257, including income received from activities outside this state if the income would be taxable under RCW 82.04.257 if received from activities in this state. [2009 c 535 § 402.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.04.260 Tax on manufacturers and processors of various foods and by-products—Research and development organizations—Travel agents—Certain international activities—Stevedoring and associated activities—Low-level waste disposers—Insurance producers, surplus line brokers, and title insurance agents—Hospitals—Commercial airplane activities—Timber product activities—Canned salmon processors. (Effective until July 1, 2015.)** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing:

(a) Wheat into flour, barley into pearl barley, soybeans into soybean oil, canola into canola oil, canola meal, or canola by-products, or sunflower seeds into sunflower oil; as

to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the flour, pearl barley, oil, canola meal, or canola by-product manufactured, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent;

(b) Beginning July 1, 2015, seafood products that remain in a raw, raw frozen, or raw salted state at the completion of the manufacturing by that person; or selling manufactured seafood products that remain in a raw, raw frozen, or raw salted state at the completion of the manufacturing, to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of this state; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the products manufactured or the gross proceeds derived from such sales, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent. Sellers must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state;

(c) Beginning July 1, 2015, dairy products that as of September 20, 2001, are identified in 21 C.F.R., chapter 1, parts 131, 133, and 135, including by-products from the manufacturing of the dairy products such as whey and casein; or selling the same to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of state; as to such persons the tax imposed is equal to the value of the products manufactured or the gross proceeds derived from such sales multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent. Sellers must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state;

(d) Beginning July 1, 2015, fruits or vegetables by canning, preserving, freezing, processing, or dehydrating fresh fruits or vegetables, or selling at wholesale fruits or vegetables manufactured by the seller by canning, preserving, freezing, processing, or dehydrating fresh fruits or vegetables and sold to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of this state; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the products manufactured or the gross proceeds derived from such sales multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent. Sellers must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state;

(e) Until July 1, 2009, alcohol fuel, biodiesel fuel, or biodiesel feedstock, as those terms are defined in RCW 82.29A.135; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to the business is equal to the value of alcohol fuel, biodiesel fuel, or biodiesel feedstock manufactured, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent; and

(f) Wood biomass fuel as defined in RCW 82.29A.135; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to the business is equal to the value of wood biomass fuel manufactured, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent.

(2) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of splitting or processing dried peas; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the peas split or processed, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent.

(3) Upon every nonprofit corporation and nonprofit association engaging within this state in research and development, as to such corporations and associations, the amount

of tax with respect to such activities is equal to the gross income derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(4) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of slaughtering, breaking and/or processing perishable meat products and/or selling the same at wholesale only and not at retail; as to such persons the tax imposed is equal to the gross proceeds derived from such sales multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent.

(5) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of acting as a travel agent or tour operator; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to such activities is equal to the gross income derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent.

(6) Upon every person engaging within this state in business as an international steamship agent, international customs house broker, international freight forwarder, vessel and/or cargo charter broker in foreign commerce, and/or international air cargo agent; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to only international activities is equal to the gross income derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent.

(7) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of stevedoring and associated activities pertinent to the movement of goods and commodities in waterborne interstate or foreign commerce; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent. Persons subject to taxation under this subsection are exempt from payment of taxes imposed by chapter 82.16 RCW for that portion of their business subject to taxation under this subsection. Stevedoring and associated activities pertinent to the conduct of goods and commodities in waterborne interstate or foreign commerce are defined as all activities of a labor, service or transportation nature whereby cargo may be loaded or unloaded to or from vessels or barges, passing over, onto or under a wharf, pier, or similar structure; cargo may be moved to a warehouse or similar holding or storage yard or area to await further movement in import or export or may move to a consolidation freight station and be stuffed, unstuffed, containerized, separated or otherwise segregated or aggregated for delivery or loaded on any mode of transportation for delivery to its consignee. Specific activities included in this definition are: Wharfage, handling, loading, unloading, moving of cargo to a convenient place of delivery to the consignee or a convenient place for further movement to export mode; documentation services in connection with the receipt, delivery, checking, care, custody and control of cargo required in the transfer of cargo; imported automobile handling prior to delivery to consignee; terminal stevedoring and incidental vessel services, including but not limited to plugging and unplugging refrigerator service to containers, trailers, and other refrigerated cargo receptacles, and securing ship hatch covers.

(8) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of disposing of low-level waste, as defined in RCW 43.145.010; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross income of the business, excluding any fees imposed under chapter 43.200 RCW, multiplied by the rate of 3.3 percent.

If the gross income of the taxpayer is attributable to activities both within and without this state, the gross income attributable to this state must be determined in accordance with the methods of apportionment required under RCW 82.04.460.

(9) Upon every person engaging within this state as an insurance producer or title insurance agent licensed under chapter 48.17 RCW or a surplus line broker licensed under chapter 48.15 RCW; as to such persons, the amount of the tax with respect to such licensed activities is equal to the gross income of such business multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(10) Upon every person engaging within this state in business as a hospital, as defined in chapter 70.41 RCW, that is operated as a nonprofit corporation or by the state or any of its political subdivisions, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such activities is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.75 percent through June 30, 1995, and 1.5 percent thereafter.

(11)(a) Beginning October 1, 2005, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing commercial airplanes, or components of such airplanes, or making sales, at retail or wholesale, of commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes, manufactured by the seller, as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of the product manufactured and the gross proceeds of sales of the product manufactured, or in the case of processors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of:

(i) 0.4235 percent from October 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007; and

(ii) 0.2904 percent beginning July 1, 2007.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2008, upon every person who is not eligible to report under the provisions of (a) of this subsection (11) and is engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing tooling specifically designed for use in manufacturing commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes, or making sales, at retail or wholesale, of such tooling manufactured by the seller, as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of the product manufactured and the gross proceeds of sales of the product manufactured, or in the case of processors for hire, be equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.2904 percent.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (11), "commercial airplane" and "component" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.32.550.

(d) In addition to all other requirements under this title, a person reporting under the tax rate provided in this subsection (11) must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(e) This subsection (11) does not apply on and after July 1, 2024.

(12)(a) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of extracting timber or extracting for hire timber; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to the business is, in the case of extractors, equal to the value of products, including by-products, extracted, or in the case of extractors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.4235

percent from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, and 0.2904 percent from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2024.

(b) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing or processing for hire: (i) Timber into timber products or wood products; or (ii) timber products into other timber products or wood products; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to the business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of products, including by-products, manufactured, or in the case of processors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.4235 percent from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, and 0.2904 percent from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2024.

(c) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of selling at wholesale: (i) Timber extracted by that person; (ii) timber products manufactured by that person from timber or other timber products; or (iii) wood products manufactured by that person from timber or timber products; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to the business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the timber, timber products, or wood products multiplied by the rate of 0.4235 percent from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, and 0.2904 percent from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2024.

(d) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of selling standing timber; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to the business is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.2904 percent. For purposes of this subsection (12)(d), "selling standing timber" means the sale of timber apart from the land, where the buyer is required to sever the timber within thirty months from the date of the original contract, regardless of the method of payment for the timber and whether title to the timber transfers before, upon, or after severance.

(e) For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) "Biocomposite surface products" means surface material products containing, by weight or volume, more than fifty percent recycled paper and that also use nonpetroleum-based phenolic resin as a bonding agent.

(ii) "Paper and paper products" means products made of interwoven cellulosic fibers held together largely by hydrogen bonding. "Paper and paper products" includes newsprint; office, printing, fine, and pressure-sensitive papers; paper napkins, towels, and toilet tissue; kraft bag, construction, and other kraft industrial papers; paperboard, liquid packaging containers, containerboard, corrugated, and solid-fiber containers including linerboard and corrugated medium; and related types of cellulosic products containing primarily, by weight or volume, cellulosic materials. "Paper and paper products" does not include books, newspapers, magazines, periodicals, and other printed publications, advertising materials, calendars, and similar types of printed materials.

(iii) "Recycled paper" means paper and paper products having fifty percent or more of their fiber content that comes from postconsumer waste. For purposes of this subsection (12)(e)(iii), "postconsumer waste" means a finished material that would normally be disposed of as solid waste, having completed its life cycle as a consumer item.

(iv) "Timber" means forest trees, standing or down, on privately or publicly owned land. "Timber" does not include Christmas trees that are cultivated by agricultural methods or short-rotation hardwoods as defined in RCW 84.33.035.

(v) "Timber products" means:

(A) Logs, wood chips, sawdust, wood waste, and similar products obtained wholly from the processing of timber, short-rotation hardwoods as defined in RCW 84.33.035, or both;

(B) Pulp, including market pulp and pulp derived from recovered paper or paper products; and

(C) Recycled paper, but only when used in the manufacture of biocomposite surface products.

(vi) "Wood products" means paper and paper products; dimensional lumber; engineered wood products such as particleboard, oriented strand board, medium density fiberboard, and plywood; wood doors; wood windows; and biocomposite surface products.

(f) Except for small harvesters as defined in RCW 84.33.035, a person reporting under the tax rate provided in this subsection (12) must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585.

(13) Upon every person engaging within this state in inspecting, testing, labeling, and storing canned salmon owned by another person, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such activities is equal to the gross income derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(14)(a) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of printing a newspaper, publishing a newspaper, or both, the amount of tax on such business is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.365 percent through June 30, 2013, and beginning July 1, 2013, multiplied by the rate of 0.35 percent.

(b) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this subsection (14) must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 602; 2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 204; 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010); 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 506; (2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 505 expired June 10, 2010); 2010 c 114 § 107. Prior: 2009 c 479 § 64; 2009 c 461 § 1; 2009 c 162 § 34; prior: 2008 c 296 § 1; 2008 c 217 § 100; 2008 c 81 § 4; prior: 2007 c 54 § 6; 2007 c 48 § 2; prior: 2006 c 354 § 4; 2006 c 300 § 1; prior: 2005 c 513 § 2; 2005 c 443 § 4; prior: 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 4; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 3; 2003 c 339 § 11; 2003 c 261 § 11; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 25 § 2; prior: 1998 c 312 § 5; 1998 c 311 § 2; prior: 1998 c 170 § 4; 1996 c 148 § 2; 1996 c 115 § 1; prior: 1995 2nd sp.s. c 12 § 1; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 104; 1993 c 492 § 304; 1991 c 272 § 15; 1990 c 21 § 2; 1987 c 139 § 1; prior: 1985 c 471 § 1; 1985 c 135 § 2; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 5; prior: 1983 1st ex.s. c 66 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 4; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 13 § 1; 1982 c 10 § 16; prior: 1981 c 178 § 1; 1981 c 172 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 196 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 186 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 36; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 10; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.260; prior: 1959 c 211 § 2; 1955 c 389 § 46; prior: 1953 c 91 § 4; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 28 § 4; 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 204 and by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 602, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Expiration date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 §§ 601 and 602:** See note following RCW 82.04.214.

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Findings—Construction—2011 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1107):** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 503, 505, and 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 504, 506, and 515:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Effective date—Contingent effective date—2009 c 461:** See note following RCW 82.04.280.

**Effective date—2009 c 162:** See note following RCW 48.03.020.

**Retroactive application—2008 c 296:** "Section 1 of this act applies retroactively to July 1, 2007, as well as prospectively." [2008 c 296 § 2.]

**Severability—Effective date—2008 c 217:** See notes following RCW 48.03.020.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective date—2007 c 48:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 48 § 9.]

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2005 c 443:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0255.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**Effective dates—2003 c 339:** See note following RCW 84.36.640.

**Effective dates—2003 c 261:** See note following RCW 84.36.635.

**Purpose—Intent—2001 2nd sp.s. c 25:** "The purpose of sections 2 and 3 of this act is to provide a tax rate for persons who manufacture dairy products that is commensurate to the rate imposed on certain other processors of agricultural commodities. This tax rate applies to persons who manufacture dairy products from raw materials such as fluid milk, dehydrated milk, or by-products of milk such as cream, buttermilk, whey, butter, or casein. It is not the intent of the legislature to provide this tax rate to persons who use dairy products as an ingredient or component of their manufactured product, such as milk-based soups or pizza. It is the intent that persons who manufacture products such as milk, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, whey, or whey products be subject to this rate." [2001 2nd sp.s. c 25 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.260 Tax on manufacturers and processors of various foods and by-products—Research and development organizations—Travel agents—Certain international activities—Stevedoring and associated activities—Low-level waste disposers—Insurance producers, surplus line brokers, and title insurance agents—Hospitals—**

(2012 Ed.)

**Commercial airplane activities—Timber product activities—Canned salmon processors. (Effective July 1, 2015.)**

(1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing:

(a) Wheat into flour, barley into pearl barley, soybeans into soybean oil, canola into canola oil, canola meal, or canola by-products, or sunflower seeds into sunflower oil; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the flour, pearl barley, oil, canola meal, or canola by-product manufactured, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent;

(b) Beginning July 1, 2015, seafood products that remain in a raw, raw frozen, or raw salted state at the completion of the manufacturing by that person; or selling manufactured seafood products that remain in a raw, raw frozen, or raw salted state at the completion of the manufacturing, to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of this state; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the products manufactured or the gross proceeds derived from such sales, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent. Sellers must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state;

(c) Beginning July 1, 2015, dairy products that as of September 20, 2001, are identified in 21 C.F.R., chapter 1, parts 131, 133, and 135, including by-products from the manufacturing of the dairy products such as whey and casein; or selling the same to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of state; as to such persons the tax imposed is equal to the value of the products manufactured or the gross proceeds derived from such sales multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent. Sellers must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state;

(d) Beginning July 1, 2015, fruits or vegetables by canning, preserving, freezing, processing, or dehydrating fresh fruits or vegetables, or selling at wholesale fruits or vegetables manufactured by the seller by canning, preserving, freezing, processing, or dehydrating fresh fruits or vegetables and sold to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of this state; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the products manufactured or the gross proceeds derived from such sales multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent. Sellers must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state;

(e) Until July 1, 2009, alcohol fuel, biodiesel fuel, or biodiesel feedstock, as those terms are defined in RCW 82.29A.135; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to the business is equal to the value of alcohol fuel, biodiesel fuel, or biodiesel feedstock manufactured, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent; and

(f) Wood biomass fuel as defined in RCW 82.29A.135; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to the business is equal to the value of wood biomass fuel manufactured, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent.

[Title 82 RCW—page 35]

(2) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of splitting or processing dried peas; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the value of the peas split or processed, multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent.

(3) Upon every nonprofit corporation and nonprofit association engaging within this state in research and development, as to such corporations and associations, the amount of tax with respect to such activities is equal to the gross income derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(4) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of slaughtering, breaking and/or processing perishable meat products and/or selling the same at wholesale only and not at retail; as to such persons the tax imposed is equal to the gross proceeds derived from such sales multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent.

(5) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of acting as a travel agent or tour operator; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to such activities is equal to the gross income derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent.

(6) Upon every person engaging within this state in business as an international steamship agent, international customs house broker, international freight forwarder, vessel and/or cargo charter broker in foreign commerce, and/or international air cargo agent; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to only international activities is equal to the gross income derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent.

(7) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of stevedoring and associated activities pertinent to the movement of goods and commodities in waterborne interstate or foreign commerce; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent. Persons subject to taxation under this subsection are exempt from payment of taxes imposed by chapter 82.16 RCW for that portion of their business subject to taxation under this subsection. Stevedoring and associated activities pertinent to the conduct of goods and commodities in waterborne interstate or foreign commerce are defined as all activities of a labor, service or transportation nature whereby cargo may be loaded or unloaded to or from vessels or barges, passing over, onto or under a wharf, pier, or similar structure; cargo may be moved to a warehouse or similar holding or storage yard or area to await further movement in import or export or may move to a consolidation freight station and be stuffed, unstuffed, containerized, separated or otherwise segregated or aggregated for delivery or loaded on any mode of transportation for delivery to its consignee. Specific activities included in this definition are: Wharfage, handling, loading, unloading, moving of cargo to a convenient place of delivery to the consignee or a convenient place for further movement to export mode; documentation services in connection with the receipt, delivery, checking, care, custody and control of cargo required in the transfer of cargo; imported automobile handling prior to delivery to consignee; terminal stevedoring and incidental vessel services, including but not limited to plugging and unplugging refrigerator ser-

vice to containers, trailers, and other refrigerated cargo receptacles, and securing ship hatch covers.

(8) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of disposing of low-level waste, as defined in RCW 43.145.010; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross income of the business, excluding any fees imposed under chapter 43.200 RCW, multiplied by the rate of 3.3 percent.

If the gross income of the taxpayer is attributable to activities both within and without this state, the gross income attributable to this state must be determined in accordance with the methods of apportionment required under RCW 82.04.460.

(9) Upon every person engaging within this state as an insurance producer or title insurance agent licensed under chapter 48.17 RCW or a surplus line broker licensed under chapter 48.15 RCW; as to such persons, the amount of the tax with respect to such licensed activities is equal to the gross income of such business multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(10) Upon every person engaging within this state in business as a hospital, as defined in chapter 70.41 RCW, that is operated as a nonprofit corporation or by the state or any of its political subdivisions, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such activities is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.75 percent through June 30, 1995, and 1.5 percent thereafter.

(11)(a) Beginning October 1, 2005, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing commercial airplanes, or components of such airplanes, or making sales, at retail or wholesale, of commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes, manufactured by the seller, as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of the product manufactured and the gross proceeds of sales of the product manufactured, or in the case of processors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of:

(i) 0.4235 percent from October 1, 2005, through June 30, 2007; and

(ii) 0.2904 percent beginning July 1, 2007.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2008, upon every person who is not eligible to report under the provisions of (a) of this subsection (11) and is engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing tooling specifically designed for use in manufacturing commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes, or making sales, at retail or wholesale, of such tooling manufactured by the seller, as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of the product manufactured and the gross proceeds of sales of the product manufactured, or in the case of processors for hire, be equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.2904 percent.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (11), "commercial airplane" and "component" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.32.550.

(d) In addition to all other requirements under this title, a person reporting under the tax rate provided in this subsection (11) must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(e) This subsection (11) does not apply on and after July 1, 2024.

(12)(a) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of extracting timber or extracting for hire timber; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to the business is, in the case of extractors, equal to the value of products, including by-products, extracted, or in the case of extractors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.4235 percent from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, and 0.2904 percent from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2024.

(b) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing or processing for hire: (i) Timber into timber products or wood products; or (ii) timber products into other timber products or wood products; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to the business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of products, including by-products, manufactured, or in the case of processors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.4235 percent from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, and 0.2904 percent from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2024.

(c) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of selling at wholesale: (i) Timber extracted by that person; (ii) timber products manufactured by that person from timber or other timber products; or (iii) wood products manufactured by that person from timber or timber products; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to the business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the timber, timber products, or wood products multiplied by the rate of 0.4235 percent from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, and 0.2904 percent from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2024.

(d) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of selling standing timber; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to the business is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.2904 percent. For purposes of this subsection (12)(d), "selling standing timber" means the sale of timber apart from the land, where the buyer is required to sever the timber within thirty months from the date of the original contract, regardless of the method of payment for the timber and whether title to the timber transfers before, upon, or after severance.

(e) For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) "Biocomposite surface products" means surface material products containing, by weight or volume, more than fifty percent recycled paper and that also use nonpetroleum-based phenolic resin as a bonding agent.

(ii) "Paper and paper products" means products made of interwoven cellulosic fibers held together largely by hydrogen bonding. "Paper and paper products" includes newsprint; office, printing, fine, and pressure-sensitive papers; paper napkins, towels, and toilet tissue; kraft bag, construction, and other kraft industrial papers; paperboard, liquid packaging containers, containerboard, corrugated, and solid-fiber containers including linerboard and corrugated medium; and related types of cellulosic products containing primarily, by weight or volume, cellulosic materials. "Paper and paper products" does not include books, newspapers, magazines,

periodicals, and other printed publications, advertising materials, calendars, and similar types of printed materials.

(iii) "Recycled paper" means paper and paper products having fifty percent or more of their fiber content that comes from postconsumer waste. For purposes of this subsection (12)(e)(iii), "postconsumer waste" means a finished material that would normally be disposed of as solid waste, having completed its life cycle as a consumer item.

(iv) "Timber" means forest trees, standing or down, on privately or publicly owned land. "Timber" does not include Christmas trees that are cultivated by agricultural methods or short-rotation hardwoods as defined in RCW 84.33.035.

(v) "Timber products" means:

(A) Logs, wood chips, sawdust, wood waste, and similar products obtained wholly from the processing of timber, short-rotation hardwoods as defined in RCW 84.33.035, or both;

(B) Pulp, including market pulp and pulp derived from recovered paper or paper products; and

(C) Recycled paper, but only when used in the manufacture of biocomposite surface products.

(vi) "Wood products" means paper and paper products; dimensional lumber; engineered wood products such as particleboard, oriented strand board, medium density fiberboard, and plywood; wood doors; wood windows; and biocomposite surface products.

(f) Except for small harvesters as defined in RCW 84.33.035, a person reporting under the tax rate provided in this subsection (12) must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585.

(13) Upon every person engaging within this state in inspecting, testing, labeling, and storing canned salmon owned by another person, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such activities is equal to the gross income derived from such activities multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(14)(a) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of printing a newspaper, publishing a newspaper, or both, the amount of tax on such business is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.2904 percent.

(b) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this subsection (14) must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 204; 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010); 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 506; (2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 505 expired June 10, 2010); 2010 c 114 § 107. Prior: 2009 c 479 § 64; 2009 c 461 § 1; 2009 c 162 § 34; prior: 2008 c 296 § 1; 2008 c 217 § 100; 2008 c 81 § 4; prior: 2007 c 54 § 6; 2007 c 48 § 2; prior: 2006 c 354 § 4; 2006 c 300 § 1; prior: 2005 c 513 § 2; 2005 c 443 § 4; prior: 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 4; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 3; 2003 c 339 § 11; 2003 c 261 § 11; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 25 § 2; prior: 1998 c 312 § 5; 1998 c 311 § 2; prior: 1998 c 170 § 4; 1996 c 148 § 2; 1996 c 115 § 1; prior: 1995 2nd sp.s. c 12 § 1; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 104; 1993 c 492 § 304; 1991 c 272 § 15; 1990 c 21 § 2; 1987 c 139 § 1; prior: 1985 c 471 § 1; 1985 c 135 § 2; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 5; prior: 1983 1st ex.s. c 66 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 4; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 13 § 1; 1982 c 10 § 16; prior: 1981 c 178 § 1; 1981 c 172 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 196 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 186

§ 3; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 36; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 10; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.260; prior: 1959 c 211 § 2; 1955 c 389 § 46; prior: 1953 c 91 § 4; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 28 § 4; 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Findings—Construction—2011 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1107):** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 503, 505, and 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 504, 506, and 515:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Effective date—Contingent effective date—2009 c 461:** See note following RCW 82.04.280.

**Effective date—2009 c 162:** See note following RCW 48.03.020.

**Retroactive application—2008 c 296:** "Section 1 of this act applies retroactively to July 1, 2007, as well as prospectively." [2008 c 296 § 2.]

**Severability—Effective date—2008 c 217:** See notes following RCW 48.03.020.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective date—2007 c 48:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 48 § 9.]

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2005 c 443:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0255.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**Effective dates—2003 c 339:** See note following RCW 84.36.640.

**Effective dates—2003 c 261:** See note following RCW 84.36.635.

**Purpose—Intent—2001 2nd sp.s. c 25:** "The purpose of sections 2 and 3 of this act is to provide a tax rate for persons who manufacture dairy products that is commensurate to the rate imposed on certain other processors of agricultural commodities. This tax rate applies to persons who manufacture dairy products from raw materials such as fluid milk, dehydrated milk, or by-products of milk such as cream, buttermilk, whey, butter, or casein. It is not the intent of the legislature to provide this tax rate to persons who use dairy products as an ingredient or component of their manufactured product, such as milk-based soups or pizza. It is the intent that persons who manufacture products such as milk, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, whey, or whey products be subject to this rate." [2001 2nd sp.s. c 25 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.261 Surcharge on timber and wood product manufacturers, extractors, and wholesalers. (Expires July 1, 2024.)** (1) In addition to the taxes imposed under \*RCW 82.04.260(11), a surcharge is imposed on those persons who are subject to any of the taxes imposed under

\*RCW 82.04.260(11). Except as otherwise provided in this section, the surcharge is equal to 0.052 percent. The surcharge is added to the rates provided in \*RCW 82.04.260(11) (a), (b), (c), and (d). The surcharge and this section expire July 1, 2024.

(2) All receipts from the surcharge imposed under this section must be deposited into the forest and fish support account created in RCW 76.09.405.

(3)(a) The surcharge imposed under this section is suspended if:

(i) Receipts from the surcharge total at least eight million dollars during any fiscal biennium; or

(ii) The office of financial management certifies to the department that the federal government has appropriated at least two million dollars for participation in forest and fish report-related activities by federally recognized Indian tribes located within the geographical boundaries of the state of Washington for any federal fiscal year.

(b)(i) The suspension of the surcharge under (a)(i) of this subsection (3) takes effect on the first day of the calendar month that is at least thirty days after the end of the month during which the department determines that receipts from the surcharge total at least eight million dollars during the fiscal biennium. The surcharge is imposed again at the beginning of the following fiscal biennium.

(ii) The suspension of the surcharge under (a)(ii) of this subsection (3) takes effect on the later of the first day of October of any federal fiscal year for which the federal government appropriates at least two million dollars for participation in forest and fish report-related activities by federally recognized Indian tribes located within the geographical boundaries of the state of Washington, or the first day of a calendar month that is at least thirty days following the date that the office of financial management makes a certification to the department under subsection (5) of this section. The surcharge is imposed again on the first day of the following July.

(4)(a) If, by October 1st of any federal fiscal year, the office of financial management certifies to the department that the federal government has appropriated funds for participation in forest and fish report-related activities by federally recognized Indian tribes located within the geographical boundaries of the state of Washington but the amount of the appropriation is less than two million dollars, the department must adjust the surcharge in accordance with this subsection.

(b) The department must adjust the surcharge by an amount that the department estimates will cause the amount of funds deposited into the forest and fish support account for the state fiscal year that begins July 1st and that includes the beginning of the federal fiscal year for which the federal appropriation is made, to be reduced by twice the amount of the federal appropriation for participation in forest and fish report-related activities by federally recognized Indian tribes located within the geographical boundaries of the state of Washington.

(c) Any adjustment in the surcharge takes effect at the beginning of a calendar month that is at least thirty days after the date that the office of financial management makes the certification under subsection (5) of this section.

(d) The surcharge is imposed again at the rate provided in subsection (1) of this section on the first day of the follow-

ing state fiscal year unless the surcharge is suspended under subsection (3) of this section or adjusted for that fiscal year under this subsection.

(e) Adjustments of the amount of the surcharge by the department are final and may not be used to challenge the validity of the surcharge imposed under this section.

(f) The department must provide timely notice to affected taxpayers of the suspension of the surcharge or an adjustment of the surcharge.

(5) The office of financial management must make the certification to the department as to the status of federal appropriations for tribal participation in forest and fish report-related activities. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 510. Prior: 2007 c 54 § 7; 2007 c 48 § 4; 2006 c 300 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.04.260 was amended by 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), changing subsection (11) to subsection (12).

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Savings—2007 c 48:** "The expiration of RCW 82.04.261 does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under that section or under any rule or order adopted under that section, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under that section." [2007 c 48 § 8.]

**Effective date—2007 c 48:** See note following RCW 82.04.260.

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** "(1) Sections 1, 3, 4 through 6, and 8 through 12 of this act take effect July 1, 2006.

(2) Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1, 2007.

(3) Section 7 of this act takes effect if the contingency in \*section 12 of this act occurs." [2006 c 300 § 13.]

**\*Reviser's note:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**82.04.263 Tax on cleaning up radioactive waste and other by-products of weapons production and nuclear research and development.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of cleaning up for the United States, or its instrumentalities, radioactive waste and other by-products of weapons production and nuclear research and development; as to such persons the amount of the tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.471 percent.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter, "cleaning up radioactive waste and other by-products of weapons production and nuclear research and development" means:

(a) The activities of handling, storing, treating, immobilizing, stabilizing, or disposing of radioactive waste, radioactive tank waste and capsules, nonradioactive hazardous solid and liquid wastes, or spent nuclear fuel;

(b) Spent nuclear fuel conditioning;

(c) Removal of contamination in soils and groundwater;

(d) Decontamination and decommissioning of facilities;

and (e) Services supporting the performance of cleanup. For the purposes of this subsection (2)(e), a service supports the performance of cleanup if it:

(i) Is within the scope of work under a clean-up contract with the United States department of energy; or

(ii) Assists in the accomplishment of a requirement of a clean-up project undertaken by the United States department of energy under a subcontract entered into with the prime contractor or another subcontractor in furtherance of a clean-

(2012 Ed.)

up contract between the United States department of energy and a prime contractor.

(3) A service does not assist in the accomplishment of a requirement of a clean-up project undertaken by the United States department of energy if the same services are routinely provided to businesses not engaged in clean-up activities, except that the following services are always deemed to contribute to the accomplishment of a requirement of a clean-up project undertaken by the United States department of energy:

(a) Information technology and computer support services;

(b) Services rendered in respect to infrastructure; and

(c) Security, safety, and health services.

(4) The legislature intends that the examples provided in this subsection be used as a guideline when determining whether a service is "routinely provided to businesses not engaged in clean-up activities" as that phrase is used in subsection (3) of this section.

(a) The radioactive waste clean-up classification does not apply to general accounting services but does apply to performance audits performed for persons cleaning up radioactive waste.

(b) The radioactive waste clean-up classification does not apply to general legal services but does apply to those legal services that assist in the accomplishment of a requirement of a clean-up project undertaken by the United States department of energy. Thus, legal services provided to contest any local, state, or federal tax liability or to defend a company against a workers' compensation claim arising from a worksite injury do not qualify for the radioactive waste clean-up classification. But, legal services related to the resolution of a contractual dispute between the parties to a clean-up contract between the United States department of energy and a prime contractor do qualify.

(c) General office janitorial services do not qualify for the radioactive waste clean-up classification, but the specialized cleaning of equipment exposed to radioactive waste does qualify. [2009 c 469 § 202; 1996 c 112 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 469:** "(1) The legislature finds that the cleaning up of radioactive waste at the Hanford site is crucial to the environment in this state. The legislature intends to include services supporting the cleanup within the radioactive waste clean-up business and occupation tax classification, but it is not the legislature's intent to extend the radioactive waste clean-up classification to all business activities conducted at the Hanford site or performed for persons engaged in the performance of cleanup.

(2) It is the legislature's intent in enacting this legislation to ensure that the radioactive waste clean-up business and occupation tax classification applies to all services contributing to the performance of a clean-up project at the Hanford site other than services that are routinely provided to any business, including businesses that are not engaged in clean-up activities." [2009 c 469 § 201.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.270 Tax on wholesalers.** Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of making sales at wholesale, except persons taxable as wholesalers under other provisions of this chapter; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the gross proceeds of sales of such business multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent. [2004 c 24 § 5; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 5; 2001 1st sp.s. c 9 § 3; (2001 1st sp.s. c 9 § 2 expired July 1, 2001); 1999 c 358 § 2. Prior: 1999 c 358 § 1; 1998 c 343 § 2; 1998

c 329 § 1; 1998 c 312 § 6; 1994 c 124 § 2; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 105; 1981 c 172 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 186 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 37; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 11; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.270; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 3; 1955 c 389 § 47; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.272 Tax on warehousing and reselling prescription drugs.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of warehousing and reselling drugs for human use pursuant to a prescription; as to such persons, the amount of the tax shall be equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.138 percent.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Prescription" and "drug" have the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0281; and

(b) "Warehousing and reselling drugs for human use pursuant to a prescription" means the buying of drugs for human use pursuant to a prescription from a manufacturer or another wholesaler, and reselling of the drugs to persons selling at retail or to hospitals, clinics, health care providers, or other providers of health care services, by a wholesaler or retailer who is registered with the federal drug enforcement administration and licensed by the state board of pharmacy. [2003 c 168 § 401; 1998 c 343 § 1.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.280 Tax on printers, publishers, highway contractors, extracting or processing for hire, cold storage warehouse or storage warehouse operation, insurance general agents, radio and television broadcasting, government contractors—Cold storage warehouse defined—Storage warehouse defined—Periodical or magazine defined. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of: (a) Printing materials other than newspapers, and of publishing periodicals or magazines; (b) building, repairing or improving any street, place, road, highway, easement, right-of-way, mass public transportation terminal or parking facility, bridge, tunnel, or trestle which is owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state or by the United States and which is used or to be used, primarily for foot or vehicular traffic including mass transportation vehicles of any kind and including any readjustment, reconstruction or relocation of the facilities of any public, private or cooperatively owned utility or railroad in the course of such building, repairing or improving, the cost of which readjustment, reconstruction, or relocation, is the responsibility of the public authority whose street, place, road, highway, easement, right-of-way, mass public transportation terminal or parking facility, bridge, tunnel, or trestle is being built, repaired or improved; (c) extracting for hire or processing for hire, except persons taxable as extractors for hire or processors for hire under another section

of this chapter; (d) operating a cold storage warehouse or storage warehouse, but not including the rental of cold storage lockers; (e) representing and performing services for fire or casualty insurance companies as an independent resident managing general agent licensed under the provisions of chapter 48.17 RCW; (f) radio and television broadcasting, excluding network, national and regional advertising computed as a standard deduction based on the national average thereof as annually reported by the federal communications commission, or in lieu thereof by itemization by the individual broadcasting station, and excluding that portion of revenue represented by the out-of-state audience computed as a ratio to the station's total audience as measured by the 100 micro-volt signal strength and delivery by wire, if any; (g) engaging in activities which bring a person within the definition of consumer contained in RCW 82.04.190(6); as to such persons, the amount of tax on such business is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Cold storage warehouse" means a storage warehouse used to store fresh and/or frozen perishable fruits or vegetables, meat, seafood, dairy products, or fowl, or any combination thereof, at a desired temperature to maintain the quality of the product for orderly marketing.

(b) "Storage warehouse" means a building or structure, or any part thereof, in which goods, wares, or merchandise are received for storage for compensation, except field warehouses, fruit warehouses, fruit packing plants, warehouses licensed under chapter 22.09 RCW, public garages storing automobiles, railroad freight sheds, docks and wharves, and "self-storage" or "mini storage" facilities whereby customers have direct access to individual storage areas by separate entrance. "Storage warehouse" does not include a building or structure, or that part of such building or structure, in which an activity taxable under RCW 82.04.272 is conducted.

(c) "Periodical or magazine" means a printed publication, other than a newspaper, issued regularly at stated intervals at least once every three months, including any supplement or special edition of the publication. [2010 c 106 § 205; 2009 c 461 § 2; 2006 c 300 § 6; 2004 c 24 § 6; 1998 c 343 § 3; 1994 c 112 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 303; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 106; 1986 c 226 § 2; 1983 c 132 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 90 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 8 § 2. Prior: 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 38; 1969 ex.s. c 255 § 5; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 13; 1963 c 168 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.280; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 4; 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 4; 1955 c 389 § 48; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 228 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Contingent effective date—2010 c 106 §§ 205 and 206:** "If section 206 of this act takes effect, section 205 of this act expires on the date section 206 of this act takes effect." [2010 c 106 § 413.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Contingent expiration date—2009 c 461:** "Section 2 of this act expires on the date that section 3 of this act takes effect." [2009 c 461 § 11.]

**Contingent expiration date—2006 c 300 § 6:** "Section 6 of this act expires on the date that section 7 of this act takes effect." [2006 c 300 § 14.]

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.280 Tax on printers, publishers, highway contractors, extracting or processing for hire, cold storage warehouse or storage warehouse operation, insurance general agents, radio and television broadcasting, government contractors—Cold storage warehouse defined—Storage warehouse defined—Periodical or magazine defined. (Contingent effective date.)** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of: (a) Printing materials other than newspapers, and of publishing periodicals or magazines; (b) building, repairing or improving any street, place, road, highway, easement, right-of-way, mass public transportation terminal or parking facility, bridge, tunnel, or trestle which is owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state or by the United States and which is used or to be used, primarily for foot or vehicular traffic including mass transportation vehicles of any kind and including any readjustment, reconstruction or relocation of the facilities of any public, private or cooperatively owned utility or railroad in the course of such building, repairing or improving, the cost of which readjustment, reconstruction, or relocation, is the responsibility of the public authority whose street, place, road, highway, easement, right-of-way, mass public transportation terminal or parking facility, bridge, tunnel, or trestle is being built, repaired or improved; (c) extracting for hire or processing for hire, except persons taxable as extractors for hire or processors for hire under another section of this chapter; (d) operating a cold storage warehouse or storage warehouse, but not including the rental of cold storage lockers; (e) representing and performing services for fire or casualty insurance companies as an independent resident managing general agent licensed under the provisions of chapter 48.17 RCW; (f) radio and television broadcasting, excluding network, national and regional advertising computed as a standard deduction based on the national average thereof as annually reported by the federal communications commission, or in lieu thereof by itemization by the individual broadcasting station, and excluding that portion of revenue represented by the out-of-state audience computed as a ratio to the station's total audience as measured by the 100 micro-volt signal strength and delivery by wire, if any; (g) engaging in activities which bring a person within the definition of consumer contained in RCW 82.04.190(6); as to such persons, the amount of tax on such business is equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Cold storage warehouse" means a storage warehouse used to store fresh and/or frozen perishable fruits or vegetables, meat, seafood, dairy products, or fowl, or any combination thereof, at a desired temperature to maintain the quality of the product for orderly marketing.

(b) "Storage warehouse" means a building or structure, or any part thereof, in which goods, wares, or merchandise are received for storage for compensation, except field ware-

houses, fruit warehouses, fruit packing plants, warehouses licensed under chapter 22.09 RCW, public garages storing automobiles, railroad freight sheds, docks and wharves, and "self-storage" or "mini storage" facilities whereby customers have direct access to individual storage areas by separate entrance. "Storage warehouse" does not include a building or structure, or that part of such building or structure, in which an activity taxable under RCW 82.04.272 is conducted.

(c) "Periodical or magazine" means a printed publication, other than a newspaper, issued regularly at stated intervals at least once every three months, including any supplement or special edition of the publication. [2010 c 106 § 206; 2009 c 461 § 3; 2006 c 300 § 7; 2003 c 149 § 4; 1998 c 343 § 3; 1994 c 112 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 303; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 106; 1986 c 226 § 2; 1983 c 132 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 90 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 8 § 2. Prior: 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 38; 1969 ex.s. c 255 § 5; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 13; 1963 c 168 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.280; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 4; 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 4; 1955 c 389 § 48; prior: 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 228 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Contingent effective date—2010 c 106 §§ 205 and 206:** See note following RCW 82.04.280.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Effective date—Contingent effective date—2009 c 461:** "(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2009.

(2) Section 3 of this act takes effect if the contingency in \*section 9 of this act occurs." [2009 c 461 § 10.]

**\*Reviser's note:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

**Contingent effective date—2010 c 114:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** See note following RCW 82.04.426.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.285 Tax on contests of chance.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of operating contests of chance; as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to the business of operating contests of chance is equal to the gross income of the business derived from contests of chance multiplied by the rate of 1.5 percent.

(2) An additional tax is imposed on those persons subject to tax in subsection (1) of this section. The amount of the additional tax with respect to the business of operating contests of chance is equal to the gross income of the business derived from contests of chance multiplied by the rate of 0.1 percent through June 30, 2006, and 0.13 percent thereafter. The money collected under this subsection (2) shall be deposited in the problem gambling account created in RCW 43.20A.892. This subsection does not apply to businesses operating contests of chance when the gross income from the operation of contests of chance is less than fifty thousand dollars per year.

(3) For the purpose of this section, "contests of chance" means any contests, games, gaming schemes, or gaming devices, other than the state lottery as defined in RCW 67.70.010, in which the outcome depends in a material

degree upon an element of chance, notwithstanding that skill of the contestants may also be a factor in the outcome. The term includes social card games, bingo, raffle, and punch-board games, and pull-tabs as defined in chapter 9.46 RCW. The term does not include race meets for the conduct of which a license must be secured from the Washington horse racing commission, or "amusement game" as defined in RCW 9.46.0201.

(4) "Gross income of the business" does not include the monetary value or actual cost of any prizes that are awarded, amounts paid to players for winning wagers, accrual of prizes for progressive jackpot contests, or repayment of amounts used to seed guaranteed progressive jackpot prizes. [2005 c 369 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 369:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.890.

**82.04.286 Tax on horse races.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of conducting race meets for the conduct of which a license must be secured from the Washington horse racing commission; as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to the business of parimutuel wagering is equal to the gross income of the business derived from parimutuel wagering multiplied by the rate of 0.1 percent through June 30, 2006, and 0.13 percent thereafter. The money collected under this section shall be deposited in the problem gambling account created in RCW 43.20A.892.

(2) For purposes of this section, "gross income of the business" does not include amounts paid to players for winning wagers, or taxes imposed or other distributions required under chapter 67.16 RCW.

(3) The tax imposed under this section is in addition to any tax imposed under chapter 67.16 RCW. [2005 c 369 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 369:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.890.

**82.04.290 Tax on international investment management services or other business or service activities.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of providing international investment management services, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the gross income or gross proceeds of sales of the business multiplied by a rate of 0.275 percent.

(2)(a) Upon every person engaging within this state in any business activity other than or in addition to an activity taxed explicitly under another section in this chapter or subsection (1) or (3) of this section; as to such persons the amount of tax on account of such activities shall be equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by the rate of 1.5 percent.

(b) This subsection (2) includes, among others, and without limiting the scope hereof (whether or not title to materials used in the performance of such business passes to another by accession, confusion or other than by outright sale), persons engaged in the business of rendering any type of service which does not constitute a "sale at retail" or a "sale at wholesale." The value of advertising, demonstration, and promotional supplies and materials furnished to an agent by his principal or supplier to be used for informational, educational and promotional purposes shall not be considered a part of

the agent's remuneration or commission and shall not be subject to taxation under this section.

(3)(a) Until July 1, 2024, upon every person engaging within this state in the business of performing aerospace product development for others, as to such persons, the amount of tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the gross income of the business multiplied by a rate of 0.9 percent.

(b) "Aerospace product development" has the meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.4461. [2011 c 174 § 101; 2008 c 81 § 6; 2005 c 369 § 8; 2004 c 174 § 2; 2003 c 343 § 2; 2001 1st sp.s. c 9 § 6; (2001 1st sp.s. c 9 § 4 expired July 1, 2001). Prior: 1998 c 343 § 4; 1998 c 331 § 2; 1998 c 312 § 8; 1998 c 308 § 5; 1998 c 308 § 4; 1997 c 7 § 2; 1996 c 1 § 2; 1995 c 229 § 3; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 203; 1985 c 32 § 3; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 2; 1983 c 9 § 2; 1983 c 3 § 212; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 8; 1970 ex.s. c 65 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 39; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 14; 1963 ex.s. c 28 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.290; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 5; 1955 c 389 § 49; prior: 1953 c 195 § 2; 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 1, part; 1949 c 228 § 1, part; 1943 c 156 § 1, part; 1941 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 225 § 1, part; 1937 c 227 § 1, part; 1935 c 180 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-4, part.]

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 369:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.890.

**Effective date—2004 c 174:** See note following RCW 82.04.2908.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.29001 Creation and distribution of custom software—Customization of prewritten computer software—Taxable services.** (1) The creation and distribution of custom software is a service taxable under RCW 82.04.290(2). Duplication of the software for the same person, or by the same person for its own use, does not change the character of the software.

(2) The customization of prewritten computer software is a service taxable under RCW 82.04.290(2). [2003 c 168 § 602; 1998 c 332 § 4.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—1998 c 332:** "The legislature finds that the creation and customization of software is an area not fully addressed in our excise tax statutes, and that certainty of tax treatment is essential to the industry and consumers. Therefore, the intent of this act is to make the tax treatment of software clear and certain for developers, programmers, and consumers." [1998 c 332 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.29002 Additional tax on certain business and service activities.** (1) Beginning May 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013, an additional rate of tax of 0.30 percent is added to the rate provided for in RCW 82.04.255, 82.04.285, and 82.04.290(2)(a).

(2)(a) The additional rate in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to persons engaging within this state in business as a hospital. "Hospital" has the meaning provided in chapter 70.41 RCW but also includes any hospital that comes within the scope of chapter 71.12 RCW if the hospital is also licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW.

(b) The additional rate in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to amounts received from performing scien-

tific research and development services including but not limited to research and development in the physical, engineering, and life sciences (such as agriculture, bacteriological, biotechnology, chemical, life sciences, and physical science research and development laboratories or services). [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1101.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.04.29005 Tax on loan interest—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6.**

(1) Amounts received as interest on loans originated by a person located in more than ten states, or an affiliate of such person, and primarily secured by first mortgages or trust deeds on nontransient residential properties are subject to tax under RCW 82.04.290(2)(a).

(2) For the purposes of this subsection [section], a person is located in a state if:

(a) The person or an affiliate of the person maintains a branch, office, or one or more employees or representatives in the state; and

(b) Such in-state presence allows borrowers or potential borrowers to contact the branch, office, employee, or representative concerning the acquiring, negotiating, renegotiating, or restructuring of, or making payments on, mortgages issued or to be issued by the person or an affiliate of the person.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Affiliate" means a person is affiliated with another person, and "affiliated" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.645; and

(b) "Interest" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.4292 and also includes servicing fees described in RCW 82.04.4292(4). [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 101.]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** "This act does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended or repealed or under any rule or order adopted under those sections, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under those sections." [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 701.]

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** "(1) Parts I, II, and V through VII of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect July 1, 2012.

(2) Section 302 of this act does not take effect if the contingency in subsection (3) of this section occurs.

(3) Section 303 of this act takes effect if Substitute House Bill No. 2530 or any other legislation repealing RCW 82.32.534 is enacted during the 2012 1st special session and signed into law.

(4) Parts III and IV of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [May 2, 2012]." [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 703.]

**82.04.2905 Tax on providing day care.** Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of providing child care for periods of less than twenty-four hours; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the gross proceeds derived from such sales multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent. [1998 c 312 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.2906 Tax on certain chemical dependency services.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the (2012 Ed.)

business of providing intensive inpatient or recovery house residential treatment services for chemical dependency, certified by the department of social and health services, for which payment from the United States or any instrumentality thereof or from the state of Washington or any municipal corporation or political subdivision thereof is received as compensation for or to support those services; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the gross income from such services multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(2) If the persons described in subsection (1) of this section receive income from sources other than those described in subsection (1) of this section or provide services other than those named in subsection (1) of this section, that income and those services are subject to tax as otherwise provided in this chapter. [2003 c 343 § 1.]

**82.04.2907 Tax on royalties.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of receiving income from royalties, the amount of tax with respect to the business is equal to the gross income from royalties multiplied by the rate of 0.484 percent.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "gross income from royalties" means compensation for the use of intangible property, including charges in the nature of royalties, regardless of where the intangible property will be used. For purposes of this subsection, "intangible property" includes copyrights, patents, licenses, franchises, trademarks, trade names, and similar items. "Gross income from royalties" does not include compensation for any natural resource, the licensing of prewritten computer software to the end user, or the licensing of digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services to the end user as defined in RCW 82.04.190(11). [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 107; (2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 106 expired July 1, 2010); 2010 c 111 § 302; 2009 c 535 § 407; 2001 c 320 § 3; 1998 c 331 § 1.]

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 106, 901, and 1201:** "Sections 106, 901, and 1201 of this act expire July 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1710.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 107, 601, 602, 702, 902, 1202, and 1401-1405:** "Parts VI, VII, and XIV and sections 107, 702, 902, and 1202 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect July 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1713.]

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.2908 Tax on provision of room and domiciliary care to assisted living facility residents.** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of providing room and domiciliary care to residents of an assisted living facility licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, the amount of tax with respect to such business shall be equal to the gross

income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "domiciliary care" has the meaning provided in RCW 18.20.020. [2012 c 10 § 70; 2005 c 514 § 302; 2004 c 174 § 1.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Effective date—2004 c 174:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2004." [2004 c 174 § 8.]

**82.04.2909 Tax on aluminum smelters. (Expires January 1, 2017.)** (1) Upon every person who is an aluminum smelter engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing aluminum; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of the product manufactured, or in the case of processors for hire, equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of .2904 percent.

(2) Upon every person who is an aluminum smelter engaging within this state in the business of making sales at wholesale of aluminum manufactured by that person, as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the aluminum multiplied by the rate of .2904 percent.

(3) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(4) This section expires January 1, 2017. [2011 c 174 § 301. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 2 § 1; 2010 c 114 § 108; 2006 c 182 § 1; 2004 c 24 § 3.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Intent—2004 c 24:** "The legislature recognizes that the loss of domestic manufacturing jobs has become a national concern. Washington state has lost one out of every six manufacturing jobs since July 2000. The aluminum industry has long been an important component of Washington state's manufacturing base, providing family-wage jobs often in rural communities where unemployment rates are very high. The aluminum industry is electricity intensive and was greatly affected by the dramatic increase in electricity prices which began in 2000 and which continues to affect the Washington economy. Before the energy crisis, aluminum smelters provided about 5,000 direct jobs. Today they provide fewer than 1,000 direct jobs. For every job lost in that industry, almost three additional jobs are estimated to be lost elsewhere in the state's economy. It is the legislature's intent to preserve and restore family-wage jobs by providing tax relief to the state's aluminum industry.

The electric loads of aluminum smelters provide a unique benefit to the infrastructure of the electric power system. Under the transmission tariff of the Bonneville Power Administration, aluminum smelter loads, whether served with federal or nonfederal power, are subject to short-term interruptions that allow a higher import capability on the transmission interconnection between the northwest and California. These stability reserves allow more power to be imported in winter months, reducing the need for additional generation in the northwest, and would be used to prevent a widespread transmission collapse and blackout if there were a failure in the transmission interconnection between California and the northwest. It is the legislature's intent to retain these benefits for the people of the state." [2004 c 24 § 1.]

**Effective date—2004 c 24:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2004." [2004 c 24 § 15.]

**82.04.293 International investment management services—Definitions.** For purposes of RCW 82.04.290:

(1) A person is engaged in the business of providing international investment management services, if:

(a) Such person is engaged primarily in the business of providing investment management services; and

(b) At least ten percent of the gross income of such person is derived from providing investment management services to any of the following: (i) Persons or collective investment funds residing outside the United States; or (ii) persons or collective investment funds with at least ten percent of their investments located outside the United States.

(2) "Investment management services" means investment research, investment consulting, portfolio management, fund administration, fund distribution, investment transactions, or related investment services.

(3) "Collective investment fund" includes:

(a) A mutual fund or other regulated investment company, as defined in section 851(a) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended;

(b) An "investment company," as that term is used in section 3(a) of the investment company act of 1940, as well as any entity that would be an investment company for this purpose but for the exemptions contained in section 3(c)(1) or (11);

(c) An "employee benefit plan," which includes any plan, trust, commingled employee benefit trust, or custodial arrangement that is subject to the employee retirement income security act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 et seq., or that is described in sections 125, 401, 403, 408, 457, and 501(c)(9) and (17) through (23) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, or a similar plan maintained by a state or local government, or a plan, trust, or custodial arrangement established to self-insure benefits required by federal, state, or local law;

(d) A fund maintained by a tax-exempt organization, as defined in section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, for operating, quasi-endowment, or endowment purposes;

(e) Funds that are established for the benefit of such tax-exempt organizations, such as charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, charitable annuity trusts, or other similar trusts; or

(f) Collective investment funds similar to those described in (a) through (e) of this subsection created under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction.

(4) Investments are located outside the United States if the underlying assets in which the investment constitutes a beneficial interest reside or are created, issued or held outside the United States. [1997 c 7 § 3; 1995 c 229 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.294 Tax on manufacturers or wholesalers of solar energy systems. (Expires June 30, 2014.)** (1) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of manufacturing solar energy systems using photovoltaic modules or stirling converters, or of manufacturing solar grade silicon, silicon solar wafers, silicon solar cells, thin film solar devices, or compound semiconductor solar wafers to be used exclusively in components of such systems; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is, in the case of manufacturers, equal to the value of the product manufactured, or in the case of processors for hire, equal to the

gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent.

(2) Upon every person engaging within this state in the business of making sales at wholesale of solar energy systems using photovoltaic modules or stirling converters, or of solar grade silicon, silicon solar wafers, silicon solar cells, thin film solar devices, or compound semiconductor solar wafers to be used exclusively in components of such systems, manufactured by that person; as to such persons the amount of tax with respect to such business is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the solar energy systems using photovoltaic modules or stirling converters, or of the solar grade silicon to be used exclusively in components of such systems, multiplied by the rate of 0.275 percent.

(3) Silicon solar wafers, silicon solar cells, thin film solar devices, or compound semiconductor solar wafers are "semiconductor materials" for the purposes of RCW 82.08.9651 and 82.12.9651.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Compound semiconductor solar wafers" means a semiconductor solar wafer composed of elements from two or more different groups of the periodic table.

(b) "Module" means the smallest nondivisible self-contained physical structure housing interconnected photovoltaic cells and providing a single direct current electrical output.

(c) "Photovoltaic cell" means a device that converts light directly into electricity without moving parts.

(d) "Silicon solar cells" means a photovoltaic cell manufactured from a silicon solar wafer.

(e) "Silicon solar wafers" means a silicon wafer manufactured for solar conversion purposes.

(f) "Solar energy system" means any device or combination of devices or elements that rely upon direct sunlight as an energy source for use in the generation of electricity.

(g) "Solar grade silicon" means high-purity silicon used exclusively in components of solar energy systems using photovoltaic modules to capture direct sunlight. "Solar grade silicon" does not include silicon used in semiconductors.

(h) "Stirling converter" means a device that produces electricity by converting heat from a solar source utilizing a stirling engine.

(i) "Thin film solar devices" means a nonparticipating substrate on which various semiconducting materials are deposited to produce a photovoltaic cell that is used to generate electricity.

(5) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(6) This section expires June 30, 2014. [2011 c 179 § 1; 2010 c 114 § 109; 2009 c 469 § 501; 2007 c 54 § 8; 2005 c 301 § 2.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Findings—Intent—2005 c 301:** "The legislature finds that the welfare of the people of the state of Washington is positively impacted through the encouragement and expansion of key growth industries in the state. The legislature further finds that targeting tax incentives to focus on key growth industries is an important strategy to enhance the state's business climate.

A recent report by the Washington State University energy program

recognized the solar electric industry as one of the state's important growth industries. It is of great concern that businesses in this industry have been increasingly expanding and relocating their operations elsewhere. The report indicates that additional incentives for the solar electric industry are needed in recognition of the unique forces and issues involved in business decisions in this industry.

Therefore, the legislature intends to enact comprehensive tax incentives for the solar electric industry that address activities of the manufacture of these products and to encourage these industries to locate in Washington. Tax incentives for the solar electric industry are important in both retention and expansion of existing business and attraction of new businesses, all of which will strengthen this growth industry within our state, will create jobs, and will bring many indirect benefits to the state." [2005 c 301 § 1.]

**Effective date—2005 c 301:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2005." [2005 c 301 § 6.]

**82.04.297 Internet access—Definitions.** (1) The provision of internet access is subject to tax under RCW 82.04.290(2).

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, "internet" and "internet access" have the same meaning as those terms are defined in the federal internet tax freedom act, Title 47 U.S.C. Sec. 151 note, as existing on July 1, 2009.

(b) "Internet access" does not include telecommunications service purchased, used, or sold by a person that provides a service that enables users to connect to the internet to access content, information, or other services offered over the internet, to the extent such telecommunications service is purchased, used, or sold: (i) To provide such service; or (ii) to otherwise enable users to access content, information, or other services offered over the internet.

(3) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter. [2010 c 111 § 303; 2009 c 535 § 408; 2000 c 103 § 5; 1997 c 304 § 4.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Findings—Severability—Effective date—1997 c 304:** See notes following RCW 35.21.717.

**82.04.298 Tax on qualified grocery distribution cooperatives.** (1) The amount of tax with respect to a qualified grocery distribution cooperative's sales of groceries or related goods for resale, excluding items subject to tax under RCW 82.04.260(4), to customer-owners of the grocery distribution cooperative is equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the grocery distribution cooperative multiplied by the rate of one and one-half percent.

(2) A qualified grocery distribution cooperative is allowed a deduction from the gross proceeds of sales of groceries or related goods for resale, excluding items subject to tax under RCW 82.04.260(4), to customer-owners of the grocery distribution cooperative that is equal to the portion of the gross proceeds of sales for resale that represents the actual cost of the merchandise sold by the grocery distribution cooperative to customer-owners.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Grocery distribution cooperative" means an entity that sells groceries and related items to customer-owners of

the grocery distribution cooperative and has customer-owners, in the aggregate, who own a majority of the outstanding ownership interests of the grocery distribution cooperative or of the entity controlling the grocery distribution cooperative. "Grocery distribution cooperative" includes an entity that controls a grocery distribution cooperative.

(b) "Qualified grocery distribution cooperative" means:

(i) A grocery distribution cooperative that has been determined by a court of record of the state of Washington to be not engaged in wholesaling or making sales at wholesale, within the meaning of RCW 82.04.270 or any similar provision of a municipal ordinance that imposes a tax on gross receipts, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income, with respect to purchases made by customer-owners, and subsequently changes its form of doing business to make sales at wholesale of groceries or related items to its customer-owners; or

(ii) A grocery distribution cooperative that has acquired substantially all of the assets of a grocery distribution cooperative described in (b)(i) of this subsection.

(c) "Customer-owner" means a person who has an ownership interest in a grocery distribution cooperative and purchases groceries and related items at wholesale from that grocery distribution cooperative.

(d) "Controlling" means holding fifty percent or more of the voting interests of an entity and having at least equal power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the entity, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract, or otherwise. [2011 c 2 § 204 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010); 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 511; 2008 c 49 § 1; 2001 1st sp.s. c 9 § 1.]

**Findings—Construction—2011 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1107):** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.310 Exemptions—Public utilities—Electrical energy—Natural or manufactured gas. (Effective until June 30, 2015.)** (1) This chapter does not apply to any person in respect to a business activity with respect to which tax liability is specifically imposed under the provisions of chapter 82.16 RCW including amounts derived from activities for which a deduction is allowed under RCW 82.16.050.

(2) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by any person for the sale of electrical energy for resale within or outside the state.

(3)(a) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by any person for the sale of natural or manufactured gas in a calendar year if that person sells within the United States a total amount of natural or manufactured gas in that calendar year that is no more than twenty percent of the amount of natural or manufactured gas that it consumes within the United States in the same calendar year.

(b) For purposes of determining whether a person has sold within the United States a total amount of natural or manufactured gas in a calendar year that is no more than twenty percent of the amount of natural or manufactured gas

that it consumes within the United States in the same calendar year, the following transfers of gas are not considered to be the sale of natural or manufactured gas:

(i) The transfer of any natural or manufactured gas as a result of the acquisition of another business, through merger or otherwise; or

(ii) The transfer of any natural or manufactured gas accomplished solely to comply with federal regulatory requirements imposed on the pipeline transportation of such gas when it is shipped by a third-party manager of a person's pipeline transportation.

(4) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by any person in the form of credits against power contracts with the Bonneville power administration, or funds provided by the Bonneville power administration, for the purpose of implementing energy conservation programs or demand-side management programs. [2010 c 295 § 1; 2007 c 58 § 1; 2000 c 245 § 2; 1989 c 302 § 202; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.310. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 15; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 295:** "This act expires June 30, 2015." [2010 c 295 § 2.]

**Finding, purpose—1989 c 302:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.

**82.04.310 Exemptions—Public utilities—Electrical energy—Natural or manufactured gas. (Effective June 30, 2015.)** (1) This chapter shall not apply to any person in respect to a business activity with respect to which tax liability is specifically imposed under the provisions of chapter 82.16 RCW including amounts derived from activities for which a deduction is allowed under RCW 82.16.050.

(2) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by any person for the sale of electrical energy for resale within or outside the state.

(3)(a) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by any person for the sale of natural or manufactured gas in a calendar year if that person sells within the United States a total amount of natural or manufactured gas in that calendar year that is no more than twenty percent of the amount of natural or manufactured gas that it consumes within the United States in the same calendar year.

(b) For purposes of determining whether a person has sold within the United States a total amount of natural or manufactured gas in a calendar year that is no more than twenty percent of the amount of natural or manufactured gas that it consumes within the United States in the same calendar year, the following transfers of gas are not considered to be the sale of natural or manufactured gas:

(i) The transfer of any natural or manufactured gas as a result of the acquisition of another business, through merger or otherwise; or

(ii) The transfer of any natural or manufactured gas accomplished solely to comply with federal regulatory requirements imposed on the pipeline transportation of such gas when it is shipped by a third-party manager of a person's pipeline transportation. [2007 c 58 § 1; 2000 c 245 § 2; 1989 c 302 § 202; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.310. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 15; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178

§ 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**Finding, purpose—1989 c 302:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.

**82.04.311 Exemptions—Tobacco settlement authority.** This chapter does not apply to income received by the tobacco settlement authority under chapter 43.340 RCW. [2002 c 365 § 14.]

**Captions not law—Severability—Effective date—2002 c 365:** See RCW 43.340.900 through 43.340.902.

**82.04.315 Exemptions—International banking facilities.** This chapter shall not apply to the gross receipts of an international banking facility.

As used in this section, an "international banking facility" means a facility represented by a set of asset and liability accounts segregated on the books and records of a commercial bank, the principal office of which is located in this state, and which is incorporated and doing business under the laws of the United States or of this state, a United States branch or agency of a foreign bank, an Edge corporation organized under Section 25(a) of the Federal Reserve Act, 12 United States Code 611-631, or an Agreement corporation having an agreement or undertaking with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under Section 25 of the Federal Reserve Act, 12 United States Code 601-604(a), that includes only international banking facility time deposits (as defined in subsection (a)(2) of Section 204.8 of Regulation D (12 C.F.R. Part 204), as promulgated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System), and international banking facility extensions of credit (as defined in subsection (a)(3) of Section 204.8 of Regulation D). [1982 c 95 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.317 Exemptions—Motor vehicle sales by manufacturers at wholesale auctions to dealers.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a motor vehicle manufacturer, as defined in RCW 19.118.021, or by a financing subsidiary of such motor vehicle manufacturer which subsidiary is at least fifty percent owned by the manufacturer, from the sale of motor vehicles at wholesale auctions to dealers licensed under chapter 46.70 RCW or dealers licensed by any other state. [1997 c 4 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.320 Exemptions—Insurance business.** This chapter shall not apply to any person in respect to insurance business upon which a tax based on gross premiums is paid to the state: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this section shall not exempt any person engaging in the business of representing any insurance company, whether as general or local agent, or acting as broker for such companies: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of this section shall not exempt any bonding company from tax with respect to gross income derived from the completion of any contract as to which it is a surety, or as to any liability as successor to the liability of the defaulting contractor. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.320. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 16; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

(2012 Ed.)

**82.04.322 Exemptions—Health maintenance organization, health care service contractor, certified health plan.** This chapter does not apply to any health maintenance organization, health care service contractor, or certified health plan in respect to premiums or prepayments that are taxable under RCW 48.14.0201. [1993 c 492 § 303.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.324 Exemptions—Qualifying blood, tissue, or blood and tissue banks.** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a qualifying blood bank, a qualifying tissue bank, or a qualifying blood and tissue bank to the extent the amounts are exempt from federal income tax.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Qualifying blood bank" means a blood bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, is registered pursuant to 21 C.F.R., part 607 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the collection, preparation, and processing of blood. "Qualifying blood bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the national cancer institute.

(b) "Qualifying tissue bank" means a tissue bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, is registered pursuant to 21 C.F.R., part 1271 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the recovery, processing, storage, labeling, packaging, or distribution of human bone tissue, ligament tissue and similar musculoskeletal tissues, skin tissue, heart valve tissue, or human eye tissue. "Qualifying tissue bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the national cancer institute.

(c) "Qualifying blood and tissue bank" is a bank that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) as existing on June 10, 2004, is registered pursuant to 21 C.F.R., part 607 and part 1271 as existing on June 10, 2004, and whose primary business purpose is the collection, preparation, and processing of blood, and the recovery, processing, storage, labeling, packaging, or distribution of human bone tissue, ligament tissue and similar musculoskeletal tissues, skin tissue, and heart valve tissue. "Qualifying blood and tissue bank" does not include a comprehensive cancer center that is recognized as such by the national cancer institute. [2004 c 82 § 1; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 9 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.326 Exemptions—Qualified organ procurement organizations.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a qualified organ procurement organization under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 273(b) in effect as of January 1, 2001, to the extent that the amounts are exempt from federal income tax. [2002 c 113 § 1.]

**Effective date—2002 c 113:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 22, 2002]." [2002 c 113 § 4.]

**82.04.327 Exemptions—Adult family homes.** This chapter does not apply to adult family homes which are

licensed as such, or which are specifically exempt from licensing, under rules of the department of social and health services. [1987 1st ex.s. c 4 § 1.]

**82.04.330 Exemptions—Sales of agricultural products.** This chapter shall not apply to any farmer that sells any agricultural product at wholesale or to any farmer who grows, raises, or produces agricultural products owned by others, such as custom feed operations. This exemption shall not apply to any person selling such products at retail or to any person selling manufactured substances or articles.

This chapter shall also not apply to any persons who participate in the federal conservation reserve program or its successor administered by the United States department of agriculture with respect to land enrolled in that program. [2001 c 118 § 3; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 305; 1988 c 253 § 2; 1987 c 23 § 4. Prior: 1985 c 414 § 10; 1985 c 148 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.330; prior: 1959 c 197 § 17; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

*Deductions—Compensation for receiving, washing, etc., horticultural products for person exempt under RCW 82.04.330—Materials and supplies used: RCW 82.04.4287.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.331 Exemptions—Wholesale sales to farmers of seed for planting, conditioning seed for planting owned by others.** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a person engaging within this state in the business of: (a) Making wholesale sales to farmers of seed conditioned for use in planting and not packaged for retail sale; or (b) conditioning seed for planting owned by others.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "seed" means seed potatoes and all other "agricultural seed" as defined in RCW 15.49.011. "Seed" does not include "flower seeds" or "vegetable seeds" as defined in RCW 15.49.011, or any other seeds or propagative portions of plants used to grow ornamental flowers or used to grow any type of bush, moss, fern, shrub, or tree. [1998 c 170 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.332 Exemptions—Buying and selling at wholesale unprocessed milk, wheat, oats, dry peas, dry beans, lentils, triticale, canola, corn, rye, and barley.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received from buying unprocessed milk, wheat, oats, dry peas, dry beans, lentils, triticale, canola, corn, rye, and barley, but not including any manufactured products thereof, and selling the same at wholesale. [2007 c 131 § 1; 1998 c 312 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.333 Exemptions—Small harvesters.** In computing tax under this chapter, a person who is a small harvester as defined in RCW 84.33.035 may deduct an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars per tax year from the gross receipts or value of products proceeding or accruing from timber harvested by that person. A deduction under this section may not reduce the amount of tax due to less than zero. [2011 c 101 § 4; 2007 c 48 § 5; 1990 c 141 § 1.]

Effective date—2007 c 48: See note following RCW 82.04.260.

**82.04.334 Exemptions—Standing timber.** This chapter does not apply to any sale of standing timber excluded from the definition of "sale" in RCW 82.45.010(3). The definitions in \*RCW 82.04.260(11) apply to this section. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 512; 2007 c 48 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.04.260 was amended by 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), changing subsection (11) to subsection (12).

Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23: See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23: See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

Effective date—2007 c 48: See note following RCW 82.04.260.

**82.04.335 Exemptions—Agricultural fairs.** This chapter shall not apply to any business of any bona fide agricultural fair, if no part of the net earnings therefrom inures to the benefit of any stockholder or member of the association conducting the same: PROVIDED, That any amount paid for admission to any exhibit, grandstand, entertainment, or other feature conducted within the fairgrounds by others shall be taxable under the provisions of this chapter, except as otherwise provided by law. [1965 ex.s. c 145 § 1.]

**82.04.337 Exemptions—Amounts received by hop growers or dealers for processed hops shipped outside the state.** This chapter shall not apply to amounts received by hop growers or dealers for hops which are shipped outside the state of Washington for first use, if those hops have been processed into extract, pellets, or powder in this state. This section does not exempt a processor or warehouse from taxation under this chapter on amounts charged for processing or warehousing. [1987 c 495 § 1.]

**82.04.338 Exemptions—Hop commodity commission or hop commodity board business.** This chapter does not apply to any nonprofit organization in respect to gross income derived from business activities for a hop commodity commission or hop commodity board created by state statute or created under chapter 15.65 or 15.66 RCW if: (1) The activity is approved by a referendum conducted by the commission or board; (2) the person is specified in information distributed by the commission or board for the referendum as a person who is to conduct the activity; and (3) the referendum is conducted in the manner prescribed by the statutes governing the commission or board for approving assessments or expenditures, or otherwise authorizing or approving activities of the commission or board. As used in this section, "nonprofit organization" means an organization that is exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. [Sec.] 501(c)(5). [1998 c 200 § 1.]

**82.04.339 Exemptions—Day care provided by churches.** This chapter shall not apply to amounts derived by a church that is exempt from property tax under RCW 84.36.020 from the provision of care for children for periods of less than twenty-four hours. [1992 c 81 § 1.]

**82.04.3395 Exemptions—Child care resource and referral services by nonprofit organizations.** This chapter does not apply to nonprofit organizations in respect to amounts derived from the provision of child care resource and referral services. [1995 2nd sp.s. c 11 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.340 Exemptions—Boxing, sparring, or wrestling matches.** This chapter shall not apply to any person in respect to the business of conducting boxing contests and sparring or wrestling matches and exhibitions for the conduct of which a license must be secured from the department of licensing. [2000 c 103 § 6; 1988 c 19 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.340. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 18; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**82.04.350 Exemptions—Racing.** Except as provided in RCW 82.04.286(1), this chapter shall not apply to any person in respect to the business of conducting race meets for the conduct of which a license must be secured from the horse racing commission. [2005 c 369 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.350. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 19; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 369:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.890.

**82.04.355 Exemptions—Ride sharing.** This chapter does not apply to any funds received in the course of commuter ride sharing or ride sharing for persons with special transportation needs in accordance with RCW 46.74.010. [1999 c 358 § 8; 1979 c 111 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.360 Exemptions—Employees—Independent contractors—Booth renters.** (1) This chapter does not apply to any person in respect to his or her employment in the capacity of an employee or servant as distinguished from that of an independent contractor. For the purposes of this section, the definition of employee includes those persons that are defined in section 3121(d)(3)(B) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as amended through January 1, 1991.

(2) Until July 1, 2010, this chapter does not apply to amounts received by an individual from a corporation as compensation for serving as a member of that corporation's board of directors. Beginning on July 1, 2010, such amounts are taxable under RCW 82.04.290(2).

(3) A booth renter is an independent contractor for purposes of this chapter. For purposes of this section, "booth renter" means any person who:

(a) Performs cosmetology, barbering, esthetics, or manicuring services for which a license is required under chapter 18.16 RCW; and

(b) Pays a fee for the use of salon or shop facilities and receives no compensation or other consideration from the owner of the salon or shop for the services performed. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 702; 2010 c 106 § 207. Prior: 1991 c 324 § 19; 1991 c 275 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.360; prior: 1959 c 197 § 20; prior: 1945 c 249, § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**Application—Refunds—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 702 and 1704:** "In accordance with Article VIII, section 5 of the state Constitution, sections 702

(2012 Ed.)

and 1704 of this act do not authorize refunds of business and occupation tax validly collected before July 1, 2010, on amounts received by an individual from a corporation as compensation for serving as a member of that corporation's board of directors." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1705.]

**Intent—Findings—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** "(1) In adopting the state's business and occupation tax, the legislature intended to tax virtually all business activities carried on within the state. See *Simpson Inv. Co. v. Dep't of Revenue*, 141 Wn.2d 139, 149 (2000). The legislature recognizes that the business and occupation tax applies to all activities engaged in with the object of gain, benefit, or advantage to the taxpayer or to another person or class, directly or indirectly, unless a specific exemption applies.

(2) One of the major business and occupation tax exemptions is provided in RCW 82.04.360 for income earned as an employee or servant as distinguished from income earned as an independent contractor. The legislature's intent in providing this exemption was to exempt employee wages from the business and occupation tax but not to exempt income earned as an independent contractor.

(3) The legislature finds that corporate directors are not employees or servants of the corporation whose board they serve on and therefore are not entitled to a business and occupation tax exemption under RCW 82.04.360. The legislature further finds that there are no business and occupation tax exemptions for compensation received for serving as a member of a corporation's board of directors.

(4) The legislature also finds that there is a widespread misunderstanding among corporate directors that the business and occupation tax does not apply to the compensation they receive for serving as a director of a corporation. It is the legislature's expectation that the department of revenue will take appropriate measures to ensure that corporate directors understand and comply with their business and occupation tax obligations with respect to their director compensation. However, because of the widespread misunderstanding by corporate directors of their liability for business and occupation tax on director compensation, the legislature finds that it is appropriate in this unique situation to provide limited relief against the retroactive assessment of business and occupation taxes on corporate director compensation.

(5) The legislature also reaffirms its intent that all income of all independent contractors is subject to business and occupation tax unless specifically exempt under the Constitution or laws of this state or the United States." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 701.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 107, 601, 602, 702, 902, 1202, and 1401-1405:** See note following RCW 82.04.2907.

**Retroactive application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 402 and 702:** See note following RCW 82.04.423.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Finding—Intent—1991 c 275:** "(1) The legislature finds:

(a) The existing state policy is to exempt employees from the business and occupation tax.

(b) It has been difficult to distinguish, for business and occupation tax purposes, between independent contractors and employees who are in the business of selling life insurance. The tests commonly used by the department of revenue to determine tax status have not successfully differentiated employees from independent contractors when applied to the life insurance industry.

(2) The intent of this act is to apply federal tax law and rules to distinguish between employees and independent contractors for business and occupation tax purposes, solely for the unique business of selling life insurance." [1991 c 275 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.363 Exemptions—Camp or conference center—Items sold or furnished by nonprofit organization.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a nonprofit organization from the sale or furnishing of the following items at a camp or conference center conducted on property exempt from property tax under RCW 84.36.030 (1), (2), or (3):

(1) Lodging, conference and meeting rooms, camping facilities, parking, and similar licenses to use real property;

(2) Food and meals;

(3) Books, tapes, and other products, including books and other products that are transferred electronically, that are available exclusively to the participants at the camp, conference, or meeting and are not available to the public at large. [2009 c 535 § 409; 1997 c 388 § 1.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.3651 Exemptions—Amounts received by nonprofit organizations for fund-raising activities.** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received from fund-raising activities by nonprofit organizations, as defined in subsection (2) of this section, and libraries as defined in RCW 27.12.010.

(2) As used in this section, a "nonprofit organization" means:

(a) An organization exempt from tax under section 501(c) (3), (4), or (10) of the federal internal revenue code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c) (3), (4), or (10));

(b) A nonprofit organization that would qualify under (a) of this subsection except that it is not organized as a nonprofit corporation; or

(c) A nonprofit organization that meets all of the following criteria:

(i) The members, stockholders, officers, directors, or trustees of the organization do not receive any part of the organization's gross income, except as payment for services rendered;

(ii) The compensation received by any person for services rendered to the organization does not exceed an amount reasonable under the circumstances; and

(iii) The activities of the organization do not include a substantial amount of political activity, including but not limited to influencing legislation and participation in any campaign on behalf of any candidate for political office.

(3) As used in this section, the term "fund-raising activity" means soliciting or accepting contributions of money or other property or activities involving the anticipated exchange of goods or services for money between the soliciting organization and the organization or person solicited, for the purpose of furthering the goals of the nonprofit organization. "Fund-raising activity" does not include the operation of a regular place of business in which sales are made during regular hours such as a bookstore, thrift shop, restaurant, or similar business or the operation of a regular place of business from which services are provided or performed during regular hours such as the provision of retail, personal, or professional services. The sale of used books, used videos, used sound recordings, or similar used information products in a library, as defined in RCW 27.12.010, is not the operation of a regular place of business for the purposes of this section, if the proceeds of the sales are used to support the library. [2010 c 106 § 208; 1999 c 358 § 3; 1998 c 336 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Findings—1998 c 336:** "The legislature finds that nonprofit educational, charitable, religious, scientific, and social welfare organizations provide many public benefits to the people of the state of Washington. Therefore, the legislature finds that it is in the best interests of the state of Washington to provide a limited excise tax exemption for fund-raising activities for certain nonprofit organizations." [1998 c 336 § 1.]

*Sales tax exemptions: RCW 82.08.02573.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.367 Exemptions—Nonprofit organizations that are guarantee agencies, issue debt, or provide guarantees for student loans.** This chapter does not apply to gross income received by nonprofit organizations exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1954, as amended, that:

(1) Are guarantee agencies under the federal guaranteed student loan program or that issue debt to provide or acquire student loans; or

(2) Provide guarantees for student loans made through programs other than the federal guaranteed student loan program. [1998 c 324 § 1; 1987 c 433 § 1.]

**82.04.368 Exemptions—Nonprofit organizations—Credit and debt services.** This chapter does not apply to nonprofit organizations in respect to amounts derived from provision of the following services:

(1) Presenting individual and community credit education programs including credit and debt counseling;

(2) Obtaining creditor cooperation allowing a debtor to repay debt in an orderly manner;

(3) Establishing and administering negotiated repayment programs for debtors; or

(4) Providing advice or assistance to a debtor with regard to subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section. [1993 c 390 § 1.]

**82.04.370 Exemptions—Certain fraternal and beneficiary organizations.** This chapter shall not apply to fraternal benefit societies or fraternal fire insurance associations, as described in Title 48 RCW; nor to beneficiary corporations or societies organized under and existing by virtue of Title 24 RCW, if such beneficiary corporations or societies provide in their bylaws for the payment of death benefits. Exemption is limited, however, to gross income from premiums, fees, assessments, dues or other charges directly attributable to the insurance or death benefits provided by such societies, associations, or corporations. [1961 c 293 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.370. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 21; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**82.04.380 Exemptions—Certain corporations furnishing aid and relief.** This chapter shall not apply to the gross sales or the gross income received by corporations which have been incorporated under any act of the congress of the United States of America and whose principal purposes are to furnish volunteer aid to members of the armed forces of the United States and also to carry on a system of national and international relief and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other national calamities and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.380. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 22; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**82.04.385 Exemptions—Operation of sheltered workshops.** This chapter shall not apply to income received from the department of social and health services for the cost of care, maintenance, support, and training of persons with developmental disabilities at nonprofit group training homes as defined by chapter 71A.22 RCW or to the business activities of nonprofit organizations from the operation of sheltered workshops. For the purposes of this section, "the operation of sheltered workshops" means performance of business activities of any kind on or off the premises of such nonprofit organizations which are performed for the primary purpose of (1) providing gainful employment or rehabilitation services to the handicapped as an interim step in the rehabilitation process for those who cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market or during such time as employment opportunities for them in the competitive labor market do not exist; or (2) providing evaluation and work adjustment services for handicapped individuals. [1988 c 176 § 915; 1988 c 13 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 134 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 81 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1988 c 13 § 1 and by 1988 c 176 § 915, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.390 Exemptions—Amounts derived from sale of real estate.** This chapter shall not apply to gross proceeds derived from the sale of real estate. This however, shall not be construed to allow a deduction of amounts received as commissions from the sale of real estate, nor as fees, handling charges, discounts, interest or similar financial charges resulting from, or relating to, real estate transactions. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.390. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 8; 1959 c 197 § 23; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**82.04.392 Exemptions—Mortgage brokers' third-party provider services trust accounts.** This chapter shall not apply to amounts received from trust accounts to mortgage brokers for the payment of third-party costs if the accounts are operated in a manner consistent with RCW 19.146.050 and any rules adopted by the director of financial institutions. [1998 c 311 § 3; 1997 c 106 § 21.]

**Intent—Retroactive application—1998 c 311 §§ 1 and 3:** See note following RCW 19.146.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.395 Exemptions—Certain materials printed in school district and educational service district printing facilities.** This chapter shall not apply to school districts and educational service districts as defined in Title 28A RCW, in respect to materials printed in the school district and educational service districts printing facilities when said materials are used solely for school district and educational service district purposes. [1979 ex.s. c 196 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.397 Exemptions—Certain materials printed in county, city, or town printing facilities.** This chapter does not apply to any county, city or town as defined in Title 35 RCW and Title 36 RCW, in respect to materials printed in the

(2012 Ed.)

county, city or town printing facilities when said materials are used solely for said county, city or town purposes. [1979 ex.s. c 196 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.399 Exemptions—Sales of academic transcripts.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received from sales of academic transcripts by educational institutions. [1996 c 272 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.405 Exemptions—Credit unions.** This chapter shall not apply to the gross income of credit unions organized under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States. [1998 c 311 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 101 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.408 Exemptions—Housing finance commission.** This chapter does not apply to income received by the state housing finance commission under chapter 43.180 RCW. [1983 c 161 § 25.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.410 Exemptions—Hatching eggs and poultry.** This chapter shall not apply to amounts derived by persons engaged in the production and sale of hatching eggs or poultry for use in the production for sale of poultry or poultry products. [1967 ex.s. c 149 § 15; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.410. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 25; prior: 1945 c 249 § 2, part; 1943 c 156 § 4, part; 1941 c 178 § 6, part; 1939 c 225 § 5, part; 1937 c 227 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-11, part.]

**82.04.415 Exemptions—Sand, gravel and rock taken from county or city pits or quarries, processing and handling costs.** This chapter shall not apply to:

(1) The cost of or charges made for labor and services performed in respect to the mining, sorting, crushing, screening, washing, hauling, and stockpiling of sand, gravel, and rock, when such sand, gravel, or rock is taken from a pit or quarry which is owned by or leased to a county or city and such sand, gravel, or rock is either stockpiled in said pit or quarry for placement or is placed on the street, road, place, or highway of the county or city by the county or city itself; or

(2) The cost of or charges for such labor and services if any such sand, gravel, or rock is sold by the county or city to a county, or a city at actual cost for placement on a publicly owned street, road, place, or highway.

The exemption provided for in this section shall not apply to the cost of or charges for such labor and services if the sand, gravel, or rock is used for other than public road purposes or is sold otherwise than as provided for in this section. [1965 ex.s. c 173 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.416 Exemptions—Operation of state route No. 16.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received from operating state route number 16 corridor transportation systems and facilities constructed and operated under chapter 47.46 RCW. [1998 c 179 § 3.]

**Finding—1998 c 179:** See note following RCW 35.21.718.

**82.04.418 Exemptions—Grants by United States government to municipal corporations or political subdivisions.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to grants received from the state or the United States government by municipal corporations or political subdivisions of the state of Washington. [1983 1st ex.s. c 66 § 2.]

**82.04.419 Exemptions—County, city, town, school district, or fire district activity.** This chapter shall not apply to any county, city, town, school district, or fire district activity, regardless of how financed, other than a utility or enterprise activity as defined by the state auditor pursuant to RCW 35.33.111 and 36.40.220 and upon which the tax imposed pursuant to this chapter had previously applied. Nothing contained in this section shall limit the authority of the legislature to authorize the imposition of such tax prospectively upon such activities as the legislature shall specifically designate. [1983 1st ex.s. c 66 § 3.]

**82.04.4201 Exemptions—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received as lease payments paid by a seller/lessee to a lessor under a sale/leaseback agreement under RCW 81.112.300 in respect to tangible personal property used by the seller/lessee, or to the purchase amount paid by the lessee under an option to purchase at the end of the lease term. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 24.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**82.04.421 Exemptions—Out-of-state membership sales in discount programs.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "qualifying discount program" means a membership program, club, or plan that entitles the member to discounts on services or products sold by others. The term does not include any discount program which in part or in total entitles the member to discounts on services or products sold by the seller of the membership or an affiliate of the seller of the membership. "Affiliate," for the purposes of this section, means any person who directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the seller.

(2) Persons selling memberships in a qualifying discount program are not subject to tax under this chapter on that portion of the membership sales where the seller delivers the membership materials to the purchaser who receives them at a point outside this state. [1997 c 408 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.422 Exemptions—Wholesale sales of motor vehicles.** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a motor vehicle dealer licensed under chapter 46.70 RCW, or a dealer licensed by any other state, for the wholesale sale of used motor vehicles at auctions to licensed dealers.

(2) This chapter does not apply to amounts derived by a new car dealer from wholesale sales of new motor vehicles to other new car dealers making sales of new motor vehicles of the same make. This exemption does not apply to amounts derived by a manufacturer, distributor, or factory branch as

defined in chapter 46.70 RCW. [2004 c 81 § 1; 2001 c 258 § 1.]

**Effective date—2004 c 81:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 22, 2004]." [2004 c 81 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.423 Exemptions—Sales by certain out-of-state persons to or through direct seller's representatives.** (1) Prior to May 1, 2010, this chapter does not apply to any person in respect to gross income derived from the business of making sales at wholesale or retail if such person:

(a) Does not own or lease real property within this state; and

(b) Does not regularly maintain a stock of tangible personal property in this state for sale in the ordinary course of business; and

(c) Is not a corporation incorporated under the laws of this state; and

(d) Makes sales in this state exclusively to or through a direct seller's representative.

(2) For purposes of this section, the term "direct seller's representative" means a person who buys only consumer products on a buy-sell basis or a deposit-commission basis for resale, by the buyer or any other person, in the home or otherwise than in a permanent retail establishment, or who sells at retail, or solicits the sale at retail of, only consumer products in the home or otherwise than in a permanent retail establishment; and

(a) Substantially all of the remuneration paid to such person, whether or not paid in cash, for the performance of services described in this subsection is directly related to sales or other output, including the performance of services, rather than the number of hours worked; and

(b) The services performed by the person are performed pursuant to a written contract between such person and the person for whom the services are performed and such contract provides that the person will not be treated as an employee with respect to such purposes for federal tax purposes.

(3) Nothing in this section may be construed to imply that a person exempt from tax under this section was engaged in a business activity taxable under this chapter prior to August 23, 1983. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 402; 1983 1st ex.s. c 66 § 5.]

**Retroactive application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 402 and 702:** "Sections 402 and 702 of this act apply both retroactively and prospectively." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1704.]

**Application—Refunds—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 702 and 1704:** See note following RCW 82.04.360.

**Application—Final judgments—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 402:** "Section 402 of this act does not affect any final judgments, not subject to appeal, entered by a court of competent jurisdiction before May 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1706.]

**Intent—Findings—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** "(1) A business and occupation tax exemption is provided in RCW 82.04.423 for certain out-of-state sellers that sell consumer products exclusively to or through a direct seller's representative. The intent of the legislature in enacting this exemption was to provide a narrow exemption for out-of-state businesses engaged in direct sales of consumer products, typically accomplished through in-home parties or door-to-door selling.

(2) In *Dot Foods, Inc. v. Dep't of Revenue*, Docket No. 81022-2 (September 10, 2009), the Washington supreme court held that the exemption in

RCW 82.04.423 applied to a taxpayer: (a) That sold nonconsumer products through its representative in addition to consumer products; and (b) whose consumer products were ultimately sold at retail in permanent retail establishments.

(3) The legislature finds that most out-of-state businesses selling consumer products in this state will either be eligible for the exemption under RCW 82.04.423 or could easily restructure their business operations to qualify for the exemption. As a result, the legislature expects that the broadened interpretation of the direct sellers' exemption will lead to large and devastating revenue losses. This comes at a time when the state's existing budget is facing a two billion six hundred million dollar shortfall, which could grow, while at the same time the demand for state and state-funded services is also growing. Moreover, the legislature further finds that RCW 82.04.423 provides preferential tax treatment for out-of-state businesses over their in-state competitors and now creates a strong incentive for in-state businesses to move their operations outside Washington.

(4) Therefore, the legislature finds that it is necessary to reaffirm the legislature's intent in establishing the direct sellers' exemption and prevent the loss of revenues resulting from the expanded interpretation of the exemption by amending RCW 82.04.423 retroactively to conform the exemption to the original intent of the legislature and by prospectively ending the direct sellers' exemption as of May 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 401.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.04.424 Exemptions—Certain in-state activities. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) This chapter does not apply to a person making sales in Washington if:

(a) The person's activities in this state, whether conducted directly or through another person, are limited to:

- (i) The storage, dissemination, or display of advertising;
- (ii) The taking of orders; or
- (iii) The processing of payments; and

(b) The activities are conducted electronically via a web site on a server or other computer equipment located in Washington that is not owned or operated by the person making sales into this state nor owned or operated by an affiliated person. For purposes of this section, persons are "affiliated persons" with respect to each other where one of the persons has an ownership interest of more than five percent, whether direct or indirect, in the other, or where an ownership interest of more than five percent, whether direct or indirect, is held in each of the persons by another person or by a group of other persons which are affiliated with respect to each other.

(2) This section expires when: (a) The United States congress grants individual states the authority to impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers; or (b) it is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, in a judgment not subject to review, that a state can impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers. [2003 c 76 § 2.]

**Intent—2003 c 76:** "It is the intent of the legislature to exempt from business and occupation tax and to relieve from the obligation to collect sales and use tax from certain sellers with very limited connections to Washington. These sellers are currently relieved from the obligation to collect sales and use tax because of the provisions of the federal internet tax freedom act. The legislature intends to continue to relieve these particular sellers from that obligation in the event that the federal internet tax freedom act is not extended. The legislature further intends that any relief from tax obligations provided by this act expire at such time as the United States congress grants individual states the authority to impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers, or a court of competent jurisdiction, in a judgment not subject to review, determines that a state can impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers." [2003 c 76 § 1.]

**82.04.425 Exemptions—Accommodation sales.** This chapter shall not apply to sales for resale by persons regularly

(2012 Ed.)

engaged in the business of making sales of the type of property so sold to other persons similarly engaged in the business of selling such property where (1) the amount paid by the buyer does not exceed the amount paid by the seller to his vendor in the acquisition of the article and (2) the sale is made as an accommodation to the buyer to enable him to fill a bona fide existing order of a customer or is made within fourteen days to reimburse in kind a previous accommodation sale by the buyer to the seller; nor to sales by a wholly owned subsidiary of a person making sales at retail which are exempt under RCW 82.08.0262 when the parent corporation shall have paid the tax imposed under this chapter. [1980 c 37 § 78; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.425. Prior: 1955 c 95 § 1.]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4251 Exemptions—Convention and tourism promotion.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a nonprofit corporation organized under chapter 24.03 RCW as payments or contributions from the state or any county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, federally recognized Indian tribe, port district, or public corporation for the promotion of conventions and tourism. [2006 c 310 § 1.]

**82.04.426 Exemptions—Semiconductor microchips. (Contingent effective date; contingent expiration date.)** (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.04.240(2) does not apply to any person in respect to the manufacturing of semiconductor microchips.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Manufacturing semiconductor microchips" means taking raw polished semiconductor wafers and embedding integrated circuits on the wafers using processes such as masking, etching, and diffusion; and

(b) "Integrated circuit" means a set of microminiaturized, electronic circuits.

(3) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(4) This section expires nine years after \*the effective date of this act. [2010 c 114 § 110; 2003 c 149 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "The effective date of this act" refers to chapter 149, Laws of 2003.

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** "The legislature finds that the welfare of the people of the state of Washington is positively impacted through the encouragement and expansion of family wage employment in the state's manufacturing industries. The legislature further finds that targeting tax incentives to focus on key industry clusters is an important business climate strategy. The Washington competitiveness council has recognized the semiconductor industry, which includes the design and manufacture of semiconductor materials, as one of the state's existing key industry clusters. Businesses in this cluster in the state of Washington are facing increasing pressure to expand elsewhere. The sales and use tax exemptions for manufacturing machinery and equipment enacted by the 1995 legislature improved Washington's ability to compete with other states for manufacturing investment. However, additional incentives for the semiconductor cluster need to be put in place in recognition of the unique forces and global issues involved in business decisions that key businesses in this cluster face.

Therefore, the legislature intends to enact comprehensive tax incentives for the semiconductor cluster that address activities of the lead product industry and its suppliers and customers. Tax incentives for the semiconduc-

tor cluster are important in both retention and expansion of existing business and attraction of new businesses, all of which will strengthen this cluster. The legislature also recognizes that the semiconductor industry involves major investment that results in significant construction projects, which will create jobs and bring many indirect benefits to the state during the construction phase." [2003 c 149 § 1.]

**82.04.4261 Exemptions—Federal small business innovation research program.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received by any person for research and development under the federal small business innovation research program (114 Stat. 2763A; 15 U.S.C. Sec. 638 et seq.). [2004 c 2 § 9.]

**Effective date—2004 c 2 §§ 9 and 10:** "Sections 9 and 10 of this act take effect July 1, 2004." [2004 c 2 § 11.]

**82.04.4262 Exemptions—Federal small business technology transfer program.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received by any person for research and development under the federal small business technology transfer program (115 Stat. 263; 15 U.S.C. Sec. 638 et seq.). [2004 c 2 § 10.]

**Effective date—2004 c 2 §§ 9 and 10:** See note following RCW 82.04.4261.

**82.04.4263 Exemptions—Income received by the life sciences discovery fund authority.** This chapter does not apply to income received by the life sciences discovery fund authority under chapter 43.350 RCW. [2005 c 424 § 11.]

**Captions not law—Liberal construction—Severability—Effective dates—2005 c 424:** See RCW 43.350.900 through 43.350.903.

**82.04.4264 Exemptions—Nonprofit assisted living facilities—Room and domiciliary care.** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a nonprofit assisted living facility licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW for providing room and domiciliary care to residents of the assisted living facility.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Domiciliary care" has the meaning provided in RCW 18.20.020.

(b) "Nonprofit assisted living facility" means an assisted living facility that is operated as a religious or charitable organization, is exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3), is incorporated under chapter 24.03 RCW, is operated as part of a nonprofit hospital, or is operated as part of a public hospital district. [2012 c 10 § 71; 2005 c 514 § 301.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.04.4265 Exemptions—Comprehensive cancer centers.** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a comprehensive cancer center to the extent the amounts are exempt from federal income tax.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "comprehensive cancer center" means a cancer center that has written confirmation that it is recognized by the national cancer institute as a comprehensive cancer center and that qualifies as an exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) as existing on July 1, 2006. [2005 c 514 § 401.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514 §§ 401-403:** "Sections 401 through 403 of this act take effect July 1, 2006." [2005 c 514 § 1304.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.04.4266 Exemptions—Fruit and vegetable businesses. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) This chapter does not apply to the value of products or the gross proceeds of sales derived from:

(a) Manufacturing fruits or vegetables by canning, preserving, freezing, processing, or dehydrating fresh fruits or vegetables; or

(b) Selling at wholesale fruits or vegetables manufactured by the seller by canning, preserving, freezing, processing, or dehydrating fresh fruits or vegetables and sold to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of this state. A person taking an exemption under this subsection (1)(b) must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state.

(2) A person claiming the exemption provided in this section must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 201; 2011 c 2 § 202 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010); 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 504; (2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 503 expired June 10, 2010); 2010 c 114 § 111; 2006 c 354 § 3; 2005 c 513 § 1.]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Findings—Construction—2011 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1107):** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 503, 505, and 514:** "Sections 503, 505, and 514 of this act expire June 10, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1711.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 504, 506, and 515:** "Sections 504, 506, and 515 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect June 10, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1712.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2007, except for sections 1 through 3 of this act which are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect July 1, 2005, and section 5, chapter 513, Laws of 2005, which takes effect April 30, 2007." [2007 c 243 § 1; 2005 c 513 § 14.]

**82.04.4267 Exemptions—Operation of parking/business improvement areas.** This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a chamber of commerce or other similar business association for administering the operation of a parking and business improvement area as defined in RCW 35.87A.110. [2005 c 476 § 1.]

**82.04.4268 Exemptions—Dairy product businesses. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) This chapter does not apply to the value of products or the gross proceeds of sales derived from:

- (a) Manufacturing dairy products; or
- (b) Selling manufactured dairy products to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of this state. A person taking an exemption under this subsection (1)(b) must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state.

(2) "Dairy products" means dairy products that as of September 20, 2001, are identified in 21 C.F.R., chapter 1, parts 131, 133, and 135, including byproducts from the manufacturing of the dairy products such as whey and casein.

(3) A person claiming the exemption provided in this section must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 202; 2010 c 114 § 112; 2006 c 354 § 1.]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** "(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this act takes effect July 1, 2006.

(2) Sections 6 through 9 and 11 of this act take effect July 1, 2007.

(3) Sections 12 and 13 of this act take effect July 1, 2012." [2006 c 354 § 18.]

**82.04.4269 Exemptions—Seafood product businesses. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) This chapter does not apply to the value of products or the gross proceeds of sales derived from:

(a) Manufacturing seafood products that remain in a raw, raw frozen, or raw salted state at the completion of the manufacturing by that person; or

(b) Selling manufactured seafood products that remain in a raw, raw frozen, or raw salted state to purchasers who transport in the ordinary course of business the goods out of this state. A person taking an exemption under this subsection (1)(b) must keep and preserve records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing that the goods were transported by the purchaser in the ordinary course of business out of this state.

(2) A person claiming the exemption provided in this section must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 203; 2010 c 114 § 113; 2006 c 354 § 2.]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**82.04.427 Exemptions and credits—Pollution control facilities.** See chapter 82.34 RCW.

**82.04.4271 Deductions—Membership fees and certain service fees by nonprofit youth organization.** In com-

(2012 Ed.)

puting tax due under this chapter, there may be deducted from the measure of tax all amounts received by a nonprofit youth organization:

(1) As membership fees or dues, irrespective of the fact that the payment of the membership fees or dues to the organization may entitle its members, in addition to other rights or privileges, to receive services from the organization or to use the organization's facilities; or

(2) From members of the organization for camping and recreational services provided by the organization or for the use of the organization's camping and recreational facilities.

For purposes of this section: "Nonprofit youth organization" means a nonprofit organization engaged in character building of youth which is exempt from property tax under RCW 84.36.030. [1981 c 74 § 1.]

**82.04.4272 Deductions—Direct mail delivery charges.** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax, amounts derived from delivery charges made for the delivery of direct mail if the charges are separately stated on an invoice or similar billing document given to the purchaser.

(2) "Delivery charges" and "direct mail" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.08.010. [2005 c 514 § 114.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** "Sections 110(5), 114 through 116, 1001, 1003, 1004, 1201, 1311, and 1312 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [May 17, 2005]." [2005 c 514 § 1303.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.04.4274 Deductions—Nonprofit management companies—Personnel performing on-site functions.** (1) In computing tax due under this chapter, there may be deducted from the measure of tax all amounts received by:

(a) A nonprofit property management company from the owner of property for gross wages, benefits, and payroll taxes paid to, or for, personnel performing on-site functions;

(b) A property management company from a housing authority for gross wages, benefits, and payroll taxes paid to, or for, personnel performing on-site functions; or

(c) A property management company from a limited liability company or limited partnership of which the sole managing member or sole general partner is a housing authority for gross wages, benefits, and payroll taxes paid to, or for, personnel performing on-site functions.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section.

(a) "Personnel performing on-site functions" means a person who meets all of the following conditions:

(i) The person works at the owner's property or centrally performs on-site functions for the property;

(ii) The person's duties include leasing property units, maintaining the property, preparing tenant income certification paperwork or other compliance documents required to lease the unit, collecting rents, recording rents, or performing similar activities; and

(iii) The property management company, for whom the personnel performing on-site functions works, operates under a written property management agreement.

(b) "Nonprofit property management company" means a property management company that:

(i) Is exempt from the tax under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code, as it exists on January 1, 2010, but only when such organization is providing property management services for low-income housing that has qualified for the property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.560; or

(ii) Is a public corporation established under RCW 35.21.730.

(c) "Housing authority" means a housing authority created pursuant to chapter 35.82 RCW. [2011 1st sp.s. c 26 § 1.]

**Affect on existing rights, liabilities, obligations, and proceedings—2011 1st sp.s. c 26:** "This act does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended or repealed in this act or under any rule or order adopted under those sections, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under those sections." [2011 1st sp.s. c 26 § 3.]

**82.04.4275 Deductions—Child welfare services.** (1) A health or social welfare organization may deduct from the measure of tax amounts received as compensation for providing child welfare services under a government-funded program.

(2) A person may deduct from the measure of tax amounts received from the state of Washington for distribution to a health or social welfare organization that is eligible to deduct the distribution under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The following definitions apply to this section:

(a) "Child welfare services" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 74.13.020; and

(b) "Health or social welfare organization" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.431. [2011 c 163 § 1.]

**Application—2011 c 163:** "This act applies to amounts received by a taxpayer on or after August 1, 2011." [2011 c 163 § 2.]

**82.04.4277 Deductions—Health and social welfare organizations—Mental health services. (Expires August 1, 2016.)** (1) A health or social welfare organization may deduct from the measure of tax amounts received as compensation for providing mental health services under a government-funded program.

(2) A regional support network may deduct from the measure of tax amounts received from the state of Washington for distribution to a health or social welfare organization that is eligible to deduct the distribution under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) A person claiming a deduction under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section.

(a) "Health or social welfare organization" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.431.

(b) "Mental health services" and "regional support network" have the meanings provided in RCW 71.24.025.

(5) This section expires August 1, 2016. [2011 1st sp.s. c 19 § 1.]

**Application—2011 1st sp.s. c 19:** "This act applies to amounts received by a taxpayer on or after August 1, 2011." [2011 1st sp.s. c 19 § 4.]

**82.04.4281 Deductions—Investments, dividends, interest on loans.** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax:

(a) Amounts derived from investments;

(b) Amounts derived as dividends or distributions from the capital account by a parent from its subsidiary entities; and

(c) Amounts derived from interest on loans between subsidiary entities and a parent entity or between subsidiaries of a common parent entity, but only if the total investment and loan income is less than five percent of gross receipts of the business annually.

(2) The following are not deductible under subsection (1)(a) of this section:

(a) Amounts received from loans, except as provided in subsection (1)(c) of this section, or the extension of credit to another, revolving credit arrangements, installment sales, the acceptance of payment over time for goods or services, or any of the foregoing that have been transferred by the originator of the same to an affiliate of the transferor; or

(b) Amounts received by a banking, lending, or security business.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply only to this section.

(a) "Banking business" means a person engaging in business as a national or state-chartered bank, a mutual savings bank, a savings and loan association, a trust company, an alien bank, a foreign bank, a credit union, a stock savings bank, or a similar entity that is chartered under Title 30, 31, 32, or 33 RCW, or organized under Title 12 U.S.C.

(b) "Lending business" means a person engaged in the business of making secured or unsecured loans of money, or extending credit, and (i) more than one-half of the person's gross income is earned from such activities and (ii) more than one-half of the person's total expenditures are incurred in support of such activities.

(c) The terms "loan" and "extension of credit" do not include ownership of or trading in publicly traded debt instruments, or substantially equivalent instruments offered in a private placement.

(d) "Security business" means a person, other than an issuer, who is engaged in the business of effecting transactions in securities as a broker, dealer, or broker-dealer, as those terms are defined in the securities act of Washington, chapter 21.20 RCW, or the federal securities act of 1933. "Security business" does not include any company excluded from the definition of broker or dealer under the federal investment company act of 1940 or any entity that is not an investment company by reason of sections 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(3) through 3(c)(14) thereof. [2007 c 54 § 9; 2002 c 150 § 2; 1980 c 37 § 2. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(1).]

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Findings—Intent—2002 c 150:** "The legislature finds that the application of the business and occupation tax deductions provided in RCW 82.04.4281 for investment income of persons deemed to be "other financial businesses" has been the subject of uncertainty, and therefore, disagreement and litigation between taxpayers and the state. The legislature further finds that the decision of the state supreme court in *Simpson Investment Co. v. Department of Revenue* could lead to a restrictive, narrow interpretation of the deductibility of investment income for business and occupation tax purposes. As a result, the legislature directed the department of revenue to work with affected businesses to develop a revision of the statute that would provide certainty and stability for taxpayers and the state. The legislature

intends, by adopting this recommended revision of the statute, to provide a positive environment for capital investment in this state, while continuing to treat similarly situated taxpayers fairly." [2002 c 150 § 1.]

**Effective date—2002 c 150:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2002." [2002 c 150 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent on application of deduction—2001 c 320:** "The legislature finds that the application of the business and occupation tax deduction provided in RCW 82.04.4281 for investment income of persons other than those engaging in banking, loan, security, or other financial businesses has been the subject of disagreement between taxpayers and the state. Decisions of the supreme court have provided some broad guidelines and principles for interpretation of the deduction provided in RCW 82.04.4281, but these decisions have not provided the certainty and clarity that is desired by taxpayers and the state. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to delay change in the manner or extent of taxation of the investment income until definitions or standards can be developed and enacted by the legislature." [2001 c 320 § 18.]

**Reviser's note:** 2001 c 320 § 19, which was vetoed May 15, 2001, would have implemented the intent in this section.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** "The separation of sales tax exemption, use tax exemption, and business and occupation deduction sections into shorter sections is intended to improve the readability and facilitate the future amendment of these sections. This separation shall not change the meaning of any of the exemptions or deductions involved." [1980 c 37 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4282 Deductions—Fees, dues, charges.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts derived from bona fide (1) initiation fees, (2) dues, (3) contributions, (4) donations, (5) tuition fees, (6) charges made by a nonprofit trade or professional organization for attending or occupying space at a trade show, convention, or educational seminar sponsored by the nonprofit trade or professional organization, which trade show, convention, or educational seminar is not open to the general public, (7) charges made for operation of privately operated kindergartens, and (8) endowment funds. This section may not be construed to exempt any person, association, or society from tax liability upon selling tangible personal property, digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services, or upon providing facilities or other services for which a special charge is made to members or others. If dues are in exchange for any significant amount of goods or services rendered by the recipient thereof to members without any additional charge to the member, or if the dues are graduated upon the amount of goods or services rendered, the value of such goods or services shall not be considered as a deduction under this section. [2009 c 535 § 410; 1994 c 124 § 3; 1989 c 392 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 3. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(2).]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4283 Deductions—Cash discount taken by purchaser.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax the amount of cash discount actually taken by the purchaser. This deduction is not allowed in arriving at the taxable amount under the extractive or manufacturing classifications with respect to articles produced or manufactured, the reported values of which, for the purposes of this tax, have been computed according to the provisions of RCW 82.04.450. [1980 c 37 § 4. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(3).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.04.4284 Deductions—Bad debts.** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax bad debts, as that term is used in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 166, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003, on which tax was previously paid.

(2) For purposes of this section, "bad debts" do not include:

- (a) Amounts due on property that remains in the possession of the seller until the full purchase price is paid;
- (b) Expenses incurred in attempting to collect debt;
- (c) Sales or use taxes payable to a seller; and
- (d) Repossessed property.

(3) If a deduction is taken for a bad debt and the debt is subsequently collected in whole or in part, the tax on the amount collected must be paid and reported on the return filed for the period in which the collection is made.

(4) Payments on a previously claimed bad debt must be applied under RCW 82.08.037(4) and 82.12.037, according to such rules as the department may prescribe. [2004 c 153 § 307; 1980 c 37 § 5. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(4).]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4285 Deductions—Motor vehicle fuel and special fuel taxes.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax so much of the sale price of motor vehicle fuel as constitutes the amount of tax imposed by the state under chapters 82.36 and 82.38 RCW or the United States government, under 26 U.S.C., Subtitle D, chapters 31 and 32, upon the sale thereof. [1998 c 176 § 3; 1980 c 37 § 6. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(5).]

**Rules—Findings—Effective date—1998 c 176:** See RCW 82.36.800, 82.36.900, and 82.36.901.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4286 Deductions—Nontaxable business.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts derived from business which the state is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution of this state or the Constitution or laws of the United States. [1980 c 37 § 7. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(6).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4287 Deductions—Compensation for receiving, washing, etc., horticultural products for person exempt under RCW 82.04.330—Materials and supplies used.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts derived by any person as compensation for the receiving, washing, sorting, and packing of fresh perishable horticultural products and the material and supplies used therein when performed for the person exempted in RCW 82.04.330, either as agent or as independent contractor. [1980 c 37 § 8. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(7).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

*Sales and use tax exemption for materials and supplies used in packing horticultural products: RCW 82.08.0311 and 82.12.0311.*

**82.04.4289 Exemption—Compensation for patient services or attendant sales of drugs dispensed pursuant to prescription by certain nonprofit organizations.** This

chapter does not apply to amounts derived as compensation for services rendered to patients or from sales of drugs for human use pursuant to a prescription furnished as an integral part of services rendered to patients by a kidney dialysis facility operated as a nonprofit corporation, a nonprofit hospice agency licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, and nursing homes and homes for unwed mothers operated as religious or charitable organizations, but only if no part of the net earnings received by such an institution inures directly or indirectly, to any person other than the institution entitled to deduction hereunder. "Prescription" and "drug" have the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0281. [2003 c 168 § 402; 1998 c 325 § 1; 1993 c 492 § 305; 1981 c 178 § 2; 1980 c 37 § 10. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(9).]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4291 Deductions—Compensation received by a political subdivision from another political subdivision for services taxable under RCW 82.04.290.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts derived by a political subdivision of the state of Washington from another political subdivision of the state of Washington as compensation for services which are within the purview of RCW 82.04.290. [1980 c 37 § 11. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(10).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4292 Deductions—Interest on investments or loans secured by mortgages or deeds of trust.** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax by those engaged in banking, loan, security or other financial businesses, interest received on investments or loans primarily secured by first mortgages or trust deeds on nontransient residential properties.

(2) Interest deductible under this section includes the portion of fees charged to borrowers, including points and loan origination fees, that is recognized over the life of the loan as an adjustment to yield in the taxpayer's books and records according to generally accepted accounting principles.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section notwithstanding, the following is a nonexclusive list of items that are not deductible under this section:

(a) Fees for specific services such as: Document preparation fees; finder fees; brokerage fees; title examination fees; fees for credit checks; notary fees; loan application fees; interest lock-in fees if the loan is not made; servicing fees; and similar fees or amounts;

(b) Fees received in consideration for an agreement to make funds available for a specific period of time at specified terms, commonly referred to as commitment fees;

(c) Any other fees, or portion of a fee, that is not recognized over the life of the loan as an adjustment to yield in the taxpayer's books and records according to generally accepted accounting principles;

(d) Gains on the sale of valuable rights such as service release premiums, which are amounts received when servicing rights are sold; and

(e) Gains on the sale of loans, except deferred loan origination fees and points deductible under subsection (2) of this section, are not to be considered part of the proceeds of sale of the loan.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, in computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax by those engaged in banking, loan, security, or other financial businesses, amounts received for servicing loans primarily secured by first mortgages or trust deeds on nontransient residential properties, including such loans that secure mortgage-backed or mortgage-related securities, but only if:

(a)(i) The loans were originated by the person claiming a deduction under this subsection (4) and that person either sold the loans on the secondary market or securitized the loans and sold the securities on the secondary market; or

(ii)(A) The person claiming a deduction under this subsection (4) acquired the loans from the person that originated the loans through a merger or acquisition of substantially all of the assets of the person who originated the loans, or the person claiming a deduction under this subsection (4) is affiliated with the person that originated the loans. For purposes of this subsection, "affiliated" means under common control. "Control" means the possession, directly or indirectly, of more than fifty percent of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract, or otherwise; and

(B) Either the person who originated the loans or the person claiming a deduction under this subsection (4) sold the loans on the secondary market or securitized the loans and sold the securities on the secondary market; and

(b) The amounts received for servicing the loans are determined by a percentage of the interest paid by the borrower and are only received if the borrower makes interest payments.

(5) The deductions provided in this section do not apply to persons subject to tax under RCW 82.04.29005.

(6) By June 30, 2015, the joint legislative audit and review committee must review the deductions provided in this section in accordance with RCW 43.136.055 and make a recommendation as to whether the deductions should be continued without modification, modified, or terminated immediately. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 102; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 301; 1980 c 37 § 12. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(11).]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** "Parts III and XIII and sections 101 through 106, 108 through 112, 501 through 503, 505, 507, 510 through 514, 516 through 519, 901, 903 through 911, and 1201 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect June 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1709.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4293 Deductions—Interest on obligations of the state, its political subdivisions, and municipal corpo-**

**rations.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax by those engaged in banking, loan, security or other financial businesses, amounts derived from interest paid on all obligations of the state of Washington, its political subdivisions, and municipal corporations organized pursuant to the laws thereof. [1980 c 37 § 13. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(12).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4294 Deductions—Interest on loans to farmers and ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or their cooperatives.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts derived as interest on loans to bona fide farmers and ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, or their cooperatives by a lending institution which is owned exclusively by its borrowers or members and which is engaged solely in the business of making loans and providing finance-related services to bona fide farmers and ranchers, producers or harvesters of aquatic products, their cooperatives, rural residents for housing, or persons engaged in furnishing farm-related or aquatic-related services to these individuals or entities. [1980 c 37 § 14. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(13).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4295 Deductions—Manufacturing activities completed outside the United States.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax by persons subject to payment of the tax on manufacturers pursuant to RCW 82.04.240, the value of articles to the extent of manufacturing activities completed outside the United States, if:

- (1) Any additional processing of such articles in this state consists of minor final assembly only; and
- (2) In the case of domestic manufacture of such articles, can be and normally is done at the place of initial manufacture; and
- (3) The total cost of the minor final assembly does not exceed two percent of the value of the articles; and
- (4) The articles are sold and shipped outside the state.

[1980 c 37 § 15. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(14).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4296 Deductions—Reimbursement for accommodation expenditures by funeral homes.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax that portion of amounts received by any funeral home licensed to do business in this state which is received as reimbursements for expenditures (for goods supplied or services rendered by a person not employed by or affiliated or associated with the funeral home) and advanced by such funeral home as an accommodation to the persons paying for a funeral, so long as such expenditures and advances are billed to the persons paying for the funeral at only the exact cost thereof and are separately itemized in the billing statement delivered to such persons. [1980 c 37 § 16. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(15).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.4297 Deductions—Compensation from public entities for health or social welfare services—Exception.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts received from the United States or any instru-

(2012 Ed.)

mentality thereof or from the state of Washington or any municipal corporation or political subdivision thereof as compensation for, or to support, health or social welfare services rendered by a health or social welfare organization, as defined in RCW 82.04.431, or by a municipal corporation or political subdivision, except deductions are not allowed under this section for amounts that are received under an employee benefit plan. [2011 1st sp.s. c 19 § 2; 2002 c 314 § 3; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 23 § 2; 1988 c 67 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 17. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(16).]

**Application—2011 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.04.4277.

**Findings—Refund of taxes—Effective date—2002 c 314:** See notes following RCW 82.04.4311.

**Findings—2001 2nd sp.s. c 23:** "The legislature finds that the deduction under the business and occupation tax statutes for compensation from public entities for health or social welfare services was intended to provide government with greater purchasing power when government provides financial support for the provision of health or social welfare services to benefited classes of persons. The legislature also finds that both the legislature and the United States congress have in recent years modified government-funded health care programs to encourage participation by beneficiaries in highly regulated managed care programs operated by persons who act as intermediaries between government entities and health or social welfare organizations. The legislature further finds that the objective of these changes is again to extend the purchasing power of scarce government health care resources, but that this objective would be thwarted to a significant degree if the business and occupation tax deduction were lost by health or social welfare organizations solely on account of their participation in managed care for government-funded health programs. In keeping with the original purpose of the health or social welfare deduction, it is desirable to ensure that compensation received from government sources through contractual managed care programs also be deductible." [2001 2nd sp.s. c 23 § 1.]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

*"Health or social welfare organization" defined—Conditions for exemption—"Health or social welfare services" defined:* RCW 82.04.431.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4298 Deductions—Repair, maintenance, replacement, etc., of residential structures and commonly held property—Eligible organizations.** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts used solely for repair, maintenance, replacement, management, or improvement of the residential structures and commonly held property, but excluding property where fees or charges are made for use by the public who are not guests accompanied by a member, which are derived by:

(a) A cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership from a person who resides in a structure owned by the cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership;

(b) An association of owners of property as defined in RCW 64.32.010, as now or hereafter amended, from a person who is an apartment owner as defined in RCW 64.32.010; or

(c) An association of owners of residential property from a person who is a member of the association. "Association of owners of residential property" means any organization of all the owners of residential property in a defined area who all hold the same property in common within the area.

(2) For the purposes of this section "commonly held property" includes areas required for common access such as reception areas, halls, stairways, parking, etc., and may include recreation rooms, swimming pools and small parks or recreation areas; but is not intended to include more grounds than are normally required in a residential area, or to include

such extensive areas as required for golf courses, campgrounds, hiking and riding areas, boating areas, etc.

(3) To qualify for the deductions under this section:

(a) The salary or compensation paid to officers, managers, or employees must be only for actual services rendered and at levels comparable to the salary or compensation of like positions within the county wherein the property is located;

(b) Dues, fees, or assessments in excess of amounts needed for the purposes for which the deduction is allowed must be rebated to the members of the association;

(c) Assets of the association or organization must be distributable to all members and must not inure to the benefit of any single member or group of members. [1980 c 37 § 18. Formerly RCW 82.04.430(17).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.04.431 "Health or social welfare organization" defined—Conditions for exemption—"Health or social welfare services" defined.** (1) The term "health or social welfare organization" means an organization, including any community action council, which renders health or social welfare services as defined in subsection (2) of this section, which is a domestic or foreign not-for-profit corporation under chapter 24.03 RCW and which is managed by a governing board of not less than eight individuals none of whom is a paid employee of the organization or which is a corporation sole under chapter 24.12 RCW. Health or social welfare organization does not include a corporation providing professional services as authorized in chapter 18.100 RCW. In addition a corporation in order to be exempt under RCW 82.04.4297 must satisfy the following conditions:

(a) No part of its income may be paid directly or indirectly to its members, stockholders, officers, directors, or trustees except in the form of services rendered by the corporation in accordance with its purposes and bylaws;

(b) Salary or compensation paid to its officers and executives must be only for actual services rendered, and at levels comparable to the salary or compensation of like positions within the public service of the state;

(c) Assets of the corporation must be irrevocably dedicated to the activities for which the exemption is granted and, on the liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment by the corporation, may not inure directly or indirectly to the benefit of any member or individual except a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation which also would be entitled to the exemption;

(d) The corporation must be duly licensed or certified where licensing or certification is required by law or regulation;

(e) The amounts received qualifying for exemption must be used for the activities for which the exemption is granted;

(f) Services must be available regardless of race, color, national origin, or ancestry; and

(g) The director of revenue must have access to its books in order to determine whether the corporation is exempt from taxes within the intent of RCW 82.04.4297 and this section.

(2) The term "health or social welfare services" includes and is limited to:

(a) Mental health, drug, or alcoholism counseling or treatment;

(b) Family counseling;

(c) Health care services;

(d) Therapeutic, diagnostic, rehabilitative, or restorative services for the care of the sick, aged, or physically, developmentally, or emotionally-disabled individuals;

(e) Activities which are for the purpose of preventing or ameliorating juvenile delinquency or child abuse, including recreational activities for those purposes;

(f) Care of orphans or foster children;

(g) Day care of children;

(h) Employment development, training, and placement;

(i) Legal services to the indigent;

(j) Weatherization assistance or minor home repair for low-income homeowners or renters;

(k) Assistance to low-income homeowners and renters to offset the cost of home heating energy, through direct benefits to eligible households or to fuel vendors on behalf of eligible households;

(l) Community services to low-income individuals, families, and groups, which are designed to have a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in communities of the state; and

(m) Temporary medical housing, as defined in RCW 82.08.997, if the housing is provided only:

(i) While the patient is receiving medical treatment at a hospital required to be licensed under RCW 70.41.090 or at an outpatient clinic associated with such hospital, including any period of recuperation or observation immediately following such medical treatment; and

(ii) By a person that does not furnish lodging or related services to the general public. [2011 1st sp.s. c 19 § 3; 2008 c 137 § 1; 1986 c 261 § 6; 1985 c 431 § 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 66 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 80; 1979 ex.s. c 196 § 6.]

**Application—2011 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.04.4277.

**Effective date—2008 c 137:** See note following RCW 82.08.997.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4311 Deductions—Compensation received under the federal medicare program by certain hospitals or health centers.** (1) A public hospital that is owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision, or a nonprofit hospital, or a nonprofit community health center, or a network of nonprofit community health centers, that qualifies as a health and social welfare organization as defined in RCW 82.04.431, may deduct from the measure of tax amounts received as compensation for health care services covered under the federal medicare program authorized under Title XVIII of the federal social security act; medical assistance, children's health, or other program under chapter 74.09 RCW; or for the state of Washington basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW. The deduction authorized by this section does not apply to amounts received from patient copayments or patient deductibles.

(2) As used in this section, "community health center" means a federally qualified health center as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396d as existing on August 1, 2005. [2005 c 86 § 1; 2002 c 314 § 2.]

**Effective date—2005 c 86:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2005." [2005 c 86 § 2.]

**Findings—2002 c 314:** "The legislature finds that the provision of health services to those people who receive federal or state subsidized health care benefits by reason of age, disability, or lack of income is a recognized, necessary, and vital governmental function. As a result, the legislature finds that it would be inconsistent with that governmental function to tax amounts received by a public hospital or nonprofit hospital qualifying as a health and social welfare organization, when the amounts are paid under a health service program subsidized by federal or state government. Further, the tax status of these amounts should not depend on whether the amounts are received directly from the qualifying program or through a managed health care organization under contract to manage benefits for a qualifying program. Therefore, the legislature adopts this act to provide a clear and understandable deduction for these amounts, and to provide refunds for taxes paid as specified in section 4 of this act." [2002 c 314 § 1.]

**Refund of taxes—2002 c 314:** "A public hospital owned by a municipal corporation or political subdivision, or a nonprofit hospital that qualifies as a health and social welfare organization under RCW 82.04.431, is entitled to:

(1) A refund of business and occupation tax paid between January 1, 1998, and April 2, 2002, on amounts that would be deductible under section 2 of this act; and

(2) A waiver of tax liability for accrued, but unpaid taxes that would be deductible under section 2 of this act." [2002 c 314 § 4.]

**Effective date—2002 c 314:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 2, 2002]." [2002 c 314 § 5.]

**82.04.432 Deductions—Municipal sewer service fees or charges.** In computing the tax imposed by this chapter, municipal sewerage utilities and other public corporations imposing and collecting fees or charges for sewer service may deduct from the measure of the tax, amounts paid to another municipal corporation or governmental agency for sewerage interception, treatment or disposal. [1967 ex.s. c 149 § 17.]

**82.04.4322 Deductions—Artistic or cultural organization—Compensation from United States, state, etc., for artistic or cultural exhibitions, performances, or programs.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts received from the United States or any instrumentality thereof or from the state of Washington or any municipal corporation or subdivision thereof as compensation for, or to support, artistic or cultural exhibitions, performances, or programs provided by an artistic or cultural organization for attendance or viewing by the general public. [1981 c 140 § 1.]

*"Artistic or cultural organization" defined: RCW 82.04.4328.*

**82.04.4324 Deductions—Artistic or cultural organization—Deduction for tax under RCW 82.04.240—Value of articles for use in displaying art objects or presenting artistic or cultural exhibitions, performances, or programs.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax by persons subject to payment of the tax on manufacturing under RCW 82.04.240, the value of articles to the extent manufacturing activities are undertaken by an artistic or cultural organization solely for the purpose of manufacturing articles for use by the organization in displaying art objects or presenting artistic or cultural exhibitions, performances, or programs for attendance or viewing by the general public. [1981 c 140 § 2.]

*"Artistic or cultural organization" defined: RCW 82.04.4328.*

(2012 Ed.)

**82.04.4326 Deductions—Artistic or cultural organizations—Tuition charges for attending artistic or cultural education programs.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts received by artistic or cultural organizations as tuition charges collected for the privilege of attending artistic or cultural education programs. [1981 c 140 § 3.]

*"Artistic or cultural organization" defined: RCW 82.04.4328.*

**82.04.4327 Deductions—Artistic and cultural organizations—Income from business activities.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax those amounts received by artistic or cultural organizations which represent income derived from business activities conducted by the organization. [1985 c 471 § 6.]

*"Artistic or cultural organization" defined: RCW 82.04.4328.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4328 "Artistic or cultural organization" defined.** (1) For the purposes of RCW 82.04.4322, 82.04.4324, 82.04.4326, 82.04.4327, 82.08.031, and 82.12.031, the term "artistic or cultural organization" means an organization which is organized and operated exclusively for the purpose of providing artistic or cultural exhibitions, presentations, or performances or cultural or art education programs, as defined in subsection (2) of this section, for viewing or attendance by the general public. The organization must be a not-for-profit corporation under chapter 24.03 RCW and managed by a governing board of not less than eight individuals none of whom is a paid employee of the organization or by a corporation sole under chapter 24.12 RCW. In addition, to qualify for deduction or exemption from taxation under RCW 82.04.4322, 82.04.4324, 82.04.4326, 82.04.4327, 82.08.031, and 82.12.031, the corporation shall satisfy the following conditions:

(a) No part of its income may be paid directly or indirectly to its members, stockholders, officers, directors, or trustees except in the form of services rendered by the corporation in accordance with its purposes and bylaws;

(b) Salary or compensation paid to its officers and executives must be only for actual services rendered, and at levels comparable to the salary or compensation of like positions within the state;

(c) Assets of the corporation must be irrevocably dedicated to the activities for which the exemption is granted and, on the liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment by the corporation, may not inure directly or indirectly to the benefit of any member or individual except a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation which also would be entitled to the exemption;

(d) The corporation must be duly licensed or certified when licensing or certification is required by law or regulation;

(e) The amounts received that qualify for exemption must be used for the activities for which the exemption is granted;

(f) Services must be available regardless of race, color, national origin, or ancestry; and

(g) The director of revenue shall have access to its books in order to determine whether the corporation is exempt from taxes.

(2) The term "artistic or cultural exhibitions, presentations, or performances or cultural or art education programs" includes and is limited to:

(a) An exhibition or presentation of works of art or objects of cultural or historical significance, such as those commonly displayed in art or history museums;

(b) A musical or dramatic performance or series of performances; or

(c) An educational seminar or program, or series of such programs, offered by the organization to the general public on an artistic, cultural, or historical subject. [1985 c 471 § 7; 1981 c 140 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.433 Deductions—Sales of fuel for consumption outside United States' waters by vessels in foreign commerce.** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax imposed under RCW 82.04.250 and 82.04.270 amounts derived from sales of fuel for consumption outside the territorial waters of the United States, by vessels used primarily in foreign commerce.

(2) The deduction in subsection (1) of this section does not apply with respect to the tax imposed under RCW 82.04.240, whether the value of the fuel under that tax is measured by the gross proceeds derived from the sale thereof or otherwise under RCW 82.04.450. [2009 c 494 § 2; 1985 c 471 § 16.]

**Intent—Finding—2009 c 494:** "(1) Through this act the legislature intends to address the taxation of persons manufacturing and/or selling bunker fuel. Bunker fuel is fuel intended for consumption outside the waters of the United States by vessels in foreign commerce. Although the state has historically collected tax from bunker fuel manufacturers, recently questions have arisen whether the manufacture of bunker fuel is subject to business and occupation tax under RCW 82.04.240. Pursuant to this act, the activity is taxable under RCW 82.04.240.

(2) The legislature finds that at the time the deduction allowed under RCW 82.04.433 was enacted in 1985, it was intended to apply only to the wholesaling or retailing of bunker fuel. In 1987 the legislature enacted the multiple activities tax credit in RCW 82.04.440. Enactment of the multiple activities tax credit resulted in changed tax liability for certain taxpayers. In particular, some taxpayers that engaged in activities that had been exempt under the prior multiple activities exemption became subject to tax on manufacturing activities upon enactment of the multiple activities tax credit in its place. The manufacturing of bunker fuel is one such activity." [2009 c 494 § 1.]

**Administration—2009 c 494:** "The department of revenue must take any actions that are necessary to ensure that its rules and other interpretive statements are consistent with this act." [2009 c 494 § 3.]

**Application—2009 c 494:** "This act applies both prospectively and retroactively." [2009 c 494 § 4.]

**Effective date—2009 c 494:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 14, 2009]." [2009 c 494 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4331 Deductions—Insurance claims for state health care coverage.** In computing tax, insurers as defined by RCW 48.01.050, may deduct from the measure of tax amounts paid out for claims incurred before July 1, 1990, for covered health services under medical and dental coverage purchased under chapter 41.05 RCW. [1988 c 107 § 33.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4332 Deductions—Tuition fees of foreign degree-granting institutions.** An approved branch campus of a foreign degree-granting institution in compliance with chapter 28B.90 RCW is considered an educational institution for the purpose of the deduction of tuition fees provided by RCW 82.04.170 in those instances where it is recognized as an organization exempt from income taxes pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c). [1993 c 181 § 10.]

**82.04.4333 Credit—Job training services—Approval.** (1) There may be credited against the tax imposed by this chapter, the value of state-approved, employer-provided or sponsored job training services designed to enhance the job-related performance of employees, for those businesses eligible for a tax deferral under chapter 82.60 RCW.

(2) The value of the state-approved, job training services provided by the employer to the employee, without charge, shall be determined by the allocation of the cost method using generally accepted accounting standards.

(3) The credit allowed under this section shall be limited to an amount equal to twenty percent of the value of the state-approved, job training services determined under subsection (2) of this section. The total credits allowed under this section for a business shall not exceed five thousand dollars per calendar year.

(4) Prior to claiming the credit under this section, the business must obtain approval of the proposed job training service from the employment security department. The employer's request for approval must include a description of the proposed job training service, how the job training will enhance the employee's performance, and the cost of the proposed job training.

(5) This section only applies to training in respect to eligible business projects for which an application is approved on or after January 1, 1996. [1996 c 1 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4334 Deductions—Sale or distribution of biodiesel or E85 motor fuels. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts received from the retail sale, or for the distribution, of:

- (a) Biodiesel fuel; or
- (b) E85 motor fuel.

(2) For the purposes of this section and RCW 82.08.955 and 82.12.955, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Biodiesel fuel" means a mono alkyl ester of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats for use in compression-ignition engines and that meets the requirements of the American society of testing and materials specification D 6751 in effect as of January 1, 2003.

(b) "E85 motor fuel" means an alternative fuel that is a blend of ethanol and hydrocarbon of which the ethanol portion is nominally seventy-five to eighty-five percent denatured fuel ethanol by volume that complies with the most recent version of American society of testing and materials specification D 5798.

(c) "Distribution" means any of the actions specified in RCW 82.36.020(2).

(3) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2007 c 309 § 3; 2003 c 63 § 1.]

**Effective date—2003 c 63:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003." [2003 c 63 § 4.]

**82.04.4337 Deductions—Certain amounts received by assisted living facilities.** (1) An assisted living facility licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW may deduct from the measure of tax amounts received as compensation for providing adult residential care, enhanced adult residential care, or assisted living services under contract with the department of social and health services authorized by chapter 74.39A RCW to residents who are medicaid recipients.

(2) For purposes of this section, "adult residential care," "enhanced adult residential care," and "assisted living services" have the same meaning as in RCW 74.39A.009. [2012 c 10 § 72; 2004 c 174 § 7.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—2004 c 174:** See note following RCW 82.04.2908.

**82.04.4338 Deductions—Amounts received from sale, lease, or rental of electrification systems. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts received from the retail sale, lease, or rental of auxiliary power to heavy duty diesel vehicles through onboard or stand-alone electrification systems.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section and RCW 82.08.815, 82.12.815, 82.08.825, and 82.12.825 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Heavy duty diesel vehicles" means any diesel vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating over fourteen thousand pounds.

(b) "Onboard electrification systems" means the equipment necessary to provide auxiliary electrical service to heavy duty diesel vehicles that are equipped with the necessary components to accept electrical power, including inverters, heat and air systems capable of being powered by electricity, and hardware to plug into an electrical outlet.

(c) "Stand-alone electrification systems" means an independent system that supplies a heavy duty diesel vehicle's needs for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning without modification to the vehicle.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2006 c 323 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 323:** "The legislature recognizes that the air quality around idling heavy duty diesel vehicles at truck stops can contribute to unhealthy conditions. Idling vehicles not only consume up to one billion gallons of diesel fuel a year, but also contribute to air pollution by releasing fine particles, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen oxides. These emissions contribute to deteriorating human health conditions, including asthma, heart disease, cancer, and aggravated allergies. Idling vehicles also contribute to driver fatigue through exposure to noise, vibration, and elevated levels of carbon monoxide and other pollutants.

Washington state seeks to encourage private entities to address this source of air pollution by providing incentives to those who provide the infrastructure and services that support the use of auxiliary power through onboard or stand-alone electrification systems." [2006 c 323 § 1.]

**82.04.4339 Deductions—Grants to support salmon restoration.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax amounts received by a nonprofit organiza-

(2012 Ed.)

tion from the United States or any instrumentality thereof or from the state of Washington or any municipal corporation or political subdivision thereof as grants to support salmon restoration purposes. For the purposes of this section, "nonprofit organization" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.3651. [2004 c 241 § 1.]

**Effective date—2004 c 241:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 31, 2004]." [2004 c 241 § 2.]

**82.04.43391 Deductions—Commercial aircraft loan interest and fees.** (1) In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax interest and fees on loans secured by commercial aircraft primarily used to provide routine air service and owned by:

(a) An air carrier, as defined in RCW 82.42.030, which is primarily engaged in the business of providing passenger air service;

(b) An affiliate of such air carrier; or

(c) A parent entity for which such air carrier is an affiliate.

(2) The deduction authorized under this section is not available to any person who is physically present in this state as determined under RCW 82.04.067(6).

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Affiliate" means a person is "affiliated," as defined in RCW 82.04.645, with another person; and

(b) "Commercial aircraft" means a commercial airplane as defined in RCW 82.32.550. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 112.]

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.04.43392 Deductions—Qualified dispute resolution centers.** (1) A qualified dispute resolution center may deduct from the measure of tax amounts received as a contribution from federal, state, or local governments and nonprofit organizations for providing dispute resolution services.

(2) A nonprofit organization may deduct from the measure of tax amounts received from federal, state, or local governments for distribution to a qualified dispute resolution center.

(3) A qualified dispute resolution center must:

(a) Be established under chapter 7.75 RCW; and

(b) Provide services either without charge to the participants or for a fee that is based on the participant's ability to pay, as required by RCW 7.75.030.

(4) As used in this section, a "nonprofit organization" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.3651(2). [2012 c 249 § 1.]

**82.04.434 Credit—Public safety standards and testing.** (1) There may be credited against the tax imposed by this chapter, the value of services and information relating to setting of standards and testing for public safety provided to the state of Washington, without charge, at the state's request, by a nonprofit corporation that is:

(a) Organized and operated for the purpose of setting standards and testing for public safety; and

(b) Exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and

(c) Organized with no direct or indirect industry affiliation.

(2) The value of the services and information requested by the state and provided to the state, without charge, shall be determined by the allocation of the cost method using generally accepted accounting standards.

(3) The credit allowed under this section shall be limited to the amount of tax imposed by this chapter. Any unused excess credit in a reporting period may be carried forward to future reporting periods for a maximum of one year. [1991 c 13 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.440 Credit—Persons taxable on multiple activities.** (1) Every person engaged in activities that are subject to tax under two or more provisions of RCW 82.04.230 through 82.04.298, inclusive, is taxable under each provision applicable to those activities.

(2) Persons taxable under RCW 82.04.2909(2), 82.04.250, 82.04.270, 82.04.294(2), or 82.04.260 (1)(b), (c), or (d), (4), (11), or (12) with respect to selling products in this state, including those persons who are also taxable under RCW 82.04.261, are allowed a credit against those taxes for any (a) manufacturing taxes paid with respect to the manufacturing of products so sold in this state, and/or (b) extracting taxes paid with respect to the extracting of products so sold in this state or ingredients of products so sold in this state. Extracting taxes taken as credit under subsection (3) of this section may also be taken under this subsection, if otherwise allowable under this subsection. The amount of the credit may not exceed the tax liability arising under this chapter with respect to the sale of those products.

(3) Persons taxable as manufacturers under RCW 82.04.240 or 82.04.260 (1)(b) or (12), including those persons who are also taxable under RCW 82.04.261, are allowed a credit against those taxes for any extracting taxes paid with respect to extracting the ingredients of the products so manufactured in this state. The amount of the credit may not exceed the tax liability arising under this chapter with respect to the manufacturing of those products.

(4) Persons taxable under RCW 82.04.230, 82.04.240, 82.04.2909(1), 82.04.294(1), 82.04.2404, or 82.04.260 (1), (2), (4), (11), or (12), including those persons who are also taxable under RCW 82.04.261, with respect to extracting or manufacturing products in this state are allowed a credit against those taxes for any (i) gross receipts taxes paid to another state with respect to the sales of the products so extracted or manufactured in this state, (ii) manufacturing taxes paid with respect to the manufacturing of products using ingredients so extracted in this state, or (iii) manufacturing taxes paid with respect to manufacturing activities completed in another state for products so manufactured in this state. The amount of the credit may not exceed the tax liability arising under this chapter with respect to the extraction or manufacturing of those products.

(5) For the purpose of this section:

(a) "Gross receipts tax" means a tax:

(i) Which is imposed on or measured by the gross volume of business, in terms of gross receipts or in other terms, and in the determination of which the deductions allowed would not constitute the tax an income tax or value added tax; and

(ii) Which is also not, pursuant to law or custom, separately stated from the sales price.

(b) "State" means (i) the state of Washington, (ii) a state of the United States other than Washington, or any political subdivision of such other state, (iii) the District of Columbia, and (iv) any foreign country or political subdivision thereof.

(c) "Manufacturing tax" means a gross receipts tax imposed on the act or privilege of engaging in business as a manufacturer, and includes (i) the taxes imposed in RCW 82.04.240, 82.04.2404, 82.04.2909(1), 82.04.260 (1), (2), (4), (11), and (12), and 82.04.294(1); (ii) the tax imposed under RCW 82.04.261 on persons who are engaged in business as a manufacturer; and (iii) similar gross receipts taxes paid to other states.

(d) "Extracting tax" means a gross receipts tax imposed on the act or privilege of engaging in business as an extractor, and includes (i) the tax imposed on extractors in RCW 82.04.230 and 82.04.260(12); (ii) the tax imposed under RCW 82.04.261 on persons who are engaged in business as an extractor; and (iii) similar gross receipts taxes paid to other states.

(e) "Business", "manufacturer", "extractor", and other terms used in this section have the meanings given in RCW 82.04.020 through 82.04.212 [82.04.217], notwithstanding the use of those terms in the context of describing taxes imposed by other states. [2011 c 2 § 205 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010); 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 513. Prior: 2006 c 300 § 8; 2006 c 84 § 6; (2007 c 54 § 10 expired July 22, 2007); 2005 c 301 § 3; prior: 2004 c 174 § 5; 2004 c 24 § 7; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 6; 1998 c 312 § 9; 1994 c 124 § 4; 1987 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 2; 1985 c 190 § 1; 1981 c 172 § 5; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 16; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 12; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.440; prior: 1959 c 211 § 3; 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 1; 1950 ex.s. c 5 § 2; 1949 c 228 § 2-A; 1943 c 156 § 3; 1941 c 178 § 3; 1939 c 225 § 3; 1937 c 227 § 3; 1935 c 180 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-6.]

**Findings—Construction—2011 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1107):** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Contingent expiration date—2007 c 54 § 10:** "Section 10 of this act expires if the contingency in section 29 of this act occurs." [2007 c 54 § 31.] The contingency in section 29, chapter 54, Laws of 2007 occurred on December 1, 2006.

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

**Effective date—2006 c 84 §§ 2-8:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 84:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2005 c 301:** See notes following RCW 82.04.294.

**Effective date—2004 c 174:** See note following RCW 82.04.2908.

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**Legislative findings and intent—1987 2nd ex.s. c 3:** "The legislature finds that the invalidation of the multiple activities exemption contained in RCW 82.04.440 by the United States Supreme Court now requires adjustments to the state's business and occupation tax to achieve constitutional equality between Washington taxpayers who have conducted and will continue to conduct business in interstate and intrastate commerce. It is the intent of chapter 3, Laws of 1987 2nd ex. sess. and sections 4 through 7 of this act to preserve the integrity of Washington's business and occupation tax system and impose only that financial burden upon the state necessary to establish parity in taxation between such taxpayers.

Thus, chapter 3, Laws of 1987 2nd ex. sess. and sections 4 through 7 of this act extends [extend] the system of credits originated in RCW 82.04.440 in 1985 to provide for equal treatment of taxpayers engaging in extracting, manufacturing or selling regardless of the location in which any of such activities occurs. It is further intended that RCW 82.04.440, as amended by section 2, chapter 3, Laws of 1987 2nd ex. sess. and sections 4 through 7 of this act, shall be construed and applied in a manner that will eliminate unconstitutional discrimination between taxpayers and ensure the preservation and collection of revenues from the conduct of multiple activities in which taxpayers in this state may engage." [1994 c 124 § 5; 1987 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4451 Credit against tax due—Maximum credit—Table.** (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a credit is allowed against the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter, as provided in this section. Except for taxpayers that report at least fifty percent of their taxable amount under RCW 82.04.255, 82.04.290(2)(a), and 82.04.285, the maximum credit for a taxpayer for a reporting period is thirty-five dollars multiplied by the number of months in the reporting period, as determined under RCW 82.32.045. For a taxpayer that reports at least fifty percent of its taxable amount under RCW 82.04.255, 82.04.290(2)(a), and 82.04.285, the maximum credit for a reporting period is seventy dollars multiplied by the number of months in the reporting period, as determined under RCW 82.32.045.

(2) When the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter is equal to or less than the maximum credit, a credit is allowed equal to the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter.

(3) When the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter exceeds the maximum credit, a reduced credit is allowed equal to twice the maximum credit, minus the tax otherwise due under this chapter, but not less than zero.

(4) The department may prepare a tax credit table consisting of tax ranges using increments of no more than five dollars and a corresponding tax credit to be applied to those tax ranges. The table shall be prepared in such a manner that no taxpayer will owe a greater amount of tax by using the table than would be owed by performing the calculation under subsections (1) through (3) of this section. A table prepared by the department under this subsection must be used by all taxpayers in taking the credit provided in this section. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1102; 1997 c 238 § 2; 1994 sp.s. c 2 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Findings—Intent—1997 c 238:** "The legislature finds that many businesses have difficulty applying the small business credit under RCW 82.04.4451. Further, the legislature appreciates the valuable time and resources small businesses expend on calculating the amount of credit based upon a statutory formula. For the purpose of tax simplification, it is the intent of this act to direct the department of revenue to create a schedule, in

(2012 Ed.)

standard increments, to replace required calculations for the small business credit. Each taxpayer can make reference to the taxpayer's tax range on the schedule and find the amount of the taxpayer's small business credit. Further, no taxpayer will owe a greater amount of tax nor will any taxpayer be responsible for a greater amount of taxes otherwise due." [1997 c 238 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4452 Credit—Research and development spending. (Expires January 1, 2015.)** (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a credit is allowed for each person whose research and development spending during the year in which the credit is claimed exceeds 0.92 percent of the person's taxable amount during the same calendar year.

(2) The credit is calculated as follows:

(a) Determine the greater of the amount of qualified research and development expenditures of a person or eighty percent of amounts received by a person other than a public educational or research institution in compensation for the conduct of qualified research and development;

(b) Subtract 0.92 percent of the person's taxable amount from the amount determined under (a) of this subsection;

(c) Multiply the amount determined under (b) of this subsection by the following:

(i) For the period June 10, 2004, through December 31, 2006, the person's average tax rate for the calendar year for which the credit is claimed;

(ii) For the calendar year ending December 31, 2007, the greater of the person's average tax rate for that calendar year or 0.75 percent;

(iii) For the calendar year ending December 31, 2008, the greater of the person's average tax rate for that calendar year or 1.0 percent;

(iv) For the calendar year ending December 31, 2009, the greater of the person's average tax rate for that calendar year or 1.25 percent;

(v) For the calendar year ending December 31, 2010, and thereafter, 1.50 percent.

For purposes of calculating the credit, if a person's reporting period is less than annual, the person may use an estimated average tax rate for the calendar year for which the credit is claimed by using the person's average tax rate for each reporting period. A person who uses an estimated average tax rate must make an adjustment to the total credit claimed for the calendar year using the person's actual average tax rate for the calendar year when the person files its last return for the calendar year for which the credit is claimed.

(3) Any person entitled to the credit provided in subsection (2) of this section as a result of qualified research and development conducted under contract may assign all or any portion of the credit to the person contracting for the performance of the qualified research and development.

(4) The credit, including any credit assigned to a person under subsection (3) of this section, must be claimed against taxes due for the same calendar year in which the qualified research and development expenditures are incurred. The credit, including any credit assigned to a person under subsection (3) of this section, for each calendar year may not exceed the lesser of two million dollars or the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter for the calendar year.

(5) For any person claiming the credit, including any credit assigned to a person under subsection (3) of this section, whose research and development spending during the

calendar year in which the credit is claimed fails to exceed 0.92 percent of the person's taxable amount during the same calendar year or who is otherwise ineligible, the department must declare the taxes against which the credit was claimed to be immediately due and payable. The department must assess interest, but not penalties, on the taxes against which the credit was claimed. Interest must be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, retroactively to the date the credit was claimed, and accrues until the taxes against which the credit was claimed are repaid. Any credit assigned to a person under subsection (3) of this section that is disallowed as a result of this section may be claimed by the person who performed the qualified research and development subject to the limitations set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

(6) A person claiming the credit provided in this section must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585.

(7) For the purpose of this section:

(a) "Average tax rate" means a person's total tax liability under this chapter for the calendar year for which the credit is claimed divided by the taxpayer's total taxable amount under this chapter for the calendar year for which the credit is claimed.

(b) "Qualified research and development expenditures" means operating expenses, including wages, compensation of a proprietor or a partner in a partnership as determined under rules adopted by the department, benefits, supplies, and computer expenses, directly incurred in qualified research and development by a person claiming the credit provided in this section. The term does not include amounts paid to a person other than a public educational or research institution to conduct qualified research and development. Nor does the term include capital costs and overhead, such as expenses for land, structures, or depreciable property.

(c) "Qualified research and development" shall have the same meaning as in RCW 82.63.010.

(d) "Research and development spending" means qualified research and development expenditures plus eighty percent of amounts paid to a person other than a public educational or research institution to conduct qualified research and development.

(e) "Taxable amount" means the taxable amount subject to the tax imposed in this chapter required to be reported on the person's combined excise tax returns for the calendar year for which the credit is claimed, less any taxable amount for which a credit is allowed under RCW 82.04.440.

(8) This section expires January 1, 2015. [2010 c 114 § 114; 2005 c 514 § 1003; 2004 c 2 § 2; 2000 c 103 § 7; 1997 c 7 § 4; 1994 sp.s. c 5 § 2.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Retroactive application—2005 c 514 § 1003:** "Section 1003 of this act applies retroactively to June 10, 2004." [2005 c 514 § 1311.]

**Interest and penalties from additional tax under section 1003(9)(a), chapter 514, Laws of 2005—2005 c 514:** "(1) A person who owes additional tax as a result of section 1003(9)(a), chapter 514, Laws of 2005 is liable for interest, but not penalties as provided in RCW 82.32.090 (1) and (2), if the entire additional tax liability is paid in full to the department of revenue before January 1, 2006. Interest shall be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, retroactively to the date the credit was claimed, and shall accrue until the additional tax is repaid.

(2) Persons who fail to repay the full amount of additional tax owed as a result of section 1003(9)(a), chapter 514, Laws of 2005 before January 1, 2006, are subject to all applicable penalties and interest as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW on the additional tax owing after December 31, 2005.

(3) This section expires December 31, 2010." [2005 c 514 § 1004.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4272.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Findings—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 5:** See RCW 82.63.005 and 82.63.900.

*Additional reporting requirements: RCW 82.32.590 and 82.32.600.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.44525 Credit—New employment for international service activities in eligible areas—Designation of census tracts for eligibility—Records—Tax due upon ineligibility—Interest assessment—Information from employment security department.** (1) Subject to the limits in this section, an eligible person is allowed a credit against the tax due under this chapter. The credit is based on qualified employment positions in eligible areas. The credit is available to persons who are engaged in international services as defined in this section. In order to receive the credit, the international service activities must take place at a business within the eligible area.

(2)(a) The credit shall equal three thousand dollars for each qualified employment position created after July 1, 1998, in an eligible area. A credit is earned for the calendar year the person is hired to fill the position, plus the four subsequent consecutive years, if the position is maintained for those four years.

(b) Credit may not be taken for hiring of persons into positions that exist on July 1, 1998. Credit is authorized for new employees hired for new positions created after July 1, 1998. New positions filled by existing employees are eligible for the credit under this section only if the position vacated by the existing employee is filled by a new hire.

(c) When a position is newly created, if it is filled before July 1st, this position is eligible for the full yearly credit. If it is filled after June 30th, this position is eligible for half of the credit.

(d) Credit may be accrued and carried over until it is used. No refunds may be granted for credits under this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Eligible area" means: (i) A community empowerment zone under RCW 43.31C.020; or (ii) a contiguous group of census tracts that meets the unemployment and poverty criteria of RCW 43.31C.030 and is designated under subsection (4) of this section;

(b) "Eligible person" means a person, as defined in RCW 82.04.030, who in an eligible area at a specific location is engaged in the business of providing international services;

(c)(i) "International services" means the provision of a service, as defined under (c)(iii) of this subsection, that is subject to tax under RCW 82.04.290 (2) or (3), and either:

(A) Is for a person domiciled outside the United States;

or

(B) The service itself is for use primarily outside of the United States.

(ii) "International services" excludes any service taxable under RCW 82.04.290(1).

(iii) Eligible services are: Computer; data processing; information; legal; accounting and tax preparation; engineering; architectural; business consulting; business management; public relations and advertising; surveying; geological consulting; real estate appraisal; or financial services. For the purposes of this section these services mean the following:

(A) "Computer services" are services such as computer programming, custom software modification, customization of canned software, custom software installation, custom software maintenance, custom software repair, training in the use of software, computer systems design, and custom software update services;

(B) "Data processing services" are services such as word processing, data entry, data retrieval, data search, information compilation, payroll processing, business accounts processing, data production, and other computerized data and information storage or manipulation. "Data processing services" also includes the use of a computer or computer time for data processing whether the processing is performed by the provider of the computer or by the purchaser or other beneficiary of the service;

(C) "Information services" are services such as electronic data retrieval or research that entails furnishing financial or legal information, data or research, internet access as defined in RCW 82.04.297, general or specialized news, or current information;

(D) "Legal services" are services such as representation by an attorney, or other person when permitted, in an administrative or legal proceeding, legal drafting, paralegal services, legal research services, and court reporting services, arbitration, and mediation services;

(E) "Accounting and tax preparation services" are services such as accounting, auditing, actuarial, bookkeeping, or tax preparation services;

(F) "Engineering services" are services such as civil, electrical, mechanical, petroleum, marine, nuclear, and design engineering, machine designing, machine tool designing, and sewage disposal system designing services;

(G) "Architectural services" are services such as structural or landscape design or architecture, interior design, building design, building program management, and space planning services;

(H) "Business consulting services" are services such as primarily providing operating counsel, advice, or assistance to the management or owner of any business, private, non-profit, or public organization, including but not limited to those in the following areas: Administrative management consulting; general management consulting; human resource consulting or training; management engineering consulting; management information systems consulting; manufacturing management consulting; marketing consulting; operations research consulting; personnel management consulting; physical distribution consulting; site location consulting; economic consulting; motel, hotel, and resort consulting; restaurant consulting; government affairs consulting; and lobbying;

(I) "Business management services" are services such as administrative management, business management, and office management. "Business management services" does not include property management or property leasing, motel,

hotel, and resort management, or automobile parking management;

(J) "Public relations and advertising services" are services such as layout, art direction, graphic design, copy writing, mechanical preparation, opinion research, marketing research, marketing, or production supervision;

(K) "Surveying services" are services such as land surveying;

(L) "Geological consulting services" are services rendered for the oil, gas, and mining industry and other earth resource industries, and other services such as soil testing;

(M) "Real estate appraisal services" are services such as market appraisal and other real estate valuation; and

(N) "Financial services" are services such as banking, loan, security, investment management, investment advisory, mortgage servicing, contract collection, and finance leasing services, engaged in by financial businesses, or businesses similar to or in competition with financial businesses; and

(d) "Qualified employment position" means a permanent full-time position to provide international services. If an employee is either voluntarily or involuntarily separated from employment, the employment position is considered filled on a full-time basis if the employer is either training or actively recruiting a replacement employee.

(4) By ordinance, the legislative authority of a city, or legislative authorities of contiguous cities by ordinance of each city's legislative authority, with population greater than eighty thousand, located in a county containing no community empowerment zones as designated under RCW 43.31C.020, may designate a contiguous group of census tracts within the city or cities as an eligible area under this section. Each of the census tracts must meet the unemployment and poverty criteria of RCW 43.31C.030. Upon making the designation, the city or cities shall transmit to the department of revenue a certification letter and a map, each explicitly describing the boundaries of the census tract. This designation must be made by December 31, 1998.

(5) No application is necessary for the tax credit. The person must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section. This information includes:

(a) Employment records for the previous six years;

(b) Information relating to description of international service activity engaged in at the eligible location by the person; and

(c) Information relating to customers of international service activity engaged in at that location by the person.

(6) If at any time the department finds that a person is not eligible for tax credit under this section, the amount of taxes for which a credit has been used shall be immediately due. The department shall assess interest, but not penalties, on the credited taxes for which the person is not eligible. The interest shall be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, shall be assessed retroactively to the date the tax credit was taken, and shall accrue until the taxes for which a credit has been used are repaid.

(7) The employment security department shall provide to the department of revenue such information needed by the department of revenue to verify eligibility under this section. [2009 c 535 § 1104; 2008 c 81 § 9; 1998 c 313 § 2.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Intent—Findings—1998 c 313:** "It is the intent of the legislature to attract and retain businesses that provide professional services and insurance services to international customers. To that end, the legislature finds that an incentive measured by a business's growth in jobs is a meaningful method of attracting and retaining such businesses. Therefore, the incentive in this act is specifically targeted at "net new jobs." In addition, to further the impact and benefit of this program, this incentive is limited to those urban areas of the state, both in eastern Washington and western Washington, that are characterized by unemployment and poverty. The legislature finds that providing this targeted incentive will be of benefit to the state as a whole." [1998 c 313 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.4461 Credit—Preproduction development expenditures. (Expires July 1, 2024.)** (1)(a)(i) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a credit is allowed for each person for qualified aerospace product development. For a person who is a manufacturer or processor for hire of commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes, credit may be earned for expenditures occurring after December 1, 2003. For all other persons, credit may be earned only for expenditures occurring after June 30, 2008.

(ii) For purposes of this subsection, "commercial airplane" and "component" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.32.550.

(b) Before July 1, 2005, any credits earned under this section must be accrued and carried forward and may not be used until July 1, 2005. These carryover credits may be used at any time thereafter, and may be carried over until used. Refunds may not be granted in the place of a credit.

(2) The credit is equal to the amount of qualified aerospace product development expenditures of a person, multiplied by the rate of 1.5 percent.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section the credit must be claimed against taxes due for the same calendar year in which the qualified aerospace product development expenditures are incurred. Credit earned on or after July 1, 2005, may not be carried over. The credit for each calendar year may not exceed the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter for the calendar year. Refunds may not be granted in the place of a credit.

(4) Any person claiming the credit must file a form prescribed by the department that must include the amount of the credit claimed, an estimate of the anticipated aerospace product development expenditures during the calendar year for which the credit is claimed, an estimate of the taxable amount during the calendar year for which the credit is claimed, and such additional information as the department may prescribe.

(5) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Aerospace product" has the meaning given in RCW 82.08.975.

(b) "Aerospace product development" means research, design, and engineering activities performed in relation to the development of an aerospace product or of a product line, model, or model derivative of an aerospace product, including prototype development, testing, and certification. The term includes the discovery of technological information, the translating of technological information into new or

improved products, processes, techniques, formulas, or inventions, and the adaptation of existing products and models into new products or new models, or derivatives of products or models. The term does not include manufacturing activities or other production-oriented activities, however the term does include tool design and engineering design for the manufacturing process. The term does not include surveys and studies, social science and humanities research, market research or testing, quality control, sale promotion and service, computer software developed for internal use, and research in areas such as improved style, taste, and seasonal design.

(c) "Qualified aerospace product development" means aerospace product development performed within this state.

(d) "Qualified aerospace product development expenditures" means operating expenses, including wages, compensation of a proprietor or a partner in a partnership as determined by the department, benefits, supplies, and computer expenses, directly incurred in qualified aerospace product development by a person claiming the credit provided in this section. The term does not include amounts paid to a person or to the state and any of its departments and institutions, other than a public educational or research institution to conduct qualified aerospace product development. The term does not include capital costs and overhead, such as expenses for land, structures, or depreciable property.

(e) "Taxable amount" means the taxable amount subject to the tax imposed in this chapter required to be reported on the person's tax returns during the year in which the credit is claimed, less any taxable amount for which a credit is allowed under RCW 82.04.440.

(6) In addition to all other requirements under this title, a person claiming the credit under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(7) Credit may not be claimed for expenditures for which a credit is claimed under RCW 82.04.4452.

(8) This section expires July 1, 2024. [2010 c 114 § 115; 2008 c 81 § 7; 2007 c 54 § 11; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 7.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** "The legislature finds that the people of the state have benefited from the presence of the aerospace industry in Washington state. The aerospace industry provides good wages and benefits for the thousands of engineers, mechanics, and support staff working directly in the industry throughout the state. The suppliers and vendors that support the aerospace industry in turn provide a range of jobs. The legislature declares that it is in the public interest to encourage the continued presence of this industry through the provision of tax incentives. The comprehensive tax incentives in this act address the cost of doing business in Washington state compared to locations in other states." [2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 1.]

**82.04.4463 Credit—Property and leasehold taxes paid on property used for manufacture of commercial airplanes. (Expires July 1, 2024.)** (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a credit is allowed for property taxes and leasehold excise taxes paid during the calendar year.

(2) The credit is equal to:

(a)(i)(A) Property taxes paid on buildings, and land upon which the buildings are located, constructed after December 1, 2003, and used exclusively in manufacturing commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes; and

(B) Leasehold excise taxes paid with respect to buildings constructed after January 1, 2006, the land upon which the buildings are located, or both, if the buildings are used exclusively in manufacturing commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes; and

(C) Property taxes or leasehold excise taxes paid on, or with respect to, buildings constructed after June 30, 2008, the land upon which the buildings are located, or both, and used exclusively for aerospace product development, manufacturing tooling specifically designed for use in manufacturing commercial airplanes or their components, or in providing aerospace services, by persons not within the scope of (a)(i)(A) and (B) of this subsection (2) and are taxable under RCW 82.04.290(3), \*82.04.260(10)(b), or 82.04.250(3); or

(ii) Property taxes attributable to an increase in assessed value due to the renovation or expansion, after: (A) December 1, 2003, of a building used exclusively in manufacturing commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes; and (B) June 30, 2008, of buildings used exclusively for aerospace product development, manufacturing tooling specifically designed for use in manufacturing commercial airplanes or their components, or in providing aerospace services, by persons not within the scope of (a)(ii)(A) of this subsection (2) and are taxable under RCW 82.04.290(3), \*82.04.260(10)(b), or 82.04.250(3); and

(b) An amount equal to:

(i)(A) Property taxes paid, by persons taxable under \*RCW 82.04.260(10)(a), on machinery and equipment exempt under RCW 82.08.02565 or 82.12.02565 and acquired after December 1, 2003;

(B) Property taxes paid, by persons taxable under \*RCW 82.04.260(10)(b), on machinery and equipment exempt under RCW 82.08.02565 or 82.12.02565 and acquired after June 30, 2008; or

(C) Property taxes paid, by persons taxable under RCW 82.04.250(3) or 82.04.290(3), on computer hardware, computer peripherals, and software exempt under RCW 82.08.975 or 82.12.975 and acquired after June 30, 2008.

(ii) For purposes of determining the amount eligible for credit under (i)(A) and (B) of this subsection (2)(b), the amount of property taxes paid is multiplied by a fraction.

(A) The numerator of the fraction is the total taxable amount subject to the tax imposed under \*RCW 82.04.260(10) (a) or (b) on the applicable business activities of manufacturing commercial airplanes, components of such airplanes, or tooling specifically designed for use in the manufacturing of commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes.

(B) The denominator of the fraction is the total taxable amount subject to the tax imposed under all manufacturing classifications in chapter 82.04 RCW.

(C) For purposes of both the numerator and denominator of the fraction, the total taxable amount refers to the total taxable amount required to be reported on the person's returns for the calendar year before the calendar year in which the credit under this section is earned. The department may provide for an alternative method for calculating the numerator

in cases where the tax rate provided in \*RCW 82.04.260(10) for manufacturing was not in effect during the full calendar year before the calendar year in which the credit under this section is earned.

(D) No credit is available under (b)(i)(A) or (B) of this subsection (2) if either the numerator or the denominator of the fraction is zero. If the fraction is greater than or equal to nine-tenths, then the fraction is rounded to one.

(E) As used in (b)(ii)(C) of this subsection (2), "returns" means the tax returns for which the tax imposed under this chapter is reported to the department.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(a) "Aerospace product development" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.4461.

(b) "Aerospace services" has the same meaning given in RCW 82.08.975.

(c) "Commercial airplane" and "component" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.32.550.

(4) A credit earned during one calendar year may be carried over to be credited against taxes incurred in a subsequent calendar year, but may not be carried over a second year. No refunds may be granted for credits under this section.

(5) In addition to all other requirements under this title, a person claiming the credit under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(6) This section expires July 1, 2024. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 515; (2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 514 expired June 10, 2010); 2010 c 114 § 116; 2008 c 81 § 8; 2006 c 177 § 10; 2005 c 514 § 501; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 15.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.04.260 was amended by 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), changing subsection (10) to subsection (11).

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 503, 505, and 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 504, 506, and 515:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Effective date—2006 c 177 §§ 10 and 11:** "Sections 10 and 11 of this act take effect January 1, 2007." [2006 c 177 § 13.]

**Application—2006 c 177 § 10:** "Section 10 of this act applies with respect to leasehold excise taxes paid on or after January 1, 2007." [2006 c 177 § 11.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514 §§ 501 and 1002:** "Sections 501 and 1002 of this act take effect January 1, 2006." [2005 c 514 § 1305.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**82.04.447 Credit—Natural or manufactured gas purchased by direct service industrial customers—Reports.** (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Direct service industrial customer" means a person who is an industrial customer that contracts for the purchase of power from the Bonneville Power Administration for direct consumption as of May 8, 2001. "Direct service industrial customer" includes a person who is a subsidiary that is more than fifty percent owned by a direct service industrial customer and who receives power from the Bonneville Power Administration pursuant to the parent's contract for power.

(b) "Facility" means a gas turbine electrical generation facility that does not exist on May 8, 2001, and is owned by a direct service industrial customer for the purpose of producing electricity to be consumed by the direct service industrial customer.

(c) "Average annual employment" means the total employment in this state for a calendar year at the direct service industrial customer's location where electricity from the facility will be consumed.

(2) Effective July 1, 2001, a credit is allowed against the tax due under this chapter to a direct service industrial customer who purchases natural or manufactured gas from a gas distribution business subject to the public utility tax under chapter 82.16 RCW. The credit is equal to the value of natural or manufactured gas purchased from a gas distribution business and used to generate electricity at the facility multiplied by the rate in effect for the public utility tax on gas distribution businesses under RCW 82.16.020. This credit may be used each reporting period for sixty months following the first month natural or manufactured gas was purchased from a gas distribution business by a direct service industrial customer who constructs a facility.

(3) Application for credit shall be made by the direct service industrial consumer before the first purchase of natural or manufactured gas. The application shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the department and shall include but is not limited to information regarding the location of the facility, the projected date of first purchase of natural or manufactured gas to generate electricity at the facility, the date construction is projected to begin or did begin, the applicant's average annual employment in the state for the six calendar years immediately preceding the year in which the application is made, and affirm the applicant's status as a direct service industrial customer. The department shall rule on the application within thirty days of receipt.

(4) Credit under this section is limited to the amount of tax imposed under this chapter. Refunds shall not be given in place of credits and credits may not be carried over to subsequent calendar years.

(5) All or part of the credit shall be disallowed and must be paid if the average of the direct service industrial customer's average annual employment for the five calendar years subsequent to the calendar year containing the first month of purchase of natural or manufactured gas to generate electricity at a facility is less than the six-year average annual employment stated on the application for credit under this section. The direct service industrial customer will certify to the department by June 1st of the sixth calendar year following the calendar year in which the month of first purchase of gas occurs the average annual employment for each of the five prior calendar years. All or part of the credit that shall be disallowed and must be paid is commensurate with the

decrease in the five-year average of average annual employment as follows:

<u>Decrease in Average Annual Employment Over Five-Year Period</u>	<u>% of Credit to be Paid</u>
Less than 10%	10%
10% or more but less than 25%	25%
25% or more but less than 50%	50%
50% or more but less than 75%	75%
75% or more	100%

(6)(a) The direct service industrial customer shall begin paying the credit that is disallowed and is to be paid in the sixth calendar year following the calendar year in which the month following the month of first purchase of natural or manufactured gas to generate electricity at the facility occurs. The first payment will be due on or before December 31st with subsequent annual payments due on or before December 31st of the following four years according to the following schedule:

<u>Payment Year</u>	<u>% of Credit to be Paid</u>
1	10%
2	15%
3	20%
4	25%
5	30%

(b) The department may authorize an accelerated payment schedule upon request of the taxpayer.

(c) Interest shall not be charged on the credit that is disallowed for the sixty-month period the credit may be taken, although all other penalties and interest applicable to delinquent excise taxes may be assessed and imposed. The debt for credit that is disallowed and must be paid will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the direct service industrial customer. Transfer of ownership of the facility does not affect eligibility for this credit. However, the credit is available to the successor only if the eligibility conditions of this section are met.

(7) The employment security department shall make, and certify to the department of revenue, all determinations of employment under this section as requested by the department.

(8) A person claiming this credit shall supply to the department quarterly reports containing information necessary to document the total volume of natural or manufactured gas purchased in the quarter, the value of that total volume, and the percentage of the total volume used to generate electricity at the facility. [2001 c 214 § 9.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.448 Credit—Manufacturing semiconductor materials. (Contingent effective date; contingent expiration date.)** (1) Subject to the limits and provisions of this section, a credit is authorized against the tax otherwise due under RCW 82.04.240(2) for persons engaged in the business of

manufacturing semiconductor materials. For the purposes of this section "semiconductor materials" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.240(2).

(2)(a) The credit under this section equals three thousand dollars for each employment position used in manufacturing production that takes place in a new building exempt from sales and use tax under RCW 82.08.965 and 82.12.965. A credit is earned for the calendar year a person fills a position. Additionally a credit is earned for each year the position is maintained over the subsequent consecutive years, up to eight years. Those positions that are not filled for the entire year are eligible for fifty percent of the credit if filled less than six months, and the entire credit if filled more than six months.

(b) To qualify for the credit, the manufacturing activity of the person must be conducted at a new building that qualifies for the exemption from sales and use tax under RCW 82.08.965 and 82.12.965.

(c) In those situations where a production building in existence on \*the effective date of this section will be phased out of operation, during which time employment at the new building at the same site is increased, the person is eligible for credit for employment at the existing building and new building, with the limitation that the combined eligible employment not exceed full employment at the new building. "Full employment" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.965. The credit may not be earned until the commencement of commercial production, as that term is used in RCW 82.08.965.

(3) No application is necessary for the tax credit. The person is subject to all of the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW. In no case may a credit earned during one calendar year be carried over to be credited against taxes incurred in a subsequent calendar year. No refunds may be granted for credits under this section.

(4) If at any time the department finds that a person is not eligible for tax credit under this section, the amount of taxes for which a credit has been claimed is immediately due. The department must assess interest, but not penalties, on the taxes for which the person is not eligible. The interest must be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, is retroactive to the date the tax credit was taken, and accrues until the taxes for which a credit has been used are repaid.

(5) A person claiming the credit under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(6) Credits may be claimed after twelve years after \*the effective date of this act, for those buildings at which commercial production began before twelve years after \*the effective date of this act, subject to all of the eligibility criteria and limitations of this section.

(7) This section expires twelve years after \*the effective date of this act. [2010 c 114 § 117; 2003 c 149 § 9.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

**\*Contingent effective date—2010 c 114:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** See note following RCW 82.04.426.

**82.04.4481 Credit—Property taxes paid by aluminum smelter.** (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a credit is allowed for all property taxes paid during the calendar year on property owned by a direct service

industrial customer and reasonably necessary for the purposes of an aluminum smelter.

(2) A person claiming the credit under this section is subject to all the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW. A credit earned during one calendar year may be carried over to be credited against taxes incurred in the subsequent calendar year, but may not be carried over a second year. Credits carried over must be applied to tax liability before new credits. No refunds may be granted for credits under this section.

(3) Credits may not be claimed under this section for property taxes levied for collection in 2017 and thereafter.

(4) A person claiming the credit provided in this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534. [2011 c 174 § 302. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 2 § 2; 2010 c 114 § 118; 2006 c 182 § 2; 2004 c 24 § 8.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**82.04.4482 Credit—Sales of electricity or gas to an aluminum smelter.** (1) A person who is subject to tax under this chapter on gross income from sales of electricity, natural gas, or manufactured gas made to an aluminum smelter is eligible for an exemption from the tax in the form of a credit, if the contract for sale of electricity or gas to the aluminum smelter specifies that the price charged for the electricity or gas will be reduced by an amount equal to the credit.

(2) The credit is equal to the gross income from the sale of the electricity or gas to an aluminum smelter multiplied by the corresponding rate in effect at the time of the sale under this chapter.

(3) The exemption provided for in this section does not apply to amounts received from the remarketing or resale of electricity originally obtained by contract for the smelting process. [2004 c 24 § 9.]

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**82.04.4483 Credit—Programming or manufacturing software in rural counties.** (1) Subject to the limits and provisions of this section, a credit is authorized against the tax otherwise due under this chapter for persons engaged in a rural county in the business of manufacturing computer software or programming, as those terms are defined in this section.

(2) A person who partially or totally relocates a business from one rural county to another rural county is eligible for any new qualifying employment positions created as a result of the relocation but is not eligible to receive credit for the jobs moved from one county to the other.

(3)(a) To qualify for the credit, the qualifying activity of the person must be conducted in a rural county and the new qualified employment position must be located in the rural county.

(b) If an activity is conducted both from a rural county and outside of a rural county, the credit is available if at least ninety percent of the qualifying activity is conducted within a rural county. If the qualifying activity is a service taxable activity, the place where the work is performed is the place at which the activity is conducted.

(4)(a) The credit under this section shall equal one thousand dollars for each new qualified employment position created after January 1, 2004, in an eligible area. A credit is earned for the calendar year the person is hired to fill the position. Additionally a credit is earned for each year the position is maintained over the subsequent consecutive years, up to four years. The county must meet the definition of a rural county at the time the position is filled. If the county does not have a rural county status the following year or years, the position is still eligible for the remaining years if all other conditions are met.

(b) Participants who claimed credit under \*RCW 82.04.4456 for qualified employment positions created before December 31, 2003, are eligible to earn credit for each year the position is maintained over the subsequent consecutive years, for up to four years, which four years include any years claimed under \*RCW 82.04.4456. Those persons who did not receive a credit under \*RCW 82.04.4456 before December 31, 2003, are not eligible to earn credit for qualified employment positions created before December 31, 2003.

(c) Credit is authorized for new employees hired for new qualified employment positions created on or after January 1, 2004. New qualified employment positions filled by existing employees are eligible for the credit under this section only if the position vacated by the existing employee is filled by a new hire. A business that is a sole proprietorship without any employees is equivalent to one employee position and this type of business is eligible to receive credit for one position.

(d) If a position is filled before July 1st, the position is eligible for the full yearly credit for that calendar year. If it is filled after June 30th, the position is eligible for half of the credit for that calendar year.

(5) No application is necessary for the tax credit. The person must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section. This information includes information relating to description of qualifying activity conducted in the rural county and outside the rural county by the person as well as detailed records on positions and employees.

(6) If at any time the department finds that a person is not eligible for tax credit under this section, the amount of taxes for which a credit has been claimed is immediately due. The department must assess interest, but not penalties, on the taxes for which the person is not eligible. The interest must be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, applies retroactively to the date the tax credit was taken, and accrues until the taxes for which a credit has been used are repaid.

(7) The credit under this section may be used against any tax due under this chapter, but in no case may a credit earned during one calendar year be carried over to be credited against taxes incurred in a subsequent calendar year. A person is not eligible to receive a credit under this section if the person is receiving credit for the same position under chapter 82.62 RCW or RCW 82.04.44525 or is taking a credit under this chapter for information technology help desk services conducted from a rural county. No refunds may be granted for credits under this section.

(8) Transfer of ownership does not affect credit eligibility. However, the successive credits are available to the suc-

cessor for remaining periods in the five years only if the eligibility conditions of this section are met.

(9) A person claiming a tax credit under this section must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585.

(10) As used in this section:

(a) "Computer software" has the meaning as defined in RCW 82.04.215 after June 30, 2004, and includes "software" as defined in RCW 82.04.215 before July 1, 2004.

(b) "Manufacturing" means the same as "to manufacture" under RCW 82.04.120. Manufacturing includes the activities of both manufacturers and processors for hire.

(c) "Programming" means the activities that involve the creation or modification of computer software, as that term is defined in this chapter, and that are taxable as a service under RCW 82.04.290(2) or as a retail sale under RCW 82.04.050.

(d) "Qualifying activity" means manufacturing of computer software or programming.

(e) "Qualified employment position" means a permanent full-time position doing programming of computer software or manufacturing of computer software. This excludes administrative, professional, service, executive, and other similar positions. If an employee is either voluntarily or involuntarily separated from employment, the employment position is considered filled on a full-time basis if the employer is either training or actively recruiting a replacement employee. Full-time means a position for at least thirty-five hours a week.

(f) "Rural county" means the same as in RCW 82.14.370.

(11) No credit may be taken or accrued under this section on or after January 1, 2011. [2010 c 114 § 119; 2004 c 25 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.04.4456 expired December 31, 2003.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2004 c 25:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect April 1, 2004." [2004 c 25 § 8.]

**82.04.4485 Credit—Mechanical lifting devices purchased by hospitals.** (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a hospital may take a credit for the cost of purchasing mechanical lifting devices and other equipment that are primarily used to minimize patient handling by health care providers, consistent with a safe patient handling program developed and implemented by the hospital in compliance with RCW 70.41.390. The credit is equal to one hundred percent of the cost of the mechanical lifting devices or other equipment.

(2) No application is necessary for the credit, however, a hospital taking a credit under this section must maintain records, as required by the department, necessary to verify eligibility for the credit under this section. The hospital is subject to all of the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW. A credit earned during one calendar year may be carried over to be credited against taxes incurred in a subsequent calendar year. No refunds shall be granted for credits under this section.

(3) The maximum credit that may be earned under this section for each hospital is limited to one thousand dollars for each acute care available inpatient bed.

(4) Credits are available on a first in-time basis. The department shall disallow any credits, or portion thereof, that would cause the total amount of credits claimed statewide under this section to exceed ten million dollars. If the ten million dollar limitation is reached, the department shall notify hospitals that the annual statewide limit has been met. In addition, the department shall provide written notice to any hospital that has claimed tax credits after the ten million dollar limitation in this subsection has been met. The notice shall indicate the amount of tax due and shall provide that the tax be paid within thirty days from the date of such notice. The department shall not assess penalties and interest as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW on the amount due in the initial notice if the amount due is paid by the due date specified in the notice, or any extension thereof.

(5) Credit may not be claimed under this section for the acquisition of mechanical lifting devices and other equipment if the acquisition occurred before June 7, 2006.

(6) Credit may not be claimed under this section for any acquisition of mechanical lifting devices and other equipment that occurs after December 30, 2010.

(7) The department shall issue an annual report on the amount of credits claimed by hospitals under this section, with the first report due on July 1, 2008.

(8) For the purposes of this section, "hospital" has the meaning provided in RCW 70.41.020. [2006 c 165 § 5.]

**Findings—2006 c 165:** See note following RCW 70.41.390.

**82.04.4486 Credit—Syrup taxes paid by buyer.** (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a credit is allowed to a buyer of syrup to be used by the buyer in making carbonated beverages that are sold by the buyer if the tax imposed by RCW 82.64.020 has been paid in respect to the syrup. The amount of the credit shall be equal to twenty-five percent from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, fifty percent from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, seventy-five percent from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, and one hundred percent after June 30, 2009, of the taxes imposed under RCW 82.64.020 in respect to the syrup purchased by the buyer.

(2) Credit under this section shall be earned, and claimed against taxes due under this chapter, for the tax reporting period in which the syrup was purchased by the person claiming credit under this section. The credit shall not exceed the tax otherwise due under this chapter for the tax reporting period. Unused credit may be carried over and used in subsequent tax reporting periods, except that no credit may be claimed more than twelve months from the end of the tax reporting period in which the credit was earned. No refunds shall be granted for credits under this section.

(3) No credit is available under this section for taxes paid under RCW 82.64.020 before July 1, 2006.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "carbonated beverage," "previously taxed syrup," and "syrup" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.64.010. [2006 c 245 § 1.]

**Effective date—2006 c 245:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 245 § 2.]

(2012 Ed.)

**82.04.4489 Credit—Motion picture competitiveness program.** (1) Subject to the limitations in this section, a credit is allowed against the tax imposed under this chapter for contributions made by a person to a Washington motion picture competitiveness program.

(2) The person must make the contribution before claiming a credit authorized under this section. Credits earned under this section may be claimed against taxes due for the calendar year in which the contribution is made. The amount of credit claimed for a reporting period may not exceed the tax otherwise due under this chapter for that reporting period. No person may claim more than one million dollars of credit in any calendar year, including credit carried over from a previous calendar year. No refunds may be granted for any unused credits.

(3) The maximum credit that may be earned for each calendar year under this section for a person is limited to the lesser of one million dollars or an amount equal to one hundred percent of the contributions made by the person to a program during the calendar year.

(4) Except as provided under subsection (5) of this section, a tax credit claimed under this section may not be carried over to another year.

(5) Any amount of tax credit otherwise allowable under this section not claimed by the person in any calendar year may be carried over and claimed against the person's tax liability for the next succeeding calendar year. Any credit remaining unused in the next succeeding calendar year may be carried forward and claimed against the person's tax liability for the second succeeding calendar year; and any credit not used in that second succeeding calendar year may be carried over and claimed against the person's tax liability for the third succeeding calendar year, but may not be carried over for any calendar year thereafter.

(6) Credits are available on a first in-time basis. The department must disallow any credits, or portion thereof, that would cause the total amount of credits claimed under this section during any calendar year to exceed three million five hundred thousand dollars. If this limitation is reached, the department must notify all Washington motion picture competitiveness programs that the annual statewide limit has been met. In addition, the department must provide written notice to any person who has claimed tax credits in excess of the limitation in this subsection. The notice must indicate the amount of tax due and provide that the tax be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice. The department may not assess penalties and interest as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW on the amount due in the initial notice if the amount due is paid by the due date specified in the notice, or any extension thereof.

(7) To claim a credit under this section, a person must electronically file with the department all returns, forms, and any other information required by the department, in an electronic format as provided or approved by the department. Any return, form, or information required to be filed in an electronic format under this section is not filed until received by the department in an electronic format. As used in this subsection, "returns" has the same meaning as "return" in RCW 82.32.050.

(8) No application is necessary for the tax credit. The person must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section.

(9) A Washington motion picture competitiveness program must provide to the department, upon request, such information needed to verify eligibility for credit under this section, including information regarding contributions received by the program.

(10) The department may not allow any credit under this section before July 1, 2006.

(11) For the purposes of this section, "Washington motion picture competitiveness program" or "program" means an organization established pursuant to chapter 43.365 RCW.

(12) No credit may be earned for contributions made on or after July 1, 2017. [2012 c 189 § 4; 2008 c 85 § 3; 2006 c 247 § 5.]

**82.04.449 Credit—Washington customized employment training program.** (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, a credit is allowed for participants in the Washington customized employment training program created in RCW 28B.67.020. The credit allowed under this section is equal to fifty percent of the value of a participant's payments to the employment training finance account created in RCW 28B.67.030. If a participant in the program does not meet the requirements of RCW 28B.67.020(2)(b)(ii), the participant must remit to the department the value of any credits taken plus interest. The credit earned by a participant in one calendar year may be carried over to be credited against taxes incurred in a subsequent calendar year. No credit may be allowed for repayment of training allowances received from the Washington customized employment training program on or after July 1, 2021.

(2) A person claiming the credit provided in this section must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585. [2012 c 46 § 3; 2010 c 114 § 121; 2009 c 296 § 3; 2006 c 112 § 5.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Severability—2006 c 112:** See RCW 28B.67.901.

**82.04.4494 Credit—Forest derived biomass. (Expires June 30, 2015.)** (1) In computing the tax imposed under this chapter, harvesters are allowed a credit against the amount of tax otherwise due under this chapter, as provided in this section. The credit per harvested green ton of forest derived biomass sold, transferred, or used for production of electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel is as follows:

(a) For forest derived biomass harvested October 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, zero dollars;

(b) For forest derived biomass harvested July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013, three dollars;

(c) For forest derived biomass harvested July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, five dollars.

(2) Credit may not be claimed for forest derived biomass sold, transferred, or used before July 1, 2009. The amount of credit allowed for a reporting period may not exceed the tax otherwise due under this chapter for that reporting period. Any unused excess credit in a reporting period may be carried

forward to future reporting periods for a maximum of two years.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "harvested" and "harvesters" are defined in RCW 84.33.035, and "biofuel" is defined in RCW 43.325.010.

(4) This section expires June 30, 2015. [2009 c 469 § 401.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.04.450 Value of products, how determined.** (1) The value of products, including by-products, extracted or manufactured shall be determined by the gross proceeds derived from the sale thereof whether such sale is at wholesale or at retail, to which shall be added all subsidies and bonuses received from the purchaser or from any other person with respect to the extraction, manufacture, or sale of such products or by-products by the seller, except:

(a) Where such products, including by-products, are extracted or manufactured for commercial or industrial use;

(b) Where such products, including by-products, are shipped, transported or transferred out of the state, or to another person, without prior sale or are sold under circumstances such that the gross proceeds from the sale are not indicative of the true value of the subject matter of the sale.

(2) In the above cases the value shall correspond as nearly as possible to the gross proceeds from sales in this state of similar products of like quality and character, and in similar quantities by other taxpayers, plus the amount of subsidies or bonuses ordinarily payable by the purchaser or by any third person with respect to the extraction, manufacture, or sale of such products: PROVIDED, That the value of a product manufactured or produced for purposes of serving as a prototype for the development of a new or improved product shall correspond: (a) To the retail selling price of such new or improved product when first offered for sale; or (b) to the value of materials incorporated into the prototype in cases in which the new or improved product is not offered for sale. The department of revenue shall prescribe uniform and equitable rules for the purpose of ascertaining such values. [1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 42; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.450. Prior: 1949 c 228 § 3; 1941 c 178 § 4; 1935 c 180 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.460 Apportionable income—Taxable in Washington and another state.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person earning apportionable income taxable under this chapter and also taxable in another state must, for the purpose of computing tax liability under this chapter, apportion to this state, in accordance with RCW 82.04.462, that portion of the person's apportionable income derived from business activities performed within this state.

(2) The department must by rule provide a method of apportioning the apportionable income of financial institutions, where such apportionable income is taxable under RCW 82.04.290. The rule adopted by the department must, to the extent feasible, be consistent with the multistate tax commission's recommended formula for the apportionment and allocation of net income of financial institutions as existing on June 1, 2010, or such subsequent date as may be pro-

vided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section, except that:

(a) The department's rule must provide for a single factor apportionment method based on the receipts factor; and

(b) The definition of "financial institution" contained in appendix A to the multistate tax commission's recommended formula for the apportionment and allocation of net income of financial institutions is advisory only.

(3) The department may by rule provide a method or methods of apportioning or allocating gross income derived from sales of telecommunications service and competitive telephone service taxed under this chapter, if the gross proceeds of sales subject to tax under this chapter do not fairly represent the extent of the taxpayer's income attributable to this state. The rule must provide for an equitable and constitutionally permissible division of the tax base.

(4) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Apportionable income" means gross income of the business generated from engaging in apportionable activities, including income received from apportionable activities performed outside this state if the income would be taxable under this chapter if received from activities in this state, less the exemptions and deductions allowable under this chapter. For purposes of this subsection, "apportionable activities" means only those activities taxed under:

- (i) RCW 82.04.255;
- (ii) \*RCW 82.04.260 (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (12);
- (iii) RCW 82.04.280 (1)(e);
- (iv) RCW 82.04.285;
- (v) RCW 82.04.286;
- (vi) RCW 82.04.290;
- (vii) RCW 82.04.2907;
- (viii) RCW 82.04.2908;
- (ix) RCW 82.04.263, but only to the extent of any activity that would be taxable under any of the provisions enumerated under (a)(i) through (viii) of this subsection (4) if the tax classification in RCW 82.04.263 did not exist; and
- (x) RCW \*82.04.260(13) and 82.04.280(1)(a), but only with respect to advertising.

(b)(i) "Taxable in another state" means that the taxpayer is subject to a business activities tax by another state on its income received from engaging in apportionable activities; or the taxpayer is not subject to a business activities tax by another state on its income received from engaging in apportionable activities, but any other state has jurisdiction to subject the taxpayer to a business activities tax on such income under the substantial nexus standards in RCW 82.04.067(1).

(ii) For purposes of this subsection (4)(b), "business activities tax" and "state" have the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.462. [2011 c 174 § 203; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 108; 2004 c 174 § 6; 1985 c 7 § 154; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 28; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.460. Prior: 1941 c 178 § 5; 1939 c 225 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-8a.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.04.260 was amended by 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), changing subsections (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (12), and (13) to subsections (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (13), and (14).

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2004 c 174:** See note following RCW 82.04.2908.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.462 Apportionable income.** (1) The apportionable income of a person within the scope of RCW 82.04.460(1) is apportioned to Washington by multiplying its apportionable income by the receipts factor. Persons who are subject to tax under more than one of the tax classifications enumerated in RCW 82.04.460(4)(a) (i) through (x) must calculate a separate receipts factor for each tax classification that the person is taxable under.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the receipts factor is a fraction and is calculated as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section and, for financial institutions, as provided in the rule adopted by the department under the authority of RCW 82.04.460(2).

(3)(a) The numerator of the receipts factor is the total gross income of the business of the taxpayer attributable to this state during the tax year from engaging in an apportionable activity. The denominator of the receipts factor is the total gross income of the business of the taxpayer from engaging in an apportionable activity everywhere in the world during the tax year.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, for purposes of computing the receipts factor, gross income of the business generated from each apportionable activity is attributable to the state:

(i) Where the customer received the benefit of the taxpayer's service or, in the case of gross income from royalties, where the customer used the taxpayer's intangible property.

(ii) If the customer received the benefit of the service or used the intangible property in more than one state, gross income of the business must be attributed to the state in which the benefit of the service was primarily received or in which the intangible property was primarily used.

(iii) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under the provisions of (b)(i) or (ii) of this subsection (3), gross income of the business must be attributed to the state from which the customer ordered the service or, in the case of royalties, the office of the customer from which the royalty agreement with the taxpayer was negotiated.

(iv) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under the provisions of (b)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this subsection (3), gross income of the business must be attributed to the state to which the billing statements or invoices are sent to the customer by the taxpayer.

(v) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under the provisions of (b)(i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of this subsection (3), gross income of the business must be attributed to the state from which the customer sends payment to the taxpayer.

(vi) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under the provisions of (b)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v) of this subsection (3), gross income of the business must be attributed to the state where the customer is located as indicated by the customer's address: (A) Shown in the taxpayer's business records maintained in the regular course of

business; or (B) obtained during consummation of the sale or the negotiation of the contract for services or for the use of the taxpayer's intangible property, including any address of a customer's payment instrument when readily available to the taxpayer and no other address is available.

(vii) If the taxpayer is unable to attribute gross income of the business under the provisions of (b)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), or (vi) of this subsection (3), gross income of the business must be attributed to the commercial domicile of the taxpayer.

(viii) For purposes of this subsection (3)(b), "customer" means a person or entity to whom the taxpayer makes a sale or renders services or from whom the taxpayer otherwise receives gross income of the business. "Customer" includes anyone who pays royalties or charges in the nature of royalties for the use of the taxpayer's intangible property.

(c) Gross income of the business from engaging in an apportionable activity must be excluded from the denominator of the receipts factor if, in respect to such activity, at least some of the activity is performed in this state, and the gross income is attributable under (b) of this subsection (3) to a state in which the taxpayer is not taxable. For purposes of this subsection (3)(c), "not taxable" means that the taxpayer is not subject to a business activities tax by that state, except that a taxpayer is taxable in a state in which it would be deemed to have a substantial nexus with that state under the standards in RCW 82.04.067(1) regardless of whether that state imposes such a tax. "Business activities tax" means a tax measured by the amount of, or economic results of, business activity conducted in a state. The term includes taxes measured in whole or in part on net income or gross income or receipts. "Business activities tax" does not include a sales tax, use tax, or a similar transaction tax, imposed on the sale or acquisition of goods or services, whether or not denominated a gross receipts tax or a tax imposed on the privilege of doing business.

(d) This subsection (3) does not apply to financial institutions with respect to apportionable income taxable under RCW 82.04.290. Financial institutions must calculate the receipts factor as provided in subsection (4) of this section and the rule adopted by the department under the authority of RCW 82.04.460(2) with respect to apportionable income taxable under RCW 82.04.290. Financial institutions that are subject to tax under any other tax classification enumerated in RCW 82.04.460(4)(a) (i) through (v) and (vii) through (x) must calculate a separate receipts factor, as provided in this section, for each of the other tax classifications that the financial institution is taxable under.

(4) A taxpayer may calculate the receipts factor for the current tax year based on the most recent calendar year for which information is available for the full calendar year. If a taxpayer does not calculate the receipts factor for the current tax year based on previous calendar year information as authorized in this subsection, the business must use current year information to calculate the receipts factor for the current tax year. In either case, a taxpayer must correct the reporting for the current tax year when complete information is available to calculate the receipts factor for that year, but not later than October 31st of the following tax year. Interest will apply to any additional tax due on a corrected tax return. Interest must be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent

excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, retroactively to the date the original return was due, and will accrue until the additional taxes are paid. Penalties as provided in RCW 82.32.090 will apply to any such additional tax due only if the current tax year reporting is not corrected and the additional tax is not paid by October 31st of the following tax year. Interest as provided in RCW 82.32.060 will apply to any tax paid in excess of that properly due on a return as a result of a taxpayer using previous calendar year data or incomplete current-year data to calculate the receipts factor.

(5) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Apportionable activities" and "apportionable income" have the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.460.

(b) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, or any foreign country or political subdivision of a foreign country. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 105.]

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.04.470 Wholesale sale—Reseller permit—Exemption certificates—Burden of proof—Tax liability.** (1) The burden of proving that a sale is a wholesale sale rather than a retail sale is on the seller. A seller may meet its burden of proving a sale is a wholesale sale rather than a retail sale by taking from the buyer, at the time of sale or within a reasonable time after the sale as provided by rule of the department, a copy of a reseller permit issued to the buyer by the department under RCW 82.32.780 or 82.32.783.

(2)(a) In lieu of a copy of a reseller permit issued by the department, a seller may accept from a buyer that is required to be registered with the department under RCW 82.32.030:

(i) A properly completed uniform exemption certificate approved by the streamlined sales and use tax agreement governing board; or

(ii) Any other exemption certificate as may be authorized by the department and properly completed by the buyer.

(b) Certificates authorized under (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (2) must include the reseller permit number issued by the department to the buyer.

(c) A seller who accepts exemption certificates authorized in (a) of this subsection (2) is not required to verify with the department whether the buyer is required to be registered with the department under RCW 82.32.030. Nothing in this subsection (2)(c) may be construed to modify any of the provisions of RCW 82.08.050.

(3)(a) In lieu of a copy of a reseller permit issued by the department, a seller may accept from a buyer that is not required to be registered with the department under RCW 82.32.030:

(i) A properly completed uniform sales and use tax exemption certificate developed by the multistate tax commission;

(ii) A properly completed uniform exemption certificate approved by the streamlined sales and use tax agreement governing board; or

(iii) Any other exemption certificate as may be authorized by the department and properly completed by the buyer.

(b) A seller who accepts exemption certificates authorized in (a) of this subsection (3) is not required to verify with the department whether the buyer is not required to be registered with the department under RCW 82.32.030. Nothing in this subsection (3)(b) may be construed to modify any of the provisions of RCW 82.08.050.

(4) In lieu of obtaining the documentation in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section, a seller may capture the relevant data elements as allowed under the streamlined sales and use tax agreement.

(5) A seller that does not comply with subsection (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section may meet its burden of proving that a sale is a wholesale sale rather than a retail sale by demonstrating facts and circumstances, according to rules adopted by the department, that show the sale was properly made without payment of retail sales tax.

(6) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, a seller who maintains records establishing that it uses electronic means to verify, at least once per calendar year, the validity of its customers' reseller permits need not take a copy of a reseller permit or other documentation or the data elements as authorized in subsection (1), (2), (3), or (4) of this section for wholesale sales to those customers with valid reseller permits as confirmed by the department for all sales occurring within twelve months following the date that the seller last electronically verified the validity of its customers' reseller permits. A seller that meets the requirements of this subsection will be deemed to have met its burden of proving a sale is a wholesale sale rather than a retail sale.

(7) As used in this section "reseller permit" means documentation issued by the department under RCW 82.32.780 or 82.32.783, which is used to substantiate a wholesale sale. [2010 c 112 § 7. Prior: 2009 c 563 § 205; 2009 c 535 § 411; 2007 c 6 § 1201; 2003 c 168 § 204; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 701; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 29; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 43; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.470; prior: 1935 c 180 § 9; RRS § 8370-9.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

*Reseller's permit: RCW 82.08.130 and 82.32.291.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.480 Sales in own name—Sales as agent.** (1) Every consignee, bailee, factor, or auctioneer having either actual or constructive possession of personal property, or having possession of the documents of title thereto, with power to sell such personal property in that person's own name and actually so selling, is deemed the seller of such per-

sonal property within the meaning of this chapter. Furthermore, the consignor, bailor, principal, or owner is deemed a seller of such property to the consignee, bailee, factor, or auctioneer.

(2) The burden is on the taxpayer in every case to establish the fact that the taxpayer is not engaged in the business of making retail sales or wholesale sales but is acting merely as broker or agent in promoting sales for a principal. Such claim will be allowed only when the taxpayer's accounting records are kept in such manner as required by rule by the department.

(3) For purposes of this section, "personal property" means tangible personal property, digital goods, digital codes, and extended warranties. [2009 c 535 § 412; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 44; 1961 c 15 § 82.04.480. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 10; RRS § 8370-10.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.500 Tax part of operating overhead.** It is not the intention of this chapter that the taxes herein levied upon persons engaging in business be construed as taxes upon the purchasers or customers, but that such taxes shall be levied upon, and collectible from, the person engaging in the business activities herein designated and that such taxes shall constitute a part of the operating overhead of such persons. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.500. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 14; RRS § 8370-14.]

**82.04.510 General administrative provisions invoked.** All of the provisions contained in chapter 82.32 RCW shall have full force and application with respect to taxes imposed under the provisions of this chapter. Taxpayers submitting monthly estimates of taxes due under this chapter shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW if they fail to remit ninety percent of the taxes actually collected or due for the reporting period. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.510. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 28; 1935 c 180 § 15; RRS § 8370-15.]

**82.04.520 Administrative provisions for motor vehicle sales by courtesy dealers.** (1) In the payment of the tax imposed by this chapter on new motor vehicles sold to Washington customers that are delivered to the customer through courtesy dealers located in this state, the courtesy dealer is deemed to be the agent for the selling dealer in reporting and paying the tax imposed by this chapter, unless the selling dealer is already registered and reporting and remitting taxes under this chapter. It is the duty of each courtesy dealer to pay the tax imposed by this chapter to the department when the courtesy dealer files its tax return. Each courtesy dealer who acts as the agent for the selling dealer in reporting, paying, and remitting the tax imposed by this chapter must at the time of paying and remitting its own taxes imposed by this chapter pay the tax due on the transaction under this section.

(2) The tax paid by the courtesy dealer on behalf of the selling dealer shall constitute a debt from the selling dealer to the courtesy dealer, and the courtesy dealer is authorized to withhold payment to the selling dealer out of the proceeds of the sale an amount equal to the tax imposed by this chapter. Amounts withheld by the courtesy dealer are deemed to be

held in trust by the courtesy dealer until paid to the department, and any courtesy dealer who appropriates or converts the amount withheld to the courtesy dealer's own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax to the extent that the money withheld is not available for payment on the due date is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(3) This section is construed as cumulative of other methods prescribed in chapters 82.04 through 82.32 RCW, inclusive, for the collection of the tax imposed by this chapter.

(4) As used in this section, "courtesy dealer" means any licensed new motor vehicle dealer authorized to prepare or deliver a new motor vehicle to a customer in this state. "Selling dealer" means a motor vehicle dealer not licensed to prepare or deliver a new motor vehicle to a customer in this state. [2001 c 258 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.04.530 Telecommunications service providers—Calculation of gross proceeds.** For purposes of this chapter, a telecommunications service provider other than a mobile telecommunications service provider must calculate gross proceeds of sales in a manner consistent with the sourcing rules provided in RCW 82.32.520. The department may adopt rules to implement this section, including rules that provide a formulary method of determining gross proceeds that reasonably approximates the taxable activity of a telephone business. [2007 c 54 § 13; 2007 c 6 § 1022; 2004 c 153 § 410; 2002 c 67 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2007 c 6 § 1022 and by 2007 c 54 § 13, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 54:** "In July 2000, congress passed the mobile telecommunications sourcing act (P.L. 106-252). The act addresses the problem of determining the situs of a cellular telephone call for tax purposes. In 2002, the legislature passed Senate Bill No. 6539 (chapter 67, Laws of 2002), which addressed the sourcing of mobile telecommunications for state business and occupation tax, state and local retail sales taxes, city utility taxes, and state and county telephone access line taxes. Section 18, chapter 67, Laws of 2002 provided that the act is null and void if the federal mobile telecommunications sourcing act is substantially impaired or limited as a result of a court decision that is no longer subject to appeal. The legislature finds that the contingent null and void clause in section 18, chapter 67, Laws of 2002 has resulted in the necessity of codifying two versions of a number of statutes to incorporate contingent expiration and effective dates. The legislature recognizes that this adds complexity to the tax code and makes tax administration more difficult. The legislature further finds that there is little or no likelihood that the federal mobile telecommunications sourcing act will be substantially impaired or limited as a result of a court decision. Therefore, the legislature intends in section 2 of this act to simplify Washington's tax code and tax administration by eliminating the contingent null and void clause in section 18, chapter 67, Laws of 2002." [2007 c 54 § 1.]

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Finding—2002 c 67:** "The legislature finds that the United States congress has enacted the mobile telecommunications sourcing act for the purpose of establishing uniform nationwide sourcing rules for state and local taxation of mobile telecommunications services. The legislature desires to adopt implementing legislation governing taxation by the state and by affected local taxing jurisdictions within the state. The legislature recog-

nizes that the federal act is intended to provide a clarification of sourcing rules that is revenue-neutral among the states, and that the clarifications required by the federal act are likely in fact to be revenue-neutral at the state level. The legislature also desires to take advantage of a provision of the federal act that allows a state with a generally applicable business and occupation tax, such as this state, to make certain of the uniform sourcing rules elective for such tax." [2002 c 67 § 1.]

**Effective date—2002 c 67:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2002." [2002 c 67 § 19.]

**82.04.535 Gross proceeds of sales calculation for mobile telecommunications service provider.** (1) Unless a mobile telecommunications service provider elects to be taxed under subsection (2) of this section, the mobile telecommunications service provider must calculate gross proceeds of sales by reporting all sales to, or sales between carriers for, customers with a place of primary use within this state, regardless of where the mobile telecommunications services originate, are received, or are billed, consistent with the mobile telecommunications sourcing act, P.L. 106-252, 4 U.S.C. Secs. 116 through 126.

(2) A mobile telecommunications service provider may elect to calculate gross proceeds of sales by including all charges for mobile telecommunications services provided to all consumers, whether the consumers are the mobile telecommunications service provider's customers or not, if the services originate from or are received on telecommunications equipment or apparatus in this state and are billed to a person in this state.

(3) If a mobile telecommunications service provider elects to be taxed under subsection (2) of this section, the mobile telecommunications service provider must provide written notice of the election before August 1, 2002, or before the beginning date of any tax year thereafter in which it wishes to change its reporting and make this election.

(4) The department may provide, by rule, for formulary reporting as necessary to implement this section. [2002 c 67 § 4.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**82.04.540 Professional employer organizations—Taxable under RCW 82.04.290(2)—Deduction.** (1) The provision of professional employer services by a professional employer organization is taxable under RCW 82.04.290(2).

(2) A professional employer organization is allowed a deduction from the gross income of the business derived from performing professional employer services that is equal to the portion of the fee charged to a client that represents the actual cost of wages and salaries, benefits, workers' compensation, payroll taxes, withholding, or other assessments paid to or on behalf of a covered employee by the professional employer organization under a professional employer agreement.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Client" means any person who enters into a professional employer agreement with a professional employer organization. For purposes of this subsection (3)(a), "person" has the same meaning as "buyer" in RCW 82.08.010.

(b) "Coemployer" means either a professional employer organization or a client.

(c) "Coemployment relationship" means a relationship which is intended to be an ongoing relationship rather than a temporary or project-specific one, wherein the rights, duties, and obligations of an employer which arise out of an employment relationship have been allocated between coemployers pursuant to a professional employer agreement and applicable state law. In such a coemployment relationship:

(i) The professional employer organization is entitled to enforce only such employer rights and is subject to only those obligations specifically allocated to the professional employer organization by the professional employer agreement or applicable state law;

(ii) The client is entitled to enforce those rights and obligated to provide and perform those employer obligations allocated to such client by the professional employer agreement and applicable state law; and

(iii) The client is entitled to enforce any right and obligated to perform any obligation of an employer not specifically allocated to the professional employer organization by the professional employer agreement or applicable state law.

(d) "Covered employee" means an individual having a coemployment relationship with a professional employer organization and a client who meets all of the following criteria: (i) The individual has received written notice of coemployment with the professional employer organization, and (ii) the individual's coemployment relationship is pursuant to a professional employer agreement. Individuals who are officers, directors, shareholders, partners, and managers of the client are covered employees to the extent the professional employer organization and the client have expressly agreed in the professional employer agreement that such individuals would be covered employees and provided such individuals meet the criteria of this subsection and act as operational managers or perform day-to-day operational services for the client.

(e) "Professional employer agreement" means a written contract by and between a client and a professional employer organization that provides:

(i) For the coemployment of covered employees; and

(ii) For the allocation of employer rights and obligations between the client and the professional employer organization with respect to the covered employees.

(f) "Professional employer organization" means any person engaged in the business of providing professional employer services. The following shall not be deemed to be professional employer organizations or the providing of professional employer services for purposes of this section:

(i) Arrangements wherein a person, whose principal business activity is not entering into professional employer arrangements and which does not hold itself out as a professional employer organization, shares employees with a commonly owned company within the meaning of section 414(b) and (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

(ii) Independent contractor arrangements by which a person assumes responsibility for the product produced or service performed by such person or his or her agents and retains and exercises primary direction and control over the work performed by the individuals whose services are supplied under such arrangements; or

(iii) Providing staffing services.

(g) "Professional employer services" means the service of entering into a coemployment relationship with a client in which all or a majority of the employees providing services to a client or to a division or work unit of a client are covered employees.

(h) "Staffing services" means services consisting of a person:

(i) Recruiting and hiring its own employees;

(ii) Finding other organizations that need the services of those employees;

(iii) Assigning those employees on a temporary basis to perform work at or services for the other organizations to support or supplement the other organizations' workforces, or to provide assistance in special work situations such as, but not limited to, employee absences, skill shortages, seasonal workloads, or to perform special assignments or projects, all under the direction and supervision of the customer; and

(iv) Customarily attempting to reassign the employees to other organizations when they finish each assignment. [2006 c 301 § 1.]

**Effective date—Act does not affect application of Title 50 or 51 RCW—2006 c 301:** See notes following RCW 82.32.710.

**82.04.600 Exemptions—Materials printed in county, city, town, school district, educational service district, library or library district.** This chapter does not apply to any county as defined in Title 36 RCW, any city or town as defined in Title 35 RCW, any school district or educational service district as defined in Title 28A RCW, or any library or library district as defined in Title 27 RCW, in respect to materials printed in the county, city, town, school district, educational district, library or library district facilities when the materials are used solely for county, city, town, school district, educational district, library, or library district purposes. [1979 ex.s. c 266 § 8.]

**82.04.601 Exemptions—Affixing stamp services for cigarette sales.** This chapter does not apply to compensation allowed under RCW 82.24.295 for wholesalers and retailers for their services in affixing the stamps required under chapter 82.24 RCW. For purposes of this section, "wholesaler," "retailer," and "stamp" have the same meaning as in chapter 82.24 RCW. [2007 c 221 § 5.]

**82.04.610 Exemptions—Import or export commerce.** (1) This chapter does not apply to the sale of tangible personal property in import or export commerce.

(2) Tangible personal property is in import commerce while the property is in the process of import transportation. Except as provided in (a) through (c) of this subsection, property is in the process of import transportation from the time the property begins its transportation at a point outside of the United States until the time that the property is delivered to the buyer in this state. Property is also in the process of import transportation if it is merely flowing through this state on its way to a destination in some other state or country. However, property is no longer in the process of import transportation when the property is:

(a) Put to actual use in any state, territory, or possession of the United States for any purpose;

(b) Resold by the importer or any other person after the property has arrived in this state or any other state, territory, or possession of the United States, regardless of whether the property is in its original unbroken package or container; or

(c) Processed, handled, or otherwise stopped in transit for a business purpose other than shipping needs, if the processing, handling or other stoppage of transit occurs within the United States, including any of its possessions or territories, or the territorial waters of this state or any other state, regardless of whether the processing, handling, or other stoppage of transit occurs within a foreign trade zone.

(3)(a) Tangible personal property is in export commerce when the seller delivers the property to:

(i) The buyer at a destination in a foreign country;

(ii) A carrier consigned to and for transportation to a destination in a foreign country;

(iii) The buyer at shipside or aboard the buyer's vessel or other vehicle of transportation under circumstances where it is clear that the process of exportation of the property has begun; or

(iv) The buyer in this state if the property is capable of being transported to a foreign destination under its own power, the seller files a shipper's export declaration with respect to the property listing the seller as the exporter, and the buyer immediately transports the property directly to a destination in a foreign country. This subsection (3)(a)(iv) does not apply to sales of motor vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.320.

(b) The exemption under this subsection (3) applies with respect to property delivered to the buyer in this state if, at the time of delivery, there is a certainty of export, and the process of export has begun. The process of exportation will not be deemed to have begun if the property is merely in storage awaiting shipment, even though there is reasonable certainty that the property will be exported. The intention to export, as evidenced for example, by financial and contractual relationships does not indicate certainty of export. The process of exportation begins when the property starts its final and certain continuous movement to a destination in a foreign country.

(4) Persons claiming an exemption under this section must keep and maintain records for the period required by RCW 82.32.070 establishing their right to the exemption. [2007 c 477 § 2.]

**Intent—Purpose—2007 c 477:** "Because of the uncertainty regarding the constitutional limitations on the taxation of import and export sales of tangible personal property, the legislature recognizes the need to provide clarity in the taxation of imports and exports. It is the legislature's intent to provide a statutory tax exemption for the sale of tangible personal property in import or export commerce, which is not dependent on future interpretation of the constitutional limitations on the taxation of imports and exports by the courts. The sole purpose of the legislature in enacting RCW 82.04.610 and 82.08.990 is to codify current department practice in the taxation of import and export sales of tangible personal property consistent with WAC 458-20-193C. It is not the intent of the legislature in enacting RCW 82.04.610 and 82.08.990 to eliminate, narrow, or expand existing exemptions under WAC 458-20-193C." [2007 c 477 § 1.]

**82.04.615 Exemptions—Certain limited purpose public corporations, commissions, and authorities.** This chapter does not apply to public corporations, commissions, or authorities created under RCW 35.21.660 or 35.21.730 for

amounts derived from sales of tangible personal property and services to:

(1) A limited liability company in which the corporation, commission, or authority is the managing member;

(2) A limited partnership in which the corporation, commission, or authority is the general partner; or

(3) A single asset entity required under any federal, state, or local governmental housing assistance program, which is controlled directly or indirectly by the corporation, commission, or authority. [2007 c 381 § 1.]

**82.04.620 Exemptions—Certain prescription drugs.**

In computing tax there may be deducted from the measure of tax imposed by RCW 82.04.290(2) amounts received by physicians or clinics for drugs for infusion or injection by licensed physicians or their agents for human use pursuant to a prescription, but only if the amounts: (1) Are separately stated on invoices or other billing statements; (2) do not exceed the then current federal rate; and (3) are covered or required under a health care service program subsidized by the federal or state government. The federal rate means the rate at or below which the federal government or its agents reimburse providers for prescription drugs administered to patients as provided for in the medicare, part B, drugs average sales price information resource as published by the United States department of health and human services, or any successor index thereto. [2007 c 447 § 1.]

**Effective date—2007 c 447:** "This act takes effect October 1, 2007." [2007 c 447 § 2.]

**82.04.625 Exemptions—Custom farming services. (Expires December 31, 2020.)** (1) This chapter does not apply to any:

(a) Person performing custom farming services for a farmer, when the person performing the custom farming services is: (i) An eligible farmer; or (ii) at least fifty percent owned by an eligible farmer; or

(b) Person performing farm management services, contract labor services, services provided with respect to animals that are agricultural products, or any combination of these services, for a farmer or for a person performing custom farming services, when the person performing the farm management services, contract labor services, services with respect to animals, or any combination of these services, and the farmer or person performing custom farming services are related.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Custom farming services" means the performance of specific farming operations through the use of any farm machinery or equipment, farm implement, or draft animal, together with an operator, when: (i) The specific farming operation consists of activities directly related to the growing, raising, or producing of any agricultural product to be sold or consumed by a farmer; and (ii) the performance of the specific farming operation is for, and under a contract with, or the direction or supervision of, a farmer. "Custom farming services" does not include the custom application of fertilizers, chemicals, or biologicals.

For the purposes of this subsection (2)(a), "specific farming operation" includes specific planting, cultivating, or har-

vesting activities, or similar specific farming operations. The term does not include veterinary services as defined in RCW 18.92.010; farrier, boarding, training, or appraisal services; artificial insemination or stud services, agricultural consulting services; packing or processing of agricultural products; or pumping or other waste disposal services.

(b) "Eligible farmer" means a person who is eligible for an exemption certificate under RCW 82.08.855 at the time that the custom farming services are rendered, regardless of whether the person has applied for an exemption certificate under RCW 82.08.855.

(c) "Farm management services" means the consultative decisions made for the operations of the farm including, but not limited to, determining which crops to plant, the choice and timing of application of fertilizers and chemicals, the horticultural practices to apply, the marketing of crops and livestock, and the care and feeding of animals.

(d) "Related" means having any of the relationships specifically described in section 267(b) (1), (2), and (4) through (13) of the internal revenue code, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2007. [2007 c 334 § 1.]

**Effective date—2007 c 334:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2007." [2007 c 334 § 3.]

**Expiration date—2007 c 334:** "This act expires December 31, 2020." [2007 c 334 § 4.]

#### **82.04.627 Exemptions—Commercial airplane parts.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, for purposes of the taxes imposed under this chapter on the sale of parts to the manufacturer of a commercial airplane, the sale is deemed to take place at the site of the final testing or inspection as required by:

(a) An approved production inspection system under federal aviation regulation part 21, subpart F; or

(b) A quality control system for which a production certificate has been issued under federal aviation regulation part 21, subpart G.

(2) This section does not apply to:

(a) Sales of the types of parts listed in federal aviation regulation part 21, section 303(b)(2) through (4) or parts for which certification or approval under federal aviation regulation part 21 is not required; or

(b) Sales of parts in respect to which final testing or inspection as required by the approved production inspection system or quality control system takes place in this state.

(3) "Commercial airplane" has the same meaning given in RCW 82.32.550. [2008 c 81 § 15.]

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**82.04.629 Exemptions—Honey bee products. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts derived from the wholesale sale of honey bee products by an eligible apiarist who owns or keeps bee colonies and who does not qualify for an exemption under RCW 82.04.330 in respect to such sales.

(2) The exemption provided in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to any person selling such products at retail or to any person selling manufactured substances or articles.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section.

(a) "Bee colony" means a natural group of honey bees containing seven thousand or more workers and one or more queens, housed in a man-made hive with movable frames, and operated as a beekeeping unit.

(b) "Eligible apiarist" means a person who owns or keeps one or more bee colonies and who grows, raises, or produces honey bee products for sale at wholesale and is registered under RCW 15.60.021.

(c) "Honey bee products" means queen honey bees, packaged honey bees, honey, pollen, bees wax, propolis, or other substances obtained from honey bees. "Honey bee products" does not include manufactured substances or articles. [2008 c 314 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2008 c 314:** "The legislature finds that recent occurrences of colony collapse disorder and the resulting loss of bee hives will have an economic impact on the state's agricultural sector. The legislature intends to provide temporary business and occupation tax relief for Washington's apiarists." [2008 c 314 § 1.]

**Effective date—2008 c 314:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 314 § 6.]

**Expiration date—2008 c 314:** "This act expires July 1, 2013." [2008 c 314 § 7.]

#### **82.04.630 Exemptions—Bee pollination services. (Expires July 1, 2013.)**

(1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by an eligible apiarist, as defined in RCW 82.04.629, for providing bee pollination services to a farmer using a bee colony owned or kept by the person providing the pollination services.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.04.213 apply to this section. [2008 c 314 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—Expiration date—2008 c 314:** See notes following RCW 82.04.629.

**82.04.635 Exemptions—Nonprofits providing legal services to low-income persons.** This chapter does not apply to nonprofit organizations primarily engaged in the provision of legal services to low-income individuals from whom no charge for services is collected. For the purpose of this section, "nonprofit" means an organization exempt from federal income tax under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code. [2009 c 508 § 1.]

**82.04.640 Exemptions—Washington vaccine association—Certain assessments received.** This chapter does not apply to assessments described in RCW 70.290.030 and 70.290.040 received by a nonprofit corporation established under RCW 70.290.020. [2010 c 174 § 16.]

**Effective date—2010 c 174:** See RCW 70.290.900.

**82.04.645 Exemptions—Financial institutions—Amounts received from certain affiliated persons.** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by a financial institution from an affiliated person if the amounts are received from transactions that are required to be at arm's length under sections 23A or 23B of the federal reserve act as existing on June 1, 2010, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section. For purposes of this subsection, "financial institution" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.080.

[Title 82 RCW—page 81]

(2) As used in this section, "affiliated" means under common control. "Control" means the possession, directly or indirectly, of more than fifty percent of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract, or otherwise. [2011 c 174 § 102; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 110.]

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.04.650 Exemptions—Investment conduits and securitization entities.** (1) This chapter does not apply to amounts received by investment conduits or securitization entities from cash and securities.

(2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Investment conduit" means an entity formed by a financial institution as defined in RCW 82.04.080 for the express purpose of holding or owning cash or securities if the entity formed:

- (i) Has no employees;
- (ii) Has no direct profit-making motive;
- (iii) Owns no tangible assets, other than cash or securities;
- (iv) Holds or owns cash or securities solely as a conduit, allocating its income to holders of its ownership interests; and

(v) Has, within twelve months of its organization or initial capitalization date, issued ownership interests to other than affiliated persons, equal to or greater than twenty-five percent of its total issued ownership interests.

(b) "Securities" has the same meaning as in section 2 of the securities act of 1933 and includes eligible assets as defined by Rule 3a-7 of the investment company act, as the law and rule exist on June 1, 2010, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(c) "Securitization entity" means an entity created by a bank holding company if the entity created:

- (i) Has no employees;
- (ii) Has no direct profit-making motive;
- (iii) Owns no tangible assets, other than cash, fixed or revolving discrete pools of credit or charge card receivables originated by a financial institution, or securities;

(iv) Acts solely as a conduit, allocating its income to holders of its ownership interests; and

(v) Has as its sole business activities the:

(A) Acquisition of such discrete pools of credit or charge card receivables; and

(B) Issuance or causing the issuance of securities primarily to persons not affiliated with the entity.

(d) "Bank holding company" has the same meaning as provided in the bank holding company act of 1956, as existing on June 1, 2010, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by rule, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(e) "No direct profit-making motive" means that all of an entity's income, less a reasonable servicing fee, is paid to holders of its ownership interests.

(f) "Ownership interest" means interests categorized as debt or equity for purposes of federal tax or generally accepted accounting principles.

(g) "Affiliated" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.645. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 111.]

**Contingency—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 102-112:** See notes following RCW 82.04.067.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.04.655 Exemptions—Joint municipal utility services authorities.** This chapter does not apply to any payments between, or any transfer of assets to or from, a joint municipal utility services authority created under chapter 39.106 RCW and any of its members. [2011 c 258 § 11.]

**Short title—Purpose—Intent—2011 c 258:** See RCW 39.106.010.

**82.04.750 Exemptions—Restaurant employee meals.** (1) This chapter does not apply to restaurants in respect to meals provided without specific charge to employees.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.08.9995 apply. [2011 c 55 § 1.]

**Effective date—2011 c 55:** See note following RCW 82.08.9995.

**82.04.900 Construction—1961 c 15.** RCW 82.04.440 shall have retrospective effect to August 1, 1950, as well as have prospective effect. [1961 c 15 § 82.04.900. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 15.]

## Chapter 82.08 RCW RETAIL SALES TAX

### Sections

82.08.010	Definitions.
82.08.011	Retail car rental—Definition.
82.08.015	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.
82.08.020	Tax imposed—Retail sales—Retail car rental.
82.08.0201	Rental cars—Estimate of tax revenue.
82.08.0202	Retail sales of linen and uniform supply services.
82.08.0203	Exemptions—Trail grooming services.
82.08.0204	Exemptions—Honey bees.
82.08.0205	Exemptions—Waste vegetable oil.
82.08.0206	Exemptions—Working families—Eligible low-income persons.
82.08.02061	Exemptions—Working families—Report to legislature.
82.08.0208	Exemptions—Digital codes.
82.08.02081	Exemptions—Audio or video programming.
82.08.02082	Exemptions—Digital products or services—Ingredient or component—Made available for free.
82.08.02087	Exemptions—Digital goods and services—Purchased for business purposes.
82.08.02088	Exemptions—Digital products—Business buyers—Concurrently available for use within and outside state.
82.08.0251	Exemptions—Casual and isolated sales.
82.08.0252	Exemptions—Sales by persons taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW.
82.08.02525	Exemptions—Sale of copied public records by state and local agencies.
82.08.0253	Exemptions—Sale and distribution of newspapers.
82.08.02535	Exemptions—Sales and distribution of magazines or periodicals by subscription for fund-raising.
82.08.02537	Exemptions—Sales of academic transcripts.
82.08.0254	Exemptions—Nontaxable sales.

82.08.0255	Exemptions—Sales of motor vehicle and special fuel—Conditions—Credit or refund of special fuel used outside this state in interstate commerce.	82.08.02805	Exemptions—Sales to qualifying blood, tissue, or blood and tissue banks.
82.08.0256	Exemptions—Sale of the operating property of a public utility to the state or a political subdivision.	82.08.02806	Exemptions—Sales of human blood, tissue, organs, bodies, or body parts for medical research and quality control testing.
82.08.02565	Exemptions—Sales of machinery and equipment for manufacturing, research and development, or a testing operation—Labor and services for installation—Exemption certificate—Rules.	82.08.02807	Exemptions—Sales to organ procurement organization.
82.08.025651	Exemptions—Sales of machinery and equipment to public research institutions.	82.08.0281	Exemptions—Sales of prescription drugs.
82.08.02566	Exemptions—Sales of tangible personal property incorporated in prototype for parts, auxiliary equipment, and aircraft modification—Limitations on yearly exemption.	82.08.0282	Exemptions—Sales of returnable containers for beverages and foods.
82.08.02568	Exemptions—Sales of carbon and similar substances that become an ingredient or component of anodes or cathodes used in producing aluminum for sale.	82.08.0283	Exemptions—Certain medical items.
82.08.02569	Exemptions—Sales of tangible personal property related to a building or structure that is an integral part of a laser interferometer gravitational wave observatory.	82.08.0285	Exemptions—Sales of ferry vessels to the state or local governmental units—Components thereof—Labor and service charges.
82.08.0257	Exemptions—Auction sales of personal property used in farming.	82.08.0287	Exemptions—Sales of passenger motor vehicles as ride-sharing vehicles.
82.08.02573	Exemptions—Sales by a nonprofit organization for fundraising activities.	82.08.02875	Exemptions—Vehicle parking charges subject to tax at stadium and exhibition center.
82.08.0258	Exemptions—Sales to federal corporations providing aid and relief.	82.08.0288	Exemptions—Lease of certain irrigation equipment.
82.08.0259	Exemptions—Sales of livestock.	82.08.0289	Exemptions—Telephone, telecommunications, and ancillary services.
82.08.026	Exemptions—Sales of natural or manufactured gas.	82.08.0291	Exemptions—Sales of amusement and recreation services or personal services by nonprofit youth organization—Local government physical fitness classes.
82.08.0261	Exemptions—Sales of personal property for use connected with private or common carriers in interstate or foreign commerce.	82.08.02915	Exemptions—Sales used by health or social welfare organizations for alternative housing for youth in crisis.
82.08.0262	Exemptions—Sales of airplanes, locomotives, railroad cars, or watercraft for use in interstate or foreign commerce or outside the territorial waters of the state or airplanes sold to United States government—Components thereof and of motor vehicles or trailers used for constructing, repairing, cleaning, etc.—Labor and services for constructing, repairing, cleaning, etc.	82.08.02917	Youth in crisis—Definition—Limited purpose.
82.08.0263	Exemptions—Sales of motor vehicles and trailers for use in transporting persons or property in interstate or foreign commerce.	82.08.0293	Exemptions—Sales of food and food ingredients.
82.08.0264	Exemptions—Sales of motor vehicles, trailers, or campers to nonresidents for use outside the state.	82.08.0294	Exemptions—Sales of feed for cultivating or raising fish for sale.
82.08.0265	Exemptions—Sales to nonresidents of tangible personal property which becomes a component of property of the nonresident by installing, repairing, etc.—Labor and services for installing, repairing, etc.	82.08.0296	Exemptions—Sales of feed consumed by livestock at a public livestock market.
82.08.0266	Exemptions—Sales of watercraft to nonresidents for use outside the state.	82.08.0297	Exemptions—Sales of food purchased under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.
82.08.02665	Exemptions—Sales of watercraft, vessels to residents of foreign countries.	82.08.0298	Exemptions—Sales of diesel fuel for use in operating watercraft in commercial deep sea fishing or commercial passenger fishing boat operations outside the state.
82.08.0267	Exemptions—Sales of poultry for producing poultry and poultry products for sale.	82.08.0299	Exemptions—Emergency lodging for homeless persons—Conditions.
82.08.0268	Exemptions—Sales of machinery and implements, and related parts and labor, for farming to nonresidents for use outside the state.	82.08.031	Exemptions—Sales to artistic or cultural organizations of certain objects acquired for exhibition or presentation.
82.08.0269	Exemptions—Sales for use in states, territories, and possessions of the United States which are not contiguous to any other state.	82.08.0311	Exemptions—Sales of materials and supplies used in packing horticultural products.
82.08.0271	Exemptions—Sales to municipal corporations, the state, and political subdivisions of tangible personal property, labor and services on watershed protection and flood prevention contracts.	82.08.0315	Exemptions—Rentals or sales related to motion picture or video productions—Exceptions—Certificate.
82.08.0272	Exemptions—Sales of semen for artificial insemination of livestock.	82.08.0316	Exemptions—Sales of cigarettes by Indian retailers.
82.08.0273	Exemptions—Sales to nonresidents of tangible personal property, digital goods, and digital codes for use outside the state—Proof of nonresident status—Penalties.	82.08.032	Exemption—Sales, rental, or lease of used park model trailers.
82.08.0274	Exemptions—Sales of form lumber to person engaged in constructing, repairing, etc., structures for consumers.	82.08.033	Exemptions—Sales of used mobile homes or rental or lease of mobile homes.
82.08.02745	Exemptions—Charges for labor and services or sales of tangible personal property related to agricultural employee housing—Exemption certificate—Rules.	82.08.034	Exemptions—Sales of used floating homes or rental or lease of used floating homes.
82.08.0275	Exemptions—Sales of and labor and service charges for mining, sorting, crushing, etc., of sand, gravel, and rock from county or city quarry for public road purposes.	82.08.035	Exemption for pollution control facilities.
82.08.0277	Exemptions—Sales of pollen.	82.08.036	Exemptions—Vehicle battery core deposits or credits—Replacement vehicle tire fees—"Core deposits or credits" defined.
82.08.0278	Exemptions—Sales between political subdivisions resulting from annexation or incorporation.	82.08.037	Credits and refunds for bad debts.
82.08.0279	Exemptions—Renting or leasing of motor vehicles and trailers to a nonresident for use in the transportation of persons or property across state boundaries.	82.08.040	Consignee, factor, bailee, auctioneer deemed seller.
82.08.02795	Exemptions—Sales to free hospitals.	82.08.050	Buyer to pay, seller to collect tax—Statement of tax—Exception—Penalties—Contingent expiration of subsection.
		82.08.054	Computation of tax due.
		82.08.055	Advertisement of price.
		82.08.060	Collection of tax—Methods and schedules.
		82.08.064	Tax rate changes.
		82.08.066	Deemed location for mobile telecommunications services.
		82.08.080	Vending machine and other sales.
		82.08.090	Installment sales and leases.
		82.08.100	Cash receipts taxpayers—Bad debts.
		82.08.110	Sales from vehicles.
		82.08.120	Refunding or rebating of tax by seller prohibited—Penalty.
		82.08.130	Reseller's permit—Purchase and resale—Rules.
		82.08.140	Administration.
		82.08.145	Delivery charges.
		82.08.150	Tax on certain sales of intoxicating liquors—Additional taxes for specific purposes—Collection.
		82.08.155	Spirits tax--Delinquent in reporting or remitting--Penalties--2012 c 39.
		82.08.160	Remittance of tax—Liquor excise tax fund created.
		82.08.170	Apportionment and distribution from liquor excise tax fund.
		82.08.180	Apportionment and distribution from liquor excise tax fund—Withholding for noncompliance.
		82.08.190	Bundled transactions—Definitions.
		82.08.195	Bundled transactions—Tax imposed.
		82.08.700	Exemptions—Vessels sold to nonresidents.

82.08.803	Exemptions—Nebulizers.
82.08.804	Exemptions—Ostomic items.
82.08.805	Exemptions—Personal property used at an aluminum smelter.
82.08.806	Exemptions—Sale of computer equipment parts and services to printer or publisher.
82.08.807	Exemptions—Direct mail delivery charges.
82.08.808	Exemptions—Sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to comprehensive cancer centers.
82.08.809	Exemptions—Vehicles using clean alternative fuels.
82.08.810	Exemptions—Air pollution control facilities at a thermal electric generation facility—Exceptions—Exemption certificate—Payments on cessation of operation.
82.08.811	Exemptions—Coal used at coal-fired thermal electric generation facility—Application—Demonstration of progress in air pollution control—Notice of emissions violations—Reapplication—Payments on cessation of operation.
82.08.815	Exemptions—Property and services related to electrification systems to power heavy duty diesel vehicles.
82.08.816	Exemptions—Electric vehicle batteries and infrastructure.
82.08.820	Exemptions—Remittance—Warehouse and grain elevators and distribution centers—Material-handling and racking equipment—Construction of warehouse or elevator—Information sheet—Rules—Records—Exceptions.
82.08.825	Exemptions—Property and services that enable heavy duty diesel vehicles to operate with onboard electrification systems.
82.08.830	Exemptions—Sales at camp or conference center by non-profit organization.
82.08.832	Exemptions—Sales of gun safes.
82.08.834	Exemptions—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.
82.08.850	Exemptions—Conifer seed.
82.08.855	Exemptions—Replacement parts for qualifying farm machinery and equipment.
82.08.865	Exemptions—Diesel, biodiesel, and aircraft fuel for farm fuel users.
82.08.870	Exemptions—Motorcycles for training programs.
82.08.880	Exemptions—Animal pharmaceuticals.
82.08.890	Exemptions—Qualifying livestock nutrient management equipment and facilities.
82.08.900	Exemptions—Anaerobic digesters.
82.08.910	Exemptions—Propane or natural gas to heat chicken structures.
82.08.920	Exemptions—Chicken bedding materials.
82.08.925	Exemptions—Dietary supplements.
82.08.935	Exemptions—Disposable devices used to deliver prescription drugs for human use.
82.08.940	Exemptions—Over-the-counter drugs for human use.
82.08.945	Exemptions—Kidney dialysis devices.
82.08.950	Exemptions—Steam, electricity, electrical energy.
82.08.955	Exemptions—Sales of machinery, equipment, vehicles, and services related to biodiesel blend or E85 motor fuel.
82.08.956	Exemptions—Hog fuel used to generate electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel.
82.08.957	Exemptions—Forest derived biomass.
82.08.962	Exemptions—Sales of machinery and equipment used in generating electricity.
82.08.963	Exemptions—Sales of machinery and equipment using solar energy to generate electricity.
82.08.965	Exemptions—Semiconductor materials manufacturing.
82.08.9651	Exemptions—Gases and chemicals used in production of semiconductor materials.
82.08.970	Exemptions—Gases and chemicals used to manufacture semiconductor materials.
82.08.975	Exemptions—Computer parts and software related to the manufacture of commercial airplanes.
82.08.980	Exemptions—Labor, services, and personal property related to the manufacture of superefficient airplanes.
82.08.983	Exemptions—Wax and ceramic materials.
82.08.985	Exemptions—Insulin.
82.08.986	Exemptions—Eligible server equipment.
82.08.990	Exemptions—Import or export commerce.
82.08.995	Exemptions—Certain limited purpose public corporations, commissions, and authorities.
82.08.997	Exemptions—Temporary medical housing.
82.08.998	Exemptions—Weatherization of a residence.
82.08.999	Exemptions—Joint municipal utility services authorities.
82.08.9995	Exemptions—Restaurant employee meals.

*Changes in tax law—Liability: RCW 82.08.064, 82.14.055, and 82.32.430.*

*Community college capital improvements bond redemption fund of 1972—Tax receipts: RCW 28B.56.100.*

*Credit for retail sales or use taxes paid to other jurisdictions with respect to property used: RCW 82.12.035.*

*Direct pay permits: RCW 82.32.087.*

*Excise tax on real estate transfers: Chapters 82.45 and 82.46 RCW.*

*Local sales tax: Chapter 82.14 RCW.*

### **82.08.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter:

(1)(a) "Selling price" includes "sales price." "Sales price" means the total amount of consideration, except separately stated trade-in property of like kind, including cash, credit, property, and services, for which tangible personal property, extended warranties, digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or other services or anything else defined as a "retail sale" under RCW 82.04.050 are sold, leased, or rented, valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise. No deduction from the total amount of consideration is allowed for the following: (i) The seller's cost of the property sold; (ii) the cost of materials used, labor or service cost, interest, losses, all costs of transportation to the seller, all taxes imposed on the seller, and any other expense of the seller; (iii) charges by the seller for any services necessary to complete the sale, other than delivery and installation charges; (iv) delivery charges; and (v) installation charges.

When tangible personal property is rented or leased under circumstances that the consideration paid does not represent a reasonable rental for the use of the articles so rented or leased, the "selling price" shall be determined as nearly as possible according to the value of such use at the places of use of similar products of like quality and character under such rules as the department may prescribe;

(b) "Selling price" or "sales price" does not include: Discounts, including cash, term, or coupons that are not reimbursed by a third party that are allowed by a seller and taken by a purchaser on a sale; interest, financing, and carrying charges from credit extended on the sale of tangible personal property, extended warranties, digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or other services or anything else defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050, if the amount is separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale, or similar document given to the purchaser; and any taxes legally imposed directly on the consumer that are separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale, or similar document given to the purchaser;

(c) "Selling price" or "sales price" includes consideration received by the seller from a third party if:

(i) The seller actually receives consideration from a party other than the purchaser, and the consideration is directly related to a price reduction or discount on the sale;

(ii) The seller has an obligation to pass the price reduction or discount through to the purchaser;

(iii) The amount of the consideration attributable to the sale is fixed and determinable by the seller at the time of the sale of the item to the purchaser; and

(iv) One of the criteria in this subsection (1)(c)(iv) is met:

(A) The purchaser presents a coupon, certificate, or other documentation to the seller to claim a price reduction or discount where the coupon, certificate, or documentation is

authorized, distributed, or granted by a third party with the understanding that the third party will reimburse any seller to whom the coupon, certificate, or documentation is presented;

(B) The purchaser identifies himself or herself to the seller as a member of a group or organization entitled to a price reduction or discount, however a "preferred customer" card that is available to any patron does not constitute membership in such a group; or

(C) The price reduction or discount is identified as a third party price reduction or discount on the invoice received by the purchaser or on a coupon, certificate, or other documentation presented by the purchaser;

(2)(a) "Seller" means every person, including the state and its departments and institutions, making sales at retail or retail sales to a buyer, purchaser, or consumer, whether as agent, broker, or principal, except "seller" does not mean:

(i) The state and its departments and institutions when making sales to the state and its departments and institutions; or

(ii) A professional employer organization when a covered employee coemployed with the client under the terms of a professional employer agreement engages in activities that constitute a sale at retail that is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter. In such cases, the client, and not the professional employer organization, is deemed to be the seller and is responsible for collecting and remitting the tax imposed by this chapter.

(b) For the purposes of (a) of this subsection, the terms "client," "covered employee," "professional employer agreement," and "professional employer organization" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.04.540;

(3) "Buyer," "purchaser," and "consumer" include, without limiting the scope hereof, every individual, receiver, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm, copartnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust, corporation, association, society, or any group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative, fraternal, nonprofit, or otherwise, municipal corporation, quasi municipal corporation, and also the state, its departments and institutions and all political subdivisions thereof, irrespective of the nature of the activities engaged in or functions performed, and also the United States or any instrumentality thereof;

(4) "Delivery charges" means charges by the seller of personal property or services for preparation and delivery to a location designated by the purchaser of personal property or services including, but not limited to, transportation, shipping, postage, handling, crating, and packing;

(5) "Direct mail" means printed material delivered or distributed by United States mail or other delivery service to a mass audience or to addressees on a mailing list provided by the purchaser or at the direction of the purchaser when the cost of the items are not billed directly to the recipients. "Direct mail" includes tangible personal property supplied directly or indirectly by the purchaser to the direct mail seller for inclusion in the package containing the printed material. "Direct mail" does not include multiple items of printed material delivered to a single address;

(6) The meaning attributed in chapter 82.04 RCW to the terms "tax year," "taxable year," "person," "company," "sale," "sale at wholesale," "wholesale," "business," "engag-

ing in business," "cash discount," "successor," "consumer," "in this state" and "within this state" applies equally to the provisions of this chapter;

(7) For the purposes of the taxes imposed under this chapter and under chapter 82.12 RCW, "tangible personal property" means personal property that can be seen, weighed, measured, felt, or touched, or that is in any other manner perceptible to the senses. Tangible personal property includes electricity, water, gas, steam, and prewritten computer software;

(8) "Extended warranty" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.050(7);

(9) The definitions in RCW 82.04.192 apply to this chapter;

(10) For the purposes of the taxes imposed under this chapter and chapter 82.12 RCW, whenever the terms "property" or "personal property" are used, those terms must be construed to include digital goods and digital codes unless:

(a) It is clear from the context that the term "personal property" is intended only to refer to tangible personal property;

(b) It is clear from the context that the term "property" is intended only to refer to tangible personal property, real property, or both; or

(c) To construe the term "property" or "personal property" as including digital goods and digital codes would yield unlikely, absurd, or strained consequences; and

(11) "Retail sale" or "sale at retail" means any sale, lease, or rental for any purpose other than for resale, sublease, or subrent. [2010 c 106 § 210; 2009 c 535 § 303; 2007 c 6 § 1302; (2007 c 6 § 1301 expired July 1, 2008); 2006 c 301 § 2; 2005 c 514 § 110; 2004 c 153 § 406; 2003 c 168 § 101; 1985 c 38 § 3; 1985 c 2 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 464, approved November 6, 1984); 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 18; 1963 c 244 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.010. Prior: (i) 1945 c 249 § 4; 1943 c 156 § 6; 1941 c 178 § 8; 1939 c 225 § 7; 1935 c 180 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-17. (ii) 1935 c 180 § 20; RRS § 8370-20.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Expiration date—2007 c 6 § 1301:** "Section 1301 of this act expires July 1, 2008." [2007 c 6 § 1706.]

**Effective date—Act does not affect application of Title 50 or 51 RCW—2006 c 301:** See notes following RCW 82.32.710.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4272.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—2003 c 168:** "Sections 101 through 104, 201 through 216, 401 through 412, 501, 502, 601 through 604, 701 through 704, 801, 901, and 902 of this act take effect July 1, 2004. Sections 301 through 305 of this act take effect January 1, 2004." [2003 c 168 § 903.]

**Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2003 c 168 § 901.]

**Purpose—1985 c 2:** "The purpose of this initiative is to reduce the amount on which sales tax is paid by excluding the trade-in value of certain

property from the amount taxable." [1985 c 2 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 464, approved November 6, 1984).]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.011 Retail car rental—Definition.** For purposes of this chapter, "retail car rental" means renting a rental car, as defined in RCW 46.04.465, to a consumer. [1992 c 194 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.015 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 189.]

**82.08.020 Tax imposed—Retail sales—Retail car rental.** (1) There is levied and collected a tax equal to six and five-tenths percent of the selling price on each retail sale in this state of:

(a) Tangible personal property, unless the sale is specifically excluded from the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale;

(b) Digital goods, digital codes, and digital automated services, if the sale is included within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale;

(c) Services, other than digital automated services, included within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale;

(d) Extended warranties to consumers; and

(e) Anything else, the sale of which is included within the RCW 82.04.050 definition of retail sale.

(2) There is levied and collected an additional tax on each retail car rental, regardless of whether the vehicle is licensed in this state, equal to five and nine-tenths percent of the selling price. The revenue collected under this subsection must be deposited in the multimodal transportation account created in RCW 47.66.070.

(3) Beginning July 1, 2003, there is levied and collected an additional tax of three-tenths of one percent of the selling price on each retail sale of a motor vehicle in this state, other than retail car rentals taxed under subsection (2) of this section. The revenue collected under this subsection must be deposited in the multimodal transportation account created in RCW 47.66.070.

(4) For purposes of subsection (3) of this section, "motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in RCW 46.04.320, but does not include farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180 and 46.04.181, off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365, nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310, and snowmobiles as defined in RCW 46.04.546.

(5) Beginning on December 8, 2005, 0.16 percent of the taxes collected under subsection (1) of this section must be dedicated to funding comprehensive performance audits required under RCW 43.09.470. The revenue identified in this subsection must be deposited in the performance audits of government account created in RCW 43.09.475.

(6) The taxes imposed under this chapter apply to successive retail sales of the same property.

(7) The rates provided in this section apply to taxes imposed under chapter 82.12 RCW as provided in RCW 82.12.020. [2011 c 171 § 120; 2010 c 106 § 212; (2010 c 106 § 211 expired January 1, 2011); (2009 c 469 § 802 expired January 1, 2011); 2006 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 900, approved November 8, 2005); 2003 c 361 § 301; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 1; 1998 c 321 § 36 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1992 c 194 § 9; 1985 c 32 § 1. Prior: 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 62; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 41; 1983 c 7 § 6; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 1; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 8 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 324 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 130 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 31; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 19; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 13; 1961 c 293 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.020; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 5; 1955 ex.s. c 10 § 2; 1949 c 228 § 4; 1943 c 156 § 5; 1941 c 76 § 2; 1939 c 225 § 10; 1935 c 180 § 16; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-16.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Effective date—2010 c 106 § 212:** "Section 212 of this act takes effect January 1, 2011." [2010 c 106 § 409.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 106 § 211:** "Section 211 of this act expires January 1, 2011." [2010 c 106 § 408.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 469 § 802:** "Section 802 of this act expires January 1, 2011." [2009 c 469 § 904.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469 §§ 801 and 802:** "Sections 801 and 802 of this act take effect August 1, 2009." [2009 c 469 § 903.]

**Short title—Effective date—2006 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 900):** See RCW 43.09.471.

**Policies and purposes—Construction—Severability—Part headings not law—2006 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 900):** See notes following RCW 43.09.470.

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** "Sections 301 through 602 of this act take effect July 1, 2003, and sections 201 and 202 of this act take effect August 1, 2003." [2003 c 361 § 703.]

**Findings—Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 361:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

**Legislative intent—1992 c 194:** "The legislature intends to exempt rental cars from state and local motor vehicle excise taxes, and to impose additional sales and use taxes in lieu thereof. These additional sales and use taxes are intended to provide as much revenue to the funds currently receiving motor vehicle excise tax revenue, including the transportation funds and the general fund, as each fund would have received if the motor vehicle excise tax exemptions had not been enacted. Revenues from these additional sales and use taxes are intended to be distributed in the same manner as the motor vehicle excise tax revenues they replace." [1992 c 194 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "Substitute Senate Bill No. 2778" failed to become law.

*High capacity transportation systems—Sales and use tax: RCW 81.104.170. Manufacturers, study: 1994 c 66.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0201 Rental cars—Estimate of tax revenue.** Before January 1, 1994, and January 1 of each odd-numbered year thereafter:

The department of licensing, with the assistance of the department of revenue, shall provide the office of financial management and the fiscal committees of the legislature with an updated estimate of the amount of revenue attributable to the taxes imposed in RCW 82.08.020(2), and the amount of revenue not collected as a result of \*RCW 82.44.023. [1992 c 194 § 10.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.44.023 was repealed by 2006 c 318 § 10.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0202 Retail sales of linen and uniform supply services.** For purposes of this chapter, a retail sale of linen and uniform supply services is deemed to occur at the place of delivery to the customer. "Linen and uniform supply services" means the activity of providing customers with a supply of clean linen, towels, uniforms, gowns, protective apparel, clean room apparel, mats, rugs, and similar items, whether ownership of the item is in the person operating the linen and uniform supply service or in the customer. The term includes supply services operating their own cleaning establishments as well as those contracting with other laundry or dry cleaning businesses. [2001 c 186 § 2.]

**Finding—Purpose—2001 c 186:** "The legislature finds that because of the mixed retailing nature of linen and uniform supply services, they have been incorrectly sited for tax purposes. As a result, some companies that perform some activities related to this activity outside the state of Washington have not been required to collect retail sales taxes upon linen and uniform supply services provided to Washington customers. The activity has aspects of both the rental of tangible personal property and retail services related to tangible personal property. This error in tax treatment provides an incentive for businesses to locate some of their functions out of state. In-state businesses cannot compete if their out-of-state competitors are not required to collect sales tax for services provided to the same customers.

The purpose of this act is to clarify the taxable situs and nature of linen and uniform supply services." [2001 c 186 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0203 Exemptions—Trail grooming services.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of trail grooming services to the state of Washington or non-profit corporations organized under chapter 24.03 RCW. For the purposes of this section, "trail grooming" means the activity of snow compacting, snow redistribution, or snow removal on state-owned or privately owned trails. [2008 c 260 § 1.]

**82.08.0204 Exemptions—Honey bees. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of honey bees to an eligible apiarist, as defined in RCW 82.04.629. This exemption is available only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. [2008 c 314 § 4.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—Expiration date—2008 c 314:** See notes following RCW 82.04.629.

**82.08.0205 Exemptions—Waste vegetable oil. (1)** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of waste vegetable oil that is used by a person in the production of biodiesel for personal use.

(2) This exemption is available only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Waste vegetable oil" means used cooking oil gathered from restaurants or commercial food processors; and

(b) "Personal use" means the person does not engage in the business of selling biodiesel at wholesale or retail. [2008 c 237 § 2.]

**Effective date—2008 c 237:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 237 § 4.]

**82.08.0206 Exemptions—Working families—Eligible low-income persons. (1)** A working families' tax exemption, in the form of a remittance tax due under this chapter and chapter 82.12 RCW, is provided to eligible low-income persons for sales taxes paid under this chapter after January 1, 2008.

(2) For purposes of the exemption in this section, an eligible low-income person is:

(a) An individual, or an individual and that individual's spouse if they file a federal joint income tax return;

(b) [An individual who] Who is eligible for, and is granted, the credit provided in Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 32; and

(c) [An individual who] Who properly files a federal income tax return as a Washington resident, and has been a resident of the state of Washington more than one hundred eighty days of the year for which the exemption is claimed.

(3) For remittances made in 2009 and 2010, the working families' tax exemption for the prior year is a retail sales tax exemption equal to the greater of five percent of the credit granted as a result of Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 32 in the most recent year for which data is available or twenty-five dollars. For 2011 and thereafter, the working families' tax exemption for the prior year is equal to the greater of ten percent of the credit granted as a result of Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 32 in the most recent year for which data is available or fifty dollars.

(4) For any fiscal period, the working families' tax exemption authorized under this section shall be approved by the legislature in the state omnibus appropriations act before persons may claim the exemption during the fiscal period.

(5) The working families' tax exemption shall be administered as provided in this subsection.

(a) An eligible low-income person claiming an exemption under this section must pay the tax imposed under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW in the year for which the exemption is claimed. The eligible low-income person may then apply to the department for the remittance as calculated under subsection (3) of this section.

(b) Application shall be made to the department in a form and manner determined by the department, but the department must provide alternative filing methods for applicants who do not have access to electronic filing.

(c) Application for the exemption remittance under this section must be made in the year following the year for which the federal return was filed, but in no case may any remittance be provided for any period before January 1, 2008. The department may use the best available data to process the exemption remittance. The department shall begin accepting applications October 1, 2009.

(d) The department shall review the application and determine eligibility for the working families' tax exemption based on information provided by the applicant and through

audit and other administrative records, including, when it deems it necessary, verification through internal revenue service data.

(e) The department shall remit the exempted amounts to eligible low-income persons who submitted applications. Remittances may be made by electronic funds transfer or other means.

(f) The department may, in conjunction with other agencies or organizations, design and implement a public information campaign to inform potentially eligible persons of the existence of and requirements for this exemption.

(g) The department may contact persons who appear to be eligible low-income persons as a result of information received from the internal revenue service under such conditions and requirements as the internal revenue service may by law require.

(6) The provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW apply to the exemption in this section.

(7) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

(8) The department shall limit its costs for the exemption program to the initial start-up costs to implement the program. The state omnibus appropriations act shall specify funding to be used for the ongoing administrative costs of the program. These ongoing administrative costs include, but are not limited to, costs for: The processing of internet and mail applications, verification of application claims, compliance and collections, additional full-time employees at the department's call center, processing warrants, updating printed materials and web information, media advertising, and support and maintenance of computer systems. [2008 c 325 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 325:** "The legislature finds that many Washington families do not earn enough annually to keep pace with increasing health care, child care, and work-related expenses. Because the state relies so heavily on sales tax revenue, families in Washington with the lowest incomes pay proportionately four or five times as much in state taxes as the most affluent households. The legislature finds that higher-income families are able to recover some of the sales and use taxes that they pay to support state and local government through the federal income tax deduction for sales and use taxes, but that lower-income people, who are not able to itemize, receive no benefit. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to provide a sales and use tax exemption, in the form of a remittance, to lower-income working families in Washington, and to use the federal earned income tax credit as a proxy for the amount of sales tax paid." [2008 c 325 § 1.]

**82.08.02061 Exemptions—Working families—Report to legislature.** The department must assess the implementation of the working families' tax exemption in a report to the legislature to identify administrative or resource issues that require legislative action. The department must submit the report to the finance committee of the house of representatives and the ways and means committee of the senate by December 1, 2012. [2008 c 325 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 325:** See note following RCW 82.08.0206.

**82.08.0208 Exemptions—Digital codes.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of a digital code for one or more digital products if the sale of the digital products to which the digital code relates is exempt from the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020. [2009 c 535 § 501.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.08.02081 Exemptions—Audio or video programming.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of audio or video programming by a radio or television broadcaster.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the exemption provided in subsection (1) of this section does not apply in respect to programming that is sold on a pay-per-program basis or that allows the buyer to access a library of programs at any time for a specific charge for that service.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, the exemption provided in this section applies to the sale of programming described in (a) of this subsection if the seller is subject to a franchise fee in this state under the authority of Title 47 U.S.C. Sec. 542(a) on the gross revenue derived from the sale.

(3) For purposes of this section, "radio or television broadcaster" includes satellite radio providers, satellite television providers, cable television providers, and providers of subscription internet television. [2009 c 535 § 502.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.08.02082 Exemptions—Digital products or services—Ingredient or component—Made available for free.** (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to a business or other organization for the purpose of making the digital good or digital automated service, including a digital good or digital automated service acquired through the use of a digital code, or service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) available free of charge for the use or enjoyment of the general public. The exemption provided in this section does not apply unless the purchaser has the legal right to broadcast, rebroadcast, transmit, retransmit, license, relicense, distribute, redistribute, or exhibit the product, in whole or in part, to the general public.

(2) The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) For purposes of this section, "general public" means all persons and not limited or restricted to a particular class of persons, except that the general public includes:

(a) A class of persons that is defined as all persons residing or owning property within the boundaries of a state, political subdivision of a state, or a municipal corporation; and

(b) With respect to libraries, authorized library patrons. [2010 c 111 § 401; 2009 c 535 § 503.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.08.02087 Exemptions—Digital goods and services—Purchased for business purposes.** (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale to a business of digital goods, and services rendered in respect to digital goods, where the digital goods and services rendered in respect to digital goods are purchased solely for business purposes. The exemption provided by this section also applies to the sale to a business of a digital code if all of the

digital goods to be obtained through the use of the code will be used solely for business purposes.

(2) The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Business purposes" means any purpose relevant to the business needs of the taxpayer claiming an exemption under this section. Business purposes do not include any personal, family, or household purpose. The term also does not include any activity conducted by a government entity as that term is defined in RCW 7.25.005; and

(b) "Services rendered in respect to digital goods" means those services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(2)(g). [2010 c 111 § 402; 2009 c 535 § 504.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.08.02088 Exemptions—Digital products—Business buyers—Concurrently available for use within and outside state.** (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, prewritten computer software, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) to a buyer that provides the seller with an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use. An exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use must be in a form and contain such information as required by the department.

(2) A buyer is entitled to use an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use only if the buyer is a business or other organization and the digital goods or digital automated services purchased, or the digital goods or digital automated services to be obtained by the digital code purchased, or the prewritten computer software or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) purchased will be concurrently available for use within and outside this state. A buyer is not entitled to use an exemption certificate claiming multiple points of use for digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, prewritten computer software, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) purchased for personal use.

(3) A buyer claiming an exemption under this section must report and pay the tax imposed in RCW 82.12.020 and any local use taxes imposed under the authority of chapter 82.14 RCW and RCW 81.104.170 directly to the department in accordance with RCW 82.12.02088 and 82.14.457.

(4) For purposes of this section, "concurrently available for use within and outside this state" means that employees or other agents of the buyer may use the digital goods, digital automated services, prewritten computer software, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) simultaneously from one or more locations within this state and one or more locations outside this state. A digital code is concurrently available for use within and outside this state if employees or other agents of the buyer may use the digital goods or digital automated services to be obtained by the code simultaneously at one or more locations within this state

(2012 Ed.)

and one or more locations outside this state. [2009 c 535 § 701.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.08.0251 Exemptions—Casual and isolated sales.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to casual and isolated sales of property or service, unless made by a person who is engaged in a business activity taxable under chapters 82.04 or 82.16 RCW: PROVIDED, That the exemption provided by this section shall not be construed as providing any exemption from the tax imposed by chapter 82.12 RCW. [1980 c 37 § 19. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(1).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0252 Exemptions—Sales by persons taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales made by persons in the course of business activities with respect to which tax liability is specifically imposed under chapter 82.16 RCW, when the gross proceeds from such sales must be included in the measure of the tax imposed under said chapter. [1980 c 37 § 20. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(2).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.02525 Exemptions—Sale of copied public records by state and local agencies.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of public records by state and local agencies, as the terms are defined in RCW 42.56.010, that are copied or transferred electronically under a request for the record for which no fee is charged other than a statutorily set fee or a fee to reimburse the agency for its actual costs directly incident to the copying. A request for a record includes a request for a document not available to the public but available to those persons who by law are allowed access to the document, such as requests for fire reports, law enforcement reports, taxpayer information, and academic transcripts. [2011 c 60 § 49; 2009 c 535 § 505; 1996 c 63 § 1.]

**Effective date—2011 c 60:** See RCW 42.17A.919.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0253 Exemptions—Sale and distribution of newspapers.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to:

(a) The distribution and newsstand sale of printed newspapers; and

(b) The sale of newspapers transferred electronically, provided that the electronic version of a printed newspaper:

(i) Shares content with the printed newspaper; and

(ii) Is prominently identified by the same name as the printed newspaper or otherwise conspicuously indicates that it is a complement to the printed newspaper.

(2) For purposes of this section, "printed newspaper" means a publication issued regularly at stated intervals at least twice a month and printed on newsprint in tabloid or broadsheet format folded loosely together without stapling, glue, or any other binding of any kind, including any supple-

ment of a printed newspaper. [2009 c 535 § 506; 1980 c 37 § 21. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(3).]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.02535 Exemptions—Sales and distribution of magazines or periodicals by subscription for fund-raising.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to subscription sales of magazines or periodicals, including magazines and periodicals transferred electronically to the buyer, for the purposes of fund-raising by (1) educational institutions as defined in RCW 82.04.170, or (2) nonprofit organizations engaged in activities primarily for the benefit of boys and girls nineteen years and younger. [2009 c 535 § 507; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 8 § 1.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02537 Exemptions—Sales of academic transcripts.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of academic transcripts by educational institutions, including academic transcripts transferred electronically. [2009 c 535 § 508; 1996 c 272 § 2.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0254 Exemptions—Nontaxable sales.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales which the state is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution of this state or the Constitution or laws of the United States. [1980 c 37 § 22. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(4).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0255 Exemptions—Sales of motor vehicle and special fuel—Conditions—Credit or refund of special fuel used outside this state in interstate commerce.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of motor vehicle and special fuel if:

(a) The fuel is purchased for the purpose of public transportation and the purchaser is entitled to a refund or an exemption under RCW 82.36.275 or 82.38.080(3); or

(b) The fuel is purchased by a private, nonprofit transportation provider certified under chapter 81.66 RCW and the purchaser is entitled to a refund or an exemption under RCW 82.36.285 or 82.38.080(1)(h); or

(c) The fuel is purchased by a public transportation benefit area created under chapter 36.57A RCW or a county-owned ferry or county ferry district created under chapter 36.54 RCW for use in passenger-only ferry vessels; or

(d) The fuel is purchased by the Washington state ferry system for use in a state-owned ferry after June 30, 2013; or

(e) The fuel is purchased by a county-owned ferry for use in ferry vessels after June 30, 2013; or

(f) The fuel is taxable under chapter 82.36 or 82.38 RCW.

(2) Any person who has paid the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 on the sale of special fuel delivered in this state shall be entitled to a credit or refund of such tax with respect

to fuel subsequently established to have been actually transported and used outside this state by persons engaged in interstate commerce. The tax shall be claimed as a credit or refunded through the tax reports required under RCW 82.38.150. [2011 1st sp.s. c 16 § 4; 2007 c 223 § 9; 2005 c 443 § 5; 1998 c 176 § 4. Prior: 1983 1st ex.s. c 35 § 2; 1983 c 108 § 1; 1980 c 147 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 23. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(5).]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 16 §§ 1-15:** See note following RCW 47.60.530.

**Effective date—2007 c 223:** See note following RCW 36.57A.220.

**Finding—Intent—2005 c 443:** "The legislature finds that a number of tax exemptions, deductions, credits, and other preferences have outlived their usefulness. State records show no taxpayers have claimed relief under these tax preferences in recent years. The intent of this act is to update and simplify the tax statutes by repealing these outdated tax preferences." [2005 c 443 § 1.]

**Effective date—2005 c 443:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2005 c 443 § 8.]

**Rules—Findings—Effective date—1998 c 176:** See RCW 82.36.800, 82.36.900, and 82.36.901.

**Intent—1983 1st ex.s. c 35:** "It is the intent of the legislature that special fuel purchased in Washington upon which the special fuel tax has been paid, regardless of whether or not the tax is subsequently refunded or credited in whole or in part, should not be subject to the sales and use tax if the special fuel is transported and used outside the state by persons engaged in interstate commerce." [1983 1st ex.s. c 35 § 1.]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

*Diesel, biodiesel, and aircraft fuel sales tax exemption for farmers: RCW 82.08.865.*

**82.08.0256 Exemptions—Sale of the operating property of a public utility to the state or a political subdivision.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales (including transfers of title through decree of appropriation) heretofore or hereafter made of the entire operating property of a publicly or privately owned public utility, or of a complete operating integral section thereof, to the state or a political subdivision thereof for use in conducting any public service business as defined in RCW 82.16.010. For purposes of this section, "operating property" includes digital goods and digital codes. [2010 c 106 § 213; 2009 c 535 § 509; 1980 c 37 § 24. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(6).]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.02565 Exemptions—Sales of machinery and equipment for manufacturing, research and development, or a testing operation—Labor and services for installation—Exemption certificate—Rules.** (1)(a) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to a manufacturer or processor for hire of machinery and equipment used directly in a manufacturing operation or research and development operation, to sales to a person engaged in testing for a manufacturer or processor for hire of machinery and equipment used directly in a testing operation, or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the machinery and equipment.

(b) Sellers making tax-exempt sales under this section must obtain from the purchaser an exemption certificate in a

form and manner prescribed by the department by rule. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(2) For purposes of this section and RCW 82.12.02565:

(a) "Machinery and equipment" means industrial fixtures, devices, and support facilities, and tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component thereof, including repair parts and replacement parts. "Machinery and equipment" includes pollution control equipment installed and used in a manufacturing operation, testing operation, or research and development operation to prevent air pollution, water pollution, or contamination that might otherwise result from the manufacturing operation, testing operation, or research and development operation. "Machinery and equipment" also includes digital goods.

(b) "Machinery and equipment" does not include:

- (i) Hand-powered tools;
- (ii) Property with a useful life of less than one year;
- (iii) Buildings, other than machinery and equipment that is permanently affixed to or becomes a physical part of a building; and
- (iv) Building fixtures that are not integral to the manufacturing operation, testing operation, or research and development operation that are permanently affixed to and become a physical part of a building, such as utility systems for heating, ventilation, air conditioning, communications, plumbing, or electrical.

(c) Machinery and equipment is "used directly" in a manufacturing operation, testing operation, or research and development operation if the machinery and equipment:

- (i) Acts upon or interacts with an item of tangible personal property;
- (ii) Conveys, transports, handles, or temporarily stores an item of tangible personal property at the manufacturing site or testing site;
- (iii) Controls, guides, measures, verifies, aligns, regulates, or tests tangible personal property at the site or away from the site;
- (iv) Provides physical support for or access to tangible personal property;
- (v) Produces power for, or lubricates machinery and equipment;
- (vi) Produces another item of tangible personal property for use in the manufacturing operation, testing operation, or research and development operation;
- (vii) Places tangible personal property in the container, package, or wrapping in which the tangible personal property is normally sold or transported; or
- (viii) Is integral to research and development as defined in RCW 82.63.010.

(d) "Manufacturer" means a person that qualifies as a manufacturer under RCW 82.04.110. "Manufacturer" also includes a person that prints newspapers or other materials.

(e) "Manufacturing" means only those activities that come within the definition of "to manufacture" in RCW 82.04.120 and are taxed as manufacturing or processing for hire under chapter 82.04 RCW, or would be taxed as such if such activity were conducted in this state or if not for an exemption or deduction. "Manufacturing" also includes printing newspapers or other materials. An activity is not taxed as manufacturing or processing for hire under chapter

82.04 RCW if the activity is within the purview of chapter 82.16 RCW.

(f) "Manufacturing operation" means the manufacturing of articles, substances, or commodities for sale as tangible personal property. A manufacturing operation begins at the point where the raw materials enter the manufacturing site and ends at the point where the processed material leaves the manufacturing site. With respect to the production of class A or exceptional quality biosolids by a wastewater treatment facility, the manufacturing operation begins at the point where class B biosolids undergo additional processing to achieve class A or exceptional quality standards. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, the term also includes that portion of a cogeneration project that is used to generate power for consumption within the manufacturing site of which the cogeneration project is an integral part. The term does not include the preparation of food products on the premises of a person selling food products at retail.

(g) "Cogeneration" means the simultaneous generation of electrical energy and low-grade heat from the same fuel.

(h) "Research and development operation" means engaging in research and development as defined in RCW 82.63.010 by a manufacturer or processor for hire.

(i) "Testing" means activities performed to establish or determine the properties, qualities, and limitations of tangible personal property.

(j) "Testing operation" means the testing of tangible personal property for a manufacturer or processor for hire. A testing operation begins at the point where the tangible personal property enters the testing site and ends at the point where the tangible personal property leaves the testing site. The term also includes the testing of tangible personal property for use in that portion of a cogeneration project that is used to generate power for consumption within the manufacturing site of which the cogeneration project is an integral part. The term does not include the testing of tangible personal property for use in the production of electricity by a light and power business as defined in RCW 82.16.010 or the preparation of food products on the premises of a person selling food products at retail. [2011 c 23 § 2; 2009 c 535 § 510; 1999 c 211 § 5; 1999 c 211 § 3; 1998 c 330 § 1. Prior: 1996 c 247 § 2; 1996 c 173 § 3; 1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 2.]

**Findings—2011 c 23:** "(1) In 1995, the legislature enacted a sales and use tax exemption for manufacturing machinery and equipment, commonly referred to as the "M&E exemption." The legislature finds that the purposes of this exemption were to encourage the growth and development of the state's private sector manufacturing industry and improve this state's ability to compete with other states for manufacturing investment. The legislature further finds that it was not the purpose of the M&E exemption to provide tax breaks to state agencies and institutions, nor to public utilities and other businesses with respect to machinery and equipment primarily used for activities that are taxable under the state public utility tax or are otherwise not considered to be manufacturing for business and occupation tax purposes.

(2) The legislature further finds that despite previous attempts at clarifying the M&E exemption, significant ambiguity persists, particularly with respect to the scope of the exemption. Such ambiguity results in costly appeals and litigation and may result in significant unanticipated revenue losses for the state and local governments.

(3) Therefore, the legislature finds it necessary to reaffirm its original intent in establishing the M&E exemption. The legislature declares that the amendments to the existing M&E exemption and to RCW 82.04.120 in this act are clarifying and, as such, apply retroactively as well as prospectively.

(4) The legislature finds that Washington is home to premier public research institutions. The legislature recognizes that the state's public universities provide cutting-edge research and development, which helps stim-

ulate growth in the private sector and is vital to the economic well-being of our state. University research leads directly to new products, companies, production methods, and ways of organizing work. The legislature further recognizes that our public universities will play an important role in shaping the next generation of Washington industries, including biofuels and other renewable energy, global health, and advanced manufacturing. Therefore, because the amendments to the existing M&E exemption in this act clarify that state agencies and institutions are not eligible for the M&E exemption, this act provides a new, stand-alone sales and use tax exemption for machinery and equipment used primarily in technological research and development operations by the state's four-year institutions of higher education." [2011 c 23 § 1.]

**Intent—2011 c 23:** "The legislature declares that the only reason why the phrase "the production of electricity by a light and power business as defined in RCW 82.16.010" was deleted from the definition of "manufacturing operation" in RCW 82.08.02565(2)(f) in section 2 of this act is because that language is superfluous." [2011 c 23 § 7.]

**Application—2011 c 23:** "Sections 2 and 3 of this act apply both prospectively and retroactively to any tax period open for assessment or refund of taxes." [2011 c 23 § 9.]

**Effective date—Construction—2011 c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.08.025651.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 211:** "The legislature finds that the application of the manufacturer's machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption has, in some instances, been difficult and confusing for taxpayers, and included difficult reporting and recordkeeping requirements. In this act, it is the intent of the legislature to make clear its intent for the application of the exemption, and to extend the exemption to the purchase and use of machinery and equipment for businesses that perform testing of manufactured goods for manufacturers or processors for hire." [1999 c 211 § 1.]

**Intent—1999 c 211 §§ 2 and 3:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.

**Findings—Intent—1996 c 247:** See note following RCW 82.08.02566.

**Findings—Intent—1996 c 173:** "The legislature finds that the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of Washington are heavily dependent upon the continued encouragement, development, and expansion of opportunities for family wage employment in the state's manufacturing industries.

The legislature also finds that sales and use tax exemptions for manufacturing machinery and equipment enacted by the 1995 legislature have improved Washington's ability to compete with other states for manufacturing investment, but that additional incentives for manufacturers need to be adopted to solidify and enhance the state's competitive position.

The legislature intends to accomplish this by extending the current manufacturing machinery and equipment exemptions to allow a sales tax exemption for labor and service charges for repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving machinery and equipment, and a sales and use tax exemption for repair and replacement parts with a useful life of one year or more." [1996 c 173 § 1.]

**Findings—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** "The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of Washington are heavily dependent upon the continued encouragement, development, and expansion of opportunities for family wage employment in our state's private sector;

(2) The state's private sector must be encouraged to commit to continuous improvement of process, products, and services and to deliver high-quality, high-value products through technological innovations and high-performance work organizations;

(3) The state's opportunities for increased economic dealings with other states and nations of the world are dependent on supporting and attracting a diverse, stable, and competitive economic base of private sector employers;

(4) The state's current policy of applying its sales and use taxes to machinery, equipment, and installation labor used in manufacturing, research and development, and other activities has placed our state's private sector at a competitive disadvantage with other states and serves as a significant disincentive to the continuous improvement of products, technology, and modernization necessary for the preservation, stabilization, and expansion of employment and to ensure a stable economy; and

(5) It is vital to the continued development of economic opportunity in this state, including the development of new businesses and the expansion or

modernization of existing businesses, that the state of Washington provide tax incentives to entities making a commitment to sites and operations in this state." [1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.025651 Exemptions—Sales of machinery and equipment to public research institutions.** (1)(a) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to a public research institution of machinery and equipment used primarily in a research and development operation, or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the machinery and equipment.

(b) Sellers making tax-exempt sales under this section must obtain from the purchaser an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(2) A public research institution claiming the exemption provided in this section must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Machinery and equipment" means those fixtures, pieces of equipment, digital goods, and support facilities that are an integral and necessary part of a research and development operation, and tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of such fixtures, equipment, and support facilities, including repair parts and replacement parts. "Machinery and equipment" may include, but is not limited to: Computers; software; data processing equipment; laboratory equipment, instrumentation, and other devices used in a process of experimentation to develop a new or improved pilot model, plant process, product, formula, or invention; vats, tanks, and fermenters; operating structures; and all equipment used to control, monitor, or operate the machinery and equipment.

(b) "Machinery and equipment" does not include:

(i) Hand-powered tools;

(ii) Property with a useful life of less than one year;

(iii) Buildings; and

(iv) Those building fixtures that are not an integral and necessary part of a research and development operation and that are permanently affixed to and become a physical part of a building, such as utility systems for heating, ventilation, air conditioning, communications, plumbing, or electrical.

(c) "Primarily" means greater than fifty percent as measured by time. If machinery and equipment is used simultaneously in a research and development operation and also for other purposes, the use for other purposes must be disregarded during the period of simultaneous use for purposes of determining whether the machinery and equipment is used primarily in a research and development operation.

(d) "Public research institution" means any college or university included within the definitions of state universities, regional universities, or state college in RCW 28B.10.016.

(e) "Research and development operation" means engaging in research and development as defined in RCW 82.63.010. [2011 c 23 § 4.]

**Effective date—2011 c 23:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state gov-

ernment and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 11, 2011]." [2011 c 23 § 8.]

**Construction—2011 c 23:** "Nothing in this act may be construed as a repudiation of any provision of WAC 458-20-13601." [2011 c 23 § 11.]

**Findings—2011 c 23:** See note following RCW 82.08.02565.

**82.08.02566 Exemptions—Sales of tangible personal property incorporated in prototype for parts, auxiliary equipment, and aircraft modification—Limitations on yearly exemption.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of tangible personal property incorporated into a prototype for aircraft parts, auxiliary equipment, or modifications; or to sales of tangible personal property that at one time is incorporated into the prototype but is later destroyed in the testing or development of the prototype.

(2) This exemption does not apply to sales to any person whose total taxable amount during the immediately preceding calendar year exceeds twenty million dollars. For purposes of this section, "total taxable amount" means gross income of the business and value of products manufactured, less any amounts for which a credit is allowed under RCW 82.04.440.

(3) State and local taxes for which an exemption is received under this section and RCW 82.12.02566 shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars for any person during any calendar year.

(4) Sellers shall collect tax on sales subject to this exemption. The buyer shall apply for a refund directly from the department. [2003 c 168 § 208; 1997 c 302 § 1; 1996 c 247 § 4.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—1996 c 247:** "The legislature finds that the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of Washington are heavily dependent upon the continued encouragement, development, and expansion of opportunities for family wage employment in the state's manufacturing industries.

The legislature also finds that sales and use tax exemptions for manufacturing machinery and equipment enacted by the 1995 legislature have improved Washington's ability to compete with other states for manufacturing investment, but that additional incentives for manufacturers need to be adopted to solidify and enhance the state's competitive position.

The legislature intends to accomplish this by extending the current manufacturing machinery and equipment exemptions to include machinery and equipment used for research and development with potential manufacturing applications." [1996 c 247 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02568 Exemptions—Sales of carbon and similar substances that become an ingredient or component of anodes or cathodes used in producing aluminum for sale.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of carbon, petroleum coke, coal tar, pitch, and similar substances that become an ingredient or component of anodes or cathodes used in producing aluminum for sale. [1996 c 170 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02569 Exemptions—Sales of tangible personal property related to a building or structure that is an integral part of a laser interferometer gravitational wave observatory.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of tangible personal property to a consumer as defined in RCW 82.04.190(6) if the tangible personal prop-

erty is incorporated into, installed in, or attached to a building or other structure that is an integral part of a laser interferometer gravitational wave observatory on which construction is commenced before December 1, 1996. [1996 c 113 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0257 Exemptions—Auction sales of personal property used in farming.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to auction sales made by or through auctioneers of personal property (including household goods) that has been used in conducting a farm activity, when the seller thereof is a farmer and the sale is held or conducted upon a farm and not otherwise. [2009 c 535 § 511; 1980 c 37 § 25. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(7).]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.02573 Exemptions—Sales by a nonprofit organization for fund-raising activities.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to a sale made by a nonprofit organization or a library, if the gross income from the sale is exempt under RCW 82.04.3651. [2010 c 106 § 214; 1998 c 336 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Findings—1998 c 336:** See note following RCW 82.04.3651.

**82.08.0258 Exemptions—Sales to federal corporations providing aid and relief.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to corporations which have been incorporated under any act of the congress of the United States and whose principal purposes are to furnish volunteer aid to members of armed forces of the United States and also to carry on a system of national and international relief and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other national calamities and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same. [1980 c 37 § 26. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(8).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0259 Exemptions—Sales of livestock.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of livestock, as defined in RCW 16.36.005, for breeding purposes where the animals are registered in a nationally recognized breed association; or to sales of cattle and milk cows used on the farm. [2001 c 118 § 4; 1980 c 37 § 27. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(9).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.026 Exemptions—Sales of natural or manufactured gas.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of natural or manufactured gas that is taxable under RCW 82.12.022. [1994 c 124 § 8; 1989 c 384 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective date—1989 c 384:** See notes following RCW 82.12.022.

**82.08.0261 Exemptions—Sales of personal property for use connected with private or common carriers in interstate or foreign commerce.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of tangible personal property (other than the type referred to in RCW 82.08.0262) for

use by the purchaser in connection with the business of operating as a private or common carrier by air, rail, or water in interstate or foreign commerce: PROVIDED, That any actual use of such property in this state shall, at the time of such actual use, be subject to the tax imposed by chapter 82.12 RCW. [1980 c 37 § 28. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(10).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0262 Exemptions—Sales of airplanes, locomotives, railroad cars, or watercraft for use in interstate or foreign commerce or outside the territorial waters of the state or airplanes sold to United States government—Components thereof and of motor vehicles or trailers used for constructing, repairing, cleaning, etc.—Labor and services for constructing, repairing, cleaning, etc.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to:

(a) Sales of airplanes (i) to the United States government; (ii) for use in conducting interstate or foreign commerce; or (iii) for use in providing intrastate air transportation by a commuter air carrier;

(b) Sales of locomotives, railroad cars, or watercraft for use in conducting interstate or foreign commerce by transporting therein or therewith property and persons for hire or for use in conducting commercial deep sea fishing operations outside the territorial waters of the state;

(c) Sales of tangible personal property that becomes a component part of such airplanes, locomotives, railroad cars, or watercraft, and of motor vehicles or trailers whether owned by or leased with or without drivers and used by the holder of a carrier permit issued by the interstate commerce commission or its successor agency authorizing transportation by motor vehicle across the boundaries of this state, in the course of constructing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the same; and

(d) Sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to such constructing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving.

(2) The term "commuter air carrier" means an air carrier holding authority under Title 14, Part 298 of the code of federal regulations that carries passengers on at least five round trips per week on at least one route between two or more points according to its published flight schedules that specify the times, days of the week, and places between which those flights are performed. [2009 c 503 § 1; 1998 c 311 § 5; 1994 c 43 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 29. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(11).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0263 Exemptions—Sales of motor vehicles and trailers for use in transporting persons or property in interstate or foreign commerce.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of motor vehicles and trailers to be used for the purpose of transporting therein persons or property for hire in interstate or foreign commerce whether such use is by the owner or whether such motor vehicles and trailers are leased to the user with or without drivers: PROVIDED, That the purchaser or user must be the holder of a carrier permit issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission or its successor agency. [1998 c 311 § 6; 1995 c 63 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 30. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(12).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0264 Exemptions—Sales of motor vehicles, trailers, or campers to nonresidents for use outside the state.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of motor vehicles, trailers, or campers to nonresidents of this state for use outside of this state, even when delivery is made within this state, but only if:

(a) The motor vehicles, trailers, or campers will be taken from the point of delivery in this state directly to a point outside this state under the authority of a vehicle trip permit issued by the department of licensing pursuant to RCW 46.16A.320, or any agency of another state that has authority to issue similar permits; or

(b) The motor vehicles, trailers, or campers will be registered and licensed immediately under the laws of the state of the buyer's residence, will not be used in this state more than three months, and will not be required to be registered and licensed under the laws of this state.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the seller of a motor vehicle, trailer, or camper is not required to collect and shall not be found liable for the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 on the sale if the tax is not collected and the seller retains the following documents, which must be made available upon request of the department:

(a) A copy of the buyer's currently valid out-of-state driver's license or other official picture identification issued by a jurisdiction other than Washington state;

(b) A copy of any one of the following documents, on which there is an out-of-state address for the buyer:

(i) A current residential rental agreement;

(ii) A property tax statement from the current or previous year;

(iii) A utility bill, dated within the previous two months;

(iv) A state income tax return from the previous year;

(v) A voter registration card;

(vi) A current credit report; or

(vii) Any other document determined by the department to be acceptable;

(c) A witnessed declaration in the form designated by the department, signed by the buyer, and stating that the buyer's purchase meets the requirements of this section; and

(d) A seller's certification, in the form designated by the department, that either a vehicle trip permit was issued or the vehicle was immediately registered and licensed in another state as required under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If the department has information indicating the buyer is a Washington resident, or if the addresses for the buyer shown on the documentation provided under subsection (2) of this section are not the same, the department may contact the buyer to verify the buyer's eligibility for the exemption provided under this section. This subsection does not prevent the department from contacting a buyer as a result of information obtained from a source other than the seller's records.

(4)(a) Any person making fraudulent statements, which includes the offer of fraudulent identification or fraudulently procured identification to a seller, in order to purchase a motor vehicle, trailer, or camper without paying retail sales tax is guilty of perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW.

(b) Any person making tax exempt purchases under this section by displaying proof of identification not his or her own, or counterfeit identification, with intent to violate the provisions of this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, in addition, is liable for the tax and subject to a penalty equal to the greater of one hundred dollars or the tax due on such purchases.

(5)(a) Any seller that makes sales without collecting the tax to a person who does not provide the documents required under subsection (2) of this section, and any seller who fails to retain the documents required under subsection (2) of this section for the period prescribed by RCW 82.32.070, is personally liable for the amount of tax due.

(b) Any seller that makes sales without collecting the retail sales tax under this section and who has actual knowledge that the buyer's documentation required by subsection (2) of this section is fraudulent is guilty of a misdemeanor and, in addition, is liable for the tax and subject to a penalty equal to the greater of one thousand dollars or the tax due on such sales. In addition, both the buyer and the seller are liable for any penalties and interest assessable under chapter 82.32 RCW.

(6) For purposes of this section, "buyer" does not include cosigners or financial guarantors, unless those parties are listed as a registered owner on the vehicle title. [2010 c 161 § 1165; 2007 c 135 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 31. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(13).]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0265 Exemptions—Sales to nonresidents of tangible personal property which becomes a component of property of the nonresident by installing, repairing, etc.—Labor and services for installing, repairing, etc.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to nonresidents of this state for use outside of this state of tangible personal property which becomes a component part of any machinery or other article of personal property belonging to such nonresident, in the course of installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the same and also sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to any installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving, of personal property of or for a nonresident, but this section shall apply only when the seller agrees to, and does, deliver the property to the purchaser at a point outside this state, or delivers the property to a common or bona fide private carrier consigned to the purchaser at a point outside this state. [1980 c 37 § 32. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(14).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0266 Exemptions—Sales of watercraft to nonresidents for use outside the state.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to nonresidents of this state for use outside of this state of watercraft requiring coast guard registration or registration by the state of principal use according to the Federal Boating Act of 1958, even though delivery be made within this state, but only when (1) the watercraft will not be used within this state for more than forty-five days and (2) an appropriate exemption certificate

(2012 Ed.)

supported by identification ascertaining residence as required by the department of revenue and signed by the purchaser or his agent establishing the fact that the purchaser is a nonresident and that the watercraft is for use outside of this state, a copy of which shall be retained by the dealer. [1999 c 358 § 5; 1980 c 37 § 33. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(15).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02665 Exemptions—Sales of watercraft, vessels to residents of foreign countries.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of vessels to residents of foreign countries for use outside of this state, even though delivery is made within this state, but only if (1) the vessel will not be used within this state for more than forty-five days and (2) an appropriate exemption certificate supported by identification as required by the department of revenue and signed by the purchaser or the purchaser's agent establishes the fact that the purchaser is a resident of a foreign country and that the vessel is for use outside of this state. A copy of the exemption certificate is to be retained by the dealer.

As used in this section, "vessel" means every watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water, other than a seaplane. [1999 c 358 § 6; 1993 c 119 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0267 Exemptions—Sales of poultry for producing poultry and poultry products for sale.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of poultry for use in the production for sale of poultry or poultry products. [1980 c 37 § 34. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(16).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0268 Exemptions—Sales of machinery and implements, and related parts and labor, for farming to nonresidents for use outside the state.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to nonresidents of this state for use outside of this state of:

(1) Machinery and implements for use in conducting a farming activity;

(2) Parts for machinery and implements for use in conducting a farming activity; and

(3) Labor and services for the repair of machinery, implements, and parts for use in conducting a farming activity,

when such machinery, implements, and parts will be transported immediately outside the state. As proof of exemption, an affidavit or certification in such form as the department of revenue shall require shall be retained as a business record of the seller. [1998 c 167 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 35. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(17).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0269 Exemptions—Sales for use in states, territories, and possessions of the United States which are not contiguous to any other state.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales for use in states, territories and possessions of the United States which are not contiguous to any other state, but only when, as a necessary incident to the contract of sale, the seller delivers the subject matter of

the sale to the purchaser or his designated agent at the usual receiving terminal of the carrier selected to transport the goods, under such circumstances that it is reasonably certain that the goods will be transported directly to a destination in such noncontiguous states, territories and possessions. [1980 c 37 § 36. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(18).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0271 Exemptions—Sales to municipal corporations, the state, and political subdivisions of tangible personal property, labor and services on watershed protection and flood prevention contracts.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to municipal corporations, the state, and all political subdivisions thereof of tangible personal property consumed and/or of labor and services rendered in respect to contracts for watershed protection and/or flood prevention. This exemption shall be limited to that portion of the selling price which is reimbursed by the United States government according to the provisions of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Laws 566, as amended. [1980 c 37 § 37. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(19).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0272 Exemptions—Sales of semen for artificial insemination of livestock.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of semen for use in the artificial insemination of livestock. [1980 c 37 § 38. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(20).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0273 Exemptions—Sales to nonresidents of tangible personal property, digital goods, and digital codes for use outside the state—Proof of nonresident status—Penalties.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to nonresidents of this state of tangible personal property, digital goods, and digital codes, when:

- (a) The property is for use outside this state;
- (b) The purchaser is a bona fide resident of a province or territory of Canada or a state, territory, or possession of the United States, other than the state of Washington; and
  - (i) Such state, possession, territory, or province does not impose, or have imposed on its behalf, a generally applicable retail sales tax, use tax, value added tax, gross receipts tax on retailing activities, or similar generally applicable tax, of three percent or more; or
  - (ii) If imposing a tax described in (b)(i) of this subsection, provides an exemption for sales to Washington residents by reason of their residence; and
- (c) The purchaser agrees, when requested, to grant the department of revenue access to such records and other forms of verification at his or her place of residence to assure that such purchases are not first used substantially in the state of Washington.

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this chapter, if parts or other tangible personal property are installed by the seller during the course of repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving motor vehicles, trailers, or campers and the seller makes a separate charge for the tangible personal property, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the separately stated charge to a nonresident pur-

chaser for the tangible personal property but only if the separately stated charge does not exceed either the seller's current publicly stated retail price for the tangible personal property or, if no publicly stated retail price is available, the seller's cost for the tangible personal property. However, the exemption provided by this section does not apply if tangible personal property is installed by the seller during the course of repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving motor vehicles, trailers, or campers and the seller makes a single nonitemized charge for providing the tangible personal property and service. All of the requirements in subsections (1) and (3) through (6) of this section apply to this subsection.

(3)(a) Any person claiming exemption from retail sales tax under the provisions of this section must display proof of his or her current nonresident status as provided in this section.

(b) Acceptable proof of a nonresident person's status includes one piece of identification such as a valid driver's license from the jurisdiction in which the out-of-state residency is claimed or a valid identification card which has a photograph of the holder and is issued by the out-of-state jurisdiction. Identification under this subsection (3)(b) must show the holder's residential address and have as one of its legal purposes the establishment of residency in that out-of-state jurisdiction.

(c) In lieu of furnishing proof of a person's nonresident status under (b) of this subsection (3), a person claiming exemption from retail sales tax under the provisions of this section may provide the seller with an exemption certificate in compliance with subsection (4)(b) of this section.

(4)(a) Nothing in this section requires the vendor to make tax exempt retail sales to nonresidents. A vendor may choose to make sales to nonresidents, collect the sales tax, and remit the amount of sales tax collected to the state as otherwise provided by law. If the vendor chooses to make a sale to a nonresident without collecting the sales tax, the vendor must examine the purchaser's proof of nonresidence, determine whether the proof is acceptable under subsection (3)(b) of this section, and maintain records for each nontaxable sale which shall show the type of proof accepted, including any identification numbers where appropriate, and the expiration date, if any.

(b) In lieu of using the method provided in (a) of this subsection to document an exempt sale to a nonresident, a seller may accept from the purchaser a properly completed uniform exemption certificate approved by the streamlined sales and use tax agreement governing board or any other exemption certificate as may be authorized by the department and properly completed by the purchaser. A nonresident purchaser who uses an exemption certificate authorized in this subsection (4)(b) must include the purchaser's driver's license number or other state-issued identification number and the state of issuance.

(c) In lieu of using the methods provided in (a) and (b) of this subsection to document an exempt sale to a nonresident, a seller may capture the relevant data elements as allowed under the streamlined sales and use tax agreement.

(5)(a) Any person making fraudulent statements, which includes the offer of fraudulent identification or fraudulently procured identification to a vendor, in order to purchase

goods without paying retail sales tax is guilty of perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW.

(b) Any person making tax exempt purchases under this section by displaying proof of identification not his or her own, or counterfeit identification, with intent to violate the provisions of this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, in addition, is liable for the tax and subject to a penalty equal to the greater of one hundred dollars or the tax due on such purchases.

(6)(a) Any vendor who makes sales without collecting the tax and who fails to maintain records of sales to nonresidents as provided in this section is personally liable for the amount of tax due.

(b) Any vendor who makes sales without collecting the retail sales tax under this section and who has actual knowledge that the purchaser's proof of identification establishing out-of-state residency is fraudulent is guilty of a misdemeanor and, in addition, is liable for the tax and subject to a penalty equal to the greater of one thousand dollars or the tax due on such sales. In addition, both the purchaser and the vendor are liable for any penalties and interest assessable under chapter 82.32 RCW. [2011 c 7 § 1; 2010 c 106 § 215; 2009 c 535 § 512; 2007 c 135 § 2; 2003 c 53 § 399; 1993 c 444 § 1; 1988 c 96 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 5 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 39. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(21).]

**Effective date—2011 c 7:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2011." [2011 c 7 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0274 Exemptions—Sales of form lumber to person engaged in constructing, repairing, etc., structures for consumers.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of form lumber to any person engaged in the constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving of new or existing buildings or other structures under, upon or above real property of or for consumers: PROVIDED, That such lumber is used or to be used first by such person for the molding of concrete in a single such contract, project or job and is thereafter incorporated into the product of that same contract, project or job as an ingredient or component thereof. [1980 c 37 § 40. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(22).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.02745 Exemptions—Charges for labor and services or sales of tangible personal property related to agricultural employee housing—Exemption certificate—Rules.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to charges made for labor and services rendered by any person in respect to the constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving of new or existing buildings or other structures used as agricultural employee housing, or to sales of tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of the buildings or other structures during the course of the

constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving the buildings or other structures. The exemption is available only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department by rule.

(2) The exemption provided in this section for agricultural employee housing provided to year-round employees of the agricultural employer, only applies if that housing is built to the current building code for single-family or multifamily dwellings according to the state building code, chapter 19.27 RCW.

(3) Any agricultural employee housing built under this section shall be used according to this section for at least five consecutive years from the date the housing is approved for occupancy, or the full amount of tax otherwise due shall be immediately due and payable together with interest, but not penalties, from the date the housing is approved for occupancy until the date of payment. If at any time agricultural employee housing that is not located on agricultural land ceases to be used in the manner specified in subsection (2) of this section, the full amount of tax otherwise due shall be immediately due and payable with interest, but not penalties, from the date the housing ceases to be used as agricultural employee housing until the date of payment.

(4) The exemption provided in this section shall not apply to housing built for the occupancy of an employer, family members of an employer, or persons owning stock or shares in a farm partnership or corporation business.

(5) For purposes of this section and RCW 82.12.02685:

(a) "Agricultural employee" or "employee" has the same meaning as given in RCW 19.30.010;

(b) "Agricultural employer" or "employer" has the same meaning as given in RCW 19.30.010; and

(c) "Agricultural employee housing" means all facilities provided by an agricultural employer, housing authority, local government, state or federal agency, nonprofit community or neighborhood-based organization that is exempt from income tax under section 501(c) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)), or for-profit provider of housing for housing agricultural employees on a year-round or seasonal basis, including bathing, food handling, hand washing, laundry, and toilet facilities, single-family and multifamily dwelling units and dormitories, and includes labor camps under RCW 70.114A.110. "Agricultural employee housing" does not include housing regularly provided on a commercial basis to the general public. "Agricultural employee housing" does not include housing provided by a housing authority unless at least eighty percent of the occupants are agricultural employees whose adjusted income is less than fifty percent of median family income, adjusted for household size, for the county where the housing is provided. [2007 c 54 § 14; 1997 c 438 § 1; 1996 c 117 § 1.]

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0275 Exemptions—Sales of and labor and service charges for mining, sorting, crushing, etc., of sand, gravel, and rock from county or city quarry for public road purposes.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of, cost of, or charges made for labor and services performed in respect to the mining, sorting, crushing, screening, washing, hauling, and stockpiling of sand, gravel

and rock when such sand, gravel, or rock is taken from a pit or quarry which is owned by or leased to a county or a city, and such sand, gravel, or rock is (1) either stockpiled in said pit or quarry for placement or is placed on the street, road, place, or highway of the county or city by the county or city itself, or (2) sold by the county or city to a county, or a city at actual cost for placement on a publicly owned street, road, place, or highway. The exemption provided for in this section shall not apply to sales of, cost of, or charges made for such labor and services, if the sand, gravel, or rock is used for other than public road purposes or is sold otherwise than as provided for in this section. [1980 c 37 § 41. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(23).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0277 Exemptions—Sales of pollen.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of pollen. [1980 c 37 § 43. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(25).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0278 Exemptions—Sales between political subdivisions resulting from annexation or incorporation.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to one political subdivision by another political subdivision directly or indirectly arising out of or resulting from the annexation or incorporation of any part of the territory of one political subdivision by another. [1980 c 37 § 44. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(26).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0279 Exemptions—Renting or leasing of motor vehicles and trailers to a nonresident for use in the transportation of persons or property across state boundaries.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to the renting or leasing of motor vehicles and trailers to a nonresident of this state for use exclusively in transporting persons or property across the boundaries of this state and in intrastate operations incidental thereto when such motor vehicle or trailer is registered and licensed in a foreign state and for purposes of this exemption the term "nonresident" shall apply to a renter or lessee who has one or more places of business in this state as well as in one or more other states but the exemption for nonresidents shall apply only to those vehicles which are most frequently dispatched, garaged, serviced, maintained and operated from the renter's or lessee's place of business in another state. [1980 c 37 § 45. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(27).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.02795 Exemptions—Sales to free hospitals.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to free hospitals of items reasonably necessary for the operation of, and provision of health care by, free hospitals.

(2) As used in this section, "free hospital" means a hospital that does not charge patients for health care provided by the hospital. [1993 c 205 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02805 Exemptions—Sales to qualifying blood, tissue, or blood and tissue banks.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of medical sup-

plies, chemicals, or materials to a qualifying blood bank, a qualifying tissue bank, or a qualifying blood and tissue bank. The exemption in this section does not apply to the sale of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Medical supplies" means any item of tangible personal property, including any repair and replacement parts for such tangible personal property, used by a qualifying blood bank, a qualifying tissue bank, or a qualifying blood and tissue bank for the purpose of performing research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue. The term includes tangible personal property used to:

(i) Provide preparatory treatment of blood, bone, or tissue;

(ii) Control, guide, measure, tune, verify, align, regulate, test, or physically support blood, bone, or tissue; and

(iii) Protect the health and safety of employees or others present during research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue.

(b) "Chemical" means any catalyst, solvent, water, acid, oil, or other additive that physically or chemically interacts with blood, bone, or tissue.

(c) "Materials" means any item of tangible personal property, including, but not limited to, bags, packs, collecting sets, filtering materials, testing reagents, antisera, and refrigerants used or consumed in performing research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue.

(d) "Research" means basic and applied research that has as its objective the design, development, refinement, testing, marketing, or commercialization of a product, service, or process.

(e) The definitions in RCW 82.04.324 apply to this section. [2004 c 82 § 2; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 9 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02806 Exemptions—Sales of human blood, tissue, organs, bodies, or body parts for medical research and quality control testing.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of human blood, tissue, organs, bodies, or body parts for medical research and quality control testing purposes. [1996 c 141 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02807 Exemptions—Sales to organ procurement organization.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to the sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to an organ procurement organization exempt under RCW 82.04.326. The definitions of medical supplies, chemicals, and materials in \*RCW 82.04.324 apply to this section. This exemption does not apply to the sale of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles. [2002 c 113 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.04.324 was amended by 2004 c 82 § 1, deleting the definitions of "medical supplies," "chemicals," and "materials."

**Effective date—2002 c 113:** See note following RCW 82.04.326.

**82.08.0281 Exemptions—Sales of prescription drugs.**

(1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of drugs for human use dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription.

(2) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of drugs or devices used for family planning purposes, including the prevention of conception, for human use dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription.

(3) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of drugs and devices used for family planning purposes, including the prevention of conception, for human use supplied by a family planning clinic that is under contract with the department of health to provide family planning services.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Prescription" means an order, formula, or recipe issued in any form of oral, written, electronic, or other means of transmission by a duly licensed practitioner authorized by the laws of this state to prescribe.

(b) "Drug" means a compound, substance, or preparation, and any component of a compound, substance, or preparation, other than food and food ingredients, dietary supplements, or alcoholic beverages:

(i) Recognized in the official United States pharmacopoeia, official homeopathic pharmacopoeia of the United States, or official national formulary, or any supplement to any of them; or

(ii) Intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease; or

(iii) Intended to affect the structure or any function of the body.

(c) "Over-the-counter drug" means a drug that contains a label that identifies the product as a drug required by 21 C.F.R. Sec. 201.66, as amended or renumbered on January 1, 2003. The label includes:

(i) A "drug facts" panel; or

(ii) A statement of the "active ingredient(s)" with a list of those ingredients contained in the compound, substance, or preparation. [2004 c 153 § 108; 2003 c 168 § 403; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 308; 1980 c 37 § 46. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(28).]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Finding—1993 sp.s. c 25:** "The legislature finds that prevention is a significant element in the reduction of health care costs. The legislature further finds that taxing some physician prescriptions and not others is unfair to patients. It is, therefore, the intent of the legislature to remove the taxes from prescriptions issued for family planning purposes." [1993 sp.s. c 25 § 307.]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0282 Exemptions—Sales of returnable containers for beverages and foods.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of returnable containers for beverages and foods, including but not limited to soft drinks, milk, beer, and mixers. [1980 c 37 § 47. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(29).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.08.0283 Exemptions—Certain medical items.** (1)

The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of:

(a) Prosthetic devices prescribed, fitted, or furnished for an individual by a person licensed under the laws of this state to prescribe, fit, or furnish prosthetic devices, and the components of such prosthetic devices;

(b) Medicines of mineral, animal, and botanical origin prescribed, administered, dispensed, or used in the treatment of an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW; and

(c) Medically prescribed oxygen, including, but not limited to, oxygen concentrator systems, oxygen enricher systems, liquid oxygen systems, and gaseous, bottled oxygen systems prescribed for an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW for use in the medical treatment of that individual.

(2) In addition, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of any of the items exempted under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The exemption in subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to sales of durable medical equipment, other than as specified in subsection (1)(c) of this section, or mobility enhancing equipment.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Prosthetic device" means a replacement, corrective, or supportive device, including repair and replacement parts for a prosthetic device, worn on or in the body to:

(i) Artificially replace a missing portion of the body;

(ii) Prevent or correct a physical deformity or malfunction; or

(iii) Support a weak or deformed portion of the body.

(b) "Durable medical equipment" means equipment, including repair and replacement parts for durable medical equipment that:

(i) Can withstand repeated use;

(ii) Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose;

(iii) Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; and

(iv) Is not worn in or on the body.

(c) "Mobility enhancing equipment" means equipment, including repair and replacement parts for mobility enhancing equipment that:

(i) Is primarily and customarily used to provide or increase the ability to move from one place to another and that is appropriate for use either in a home or a motor vehicle;

(ii) Is not generally used by persons with normal mobility; and

(iii) Does not include any motor vehicle or equipment on a motor vehicle normally provided by a motor vehicle manufacturer.

(d) The terms "durable medical equipment" and "mobility enhancing equipment" are mutually exclusive. [2007 c 6 § 1101; 2004 c 153 § 101; 2003 c 168 § 409; 2001 c 75 § 1; 1998 c 168 § 2; 1997 c 224 § 1; 1996 c 162 § 1; 1991 c 250 § 2; 1986 c 255 § 1; 1980 c 86 § 1; 1980 c 37 § 48. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(30).]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Finding—Intent—1991 c 250:** "(1) The legislature finds:

(a) The existing state policy is to exempt medical oxygen from sales and use tax.

(b) The technology for supplying medical oxygen has changed substantially in recent years. Many consumers of medical oxygen purchase or rent equipment that supplies oxygen rather than purchasing oxygen in gaseous form.

(2) The intent of this act is to bring sales and rental of individual oxygen systems within the existing exemption for medical oxygen, without expanding the essence of the original policy decision that medical oxygen should be exempt from sales and use tax." [1991 c 250 § 1.]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0285 Exemptions—Sales of ferry vessels to the state or local governmental units—Components thereof—Labor and service charges.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of ferry vessels to the state of Washington or to a local governmental unit in the state of Washington for use in transporting pedestrians, vehicles, and goods within or outside the territorial waters of the state; also sales of tangible personal property which becomes a component part of such ferry vessels; also sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to constructing or improving such ferry vessels. [1980 c 37 § 50. Formerly RCW 82.08.030(32).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.08.0287 Exemptions—Sales of passenger motor vehicles as ride-sharing vehicles.** The tax imposed by this chapter shall not apply to sales of passenger motor vehicles which are to be used for commuter ride sharing or ride sharing for persons with special transportation needs, as defined in RCW 46.74.010, if the vehicles are used as ride-sharing vehicles for thirty-six consecutive months beginning from the date of purchase.

To qualify for the tax exemption, those passenger motor vehicles with five or six passengers, including the driver, used for commuter ride-sharing, must be operated either within the state's eight largest counties that are required to develop commute trip reduction plans as directed by chapter 70.94 RCW or in other counties, or cities and towns within those counties, that elect to adopt and implement a commute trip reduction plan. Additionally at least one of the following conditions must apply: (1) The vehicle must be operated by a public transportation agency for the general public; or (2) the vehicle must be used by a major employer, as defined in RCW 70.94.524 as an element of its commute trip reduction program for their employees; or (3) the vehicle must be owned and operated by individual employees and must be registered either with the employer as part of its commute trip reduction program or with a public transportation agency serving the area where the employees live or work. Individual employee owned and operated motor vehicles will require certification that the vehicle is registered with a major employer or a public transportation agency. Major employers

who own and operate motor vehicles for their employees must certify that the commuter ride-sharing arrangement conforms to a carpool/vanpool element contained within their commute trip reduction program. [2001 c 320 § 4; 1996 c 244 § 4; 1995 c 274 § 2; 1993 c 488 § 2; 1980 c 166 § 1.]

**Finding—1993 c 488:** "The legislature finds that ride sharing and vanpools are the fastest growing transportation choice because of their flexibility and cost-effectiveness. Ride sharing and vanpools represent an effective means for local jurisdictions, transit agencies, and the private sector to assist in addressing the requirements of the Commute Trip Reduction Act, the Growth Management Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Clean Air Act." [1993 c 488 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 46.16.023 was repealed by 2010 c 161 § 438, effective July 1, 2011.

*Ride-sharing vehicles—Special plates:* RCW 46.18.285.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02875 Exemptions—Vehicle parking charges subject to tax at stadium and exhibition center.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to vehicle parking charges that are subject to tax under RCW 36.38.040. [1997 c 220 § 203 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**Referendum—Other legislation limited—Legislators' personal intent not indicated—Reimbursements for election—Voters' pamphlet, election requirements—1997 c 220:** See RCW 36.102.800 through 36.102.803.

**82.08.0288 Exemptions—Lease of certain irrigation equipment.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to the lease of irrigation equipment if:

(1) The irrigation equipment was purchased by the lessor for the purpose of irrigating land controlled by the lessor;

(2) The lessor has paid tax under RCW 82.08.020 or 82.12.020 in respect to the irrigation equipment;

(3) The irrigation equipment is attached to the land in whole or in part; and

(4) The irrigation equipment is leased to the lessee as an incidental part of the lease of the underlying land to the lessee and is used solely on such land. [1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0289 Exemptions—Telephone, telecommunications, and ancillary services.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of:

(a) Local service;

(b) Coin-operated telephone service; and

(c) Mobile telecommunications services, including any toll service, provided to a customer whose place of primary use is outside this state.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.04.065, as well as the definitions in this subsection, apply to this section.

(a) "Local service" means ancillary services and telecommunications service, as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065, other than toll service, provided to an individual subscribing to a residential class of telephone service.

(b) "Toll service" does not include customer access line charges for access to a toll calling network.

(c) "Coin-operated telephone service" means a telecommunications service paid for by inserting money into a telephone accepting direct deposits of money to operate. [2007 c

6 § 1006; 2007 c 6 § 1005; 2002 c 67 § 6; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 30.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2007 c 6 § 1005 and by 2007 c 6 § 1006, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Contingent effective date—2007 c 6 §§ 1003, 1006, 1014, and 1018:** See note following RCW 82.04.065.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0291 Exemptions—Sales of amusement and recreation services or personal services by nonprofit youth organization—Local government physical fitness classes.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to the sale of amusement and recreation services, or personal services specified in RCW 82.04.050(3)(g), by a nonprofit youth organization, as defined in RCW 82.04.4271, to members of the organization; nor shall the tax apply to physical fitness classes provided by a local government. [2000 c 103 § 8; 1994 c 85 § 1; 1981 c 74 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02915 Exemptions—Sales used by health or social welfare organizations for alternative housing for youth in crisis.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to health or social welfare organizations, as defined in RCW 82.04.431, of items necessary for new construction of alternative housing for youth in crisis, so long as the facility will be a licensed agency under chapter 74.15 RCW, upon completion. [1998 c 183 § 1; 1997 c 386 § 56; 1995 c 346 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.02917 Youth in crisis—Definition—Limited purpose.** For the purposes of RCW 82.08.02915 and 82.12.02915, "youth in crisis" means any youth under eighteen years of age who is either: Homeless; a runaway from the home of a parent, guardian, or legal custodian; abused; neglected; abandoned by a parent, guardian, or legal custodian; or suffering from a substance abuse or mental disorder. [1995 c 346 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0293 Exemptions—Sales of food and food ingredients.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of food and food ingredients. "Food and food ingredients" means substances, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried, or dehydrated form, that are sold for ingestion or chewing by humans and are consumed for their taste or nutritional value. "Food and food ingredients" does not include:

(a) "Alcoholic beverages," which means beverages that are suitable for human consumption and contain one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume; and

(b) "Tobacco," which means cigarettes, cigars, chewing or pipe tobacco, or any other item that contains tobacco.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) The exemption of "food and food ingredients" provided for in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to prepared food, soft drinks, or dietary supplements. For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Dietary supplement" means any product, other than tobacco, intended to supplement the diet that:

(i) Contains one or more of the following dietary ingredients:

(A) A vitamin;

(B) A mineral;

(C) An herb or other botanical;

(D) An amino acid;

(E) A dietary substance for use by humans to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake; or

(F) A concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or combination of any ingredient described in this subsection;

(ii) Is intended for ingestion in tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, gelcap, or liquid form, or if not intended for ingestion in such form, is not represented as conventional food and is not represented for use as a sole item of a meal or of the diet; and

(iii) Is required to be labeled as a dietary supplement, identifiable by the "supplement facts" box found on the label as required pursuant to 21 C.F.R. Sec. 101.36, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003.

(b)(i) "Prepared food" means:

(A) Food sold in a heated state or heated by the seller;

(B) Food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller, including plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins, or straws. A plate does not include a container or packaging used to transport the food; or

(C) Two or more food ingredients mixed or combined by the seller for sale as a single item, except:

(I) Food that is only cut, repackaged, or pasteurized by the seller; or

(II) Raw eggs, fish, meat, poultry, and foods containing these raw animal foods requiring cooking by the consumer as recommended by the federal food and drug administration in chapter 3, part 401.11 of The Food Code, published by the food and drug administration, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003, so as to prevent foodborne illness.

(ii) "Prepared food" does not include the following food or food ingredients, if the food or food ingredients are sold without eating utensils provided by the seller:

(A) Food sold by a seller whose proper primary North American industry classification system (NAICS) classification is manufacturing in sector 311, except subsector 3118 (bakeries), as provided in the "North American industry classification system—United States, 2002";

(B) Food sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item; or

(C) Bakery items. The term "bakery items" includes bread, rolls, buns, biscuits, bagels, croissants, pastries, donuts, Danish, cakes, tortes, pies, tarts, muffins, bars, cookies, or tortillas.

(c) "Soft drinks" means nonalcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. Soft drinks do not include beverages that contain: Milk or milk products; soy, rice, or similar milk substitutes; or greater than fifty percent of vegetable or fruit juice by volume.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, the exemption of "food and food ingredients" provided in this section applies to food and food ingredients that are furnished, prepared, or served as meals:

(a) Under a state administered nutrition program for the aged as provided for in the older Americans act (P.L. 95-478 Title III) and RCW 74.38.040(6);

(b) That are provided to senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, or low-income persons by a not-for-profit organization organized under chapter 24.03 or 24.12 RCW; or

(c) That are provided to residents, sixty-two years of age or older, of a qualified low-income senior housing facility by the lessor or operator of the facility. The sale of a meal that is billed to both spouses of a marital community or both domestic partners of a domestic partnership meets the age requirement in this subsection (3)(c) if at least one of the spouses or domestic partners is at least sixty-two years of age. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified low-income senior housing facility" means a facility:

(i) That meets the definition of a qualified low-income housing project under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 42 of the federal internal revenue code, as existing on August 1, 2009;

(ii) That has been partially funded under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1485; and

(iii) For which the lessor or operator has at any time been entitled to claim a federal income tax credit under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 42 of the federal internal revenue code.

(4)(a) Subsection (1) of this section notwithstanding, the retail sale of food and food ingredients is subject to sales tax under RCW 82.08.020 if the food and food ingredients are sold through a vending machine. Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the selling price of food and food ingredients sold through a vending machine for purposes of RCW 82.08.020 is fifty-seven percent of the gross receipts.

(b) For soft drinks and hot prepared food and food ingredients, other than food and food ingredients which are heated after they have been dispensed from the vending machine, the selling price is the total gross receipts of such sales divided by the sum of one plus the sales tax rate expressed as a decimal.

(c) For tax collected under this subsection (4), the requirements that the tax be collected from the buyer and that the amount of tax be stated as a separate item are waived. [2011 c 2 § 301 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010); 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 902; (2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 901 expired July 1, 2010); 2010 c 106 § 216; 2009 c 483 § 2; 2004 c 153 § 201; 2003 c 168 § 301; 1988 c 103 § 1; 1986 c 182 § 1; 1985 c 104 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 33.]

**Reviser's note:** Referendum Bill No. 52 was rejected by the voters at the November 2010 election. This section has been returned to the status existing before its amendment by 2010 1st sp.s. c 35.

**Findings—2011 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1107):** "The people of the state of Washington in enacting this initiative measure find:

(1) The 2010 legislature adopted legislation that imposed new or higher taxes on many common food and beverage products, increasing the tax burden on Washington consumers and businesses by hundreds of millions of dollars;

(2) Taxes on food and beverages hurt all Washington consumers, and especially hurt lower and middle income taxpayers who can least afford it;

(3) The legislature's tax increases on food and beverages come at a time when Washington residents and businesses already face an economic crisis;

(4) The process the legislature used to increase taxes on food and bev-

erages did not provide adequate public input on or scrutiny of the proposed tax increases;

(5) Washington residents already pay among the highest sales taxes in the country;

(6) The legislature's tax increases on food and beverages hurt Washington food and beverage producers and retail businesses by making their products more costly and less competitive;

(7) The legislature's tax increases on food and beverages will hurt Washington's economy and cause the loss of many local jobs; and

(8) The legislature's tax increases on food and beverages arbitrarily and unfairly impose higher taxes on some food and beverage products but not on others that are similar or essentially the same.

For these reasons, the people repeal the food and beverage taxes imposed by the 2010 legislature." [2011 c 2 § 101 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010).]

**Construction—2011 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1107):** "The provisions of this act are to be construed liberally so as to effectuate its intent." [2011 c 2 § 501 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010).]

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 106, 901, and 1201:** See note following RCW 82.04.2907.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 107, 601, 602, 702, 902, 1202, and 1401-1405:** See note following RCW 82.04.2907.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 483:** "The legislature finds that low-income senior citizens are one of the most vulnerable segments of our population who often find it difficult to find safe and clean housing that is also affordable. The federal government has identified this population as being at risk. The federal government provides income tax credits and favorable financing to encourage developers and operators to provide safe and clean housing for our low-income senior citizens. There are only four such facilities in the state, and it is doubtful that any new ones will be built in the future. These four facilities offer "service packages" to their residents, which may include meals, housekeeping, recreation, laundry, and transportation. Washington's sales and use tax law provides generally that when multiple goods and services are offered for one nonitemized price, the entire transaction is subject to sales or use tax if any of the component goods or services are subject to sales tax. Consequently, in order to provide tax relief to these vulnerable tenants, the legislature intends to establish sales and use tax exemptions for the sale of service packages and to meals sold outside of a service package when provided by the lessor or operator of these senior housing facilities to tenants who are at least sixty-two years old." [2009 c 483 § 1.]

**Effective date—2009 c 483:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2009." [2009 c 483 § 6.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** "(1) Section 201 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and retroactively takes effect January 1, 2004.

(2) This act takes effect July 1, 2004, except section 201 of this act." [2004 c 153 § 501.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0294 Exemptions—Sales of feed for cultivating or raising fish for sale.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of feed to persons for use in the cultivating or raising for sale of fish entirely within confined rearing areas on the person's own land or on land in which the person has a present right of possession. [1985 c 148 § 3.]

**82.08.0296 Exemptions—Sales of feed consumed by livestock at a public livestock market.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of feed consumed by livestock at a public livestock market. [1986 c 265 § 1.]

**82.08.0297 Exemptions—Sales of food purchased under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of eligible foods that are purchased with benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program or successor program, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in RCW 82.08.0293.

(2) When a purchase of eligible foods is made with a combination of benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program or successor program and cash, check, or similar payment, the cash, check, or similar payment must be applied first to food products exempt from tax under RCW 82.08.0293 whenever possible.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Eligible foods" means foods that are eligible for purchase with benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program or successor program.

(b) "Supplemental nutrition assistance program" refers to a food assistance program that is administered, at the federal level, by the United States department of agriculture, and was formerly known as the food stamp program. [2011 c 174 § 103; 1998 c 79 § 18; 1987 c 28 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0298 Exemptions—Sales of diesel fuel for use in operating watercraft in commercial deep sea fishing or commercial passenger fishing boat operations outside the state.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of diesel fuel for use in the operation of watercraft in commercial deep sea fishing operations or commercial passenger fishing boat operations by persons who are regularly engaged in the business of commercial deep sea fishing or commercial passenger fishing boat operations outside the territorial waters of this state.

For purposes of this section, a person is not regularly engaged in the business of commercial deep sea fishing or the operation of a commercial passenger fishing boat if the person has gross receipts from these operations of less than five thousand dollars a year. [1987 c 494 § 1.]

**82.08.0299 Exemptions—Emergency lodging for homeless persons—Conditions.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to emergency lodging provided for homeless persons for a period of less than thirty consecutive days under a shelter voucher program administered by an eligible organization.

(2) For the purposes of this exemption, an eligible organization includes only cities, towns, and counties, or their respective agencies, and groups providing emergency food and shelter services. [1988 c 61 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.031 Exemptions—Sales to artistic or cultural organizations of certain objects acquired for exhibition or presentation.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales to artistic or cultural organizations of objects which are acquired for the purpose of exhibition or presentation to the general public if the objects are:

- (1) Objects of art;
- (2) Objects of cultural value;

(3) Objects to be used in the creation of a work of art, other than tools; or

(4) Objects to be used in displaying art objects or presenting artistic or cultural exhibitions or performances. [1981 c 140 § 4.]

"Artistic or cultural organization" defined: RCW 82.04.4328.

**82.08.0311 Exemptions—Sales of materials and supplies used in packing horticultural products.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of materials and supplies directly used in the packing of fresh perishable horticultural products by any person entitled to a deduction under RCW 82.04.4287 either as an agent or an independent contractor. [1988 c 68 § 1.]

**82.08.0315 Exemptions—Rentals or sales related to motion picture or video productions—Exceptions—Certificate.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Production equipment" means the following when used in motion picture or video production or postproduction: Grip and lighting equipment, cameras, camera mounts including tripods, jib arms, steadicams, and other camera mounts, cranes, dollies, generators, helicopter mounts, helicopters rented for motion picture or video production, walkie talkies, vans, trucks, and other vehicles specifically equipped for motion picture or video production or used solely for production activities, wardrobe and makeup trailers, special effects and stunt equipment, video assists, videotape recorders, cables and connectors, telepromoters [teleprompters], sound recording equipment, and editorial equipment.

(b) "Production services" means motion picture and video processing, printing, editing, duplicating, animation, graphics, special effects, negative cutting, conversions to other formats or media, stock footage, sound mixing, rerecording, sound sweetening, sound looping, sound effects, and automatic dialog replacement.

(c) "Motion picture or video production business" means a person engaged in the production of motion pictures and video tapes for exhibition, sale, or for broadcast by a person other than the person producing the motion picture or video tape.

(2) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the rental of production equipment, or the sale of production services, to a motion picture or video production business.

(3) The exemption provided for in this section shall not apply to rental of production equipment, or the sale of production services, to a motion picture or video production business that is engaged, to any degree, in the production of erotic material, as defined in RCW 9.68.050.

(4) In order to claim an exemption under this section, the purchaser must provide the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller shall retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files. [1997 c 61 § 1; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 5 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.0316 Exemptions—Sales of cigarettes by Indian retailers.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of cigarettes by an Indian retailer during the effective period of a cigarette tax contract subject to RCW

43.06.455 or a cigarette tax agreement under RCW 43.06.465 or 43.06.466. [2008 c 228 § 3; 2005 c 11 § 3; 2001 c 235 § 4.]

**Authorization for agreement—Effective date—2008 c 228:** See notes following RCW 43.06.466.

**Findings—Intent—Explanatory statement—Effective date—2005 c 11:** See notes following RCW 43.06.465.

**Intent—Finding—2001 c 235:** See RCW 43.06.450.

**82.08.032 Exemption—Sales, rental, or lease of used park model trailers.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to:

(1) Sales of used park model trailers, as defined in RCW 82.45.032;

(2) The renting or leasing of used park model trailers, as defined in RCW 82.45.032, when the rental agreement or lease exceeds thirty days in duration. [2001 c 282 § 3.]

**Intent—2001 c 282:** "It is the intent of the legislature to promote fairness in the application of tax. Therefore, for the purposes of excise tax, park model trailers will be taxed in the same manner as mobile homes." [2001 c 282 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.033 Exemptions—Sales of used mobile homes or rental or lease of mobile homes.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to:

(1) Sales of used mobile homes as defined in RCW 82.45.032.

(2) The renting or leasing of mobile homes if the rental agreement or lease exceeds thirty days in duration and if the rental or lease of such mobile home is not conducted jointly with the provision of short-term lodging for transients. [1986 c 211 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 266 § 3.]

**82.08.034 Exemptions—Sales of used floating homes or rental or lease of used floating homes.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to:

(1) Sales of used floating homes, as defined in RCW 82.45.032;

(2) The renting or leasing of used floating homes, as defined in RCW 82.45.032, when the rental agreement or lease exceeds thirty days in duration. [1984 c 192 § 3.]

**82.08.035 Exemption for pollution control facilities.** See chapter 82.34 RCW.

**82.08.036 Exemptions—Vehicle battery core deposits or credits—Replacement vehicle tire fees—"Core deposits or credits" defined.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to consideration: (1) Received as core deposits or credits in a retail or wholesale sale; or (2) received or collected upon the sale of a new replacement vehicle tire as a fee imposed under RCW 70.95.510. For purposes of this section, the term "core deposits or credits" means the amount representing the value of returnable products such as batteries, starters, brakes, and other products with returnable value added for the purpose of recycling or remanufacturing. [1989 c 431 § 45.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.037 Credits and refunds for bad debts.** (1) A seller is entitled to a credit or refund for sales taxes previ-

ously paid on bad debts, as that term is used in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 166, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003.

(2) For purposes of this section, "bad debts" does not include:

(a) Amounts due on property that remains in the possession of the seller until the full purchase price is paid;

(b) Expenses incurred in attempting to collect debt;

(c) Debts sold or assigned by the seller to third parties, where the third party is without recourse against the seller; and

(d) Repossessed property.

(3) If a credit or refund of sales tax is taken for a bad debt and the debt is subsequently collected in whole or in part, the tax on the amount collected must be paid and reported on the return filed for the period in which the collection is made.

(4) Payments on a previously claimed bad debt are applied first proportionally to the taxable price of the property or service and the sales or use tax thereon, and secondly to interest, service charges, and any other charges.

(5) If the seller uses a certified service provider as defined in RCW 82.32.020 to administer its sales tax responsibilities, the certified service provider may claim, on behalf of the seller, the credit or refund allowed by this section. The certified service provider must credit or refund the full amount received to the seller.

(6) The department must allow an allocation of bad debts among member states to the streamlined sales tax agreement, as defined in RCW 82.58.010(1), if the books and records of the person claiming bad debts support the allocation.

(7) A person's right to claim a credit or refund under this section is not assignable. No person other than the original seller in the transaction that generated the bad debt or, as provided in subsection (5) of this section, a certified service provider, is entitled to claim a credit or refund under this section. If the original seller in the transaction that generated the bad debt has sold or assigned the debt instrument to a third party with recourse, the original seller may claim a credit or refund under this section only after the debt instrument is reassigned by the third party to the original seller. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1502; 2007 c 6 § 102; 2004 c 153 § 302; 2003 c 168 § 212; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 35.]

**Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 1502 and 1503:** "The legislature intends with sections 1502 and 1503 of this act to supersede the holding of the supreme court of the state of Washington in *Puget Sound National Bank v. Department of Revenue*, 123 Wn.2d 284 (1994)." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1501.]

**Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 1502 and 1503:** "Sections 1502 and 1503 of this act apply to claims for credit or refund filed with the department of revenue after June 30, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1719.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Bad debts—Intent—2004 c 153 §§ 302-305:** "For the purposes of sections 302 through 305 of this act, the legislature does not intend by any provision of this act relating to bad debts, and did not intend by any provision of chapter 168, Laws of 2003 relating to bad debts, to affect the holding of the supreme court of the state of Washington in *Puget Sound National Bank v. the Department of Revenue*, 123 Wn. 2nd 284 (1994)." [2004 c 153 § 301.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.040 Consignee, factor, bailee, auctioneer deemed seller.** (1) Every consignee, bailee, factor, or auctioneer selling or calling for bids on personal property belonging to another, is deemed the seller of such personal property within the meaning of this chapter. All sales made by such persons are subject to the provisions of this chapter even though the sale would have been exempt from the tax imposed in this chapter had it been made directly by the owner of the property sold.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection (2), every consignee, bailee, factor, or auctioneer must collect and remit the amount of tax due under this chapter with respect to sales made or called by that seller.

(b) If the owner of the property sold is engaged in the business of making sales at retail in this state, the tax imposed under this chapter may be remitted by such owner under such rules as the department may adopt. [2009 c 535 § 1105; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 46; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.040. Prior: 1939 c 225 § 8; 1935 c 180 § 18; RRS § 8370-18.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.050 Buyer to pay, seller to collect tax—Statement of tax—Exception—Penalties—Contingent expiration of subsection.** (1) The tax imposed in this chapter must be paid by the buyer to the seller. Each seller must collect from the buyer the full amount of the tax payable in respect to each taxable sale in accordance with the schedule of collections adopted by the department under the provisions of RCW 82.08.060.

(2) The tax required by this chapter, to be collected by the seller, is deemed to be held in trust by the seller until paid to the department. Any seller who appropriates or converts the tax collected to the seller's own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax to the extent that the money required to be collected is not available for payment on the due date as prescribed in this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if any seller fails to collect the tax imposed in this chapter or, having collected the tax, fails to pay it to the department in the manner prescribed by this chapter, whether such failure is the result of the seller's own acts or the result of acts or conditions beyond the seller's control, the seller is, nevertheless, personally liable to the state for the amount of the tax.

(4) Sellers are not relieved from personal liability for the amount of the tax unless they maintain proper records of exempt or nontaxable transactions and provide them to the department when requested.

(5) Sellers are not relieved from personal liability for the amount of tax if they fraudulently fail to collect the tax or if they solicit purchasers to participate in an unlawful claim of exemption.

(6) Sellers are not relieved from personal liability for the amount of tax if they accept an exemption certificate from a purchaser claiming an entity-based exemption if:

(a) The subject of the transaction sought to be covered by the exemption certificate is actually received by the purchaser at a location operated by the seller in Washington; and

(b) Washington provides an exemption certificate that clearly and affirmatively indicates that the claimed exemption is not available in Washington. Graying out exemption reason types on a uniform form and posting it on the department's web site is a clear and affirmative indication that the grayed out exemptions are not available.

(7)(a) Sellers are relieved from personal liability for the amount of tax if they obtain a fully completed exemption certificate or capture the relevant data elements required under the streamlined sales and use tax agreement within ninety days, or a longer period as may be provided by rule by the department, subsequent to the date of sale.

(b) If the seller has not obtained an exemption certificate or all relevant data elements required under the streamlined sales and use tax agreement within the period allowed subsequent to the date of sale, the seller may, within one hundred twenty days, or a longer period as may be provided by rule by the department, subsequent to a request for substantiation by the department, either prove that the transaction was not subject to tax by other means or obtain a fully completed exemption certificate from the purchaser, taken in good faith.

(c) Sellers are relieved from personal liability for the amount of tax if they obtain a blanket exemption certificate for a purchaser with which the seller has a recurring business relationship. The department may not request from a seller renewal of blanket exemption certificates or updates of exemption certificate information or data elements if there is a recurring business relationship between the buyer and seller. For purposes of this subsection (7)(c), a "recurring business relationship" means at least one sale transaction within a period of twelve consecutive months.

(d) Sellers are relieved from personal liability for the amount of tax if they obtain a copy of a direct pay permit issued under RCW 82.32.087.

(8) The amount of tax, until paid by the buyer to the seller or to the department, constitutes a debt from the buyer to the seller. Any seller who fails or refuses to collect the tax as required with intent to violate the provisions of this chapter or to gain some advantage or benefit, either direct or indirect, and any buyer who refuses to pay any tax due under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(9) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the tax required by this chapter to be collected by the seller must be stated separately from the selling price in any sales invoice or other instrument of sale. On all retail sales through vending machines, the tax need not be stated separately from the selling price or collected separately from the buyer. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, for purposes of determining the tax due from the buyer to the seller and from the seller to the department it must be conclusively presumed that the selling price quoted in any price list, sales document, contract or other agreement between the parties does not include the tax imposed by this chapter. But if the seller advertises the price as including the tax or that the seller is

paying the tax, the advertised price may not be considered the selling price.

(10) Where a buyer has failed to pay to the seller the tax imposed by this chapter and the seller has not paid the amount of the tax to the department, the department may, in its discretion, proceed directly against the buyer for collection of the tax. If the department proceeds directly against the buyer for collection of the tax as authorized in this subsection, the department may add a penalty of ten percent of the unpaid tax to the amount of the tax due for failure of the buyer to pay the tax to the seller, regardless of when the tax may be collected by the department. In addition to the penalty authorized in this subsection, all of the provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW, including those relative to interest and penalties, apply. For the sole purpose of applying the various provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW, the twenty-fifth day of the month following the tax period in which the purchase was made will be considered as the due date of the tax.

(11) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (10) of this section, any person making sales is not obligated to collect the tax imposed by this chapter if:

(a) The person's activities in this state, whether conducted directly or through another person, are limited to:

- (i) The storage, dissemination, or display of advertising;
- (ii) The taking of orders; or
- (iii) The processing of payments; and

(b) The activities are conducted electronically via a web site on a server or other computer equipment located in Washington that is not owned or operated by the person making sales into this state nor owned or operated by an affiliated person. "Affiliated persons" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.424.

(12) Subsection (11) of this section expires when: (a) The United States congress grants individual states the authority to impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers; or (b) it is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, in a judgment not subject to review, that a state can impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers.

(13) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Exemption certificate" means documentation furnished by a buyer to a seller to claim an exemption from sales tax. An exemption certificate includes a reseller permit or other documentation authorized in RCW 82.04.470 furnished by a buyer to a seller to substantiate a wholesale sale; and

(b) "Seller" includes a certified service provider, as defined in RCW 82.32.020, acting as agent for the seller. [2010 c 112 § 8; 2010 c 106 § 217. Prior: 2009 c 563 § 206; 2009 c 289 § 2; 2007 c 6 § 1202; prior: 2003 c 168 § 203; 2003 c 76 § 3; 2003 c 53 § 400; 2001 c 188 § 4; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 704; 1992 c 206 § 2; 1986 c 36 § 1; 1985 c 38 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 7; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 15; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.050; prior: 1951 c 44 § 1; 1949 c 228 § 6; 1941 c 71 § 3; 1939 c 225 § 11; 1937 c 227 § 7; 1935 c 180 § 21; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-21.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

[Title 82 RCW—page 106]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Intent—2003 c 76:** See note following RCW 82.04.424.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2001 c 188:** See notes following RCW 82.32.087.

*Project on exemption reporting requirements: RCW 82.32.440.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.054 Computation of tax due.** Sellers shall compute the tax due under this chapter and chapters 82.12 and 82.14 RCW by carrying the computation to the third decimal place and rounding to a whole cent using a method that rounds up to the next cent whenever the third decimal place is greater than four. Sellers may elect to compute the tax due on a transaction on an item or an invoice basis. This rounding rule shall be applied to the aggregated state and local taxes. [2003 c 168 § 210.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.08.055 Advertisement of price.** A seller may advertise the price as including the tax or that the seller is paying the tax, subject to the following conditions:

(1) Unless the advertised price is one in a listed series, the words "tax included" are stated immediately following the advertised price and in print size at least half as large as the advertised price;

(2) If the advertised prices are listed in a series, the words "tax included in all prices" are placed conspicuously at the head of the list and in the same print size as the advertised prices;

(3) If a price is advertised as "tax included," the price listed on any price tag shall be shown in the same manner; and

(4) All advertised prices and the words "tax included" are stated in the same medium, be it oral or visual, and if oral, in substantially the same inflection and volume. [1985 c 38 § 2.]

**82.08.060 Collection of tax—Methods and schedules.**

The department of revenue shall have power to adopt rules and regulations prescribing methods and schedules for the collection of the tax required to be collected by the seller from the buyer under this chapter. The methods and schedules prescribed shall be adopted so as to eliminate the collection of fractions of one cent and so as to provide that the aggregate collections of all taxes by the seller shall, insofar as practicable, equal the amount of tax imposed by this chapter. Such schedules may provide that no tax need be collected from the buyer upon sales below a stated sum and may be amended from time to time to accomplish the purposes set forth herein. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 47; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.060. Prior: 1951 c 44 § 2; 1941 c 76 § 4; 1935 c 180 § 22; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**82.08.064 Tax rate changes.** (1) A sales and use tax rate change under this chapter or chapter 82.12 RCW shall be imposed (a) no sooner than seventy-five days after its enactment into law and (b) only on the first day of January, April, July, or October.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to the tax rate change in section 301, chapter 361, Laws of 2003.

(3)(a) A sales and use tax rate increase under this chapter or chapter 82.12 RCW imposed on services applies to the first billing period starting on or after the effective date of the increase.

(b) A sales and use tax rate decrease under this chapter or chapter 82.12 RCW imposed on services applies to bills rendered on or after the effective date of the decrease.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (3), "services" means retail services such as installing and constructing and retail services such as telecommunications, but does not include services such as tattooing. [2003 c 361 § 304; 2003 c 168 § 205; 2000 c 104 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2003 c 168 § 205 and by 2003 c 361 § 304, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 361:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2000 c 104:** See notes following RCW 82.14.055.

**82.08.066 Deemed location for mobile telecommunications services.** For the purposes of this chapter, mobile telecommunications services are deemed to have occurred at the customer's place of primary use, regardless of where the mobile telecommunications services originate, terminate, or pass through, consistent with the mobile telecommunications sourcing act, P.L. 106-252, 4 U.S.C. Secs. 116 through 126. The definitions in RCW 82.04.065 apply to this section. [2002 c 67 § 5.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**82.08.080 Vending machine and other sales.** (1) The department of revenue may authorize a seller to pay the tax levied under this chapter upon sales made under conditions of business such as to render impracticable the collection of the tax as a separate item and waive collection of the tax from the customer. Where sales are made by a vending machine that results in delivery of the merchandise in single purchases of smaller value than the minimum sale upon which a one cent tax may be collected from the purchaser, according to the schedule provided by the department under authority of RCW 82.08.060, and where the design of the sales device is such that multiple sales of items are not possible or cannot be detected so as practically to assess a tax, in such a case the selling price for the purposes of the tax imposed under RCW 82.08.020 shall be sixty percent of the gross receipts of the vending machine through which such sales are made.

(2) No such authority shall be granted except upon application to the department and unless the department, after hearing, finds that the conditions of the applicant's business

(2012 Ed.)

are such as to render impracticable the collection of the tax in the manner otherwise provided. The department, by rule, may provide that the applicant, under this section, furnish a proper bond sufficient to secure the payment of the tax.

(3) "Vending machine" means a machine or other mechanical device that accepts payment and:

(a) Dispenses tangible personal property;

(b) Provides facilities for installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, imprinting, or improving tangible personal property; or

(c) Provides a service to the buyer. [2004 c 153 § 409; 1986 c 36 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 48; 1963 c 244 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.080. Prior: 1937 c 227 § 8; 1935 c 180 § 24; RRS § 8370-24.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.090 Installment sales and leases.** In the case of installment sales and leases of personal property, the department of revenue, by regulation, may provide for the collection of taxes upon the installments of the purchase price, or amount of rental, as of the time the same fall due. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 49; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.090. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 8; 1959 c 197 § 4; prior: 1941 c 178 § 9, part; 1939 c 225 § 12, part; 1935 c 180 § 25, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-25, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.100 Cash receipts taxpayers—Bad debts.** The department of revenue, by general regulation, shall provide that a taxpayer whose regular books of account are kept on a cash receipts basis may file returns based upon his cash receipts for each reporting period and pay the tax herein provided upon such basis in lieu of reporting and paying the tax on all sales made during such period. A taxpayer filing returns on a cash receipts basis is not required to pay such tax on debt subject to credit or refund under RCW 82.08.037. [2004 c 153 § 303; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 37; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 50; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.100. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 9; 1959 c 197 § 5; prior: 1941 c 178 § 9, part; 1939 c 225 § 12, part; 1935 c 180 § 25, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-25, part.]

**Bad debts—Intent—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.037.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.110 Sales from vehicles.** In the case of a person who has no fixed place of business and sells from one or more vehicles, each such vehicle shall constitute a "place of business" within the meaning of chapter 82.32 RCW. [1961 c 15 § 82.08.110. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 26; RRS § 8370-26.]

**82.08.120 Refunding or rebating of tax by seller prohibited—Penalty.** Whoever, excepting as expressly authorized by this chapter, refunds, remits, or rebates to a buyer, either directly or indirectly and by whatever means, all or any part of the tax levied by this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. The violation of this section by any person holding a license granted by the state or any political subdivision

thereof shall be sufficient grounds for the cancellation of the license of such person upon written notification by the department of revenue to the proper officer of the department granting the license that such person has violated the provisions of this section. Before any license shall be canceled hereunder, the licensee shall be entitled to a hearing before the department granting the license under such regulations as the department may prescribe. [1985 c 38 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 51; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.120. Prior: 1939 c 225 § 13; 1935 c 180 § 27; RRS § 8370-27.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.130 Reseller's permit—Purchase and resale—**

**Rules.** (1) If a buyer normally is engaged in both consuming and reselling certain types of personal property, the retail sale of which is taxable under this chapter, and the buyer is not able to determine at the time of purchase whether the particular property acquired will be consumed or resold, the buyer may use a reseller permit or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 for the entire purchase if the buyer principally resells the property according to the general nature of the buyer's business. The buyer must account for the value of any articles purchased with a reseller permit or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 that is used by the buyer and remit the deferred sales tax on the property to the department.

(2) A buyer who pays a tax on all purchases and subsequently resells property or services at retail, without intervening use by the buyer, must collect the tax from the purchaser as otherwise provided by law and is entitled to a deduction on the buyer's tax return equal to the cost to the buyer of the property or service resold upon which retail sales tax has been paid. The deduction is allowed only if the taxpayer keeps and preserves records that include the names of the persons from whom the property or services were purchased, the date of the purchase, the type of property or services, the amount of the purchase, and the tax that was paid.

(3) The department must provide by rule for the refund or credit of retail sales tax paid by a buyer for purchases that are later resold without intervening use by the buyer or for purchases that would otherwise have met the definition of wholesale sale if the buyer had provided the seller with a reseller permit or other documentation as authorized in RCW 82.04.470.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a deduction or credit in respect to the purchase of services if the services are not of a type that can be sold at wholesale under the definition of wholesale sale in RCW 82.04.060. [2010 c 112 § 9. Prior: 2009 c 563 § 207; 2009 c 535 § 1106; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 702.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

*Reseller's permit: RCW 82.04.470 and 82.32.291.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.140 Administration.** The provisions of RCW 82.04.470 and all of the provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW

shall have full force and application with respect to taxes imposed under the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 15 § 82.08.140. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 30; RRS § 8370-30.]

**82.08.145 Delivery charges.** When computing the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020, if a shipment consists of taxable tangible personal property and nontaxable tangible personal property, and delivery charges are included in the sales price, the seller must collect and remit tax on the percentage of delivery charges allocated to the taxable tangible personal property, but does not have to collect and remit tax on the percentage allocated to exempt tangible personal property. The seller may use either of the following percentages to determine the taxable portion of the delivery charges:

(1) A percentage based on the total sales price of the taxable tangible personal property compared to the total sales price of all tangible personal property in the shipment; or

(2) A percentage based on the total weight of the taxable tangible personal property compared to the total weight of all tangible personal property in the shipment. [2007 c 6 § 801.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.08.150 Tax on certain sales of intoxicating liquors—Additional taxes for specific purposes—Collection.**

(1) There is levied and collected a tax upon each retail sale of spirits in the original package at the rate of fifteen percent of the selling price.

(2) There is levied and collected a tax upon each sale of spirits in the original package at the rate of ten percent of the selling price on sales by a spirits distributor licensee or other licensee acting as a spirits distributor pursuant to Title 66 RCW to restaurant spirits retailers.

(3) There is levied and collected an additional tax upon each sale of spirits in the original package by a spirits distributor licensee or other licensee acting as a spirits distributor pursuant to Title 66 RCW to a restaurant spirits retailer and upon each retail sale of spirits in the original package by a licensee of the board at the rate of one dollar and seventy-two cents per liter.

(4) An additional tax is imposed equal to fourteen percent multiplied by the taxes payable under subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

(5) An additional tax is imposed upon each sale of spirits in the original package by a spirits distributor licensee or other licensee acting as a spirits distributor pursuant to Title 66 RCW to a restaurant spirits retailer and upon each retail sale of spirits in the original package by a licensee of the board at the rate of seven cents per liter. All revenues collected during any month from this additional tax must be deposited in the state general fund by the twenty-fifth day of the following month.

(6)(a) An additional tax is imposed upon retail sale of spirits in the original package at the rate of three and four-tenths percent of the selling price.

(b) An additional tax is imposed upon retail sale of spirits in the original package to a restaurant spirits retailer at the rate of two and three-tenths percent of the selling price.

(c) An additional tax is imposed upon each sale of spirits in the original package by a spirits distributor licensee or

other licensee acting as a spirits distributor pursuant to Title 66 RCW to a restaurant spirits retailer and upon each retail sale of spirits in the original package by a licensee of the board at the rate of forty-one cents per liter.

(d) All revenues collected during any month from additional taxes under this subsection must be deposited in the state general fund by the twenty-fifth day of the following month.

(7)(a) An additional tax is imposed upon each retail sale of spirits in the original package at the rate of one dollar and thirty-three cents per liter.

(b) All revenues collected during any month from additional taxes under this subsection must be deposited by the twenty-fifth day of the following month into the general fund.

(8) The tax imposed in RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of spirits in the original package.

(9) The taxes imposed in this section must be paid by the buyer to the seller, and each seller must collect from the buyer the full amount of the tax payable in respect to each taxable sale under this section. The taxes required by this section to be collected by the seller must be stated separately from the selling price, and for purposes of determining the tax due from the buyer to the seller, it is conclusively presumed that the selling price quoted in any price list does not include the taxes imposed by this section. Sellers must report and return all taxes imposed in this section in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

(10) As used in this section, the terms, "spirits" and "package" have the same meaning as provided in chapter 66.04 RCW. [2012 c 2 § 106 (Initiative Measure No. 1183, approved November 8, 2011); 2009 c 479 § 65; 2005 c 514 § 201; 2003 c 167 § 11; 1998 c 126 § 16; 1997 c 321 § 55; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 903 (Referendum Bill No. 43, approved November 8, 1994); 1993 c 492 § 310; 1989 c 271 § 503; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 12; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 3; 1981 1st ex.s. c 5 § 25; 1973 1st ex.s. c 204 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 21 § 11; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 16; 1965 c 42 § 1; 1961 ex.s. c 24 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.150. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 9; 1957 c 279 § 4; 1955 c 396 § 1; 1953 c 91 § 5; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 28 § 5.]

**Finding—Application—Rules—Effective date—Contingent effective date—2012 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1183):** See notes following RCW 66.24.620.

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Effective date—2003 c 167:** See note following RCW 66.24.244.

**Report to legislature—2003 c 167:** See note following RCW 66.24.250.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.155 Spirits tax—Delinquent in reporting or remitting—Penalties—2012 c 39.** (1)(a) If the department determines that a taxpayer is more than thirty days delinquent in reporting or remitting spirits taxes on a tax return or assessed by the department, including any applicable penalties and interest on such taxes, the department may request that the liquor control board suspend the taxpayer's spirits

license or licenses and refuse to renew any existing spirits license held by the taxpayer or issue any new spirits license to the taxpayer. The department must provide written notice to the affected taxpayer of the department's request to the liquor control board.

(b) Before the department may make a request to the liquor control board as authorized in (a) of this subsection (1), the department must have provided the taxpayer with at least seven calendar days prior written notice. This notice must inform the taxpayer that the department intends to request that the liquor control board suspend the taxpayer's spirits license or licenses and refuse to renew any existing license of the taxpayer or issue any new spirits license to the taxpayer unless, within seven calendar days of the date of the notice, the taxpayer submits any unfiled tax returns for reporting spirits taxes and remits full payment of its outstanding spirits tax liability to the department or negotiates payment arrangements for the unpaid spirits taxes. The notice required by this subsection (1)(b) must include information listing any unfiled tax returns; the amount of unpaid spirits taxes, including any applicable penalties and interest; who to contact to inquire about payment arrangements; and that the taxpayer may seek administrative review by the department of the notice, and the deadline for seeking such review. Nothing in this subsection (1)(b) requires the department to enter into any payment arrangement proposed by a taxpayer if the department determines that the taxpayer's proposal is not satisfactory.

(c) The department may not make a request to the liquor control board under subsection (1)(a) of this section relating to any spirits taxes that are the subject of pending administrative review by the department.

(2) A taxpayer's right to administrative review of the notice required in subsection (1)(b) of this section:

(a) May be conducted under any rule adopted pursuant to RCW 82.01.060(4) or as a brief adjudicative proceeding under RCW 34.05.485 through 34.05.494; and

(b) Does not include the right to challenge the amount of any spirits taxes assessed by the department if the taxpayer previously sought or could have sought administrative review of the assessment as provided in RCW 82.32.160.

(3) The notices required by this section may be provided electronically in accordance with RCW 82.32.135.

(4) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Spirits license" has the same meaning as in RCW 66.24.010(3)(c); and

(b) "Spirits taxes" means the taxes imposed in RCW 82.08.150. [2012 c 39 § 1.]

**Construction—2012 c 39:** "This act must be liberally construed to effectuate the intent of the legislature to provide for the effective collection of liquor taxes imposed in RCW 82.08.150." [2012 c 39 § 9.]

**Effective date—2012 c 39:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 15, 2012]." [2012 c 39 § 11.]

**82.08.160 Remittance of tax—Liquor excise tax fund created.** (1) On or before the twenty-fifth day of each month, all taxes collected under RCW 82.08.150 during the preceding month must be remitted to the state department of revenue, to be deposited with the state treasurer. Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, upon receipt

of such moneys the state treasurer must credit sixty-five percent of the sums collected and remitted under RCW 82.08.150 (1) and (2) and one hundred percent of the sums collected and remitted under RCW 82.08.150 (3) and (4) to the state general fund and thirty-five percent of the sums collected and remitted under RCW 82.08.150 (1) and (2) to a fund which is hereby created to be known as the "liquor excise tax fund."

(2) During the 2012 fiscal year, 66.19 percent of the sums collected and remitted under RCW 82.08.150 (1) and (2) must be deposited in the state general fund and the remainder collected and remitted under RCW 82.08.150 (1) and (2) must be deposited in the liquor excise tax fund.

(3) During fiscal year 2013, all funds collected under RCW 82.08.150 (1), (2), (3), and (4) must be deposited into the state general fund. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 5 § 3; 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 969; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 4; 1981 1st ex.s. c 5 § 26; 1969 ex.s. c 21 § 12; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.160. Prior: 1955 c 396 § 2.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 5:** See note following RCW 43.135.045.

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.170 Apportionment and distribution from liquor excise tax fund.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, during the months of January, April, July, and October of each year, the state treasurer must make the transfers required under subsections (2) and (3) of this section from the liquor excise tax fund and then the apportionment and distribution of all remaining moneys in the liquor excise tax fund to the counties, cities, and towns in the following proportions: (a) Twenty percent of the moneys in the liquor excise tax fund must be divided among and distributed to the counties of the state in accordance with the provisions of RCW 66.08.200; and (b) eighty percent of the moneys in the liquor excise tax fund must be divided among and distributed to the cities and towns of the state in accordance with the provisions of RCW 66.08.210.

(2) Each fiscal quarter and prior to making the twenty percent distribution to counties under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the treasurer shall transfer to the liquor revolving fund created in RCW 66.08.170 sufficient moneys to fund the allotments from any legislative appropriations for county research and services as provided under chapter 43.110 RCW.

(3) During the months of January, April, July, and October of each year, the state treasurer must transfer two million five hundred thousand dollars from the liquor excise tax fund to the state general fund.

(4) During calendar year 2012, the October distribution under subsection (1) of this section and the July and October transfers under subsections (2) and (3) of this section must not be made. During calendar year 2013, the January, April, and July distributions under subsection (1) of this section and transfers under subsections (2) and (3) of this section must not be made. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 5 § 4; 2002 c 38 § 3; 1997 c 437 § 4; 1983 c 3 § 215; 1961 c 15 § 82.08.170. Prior: 1955 c 396 § 3.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 5:** See note following RCW 43.135.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.180 Apportionment and distribution from liquor excise tax fund—Withholding for noncompliance.** The governor may notify and direct the state treasurer to withhold the revenues to which the counties, cities, and towns are entitled under RCW 82.08.170 if the counties, cities, or towns are found to be in noncompliance pursuant to RCW 36.70A.340. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 36.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.190 Bundled transactions—Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1)(a) "Bundled transaction" means the retail sale of two or more products, except real property and services to real property, where:

(i) The products are otherwise distinct and identifiable; and

(ii) The products are sold for one nonitemized price.

(b) A bundled transaction does not include the sale of any products in which the sales price varies, or is negotiable, based on the selection by the purchaser of the products included in the transaction.

(2) "Distinct and identifiable products" does not include:

(a) Packaging such as containers, boxes, sacks, bags, and bottles, or other materials such as wrapping, labels, tags, and instruction guides, that accompany the retail sale of the products and are incidental or immaterial to the retail sale thereof. Examples of packaging that are incidental or immaterial include grocery sacks, shoeboxes, dry cleaning garment bags, and express delivery envelopes and boxes;

(b) A product provided free of charge with the required purchase of another product. A product is provided free of charge if the sales price of the product purchased does not vary depending on the inclusion of the product provided free of charge; or

(c) Items included in the definition of sales price in RCW 82.08.010.

(3) "One nonitemized price" does not include a price that is separately identified by product on binding sales or other supporting sales-related documentation made available to the customer in paper or electronic form including, but not limited to, an invoice, bill of sale, receipt, contract, service agreement, lease agreement, periodic notice of rates and services, rate card, or price list.

(4) A transaction that otherwise meets the definition of a bundled transaction is not a bundled transaction if it is:

(a) The retail sale of tangible personal property and a service where the tangible personal property is essential to the use of the service, and is provided exclusively in connection with the service, and the true object of the transaction is the service; or

(b) The retail sale of services where one service is provided that is essential to the use or receipt of a second service and the first service is provided exclusively in connection with the second service and the true object of the transaction is the second service; or

(c) A transaction that includes taxable products and nontaxable products and the purchase price or sales price of the taxable products is de minimis;

(i) As used in this subsection (4)(c), de minimis means the seller's purchase price or sales price of the taxable products is ten percent or less of the total purchase price or sales price of the bundled products;

(ii) Sellers shall use either the purchase price or the sales price of the products to determine if the taxable products are de minimis;

(iii) Sellers shall use the full term of a service contract to determine if the taxable products are de minimis; or

(d) The retail sale of exempt tangible personal property and taxable tangible personal property where:

(i) The transaction includes food and food ingredients, drugs, durable medical equipment, mobility enhancing equipment, over-the-counter drugs, prosthetic devices, all as defined in this chapter, or medical supplies; and

(ii) Where the seller's purchase price or sales price of the taxable tangible personal property is fifty percent or less of the total purchase price or sales price of the bundled tangible personal property. Sellers may not use a combination of the purchase price and sales price of the tangible personal property when making the fifty percent determination for a transaction. [2007 c 6 § 1401.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.08.195 Bundled transactions—Tax imposed.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, a bundled transaction is subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 if the retail sale of any of its component products would be subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020.

(2) The transactions described in RCW 82.08.190(4) (a) and (b) are subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 if the service that is the true object of the transaction is subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020. If the service that is the true object of the transaction is not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020, the transaction is not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020.

(3) The transaction described in RCW 82.08.190(4)(c) is not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020.

(4) The transaction described in RCW 82.08.190(4)(d) is not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020.

(5) In the case of a bundled transaction that includes any of the following: Telecommunications service, ancillary service, internet access, or audio or video programming service:

(a) If the price is attributable to products that are taxable and products that are not taxable, the portion of the price attributable to the nontaxable products are subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 unless the seller can identify by reasonable and verifiable standards the portion from its books and records that are kept in the regular course of business for other purposes including, but not limited to, nontax purposes;

(b) If the price is attributable to products that are subject to tax at different tax rates, the total price is attributable to the products subject to the tax at the highest tax rate unless the seller can identify by reasonable and verifiable standards the portion of the price attributable to the products subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 at the lower rate from its

(2012 Ed.)

books and records that are kept in the regular course of business for other purposes including, but not limited to, nontax purposes.

(6) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply in respect to a bundled transaction consisting entirely of the sale of services or of services and prepared food, if the sale is to a resident, sixty-two years of age or older, of a qualified low-income senior housing facility by the lessor or operator of the facility. A single bundled transaction involving both spouses of a marital community or both domestic partners of a domestic partnership meets the age requirement in this subsection if at least one of the spouses or domestic partners is at least sixty-two years of age. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified low-income senior housing facility" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0293.

(7) In the case of the sale of a code that provides a purchaser with the right to obtain more than one digital product or one or more digital products and other products or services, and all of the products and services, digital or otherwise, to be obtained through the use of the code do not have the same sales and use tax treatment, for purposes of the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020:

(a) The transaction is deemed to be the sale of the products and services to be obtained through the use of the code; and

(b)(i) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 applies to the entire selling price of the code, except as provided in (b)(ii) of this subsection (7).

(ii) If the seller can identify by reasonable and verifiable standards the portion of the selling price attributable to the products and services that are not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 from its books and records that are kept in the regular course of business for other purposes including, but not limited to, nontax purposes, the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to that portion of the selling price of the code attributable to the products and services that are not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 nor to that portion of the selling price of the code attributable to any digital goods, the sale of which is exempt under RCW 82.08.02087. [2010 c 111 § 601. Prior: 2009 c 535 § 801; 2009 c 483 § 3; 2007 c 6 § 1402.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 483:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

### **82.08.700 Exemptions—Vessels sold to nonresidents.**

(1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to nonresident individuals of vessels thirty feet or longer if an individual purchasing a vessel purchases and displays a valid use permit.

(2)(a) An individual claiming exemption from retail sales tax under this section must display proof of his or her current nonresident status at the time of purchase.

(b) Acceptable proof of a nonresident individual's status includes one piece of identification such as a valid driver's

license from the jurisdiction in which the out-of-state residency is claimed or a valid identification card that has a photograph of the holder and is issued by the out-of-state jurisdiction. Identification under this subsection (2)(b) must show the holder's residential address and have as one of its legal purposes the establishment of residency in that out-of-state jurisdiction.

(3) Nothing in this section requires the vessel dealer to make tax exempt retail sales to nonresidents. A dealer may choose to make sales to nonresidents, collect the sales tax, and remit the amount of sales tax collected to the state as otherwise provided by law. If the dealer chooses to make a sale to a nonresident without collecting the sales tax, the vendor must examine the proof of nonresidence, determine whether the proof is acceptable under subsection (2)(b) of this section, and maintain records for each nontaxable sale that shows the type of proof accepted, including any identification numbers where appropriate, and the expiration date, if any.

(4) A vessel dealer shall issue a use permit to a buyer if the dealer is satisfied that the buyer is a nonresident. The use permit must be in a form and manner required by the department and must include an affidavit, signed by the purchaser, declaring that the vessel will be used in a manner consistent with this section. The fee for the issuance of a use permit is five hundred dollars for vessels fifty feet in length or less and eight hundred dollars for vessels greater than fifty feet in length. Funds collected under this section and RCW 82.12.700 must be reported on the dealer's excise tax return and remitted to the department in accordance with RCW 82.32.045. The department must transmit the fees to the state treasurer to be deposited in the state general fund. The use permit must be displayed on the vessel and is valid for twelve consecutive months from the date of issuance. A use permit is not renewable. A purchaser at the time of purchase must make an irrevocable election to take the exemption authorized in this section or the exemption in either RCW 82.08.0266 or 82.08.02665. A vessel dealer must maintain a copy of the use permit for the dealer's records. Vessel dealers must provide copies of use permits issued by the dealer under this section and RCW 82.12.700 to the department on a quarterly basis.

(5) A nonresident who claims an exemption under this section and who uses a vessel in this state after his or her use permit for that vessel has expired is liable for the tax imposed under RCW 82.08.020 on the original selling price of the vessel and must pay the tax directly to the department. Interest at the rate provided in RCW 82.32.050 applies to amounts due under this subsection, retroactively to the date the vessel was purchased, and accrues until the full amount of tax due is paid to the department.

(6) Any vessel dealer who makes sales without collecting the tax to a person who does not hold valid identification establishing out-of-state residency, and any dealer who fails to maintain records of sales to nonresidents as provided in this section, is personally liable for the amount of tax due.

(7) Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of the fee imposed in this section and RCW 82.12.700.

(8) A vessel dealer that issues use permits under this section and RCW 82.12.700 must file with the department all returns in an electronic format as provided or approved by the

department. As used in this subsection, "returns" has the same meaning as "return" in RCW 82.32.050.

(a) Any return required to be filed in an electronic format under this subsection is not filed until received by the department in an electronic format provided or approved by the department.

(b) The electronic filing requirement in this subsection ends when a vessel dealer no longer issues use permits, and the dealer has electronically filed all of its returns reporting the fees collected under this section and RCW 82.12.700.

(c) The department may waive the electronic filing requirement in this subsection for good cause shown. [2010 c 106 § 219; 2007 c 22 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Effective date—2007 c 22:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 22 § 4.]

**82.08.803 Exemptions—Nebulizers.** (1) An exemption from the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 in the form of a refund is provided for sales of nebulizers, including repair, replacement, and component parts for such nebulizers, for human use pursuant to a prescription. In addition, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of nebulizers. "Nebulizer" means a device, not a building fixture, that converts a liquid medication into a mist so that it can be inhaled.

(2) Sellers shall collect tax on sales subject to this exemption. The buyer shall apply for a refund directly from the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. [2007 c 6 § 1103; 2004 c 153 § 104.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**82.08.804 Exemptions—Ostomic items.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of ostomic items used by colostomy, ileostomy, or urostomy patients. "Ostomic items" means disposable medical supplies used by colostomy, ileostomy, and urostomy patients, and includes bags, belts to hold up bags, tapes, tubes, adhesives, deodorants, soaps, jellies, creams, germicides, and other like supplies. "Ostomic items" does not include undergarments, pads and shields to protect undergarments, sponges, or rubber sheets. [2004 c 153 § 106.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**82.08.805 Exemptions—Personal property used at an aluminum smelter.** (1) A person who has paid tax under RCW 82.08.020 for personal property used at an aluminum smelter, tangible personal property that will be incorporated as an ingredient or component of buildings or other structures at an aluminum smelter, or for labor and services rendered with respect to such buildings, structures, or personal property, is eligible for an exemption from the state share of the tax in the form of a credit, as provided in this section. A person claiming an exemption must pay the tax and may then

take a credit equal to the state share of retail sales tax paid under RCW 82.08.020. The person must submit information, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, specifying the amount of qualifying purchases or acquisitions for which the exemption is claimed and the amount of exempted tax.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "aluminum smelter" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.217.

(3) A person claiming the tax preference provided in this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(4) Credits may not be claimed under this section for taxable events occurring on or after January 1, 2017. [2011 c 174 § 303. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 2 § 3; 2010 c 114 § 122; 2009 c 535 § 513; 2006 c 182 § 3; 2004 c 24 § 10.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**82.08.806 Exemptions—Sale of computer equipment parts and services to printer or publisher.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales, to a printer or publisher, of computer equipment, including repair parts and replacement parts for such equipment, when the computer equipment is used primarily in the printing or publishing of any printed material, or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the computer equipment. This exemption applies only to computer equipment not otherwise exempt under RCW 82.08.02565.

(2) A person taking the exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section. This exemption is available only when the purchaser provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) The definitions in this subsection (3) apply throughout this section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Computer" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.215.

(b) "Computer equipment" means a computer and the associated physical components that constitute a computer system, including monitors, keyboards, printers, modems, scanners, pointing devices, and other computer peripheral equipment, cables, servers, and routers. "Computer equipment" also includes digital cameras and computer software.

(c) "Computer software" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.215.

(d) "Primarily" means greater than fifty percent as measured by time.

(e) "Printer or publisher" means a person, as defined in RCW 82.04.030, who is subject to tax under RCW \*82.04.260(13) or 82.04.280(1)(a).

(4) "Computer equipment" does not include computer equipment that is used primarily for administrative purposes including but not limited to payroll processing, accounting, customer service, telemarketing, and collection. If computer

(2012 Ed.)

equipment is used simultaneously for administrative and non-administrative purposes, the administrative use must be disregarded during the period of simultaneous use for purposes of determining whether the computer equipment is used primarily for administrative purposes. [2011 c 174 § 204; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 516; 2009 c 461 § 5; 2004 c 8 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.04.260 was amended by 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), changing subsection (13) to subsection (14).

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—Contingent effective date—2009 c 461:** See note following RCW 82.04.280.

**Findings—Intent—2004 c 8:** "(1) The legislature finds that the manufacturer's machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption is vital to the continued development of economic opportunity in this state, including the development of new businesses and the expansion or modernization of existing businesses.

(2) The legislature finds that the printing and publishing industries have not been able to realize the benefits of the manufacturer's machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption to the same extent as other manufacturing industries due to dramatic changes in business methods caused by computer technology not contemplated when the manufacturer's machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption was adopted. As a result of these changes in business methods, a substantial amount of computer equipment used by printers and publishers is not eligible for the manufacturer's machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption because the computer equipment is not used within the manufacturing site.

(3) The legislature further finds that additional incentives for printers and publishers need to be adopted to provide these industries with similar benefits as the manufacturer's machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption provides for other manufacturing industries, and in recognition of the rapid rate of technological advancement in business methods undergone by the printing and publishing industries. The legislature intends to accomplish this by providing a sales and use tax exemption to printers and publishers for computer equipment, not otherwise eligible for the manufacturer's machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption, used primarily in the printing or publishing of printed material, and for labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving such computer equipment." [2004 c 8 § 1.]

**82.08.807 Exemptions—Direct mail delivery charges.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to delivery charges made for the delivery of direct mail if the charges are separately stated on an invoice or similar billing document given to the purchaser. [2005 c 514 § 115.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4272.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.08.808 Exemptions—Sales of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to comprehensive cancer centers.**

(1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials to a comprehensive cancer center. The exemption in this section does not apply to the sale of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Comprehensive cancer center" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.4265.

(b) "Chemical" means any catalyst, solvent, water, acid, oil, or other additive that physically or chemically interacts with blood, bone, or tissue.

(c) "Materials" means any item of tangible personal property, including, but not limited to, bags, packs, collecting sets, filtering materials, testing reagents, antisera, and refrigerants used or consumed in performing research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue.

(d) "Research" means basic and applied research that has as its objective the design, development, refinement, testing, marketing, or commercialization of a product, service, or process.

(e) "Medical supplies" means any item of tangible personal property, including any repair and replacement parts for such tangible personal property, used by a comprehensive cancer center for the purpose of performing research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue. The term includes tangible personal property used to:

- (i) Provide preparatory treatment of blood, bone, or tissue;
- (ii) Control, guide, measure, tune, verify, align, regulate, test, or physically support blood, bone, or tissue; and
- (iii) Protect the health and safety of employees or others present during research on, procuring, testing, processing, storing, packaging, distributing, or using blood, bone, or tissue. [2005 c 514 § 402.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514 §§ 401-403:** See note following RCW 82.04.4265.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.08.809 Exemptions—Vehicles using clean alternative fuels. (Expires January 1, 2015.)** (1)(a) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of new passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles, which are exclusively powered by a clean alternative fuel.

(b) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of qualifying used passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles, which were modified after their initial purchase, with an EPA certified conversion to be exclusively powered by a clean alternative fuel. "Qualifying used passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles" means vehicles that:

- (i) Are part of a fleet of at least five vehicles, all owned by the same person;
- (ii) Have an odometer reading of less than thirty thousand miles;
- (iii) Are less than two years past their original date of manufacture; and
- (iv) Are being sold for the first time after modification.

(2) The seller must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section.

(3) As used in this section, "clean alternative fuel" means natural gas, propane, hydrogen, or electricity, when used as a fuel in a motor vehicle that meets the California motor vehicle emission standards in Title 13 of the California code of regulations, effective January 1, 2005, and the rules of the Washington state department of ecology.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 2; 2005 c 296 § 1.]

**Effective date—2005 c 296:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2009." [2005 c 296 § 5.]

**82.08.810 Exemptions—Air pollution control facilities at a thermal electric generation facility—Exceptions—Exemption certificate—Payments on cessation of operation.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "air pollution control facilities" mean any treatment works, control devices and disposal systems, machinery, equipment, structures, property, property improvements, and accessories, that are installed or acquired for the primary purpose of reducing, controlling, or disposing of industrial waste that, if released to the outdoor atmosphere, could cause air pollution, or that are required to meet regulatory requirements applicable to their construction, installation, or operation.

(2) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to:

(a) Sales of tangible personal property to a light and power business, as defined in RCW 82.16.010, for construction or installation of air pollution control facilities at a thermal electric generation facility; or

(b) Sales of, cost of, or charges made for labor and services performed in respect to the construction or installation of air pollution control facilities.

(3) The exemption provided under this section applies only to sales, costs, or charges:

(a) Incurred for air pollution control facilities constructed or installed after May 15, 1997, and used in a thermal electric generation facility placed in operation after December 31, 1969, and before July 1, 1975;

(b) If the air pollution control facilities are constructed or installed to meet applicable regulatory requirements established under state or federal law, including the Washington clean air act, chapter 70.94 RCW; and

(c) For which the purchaser provides the seller with an exemption certificate, signed by the purchaser or purchaser's agent, that includes a description of items or services for which payment is made, the amount of the payment, and such additional information as the department reasonably may require.

(4) This section does not apply to sales of tangible personal property purchased or to sales of, costs of, or charges made for labor and services used for maintenance or repairs of pollution control equipment.

(5) If production of electricity at a thermal electric generation facility for any calendar year after 2002 and before 2023 falls below a twenty percent annual capacity factor for the generation facility, all or a portion of the tax previously exempted under this section in respect to construction or installation of air pollution control facilities at the generation facility shall be due as follows:

Year event occurs	Portion of previously exempted tax due
2003	100%
2004	95%
2005	90%
2006	85%
2007	80%
2008	75%
2009	70%
2010	65%
2011	60%
2012	55%
2013	50%

2014	45%
2015	40%
2016	35%
2017	30%
2018	25%
2019	20%
2020	15%
2021	10%
2022	5%
2023	0%

(6) RCW 82.32.393 applies to this section. [1997 c 368 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—1997 c 368:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Thermal electric generation facilities play an important role in providing jobs for residents of the communities where such plants are located; and

(b) Taxes paid by thermal electric generation facilities help to support schools and local and state government operations.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to assist thermal electric generation facilities placed in operation after December 31, 1969, and before July 1, 1975, to update their air pollution control equipment and abate pollution by extending certain tax exemptions and credits so that such plants may continue to play a long-term vital economic role in the communities where they are located." [1997 c 368 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.811 Exemptions—Coal used at coal-fired thermal electric generation facility—Application—Demonstration of progress in air pollution control—Notice of emissions violations—Reapplication—Payments on cessation of operation.** (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Air pollution control facilities" means any treatment works, control devices and disposal systems, machinery, equipment, structure, property, property improvements, and accessories, that are installed or acquired for the primary purpose of reducing, controlling, or disposing of industrial waste that, if released to the outdoor atmosphere, could cause air pollution, or that are required to meet regulatory requirements applicable to their construction, installation, or operation; and

(b) "Generation facility" means a coal-fired thermal electric generation facility placed in operation after December 3, 1969, and before July 1, 1975.

(2) Beginning January 1, 1999, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of coal used to generate electric power at a generation facility operated by a business if the following conditions are met:

(a) The owners must make an application to the department of revenue for a tax exemption;

(b) The owners must make a demonstration to the department of ecology that the owners have made reasonable initial progress to install air pollution control facilities to meet applicable regulatory requirements established under state or federal law, including the Washington clean air act, chapter 70.94 RCW;

(c) Continued progress must be made on the development of air pollution control facilities to meet the requirements of the permit; and

(d) The generation facility must emit no more than ten thousand tons of sulfur dioxide during a previous consecutive twelve-month period.

(2012 Ed.)

(3) During a consecutive twelve-month period, if the generation facility is found to be in violation of excessive sulfur dioxide emissions from a regional air pollution control authority or the department of ecology, the department of ecology shall notify the department of revenue and the owners of the generation facility shall lose their tax exemption under this section. The owners of a generation facility may reapply for the tax exemption when they have once again met the conditions of subsection (2)(d) of this section.

(4) RCW 82.32.393 applies to this section. [1997 c 368 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—Rules adoption—Severability—Effective date—1997 c 368:** See notes following RCW 82.08.810.

**82.08.815 Exemptions—Property and services related to electrification systems to power heavy duty diesel vehicles. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of machinery and equipment, or to services rendered in respect to constructing structures, installing, constructing, repairing, cleaning, decorating, altering, or improving of structures or machinery and equipment, or to sales of tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of structures or machinery and equipment, if the machinery, equipment, or structure is integral and necessary for the retail sale, lease, or rental of auxiliary power to heavy duty diesel vehicles through onboard or stand-alone electrification systems. Structures and machinery and equipment that are used for the retail sale, lease, or rental of auxiliary power to heavy duty diesel vehicles through onboard or stand-alone electrification systems are exempt only on the portion integral and necessary for providing that service.

(2) A person taking the exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.04.4338 apply.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2006 c 323 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 323:** See note following RCW 82.04.4338.

**82.08.816 Exemptions—Electric vehicle batteries and infrastructure. (Expires January 1, 2020.)** (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to:

(a) The sale of batteries for electric vehicles;

(b) The sale of or charge made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, altering, or improving electric vehicle batteries;

(c) The sale of or charge made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing, constructing, repairing, or improving electric vehicle infrastructure; and

(d) The sale of tangible personal property that will become a component of electric vehicle infrastructure during the course of installing, constructing, repairing, or improving electric vehicle infrastructure.

(2) Sellers may make tax exempt sales under this section only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certification in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Battery charging station" means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(b) "Battery exchange station" means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(c) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

(d) "Rapid charging station" means an industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster recharging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(4) This section expires January 1, 2020. [2009 c 459 § 4.]

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW 47.80.090.  
*Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW 47.80.090.*

**82.08.820 Exemptions—Remittance—Warehouse and grain elevators and distribution centers—Material-handling and racking equipment—Construction of warehouse or elevator—Information sheet—Rules—Records—Exceptions.** (1) Wholesalers or third-party warehouse owners who own or operate warehouses or grain elevators and retailers who own or operate distribution centers, and who have paid the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 on:

(a) Material-handling and racking equipment, and labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the equipment; or

(b) Construction of a warehouse or grain elevator, including materials, and including service and labor costs, are eligible for an exemption in the form of a remittance. The amount of the remittance is computed under subsection (3) of this section and is based on the state share of sales tax.

(2) For purposes of this section and RCW 82.12.820:

(a) "Agricultural products" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.213;

(b) "Construction" means the actual construction of a warehouse or grain elevator that did not exist before the construction began. "Construction" includes expansion if the expansion adds at least two hundred thousand square feet of additional space to an existing warehouse or additional storage capacity of at least one million bushels to an existing grain elevator. "Construction" does not include renovation, remodeling, or repair;

(c) "Department" means the department of revenue;

(d) "Distribution center" means a warehouse that is used exclusively by a retailer solely for the storage and distribution of finished goods to retail outlets of the retailer. "Distri-

bution center" does not include a warehouse at which retail sales occur;

(e) "Finished goods" means tangible personal property intended for sale by a retailer or wholesaler. "Finished goods" does not include agricultural products stored by wholesalers, third-party warehouses, or retailers if the storage takes place on the land of the person who produced the agricultural product. "Finished goods" does not include logs, minerals, petroleum, gas, or other extracted products stored as raw materials or in bulk;

(f) "Grain elevator" means a structure used for storage and handling of grain in bulk;

(g) "Material-handling equipment and racking equipment" means equipment in a warehouse or grain elevator that is primarily used to handle, store, organize, convey, package, or repackage finished goods. The term includes tangible personal property with a useful life of one year or more that becomes an ingredient or component of the equipment, including repair and replacement parts. The term does not include equipment in offices, lunchrooms, restrooms, and other like space, within a warehouse or grain elevator, or equipment used for nonwarehousing purposes. "Material-handling equipment" includes but is not limited to: Conveyers, carousels, lifts, positioners, pick-up-and-place units, cranes, hoists, mechanical arms, and robots; mechanized systems, including containers that are an integral part of the system, whose purpose is to lift or move tangible personal property; and automated handling, storage, and retrieval systems, including computers that control them, whose purpose is to lift or move tangible personal property; and forklifts and other off-the-road vehicles that are used to lift or move tangible personal property and that cannot be operated legally on roads and streets. "Racking equipment" includes, but is not limited to, conveying systems, chutes, shelves, racks, bins, drawers, pallets, and other containers and storage devices that form a necessary part of the storage system;

(h) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030;

(i) "Retailer" means a person who makes "sales at retail" as defined in chapter 82.04 RCW of tangible personal property;

(j) "Square footage" means the product of the two horizontal dimensions of each floor of a specific warehouse. The entire footprint of the warehouse shall be measured in calculating the square footage, including space that juts out from the building profile such as loading docks. "Square footage" does not mean the aggregate of the square footage of more than one warehouse at a location or the aggregate of the square footage of warehouses at more than one location;

(k) "Third-party warehouse" means a person taxable under RCW 82.04.280(1)(d);

(l) "Warehouse" means an enclosed building or structure in which finished goods are stored. A warehouse building or structure may have more than one storage room and more than one floor. Office space, lunchrooms, restrooms, and other space within the warehouse and necessary for the operation of the warehouse are considered part of the warehouse as are loading docks and other such space attached to the building and used for handling of finished goods. Landscaping and parking lots are not considered part of the warehouse. A storage yard is not a warehouse, nor is a building in which manufacturing takes place; and

(m) "Wholesaler" means a person who makes "sales at wholesale" as defined in chapter 82.04 RCW of tangible personal property, but "wholesaler" does not include a person who makes sales exempt under RCW 82.04.330.

(3)(a) A person claiming an exemption from state tax in the form of a remittance under this section must pay the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020. The buyer may then apply to the department for remittance of all or part of the tax paid under RCW 82.08.020. For grain elevators with bushel capacity of one million but less than two million, the remittance is equal to fifty percent of the amount of tax paid. For warehouses with square footage of two hundred thousand or more and for grain elevators with bushel capacity of two million or more, the remittance is equal to one hundred percent of the amount of tax paid for qualifying construction, materials, service, and labor, and fifty percent of the amount of tax paid for qualifying material-handling equipment and racking equipment, and labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the equipment.

(b) The department shall determine eligibility under this section based on information provided by the buyer and through audit and other administrative records. The buyer shall on a quarterly basis submit an information sheet, in a form and manner as required by the department by rule, specifying the amount of exempted tax claimed and the qualifying purchases or acquisitions for which the exemption is claimed. The buyer shall retain, in adequate detail to enable the department to determine whether the equipment or construction meets the criteria under this section: Invoices; proof of tax paid; documents describing the material-handling equipment and racking equipment; location and size of warehouses and grain elevators; and construction invoices and documents.

(c) The department shall on a quarterly basis remit exempted amounts to qualifying persons who submitted applications during the previous quarter.

(4) Warehouses, grain elevators, and material-handling equipment and racking equipment for which an exemption, credit, or deferral has been or is being received under chapter 82.60, 82.62, or 82.63 RCW or RCW 82.08.02565 or 82.12.02565 are not eligible for any remittance under this section. Warehouses and grain elevators upon which construction was initiated before May 20, 1997, are not eligible for a remittance under this section.

(5) The lessor or owner of a warehouse or grain elevator is not eligible for a remittance under this section unless the underlying ownership of the warehouse or grain elevator and the material-handling equipment and racking equipment vests exclusively in the same person, or unless the lessor by written contract agrees to pass the economic benefit of the remittance to the lessee in the form of reduced rent payments. [2011 c 174 § 206; (2011 c 174 § 205 expired July 1, 2012); 2006 c 354 § 12; (2006 c 354 § 11 expired July 1, 2012); 2005 c 513 § 11; 1997 c 450 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 c 174 § 206:** "Section 206 of this act takes effect July 1, 2012." [2011 c 174 § 501.]

**Expiration date—2011 c 174 § 205:** "Section 205 of this act expires July 1, 2012." [2011 c 174 § 502.]

**Expiration date—2006 c 354 § 11:** "Section 11 of this act expires July 1, 2012." [2006 c 354 § 20.]

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Findings—Intent—1997 c 450:** "The legislature finds that the state's overall economic health and prosperity is bolstered through tax incentives targeted to specific industries. The warehouse and distribution industry is critical to other businesses. The transportation sector, the retail sector, the ports, and the wholesalers all rely on the warehouse and distribution industry. It is the intent of the legislature to stimulate interstate trade by providing tax incentives to those persons in the warehouse and distribution industry engaged in highly competitive trade." [1997 c 450 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.825 Exemptions—Property and services that enable heavy duty diesel vehicles to operate with onboard electrification systems. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of, and labor and services rendered in respect to, tangible personal property installed on a heavy duty diesel vehicle if the property enables the vehicle to operate, while parked, through the use of an onboard electrification system. Only parts and other components that are specific to enabling a heavy duty diesel vehicle to operate, while parked, with an onboard electrification system are exempt under this section.

(2) A person taking the exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.04.4338 apply.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2006 c 323 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 323:** See note following RCW 82.04.4338.

**82.08.830 Exemptions—Sales at camp or conference center by nonprofit organization.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to a sale made at a camp or conference center if the gross income from the sale is exempt under RCW 82.04.363. [1997 c 388 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.832 Exemptions—Sales of gun safes.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of gun safes.

(2) As used in this section and RCW 82.12.832, "gun safe" means an enclosure specifically designed or modified for the purpose of storing a firearm and equipped with a padlock, key lock, combination lock, or similar locking device which, when locked, prevents the unauthorized use of the firearm. [1998 c 178 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.834 Exemptions—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to lease amounts paid by a seller/lessee to a lessor under a sale/leaseback agreement under RCW 81.112.300 in respect to tangible personal property, used by the seller/lessee, or to the purchase amount paid by the lessee pursuant to an option to purchase at the end of the lease term, but only if the seller/lessee previously paid any tax otherwise due under this chapter or chapter 82.12 RCW at the time of acquisition of the tangible personal property. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 21.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**82.08.850 Exemptions—Conifer seed.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of conifer seed that is immediately placed into freezer storage operated by the seller and is: (a) Used for growing timber outside Washington; or (b) sold to an Indian tribe or member and is to be used for growing timber in Indian country. This section applies only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller shall retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files. For the purposes of this section, "Indian country" has the meaning given in RCW 82.24.010.

(2) If a buyer of conifer seed is normally engaged in growing timber both within and outside Washington and is not able to determine at the time of purchase whether the seed acquired, or the seedlings germinated from the seed acquired, will be used for growing timber within or outside Washington, the buyer may defer payment of the sales tax until it is determined that the seed, or seedlings germinated from the seed, will be planted for growing timber in Washington. A buyer that does not pay sales tax on the purchase of conifer seed and subsequently determines that the sale did not qualify for the tax exemption must remit to the department the amount of sales tax that would have been paid at the time of purchase.

(3) A buyer who pays retail sales tax on the purchase of conifer seed and subsequently determines that the sale qualifies for the tax exemption provided in this section is entitled to a deduction on the buyer's tax return equal to the cost to the buyer of the purchased seed. The deduction is allowed only if the buyer keeps and preserves records that show from whom the seed was purchased, the date of the purchase, the amount of the purchase, and the tax that was paid. [2001 c 129 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2001 c 129:** "The legislature finds that in-state sellers of conifer seed and persons growing customer-owned conifer seed into seedlings are placed at a marketplace disadvantage compared to persons doing the same activity out of state because of the unique storage and growing requirements of conifer seed. It is the intent of the legislature to eliminate this disadvantage by providing a limited sales tax exemption for the sale of conifer seed to be used to grow timber outside Washington, or sold to an Indian tribe or member to grow timber in Indian country, if upon sale the seed is immediately placed into freezer storage operated by the seller." [2001 c 129 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.855 Exemptions—Replacement parts for qualifying farm machinery and equipment.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale to an eligible farmer of:

(a) Replacement parts for qualifying farm machinery and equipment;

(b) Labor and services rendered in respect to the installing of replacement parts; and

(c) Labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing of qualifying farm machinery and equipment, provided that during the course of repairing no tangible personal property is installed, incorporated, or placed in, or becomes an ingredient or component of, the qualifying farm machinery and equipment other than replacement parts.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this chapter, if a single transaction involves services that are not exempt under this section and services that would be exempt under this section if provided separately, the exemptions pro-

vided in subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this section apply if: (i) The seller makes a separately itemized charge for labor and services described in subsection (1)(b) or (c) of this section; and (ii) the separately itemized charge does not exceed the seller's usual and customary charge for such services.

(b) If the requirements in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (2) are met, the exemption provided in subsection (1)(b) or (c) of this section applies to the separately itemized charge for labor and services described in subsection (1)(b) or (c) of this section.

(3)(a) A person claiming an exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section. An exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate issued by the department containing such information as the department requires. The exemption certificate shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller shall retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(b) The department shall provide an exemption certificate to an eligible farmer or renew an exemption certificate, upon application by that eligible farmer. The application must be in a form and manner prescribed by the department and shall contain the following information as required by the department:

(i) The name and address of the applicant;

(ii) The uniform business identifier or tax reporting account number of the applicant, if the applicant is required to be registered with the department;

(iii) The type of farming engaged in;

(iv) Either a copy of the applicant's information as provided in (b)(iv)(A) of this subsection or a declaration as provided in (b)(iv)(B) of this subsection, as elected by the applicant:

(A) A copy of the applicant's Schedule F of Form 1040, Form 1120, or other applicable form filed with the internal revenue service indicating the applicant's gross sales or harvested value of agricultural products for the tax year covered by the return. If the applicant has not filed a federal income tax return for the prior tax year or is not required to file a federal income tax return, the applicant shall provide copies of other documents establishing the amount of the applicant's gross sales or harvested value of agricultural products for the tax year immediately preceding the year in which an application for exemption under this section is submitted to the department;

(B) A declaration signed under penalty of perjury as provided in RCW 9A.72.085 that the applicant is an eligible farmer as defined in subsection (4)(b) of this section. Any person who knowingly makes a materially false statement on an application submitted to the department under the provisions of this section shall be guilty of perjury in the second degree under chapter 9A.72 RCW. In addition, the person is liable for payment of any taxes for which an exemption under this section was claimed, with interest at the rate provided for delinquent taxes, retroactively to the date the exemption was claimed, and penalties as provided under chapter 82.32 RCW;

(v) The name of the individual authorized to sign the certificate, printed in a legible fashion;

(vi) The signature of the authorized individual; and

(vii) Other information the department may require to verify the applicant's eligibility for the exemption.

(c)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this section, exemption certificates take effect on the date issued by the department are not transferable and are valid for the remainder of the calendar year in which the certificate is issued and the following four calendar years. The department shall attempt to notify holders of exemption certificates of the impending expiration of the certificate at least sixty days before the certificate expires and shall provide an application for renewal of the certificate.

(ii) When a certificate holder merely changes identity or form of ownership of an entity and there is no change in beneficial ownership, the exemption certificate shall be transferred to the new entity upon written notice to the department by the transferor or transferee.

(d)(i) A person who is an eligible farmer as defined in subsection (4)(b)(iii) of this section shall be issued a conditional exemption certificate. The exemption certificate is conditioned upon:

(A) The eligible farmer having gross sales or a harvested value of agricultural products grown, raised, or produced by that person of at least ten thousand dollars in the first full tax year in which the person engages in business as a farmer; or

(B) The eligible farmer, during the first full tax year in which that person engages in business as a farmer, growing, raising, or producing agricultural products having an estimated value at any time during that year of at least ten thousand dollars, if the person will not sell or harvest an agricultural product during the first full tax year in which the person engages in business as a farmer.

(ii) If a person fails to meet the condition provided in (d)(i)(A) or (B) of this subsection, the department shall revoke the exemption certificate. The department shall notify the person in writing of the revocation and the person's responsibility, and due date, for payment of any taxes for which an exemption under this section was claimed. Any taxes for which an exemption under this section was claimed shall be due and payable within thirty days of the date of the notice revoking the certificate. The department shall assess interest on the taxes for which the exemption was claimed. Interest shall be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, retroactively to the date the exemption was claimed, and shall accrue until the taxes for which the exemption was claimed are paid. Penalties shall not be imposed on any tax required to be paid under this subsection (3)(d)(ii) if full payment is received by the due date. Nothing in this subsection (3)(d) prohibits a person from reapplying for an exemption certificate.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section.

(a) "Agricultural products" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.213.

(b) "Eligible farmer" means:

(i) A farmer as defined in RCW 82.04.213 whose gross sales or harvested value of agricultural products grown, raised, or produced by that person is at least ten thousand dollars for the tax year immediately preceding the year in which an application for exemption under this section is submitted to the department;

(ii) The transferee of an exemption certificate under subsection (3)(c)(ii) of this section where the transferred certificate expires before the transferee engages in farming operations for a full tax year, if the combined gross sales or harvested value of agricultural products that the transferor and transferee have grown, raised, or produced meet the requirements of (b)(i) of this subsection;

(iii) A farmer as defined in RCW 82.04.213, who does not meet the definition of "eligible farmer" in (b)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, and who did not engage in farming for the entire tax year immediately preceding the year in which application for exemption under this section is submitted to the department, because the farmer is either new to farming or newly returned to farming; or

(iv) Anyone who otherwise meets the definition of "eligible farmer" in this subsection except that they are not a "person" as defined in RCW 82.04.030.

(c) "Farm vehicle" has the same meaning as in RCW 46.04.181.

(d) "Harvested value" means the number of units of the agricultural product that were grown, raised, or produced, multiplied by the average sales price of the agricultural product. For purposes of this subsection (4)(d), "average sales price" means the average price per unit of agricultural product received by farmers in this state as reported by the United States department of agriculture's national agricultural statistics service for the twelve-month period that coincides with, or that ends closest to, the end of the relevant tax year, regardless of whether the prices are subject to revision. If the price per unit of an agricultural product received by farmers in this state is not available from the national agricultural statistics service, average sales price may be determined by using the average price per unit of agricultural product received by farmers in this state as reported by a recognized authority for the agricultural product.

(e) "Qualifying farm machinery and equipment" means machinery and equipment used primarily by an eligible farmer for growing, raising, or producing agricultural products. "Qualifying farm machinery and equipment" does not include:

(i) Vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.670, other than farm tractors as defined in RCW 46.04.180, farm vehicles, and other farm implements. For purposes of this subsection (4)(e)(i), "farm implement" means machinery or equipment manufactured, designed, or reconstructed for agricultural purposes and used primarily by an eligible farmer to grow, raise, or produce agricultural products, but does not include lawn tractors and all-terrain vehicles;

(ii) Aircraft;

(iii) Hand tools and hand-powered tools; and

(iv) Property with a useful life of less than one year.

(f)(i) "Replacement parts" means those parts that replace an existing part, or which are essential to maintain the working condition, of a piece of qualifying farm machinery or equipment.

(ii) Paint, fuel, oil, hydraulic fluids, antifreeze, and similar items are not replacement parts except when installed, incorporated, or placed in qualifying farm machinery and equipment during the course of installing replacement parts as defined in (f)(i) of this subsection or making repairs as described in subsection (1)(c) of this section.

(g) "Tax year" means the period for which a person files its federal income tax return, irrespective of whether the period represents a calendar year, fiscal year, or some other consecutive twelve-month period. If a person is not required to file a federal income tax return, "tax year" means a calendar year. [2007 c 332 § 1; 2006 c 172 § 1.]

**Effective date—2006 c 172:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 172 § 3.]

**82.08.865 Exemptions—Diesel, biodiesel, and aircraft fuel for farm fuel users.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of diesel fuel, biodiesel fuel, or aircraft fuel, to a farm fuel user for agricultural purposes. This exemption applies to a fuel blend if all of the component fuels of the blend would otherwise be exempt under this subsection if the component fuels were sold as separate products. This exemption is available only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.04.213 and this subsection apply to this section.

(a)(i) "Agricultural purposes" means the performance of activities directly related to the growing, raising, or producing of agricultural products.

(ii) "Agricultural purposes" does not include: (A) Heating space for human habitation or water for human consumption; or (B) transporting on public roads individuals, agricultural products, farm machinery or equipment, or other tangible personal property, except when the transportation is incidental to transportation on private property and the fuel used for such transportation is not subject to tax under chapter 82.38 RCW.

(b) "Aircraft fuel" is defined as provided in RCW 82.42.010.

(c) "Biodiesel fuel" is defined as provided in RCW 19.112.010.

(d) "Diesel fuel" is defined as provided in 26 U.S.C. 4083, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2006.

(e) "Farm fuel user" means: (i) A farmer; or (ii) a person who provides horticultural services for farmers, such as soil preparation services, crop cultivation services, and crop harvesting services. [2010 c 106 § 218; 2007 c 443 § 1; 2006 c 7 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Effective date—2007 c 443:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 11, 2007]." [2007 c 443 § 3.]

**Effective date—2006 c 7:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 6, 2006]." [2006 c 7 § 3.]

*Additional sales tax exemption for motor vehicle and special fuel: RCW 82.08.0255.*

**82.08.870 Exemptions—Motorcycles for training programs.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of motorcycles purchased for use in a motorcycle operator training and education program created under RCW 46.20.520. [2001 c 285 § 2.]

**82.08.880 Exemptions—Animal pharmaceuticals.**

(1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to farmers or to veterinarians of animal pharmaceuticals approved by the United States department of agriculture or by the United States food and drug administration, if the pharmaceutical is to be administered to an animal that is raised by a farmer for the purpose of producing for sale an agricultural product.

(2) The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) For the purposes of this section and RCW 82.12.880, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Farmer" and "agricultural product" mean the same as in RCW 82.04.213.

(b) "Veterinarian" means a person who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine, surgery, or dentistry under chapter 18.92 RCW. [2001 2nd sp.s. c 17 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.890 Exemptions—Qualifying livestock nutrient management equipment and facilities.**

(1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to eligible persons of:

(a) Qualifying livestock nutrient management equipment;

(b) Labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving qualifying livestock nutrient management equipment; and

(c)(i) Labor and services rendered in respect to repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities, or to tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities in the course of repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of such facilities.

(ii) The exemption provided in this subsection (1)(c) does not apply to the sale of or charge made for: (A) Labor and services rendered in respect to the constructing of new, or replacing previously existing, qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities; or (B) tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities during the course of constructing new, or replacing previously existing, qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities.

(2) The exemption provided in subsection (1) of this section applies to sales made after the livestock nutrient management plan is: (a) Certified under chapter 90.64 RCW; (b) approved as part of the permit issued under chapter 90.48 RCW; or (c) approved as required under subsection (4)(c)(iii) of this section.

(3)(a) The department of revenue must provide an exemption certificate to an eligible person upon application by that person. The department of agriculture must provide a list of eligible persons, as defined in subsection (4)(c)(i) and (ii) of this section, to the department of revenue. Conservation districts must maintain lists of eligible persons as defined in subsection (4)(c)(iii) of this section to allow the department of revenue to verify eligibility. The application must be in a form and manner prescribed by the department and must contain information regarding the location of the dairy or ani-

mal feeding operation and other information the department may require.

(b) A person claiming an exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section. The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section and RCW 82.12.890 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Animal feeding operation" means a lot or facility, other than an aquatic animal production facility, where the following conditions are met:

(i) Animals, other than aquatic animals, have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of forty-five days or more in any twelve-month period; and

(ii) Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or postharvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

(b) "Conservation district" means a subdivision of state government organized under chapter 89.08 RCW.

(c) "Eligible person" means a person: (i) Licensed to produce milk under chapter 15.36 RCW who has a certified dairy nutrient management plan, as required by chapter 90.64 RCW; (ii) who owns an animal feeding operation and has a permit issued under chapter 90.48 RCW; or (iii) who owns an animal feeding operation and has a nutrient management plan approved by a conservation district as meeting natural resource conservation service field office technical guide standards and who possesses an exemption certificate under RCW 82.08.855.

(d) "Handling and treatment of livestock manure" means the activities of collecting, storing, moving, or transporting livestock manure, separating livestock manure solids from liquids, or applying livestock manure to the agricultural lands of an eligible person other than through the use of pivot or linear type traveling irrigation systems.

(e) "Permit" means either a state waste discharge permit or a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit, or both.

(f) "Qualifying livestock nutrient management equipment" means the following tangible personal property for exclusive use in the handling and treatment of livestock manure, including repair and replacement parts for such equipment: (i) Aerators; (ii) agitators; (iii) augers; (iv) conveyers; (v) gutter cleaners; (vi) hard-hose reel traveler irrigation systems; (vii) lagoon and pond liners and floating covers; (viii) loaders; (ix) manure composting devices; (x) manure spreaders; (xi) manure tank wagons; (xii) manure vacuum tanks; (xiii) poultry house cleaners; (xiv) poultry house flame sterilizers; (xv) poultry house washers; (xvi) poultry litter saver machines; (xvii) pipes; (xviii) pumps; (xix) scrapers; (xx) separators; (xxi) slurry injectors and hoses; and (xxii) wheelbarrows, shovels, and pitchforks.

(g) "Qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities" means the following structures and facilities for exclusive use in the handling and treatment of livestock manure: (i) Flush systems; (ii) lagoons; (iii) liquid livestock manure storage structures, such as concrete tanks or glass-lined steel

tanks; and (iv) structures used solely for the dry storage of manure, including roofed stacking facilities.

(5) The exemption under this section does not apply to sales made from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 601; 2009 c 469 § 601; 2006 c 151 § 2; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 107, 601, 602, 702, 902, 1202, and 1401-1405:** See note following RCW 82.04.2907.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Effective date—2006 c 151:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 151 § 7.]

**Intent—2001 2nd sp.s. c 18:** "It is the intent of the legislature to provide tax exemptions to assist dairy farmers to comply with the dairy nutrient management act, chapter 90.64 RCW, to encourage owners of nondairy animal feeding operations to develop and implement approved nutrient management plans, and to assist public or private entities to establish and operate anaerobic digesters to treat livestock nutrients on a regional or on-farm basis." [2006 c 151 § 1; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.08.900 Exemptions—Anaerobic digesters.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to an eligible person establishing or operating an anaerobic digester or to services rendered in respect to installing, constructing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving an anaerobic digester, or to sales of tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of the anaerobic digester. The anaerobic digester must be used primarily to treat livestock manure.

(2)(a) The department of revenue must provide an exemption certificate to an eligible person upon application by that person. The application must be in a form and manner prescribed by the department and must contain information regarding the location of the facility and other information as the department may require.

(b) A person claiming an exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section. The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section and RCW 82.12.900 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Anaerobic digester" means a facility that processes manure from livestock into biogas and dried manure using microorganisms in a decomposition process within a closed, oxygen-free container.

(b) "Eligible person" means any person establishing or operating an anaerobic digester to treat primarily livestock manure.

(c) "Primarily" means more than fifty percent measured by volume or weight. [2006 c 151 § 4; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 4.]

**Effective date—Conservation commission—Report to legislature—2006 c 151:** See notes following RCW 82.08.890.

**Intent—Effective date—2001 2nd sp.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 82.08.890.

**82.08.910 Exemptions—Propane or natural gas to heat chicken structures.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to farmers of propane or natural gas used to heat structures used to house chickens. The propane or natural gas must be used exclusively to heat the structures. The structures must be used exclusively to house chickens that are sold as agricultural products.

(2) The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section and RCW 82.12.910.

(a) "Structures" means barns, sheds, and other similar buildings in which chickens are housed.

(b) "Farmer" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.213.

(c) "Agricultural product" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.213. [2001 2nd sp.s. c 25 § 3.]

**Purpose—Intent—Part headings not law—2001 2nd sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 82.04.260.

**82.08.920 Exemptions—Chicken bedding materials.**

(1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales to a farmer of bedding materials used to accumulate and facilitate the removal of chicken manure. The farmer must be raising chickens that are sold as agricultural products.

(2) The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section and RCW 82.12.920.

(a) "Bedding materials" means wood shavings, straw, sawdust, shredded paper, and other similar materials.

(b) "Farmer" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.213.

(c) "Agricultural product" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.213. [2001 2nd sp.s. c 25 § 5.]

**Purpose—Intent—Part headings not law—2001 2nd sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 82.04.260.

**82.08.925 Exemptions—Dietary supplements.**

The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of dietary supplements for human use dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription. "Dietary supplement" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0293. [2003 c 168 § 302.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.08.935 Exemptions—Disposable devices used to deliver prescription drugs for human use.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of disposable devices used or to be used to deliver drugs for human use, pursuant to a prescription. "Disposable devices used to deliver drugs" means single use items such as syringes, tubing, or catheters. [2003 c 168 § 404.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

[Title 82 RCW—page 122]

**82.08.940 Exemptions—Over-the-counter drugs for human use.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of over-the-counter drugs for human use dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription. "Over-the-counter drug" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0281. [2003 c 168 § 405.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.08.945 Exemptions—Kidney dialysis devices.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of kidney dialysis devices, including repair and replacement parts, for human use pursuant to a prescription. In addition, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of kidney dialysis devices. [2004 c 153 § 110; 2003 c 168 § 410.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.08.950 Exemptions—Steam, electricity, electrical energy.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of steam, electricity, or electrical energy. [2003 c 168 § 703.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.08.955 Exemptions—Sales of machinery, equipment, vehicles, and services related to biodiesel blend or E85 motor fuel. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of machinery and equipment, or to services rendered in respect to constructing structures, installing, constructing, repairing, cleaning, decorating, altering, or improving of structures or machinery and equipment, or to sales of tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of structures or machinery and equipment, if the machinery, equipment, or structure is used directly for the retail sale of a biodiesel blend or E85 motor fuel. Structures and machinery and equipment that are used for the retail sale of a biodiesel blend or E85 motor fuel and for other purposes are exempt only on the portion used directly for the retail sale of a biodiesel blend or E85 motor fuel.

(2) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of fuel delivery vehicles or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the vehicles including repair parts and replacement parts if at least seventy-five percent of the fuel distributed by the vehicles is a biodiesel blend or E85 motor fuel.

(3) A person taking the exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section. The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller shall retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.04.4334 and this subsection apply.

(a) "Biodiesel blend" means fuel that contains at least twenty percent biodiesel fuel by volume.

(2012 Ed.)

(b) "E85 motor fuel" means an alternative fuel that is a blend of ethanol and hydrocarbon of which the ethanol portion is nominally seventy-five to eighty-five percent denatured fuel ethanol by volume that complies with the most recent version of American society of testing and materials specification D 5798.

(c) "Machinery and equipment" means industrial fixtures, devices, and support facilities and tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component thereof, including repair parts and replacement parts that are integral and necessary for the delivery of biodiesel blends or E85 motor fuel into the fuel tank of a motor vehicle.

(5) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2007 c 309 § 4; 2003 c 63 § 2.]

**Effective date—2003 c 63:** See note following RCW 82.04.4334.

**82.08.956 Exemptions—Hog fuel used to generate electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel. (Expires June 30, 2013.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of hog fuel used to produce electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel. This exemption is available only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions apply:

(a) "Hog fuel" means wood waste and other wood residuals including forest derived biomass. "Hog fuel" does not include firewood or wood pellets; and

(b) "Biofuel" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 43.325.010.

(3) This section expires June 30, 2013. [2009 c 469 § 301.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.08.957 Exemptions—Forest derived biomass. (Expires June 30, 2013.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of forest derived biomass used to produce electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel. This exemption is available only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(2) For purposes of this section, "biofuel" is defined in RCW 43.325.010.

(3) This section expires June 30, 2013. [2009 c 469 § 402.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.08.962 Exemptions—Sales of machinery and equipment used in generating electricity. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1)(a) Except as provided in RCW 82.08.963, purchasers who have paid the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 on machinery and equipment used directly in generating electricity using fuel cells, wind, sun, biomass energy, tidal or wave energy, geothermal resources, anaerobic digestion, technology that converts otherwise lost energy from exhaust, or landfill gas as the principal source of power, or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing such machinery and equipment, are eligible for an exemption as provided in this section, but only if the pur-

chaser develops with such machinery, equipment, and labor a facility capable of generating not less than one thousand watts of electricity.

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011, the tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to the sale of machinery and equipment described in (a) of this subsection that are used directly in generating electricity or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing such machinery and equipment.

(c) Beginning on July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013, the amount of the exemption under this subsection (1) is equal to seventy-five percent of the state and local sales tax paid. The purchaser is eligible for an exemption under this subsection (1)(c) in the form of a remittance.

(2) For purposes of this section and RCW 82.12.962, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Biomass energy" includes: (i) By-products of pulping and wood manufacturing process; (ii) animal waste; (iii) solid organic fuels from wood; (iv) forest or field residues; (v) wooden demolition or construction debris; (vi) food waste; (vii) liquors derived from algae and other sources; (viii) dedicated energy crops; (ix) biosolids; and (x) yard waste. "Biomass energy" does not include wood pieces that have been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol, or copper-chrome-arsenic; wood from old growth forests; or municipal solid waste.

(b) "Fuel cell" means an electrochemical reaction that generates electricity by combining atoms of hydrogen and oxygen in the presence of a catalyst.

(c) "Landfill gas" means biomass fuel, of the type qualified for federal tax credits under Title 26 U.S.C. Sec. 29 of the federal internal revenue code, collected from a "landfill" as defined under RCW 70.95.030.

(d)(i) "Machinery and equipment" means fixtures, devices, and support facilities that are integral and necessary to the generation of electricity using fuel cells, wind, sun, biomass energy, tidal or wave energy, geothermal resources, anaerobic digestion, technology that converts otherwise lost energy from exhaust, or landfill gas as the principal source of power.

(ii) "Machinery and equipment" does not include: (A) Hand-powered tools; (B) property with a useful life of less than one year; (C) repair parts required to restore machinery and equipment to normal working order; (D) replacement parts that do not increase productivity, improve efficiency, or extend the useful life of machinery and equipment; (E) buildings; or (F) building fixtures that are not integral and necessary to the generation of electricity that are permanently affixed to and become a physical part of a building.

(3)(a) Machinery and equipment is "used directly" in generating electricity by wind energy, solar energy, biomass energy, tidal or wave energy, geothermal resources, anaerobic digestion, technology that converts otherwise lost energy from exhaust, or landfill gas power if it provides any part of the process that captures the energy of the wind, sun, biomass energy, tidal or wave energy, geothermal resources, anaerobic digestion, technology that converts otherwise lost energy from exhaust, or landfill gas, converts that energy to electricity, and stores, transforms, or transmits that electricity for entry into or operation in parallel with electric transmission and distribution systems.

(b) Machinery and equipment is "used directly" in generating electricity by fuel cells if it provides any part of the process that captures the energy of the fuel, converts that energy to electricity, and stores, transforms, or transmits that electricity for entry into or operation in parallel with electric transmission and distribution systems.

(4)(a) A purchaser claiming an exemption in the form of a remittance under subsection (1)(c) of this section must pay the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 and all applicable local sales taxes imposed under the authority of chapters 82.14 and 81.104 RCW. The purchaser may then apply to the department for remittance in a form and manner prescribed by the department. A purchaser may not apply for a remittance under this section more frequently than once per quarter. The purchaser must specify the amount of exempted tax claimed and the qualifying purchases for which the exemption is claimed. The purchaser must retain, in adequate detail, records to enable the department to determine whether the purchaser is entitled to an exemption under this section, including: Invoices; proof of tax paid; and documents describing the machinery and equipment.

(b) The department must determine eligibility under this section based on the information provided by the purchaser, which is subject to audit verification by the department. The department must on a quarterly basis remit exempted amounts to qualifying purchasers who submitted applications during the previous quarter.

(5) This section expires July 1, 2013. [2009 c 469 § 101.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** "Except for sections 801 and 802 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2009." [2009 c 469 § 902.]

**82.08.963 Exemptions—Sales of machinery and equipment using solar energy to generate electricity. (Expires June 30, 2013.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of machinery and equipment used directly in generating electricity using solar energy, or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing such machinery and equipment, but only if the purchaser develops with such machinery, equipment, and labor a facility capable of generating not more than ten kilowatts of electricity and provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(2) For purposes of this section and RCW 82.12.963:

(a) "Machinery and equipment" means industrial fixtures, devices, and support facilities that are integral and necessary to the generation of electricity using solar energy;

(b) "Machinery and equipment" does not include: (i) Hand-powered tools; (ii) property with a useful life of less than one year; (iii) repair parts required to restore machinery and equipment to normal working order; (iv) replacement parts that do not increase productivity, improve efficiency, or extend the useful life of machinery and equipment; (v) buildings; or (vi) building fixtures that are not integral and necessary to the generation of electricity that are permanently affixed to and become a physical part of a building; and

(c) Machinery and equipment is "used directly" in generating electricity with solar energy if it provides any part of the process that captures the energy of the sun, converts that energy to electricity, and stores, transforms, or transmits that electricity for entry into or operation in parallel with electric transmission and distribution systems.

(3) This section expires June 30, 2013. [2009 c 469 § 103.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.08.965 Exemptions—Semiconductor materials manufacturing. (Contingent effective date; contingent expiration date.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to the constructing of new buildings used for the manufacturing of semiconductor materials, to sales of tangible personal property that will be incorporated as an ingredient or component of such buildings during the course of the constructing, or to labor and services rendered in respect to installing, during the course of constructing, building fixtures not otherwise eligible for the exemption under RCW 82.08.02565(2)(b). The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(2) To be eligible under this section the manufacturer or processor for hire must meet the following requirements for an eight-year period, such period beginning the day the new building commences commercial production, or a portion of tax otherwise due will be immediately due and payable pursuant to subsection (3) of this section:

(a) The manufacturer or processor for hire must maintain at least seventy-five percent of full employment at the new building for which the exemption under this section is claimed.

(b) Before commencing commercial production at a new facility the manufacturer or processor for hire must meet with the department to review projected employment levels in the new buildings. The department, using information provided by the taxpayer, must make a determination of the number of positions that would be filled at full employment. This number must be used throughout the eight-year period to determine whether any tax is to be repaid. This information is not subject to the confidentiality provisions of RCW 82.32.330 and may be disclosed to the public upon request.

(c) In those situations where a production building in existence on \*the effective date of this section will be phased out of operation during which time employment at the new building at the same site is increased, the manufacturer or processor for hire must maintain seventy-five percent of full employment at the manufacturing site overall.

(d) No application is necessary for the tax exemption. The person is subject to all the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW. A person claiming the exemption under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(3) If the employment requirement is not met for any one calendar year, one-eighth of the exempt sales and use taxes will be due and payable by April 1st of the following year. The department must assess interest to the date the tax was

imposed, but not penalties, on the taxes for which the person is not eligible.

(4) The exemption applies to new buildings, or parts of buildings, that are used exclusively in the manufacturing of semiconductor materials, including the storage of raw materials and finished product.

(5) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Commencement of commercial production" is deemed to have occurred when the equipment and process qualifications in the new building are completed and production for sale has begun; and

(b) "Full employment" is the number of positions required for full capacity production at the new building, for positions such as line workers, engineers, and technicians.

(c) "Semiconductor materials" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.240(2).

(6) No exemption may be taken after twelve years after \*the effective date of this act, however all of the eligibility criteria and limitations are applicable to any exemptions claimed before that date.

(7) This section expires twelve years after \*the effective date of this act. [2010 c 114 § 123; 2003 c 149 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

**\*Contingent effective date—2010 c 114:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** See note following RCW 82.04.426.

**82.08.9651 Exemptions—Gases and chemicals used in production of semiconductor materials. (Expires December 1, 2018.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of gases and chemicals used by a manufacturer or processor for hire in the production of semiconductor materials. This exemption is limited to gases and chemicals used in the production process to grow the product, deposit or grow permanent or sacrificial layers on the product, to etch or remove material from the product, to anneal the product, to immerse the product, to clean the product, and other such uses whereby the gases and chemicals come into direct contact with the product during the production process, or uses of gases and chemicals to clean the chambers and other like equipment in which such processing takes place. For the purposes of this section, "semiconductor materials" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.2404 and 82.04.294(3).

(2) A person claiming the exemption under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534. No application is necessary for the tax exemption. The person is subject to all of the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW.

(3) This section expires December 1, 2018. [2010 c 114 § 124; 2009 c 469 § 502; 2006 c 84 § 3.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Effective date—2006 c 84 §§ 2-8:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 84:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**82.08.970 Exemptions—Gases and chemicals used to manufacture semiconductor materials. (Contingent effective date; contingent expiration date.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of gases and chemi-

cals used by a manufacturer or processor for hire in the manufacturing of semiconductor materials. This exemption is limited to gases and chemicals used in the manufacturing process to grow the product, deposit or grow permanent or sacrificial layers on the product, to etch or remove material from the product, to anneal the product, to immerse the product, to clean the product, and other such uses whereby the gases and chemicals come into direct contact with the product during the manufacturing process, or uses of gases and chemicals to clean the chambers and other like equipment in which such processing takes place. For the purposes of this section, "semiconductor materials" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.240(2).

(2) A person claiming the exemption under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534. No application is necessary for the tax exemption. The person is subject to all of the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW.

(3) This section expires twelve years after \*the effective date of this act. [2010 c 114 § 125; 2003 c 149 § 7.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

**\*Contingent effective date—2010 c 114:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** See note following RCW 82.04.426.

**82.08.975 Exemptions—Computer parts and software related to the manufacture of commercial airplanes. (Expires July 1, 2024.)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of computer hardware, computer peripherals, or software, not otherwise eligible for exemption under RCW 82.08.02565, used primarily in the development, design, and engineering of aerospace products or in providing aerospace services, or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing the computer hardware, computer peripherals, or software.

(2) The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller shall retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Aerospace products" means:

(i) Commercial airplanes and their components;

(ii) Machinery and equipment that is designed and used primarily for the maintenance, repair, overhaul, or refurbishing of commercial airplanes or their components by federal aviation regulation part 145 certificated repair stations; and

(iii) Tooling specifically designed for use in manufacturing commercial airplanes or their components.

(b) "Aerospace services" means the maintenance, repair, overhaul, or refurbishing of commercial airplanes or their components, but only when such services are performed by a FAR part 145 certificated repair station.

(c) "Commercial airplane" and "component" have the same meanings provided in RCW 82.32.550.

(d) "Peripherals" includes keyboards, monitors, mouse devices, and other accessories that operate outside of the computer, excluding cables, conduit, wiring, and other similar property.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2024. [2008 c 81 § 2; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 9.]

**Findings—2008 c 81:** "The legislature finds that the aerospace industry provides good wages and benefits for the thousands of engineers, mechanics, support staff, and other employees working directly in the industry throughout the state. The legislature further finds that suppliers and vendors that support the aerospace industry in turn provide a range of well-paying jobs. In 2003, and again in 2006, the legislature determined it was in the public interest to encourage the continued presence of this industry through the provision of tax incentives.

However, the legislature recognizes that key elements of Washington's aerospace industry cluster were afforded few, if any, of the aerospace tax incentives enacted in 2003 and 2006. The comprehensive tax incentives in this act are intended to more comprehensively address the cost of doing business in Washington state compared to locations in other states for a larger segment of the aerospace industry cluster." [2008 c 81 § 1.]

**Savings—2008 c 81:** "This act does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended or repealed in this act or under any rule or order adopted under those sections, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under those sections." [2008 c 81 § 17.]

**Effective date—2008 c 81:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 81 § 18.]

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**82.08.980 Exemptions—Labor, services, and personal property related to the manufacture of superefficient airplanes. (*Expires July 1, 2024.*)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to the constructing of new buildings by a manufacturer engaged in the manufacturing of superefficient airplanes or by a port district, to be leased to a manufacturer engaged in the manufacturing of superefficient airplanes, to sales of tangible personal property that will be incorporated as an ingredient or component of such buildings during the course of the constructing, or to labor and services rendered in respect to installing, during the course of constructing, building fixtures not otherwise eligible for the exemption under RCW 82.08.02565(2)(b). The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(2) No application is necessary for the tax exemption in this section, however in order to qualify under this section before starting construction the port district must have entered into an agreement with the manufacturer to build such a facility. A person claiming the exemption under this section is subject to all the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW. In addition, the person must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(3) The exemption in this section applies to buildings, or parts of buildings, that are used exclusively in the manufacturing of superefficient airplanes, including buildings used for the storage of raw materials and finished product.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "superefficient airplane" has the meaning given in RCW 82.32.550.

(5) This section expires July 1, 2024. [2010 c 114 § 126; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 11.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**82.08.983 Exemptions—Wax and ceramic materials. (*Expires June 30, 2015.*)** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of wax and ceramic materi-

als used to create molds consumed during the process of creating ferrous and nonferrous investment castings used in industrial applications. The tax also does not apply to labor or services used to create wax patterns and ceramic shells used as molds and consumed during the process of creating ferrous and nonferrous investment castings used in industrial applications.

(2) A person claiming the exemption under this section must claim the exemption in a form and manner prescribed by the department. [2010 c 225 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 c 225:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2010." [2010 c 225 § 3.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 225:** "This act expires June 30, 2015." [2010 c 225 § 4.]

**82.08.985 Exemptions—Insulin.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to sales of insulin for human use. [2004 c 153 § 102.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**82.08.986 Exemptions—Eligible server equipment. (*Expires April 1, 2020.*)** (1) An exemption from the tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 is provided for sales to qualifying businesses and to qualifying tenants of eligible server equipment to be installed, without intervening use, in an eligible computer data center, and to charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing eligible server equipment. The exemption also applies to sales to qualifying businesses and to qualifying tenants of eligible power infrastructure, including labor and services rendered in respect to constructing, installing, repairing, altering, or improving eligible power infrastructure.

(2)(a) In order to claim the exemption under this section, a qualifying business or a qualifying tenant must submit an application to the department for an exemption certificate. The application must include the information necessary, as required by the department, to determine that a business or tenant qualifies for the exemption under this section. The department must issue exemption certificates to qualifying businesses and qualifying tenants. The department may assign a unique identification number to each exemption certificate issued under this section.

(b) A qualifying business or a qualifying tenant claiming the exemption under this section must present the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3)(a) Within six years of the date that the department issued an exemption certificate under this section to a qualifying business or a qualifying tenant with respect to an eligible computer data center, the qualifying business or qualifying tenant must establish that net employment at the eligible computer data center has increased by a minimum of:

- (i) Thirty-five family wage employment positions; or
- (ii) Three family wage employment positions for each twenty thousand square feet of space or less that is newly dedicated to housing working servers at the eligible computer data center. For qualifying tenants, the number of family wage employment positions that must be increased under this

subsection (3)(a)(ii) is based only on the space occupied by the qualifying tenant in the eligible computer data center.

(b) In calculating the net increase in family wage employment positions:

(i) The owner of an eligible computer data center, in addition to its own net increase in family wage employment positions, may include:

(A) The net increase in family wage employment positions employed by qualifying tenants; and

(B) The net increase in family wage employment positions described in (c)(ii)(B) of this subsection (3).

(ii)(A) Qualifying tenants, in addition to their own net increase in family wage employment positions, may include:

(I) A portion of the net increase in family wage employment positions employed by the owner; and

(II) A portion of the net increase in family wage employment positions described in (c)(ii)(B) of this subsection (3).

(B) The portion of the net increase in family wage employment positions to be counted under this subsection (3)(b)(ii) by each qualifying tenant must be in proportion to the amount of space in the eligible computer data center occupied by the qualifying tenant compared to the total amount of space in the eligible computer data center occupied by all qualifying tenants.

(c)(i) For purposes of this subsection, family wage employment positions are new permanent employment positions requiring forty hours of weekly work, or their equivalent, on a full-time basis at the eligible computer data center and receiving a wage equivalent to or greater than one hundred fifty percent of the per capita personal income of the county in which the qualified project is located. An employment position may not be counted as a family wage employment position unless the employment position is entitled to health insurance coverage provided by the employer of the employment position. For purposes of this subsection (3)(c), "new permanent employment position" means an employment position that did not exist or that had not previously been filled as of the date that the department issued an exemption certificate to the owner or qualifying tenant of an eligible computer data center, as the case may be.

(ii)(A) Family wage employment positions include positions filled by employees of the owner of the eligible computer data center and by employees of qualifying tenants.

(B) Family wage employment positions also include individuals performing work at an eligible computer data center as an independent contractor hired by the owner of the eligible computer data center or as an employee of an independent contractor hired by the owner of the eligible computer data center, if the work is necessary for the operation of the computer data center, such as security and building maintenance, and provided that all of the requirements in (c)(i) of this subsection (3) are met.

(d) All previously exempted sales and use taxes are immediately due and payable for a qualifying business or qualifying tenant that does not meet the requirements of this subsection.

(4) A qualifying business or a qualifying tenant claiming an exemption under this section or RCW 82.12.986 must complete an annual report with the department as required under RCW 82.32.534.

(5)(a) The exemption provided in this section does not apply to:

(i) Any person who has received the benefit of the deferral program under chapter 82.60 RCW on: (A) The construction, renovation, or expansion of a structure or structures used as a computer data center; or (B) machinery or equipment used in a computer data center; and

(ii) Any person affiliated with a person within the scope of (a)(i) of this subsection (5).

(b) If a person claims an exemption under this section and subsequently receives the benefit of the deferral program under chapter 82.60 RCW on either the construction, renovation, or expansion of a structure or structures used as a computer data center or machinery or equipment used in a computer data center, the person must repay the amount of taxes exempted under this section. Interest as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW applies to amounts due under this section until paid in full.

(6) For purposes of this section the following definitions apply unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Affiliated" means that one person has a direct or indirect ownership interest of at least twenty percent in another person.

(b)(i) "Computer data center" means a facility comprised of one or more buildings, which may be comprised of multiple businesses, constructed or refurbished specifically, and used primarily, to house working servers, where the facility has the following characteristics: (A) Uninterruptible power supplies, generator backup power, or both; (B) sophisticated fire suppression and prevention systems; and (C) enhanced physical security, such as: Restricted access to the facility to selected personnel; permanent security guards; video camera surveillance; an electronic system requiring passcodes, keycards, or biometric scans, such as hand scans and retinal or fingerprint recognition; or similar security features.

(ii) For a computer data center comprised of multiple buildings, each separate building constructed or refurbished specifically, and used primarily, to house working servers is considered a computer data center if it has all of the characteristics listed in (b)(i)(A) through (C) of this subsection (6).

(iii) A facility comprised of one building or more than one building must have a combined square footage of at least one hundred thousand square feet.

(c) "Electronic data storage and data management services" include, but are not limited to: Providing data storage and backup services, providing computer processing power, hosting enterprise software applications, and hosting web sites. The term also includes providing services such as e-mail, web browsing and searching, media applications, and other online services, regardless of whether a charge is made for such services.

(d)(i) "Eligible computer data center" means a computer data center:

(A) Located in a rural county as defined in RCW 82.14.370;

(B) Having at least twenty thousand square feet dedicated to housing working servers, where the server space has not previously been dedicated to housing working servers; and

(C) For which the commencement of construction occurs:

(I) After March 31, 2010, and before July 1, 2011; or

(II) After March 31, 2012, and before July 1, 2015.

(ii) For purposes of this section, "commencement of construction" means the date that a building permit is issued under the building code adopted under RCW 19.27.031 for construction of the computer data center. The construction of a computer data center includes the expansion, renovation, or other improvements made to existing facilities, including leased or rented space. "Commencement of construction" does not include soil testing, site clearing and grading, site preparation, or any other related activities that are initiated before the issuance of a building permit for the construction of the foundation of a computer data center.

(iii) With respect to facilities in existence on April 1, 2010, that are expanded, renovated, or otherwise improved after March 31, 2010, or facilities in existence on April 1, 2012, that are expanded, renovated, or otherwise improved after March 31, 2012, an eligible computer data center includes only the portion of the computer data center meeting the requirements in (d)(i)(B) of this subsection (6).

(e) "Eligible power infrastructure" means all fixtures and equipment owned by a qualifying business or qualifying tenant and necessary for the transformation, distribution, or management of electricity that is required to operate eligible server equipment within an eligible computer data center. The term includes generators; wiring; cogeneration equipment; and associated fixtures and equipment, such as electrical switches, batteries, and distribution, testing, and monitoring equipment.

(f) "Eligible server equipment" means:

(i) For a qualifying business whose computer data center qualifies as an eligible computer data center under (d)(i)(C)(I) of this subsection (6), the original server equipment installed in an eligible computer data center on or after April 1, 2010, and replacement server equipment. For purposes of this subsection (6)(f)(i), "replacement server equipment" means server equipment that:

(A) Replaces existing server equipment, if the sale or use of the server equipment to be replaced qualified for an exemption under this section or RCW 82.12.986; and

(B) Is installed and put into regular use before April 1, 2018.

(ii) For a qualifying business whose computer data center qualifies as an eligible computer data center under (d)(i)(C)(II) of this subsection (6), "eligible server equipment" means the original server equipment installed in an eligible computer data center on or after April 1, 2012, and replacement server equipment. For purposes of this subsection (6)(f)(ii), "replacement server equipment" means server equipment that:

(A) Replaces existing server equipment, if the sale or use of the server equipment to be replaced qualified for an exemption under this section or RCW 82.12.986; and

(B) Is installed and put into regular use before April 1, 2020.

(iii) For a qualifying tenant who leases space within an eligible computer data center, "eligible server equipment" means the original server equipment installed within the space it leases from an eligible computer data center on or after April 1, 2010, and replacement server equipment. For

purposes of this subsection (6)(f)(iii), "replacement server equipment" means server equipment that:

(A) Replaces existing server equipment, if the sale or use of the server equipment to be replaced qualified for an exemption under this section or RCW 82.12.986; and

(B) Is installed and put into regular use before April 1, 2020.

(g) "Qualifying business" means a business entity that exists for the primary purpose of engaging in commercial activity for profit and that is the owner of an eligible computer data center. The term does not include the state or federal government or any of their departments, agencies, and institutions; tribal governments; political subdivisions of this state; or any municipal, quasi-municipal, public, or other corporation created by the state or federal government, tribal government, municipality, or political subdivision of the state.

(h) "Qualifying tenant" means a business entity that exists for the primary purpose of engaging in commercial activity for profit and that leases space from a qualifying business within an eligible computer data center. The term does not include the state or federal government or any of their departments, agencies, and institutions; tribal governments; political subdivisions of this state; or any municipal, quasi-municipal, public, or other corporation created by the state or federal government, tribal government, municipality, or political subdivision of the state. The term also does not include a lessee of space in an eligible computer data center under (d)(i)(C)(I) of this subsection (6), if the lessee and lessor are affiliated and:

(i) That space will be used by the lessee to house server equipment that replaces server equipment previously installed and operated in that eligible computer data center by the lessor or another person affiliated with the lessee; or

(ii) Prior to May 2, 2012, the primary use of the server equipment installed in that eligible computer data center was to provide electronic data storage and data management services for the business purposes of either the lessor, persons affiliated with the lessor, or both.

(i) "Server equipment" means the computer hardware located in an eligible computer data center and used exclusively to provide electronic data storage and data management services for internal use by the owner or lessee of the computer data center, for clients of the owner or lessee of the computer data center, or both. "Server equipment" also includes computer software necessary to operate the computer hardware. "Server equipment" does not include personal computers, the racks upon which the server equipment is installed, and computer peripherals such as keyboards, monitors, printers, and mice.

(7) This section expires April 1, 2020. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 302; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1601; 2010 1st sp.s. c 1 § 2.]

**Intent—Finding—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** "(1) It is the legislature's intent to encourage immediate investments in technology facilities that can provide an economic stimulus, sustain long-term jobs that provide living wages, and help build the digital infrastructure that can enable the state to be competitive for additional technology investment and jobs.

(2) There is currently an intense competition for data center construction and operation in many states including: Oregon, Arizona, North and South Carolina, North Dakota, Iowa, Virginia, Texas, and Illinois. Unprecedented incentives are available as a result of the desire of these states to attract investments that will serve as a catalyst for additional clusters of economic activity.

(3) Data center technology has advanced rapidly, with marked increases in energy efficiency. Large, commercial-grade data centers leverage the economies of scale to reduce energy consumption. Combining digitized processes with the economies of scale recognized at these data centers, today's enterprises can materially reduce the energy they consume and greatly improve their efficiency.

(4) The legislature finds that offering an exemption for server and related electrical equipment and installation will act as a stimulus to incent immediate investment. This investment will bring jobs, tax revenues, and economic growth to some of our state's rural areas." [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 301.]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Continuing effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Intent—Finding—2010 1st sp.s. c 1:** "(1) It is the legislature's intent to encourage immediate investments in technology facilities that can provide an economic stimulus, sustain long-term jobs that provide living wages, and help build the digital infrastructure that can enable the state to be competitive for additional technology investment and jobs.

(2) There is currently an intense competition for data center construction and operation in many states including: Oregon, Arizona, North and South Carolina, North Dakota, Iowa, Virginia, Texas, and Illinois. Unprecedented incentives are available as a result of the desire of these states to attract investments that will serve as a catalyst for additional clusters of economic activity.

(3) Since the economic downturn, Washington has not succeeded in attracting any private investments in these centers after siting six major data centers between 2004 and 2007.

(4) Data center technology has advanced rapidly, with marked increases in energy efficiency. Large, commercial-grade data centers leverage the economies of scale to reduce energy consumption. Combining digitized processes with the economies of scale recognized at these data centers, today's enterprises can materially reduce the energy they consume and greatly improve their efficiency.

(5) The legislature finds that a fifteen-month window that offers an exemption for server and related electrical equipment and installation will act as a stimulus to incent immediate investment. This investment will bring jobs, tax revenues, and economic growth to some of our state's rural areas." [2010 1st sp.s. c 1 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 1:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect April 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 1 § 4.]

### **82.08.990 Exemptions—Import or export commerce.**

The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of tangible personal property if the sale is exempt from business and occupation tax under RCW 82.04.610. [2007 c 477 § 3.]

**Intent—Purpose—2007 c 477:** See note following RCW 82.04.610.

**82.08.995 Exemptions—Certain limited purpose public corporations, commissions, and authorities.** (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of personal property and services provided by a public corporation, commission, or authority created under RCW 35.21.660 or 35.21.730 to an eligible entity.

(2) For purposes of this section, "eligible entity" means a limited liability company, a limited partnership, or a single asset entity, described in RCW 82.04.615. [2009 c 535 § 514; 2007 c 381 § 2.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.08.997 Exemptions—Temporary medical housing.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of temporary medical housing by a health or social welfare organization, if the following conditions are met:

(a) The temporary medical housing is provided only:

(i) While the patient is receiving medical treatment at:  
(A) A hospital required to be licensed under RCW 70.41.090; or (B) an outpatient clinic associated with such hospital; or

(ii) During any period of recuperation or observation immediately following medical treatment received by a patient at a facility in (a)(i)(A) or (B) of this subsection; and

(b) The health or social welfare organization does not furnish lodging or related services to the general public.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Health or social welfare organization" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.431; and

(b) "Temporary medical housing" means transient lodging and related services provided to a patient or the patient's immediate family, legal guardian, or other persons necessary to the patient's mental or physical well-being. [2008 c 137 § 2.]

**Effective date—2008 c 137:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 137 § 7.]

**82.08.998 Exemptions—Weatherization of a residence.** (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to sales of tangible personal property used in the weatherization of a residence under the weatherization assistance program under chapter 70.164 RCW. The exemption only applies to tangible personal property that becomes a component of the residence.

(2) The exemption is available only when the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The seller must retain a copy of the certificate for the seller's files.

(3) "Residence" and "weatherization" have the meanings provided in RCW 70.164.020. [2008 c 92 § 1.]

**82.08.999 Exemptions—Joint municipal utility services authorities.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to any sales, or transfers made, to or from a joint municipal utility services authority formed under chapter 39.106 RCW and any of its members. [2011 c 258 § 12.]

**Short title—Purpose—Intent—2011 c 258:** See RCW 39.106.010.

**82.08.9995 Exemptions—Restaurant employee meals.** (1) The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 does not apply to a meal provided without specific charge to an employee by a restaurant.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Meal" means one or more items of prepared food or beverages other than alcoholic beverages. For the purposes of this subsection, "alcoholic beverage" and "prepared food" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.08.0293.

(b) "Restaurant" means any establishment having special space and accommodation where food and beverages are regularly sold to the public for immediate, but not necessarily on-site, consumption, but excluding grocery stores, mini-markets, and convenience stores. Restaurant includes,

but is not limited to, lunch counters, diners, coffee shops, espresso shops or bars, concession stands or counters, delicatessens, and cafeterias. It also includes space and accommodations where food and beverages are sold to the public for immediate consumption that are located within hotels, motels, lodges, boarding houses, bed and breakfast facilities, hospitals, office buildings, movie theaters, and schools, colleges, or universities, if a separate charge is made for such food or beverages. Mobile sales units that sell food or beverages for immediate consumption within a place, the entrance to which is subject to an admission charge, are "restaurants." So too are public and private carriers, such as trains and vessels, that sell food or beverages for immediate consumption if a separate charge for the food and/or beverages is made. A restaurant is open to the public for purposes of this section if members of the public can be served as guests. "Restaurant" does not include businesses making sales through vending machines or through mobile sales units such as catering trucks or sidewalk vendors of food or beverage items. [2011 c 55 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 c 55:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2011." [2011 c 55 § 4.]

### Chapter 82.12 RCW USE TAX

#### Sections

82.12.010	Definitions.
82.12.020	Use tax imposed.
82.12.0201	Dedication of taxes—Comprehensive performance audits.
82.12.0204	Exemptions—Honey bees.
82.12.0205	Exemptions—Waste vegetable oil.
82.12.0208	Exemptions—Digital codes.
82.12.02081	Exemptions—Audio or video programming.
82.12.02082	Exemptions—Digital products or services—Made available for free to general public.
82.12.02084	Exemptions—Digital goods—Use by students.
82.12.02085	Exemptions—Digital goods—Noncommercial—Internal audience—Not for sale.
82.12.02086	Exemptions—Digital products or codes—Free of charge.
82.12.02087	Exemptions—Digital goods, codes, and services—Used for business purposes.
82.12.02088	Exemptions—Digital products—Business buyers—Concurrently available for use within and outside state—Apportionment.
82.12.022	Natural or manufactured gas—Use tax imposed—Exemption.
82.12.023	Natural or manufactured gas, exempt from use tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020.
82.12.024	Deferral of use tax on certain users of natural or manufactured gas.
82.12.0251	Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property by nonresident while temporarily within state—Use of household goods, personal effects, and private motor vehicles acquired in another state while resident of other state—Use of certain warranties.
82.12.02525	Exemptions—Sale of copied public records by state and local agencies.
82.12.0253	Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW.
82.12.0254	Exemptions—Use of airplanes, locomotives, railroad cars, or watercraft used in interstate or foreign commerce or outside state's territorial waters—Components—Use of vehicles in the transportation of persons or property across state boundaries—Conditions—Use of vehicle under trip permit to point outside state.
82.12.0255	Exemptions—Nontaxable tangible personal property, warranties, and digital products.
82.12.0256	Exemptions—Use of motor vehicle and special fuel—Conditions.

82.12.02565	Exemptions—Machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, research and development, or a testing operation.
82.12.025651	Exemptions—Use of machinery and equipment by public research institutions.
82.12.02566	Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property incorporated in prototype for aircraft parts, auxiliary equipment, and aircraft modification—Limitations on yearly exemption.
82.12.02568	Exemptions—Use of carbon and similar substances that become an ingredient or component of anodes or cathodes used in producing aluminum for sale.
82.12.02569	Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property related to a building or structure that is an integral part of a laser interferometer gravitational wave observatory.
82.12.0257	Exemptions—Use of personal property of the operating property of a public utility by state or political subdivision.
82.12.0258	Exemptions—Use of personal property previously used in farming and purchased from farmer at auction.
82.12.0259	Exemptions—Use of personal property, digital automated services, or certain other services by federal corporations providing aid and relief.
82.12.02595	Exemptions—Personal property and certain services donated to nonprofit organization or governmental entity.
82.12.0261	Exemptions—Use of livestock.
82.12.0262	Exemptions—Use of poultry for producing poultry and poultry products for sale.
82.12.0263	Exemptions—Use of fuel by extractor or manufacturer thereof.
82.12.0264	Exemptions—Use of dual-controlled motor vehicles by school for driver training.
82.12.0265	Exemptions—Use by bailee of tangible personal property consumed in research, development, etc., activities.
82.12.0266	Exemptions—Use by residents of motor vehicles and trailers acquired and used while members of the armed services and stationed outside the state.
82.12.0267	Exemptions—Use of semen in artificial insemination of livestock.
82.12.0268	Exemptions—Use of form lumber by persons engaged in constructing, repairing, etc., structures for consumers.
82.12.02685	Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property related to agricultural employee housing.
82.12.0269	Exemptions—Use of sand, gravel, or rock to extent of labor and service charges for mining, sorting, crushing, etc., thereof from county or city quarry for public road purposes.
82.12.0271	Exemptions—Use of wearing apparel only as a sample for display for sale.
82.12.0272	Exemptions—Use of personal property in single trade shows.
82.12.0273	Exemptions—Use of pollen.
82.12.0274	Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property by political subdivision resulting from annexation or incorporation.
82.12.02745	Exemptions—Use by free hospitals of certain items.
82.12.02747	Exemptions—Use of medical products by qualifying blood, tissue, or blood and tissue banks.
82.12.02748	Exemptions—Use of human blood, tissue, organs, bodies, or body parts for medical research or quality control testing.
82.12.02749	Exemptions—Use of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials by organ procurement organization.
82.12.0275	Exemptions—Use of certain drugs or family planning devices.
82.12.0276	Exemptions—Use of returnable containers for beverages and foods.
82.12.0277	Exemptions—Certain medical items.
82.12.0279	Exemptions—Use of ferry vessels by the state or local governmental units—Components thereof.
82.12.0282	Exemptions—Use of vans as ride-sharing vehicles.
82.12.0283	Exemptions—Use of certain irrigation equipment.
82.12.0284	Exemptions—Use of computers or computer components, accessories, software, digital goods, or digital codes donated to schools or colleges.
82.12.02915	Exemptions—Use of items by health or social welfare organizations for alternative housing for youth in crisis.
82.12.02917	Exemptions—Use of amusement and recreation services by nonprofit youth organization.
82.12.0293	Exemptions—Use of food and food ingredients.
82.12.0294	Exemptions—Use of feed for cultivating or raising fish for sale.
82.12.0296	Exemptions—Use of feed consumed by livestock at a public livestock market.

82.12.0297	Exemptions—Use of food purchased under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.	82.12.930	Exemptions—Watershed protection or flood prevention.
82.12.0298	Exemptions—Use of diesel fuel in operating watercraft in commercial deep sea fishing or commercial passenger fishing boat operations outside the state.	82.12.935	Exemptions—Disposable devices used to deliver prescription drugs for human use.
82.12.031	Exemptions—Use by artistic or cultural organizations of certain objects.	82.12.940	Exemptions—Over-the-counter drugs for human use.
82.12.0311	Exemptions—Use of materials and supplies in packing horticultural products.	82.12.945	Exemptions—Kidney dialysis devices.
82.12.0315	Exemptions—Rental or sales related to motion picture or video productions—Exceptions.	82.12.950	Exemptions—Steam, electricity, electrical energy.
82.12.0316	Exemptions—Sales of cigarettes by Indian retailers.	82.12.955	Exemptions—Use of machinery, equipment, vehicles, and services related to biodiesel or E85 motor fuel.
82.12.032	Exemption—Use of used park model trailers.	82.12.956	Exemptions—Hog fuel used to generate electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel.
82.12.033	Exemption—Use of certain used mobile homes.	82.12.957	Exemptions—Forest derived biomass.
82.12.034	Exemption—Use of used floating homes.	82.12.962	Exemptions—Use of machinery and equipment in generating electricity.
82.12.0345	Exemptions—Use of newspapers.	82.12.963	Exemptions—Use of machinery and equipment using solar energy to generate electricity.
82.12.0347	Exemptions—Use of academic transcripts.	82.12.964	Use of machinery and equipment used in generating electricity—Effect of exemption expiration.
82.12.035	Credit for retail sales or use taxes paid to other jurisdictions with respect to property used.	82.12.965	Exemptions—Semiconductor materials manufacturing.
82.12.036	Exemptions and credits—Pollution control facilities.	82.12.9651	Exemptions—Gases and chemicals used in production of semiconductor materials.
82.12.037	Credits and refunds—Bad debts.	82.12.970	Exemptions—Gases and chemicals used to manufacture semiconductor materials.
82.12.038	Exemptions—Vehicle battery core deposits or credits—Replacement vehicle tire fees—"Core deposits or credits" defined.	82.12.975	Computer parts and software related to the manufacture of commercial airplanes.
82.12.040	Retailers to collect tax—Penalty—Contingent expiration of subsection.	82.12.980	Exemptions—Labor, services, and personal property related to the manufacture of superefficient airplanes.
82.12.045	Collection of tax on vehicles by county auditor or director of licensing—Remittance.	82.12.983	Exemptions—Wax and ceramic materials.
82.12.060	Installment sales or leases.	82.12.985	Exemptions—Insulin.
82.12.070	Cash receipts taxpayers—Bad debts.	82.12.986	Exemptions—Eligible server equipment.
82.12.080	Administration.	82.12.995	Exemptions—Certain limited purpose public corporations, commissions, and authorities.
82.12.145	Delivery charges.	82.12.998	Exemptions—Weatherization of a residence.
82.12.195	Bundled transactions—Tax imposed.	82.12.999	Exemptions—Joint municipal utility services authorities.
82.12.700	Exemptions—Vessels sold to nonresidents.	82.12.9995	Exemptions—Restaurant employee meals.
82.12.800	Exemptions—Uses of vessel, vessel's trailer by manufacturer.		
82.12.801	Exemptions—Uses of vessel, vessel's trailer by dealer.		<i>Changes in tax law—Liability: RCW 82.08.064, 82.14.055, and 82.32.430.</i>
82.12.802	Vessels held in inventory by dealer or manufacturer—Tax on personal use—Documentation—Rules.		<i>Direct pay permits: RCW 82.32.087.</i>
82.12.803	Exemptions—Nebulizers.		
82.12.804	Exemptions—Ostomic items.		
82.12.805	Exemptions—Personal property used at an aluminum smelter.		
82.12.806	Exemptions—Use of computer equipment parts and services by printer or publisher.		
82.12.807	Exemptions—Direct mail delivery charges.		
82.12.808	Exemptions—Use of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials by comprehensive cancer centers.		
82.12.809	Exemptions—Vehicles using clean alternative fuels.		
82.12.810	Exemptions—Air pollution control facilities at a thermal electric generation facility—Exceptions—Payments on cessation of operation.		
82.12.811	Exemptions—Coal used at coal-fired thermal electric generation facility—Application—Demonstration of progress in air pollution control—Notice of emissions violations—Reapplication—Payments on cessation of operation.		
82.12.815	Exemptions—Property and services related to electrification systems to power heavy duty diesel vehicles.		
82.12.816	Exemptions—Electric vehicle batteries and infrastructure.		
82.12.820	Exemptions—Warehouse and grain elevators and distribution centers.		
82.12.825	Exemptions—Property and services that enable heavy duty diesel vehicles to operate with onboard electrification systems.		
82.12.832	Exemptions—Use of gun safes.		
82.12.834	Exemptions—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.		
82.12.845	Use of motorcycles loaned to department of licensing.		
82.12.850	Exemptions—Conifer seed.		
82.12.855	Exemptions—Replacement parts for qualifying farm machinery and equipment.		
82.12.860	Exemptions—Property and services acquired from a federal credit union.		
82.12.865	Exemptions—Diesel, biodiesel, and aircraft fuel for farm fuel users.		
82.12.880	Exemptions—Animal pharmaceuticals.		
82.12.890	Exemptions—Livestock nutrient management equipment and facilities.		
82.12.900	Exemptions—Anaerobic digesters.		
82.12.910	Exemptions—Propane or natural gas to heat chicken structures.		
82.12.920	Exemptions—Chicken bedding materials.		
82.12.925	Exemptions—Dietary supplements.		

**82.12.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) The meaning ascribed to words and phrases in chapters 82.04 and 82.08 RCW, insofar as applicable, has full force and effect with respect to taxes imposed under the provisions of this chapter. "Consumer," in addition to the meaning ascribed to it in chapters 82.04 and 82.08 RCW insofar as applicable, also means any person who distributes or displays, or causes to be distributed or displayed, any article of tangible personal property, except newspapers, the primary purpose of which is to promote the sale of products or services. With respect to property distributed to persons within this state by a consumer as defined in this subsection (1), the use of the property is deemed to be by such consumer.

(2) "Extended warranty" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.050(7).

(3) "Purchase price" means the same as sales price as defined in RCW 82.08.010.

(4)(a)(i) Except as provided in (a)(ii) of this subsection (4), "retailer" means every seller as defined in RCW 82.08.010 and every person engaged in the business of selling tangible personal property at retail and every person required to collect from purchasers the tax imposed under this chapter.

(ii) "Retailer" does not include a professional employer organization when a covered employee coemployed with the client under the terms of a professional employer agreement engages in activities that constitute a sale of tangible personal property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, or a sale of any digital automated service or service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(a) or (g), (3)(a), or (6)(b) that is subject to the tax imposed by this chapter. In such cases, the client, and not the professional employer organiza-

tion, is deemed to be the retailer and is responsible for collecting and remitting the tax imposed by this chapter.

(b) For the purposes of (a) of this subsection, the terms "client," "covered employee," "professional employer agreement," and "professional employer organization" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.04.540.

(5) "Taxpayer" and "purchaser" include all persons included within the meaning of the word "buyer" and the word "consumer" as defined in chapters 82.04 and 82.08 RCW.

(6) "Use," "used," "using," or "put to use" have their ordinary meaning, and mean:

(a) With respect to tangible personal property, except for natural gas and manufactured gas, the first act within this state by which the taxpayer takes or assumes dominion or control over the article of tangible personal property (as a consumer), and include installation, storage, withdrawal from storage, distribution, or any other act preparatory to subsequent actual use or consumption within this state;

(b) With respect to a service defined in RCW 82.04.050(2)(a), the first act within this state after the service has been performed by which the taxpayer takes or assumes dominion or control over the article of tangible personal property upon which the service was performed (as a consumer), and includes installation, storage, withdrawal from storage, distribution, or any other act preparatory to subsequent actual use or consumption of the article within this state;

(c) With respect to an extended warranty, the first act within this state after the extended warranty has been acquired by which the taxpayer takes or assumes dominion or control over the article of tangible personal property to which the extended warranty applies, and includes installation, storage, withdrawal from storage, distribution, or any other act preparatory to subsequent actual use or consumption of the article within this state;

(d) With respect to a digital good or digital code, the first act within this state by which the taxpayer, as a consumer, views, accesses, downloads, possesses, stores, opens, manipulates, or otherwise uses or enjoys the digital good or digital code;

(e) With respect to a digital automated service, the first act within this state by which the taxpayer, as a consumer, uses, enjoys, or otherwise receives the benefit of the service;

(f) With respect to a service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b), the first act within this state by which the taxpayer, as a consumer, accesses the prewritten computer software;

(g) With respect to a service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(2)(g), the first act within this state after the service has been performed by which the taxpayer, as a consumer, views, accesses, downloads, possesses, stores, opens, manipulates, or otherwise uses or enjoys the digital good upon which the service was performed; and

(h) With respect to natural gas or manufactured gas, the use of which is taxable under RCW 82.12.022, including gas that is also taxable under the authority of RCW 82.14.230, the first act within this state by which the taxpayer consumes the gas by burning the gas or storing the gas in the taxpayer's own facilities for later consumption by the taxpayer.

(7)(a) "Value of the article used" is the purchase price for the article of tangible personal property, the use of which is taxable under this chapter. The term also includes, in addition to the purchase price, the amount of any tariff or duty paid with respect to the importation of the article used. In case the article used is acquired by lease or by gift or is extracted, produced, or manufactured by the person using the same or is sold under conditions wherein the purchase price does not represent the true value thereof, the value of the article used is determined as nearly as possible according to the retail selling price at place of use of similar products of like quality and character under such rules as the department may prescribe.

(b) In case the articles used are acquired by bailment, the value of the use of the articles so used must be in an amount representing a reasonable rental for the use of the articles so bailed, determined as nearly as possible according to the value of such use at the places of use of similar products of like quality and character under such rules as the department of revenue may prescribe. In case any such articles of tangible personal property are used in respect to the construction, repairing, decorating, or improving of, and which become or are to become an ingredient or component of, new or existing buildings or other structures under, upon, or above real property of or for the United States, any instrumentality thereof, or a county or city housing authority created pursuant to chapter 35.82 RCW, including the installing or attaching of any such articles therein or thereto, whether or not such personal property becomes a part of the realty by virtue of installation, then the value of the use of such articles so used is determined according to the retail selling price of such articles, or in the absence of such a selling price, as nearly as possible according to the retail selling price at place of use of similar products of like quality and character or, in the absence of either of these selling price measures, such value may be determined upon a cost basis, in any event under such rules as the department of revenue may prescribe.

(c) In the case of articles owned by a user engaged in business outside the state which are brought into the state for no more than one hundred eighty days in any period of three hundred sixty-five consecutive days and which are temporarily used for business purposes by the person in this state, the value of the article used must be an amount representing a reasonable rental for the use of the articles, unless the person has paid tax under this chapter or chapter 82.08 RCW upon the full value of the article used, as defined in (a) of this subsection.

(d) In the case of articles manufactured or produced by the user and used in the manufacture or production of products sold or to be sold to the department of defense of the United States, the value of the articles used is determined according to the value of the ingredients of such articles.

(e) In the case of an article manufactured or produced for purposes of serving as a prototype for the development of a new or improved product, the value of the article used is determined by: (i) The retail selling price of such new or improved product when first offered for sale; or (ii) the value of materials incorporated into the prototype in cases in which the new or improved product is not offered for sale.

(f) In the case of an article purchased with a direct pay permit under RCW 82.32.087, the value of the article used is

determined by the purchase price of such article if, but for the use of the direct pay permit, the transaction would have been subject to sales tax.

(8) "Value of the digital good or digital code used" means the purchase price for the digital good or digital code, the use of which is taxable under this chapter. If the digital good or digital code is acquired other than by purchase, the value of the digital good or digital code must be determined as nearly as possible according to the retail selling price at place of use of similar digital goods or digital codes of like quality and character under rules the department may prescribe.

(9) "Value of the extended warranty used" means the purchase price for the extended warranty, the use of which is taxable under this chapter. If the extended warranty is received by gift or under conditions wherein the purchase price does not represent the true value of the extended warranty, the value of the extended warranty used is determined as nearly as possible according to the retail selling price at place of use of similar extended warranties of like quality and character under rules the department may prescribe.

(10) "Value of the service used" means the purchase price for the digital automated service or other service, the use of which is taxable under this chapter. If the service is received by gift or under conditions wherein the purchase price does not represent the true value thereof, the value of the service used is determined as nearly as possible according to the retail selling price at place of use of similar services of like quality and character under rules the department may prescribe. [2010 c 127 § 4; 2009 c 535 § 304; 2006 c 301 § 3; 2005 c 514 § 104. Prior: 2003 c 168 § 102; 2003 c 5 § 1; 2002 c 367 § 3; 2001 c 188 § 3; 1994 c 93 § 1; prior: 1985 c 222 § 1; 1985 c 132 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 52; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 17; 1961 c 293 § 15; 1961 c 15 § 82.12.010; prior: 1955 c 389 § 24; 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 3; 1949 c 228 § 9; 1945 c 249 § 8; 1943 c 156 § 10; 1939 c 225 § 18; 1937 c 191 § 4; 1935 c 180 § 35; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-35.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Effective date—Act does not affect application of Title 50 or 51 RCW—2006 c 301:** See notes following RCW 82.32.710.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—2003 c 5:** "The legislature finds that in the enactment of chapter 367, Laws of 2002, some use tax exemptions were not updated to reflect the change in taxability regarding services. It is the legislature's intent to correct this omission by amending the various use tax exemptions so that services exempt from the sales tax are also exempt from the use tax. Sections 1 through 19 of this act apply retroactively to June 1, 2002. The department of revenue shall refund any use taxes paid and forgive use taxes unpaid as a result of the omission." [2003 c 5 § 20.]

**Effective date—2003 c 5:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 18, 2003]." [2003 c 5 § 21.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 367:** See notes following RCW 82.04.060.

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2001 c 188:** See notes following RCW 82.32.087.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.020 Use tax imposed.** (1) There is levied and collected from every person in this state a tax or excise for the privilege of using within this state as a consumer any:

(a) Article of tangible personal property acquired by the user in any manner, including tangible personal property acquired at a casual or isolated sale, and including by-products used by the manufacturer thereof, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, irrespective of whether the article or similar articles are manufactured or are available for purchase within this state;

(b) Prewritten computer software, regardless of the method of delivery, but excluding prewritten computer software that is either provided free of charge or is provided for temporary use in viewing information, or both;

(c) Services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(a) or (g), (3)(a), or (6)(b), excluding services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) that are provided free of charge;

(d) Extended warranty; or

(e)(i) Digital good, digital code, or digital automated service, including the use of any services provided by a seller exclusively in connection with digital goods, digital codes, or digital automated services, whether or not a separate charge is made for such services.

(ii) With respect to the use of digital goods, digital automated services, and digital codes acquired by purchase, the tax imposed in this subsection (1)(e) applies in respect to:

(A) Sales in which the seller has granted the purchaser the right of permanent use;

(B) Sales in which the seller has granted the purchaser a right of use that is less than permanent;

(C) Sales in which the purchaser is not obligated to make continued payment as a condition of the sale; and

(D) Sales in which the purchaser is obligated to make continued payment as a condition of the sale.

(iii) With respect to digital goods, digital automated services, and digital codes acquired other than by purchase, the tax imposed in this subsection (1)(e) applies regardless of whether or not the consumer has a right of permanent use or is obligated to make continued payment as a condition of use.

(2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or service taxable under RCW 82.04.050 (2)(a) or (g), (3)(a), or (6)(b), if the sale to, or the use by, the present user or the present user's bailor or donor has already been subjected to the tax under chapter 82.08 RCW or this chapter and the tax has been paid by the present user or by the present user's bailor or donor.

(3)(a) Except as provided in this section, payment of the tax imposed by this chapter or chapter 82.08 RCW by one purchaser or user of tangible personal property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or other service does not have the effect of exempting any other purchaser or user of the same property, extended

warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or other service from the taxes imposed by such chapters.

(b) The tax imposed by this chapter does not apply:

(i) If the sale to, or the use by, the present user or his or her bailor or donor has already been subjected to the tax under chapter 82.08 RCW or this chapter and the tax has been paid by the present user or by his or her bailor or donor;

(ii) In respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property acquired by bailment and the tax has once been paid based on reasonable rental as determined by RCW 82.12.060 measured by the value of the article at time of first use multiplied by the tax rate imposed by chapter 82.08 RCW or this chapter as of the time of first use;

(iii) In respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property acquired by bailment, if the property was acquired by a previous bailee from the same bailor for use in the same general activity and the original bailment was prior to June 9, 1961; or

(iv) To the use of digital goods or digital automated services, which were obtained through the use of a digital code, if the sale of the digital code to, or the use of the digital code by, the present user or the present user's bailor or donor has already been subjected to the tax under chapter 82.08 RCW or this chapter and the tax has been paid by the present user or by the present user's bailor or donor.

(4)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection (4), the tax is levied and must be collected in an amount equal to the value of the article used, value of the digital good or digital code used, value of the extended warranty used, or value of the service used by the taxpayer, multiplied by the applicable rates in effect for the retail sales tax under RCW 82.08.020.

(b) In the case of a seller required to collect use tax from the purchaser, the tax must be collected in an amount equal to the purchase price multiplied by the applicable rate in effect for the retail sales tax under RCW 82.08.020.

(5) For purposes of the tax imposed in this section, "person" includes anyone within the definition of "buyer," "purchaser," and "consumer" in RCW 82.08.010. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 206; 2009 c 535 § 305; 2005 c 514 § 105. Prior: 2003 c 361 § 302; 2003 c 168 § 214; 2003 c 5 § 2; 2002 c 367 § 4; 1999 c 358 § 9; 1998 c 332 § 7; 1996 c 148 § 5; 1994 c 93 § 2; 1983 c 7 § 7; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 8 § 2; 1980 c 37 § 79; 1977 ex.s. c 324 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 130 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 281 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 32; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 22; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 18; 1961 c 293 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 82.12.020; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 10; 1955 ex.s. c 10 § 3; 1955 c 389 § 25; 1949 c 228 § 7; 1943 c 156 § 8; 1941 c 76 § 6; 1939 c 225 § 14; 1937 c 191 § 1; 1935 c 180 § 31; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-31.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

**Findings—Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 361:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 367:** See notes following RCW 82.04.060.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1998 c 332:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29001.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

*High capacity transportation systems—Sales and use tax: RCW 81.104.170.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0201 Dedication of taxes—Comprehensive performance audits.** Beginning on December 8, 2005, 0.16 percent of the taxes collected under RCW 82.12.020 based on the rate in RCW 82.08.020(1) shall be dedicated to funding comprehensive performance audits under RCW 43.09.470. Revenue identified in this section shall be deposited in the performance audits of government account created in RCW 43.09.475. [2006 c 1 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 900, approved November 8, 2005).]

**Short title—Effective date—2006 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 900):** See RCW 43.09.471.

**Policies and purposes—Construction—Severability—Part headings not law—2006 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 900):** See notes following RCW 43.09.470.

**82.12.0204 Exemptions—Honey bees. (*Expires July 1, 2013.*)** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of honey bees by an eligible apiarist, as defined in RCW 82.04.629. This exemption is available only if the buyer provides the seller with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department. [2008 c 314 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—Expiration date—2008 c 314:** See notes following RCW 82.04.629.

**82.12.0205 Exemptions—Waste vegetable oil.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of waste vegetable oil that is used by a person in the production of biodiesel for personal use. The definitions in RCW 82.08.0205 apply to this section. [2008 c 237 § 3.]

**Effective date—2008 c 237:** See note following RCW 82.08.0205.

**82.12.0208 Exemptions—Digital codes.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of a digital code for one or more digital products, if the use of the digital products to which the digital code relates is exempt from the tax levied by RCW 82.12.020. [2009 c 535 § 601.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.02081 Exemptions—Audio or video programming.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the use of audio or video programming provided by a radio or television broadcaster.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the exemption provided in subsection (1) of this section does not apply in respect to programming that is sold on a pay-per-

program basis or that allows the buyer to access a library of programs at any time for a specific charge for that service.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, the exemption provided in this section applies to the sale of programming described in (a) of this subsection if the seller is subject to a franchise fee in this state under the authority of Title 47 U.S.C. Sec. 542(a) on the gross revenue derived from the sale.

(3) For purposes of this section, "radio or television broadcaster" includes satellite radio providers, satellite television providers, cable television providers, providers of subscription internet television, and persons who provide radio or television broadcasting to listeners or viewers for no charge. [2009 c 535 § 602.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.02082 Exemptions—Digital products or services—Made available for free to general public.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the use by a business or other organization of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) for the purpose of making the digital good or digital automated service, including a digital good or digital automated service acquired through the use of a digital code, or service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) available free of charge for the use or enjoyment of the general public. For purposes of this section, "general public" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.02082. The exemption provided in this section does not apply unless the user has the legal right to broadcast, rebroadcast, transmit, retransmit, license, relicense, distribute, redistribute, or exhibit the product, in whole or in part, to the general public. [2010 c 111 § 501; 2009 c 535 § 603.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.02084 Exemptions—Digital goods—Use by students.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the use by students of digital goods furnished by a public or private elementary or secondary school, or an institution of higher education as defined in sections 1001 or 1002 of the federal higher education act of 1965 (Title 20 U.S.C. Secs. 1001 and 1002), as existing on July 1, 2009. [2009 c 535 § 604.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.02085 Exemptions—Digital goods—Noncommercial—Internal audience—Not for sale.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of digital goods that are:

(a) Of a noncommercial nature, such as personal e-mail communications;

(b) Created solely for an internal audience; or

(c) Created solely for the business needs of the person who created the digital good and is not the type of digital good that is offered for sale, including business e-mail communications.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) This section does not apply to the use of any digital goods purchased by the user, the user's donor, or anybody on the user's behalf. [2009 c 535 § 605.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.02086 Exemptions—Digital products or codes—Free of charge.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of digital products or digital codes obtained by the end user free of charge. [2009 c 535 § 606.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.02087 Exemptions—Digital goods, codes, and services—Used for business purposes.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the use by a business of digital goods, and services rendered in respect to digital goods, where the digital goods and services rendered in respect to digital goods are used solely for business purposes. The exemption provided by this section also applies to the use by a business of a digital code if all of the digital goods to be obtained through the use of the code will be used solely for business purposes.

(2) For purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.08.02087 apply. [2010 c 111 § 502; 2009 c 535 § 607.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.02088 Exemptions—Digital products—Business buyers—Concurrently available for use within and outside state—Apportionment.** (1) A business or other organization subject to the tax imposed in RCW 82.12.020 through the use of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, prewritten computer software, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) that are concurrently available for use within and outside this state is entitled to apportion the amount of tax due this state based on users in this state compared to users everywhere. The department may authorize or require an alternative method of apportionment supported by the taxpayer's records that fairly reflects the proportion of in-state to out-of-state use by the taxpayer of the digital goods, digital automated services, prewritten computer software, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b).

(2) No apportionment under this section is allowed unless the apportionment method is supported by the taxpayer's records kept in the ordinary course of business.

(3) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Concurrently available for use within and outside this state" means that employees or other agents of the taxpayer may use the digital goods, digital automated services, prewritten computer software, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) simultaneously at one or more locations within this state and one or more locations outside this state. A digital code is concurrently available for use within and outside this state if employees or other agents of the taxpayer may use the digital goods or digital automated

services to be obtained by the code simultaneously at one or more locations within this state and one or more locations outside this state.

(b) "User" means an employee or agent of the taxpayer who is authorized by the taxpayer to use the digital goods, digital automated services, prewritten computer software, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) in the performance of his or her duties as an employee or other agent of the taxpayer. [2009 c 535 § 702.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.022 Natural or manufactured gas—Use tax imposed—Exemption.** (1) A use tax is levied on every person in this state for the privilege of using natural gas or manufactured gas within this state as a consumer.

(2) The tax must be levied and collected in an amount equal to the value of the article used by the taxpayer multiplied by the rate in effect for the public utility tax on gas distribution businesses under RCW 82.16.020. The "value of the article used" does not include any amounts that are paid for the hire or use of a gas distribution business as defined in RCW 82.16.010(2) in transporting the gas subject to tax under this subsection if those amounts are subject to tax under that chapter.

(3) The tax levied in this section does not apply to the use of natural or manufactured gas delivered to the consumer by other means than through a pipeline.

(4) The tax levied in this section does not apply to the use of natural or manufactured gas if the person who sold the gas to the consumer has paid a tax under RCW 82.16.020 with respect to the gas for which exemption is sought under this subsection.

(5)(a) The tax levied in this section does not apply to the use of natural or manufactured gas by an aluminum smelter as that term is defined in RCW 82.04.217 before January 1, 2017.

(b) A person claiming the exemption provided in this subsection (5) must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(6) There is a credit against the tax levied under this section in an amount equal to any tax paid by:

(a) The person who sold the gas to the consumer when that tax is a gross receipts tax similar to that imposed pursuant to RCW 82.16.020 by another state with respect to the gas for which a credit is sought under this subsection; or

(b) The person consuming the gas upon which a use tax similar to the tax imposed by this section was paid to another state with respect to the gas for which a credit is sought under this subsection.

(7) The use tax imposed in this section must be paid by the consumer to the department.

(8) There is imposed a reporting requirement on the person who delivered the gas to the consumer to make a quarterly report to the department. Such report must contain the volume of gas delivered, name of the consumer to whom delivered, and such other information as the department may require by rule.

(9) The department may adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW for the administration and enforcement of sections 1 through 6, chapter 384, Laws of 1989. [2011 c 174 § 304.

Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 2 § 5; 2010 c 114 § 127; 2006 c 182 § 5; 2004 c 24 § 12; 1994 c 124 § 9; 1989 c 384 § 3.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**Intent—1989 c 384:** "Due to a change in the federal regulations governing the sale of brokered natural gas, cities have lost significant revenues from the utility tax on natural gas. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to adjust the utility and use tax authority of the state and cities to maintain this revenue source for the municipalities and provide equality of taxation between intrastate and interstate transactions." [1989 c 384 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.023 Natural or manufactured gas, exempt from use tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020.** The tax levied by RCW 82.12.020 shall not apply in respect to the use of natural or manufactured gas that is taxable under RCW 82.12.022. [1994 c 124 § 10; 1989 c 384 § 5.]

**Intent—Effective date—1989 c 384:** See notes following RCW 82.12.022.

**82.12.024 Deferral of use tax on certain users of natural or manufactured gas.** (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Direct service industrial customer" means a person who is an industrial customer that contracts for the purchase of power from the Bonneville Power Administration for direct consumption as of May 8, 2001. "Direct service industrial customer" includes a person who is a subsidiary that is more than fifty percent owned by a direct service industrial customer and who receives power from the Bonneville Power Administration pursuant to the parent's contract for power.

(b) "Facility" means a gas turbine electrical generation facility that does not exist on May 8, 2001, and is owned by a direct service industrial customer for the purpose of producing electricity to be consumed by the direct service industrial customer.

(c) "Average annual employment" means the total employment in this state for a calendar year at the direct service industrial customer's location where electricity from the facility will be consumed.

(2) Effective July 1, 2001, the tax levied in RCW 82.12.022 on the first sixty months' use of natural or manufactured gas by a direct service industrial customer that owns a facility shall be deferred. This deferral is limited to the tax on natural or manufactured gas used or consumed to generate electricity at the facility.

(3) Application for deferral shall be made by the direct service industrial customer before the first use of natural or manufactured gas. The application shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the department and shall include but is not limited to information regarding the location of the facility, the projected date of first use of natural or manufactured gas to generate electricity at the facility, the date construction is projected to begin or did begin, the applicant's average annual employment in the state for the six calendar years immediately preceding the year in which the application is made, and shall affirm the applicant's status as a direct service industrial customer. The department shall rule on the application within thirty days of receipt.

(4)(a) The direct service industrial customer shall begin paying the deferred tax in the sixth calendar year following the calendar year in which the month of first use of natural or manufactured gas to generate electricity at the facility occurs. The first payment will be due on or before December 31st with subsequent annual payments due on or before December 31st of the following four years according to the following schedule:

<u>Payment Year</u>	<u>% of Deferred Tax to be Paid</u>
1	10%
2	15%
3	20%
4	25%
5	30%

(b) The department may authorize an accelerated payment schedule upon request of the taxpayer.

(c) Interest shall not be charged on the tax deferred under this section for the period of deferral, although all other penalties and interest applicable to delinquent excise taxes may be assessed and imposed. The debt for deferred tax will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the direct service industrial customer. Transfer of ownership of the facility does not affect deferral eligibility. However, the deferral is available to the successor only if the eligibility conditions of this section are met.

(5)(a) If the average of the direct service industrial customer's average annual employment for the five calendar years subsequent to the calendar year containing the first month of use of natural or manufactured gas to generate electricity at a facility is equal to or exceeds the six-year average annual employment stated on the application for deferral under this section, the tax deferred need not be paid. The direct service industrial customer shall certify to the department by June 1st of the sixth calendar year following the calendar year in which the month of first use of gas occurs the average annual employment for each of the five prior calendar years.

(b) If the five-year average calculated in (a) of this subsection is less than the average annual employment stated on the application for deferral under this section, the tax deferred under this section shall be paid in the amount as follows:

<u>Decrease in Average Annual Employment Over Five-Year Period</u>	<u>% of Deferred Tax to be Paid</u>
Less than 10%	10%
10% or more but less than 25%	25%
25% or more but less than 50%	50%
50% or more but less than 75%	75%
75% or more	100%

(c) Tax paid under this subsection shall be paid according to the schedule in subsection (4)(a) of this section and under the terms and conditions of subsection (4)(b) and (c) of this section.

(6) The employment security department shall make, and certify to the department of revenue, all determinations of (2012 Ed.)

employment under this section as requested by the department.

(7) A person claiming this deferral shall supply to the department quarterly reports containing information necessary to document the total volume of natural or manufactured gas purchased in the quarter, the value of that total volume, and the percentage of the total volume used to generate electricity at the facility. [2001 c 214 § 10.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0251 Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property by nonresident while temporarily within state—Use of household goods, personal effects, and private motor vehicles acquired in another state while resident of other state—Use of certain warranties.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use:

(1) Of any article of tangible personal property or any digital good or digital code, and any services that were rendered in respect to such property, brought into the state of Washington by a nonresident thereof for his or her use or enjoyment while temporarily within the state of Washington unless such property is used in conducting a nontransitory business activity within the state of Washington;

(2) By a nonresident of Washington of a motor vehicle or trailer which is registered or licensed under the laws of the state of his or her residence, and which is not required to be registered or licensed under the laws of Washington, including motor vehicles or trailers exempt pursuant to a declaration issued by the department of licensing under RCW 46.85.060, and services rendered outside the state of Washington in respect to such property;

(3) Of household goods, including digital goods, and digital codes, personal effects, private motor vehicles, and services rendered in respect to such property, by a bona fide resident of Washington, or nonresident members of the armed forces who are stationed in Washington pursuant to military orders, if such articles and services were acquired and used by such person in another state while a bona fide resident thereof and such acquisition and use occurred more than ninety days prior to the time he or she entered Washington. For purposes of this subsection, private motor vehicles do not include motor homes;

(4) Of an extended warranty, to the extent that the property covered by the extended warranty is exempt under this section from the tax imposed under this chapter.

For purposes of this section, "state" means a state of the United States, any political subdivision thereof, the District of Columbia, and any foreign country or political subdivision thereof, and "services" means services defined as retail sales in RCW 82.04.050(2) (a) or (g). [2009 c 535 § 608; 2005 c 514 § 106; 2003 c 5 § 18; 1997 c 301 § 1; 1987 c 27 § 1; 1985 c 353 § 4; 1983 c 26 § 2; 1980 c 37 § 51. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(1).]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.02525 Exemptions—Sale of copied public records by state and local agencies.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of public records sold by state and local agencies, as the terms are defined in RCW 42.56.010, including public records transferred electronically that are obtained under a request for the record for which no fee is charged other than a statutorily set fee or a fee to reimburse the agency for its actual costs directly incident to the copying. A request for a record includes a request for a document not available to the public but available to those persons who by law are allowed access to the document, such as requests for fire reports, law enforcement reports, taxpayer information, and academic transcripts. [2011 c 60 § 50; 2009 c 535 § 609; 1996 c 63 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 c 60:** See RCW 42.17A.919.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0253 Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property the sale of which is specifically taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW. [1980 c 37 § 53. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(3).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0254 Exemptions—Use of airplanes, locomotives, railroad cars, or watercraft used in interstate or foreign commerce or outside state's territorial waters—Components—Use of vehicles in the transportation of persons or property across state boundaries—Conditions—Use of vehicle under trip permit to point outside state.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of:

(a) Any airplane used primarily in (i) conducting interstate or foreign commerce or (ii) providing intrastate air transportation by a commuter air carrier as defined in RCW 82.08.0262;

(b) Any locomotive, railroad car, or watercraft used primarily in conducting interstate or foreign commerce by transporting therein or therewith property and persons for hire or used primarily in commercial deep sea fishing operations outside the territorial waters of the state;

(c) Tangible personal property that becomes a component part of any such airplane, locomotive, railroad car, or watercraft in the course of repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the same; and

(d) Labor and services rendered in respect to such repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving.

(2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use by a nonresident of this state of any vehicle used exclusively in transporting persons or property across the boundaries of this state and in intrastate operations incidental thereto when such vehicle is registered in a foreign state and in respect to the use by a nonresident of this state of any vehicle so registered and used within this state for a period not exceeding fifteen consecutive days under such rules as the department must adopt. However, under circumstances

determined to be justifiable by the department a second fifteen day period may be authorized consecutive with the first fifteen day period; and for the purposes of this exemption the term "nonresident" as used herein includes a user who has one or more places of business in this state as well as in one or more other states, but the exemption for nonresidents applies only to those vehicles which are most frequently dispatched, garaged, serviced, maintained, and operated from the user's place of business in another state.

(3) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use by the holder of a carrier permit issued by the interstate commerce commission or its successor agency of any vehicle whether owned by or leased with or without driver to the permit holder and used in substantial part in the normal and ordinary course of the user's business for transporting therein persons or property for hire across the boundaries of this state; and in respect to the use of any vehicle while being operated under the authority of a trip permit issued by the director of licensing pursuant to RCW 46.16A.320 and moving upon the highways from the point of delivery in this state to a point outside this state; and in respect to the use of tangible personal property which becomes a component part of any vehicle used by the holder of a carrier permit issued by the interstate commerce commission or its successor agency authorizing transportation by motor vehicle across the boundaries of this state whether such vehicle is owned by or leased with or without driver to the permit holder, in the course of repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the same; also the use of labor and services rendered in respect to such repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving. [2010 c 161 § 905; 2009 c 503 § 2; 2003 c 5 § 3; 1998 c 311 § 7; 1995 c 63 § 2; 1980 c 37 § 54. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(4).]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0255 Exemptions—Nontaxable tangible personal property, warranties, and digital products.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or other service which the state is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution of the state or under the Constitution or laws of the United States. [2009 c 535 § 610; 2005 c 514 § 107; 2003 c 5 § 4; 1980 c 37 § 55. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(5).]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0256 Exemptions—Use of motor vehicle and special fuel—Conditions.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of:

(1) Special fuel purchased in this state upon which a refund is obtained as provided in RCW 82.38.180(2); and

(2) Motor vehicle and special fuel if:

(a) The fuel is used for the purpose of public transportation and the purchaser is entitled to a refund or an exemption under RCW 82.36.275 or 82.38.080(3); or

(b) The fuel is purchased by a private, nonprofit transportation provider certified under chapter 81.66 RCW and the purchaser is entitled to a refund or an exemption under RCW 82.36.285 or 82.38.080(1)(h); or

(c) The fuel is purchased by a public transportation benefit area created under chapter 36.57A RCW or a county-owned ferry or county ferry district created under chapter 36.54 RCW for use in passenger-only ferry vessels; or

(d) The fuel is taxable under chapter 82.36 or 82.38 RCW: PROVIDED, That the use of motor vehicle and special fuel upon which a refund of the applicable fuel tax is obtained shall not be exempt under this subsection (2)(d), and the director of licensing shall deduct from the amount of such tax to be refunded the amount of tax due under this chapter and remit the same each month to the department of revenue; or

(e) The fuel is purchased by a county-owned ferry for use in ferry vessels after June 30, 2013; or

(f) The fuel is purchased by the Washington state ferry system for use in a state-owned ferry after June 30, 2013. [2011 1st sp.s. c 16 § 5; 2007 c 223 § 10; 2005 c 443 § 6; 1998 c 176 § 5. Prior: 1983 1st ex.s. c 35 § 3; 1983 c 108 § 2; 1980 c 147 § 2; 1980 c 37 § 56. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(6).]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 16 §§ 1-15:** See note following RCW 47.60.530.

**Effective date—2007 c 223:** See note following RCW 36.57A.220.

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2005 c 443:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0255.

**Rules—Findings—Effective date—1998 c 176:** See RCW 82.36.800, 82.36.900, and 82.36.901.

**Intent—1983 1st ex.s. c 35:** See note following RCW 82.08.0255.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

*Diesel, biodiesel, and aircraft fuel sales tax exemption for farmers: RCW 82.12.865.*

**82.12.02565 Exemptions—Machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, research and development, or a testing operation.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use by a manufacturer or processor for hire of machinery and equipment used directly in a manufacturing operation or research and development operation, to the use by a person engaged in testing for a manufacturer or processor for hire of machinery and equipment used directly in a testing operation, or to the use of labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the machinery and equipment. [2003 c 5 § 5; 1999 c 211 § 6; 1998 c 330 § 2; 1996 c 247 § 3; 1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 211:** See note following RCW 82.08.02565.

**Findings—Intent—1996 c 247:** See note following RCW 82.08.02566.

**Findings—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.12.025651 Exemptions—Use of machinery and equipment by public research institutions.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use by a public research institution of machinery and equipment used primarily in a research and development operation, or to the use of labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the machinery and equipment.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.08.025651 apply to this section.

(3) A public research institution receiving the benefit of the exemption provided in this section must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585. [2011 c 23 § 5.]

**Findings—2011 c 23:** See note following RCW 82.08.02565.

**Effective date—Construction—2011 c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.08.025651.

**82.12.02566 Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property incorporated in prototype for aircraft parts, auxiliary equipment, and aircraft modification—Limitations on yearly exemption.** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with respect to the use of tangible personal property incorporated into a prototype for aircraft parts, auxiliary equipment, or modifications; or in respect to the use of tangible personal property that at one time is incorporated into the prototype but is later destroyed in the testing or development of the prototype.

(2) This exemption does not apply in respect to the use of tangible personal property by any person whose total taxable amount during the immediately preceding calendar year exceeds twenty million dollars. For purposes of this section, "total taxable amount" means gross income of the business and value of products manufactured, less any amounts for which a credit is allowed under RCW 82.04.440.

(3) State and local taxes for which an exemption is received under this section and RCW 82.08.02566 shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars for any person during any calendar year.

(4) Sellers obligated to collect use tax shall collect tax on sales subject to this exemption. The buyer shall apply for a refund directly from the department. [2003 c 168 § 209; 1997 c 302 § 2; 1996 c 247 § 5.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—1996 c 247:** See note following RCW 82.08.02566.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.02568 Exemptions—Use of carbon and similar substances that become an ingredient or component of anodes or cathodes used in producing aluminum for sale.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of carbon, petroleum coke, coal tar, pitch, and similar substances that become an ingredient or component of anodes or cathodes used in producing aluminum for sale. [1996 c 170 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.02569 Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property related to a building or structure that is an inte-**

**gral part of a laser interferometer gravitational wave observatory.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of tangible personal property by a consumer as defined in RCW 82.04.190(6) if the tangible personal property is incorporated into, installed in, or attached to a building or other structure that is an integral part of a laser interferometer gravitational wave observatory on which construction is commenced before December 1, 1996. [1996 c 113 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0257 Exemptions—Use of personal property of the operating property of a public utility by state or political subdivision.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of any article of personal property included within the transfer of the title to the entire operating property of a publicly or privately owned public utility, or of a complete operating integral section thereof, by the state or a political subdivision thereof in conducting any public service business as defined in RCW 82.16.010. For the purposes of this section, "operating property" includes digital goods and digital codes. [2010 c 106 § 220; 2009 c 535 § 611; 1980 c 37 § 57. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(7).]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0258 Exemptions—Use of personal property previously used in farming and purchased from farmer at auction.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of personal property (including household goods) that has been used in conducting a farm activity, if such property was purchased from a farmer at an auction sale held or conducted by an auctioneer upon a farm and not otherwise. [2009 c 535 § 612; 1980 c 37 § 58. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(8).]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0259 Exemptions—Use of personal property, digital automated services, or certain other services by federal corporations providing aid and relief.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of personal property or the use of digital automated services or services defined in RCW 82.04.050 (2)(a) or (6)(b) by corporations that have been incorporated under any act of the congress of the United States and whose principal purposes are to furnish volunteer aid to members of the armed forces of the United States and also to carry on a system of national and international relief and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, flood, and other national calamities and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same. [2009 c 535 § 613; 2003 c 5 § 7; 1980 c 37 § 59. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(9).]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

[Title 82 RCW—page 140]

**82.12.02595 Exemptions—Personal property and certain services donated to nonprofit organization or governmental entity.** (1) This chapter does not apply to the use by a nonprofit charitable organization or state or local governmental entity of personal property that has been donated to the nonprofit charitable organization or state or local governmental entity, or to the subsequent use of the property by a person to whom the property is donated or bailed in furtherance of the purpose for which the property was originally donated.

(2) This chapter does not apply to the donation of personal property without intervening use to a nonprofit charitable organization, or to the incorporation of tangible personal property without intervening use into real or personal property of or for a nonprofit charitable organization in the course of installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, imprinting, improving, constructing, or decorating the real or personal property for no charge.

(3) This chapter does not apply to the use by a nonprofit charitable organization of labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, imprinting, or improving personal property provided to the charitable organization at no charge, or to the donation of such services.

(4) This chapter does not apply to the donation of amusement and recreation services without intervening use to a nonprofit organization or state or local governmental entity, to the use by a nonprofit organization or state or local governmental entity of amusement and recreation services, or to the subsequent use of the services by a person to whom the services are donated or bailed in furtherance of the purpose for which the services were originally donated. As used in this subsection, "amusement and recreation services" has the meaning in RCW 82.04.050(3)(a). [2009 c 535 § 615; 2004 c 155 § 1; 2003 c 5 § 11; 1998 c 182 § 1; 1995 c 201 § 1.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Effective date—2004 c 155:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 26, 2004]." [2004 c 155 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0261 Exemptions—Use of livestock.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of livestock, as defined in RCW 16.36.005, for breeding purposes where said animals are registered in a nationally recognized breed association; or to sales of cattle and milk cows used on the farm. [2001 c 118 § 5; 1980 c 37 § 60. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(10).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0262 Exemptions—Use of poultry for producing poultry and poultry products for sale.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of poultry in the production for sale of poultry or poultry products. [1980 c 37 § 61. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(11).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0263 Exemptions—Use of fuel by extractor or manufacturer thereof.** The provisions of this chapter shall

(2012 Ed.)

not apply in respect to the use of fuel by the extractor or manufacturer thereof when used directly in the operation of the particular extractive operation or manufacturing plant which produced or manufactured the same. [1980 c 37 § 62. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(12).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0264 Exemptions—Use of dual-controlled motor vehicles by school for driver training.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of motor vehicles, equipped with dual controls, which are loaned to and used exclusively by a school in connection with its driver training program: PROVIDED, That this exemption and the term "school" shall apply only to (1) the University of Washington, Washington State University, the regional universities, The Evergreen State College and the state community colleges or (2) any public, private or parochial school accredited by either the state board of education or by the University of Washington (the state accrediting station) or (3) any public vocational school meeting the standards, courses and requirements established and prescribed or approved in accordance with the Community College Act of 1967 (chapter 8, Laws of 1967 first extraordinary session). [1980 c 37 § 63. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(13).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0265 Exemptions—Use by bailee of tangible personal property consumed in research, development, etc., activities.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use by a bailee of any article of tangible personal property which is entirely consumed in the course of research, development, experimental and testing activities conducted by the user, provided the acquisition or use of such articles by the bailor was not subject to the taxes imposed by chapter 82.08 RCW or chapter 82.12 RCW. [1980 c 37 § 64. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(14).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0266 Exemptions—Use by residents of motor vehicles and trailers acquired and used while members of the armed services and stationed outside the state.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use by residents of this state of motor vehicles and trailers acquired and used while such persons are members of the armed services and are stationed outside this state pursuant to military orders, but this exemption shall not apply to members of the armed services called to active duty for training purposes for periods of less than six months and shall not apply to the use of motor vehicles or trailers acquired less than thirty days prior to the discharge or release from active duty of any person from the armed services. [1980 c 37 § 65. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(15).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0267 Exemptions—Use of semen in artificial insemination of livestock.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of semen in the artificial insemination of livestock. [1980 c 37 § 66. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(16).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0268 Exemptions—Use of form lumber by persons engaged in constructing, repairing, etc., structures for consumers.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of form lumber by any person engaged in the constructing, repairing, decorating or improving of new or existing buildings or other structures under, upon or above real property of or for consumers: PROVIDED, That such lumber is used or to be used first by such person for the molding of concrete in a single such contract, project or job and is thereafter incorporated into the product of that same contract, project or job as an ingredient or component thereof. [1980 c 37 § 67. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(17).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.02685 Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property related to agricultural employee housing.** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of buildings or other structures used as agricultural employee housing during the course of constructing, repairing, decorating, or improving the buildings or other structures by any person.

(2) The exemption provided in this section for agricultural employee housing provided to year-round employees of the agricultural employer, only applies if that housing is built to the current building code for single-family or multifamily dwellings according to the state building code, chapter 19.27 RCW.

(3) Any agricultural employee housing built under this section shall be used according to this section for at least five consecutive years from the date the housing is approved for occupancy, or the full amount of a tax otherwise due shall be immediately due and payable together with interest, but not penalties, from the date the housing is approved for occupancy until the date of payment. If at any time agricultural employee housing that is not located on agricultural land ceases to be used in the manner specified in subsection (2) of this section, the full amount of tax otherwise due shall be immediately due and payable with interest, but not penalties, from the date the housing ceases to be used as agricultural employee housing until the date of payment.

(4) The exemption provided in this section shall not apply to housing built for the occupancy of an employer, family members of an employer, or persons owning stock or shares in a farm partnership or corporation business.

(5) The definitions in RCW 82.08.02745(5) apply to this section. [1997 c 438 § 2; 1996 c 117 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0269 Exemptions—Use of sand, gravel, or rock to extent of labor and service charges for mining, sorting, crushing, etc., thereof from county or city quarry for public road purposes.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of any sand, gravel, or rock to the extent of the cost of or charges made for labor and services performed in respect to the mining, sorting, crushing, screening, washing, hauling, and stockpiling such sand, gravel, or rock, when such sand, gravel, or rock is taken from a pit or quarry which is owned by or leased to a county or a city, and such sand, gravel, or rock is (1) either stockpiled in said pit or

quarry for placement or is placed on the street, road, place, or highway of the county or city by the county or city itself, or (2) sold by the county or city to a county, or a city at actual cost for placement on a publicly owned street, road, place, or highway. The exemption provided for in this section shall not apply to the use of such material to the extent of the cost of or charge made for such labor and services, if the material is used for other than public road purposes or is sold otherwise than as provided for in this section. [1980 c 37 § 68. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(18).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0271 Exemptions—Use of wearing apparel only as a sample for display for sale.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of wearing apparel only as a sample for display for the purpose of effecting sales of goods represented by such sample. [1980 c 37 § 69. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(19).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0272 Exemptions—Use of personal property in single trade shows.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of personal property held for sale and displayed in single trade shows for a period not in excess of thirty days, the primary purpose of which is to promote the sale of products or services. [2009 c 535 § 616; 1980 c 37 § 70. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(20).]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0273 Exemptions—Use of pollen.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of pollen. [1980 c 37 § 71. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(21).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0274 Exemptions—Use of tangible personal property by political subdivision resulting from annexation or incorporation.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of the personal property of one political subdivision by another political subdivision directly or indirectly arising out of or resulting from the annexation or incorporation of any part of the territory of one political subdivision by another. [1980 c 37 § 72. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(22).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.02745 Exemptions—Use by free hospitals of certain items.** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use by free hospitals of items reasonably necessary for the operation of, and provision of health care by, free hospitals.

(2) As used in this section, "free hospital" means a hospital that does not charge patients for health care provided by the hospital. [1993 c 205 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.02747 Exemptions—Use of medical products by qualifying blood, tissue, or blood and tissue banks.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials by a qualify-

ing blood bank, a qualifying tissue bank, or a qualifying blood and tissue bank. The exemption in this section does not apply to the use of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.04.324 and 82.08.02805 apply to this section. [2004 c 82 § 3; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 9 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.02748 Exemptions—Use of human blood, tissue, organs, bodies, or body parts for medical research or quality control testing.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of human blood, tissue, organs, bodies, or body parts for medical research and quality control testing purposes. [1996 c 141 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.02749 Exemptions—Use of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials by organ procurement organization.** The tax levied by RCW 82.08.020 shall not apply to the use of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials by an organ procurement organization exempt under RCW 82.04.326. The definitions of medical supplies, chemicals, and materials in \*RCW 82.04.324 apply to this section. This exemption does not apply to the use of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles. [2002 c 113 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.04.324 was amended by 2004 c 82 § 1, deleting the definitions of "medical supplies," "chemicals," and "materials."

**Effective date—2002 c 113:** See note following RCW 82.04.326.

**82.12.0275 Exemptions—Use of certain drugs or family planning devices.** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of drugs dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription, if the drugs are for human use.

(2) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of drugs or devices used for family planning purposes, including the prevention of conception, for human use dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription.

(3) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of drugs or devices used for family planning purposes, including the prevention of conception, for human use supplied by a family planning clinic that is under contract with the department of health to provide family planning services.

(4) As used in this section, "prescription" and "drug" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.08.0281. [2003 c 168 § 406; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 309; 1980 c 37 § 73. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(23).]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Finding—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.08.0281.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0276 Exemptions—Use of returnable containers for beverages and foods.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of returnable containers for beverages and foods, including but not limited to soft

drinks, milk, beer, and mixers. [1980 c 37 § 74. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(24).]

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0277 Exemptions—Certain medical items.** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of:

(a) Prosthetic devices prescribed, fitted, or furnished for an individual by a person licensed under the laws of this state to prescribe, fit, or furnish prosthetic devices, and the components of such prosthetic devices;

(b) Medicines of mineral, animal, and botanical origin prescribed, administered, dispensed, or used in the treatment of an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.36A RCW; and

(c) Medically prescribed oxygen, including, but not limited to, oxygen concentrator systems, oxygen enricher systems, liquid oxygen systems, and gaseous, bottled oxygen systems prescribed for an individual by a person licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW for use in the medical treatment of that individual.

(2) In addition, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of any of the items exempted under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The exemption provided by subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to the use of durable medical equipment, other than as specified in subsection (1)(c) of this section, or mobility enhancing equipment.

(4) "Prosthetic device," "durable medical equipment," and "mobility enhancing equipment" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.08.0283. [2007 c 6 § 1102; 2004 c 153 § 109. Prior: 2003 c 168 § 412; 2003 c 5 § 8; 2001 c 75 § 2; 1998 c 168 § 3; 1997 c 224 § 2; 1996 c 162 § 2; 1991 c 250 § 3; 1986 c 255 § 2; 1980 c 86 § 2; 1980 c 37 § 75. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(25).]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Finding—Intent—1991 c 250:** See note following RCW 82.08.0283.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0279 Exemptions—Use of ferry vessels by the state or local governmental units—Components thereof.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of ferry vessels of the state of Washington or of local governmental units in the state of Washington in transporting pedestrian or vehicular traffic within and outside the territorial waters of the state, in respect to the use of tangible personal property which becomes a component part of any such ferry vessel, and in respect to the use of labor and services rendered in respect to improving such ferry vessels. [2003 c 5 § 9; 1980 c 37 § 77. Formerly RCW 82.12.030(27).]

(2012 Ed.)

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Intent—1980 c 37:** See note following RCW 82.04.4281.

**82.12.0282 Exemptions—Use of vans as ride-sharing vehicles.** The tax imposed by this chapter shall not apply with respect to the use of passenger motor vehicles used as ride-sharing vehicles by not less than five persons, including the driver, with a gross vehicle weight not to exceed 10,000 pounds where the primary usage is for commuter ride-sharing, as defined in RCW 46.74.010, by not less than four persons including the driver when at least two of those persons are confined to wheelchairs when riding, or passenger motor vehicles where the primary usage is for ride-sharing for persons with special transportation needs, as defined in RCW 46.74.010, if the vehicles are used as ride-sharing vehicles for thirty-six consecutive months beginning with the date of first use.

To qualify for the tax exemption, those passenger motor vehicles with five or six passengers, including the driver, used for commuter ride-sharing, must be operated either within the state's eight largest counties that are required to develop commute trip reduction plans as directed by chapter 70.94 RCW or in other counties, or cities and towns within those counties, that elect to adopt and implement a commute trip reduction plan. Additionally at least one of the following conditions must apply: (1) The vehicle must be operated by a public transportation agency for the general public; or (2) the vehicle must be used by a major employer, as defined in RCW 70.94.524 as an element of its commute trip reduction program for their employees; or (3) the vehicle must be owned and operated by individual employees and must be registered either with the employer as part of its commute trip reduction program or with a public transportation agency serving the area where the employees live or work. Individual employee owned and operated motor vehicles will require certification that the vehicle is registered with a major employer or a public transportation agency. Major employers who own and operate motor vehicles for their employees must certify that the commuter ride-sharing arrangement conforms to a carpool/vanpool element contained within their commute trip reduction program. [2001 c 320 § 5; 1999 c 358 § 11; 1996 c 88 § 4; 1993 c 488 § 4; 1980 c 166 § 2.]

**Finding—Annual recertification rule—Report—1993 c 488:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0287.

*Ride-sharing vehicles—Special plates:* RCW 46.18.285.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0283 Exemptions—Use of certain irrigation equipment.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the use of irrigation equipment if:

(1) The irrigation equipment was purchased by the lessor for the purpose of irrigating land controlled by the lessor;

(2) The lessor has paid tax under RCW 82.08.020 or 82.12.020 in respect to the irrigation equipment;

(3) The irrigation equipment is attached to the land in whole or in part; and

(4) The irrigation equipment is leased to the lessee as an incidental part of the lease of the underlying land to the lessee and is used solely on such land. [1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0284 Exemptions—Use of computers or computer components, accessories, software, digital goods, or digital codes donated to schools or colleges.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of computers, computer components, computer accessories, computer software, digital goods, or digital codes, irrevocably donated to any public or private nonprofit school or college, as defined under chapter 84.36 RCW, in this state. For purposes of this section, "computer" and "computer software" have the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.215. [2009 c 535 § 617; 2007 c 54 § 15; 2003 c 168 § 603; 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 7.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.02915 Exemptions—Use of items by health or social welfare organizations for alternative housing for youth in crisis.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of any item acquired by a health or social welfare organization, as defined in RCW 82.04.431, of items necessary for new construction of alternative housing for youth in crisis, so long as the facility will be a licensed agency under chapter 74.15 RCW, upon completion. [1998 c 183 § 2; 1997 c 386 § 57; 1995 c 346 § 2.]

*Youth in crisis—Definition—Limited purpose:* RCW 82.08.02917.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.02917 Exemptions—Use of amusement and recreation services by nonprofit youth organization.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of amusement and recreation services by a nonprofit youth organization, as defined in RCW 82.04.4271, to members of the organization. [1999 c 358 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0293 Exemptions—Use of food and food ingredients.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of food and food ingredients for human consumption. "Food and food ingredients" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0293.

(2) The exemption of "food and food ingredients" provided for in subsection (1) of this section does not apply to prepared food, soft drinks, or dietary supplements. "Prepared food," "soft drinks," and "dietary supplements" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.08.0293.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, the exemption of "food and food ingredients" provided in this section applies to food and food ingredients which are furnished, prepared, or served as meals:

(a) Under a state administered nutrition program for the aged as provided for in the older Americans act (P.L. 95-478 Title III) and RCW 74.38.040(6);

(b) Which are provided to senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, or low-income persons by a not-for-profit organization organized under chapter 24.03 or 24.12 RCW; or

(c) That are provided to residents, sixty-two years of age or older, of a qualified low-income senior housing facility by the lessor or operator of the facility. The sale of a meal that is billed to both spouses of a marital community or both domestic partners of a domestic partnership meets the age requirement in this subsection (3)(c) if at least one of the spouses or domestic partners is at least sixty-two years of age. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified low-income senior housing facility" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0293. [2011 c 2 § 303 (Initiative Measure No. 1107, approved November 2, 2010); 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 903; 2009 c 483 § 4; 2003 c 168 § 303; 1988 c 103 § 2; 1986 c 182 § 2; 1985 c 104 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 34.]

**Reviser's note:** Referendum Bill No. 52 was rejected by the voters at the November 2010 election. This section has been returned to the status existing before its amendment by 2010 1st sp.s. c 35.

**Findings—Construction—2011 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 1107):** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 483:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0294 Exemptions—Use of feed for cultivating or raising fish for sale.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of feed by persons for the cultivating or raising for sale of fish entirely within confined rearing areas on the person's own land or on land in which the person has a present right of possession. [1985 c 148 § 4.]

**82.12.0296 Exemptions—Use of feed consumed by livestock at a public livestock market.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with respect to the use of feed consumed by livestock at a public livestock market. [1986 c 265 § 2.]

**82.12.0297 Exemptions—Use of food purchased under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of eligible foods that are purchased with benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program or successor program, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in RCW 82.12.0293.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.08.0297 apply to this section. [2011 c 174 § 104; 1998 c 79 § 19; 1987 c 28 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0298 Exemptions—Use of diesel fuel in operating watercraft in commercial deep sea fishing or commercial passenger fishing boat operations outside the state.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with respect to the use of diesel fuel in the operation of watercraft in commercial deep sea fishing operations or commercial passenger fishing boat operations by persons who are regularly engaged in the business of commercial deep sea fishing or commercial passenger fishing boat operations outside the territorial waters of this state.

For purposes of this section, a person is not regularly engaged in the business of commercial deep sea fishing or the operation of a commercial passenger fishing boat if the person has gross receipts from these operations of less than five thousand dollars a year. [1987 c 494 § 2.]

**82.12.031 Exemptions—Use by artistic or cultural organizations of certain objects.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use by artistic or cultural organizations of:

- (1) Objects of art;
- (2) Objects of cultural value;
- (3) Objects to be used in the creation of a work of art, other than tools; or
- (4) Objects to be used in displaying art objects or presenting artistic or cultural exhibitions or performances. [1981 c 140 § 5.]

*"Artistic or cultural organization" defined: RCW 82.04.4328.*

**82.12.0311 Exemptions—Use of materials and supplies in packing horticultural products.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with respect to the use of materials and supplies directly used in the packing of fresh perishable horticultural products by any person entitled to a deduction under RCW 82.04.4287 either as an agent or an independent contractor. [1988 c 68 § 2.]

**82.12.0315 Exemptions—Rental or sales related to motion picture or video productions—Exceptions.** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of:

- (a) Production equipment rented to a motion picture or video production business;
- (b) Production equipment acquired and used by a motion picture or video production business in another state, if the acquisition and use occurred more than ninety days before the time the motion picture or video production business entered this state; and
- (c) Production services that are within the scope of RCW 82.04.050(2) (a) or (g) and are sold to a motion picture or video production business.

(2) As used in this section, "production equipment," "production services," and "motion picture or video production business" have the meanings given in RCW 82.08.0315.

(3) The exemption provided for in this section shall not apply to the use of production equipment rented to, or production equipment or production services that are within the scope of RCW 82.04.050(2) (a) or (g) acquired and used by, a motion picture or video production business that is engaged, to any degree, in the production of erotic material, as defined in RCW 9.68.050. [2009 c 535 § 614; 2003 c 5 § 10; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 5 § 2.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.0316 Exemptions—Sales of cigarettes by Indian retailers.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of cigarettes sold by an Indian

(2012 Ed.)

retailer during the effective period of a cigarette tax contract subject to RCW 43.06.455 or a cigarette tax agreement under RCW 43.06.465 or 43.06.466. [2008 c 228 § 4; 2005 c 11 § 4; 2001 c 235 § 5.]

**Authorization for agreement—Effective date—2008 c 228:** See notes following RCW 43.06.466.

**Findings—Intent—Explanatory statement—Effective date—2005 c 11:** See notes following RCW 43.06.465.

**Intent—Finding—2001 c 235:** See RCW 43.06.450.

**82.12.032 Exemption—Use of used park model trailers.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with respect to the use of used park model trailers, as defined in RCW 82.45.032. [2001 c 282 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective date—2001 c 282:** See notes following RCW 82.08.032.

**82.12.033 Exemption—Use of certain used mobile homes.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 shall not apply in respect to:

- (1) The use of used mobile homes as defined in RCW 82.45.032.
- (2) The use of a mobile home acquired by renting or leasing if the rental agreement or lease exceeds thirty days in duration and if the rental or lease of the mobile home is not conducted jointly with the provision of short-term lodging for transients. [1986 c 211 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 266 § 4.]

**82.12.034 Exemption—Use of used floating homes.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with respect to the use of used floating homes, as defined in RCW 82.45.032. [1984 c 192 § 4.]

**82.12.0345 Exemptions—Use of newspapers.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 does not apply in respect to the use of:

- (1) Printed newspapers as defined in RCW 82.08.0253; and
- (2) Newspapers transferred electronically, provided that the electronic version of a printed newspaper:
  - (a) Shares content with the printed newspaper; and
  - (b) Is prominently identified by the same name as the printed newspaper or otherwise conspicuously indicates that it is a complement to the printed newspaper. [2009 c 535 § 618; 1994 c 124 § 11.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.0347 Exemptions—Use of academic transcripts.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of academic transcripts, including academic transcripts transferred electronically. [2009 c 535 § 619; 1996 c 272 § 3.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.035 Credit for retail sales or use taxes paid to other jurisdictions with respect to property used.** A credit is allowed against the taxes imposed by this chapter upon the use in this state of tangible personal property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or

services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050 (2) (a) or (g), (3)(a), or (6)(b), in the amount that the present user thereof or his or her bailor or donor has paid a legally imposed retail sales or use tax with respect to such property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050 (2) (a) or (g), (3)(a), or (6)(b) to any other state, possession, territory, or commonwealth of the United States, any political subdivision thereof, the District of Columbia, and any foreign country or political subdivision thereof. [2009 c 535 § 1107; 2007 c 6 § 1203; 2005 c 514 § 108; 2002 c 367 § 5; 1996 c 148 § 6; 1987 c 27 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 89 § 5.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 367:** See notes following RCW 82.04.060.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **82.12.036 Exemptions and credits—Pollution control facilities.** See chapter 82.34 RCW.

**82.12.037 Credits and refunds—Bad debts.** (1) A seller is entitled to a credit or refund for use taxes previously paid on bad debts, as that term is used in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 166, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003.

(2) For purposes of this section, "bad debts" does not include:

(a) Amounts due on property that remains in the possession of the seller until the full purchase price is paid;

(b) Expenses incurred in attempting to collect debt;

(c) Debts sold or assigned by the seller to third parties, where the third party is without recourse against the seller; and

(d) Repossessed property.

(3) If a credit or refund of use tax is taken for a bad debt and the debt is subsequently collected in whole or in part, the tax on the amount collected must be paid and reported on the return filed for the period in which the collection is made.

(4) Payments on a previously claimed bad debt are applied first proportionally to the taxable price of the property or service and the sales or use tax thereon, and secondly to interest, service charges, and any other charges.

(5) If the seller uses a certified service provider as defined in RCW 82.32.020 to administer its use tax responsibilities, the certified service provider may claim, on behalf of the seller, the credit or refund allowed by this section. The certified service provider must credit or refund the full amount received to the seller.

(6) The department must allow an allocation of bad debts among member states to the streamlined sales and use tax agreement, as defined in RCW 82.58.010(1), if the books and records of the person claiming bad debts support the allocation.

(7) A person's right to claim a credit or refund under this section is not assignable. No person other than the original

seller in the transaction that generated the bad debt or, as provided in subsection (5) of this section, a certified service provider, is entitled to claim a credit or refund under this section. If the original seller in the transaction that generated the bad debt has sold or assigned the debt instrument to a third party with recourse, the original seller may claim a credit or refund under this section only after the debt instrument is reassigned by the third party to the original seller. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1503; 2007 c 6 § 103; 2004 c 153 § 304; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 36.]

**Intent—Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 1502 and 1503:** See notes following RCW 82.08.037.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Bad debts—Intent—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.037.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.038 Exemptions—Vehicle battery core deposits or credits—Replacement vehicle tire fees—"Core deposits or credits" defined.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply: (1) To the value of core deposits or credits in a retail or wholesale sale; or (2) to the fees imposed under RCW 70.95.510 upon the sale of a new replacement vehicle tire. For purposes of this section, the term "core deposits or credits" means the amount representing the value of returnable products such as batteries, starters, brakes, and other products with returnable value added for the purpose of recycling or remanufacturing. [1989 c 431 § 46.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.040 Retailers to collect tax—Penalty—Continued expiration of subsection.** (1) Every person who maintains in this state a place of business or a stock of goods, or engages in business activities within this state, shall obtain from the department a certificate of registration, and shall, at the time of making sales of tangible personal property, digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, extended warranties, or sales of any service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050 (2) (a) or (g), (3)(a), or (6)(b), or making transfers of either possession or title, or both, of tangible personal property for use in this state, collect from the purchasers or transferees the tax imposed under this chapter. The tax to be collected under this section must be in an amount equal to the purchase price multiplied by the rate in effect for the retail sales tax under RCW 82.08.020. For the purposes of this chapter, the phrase "maintains in this state a place of business" shall include the solicitation of sales and/or taking of orders by sales agents or traveling representatives. For the purposes of this chapter, "engages in business activity within this state" includes every activity which is sufficient under the Constitution of the United States for this state to require collection of tax under this chapter. The department must in rules specify activities which constitute engaging in business activity within this state, and must keep the rules current with

future court interpretations of the Constitution of the United States.

(2) Every person who engages in this state in the business of acting as an independent selling agent for persons who do not hold a valid certificate of registration, and who receives compensation by reason of sales of tangible personal property, digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, extended warranties, or sales of any service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050 (2) (a) or (g), (3)(a), or (6)(b), of his or her principals for use in this state, must, at the time such sales are made, collect from the purchasers the tax imposed on the purchase price under this chapter, and for that purpose is deemed a retailer as defined in this chapter.

(3) The tax required to be collected by this chapter is deemed to be held in trust by the retailer until paid to the department, and any retailer who appropriates or converts the tax collected to the retailer's own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax provided herein to the extent that the money required to be collected is not available for payment on the due date as prescribed is guilty of a misdemeanor. In case any seller fails to collect the tax herein imposed or having collected the tax, fails to pay the same to the department in the manner prescribed, whether such failure is the result of the seller's own acts or the result of acts or conditions beyond the seller's control, the seller is nevertheless personally liable to the state for the amount of such tax, unless the seller has taken from the buyer a copy of a direct pay permit issued under RCW 82.32.087.

(4) Any retailer who refunds, remits, or rebates to a purchaser, or transferee, either directly or indirectly, and by whatever means, all or any part of the tax levied by this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(5) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, any person making sales is not obligated to collect the tax imposed by this chapter if:

(a) The person's activities in this state, whether conducted directly or through another person, are limited to:

- (i) The storage, dissemination, or display of advertising;
- (ii) The taking of orders; or
- (iii) The processing of payments; and

(b) The activities are conducted electronically via a web site on a server or other computer equipment located in Washington that is not owned or operated by the person making sales into this state nor owned or operated by an affiliated person. "Affiliated persons" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.424.

(6) Subsection (5) of this section expires when: (a) The United States congress grants individual states the authority to impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers; or (b) it is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, in a judgment not subject to review, that a state can impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers.

(7) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, any person making sales is not obligated to collect the tax imposed by this chapter if the person would have been obligated to collect retail sales tax on the sale absent a specific exemption provided in chapter 82.08 RCW, and there is no corresponding use tax exemption in this chapter. Nothing in this subsection (7) may be construed as relieving purchasers from liability for reporting and remitting the tax due under this chapter directly to the department.

(8) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, any person making sales is not obligated to collect the tax imposed by this chapter if the state is prohibited under the Constitution or laws of the United States from requiring the person to collect the tax imposed by this chapter. [2011 1st sp.s. c 20 § 103; 2010 c 106 § 221; 2009 c 535 § 1108; 2005 c 514 § 109. Prior: 2003 c 168 § 215; 2003 c 76 § 4; 2001 c 188 § 5; 1986 c 48 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 11; 1961 c 293 § 11; 1961 c 15 § 82.12.040; prior: 1955 c 389 § 27; 1945 c 249 § 7; 1941 c 178 § 10; 1939 c 225 § 16; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-33; prior: 1935 c 180 § 33.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Intent—2003 c 76:** See note following RCW 82.04.424.

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2001 c 188:** See notes following RCW 82.32.087.

*Project on exemption reporting requirements: RCW 82.32.440.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.045 Collection of tax on vehicles by county auditor or director of licensing—Remittance.** (1) In the collection of the use tax on vehicles, the department of revenue may designate the county auditors of the several counties of the state as its collecting agents. Upon such designation, it shall be the duty of each county auditor to collect the tax at the time an applicant applies for transfer of certificate of title to the vehicle, except when the applicant:

(a) Exhibits a dealer's report of sale showing that the retail sales tax has been collected by the dealer;

(b) Presents a written statement signed by the department of revenue, or its duly authorized agent showing that no use tax is legally due; or

(c) Presents satisfactory evidence showing that the retail sales tax or the use tax has been paid by the applicant on the vehicle in question.

(2) As used in this section, "vehicle" has the same meaning as in RCW 46.04.670.

(3) It shall be the duty of every applicant for registration and transfer of certificate of title who is subject to payment of tax under this section to declare upon the application the value of the vehicle for which application is made, which shall consist of the consideration paid or contracted to be paid therefor.

(4) Each county auditor who acts as agent of the department of revenue shall at the time of remitting vehicle license fee receipts on vehicles subject to the provisions of this section pay over and account to the state treasurer for all use tax revenue collected under this section, after first deducting as a collection fee the sum of two dollars for each motor vehicle upon which the tax has been collected. All revenue received by the state treasurer under this section shall be credited to the general fund. The auditor's collection fee shall be deposited in the county current expense fund. A duplicate of the county auditor's transmittal report to the state treasurer shall be forwarded forthwith to the department of revenue.

(5) Any applicant who has paid use tax to a county auditor under this section may apply to the department of revenue for refund thereof if he or she has reason to believe that such tax was not legally due and owing. No refund shall be allowed unless application therefor is received by the department of revenue within the statutory period for assessment of taxes, penalties, or interest prescribed by RCW 82.32.050(4). Upon receipt of an application for refund the department of revenue shall consider the same and issue its order either granting or denying it and if refund is denied the taxpayer shall have the right of appeal as provided in RCW 82.32.170, 82.32.180, and 82.32.190.

(6) The provisions of this section shall be construed as cumulative of other methods prescribed in chapters 82.04 through 82.32 RCW, inclusive, for the collection of the tax imposed by this chapter. The department of revenue shall have power to promulgate such rules as may be necessary to administer the provisions of this section. Any duties required by this section to be performed by the county auditor may be performed by the director of licensing but no collection fee shall be deductible by said director in remitting use tax revenue to the state treasurer.

(7) The use tax revenue collected on the rate provided in RCW 82.08.020(3) shall be deposited in the multimodal transportation account under RCW 47.66.070. [2010 c 161 § 904; 2003 c 361 § 303; 1996 c 149 § 19; 1983 c 77 § 2; 1979 c 158 § 222; 1969 ex.s. c 10 § 1; 1963 c 21 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.12.045. Prior: 1951 c 37 § 1.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Findings—Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 361:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

**82.12.060 Installment sales or leases.** In the case of installment sales and leases of personal property, the department, by rule, may provide for the collection of taxes upon the installments of the purchase price, or amount of rental, as of the time the same fall due. [2003 c 168 § 216; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 54; 1961 c 293 § 16; 1961 c 15 § 82.12.060. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 13; 1959 c 197 § 8; prior: 1941 c 178 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-34a, part.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.070 Cash receipts taxpayers—Bad debts.** The department of revenue, by general regulation, shall provide that a taxpayer whose regular books of account are kept on a cash receipts basis may file returns based upon his cash receipts for each reporting period and pay the tax herein provided upon such basis in lieu of reporting and paying the tax on all sales made during such period. A taxpayer filing returns on a cash receipts basis is not required to pay such tax on debt subject to credit or refund under RCW 82.12.037. [2004 c 153 § 305; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 38; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 55; 1961 c 15 § 82.12.070. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 14;

1959 c 197 § 9; prior: 1941 c 178 § 11, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-34a, part.]

**Bad debts—Intent—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.037.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.080 Administration.** The provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW, insofar as applicable, shall have full force and application with respect to taxes imposed under the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 15 § 82.12.080. Prior: 1949 c 228 § 9, part; 1945 c 249 § 8, part; 1943 c 156 § 10, part; 1939 c 225 § 18, part; 1937 c 191 § 4, part; 1935 c 180 § 35, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8470-35, part.]

**82.12.145 Delivery charges.** When computing the tax levied by RCW 82.12.020, if a shipment consists of taxable tangible personal property and nontaxable tangible personal property, and delivery charges are included in the purchase price, the consumer must remit tax or the retailer must collect and remit tax on the percentage of delivery charges allocated to the taxable tangible personal property, but does not have to remit or collect and remit tax on the percentage allocated to exempt tangible personal property. The consumer or retailer may use either of the following percentages to determine the taxable portion of the delivery charges:

(1) A percentage based on the total purchase price of the taxable tangible personal property compared to the total purchase price of all tangible personal property in the shipment; or

(2) A percentage based on the total weight of the taxable tangible personal property compared to the total weight of all tangible personal property in the shipment. [2007 c 6 § 802.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.12.195 Bundled transactions—Tax imposed.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, the use of each product acquired in a bundled transaction is subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 if the use of any of its component products is subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020.

(2) The use of each product acquired in a transaction described in RCW 82.08.190(4) (a) or (b) is subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 if the service that is the true object of the transaction is subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020. If the service that is the true object of the transaction is not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020, the use of each product acquired in the transaction is not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020.

(3) The use of each product acquired in a transaction described in RCW 82.08.190(4)(c) is not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020.

(4) The use of each product in a transaction described in RCW 82.08.190(4)(d) is not subject to the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020.

(5) The tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 does not apply in respect to the use of each product acquired in a bundled transaction consisting entirely of the sale of services or of services and prepared food, if the products are provided to a res-

ident, sixty-two years of age or older, of a qualified low-income senior housing facility by the lessor or operator of the facility. A single bundled transaction involving both spouses of a marital community or both domestic partners of a domestic partnership meets the age requirement in this subsection if at least one of the spouses or domestic partners is at least sixty-two years of age. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified low-income senior housing facility" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0293.

(6) The definitions in RCW 82.08.190 apply to this section. [2009 c 483 § 5; 2007 c 6 § 1403.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—2009 c 483:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

### 82.12.700 Exemptions—Vessels sold to nonresidents.

(1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of a vessel thirty feet or longer if a nonresident individual:

(a) Purchased the vessel from a vessel dealer in accordance with RCW 82.08.700;

(b) Purchased the vessel in the state from a person other than a vessel dealer, but the nonresident individual purchases and displays a valid use permit from a vessel dealer under this section within fourteen days of the date that the vessel is purchased in this state; or

(c) Acquired the vessel outside the state, but purchases and displays a valid use permit from a vessel dealer under this section within fourteen days of the date that the vessel is first brought into this state.

(2) Any vessel dealer that makes tax exempt sales under RCW 82.08.700 shall issue use permits under this section. A vessel dealer shall issue a use permit under this section if the dealer is satisfied that the individual purchasing the permit is a nonresident. The use permit is valid for twelve consecutive months from the date of issuance. A use permit is not renewable, and an individual may only purchase one use permit for a particular vessel. A person who has been issued a use permit under RCW 82.08.700 for a particular vessel may not purchase a use permit under this section for the same vessel after the use permit issued under RCW 82.08.700 expires. All other requirements and conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, relating to use permits in RCW 82.08.700, apply to use permits under this section. A person may not claim an exemption under RCW 82.12.0251(1) within twenty-four months after a use permit, issued under this section or RCW 82.08.700, for the same vessel, has expired.

(3)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a nonresident who claims an exemption under this section and who uses a vessel in this state after his or her use permit for that vessel has expired is liable for the tax imposed under RCW 82.12.020 based on the value of the vessel at the time that the vessel was either purchased in this state under circumstances in which the exemption under RCW 82.08.700 did not apply or was first brought into this state, as the case may be. Interest at the rate provided in RCW 82.32.050 applies to amounts due under this subsection, retroactively to the date that the vessel was purchased in this state or first brought into the

(2012 Ed.)

state, and accrues until the full amount of tax due is paid to the department.

(b) A nonresident individual who is exempt under both this section and RCW 82.08.700 and who uses a vessel in this state after his or her use permit for that vessel expires is liable for tax and interest as provided in RCW 82.08.700(5).

(4) Any vessel dealer that issues a use permit to an individual who does not hold valid identification establishing out-of-state residency, and any dealer that fails to maintain records for each use permit issued that shows the type of proof accepted, including any identification numbers where appropriate, and the expiration date, if any, is personally liable for the amount of tax due. [2007 c 22 § 2.]

**Effective date—2007 c 22:** See note following RCW 82.08.700.

**82.12.800 Exemptions—Uses of vessel, vessel's trailer by manufacturer.** (1) The tax imposed under RCW 82.12.020 shall not apply to the following uses of a vessel, as defined in RCW 88.02.310, by the manufacturer of the vessel:

(a) Activities to test, set-up, repair, remodel, evaluate, or otherwise make a vessel seaworthy, to include performance, endurance, and sink testing, if the vessel is to be held for sale;

(b) Training activities of a manufacturer's employees, agents, or subcontractors involved in the development and manufacturing of the manufacturer's vessels, if the vessel is to be held for sale;

(c) Activities to promote the sale of the manufacturer's vessels, to include photography and video sessions to be used in promotional materials; traveling directly to and from vessel promotional events for the express purpose of displaying a manufacturer's vessels;

(d) Any vessels loaned or donated to a civic, religious, nonprofit, or educational organization for continuous periods of use not exceeding seventy-two hours, or longer if approved by the department; or to vessels loaned or donated to governmental entities;

(e) Direct transporting, displaying, or demonstrating any vessel at a wholesale or retail vessel show;

(f) Delivery of a vessel to a buyer, vessel manufacturer, registered vessel dealer as defined in RCW 88.02.310, or to any other person involved in the manufacturing or sale of that vessel for the purpose of the manufacturing or sale of that vessel; and

(g) Displaying, showing, and operating a vessel for sale to a prospective buyer to include the short-term testing, operating, and examining by a prospective buyer.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall apply to any trailer or other similar apparatus used to transport, display, show, or operate a vessel, if the trailer or other similar apparatus is held for sale. [2011 c 171 § 121; 1997 c 293 § 1.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**82.12.801 Exemptions—Uses of vessel, vessel's trailer by dealer.** (1) The tax imposed under RCW 82.12.020 shall not apply to the following uses of a vessel, as defined in RCW 88.02.310, by a vessel dealer registered under chapter 88.02 RCW:

(a) Activities to test, set-up, repair, remodel, evaluate, or otherwise make a vessel seaworthy, if the vessel is held for sale;

(b) Training activity of a dealer's employees, agents, or subcontractors involved in the sale of the dealer's vessels, if the vessel is held for sale;

(c) Activities to promote the sale of the dealer's vessels, to include photography and video sessions to be used in promotional materials; traveling directly to and from promotional vessel events for the express purpose of displaying a dealer's vessels for sale, provided it is displayed on the vessel that it is, in fact, for sale and the identification of the registered vessel dealer offering the vessel for sale is also displayed on the vessel;

(d) Any vessel loaned or donated to a civic, religious, nonprofit, or educational organization for continuous periods of use not exceeding seventy-two hours, or longer if approved by the department; or to vessels loaned or donated to governmental entities;

(e) Direct transporting, displaying, or demonstrating any vessel at a wholesale or retail vessel show;

(f) Delivery of a vessel to a buyer, vessel manufacturer, registered vessel dealer as defined in RCW 88.02.310, or to any other person involved in the manufacturing or sale of that vessel for the purpose of the manufacturing or sale of that vessel; and

(g) Displaying, showing, and operating a vessel for sale to a prospective buyer to include the short-term testing, operating, and examining by a prospective buyer.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall apply to any trailer or other similar apparatus used to transport, display, show, or operate a vessel, if the trailer or other similar apparatus is held for sale. [2011 c 171 § 122; 1997 c 293 § 2.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**82.12.802 Vessels held in inventory by dealer or manufacturer—Tax on personal use—Documentation—Rules.** If a vessel held in inventory is used by a vessel dealer or vessel manufacturer for personal use, use tax shall be due based only on the reasonable rental value of the vessel used, but only if the vessel dealer or manufacturer can show that the vessel is truly held for sale and that the dealer or manufacturer is and has been making good faith efforts to sell the vessel. The department may by rule require dealers and manufacturers to provide vessel logs or other documentation showing that vessels are truly held for sale. [1997 c 293 § 3.]

**82.12.803 Exemptions—Nebulizers.** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of nebulizers, including repair, replacement, and component parts for such nebulizers, for human use pursuant to a prescription. In addition, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of nebulizers. "Nebulizer" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.803.

(2) Sellers obligated to collect use tax shall collect tax on sales subject to this exemption. The buyer shall apply for a refund directly from the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. [2007 c 6 § 1104; 2004 c 153 § 105.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**82.12.804 Exemptions—Ostomic items.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of ostomic items by colostomy, ileostomy, or urostomy patients. "Ostomic items" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.804. [2004 c 153 § 107.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**82.12.805 Exemptions—Personal property used at an aluminum smelter.** (1) A person who is subject to tax under RCW 82.12.020 for personal property used at an aluminum smelter, or for tangible personal property that will be incorporated as an ingredient or component of buildings or other structures at an aluminum smelter, or for labor and services rendered with respect to such buildings, structures, or personal property, is eligible for an exemption from the state share of the tax in the form of a credit, as provided in this section. The amount of the credit equals the state share of use tax computed to be due under RCW 82.12.020. The person must submit information, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, specifying the amount of qualifying purchases or acquisitions for which the exemption is claimed and the amount of exempted tax.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "aluminum smelter" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.217.

(3) A person reporting under the tax rate provided in this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(4) Credits may not be claimed under this section for taxable events occurring on or after January 1, 2017. [2011 c 174 § 305. Prior: 2010 1st sp.s. c 2 § 4; 2010 c 114 § 128; 2009 c 535 § 620; 2006 c 182 § 4; 2004 c 24 § 11.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**82.12.806 Exemptions—Use of computer equipment parts and services by printer or publisher.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use, by a printer or publisher, of computer equipment, including repair parts and replacement parts for such equipment, when the computer equipment is used primarily in the printing or publishing of any printed material, or to labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the computer equipment. This exemption applies only to computer equipment not otherwise exempt under RCW 82.12.02565.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.08.806 apply. [2004 c 8 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—2004 c 8:** See note following RCW 82.08.806.

**82.12.807 Exemptions—Direct mail delivery charges.** (1) The tax levied by this chapter does not apply to

the value of delivery charges made for the delivery of direct mail if the charges are separately stated on an invoice or similar billing document given to the purchaser.

(2) "Delivery charges" and "direct mail" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.08.010. [2005 c 514 § 116.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4272.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.12.808 Exemptions—Use of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials by comprehensive cancer centers.**

(1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of medical supplies, chemicals, or materials by a comprehensive cancer center. The exemption in this section does not apply to the use of construction materials, office equipment, building equipment, administrative supplies, or vehicles.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.04.4265 and 82.08.808 apply to this section. [2005 c 514 § 403.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 514:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2005 c 514 § 1301.]

**Severability—2005 c 514:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2005 c 514 § 1309.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514 §§ 401-403:** See note following RCW 82.04.4265.

**82.12.809 Exemptions—Vehicles using clean alternative fuels.** (1)(a) Until July 1, 2015, the provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of new passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles, which are exclusively powered by a clean alternative fuel.

(b) Until July 1, 2015, the provisions of this chapter do not apply to the use of qualifying used passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles, which were modified after their initial purchase with an EPA certified conversion to be exclusively powered by a clean alternative fuel. As used in this subsection, "qualifying used passenger cars, light duty trucks, and medium duty passenger vehicles" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.08.809.

(2) "Clean alternative fuel" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.08.809.

(3) A taxpayer is not liable for the tax imposed in RCW 82.12.020 on the use, on or after July 1, 2015, of a passenger car, light duty truck, or medium duty passenger vehicle exclusively powered by a clean alternative fuel, if the taxpayer used such vehicle in this state before July 1, 2015, and the use was exempt under this section from the tax imposed in RCW 82.12.020. [2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 3; 2005 c 296 § 3.]

**Effective date—2005 c 296:** See note following RCW 82.08.809.

**82.12.810 Exemptions—Air pollution control facilities at a thermal electric generation facility—Exceptions—Payments on cessation of operation.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "air pollution control facilities" mean any treatment works, control devices and disposal systems, machinery, equipment, structures, property, property improvements, and accessories, that are installed or acquired for the primary purpose of reducing, controlling, or disposing of industrial waste that, if released to the outdoor atmosphere, could cause air pollution, or that are required to meet regula-

tory requirements applicable to their construction, installation, or operation.

(2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to:

(a) The use of air pollution control facilities installed and used by a light and power business, as defined in RCW 82.16.010, in generating electric power; or

(b) The use of labor and services performed in respect to the installing of air pollution control facilities.

(3) The exemption provided under this section applies only to air pollution control facilities that are:

(a) Constructed or installed after May 15, 1997, and used in a thermal electric generation facility placed in operation after December 31, 1969, and before July 1, 1975; and

(b) Constructed or installed to meet applicable regulatory requirements established under state or federal law, including the Washington clean air act, chapter 70.94 RCW.

(4) This section does not apply to the use of tangible personal property for maintenance or repairs of the pollution control equipment or to labor and services performed in respect to such maintenance or repairs.

(5) If production of electricity at a thermal electric generation facility for any calendar year after 2002 and before 2023 falls below a twenty percent annual capacity factor for the generation facility, all or a portion of the tax previously exempted under this section in respect to construction or installation of air pollution control facilities at the generation facility shall be due according to the schedule provided in RCW 82.08.810(5).

(6) RCW 82.32.393 applies to this section. [2003 c 5 § 12; 1997 c 368 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Findings—Intent—Rules adoption—Severability—Effective date—1997 c 368:** See notes following RCW 82.08.810.

**82.12.811 Exemptions—Coal used at coal-fired thermal electric generation facility—Application—Demonstration of progress in air pollution control—Notice of emissions violations—Reapplication—Payments on cessation of operation.** (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Air pollution control facilities" means any treatment works, control devices and disposal systems, machinery, equipment, structure, property, property improvements, and accessories, that are installed or acquired for the primary purpose of reducing, controlling, or disposing of industrial waste that, if released to the outdoor atmosphere, could cause air pollution, or that are required to meet regulatory requirements applicable to their construction, installation, or operation; and

(b) "Generation facility" means a coal-fired thermal electric generation facility placed in operation after December 3, 1969, and before July 1, 1975.

(2) Beginning January 1, 1999, the provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of coal to generate electric power at a generation facility operated by a business if the following conditions are met:

(a) The owners must make an application to the department of revenue for a tax exemption;

(b) The owners must make a demonstration to the department of ecology that the owners have made reasonable initial

progress to install air pollution control facilities to meet applicable regulatory requirements established under state or federal law, including the Washington clean air act, chapter 70.94 RCW;

(c) Continued progress must be made on the development of air pollution control facilities to meet the requirements of the permit; and

(d) The generation facility must emit no more than ten thousand tons of sulfur dioxide during a previous consecutive twelve-month period.

(3) During a consecutive twelve-month period, if the generation facility is found to be in violation of excessive sulfur dioxide emissions from a regional air pollution control authority or the department of ecology, the department of ecology shall notify the department of revenue and the owners of the generation facility shall lose their tax exemption under this section. The owners of a generation facility may reapply for the tax exemption when they have once again met the conditions of subsection (2)(d) of this section.

(4) RCW 82.32.393 applies to this section. [1997 c 368 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—Rules adoption—Severability—Effective date—1997 c 368:** See notes following RCW 82.08.810.

**82.12.815 Exemptions—Property and services related to electrification systems to power heavy duty diesel vehicles. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of machinery and equipment, or to services rendered in respect to constructing structures, installing, constructing, repairing, cleaning, decorating, altering, or improving of structures or machinery and equipment, or tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of structures or machinery and equipment, integral and necessary for the retail sale, lease, or rental of auxiliary power to heavy duty diesel vehicles through onboard or stand-alone electrification systems.

(2) A person taking the exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.04.4338 apply.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2006 c 323 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 323:** See note following RCW 82.04.4338.

**82.12.816 Exemptions—Electric vehicle batteries and infrastructure. (Expires January 1, 2020.)** (1) The tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 does not apply to the use of:

(a) Electric vehicle batteries;

(b) Labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, altering, or improving electric vehicle batteries; and

(c) Tangible personal property that will become a component of electric vehicle infrastructure during the course of installing, constructing, repairing, or improving electric vehicle infrastructure.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Battery charging station" means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regula-

tions set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(b) "Battery exchange station" means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(c) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

(d) "Rapid charging station" means an industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster recharging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(3) This section expires January 1, 2020. [2009 c 459 § 5.]

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW 47.80.090. *Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW 47.80.090.*

**82.12.820 Exemptions—Warehouse and grain elevators and distribution centers.** (1) Wholesalers or third-party warehouse owners who own or operate warehouses or grain elevators, and retailers who own or operate distribution centers, and who have paid the tax levied under RCW 82.12.020 on:

(a) Material-handling equipment and racking equipment and labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the equipment; or

(b) Materials incorporated in the construction of a warehouse or grain elevator, are eligible for an exemption on tax paid in the form of a remittance or credit against tax owed. The amount of the remittance or credit is computed under subsection (2) of this section and is based on the state share of use tax.

(2)(a) A person claiming an exemption from state tax in the form of a remittance under this section must pay the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 to the department. The person may then apply to the department for remittance of all or part of the tax paid under RCW 82.12.020. For grain elevators with bushel capacity of one million but less than two million, the remittance is equal to fifty percent of the amount of tax paid. For warehouses with square footage of two hundred thousand or more and for grain elevators with bushel capacity of two million or more, the remittance is equal to one hundred percent of the amount of tax paid for qualifying construction materials, and fifty percent of the amount of tax paid for qualifying material-handling equipment and racking equipment.

(b) The department shall determine eligibility under this section based on information provided by the buyer and through audit and other administrative records. The buyer shall on a quarterly basis submit an information sheet, in a form and manner as required by the department by rule, specifying the amount of exempted tax claimed and the qualifying purchases or acquisitions for which the exemption is claimed. The buyer shall retain, in adequate detail to enable the depart-

ment to determine whether the equipment or construction meets the criteria under this section: Invoices; proof of tax paid; documents describing the material-handling equipment and racking equipment; location and size of warehouses, if applicable; and construction invoices and documents.

(c) The department shall on a quarterly basis remit or credit exempted amounts to qualifying persons who submitted applications during the previous quarter.

(3) Warehouse, grain elevators, and material-handling equipment and racking equipment for which an exemption, credit, or deferral has been or is being received under chapter 82.60, 82.62, or 82.63 RCW or RCW 82.08.02565 or 82.12.02565 are not eligible for any remittance under this section. Materials incorporated in warehouses and grain elevators upon which construction was initiated prior to May 20, 1997, are not eligible for a remittance under this section.

(4) The lessor or owner of the warehouse or grain elevator is not eligible for a remittance or credit under this section unless the underlying ownership of the warehouse or grain elevator and material-handling equipment and racking equipment vests exclusively in the same person, or unless the lessor by written contract agrees to pass the economic benefit of the exemption to the lessee in the form of reduced rent payments.

(5) The definitions in RCW 82.08.820 apply to this section. [2006 c 354 § 13; 2005 c 513 § 12; 2003 c 5 § 13; 2000 c 103 § 9; 1997 c 450 § 3.]

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Findings—Intent—Report—Effective date—1997 c 450:** See notes following RCW 82.08.820.

**82.12.825 Exemptions—Property and services that enable heavy duty diesel vehicles to operate with onboard electrification systems. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of tangible personal property, labor, or services if the property, labor, or services enable a heavy duty diesel vehicle to operate, while parked, through the use of an onboard electrification system. Only parts and other components that are specific to enabling a heavy duty diesel vehicle to operate, while parked, with an onboard electrification system are exempt under this section.

(2) A person taking the exemption under this section must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility under this section.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.04.4338 apply.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2006 c 323 § 6.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 323:** See note following RCW 82.04.4338.

**82.12.832 Exemptions—Use of gun safes.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of gun safes as defined in RCW 82.08.832. [1998 c 178 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.834 Exemptions—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.** This chapter does not apply to the use of tangible personal property by a seller/lessee under a

(2012 Ed.)

sale/leaseback agreement under RCW 81.112.300 in respect to tangible personal property used by the seller/lessee, or to the use of tangible personal property under an exercise of an option to purchase at the end of the lease term, but only if the seller/lessee previously paid any tax otherwise due under this chapter or chapter 82.08 RCW at the time of acquisition of the tangible personal property. [2001 c 320 § 6; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 22.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.845 Use of motorcycles loaned to department of licensing.** This chapter does not apply to the use of motorcycles that are loaned to the department of licensing exclusively for the provision of motorcycle training under RCW 46.20.520, or to persons contracting with the department to provide this training. [2001 c 121 § 1.]

**82.12.850 Exemptions—Conifer seed.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of conifer seed to grow seedlings if the seedlings are grown by a person other than the owner of the seed. This section applies only if the seedlings will be used for growing timber outside Washington, or if the owner of the conifer seed is an Indian tribe or member and the seedlings will be used for growing timber in Indian country.

If the owner of conifer seed is not able to determine at the time the seed is used in a growing process whether the use of the seed is exempt from tax under this section, the owner may defer payment of the use tax until it is determined that the seedlings will be planted for growing timber in Washington. For the purposes of this section, "Indian country" has the meaning given in RCW 82.24.010. [2001 c 129 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—2001 c 129:** See notes following RCW 82.08.850.

**82.12.855 Exemptions—Replacement parts for qualifying farm machinery and equipment.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use by an eligible farmer of:

(a) Replacement parts for qualifying farm machinery and equipment;

(b) Labor and services rendered in respect to the installing of replacement parts; and

(c) Labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing of qualifying farm machinery and equipment, provided that during the course of repairing no tangible personal property is installed, incorporated, or placed in, or becomes a component of, the qualifying farm machinery and equipment other than replacement parts.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this chapter, if a single transaction involves services that are not exempt under this section and services that would be exempt under this section if provided separately, the exemptions provided in subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this section apply if: (i) The seller makes a separately itemized charge for labor and services described in subsection (1)(b) or (c) of this section; and (ii) the separately itemized charge does not exceed the seller's usual and customary charge for such services.

(b) If the requirements in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (2) are met, the exemption provided in subsection (1)(b) or (c) of this section applies to the separately itemized charge for labor and services described in subsection (1)(b) or (c) of this section.

(3) The definitions and recordkeeping requirements in RCW 82.08.855, other than the exemption certificate requirement, apply to this section.

(4) If a person is an eligible farmer as defined in RCW 82.08.855(4)(b)(iii) who cannot prove income because the person is new to farming or newly returned to farming, the exemption under this section will apply only if one of the conditions in RCW 82.08.855(3)(d)(i)(A) or (B) is met. If the conditions are not met, any taxes for which an exemption under this section was claimed and interest on such taxes must be paid. Amounts due under this subsection shall be in accordance with RCW 82.08.855(3)(d)(ii), except that the due date for payment is January 31st of the year immediately following the first full tax year in which the person engaged in business as a farmer.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the department shall not assess the tax imposed under this chapter against a person who no longer qualifies as an eligible farmer with respect to the use of any articles or services exempt under subsection (1) of this section, if the person was an eligible farmer when the person first put the articles or services to use in this state. [2007 c 332 § 2; 2006 c 172 § 2.]

**Effective date—2006 c 172:** See note following RCW 82.08.855.

**82.12.860 Exemptions—Property and services acquired from a federal credit union.** (1) This chapter does not apply to state credit unions with respect to the use of any article of tangible personal property, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, service defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050 (2) (a) or (g), (3)(a), or (6)(b), or extended warranty, acquired from a federal credit union, foreign credit union, or out-of-state credit union as a result of a merger or conversion.

(2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Federal credit union" means a credit union organized and operating under the laws of the United States.

(b) "Foreign credit union" means a credit union organized and operating under the laws of another country or other foreign jurisdiction.

(c) "Out-of-state credit union" means a credit union organized and operating under the laws of another state or United States territory or possession.

(d) "State credit union" means a credit union organized and operating under the laws of this state. [2009 c 535 § 621; 2006 c 11 § 1.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.865 Exemptions—Diesel, biodiesel, and aircraft fuel for farm fuel users.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of diesel fuel, biodiesel fuel, or aircraft fuel, by a farm fuel user for agricultural purposes. This exemption applies to a fuel blend if all of the component fuels of the blend would otherwise be

exempt under this subsection if the component fuels were acquired as separate products.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.08.865 apply to this section. [2010 c 106 § 222; 2007 c 443 § 2; 2006 c 7 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Effective date—2007 c 443:** See note following RCW 82.08.865.

**Effective date—2006 c 7:** See note following RCW 82.08.865.

*Additional use tax exemption for fuel: RCW 82.12.0256.*

**82.12.880 Exemptions—Animal pharmaceuticals.**

(1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use by farmers or by veterinarians of animal pharmaceuticals approved by the United States department of agriculture or by the United States food and drug administration, if the pharmaceutical is administered to an animal that is raised by a farmer for the purpose of producing for sale an agricultural product.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.08.880 apply to this section. [2001 2nd sp.s. c 17 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.12.890 Exemptions—Livestock nutrient management equipment and facilities.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use by an eligible person of:

(a) Qualifying livestock nutrient management equipment;

(b) Labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving qualifying livestock nutrient management equipment; and

(c)(i) Tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities in the course of repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of such facilities.

(ii) The exemption provided in this subsection (1)(c) does not apply to the use of tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities during the course of constructing new, or replacing previously existing, qualifying livestock nutrient management facilities.

(2)(a) To be eligible, the equipment and facilities must be used exclusively for activities necessary to maintain a livestock nutrient management plan.

(b) The exemption applies to the use of tangible personal property and labor and services made after the livestock nutrient management plan is: (i) Certified under chapter 90.64 RCW; (ii) approved as part of the permit issued under chapter 90.48 RCW; or (iii) approved as required under RCW 82.08.890(4)(c)(iii).

(3) The exemption certificate and recordkeeping requirements of RCW 82.08.890 apply to this section. The definitions in RCW 82.08.890 apply to this section.

(4) The exemption under this section does not apply to the use of tangible personal property and services if first use of the property or services in this state occurs from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 602; 2009 c 469 § 602; 2006 c 151 § 3; 2003 c 5 § 15; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 107, 601, 602, 702, 902, 1202, and 1401-1405:** See note following RCW 82.04.2907.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Effective date—Conservation commission—Report to legislature—2006 c 151:** See notes following RCW 82.08.890.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Intent—Effective date—2001 2nd sp.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 82.08.890.

**82.12.900 Exemptions—Anaerobic digesters.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of anaerobic digesters, tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of anaerobic digesters, or the use of services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving eligible tangible personal property by an eligible person establishing or operating an anaerobic digester, as defined in RCW 82.08.900. The anaerobic digester must be used primarily to treat livestock manure. [2006 c 151 § 5; 2003 c 5 § 16; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 18 § 5.]

**Effective date—Conservation commission—Report to legislature—2006 c 151:** See notes following RCW 82.08.890.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**Intent—Effective date—2001 2nd sp.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 82.08.890.

**82.12.910 Exemptions—Propane or natural gas to heat chicken structures.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use by a farmer of propane or natural gas to heat structures used to house chickens. The propane or natural gas must be used exclusively to heat the structures used to house chickens. The structures must be used exclusively to house chickens that are sold as agricultural products.

(2) The exemption certificate, recordkeeping requirements, and definitions of RCW 82.08.910 apply to this section. [2001 2nd sp.s. c 25 § 4.]

**Purpose—Intent—Part headings not law—2001 2nd sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 82.04.260.

**82.12.920 Exemptions—Chicken bedding materials.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use by a farmer of bedding materials used to accumulate and facilitate the removal of chicken manure. The farmer must be raising chickens that are sold as agricultural products.

(2) The exemption certificate, recordkeeping requirements, and definitions of RCW 82.08.920 apply to this section. [2001 2nd sp.s. c 25 § 6.]

**Purpose—Intent—Part headings not law—2001 2nd sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 82.04.260.

**82.12.925 Exemptions—Dietary supplements.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the use of dietary supplements dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription, if the dietary supplements are for human use. "Dietary supplement" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0293. [2003 c 168 § 304.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.12.930 Exemptions—Watershed protection or flood prevention.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use by municipal corporations, the state, and all political subdivisions thereof of tangible personal property consumed and/or of labor and services as defined in RCW 82.04.050(2)(a) rendered in respect to contracts for watershed protection and/or flood prevention. This exemption is limited to that portion of the selling price that is reimbursed by the United States government according to the provisions of the watershed protection and flood prevention act (68 Stat. 666; \*16 U.S.C. Sec. 101 et seq.). [2003 c 5 § 17.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to 16 U.S.C. Sec. 101 et seq. should be to 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 et seq.

**Finding—Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2003 c 5:** See notes following RCW 82.12.010.

**82.12.935 Exemptions—Disposable devices used to deliver prescription drugs for human use.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the use of disposable devices used to deliver drugs for human use, pursuant to a prescription. Disposable devices means the same as provided in RCW 82.08.935. [2003 c 168 § 407.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.12.940 Exemptions—Over-the-counter drugs for human use.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the use of over-the-counter drugs dispensed or to be dispensed to patients, pursuant to a prescription, if the over-the-counter drugs are for human use. "Over-the-counter drug" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.0281. [2003 c 168 § 408.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.12.945 Exemptions—Kidney dialysis devices.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the use of kidney dialysis devices, including repair and replacement parts, for human use pursuant to a prescription. In addition, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of labor and services rendered in respect to the repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of kidney dialysis devices. [2004 c 153 § 111; 2003 c 168 § 411.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.12.950 Exemptions—Steam, electricity, electrical energy.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of steam, electricity, or electrical energy. [2003 c 168 § 704.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.12.955 Exemptions—Use of machinery, equipment, vehicles, and services related to biodiesel or E85 motor fuel. (Expires July 1, 2015.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of machinery and equipment, or to services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving of eligible

machinery and equipment, or tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component of machinery and equipment used directly for the retail sale of a biodiesel or E85 motor fuel.

(2) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of fuel delivery vehicles including repair parts and replacement parts and to services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, cleaning, altering, or improving the vehicles if at least seventy-five percent of the fuel distributed by the vehicles is a biodiesel or E85 motor fuel.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.04.4334 and 82.08.955 apply.

(4) This section expires July 1, 2015. [2007 c 309 § 5; 2003 c 63 § 3.]

**Effective date—2003 c 63:** See note following RCW 82.04.4334.

**82.12.956 Exemptions—Hog fuel used to generate electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel. (Expires June 30, 2013.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of hog fuel for production of electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Hog fuel" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.08.956; and

(b) "Biofuel" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 43.325.010.

(3) This section expires June 30, 2013. [2009 c 469 § 302.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.12.957 Exemptions—Forest derived biomass. (Expires June 30, 2013.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of forest derived biomass for production of electricity, steam, heat, or biofuel.

(2) For purposes of this section, "biofuel" is defined in RCW 43.325.010.

(3) This section expires June 30, 2013. [2009 c 469 § 403.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.12.962 Exemptions—Use of machinery and equipment in generating electricity. (Expires June 30, 2013.)**

(1)(a) Except as provided in RCW 82.12.963, consumers who have paid the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 on machinery and equipment used directly in generating electricity using fuel cells, wind, sun, biomass energy, tidal or wave energy, geothermal resources, anaerobic digestion, technology that converts otherwise lost energy from exhaust, or landfill gas as the principal source of power, or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing such machinery and equipment, are eligible for an exemption as provided in this section, but only if the purchaser develops with such machinery, equipment, and labor a facility capable of generating not less than one thousand watts of electricity.

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011, the provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to the use of machinery and equipment described in (a) of this subsection that are used directly in generating electricity or to sales of or charges made for labor and services rendered in respect to installing such machinery and equipment.

(c) Beginning on July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2013, the amount of the exemption under this subsection (1) is equal to seventy-five percent of the state and local sales tax paid. The consumer is eligible for an exemption under this subsection (1)(c) in the form of a remittance.

(2)(a) A person claiming an exemption in the form of a remittance under subsection (1)(c) of this section must pay the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 and all applicable local use taxes imposed under the authority of chapters 82.14 and 81.104 RCW. The consumer may then apply to the department for remittance in a form and manner prescribed by the department. A consumer may not apply for a remittance under this section more frequently than once per quarter. The consumer must specify the amount of exempted tax claimed and the qualifying purchases or acquisitions for which the exemption is claimed. The consumer must retain, in adequate detail, records to enable the department to determine whether the consumer is entitled to an exemption under this section, including: Invoices; proof of tax paid; and documents describing the machinery and equipment.

(b) The department must determine eligibility under this section based on the information provided by the consumer, which is subject to audit verification by the department. The department must on a quarterly basis remit exempted amounts to qualifying consumers who submitted applications during the previous quarter.

(3) Purchases exempt under RCW 82.08.962 are also exempt from the tax imposed under RCW 82.12.020.

(4) The definitions in RCW 82.08.962 apply to this section.

(5) This section expires June 30, 2013. [2009 c 469 § 102.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.12.963 Exemptions—Use of machinery and equipment using solar energy to generate electricity. (Expires June 30, 2013.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to machinery and equipment used directly in generating not more than ten kilowatts of electricity using solar energy, or to the use of labor and services rendered in respect to installing such machinery and equipment.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.08.963 apply to this section.

(3) This section expires June 30, 2013. [2009 c 469 § 104.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.12.964 Use of machinery and equipment used in generating electricity—Effect of exemption expiration.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the expiration of RCW 82.12.02567 and 82.12.962 do not require the payment of, or authorize the department to assess, use tax imposed by or under the authority of RCW 82.12.020, 81.104.170, and chapter 82.14 RCW, on the use of machinery and equipment, and labor and services rendered in respect to installing such machinery and equipment, if such use qualified for the exemption under RCW 82.12.02567 or 82.12.962 immediately preceding the expiration date of the applicable exemption under RCW 82.12.02567 or 82.12.962.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not prohibit the department from assessing, subject to the limitations period

in RCW 82.32.050, state and local use taxes on the use of machinery and equipment, and labor and services rendered in respect to installing such machinery and equipment, if, before the expiration of the applicable exemption provided in RCW 82.12.02567 or 82.12.962, the machinery and equipment was put to a use that is outside of the scope of the applicable exemption in RCW 82.12.02567 or 82.12.962. [2009 c 469 § 109.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.12.965 Exemptions—Semiconductor materials manufacturing. (Contingent effective date; contingent expiration date.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of tangible personal property that will be incorporated as an ingredient or component of new buildings used for the manufacturing of semiconductor materials during the course of constructing such buildings or to labor and services rendered in respect to installing, during the course of constructing, building fixtures not otherwise eligible for the exemption under RCW 82.08.02565(2)(b).

(2) The eligibility requirements, conditions, and definitions in RCW 82.08.965 apply to this section, including the filing of a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(3) No exemption may be taken twelve years after \*the effective date of this act, however all of the eligibility criteria and limitations are applicable to any exemptions claimed before that date.

(4) This section expires twelve years after \*the effective date of this act. [2010 c 114 § 129; 2003 c 149 § 6.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

**\*Contingent effective date—2010 c 114:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** See note following RCW 82.04.426.

**82.12.9651 Exemptions—Gases and chemicals used in production of semiconductor materials. (Expires December 1, 2018.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of gases and chemicals used by a manufacturer or processor for hire in the production of semiconductor materials. This exemption is limited to gases and chemicals used in the production process to grow the product, deposit or grow permanent or sacrificial layers on the product, to etch or remove material from the product, to anneal the product, to immerse the product, to clean the product, and other such uses whereby the gases and chemicals come into direct contact with the product during the production process, or uses of gases and chemicals to clean the chambers and other like equipment in which such processing takes place. For purposes of this section, "semiconductor materials" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.2404 and 82.04.294(3).

(2) A person claiming the exemption under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534. No application is necessary for the tax exemption. The person is subject to all of the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW.

(3) This section expires December 1, 2018. [2010 c 114 § 130; 2009 c 469 § 503; 2006 c 84 § 4.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—2006 c 84 §§ 2-8:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 84:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**82.12.970 Exemptions—Gases and chemicals used to manufacture semiconductor materials. (Contingent effective date; contingent expiration date.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of gases and chemicals used by a manufacturer or processor for hire in the manufacturing of semiconductor materials. This exemption is limited to gases and chemicals used in the manufacturing process to grow the product, deposit or grow permanent or sacrificial layers on the product, to etch or remove material from the product, to anneal the product, to immerse the product, to clean the product, and other such uses whereby the gases and chemicals come into direct contact with the product during the manufacturing process, or uses of gases and chemicals to clean the chambers and other like equipment in which such processing takes place. For purposes of this section, "semiconductor materials" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.240(2).

(2) A person claiming the exemption under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534. No application is necessary for the tax exemption. The person is subject to all of the requirements of chapter 82.32 RCW.

(3) This section expires twelve years after \*the effective date of this act. [2010 c 114 § 131; 2003 c 149 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

**\*Contingent effective date—2010 c 114:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** See note following RCW 82.04.426.

**82.12.975 Computer parts and software related to the manufacture of commercial airplanes. (Expires July 1, 2024.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of computer hardware, computer peripherals, or software, not otherwise eligible for exemption under RCW 82.12.02565, used primarily in the development, design, and engineering of aerospace products or in providing aerospace services, or to the use of labor and services rendered in respect to installing the computer hardware, computer peripherals, or software.

(2) As used in this section, "peripherals," "aerospace products," and "aerospace services" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 82.08.975.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2024. [2008 c 81 § 3; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 10.]

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**82.12.980 Exemptions—Labor, services, and personal property related to the manufacture of superefficient airplanes. (Expires July 1, 2024.)** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of tangible personal property that will be incorporated as an ingredient or component of new buildings by a manufacturer engaged in the manufacturing of superefficient airplanes or owned by a port district and to be leased to a manufacturer engaged in the manufacturing of superefficient airplanes, during the course of constructing such buildings, or to labor and services ren-

dered in respect to installing, during the course of constructing, building fixtures not otherwise eligible for the exemption under RCW 82.08.02565(2)(b).

(2) The eligibility requirements, conditions, and definitions in RCW 82.08.980 apply to this section, including the filing of a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2024. [2010 c 114 § 132; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 12.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**82.12.983 Exemptions—Wax and ceramic materials.** (*Expires June 30, 2015.*) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of wax and ceramic materials used to create molds consumed during the process of creating ferrous and nonferrous investment castings used in industrial applications. [2010 c 225 § 2.]

**Effective date—Expiration date—2010 c 225:** See notes following RCW 82.08.983.

**82.12.985 Exemptions—Insulin.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in respect to the use of insulin by humans. [2004 c 153 § 103.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**82.12.986 Exemptions—Eligible server equipment.** (*Expires April 1, 2020.*) (1) An exemption from the tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 is provided for the use by qualifying businesses or qualifying tenants of eligible server equipment to be installed, without intervening use, in an eligible computer data center, and to the use of labor and services rendered in respect to installing such server equipment. The exemption also applies to the use by a qualifying business or qualifying tenant of eligible power infrastructure, including labor and services rendered in respect to installing, repairing, altering, or improving such infrastructure.

(2) A qualifying business or a qualifying tenant is not eligible for the exemption under this section unless the department issued an exemption certificate to the qualifying business or a qualifying tenant for the exemption provided in RCW 82.08.986.

(3)(a) The exemption provided in this section does not apply to:

(i) Any person who has received the benefit of the deferral program under chapter 82.60 RCW on: (A) The construction, renovation, or expansion of a structure or structures used as a computer data center; or (B) machinery or equipment used in a computer data center; and

(ii) Any person affiliated with a person within the scope of (a)(i) of this subsection (3).

(b) If a person has received the benefit of the exemption under this section and subsequently receives the benefit of the deferral program under chapter 82.60 RCW on either the construction, renovation, or expansion of a structure or structures used as a computer data center or machinery or equipment used in a computer data center, the person must repay the amount of taxes exempted under this section. Interest as provided in chapter 82.32 RCW applies to amounts due under

this subsection (3)(b) until paid in full. A person is not required to repay taxes under this subsection with respect to property and services for which the person is required to repay taxes under RCW 82.08.986(5).

(4) The definitions and requirements in RCW 82.08.986 apply to this section.

(5) This section expires April 1, 2020. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 304; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1602; 2010 1st sp.s. c 1 § 3.]

**Intent—Finding—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 §§ 302, 303, and 304:** See note following RCW 82.08.986.

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Intent—Finding—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 82.08.986.

**82.12.995 Exemptions—Certain limited purpose public corporations, commissions, and authorities.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply with respect to the use of personal property and services provided by a public corporation, commission, or authority created under RCW 35.21.660 or 35.21.730 to an eligible entity.

(2) For purposes of this section, "eligible entity" means a limited liability company, a limited partnership, or a single asset entity, described in RCW 82.04.615. [2009 c 535 § 622; 2007 c 381 § 3.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.12.998 Exemptions—Weatherization of a residence.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to the use of tangible personal property used in the weatherization of a residence under the weatherization assistance program under chapter 70.164 RCW. The exemption only applies to tangible personal property that becomes a component of the residence.

(2) "Residence" and "weatherization" have the meanings provided in RCW 70.164.020. [2008 c 92 § 2.]

**82.12.999 Exemptions—Joint municipal utility services authorities.** The tax levied by RCW 82.12.020 shall not apply to any sales, or uses by, or transfers made, to or from a joint municipal utility services authority formed under chapter 39.106 RCW and any of its members. [2011 c 258 § 13.]

**Short title—Purpose—Intent—2011 c 258:** See RCW 39.106.010.

**82.12.9995 Exemptions—Restaurant employee meals.** (1) The provisions of this chapter do not apply in respect to a meal provided without specific charge to an employee by a restaurant.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the definitions in RCW 82.08.9995 apply. [2011 c 55 § 3.]

**Effective date—2011 c 55:** See note following RCW 82.08.9995.

## Chapter 82.14 RCW

## LOCAL RETAIL SALES AND USE TAXES

## Sections

- 82.14.010 Legislative finding—Purpose.  
82.14.020 Definitions.  
82.14.030 Sales and use taxes authorized—Additional taxes authorized—Maximum rates.  
82.14.032 Alteration of tax rate pursuant to government service agreement.  
82.14.034 Alteration of county's share of city's tax receipts pursuant to government service agreement.  
82.14.036 Imposition or alteration of additional taxes—Referendum petition to repeal—Procedure—Exclusive method.  
82.14.040 County ordinance to contain credit provision.  
82.14.045 Sales and use taxes for public transportation systems.  
82.14.0455 Sales and use tax for transportation benefit districts.  
82.14.046 Sales and use tax equalization payments from local transit taxes.  
82.14.048 Sales and use taxes for public facilities districts—Definitions.  
82.14.0485 Sales and use tax for baseball stadium—Counties with population of one million or more—Deduction from tax otherwise required—"Baseball stadium" defined.  
82.14.0486 State contribution for baseball stadium limited.  
82.14.049 Sales and use tax for public sports facilities—Tax upon retail rental car rentals.  
82.14.0494 Sales and use tax for stadium and exhibition center—Deduction from tax otherwise required—Transfer and deposit of revenues.  
82.14.050 Administration and collection—Local sales and use tax account.  
82.14.055 Tax changes.  
82.14.060 Distributions to counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities districts, and transportation benefit districts—Imposition at excess rates, effect.  
82.14.070 Uniformity—Rule making—Model ordinance.  
82.14.080 Deposit of tax prior to due date—Credit against future tax or assessment—When fund designation permitted—Use of tax revenues received in connection with large construction projects.  
82.14.090 Payment of tax prior to taxable event—When permitted—Deposit with treasurer—Credit against future tax—When fund designation permitted.  
82.14.212 Transfer of funds pursuant to government service agreement.  
82.14.215 Apportionment and distribution—Withholding revenue for noncompliance.  
82.14.220 Figures for apportionments and distributions under RCW 82.14.200 and 82.14.210.  
82.14.230 Natural or manufactured gas—Cities may impose use tax.  
82.14.300 Local government criminal justice assistance—Finding.  
82.14.310 County criminal justice assistance account—Transfers from general fund—Distributions based on crime rate and population—Limitations.  
82.14.320 Municipal criminal justice assistance account—Transfers from general fund—Distributions criteria and formula—Limitations.  
82.14.330 Municipal criminal justice assistance account—Transfers from general fund—Distributions based on crime rate, population, and innovation—Limitations.  
82.14.340 Additional sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes—Referendum—Expenditures.  
82.14.350 Sales and use tax for juvenile detention facilities and jails—Colocation.  
82.14.360 Special stadium sales and use taxes.  
82.14.370 Sales and use tax for public facilities in rural counties.  
82.14.390 Sales and use tax for regional centers.  
82.14.400 Sales and use tax for zoo, aquarium, and wildlife facilities—Authorizing proposition—Distributions.  
82.14.410 Sales of lodging tax rate changes.  
82.14.415 Sales and use tax for cities to offset municipal service costs to newly annexed areas.  
82.14.420 Sales and use tax for emergency communication systems and facilities.  
82.14.430 Sales and use tax for regional transportation investment district.  
82.14.440 Sales and use tax for passenger-only ferry service.  
82.14.450 Sales and use tax for counties and cities.  
82.14.455 Exemptions—Machinery and equipment used in generating electricity.  
82.14.457 Sales and use tax for digital goods—Apportionment.  
82.14.460 Sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts.  
82.14.465 Hospital benefit zones—Sales and use tax—Definitions.

- 82.14.470 Hospital benefit zones—Local public sources dedicated to finance public improvements—Reporting requirements.  
82.14.475 Sales and use tax for the local infrastructure financing tool program.  
82.14.480 Sales and use tax for health sciences and services authorities.  
82.14.485 Sales and use taxes for regional centers.  
82.14.490 Sourcing—Sales and use taxes.  
82.14.495 Streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account—Creation.  
82.14.500 Streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account—Funding—Determination of losses.  
82.14.505 Local revitalization financing—Demonstration projects.  
82.14.510 Sales and use tax for local revitalization financing.  
82.14.515 Use of sales and use tax funds—Local revitalization financing.  
82.14.820 Warehouse and grain elevators and distribution centers—Exemption does not apply.  
82.14.900 Severability—1970 ex.s. c 94.

*Changes in tax law—Liability: RCW 82.08.064, 82.14.055, and 82.32.430.*

*Direct pay permits: RCW 82.32.087.*

*High capacity transportation systems—Sales and use tax: RCW 81.104.170.*

**82.14.010 Legislative finding—Purpose.** The legislature finds that the several counties and cities of the state lack adequate sources of revenue to carry out essential county and municipal purposes. The legislature further finds that the most efficient and appropriate methods of deriving revenues for such purposes is to vest additional taxing powers in the governing bodies of counties and cities which they may or may not implement. The legislature intends, by enacting this chapter, to provide the means by which essential county and municipal purposes can be financially served should they choose to employ them. [1970 ex.s. c 94 § 1.]

**82.14.020 Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

- (1) "City" means a city or town;
- (2) The meaning ascribed to words and phrases in chapters 82.04, 82.08 and 82.12 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, insofar as applicable, has full force and effect with respect to taxes imposed under authority of this chapter. However, the terms "retail sale" and "sale at retail" have only the meaning provided in RCW 82.08.010 for the purposes of this chapter, unless the context clearly requires that a different definition apply;

- (3) "Taxable event" means any retail sale, or any use, upon which a state tax is imposed pursuant to chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended. However, the term does not include a retail sale taxable pursuant to RCW 82.08.150, as now or hereafter amended; and

- (4) "Treasurer or other legal depository" means the treasurer or legal depository of a county or city. [2010 c 106 § 223; 2007 c 6 § 502; (2005 c 514 § 112 repealed by 2007 c 54 § 2); 2005 c 514 § 111; (2003 c 168 § 503 repealed by 2007 c 54 § 2); 2003 c 168 § 502. Prior: 2002 c 367 § 6; 2002 c 67 § 7; 2001 c 186 § 3; 1997 c 201 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 31; 1982 c 211 § 1; 1981 c 144 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 94 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 367:** See notes following RCW 82.04.060.

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**Finding—Purpose—Effective date—2001 c 186:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0202.

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1981 c 144:** See notes following RCW 82.16.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.030 Sales and use taxes authorized—Additional taxes authorized—Maximum rates.** (1) The governing body of any county or city, while not required by legislative mandate to do so, may, by resolution or ordinance for the purposes authorized by this chapter, impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. Such tax shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW, upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county or city as the case may be. Except as provided in RCW 82.14.230, this sales and use tax shall not apply to natural or manufactured gas. The rate of such tax imposed by a county shall be five-tenths of one percent of the selling price (in the case of a sales tax) or value of the article used (in the case of a use tax). The rate of such tax imposed by a city shall not exceed five-tenths of one percent of the selling price (in the case of a sales tax) or value of the article used (in the case of a use tax). However, in the event a county imposes a sales and use tax under this subsection, the rate of such tax imposed under this subsection by any city therein shall not exceed four hundred and twenty-five one-thousandths of one percent.

(2) In addition to the tax authorized in subsection (1) of this section, the governing body of any county or city may by resolution or ordinance impose an additional sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. Such additional tax shall be collected upon the same taxable events upon which the tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section is imposed. The rate of such additional tax imposed by a county shall be up to five-tenths of one percent of the selling price (in the case of a sales tax) or value of the article used (in the case of a use tax). The rate of such additional tax imposed by a city shall be up to five-tenths of one percent of the selling price (in the case of a sales tax) or value of the article used (in the case of a use tax). However, in the event a county imposes a sales and use tax under the authority of this subsection at a rate equal to or greater than the rate imposed under the authority of this subsection by a city within the county, the county shall receive fifteen percent of the city tax. In the event that the county imposes a sales and use tax under the authority of this subsection at a rate which is less than the rate imposed under this subsection by a city within the county, the county shall receive that amount of revenues from the city tax equal to fifteen percent of the rate of tax imposed by the county under the authority of this subsection. The authority to impose a tax under this subsection is intended in part to compensate local government for any losses from the phase-out of the property tax on business inventories. [2008 c 86 § 101; 1989 c 384 § 6; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 § 17; 1970 ex.s. c 94 § 4.]

**Severability—2008 c 86:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the

application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2008 c 86 § 601.]

**Savings—2008 c 86:** "This act does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended or repealed in this act or under any rule or order adopted under those sections, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under those sections." [2008 c 86 § 602.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2008 c 86 § 603.]

**Intent—Effective date—1989 c 384:** See notes following RCW 82.12.022.

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

*Additional tax for high capacity transportation service: RCW 81.104.170.*

*Imposition of additional tax on sale of real property in lieu of tax under RCW 82.14.030(2): RCW 82.46.010(3).*

**82.14.032 Alteration of tax rate pursuant to government service agreement.** The rate of sales and use tax imposed by a city under RCW 82.14.030 (1) and (2) may be altered pursuant to a government service agreement as provided in RCW 36.115.040 and 36.115.050. [1994 c 266 § 11.]

**82.14.034 Alteration of county's share of city's tax receipts pursuant to government service agreement.** The percentage of a city's sales and use tax receipts that a county receives under RCW 82.14.030 (1) and (2) may be altered pursuant to a government service agreement as provided in RCW 36.115.040 and 36.115.050. [1994 c 266 § 12.]

**82.14.036 Imposition or alteration of additional taxes—Referendum petition to repeal—Procedure—Exclusive method.** Any referendum petition to repeal a county or city ordinance imposing a tax or altering the rate of the tax authorized under RCW 82.14.030(2) shall be filed with a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance, within seven days of passage of the ordinance. Within ten days, the filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning form and style of the petition, issue an identification number for the petition, and write a ballot title for the measure. The ballot title shall be posed as a question so that an affirmative answer to the question and an affirmative vote on the measure results in the tax or tax rate increase being imposed and a negative answer to the question and a negative vote on the measure results in the tax or tax rate increase not being imposed. The petitioner shall be notified of the identification number and ballot title within this ten-day period.

After this notification, the petitioner shall have thirty days in which to secure on petition forms the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the county for county measures, or not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the city for city measures, and to file the signed petitions with the filing officer. Each petition form shall contain the ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petitions. If sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, the filing officer shall submit the referendum measure to the county or city voters at a general or special election held on one of the dates provided in \*RCW 29.13.010 as determined by the county legislative authority or city council, which election shall not take place later than

one hundred twenty days after the signed petition has been filed with the filing officer.

After April 22, 1983, the referendum procedure provided in this section shall be the exclusive method for subjecting any county or city ordinance imposing a tax or altering the rate under RCW 82.14.030(2) to a referendum vote.

Any county or city tax authorized under RCW 82.14.030(2) that has been imposed prior to April 22, 1983, is not subject to the referendum procedure provided for in this section. [1983 c 99 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 29.13.010 was recodified as RCW 29A.04.320 pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004. RCW 29A.04.320 was subsequently repealed by 2004 c 271 § 193. Later enactment of RCW 29A.04.320, see RCW 29A.04.321.

**82.14.040 County ordinance to contain credit provision.** (1) Any county ordinance adopted under RCW 82.14.030(1) shall contain, in addition to all other provisions required to conform to this chapter, a provision allowing a credit against the county tax imposed under RCW 82.14.030(1) for the full amount of any city sales or use tax imposed under RCW 82.14.030(1) upon the same taxable event.

(2) Any county ordinance adopted under RCW 82.14.030(2) shall contain, in addition to all other provisions required to conform to this chapter, a provision allowing a credit against the county tax imposed under RCW 82.14.030(2) for the full amount of any city sales or use tax imposed under RCW 82.14.030(2) upon the same taxable event up to the additional tax imposed by the county under RCW 82.14.030(2). [1982 1st ex.s. c 49 § 18; 1970 ex.s. c 94 § 5.]

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

**82.14.045 Sales and use taxes for public transportation systems.** (1) The legislative body of any city pursuant to RCW 35.92.060, of any county which has created an unincorporated transportation benefit area pursuant to RCW 36.57.100 and 36.57.110, of any public transportation benefit area pursuant to RCW 36.57A.080 and 36.57A.090, of any county transportation authority established pursuant to chapter 36.57 RCW, and of any metropolitan municipal corporation within a county with a population of one million or more pursuant to chapter 35.58 RCW, may, by resolution or ordinance for the sole purpose of providing funds for the operation, maintenance, or capital needs of public transportation systems or public transportation limited to persons with special needs under RCW 36.57.130 and 36.57A.180, and in lieu of the excise taxes authorized by RCW 35.95.040, submit an authorizing proposition to the voters or include such authorization in a proposition to perform the function of public transportation or public transportation limited to persons with special needs under RCW 36.57.130 and 36.57A.180, and if approved by a majority of persons voting thereon, impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. Where an authorizing proposition is submitted by a county on behalf of an unincorporated transportation benefit area, it shall be voted upon by the voters residing within the boundaries of such unincorporated transportation benefit area and, if approved, the sales and use tax shall be imposed only

(2012 Ed.)

within such area. Notwithstanding any provisions of this section to the contrary, any county in which a county public transportation plan has been adopted pursuant to RCW 36.57.070 and the voters of such county have authorized the imposition of a sales and use tax pursuant to the provisions of section 10, chapter 167, Laws of 1974 ex. sess., prior to July 1, 1975, shall be authorized to fix and impose a sales and use tax as provided in this section at not to exceed the rate so authorized without additional approval of the voters of such county as otherwise required by this section.

The tax authorized by this section shall be in addition to the tax authorized by RCW 82.14.030 and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within such city, public transportation benefit area, county, or metropolitan municipal corporation as the case may be. The rate of such tax shall be one-tenth, two-tenths, three-tenths, four-tenths, five-tenths, six-tenths, seven-tenths, eight-tenths, or nine-tenths of one percent of the selling price (in the case of a sales tax) or value of the article used (in the case of a use tax). The rate of such tax shall not exceed the rate authorized by the voters unless such increase shall be similarly approved.

(2)(a) In the event a metropolitan municipal corporation imposes a sales and use tax pursuant to this chapter no city, county which has created an unincorporated transportation benefit area, public transportation benefit area authority, or county transportation authority wholly within such metropolitan municipal corporation shall be empowered to impose and/or collect taxes under RCW 35.95.040 or this section, but nothing herein shall prevent such city or county from imposing sales and use taxes pursuant to any other authorization.

(b) In the event a county transportation authority imposes a sales and use tax under this section, no city, county which has created an unincorporated transportation benefit area, public transportation benefit area, or metropolitan municipal corporation, located within the territory of the authority, shall be empowered to impose or collect taxes under RCW 35.95.040 or this section.

(c) In the event a public transportation benefit area imposes a sales and use tax under this section, no city, county which has created an unincorporated transportation benefit area, or metropolitan municipal corporation, located wholly or partly within the territory of the public transportation benefit area, shall be empowered to impose or collect taxes under RCW 35.95.040 or this section. [2008 c 86 § 102; 2001 c 89 § 3; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 16; 1998 c 321 § 7 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1991 c 363 § 158. Prior: 1984 c 112 § 1; 1983 c 3 § 216; 1980 c 163 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 270 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 296 § 2.]

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

**Purpose—1998 c 321:** "The purpose of this act is to reallocate the general fund portion of the state's motor vehicle excise tax revenues among the taxpayers, local governments, and the state's transportation programs. By reallocating motor vehicle excise taxes, the state revenue portion can be dedicated to increased transportation funding purposes. Since the general fund currently has a budget surplus, due to a strong economy, the legislature feels that this reallocation is an appropriate short-term solution to the state's transportation needs and is a first step in meeting longer-term transportation funding needs. These reallocated funds must be used to provide relief from traffic congestion, improve freight mobility, and increase traffic safety.

In reallocating general fund resources, the legislature also ensures that

other programs funded from the general fund are not adversely impacted by the reallocation of surplus general fund revenues. The legislature also adopts this act to continue the general fund revenue and expenditure limitations contained in chapter 43.135 RCW after this one-time transfer of funds.

In order to develop a long-term and comprehensive solution to the state's transportation problems, a joint committee will be created to study the state's transportation needs and the appropriate sources of revenue necessary to implement the state's long-term transportation needs as provided in \*section 22 of this act." [1998 c 321 § 1 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998).]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 22 of this act was vetoed by the governor.

**Purpose—Captions now law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**Legislative finding, declaration—1971 ex.s. c 296:** "The legislature finds that adequate public transportation systems are necessary to the economic, industrial and cultural development of the urban areas of this state and the health, welfare and prosperity of persons who reside or are employed in such areas or who engage in business therein and such systems are increasingly essential to the functioning of the urban highways of the state. The legislature further finds and declares that fares and tolls for the use of public transportation systems cannot maintain such systems in solvent financial conditions and at the same time meet the need to serve those who cannot reasonably afford or use other forms of transportation. The legislature further finds and declares that additional and alternate means of financing adequate public transportation service are necessary for the cities, metropolitan municipal corporations and counties of this state which provide such service." [1971 ex.s. c 296 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.0455 Sales and use tax for transportation benefit districts.** (1) Subject to the provisions in RCW 36.73.065, a transportation benefit district under chapter 36.73 RCW may fix and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the boundaries of the district. The rate of tax shall not exceed two-tenths of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the tax may not be imposed for a period exceeding ten years. This tax, if not imposed under the conditions of subsection (2) of this section, may be extended for a period not exceeding ten years with an affirmative vote of the voters voting at the election.

(2) The voter-approved sales tax initially imposed under this section after July 1, 2010, may be imposed for a period exceeding ten years if the moneys received under this section are dedicated for the repayment of indebtedness incurred in accordance with the requirements of chapter 36.73 RCW.

(3) Money received from the tax imposed under this section must be spent in accordance with the requirements of chapter 36.73 RCW. [2010 c 105 § 3; 2006 c 311 § 16; 2005 c 336 § 15.]

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**Effective date—2005 c 336:** See note following RCW 36.73.015.

**82.14.046 Sales and use tax equalization payments from local transit taxes.** Beginning with distributions made to municipalities under \*RCW 82.44.150 on January 1, 1996, municipalities as defined in RCW 35.58.272 imposing local transit taxes, which for purposes of this section include the sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.045, the business and occupation tax under RCW 35.95.040, and excise taxes under

RCW 35.95.040, shall be eligible for sales and use tax equalization payments from motor vehicle excise taxes distributed under \*RCW 82.44.150 as follows:

(1) Prior to January 1st of each year the department of revenue shall determine the total and the per capita levels of revenues for each municipality imposing local transit taxes and the statewide weighted average per capita level of sales and use tax revenues imposed under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW for the previous calendar year calculated for a sales and use tax rate of one-tenth percent. For purposes of this section, the department of revenue shall determine a local transit tax rate for each municipality for the previous calendar year. The tax rate shall be equivalent to the sales and use tax rate for the municipality that would have generated an amount of revenue equal to the amount of local transit taxes collected by the municipality.

(2) For each tenth of one percent of the local transit tax rate, the state treasurer shall apportion to each municipality receiving less than eighty percent of the statewide weighted average per capita level of sales and use tax revenues imposed under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW as determined by the department of revenue under subsection (1) of this section, an amount when added to the per capita level of revenues received the previous calendar year by the municipality, to equal eighty percent of the statewide weighted average per capita level of revenues determined under subsection (1) of this section. In no event may the sales and use tax equalization distribution to a municipality in a single calendar year exceed: (a) Fifty percent of the amount of local transit taxes collected during the prior calendar year; or (b) the maximum amount of revenue that could have been collected at a local transit tax rate of three-tenths percent in the prior calendar year.

(3) For a municipality established after January 1, 1995, sales and use tax equalization distributions shall be made according to the procedures in this subsection. Sales and use tax equalization distributions to eligible new municipalities shall be made at the same time as distributions are made under subsection (2) of this section. The department of revenue shall follow the estimating procedures outlined in this subsection until the new municipality has received a full year's worth of local transit tax revenues as of the January sales and use tax equalization distribution.

(a) Whether a newly established municipality determined to receive funds under this subsection receives its first equalization payment at the January, April, July, or October sales and use tax equalization distribution shall depend on the date the system first imposes local transit taxes.

(i) A newly established municipality imposing local transit taxes taking effect during the first calendar quarter shall be eligible to receive funds under this subsection beginning with the July sales and use tax equalization distribution of that year.

(ii) A newly established municipality imposing local transit taxes taking effect during the second calendar quarter shall be eligible to receive funds under this subsection beginning with the October sales and use tax equalization distribution of that year.

(iii) A newly established municipality imposing local transit taxes taking effect during the third calendar quarter shall be eligible to receive funds under this subsection begin-

ning with the January sales and use tax equalization distribution of the next year.

(iv) A newly established municipality imposing local transit taxes taking effect during the fourth calendar quarter shall be eligible to receive funds under this subsection beginning with the April sales and use tax equalization distribution of the next year.

(b) For purposes of calculating the amount of funds the new municipality should receive under this subsection, the department of revenue shall:

(i) Estimate the per capita amount of revenues from local transit taxes that the new municipality would have received had the municipality received revenues from the tax the entire calendar year;

(ii) Calculate the amount provided under subsection (2) of this section based on the per capita revenues determined under (b)(i) of this subsection;

(iii) Prorate the amount determined under (b)(ii) of this subsection by the number of months the local transit taxes have been imposed.

(c) The department of revenue shall advise the state treasurer of the amounts calculated under (b) of this subsection and the state treasurer shall distribute these amounts to the new municipality from the motor vehicle excise tax deposited into the transportation fund under \*RCW 82.44.110.

(4) A municipality whose governing body implements a tax change that reduces its local transit tax rate after January 1, 1994, may not receive distributions under this section. [1998 c 321 § 37 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1995 c 298 § 1; 1994 c 241 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.44.150 and 82.44.110 were repealed by 2003 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.048 Sales and use taxes for public facilities districts—Definitions.** (1) The following definitions apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Distressed public facilities district" means a public facilities district that has defaulted on bond anticipation notes or bonds in excess of forty million dollars on or before April 1, 2012; and

(b) "Anchor jurisdiction" means a city that has entered into an agreement to form a public facilities district under RCW 35.57.010(1)(c) that constitutes a distressed public facilities district under this chapter and in which the largest asset of such public facilities district is located.

(2)(a) The governing board of a public facilities district under chapter 36.100 or 35.57 RCW may submit an authorizing proposition to the voters of the district, and if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter.

(b) In addition to the tax authorized pursuant to (a) of this subsection and in addition to any other authority conferred by law, the legislative authority of an anchor jurisdiction may impose a sales and use tax within the geographical boundaries of the anchor jurisdiction in accordance with the terms of this chapter without submitting an authorizing proposition

(2012 Ed.)

to the voters of the anchor jurisdiction or the distressed public facilities district.

(3) The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the public facilities district. The rate of tax may not exceed two-tenths of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax. A public facilities district formed under RCW 35.57.010(1)(e) may not impose the tax authorized under this section at a rate that exceeds two-tenths of one percent minus the rate of the highest tax authorized by this section that is imposed by any other public facilities district within its boundaries. An anchor jurisdiction may impose the tax authorized by subsection (2)(b) of this section at a rate not to exceed two-tenths of one percent, regardless of whether any other public facilities district (including a distressed public facilities district) within its boundaries imposes the tax authorized by this section or the rate of such tax imposed by the public facilities district. If a public facilities district formed under RCW 35.57.010(1)(e) has imposed a tax under this section and issued or incurred obligations pledging that tax, so long as those obligations are outstanding no other public facilities district within its boundaries may thereafter impose a tax under this section at a rate that would reduce the rate of the tax that was pledged to the repayment of those obligations. A public facilities district that imposes a tax under this section is responsible for the payment of any costs incurred for the purpose of administering the provisions of this section, RCW 35.57.010(1)(e), and 35.57.020(1)(b), including any administrative costs associated with the imposition of the tax under this section incurred by either the department of revenue or local government, or both.

(4)(a) Moneys received by a public facilities district from any tax imposed by the public facilities district under the authority of this section must be used for the purpose of providing funds for the costs associated with the financing, refinancing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and reequipping of its public facilities.

(b) Moneys received by an anchor jurisdiction from any tax imposed by the anchor jurisdiction under the authority of this section must be used for the purpose of providing funds for the costs associated with the financing, refinancing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, and reequipping of the public facilities of the distressed public facilities district, and for all litigation, investigation, and related costs and expenses incurred by the anchor jurisdiction toward resolving matters related to the defaults of the distressed public facilities district. To the extent the distressed public facilities district owes money to an anchor jurisdiction, the anchor jurisdiction may apply money from the sales tax imposed under this section to any such obligations. Any sales tax imposed by an anchor jurisdiction under this section must terminate no later than thirty years after it is first imposed. [2012 c 4 § 6; 2009 c 533 § 3; 2008 c 86 § 103; 1999 c 165 § 12; 1995 c 396 § 6; 1991 c 207 § 1.]

**Findings—2012 c 4 § 6:** "In enacting section 6 of this act, the legislature finds that providing local tools to enable solutions for public facilities

districts that are in default on bond anticipation notes or bonds is in the best interest of the state, its municipalities, and its citizens as a whole. The legislature further finds it is necessary to act swiftly to provide the tools necessary to address any defaults on debt issued by public facilities districts." [2012 c 4 § 5.]

**Effective date—2012 c 4 §§ 5 and 6:** "Sections 5 and 6 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [March 1, 2012]." [2012 c 4 § 8.]

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.0485 Sales and use tax for baseball stadium—Counties with population of one million or more—Deduction from tax otherwise required—"Baseball stadium" defined.** (1) The legislative authority of a county with a population of one million or more may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The rate of tax shall not exceed 0.017 percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or value of the article used in the case of a use tax.

(2) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section shall be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid over to the department of revenue under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department of revenue shall perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the county at no cost to the county.

(3) Moneys collected under this section shall only be used for the purpose of paying the principal and interest payments on bonds issued by a county to construct a baseball stadium.

(4) No tax may be collected under this section before January 1, 1996, and no tax may be collected under this section unless the taxes under RCW 82.14.360 are being collected. The tax imposed in this section shall expire when the bonds issued for the construction of the baseball stadium are retired, but not more than twenty years after the tax is first collected.

(5) As used in this section, "baseball stadium" means a baseball stadium with natural turf and a retractable roof or canopy, together with associated parking facilities, constructed in the largest city in a county with a population of one million or more. [1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 101.]

*Baseball stadium construction agreement:* RCW 36.100.037.

*State contribution for baseball stadium limited:* RCW 82.14.0486.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.0486 State contribution for baseball stadium limited.** Sections 101 through 105, chapter 1, Laws of 1995 3rd sp. sess. constitute the entire state contribution for a baseball stadium, as defined in RCW 82.14.0485. The state will not make any additional contributions based on revised cost or revenue estimates, cost overruns, unforeseen circumstances, or any other reason. [1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 106.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.049 Sales and use tax for public sports facilities—Tax upon retail rental car rentals.** (1) The legislative

authority of any county may impose a sales and use tax, in addition to the tax authorized by RCW 82.14.030, upon retail car rentals within the county that are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The rate of tax is one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or rental value of the vehicle in the case of a use tax. Proceeds of the tax may not be used to subsidize any professional sports team and must be used solely for the following purposes:

(a) Acquiring, constructing, maintaining, or operating public sports stadium facilities;

(b) Engineering, planning, financial, legal, or professional services incidental to public sports stadium facilities;

(c) Youth or amateur sport activities or facilities; or

(d) Debt or refinancing debt issued for the purposes of subsection (1) of this section.

(2) In a county of one million or more, at least seventy-five percent of the tax imposed under this section must be used to retire the debt on the stadium under \*RCW 67.28.180(2)(b)(ii), until that debt is fully retired. [2011 c 174 § 107; 2008 c 264 § 4; 1997 c 220 § 502 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997); 1992 c 194 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 62.28.180 was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 38 § 1, changing subsection (2)(b)(ii) to subsection (2)(b)(i)(B).

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2008 c 264:** See notes following RCW 67.28.180.

**Referendum—Other legislation limited—Legislators' personal intent not indicated—Reimbursements for election—Voters' pamphlet, election requirements—1997 c 220:** See RCW 36.102.800 through 36.102.803.

**Legislative intent—1992 c 194:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.0494 Sales and use tax for stadium and exhibition center—Deduction from tax otherwise required—Transfer and deposit of revenues. (Contingent expiration date.)** (1) The legislative authority of a county that has created a public stadium authority to develop a stadium and exhibition center under RCW 36.102.050 may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with this chapter. The tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The rate of tax shall be 0.016 percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or value of the article used in the case of a use tax.

(2) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section shall be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid over to the department of revenue under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department of revenue shall perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the county at no cost to the county.

(3) Before the issuance of bonds in RCW 43.99N.020, all revenues collected on behalf of the county under this section shall be transferred to the public stadium authority. After bonds are issued under RCW 43.99N.020, all revenues collected on behalf of the county under this section shall be deposited in the stadium and exhibition center account under RCW 43.99N.060.

(4) The definitions in RCW 36.102.010 apply to this section.

(5) This section expires on the earliest of the following dates:

(a) December 31, 1999, if the conditions for issuance of bonds under RCW 43.99N.020 have not been met before that date;

(b) The date on which all bonds issued under RCW 43.99N.020 have been retired; or

(c) Twenty-three years after the date the tax under this section is first imposed. [1997 c 220 § 204 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997).]

**Referendum—Other legislation limited—Legislators' personal intent not indicated—Reimbursements for election—Voters' pamphlet, election requirements—1997 c 220:** See RCW 36.102.800 through 36.102.803.

**82.14.050 Administration and collection—Local sales and use tax account.** (1) The counties, cities, and transportation authorities under RCW 82.14.045, public facilities districts under chapters 36.100 and 35.57 RCW, public transportation benefit areas under RCW 82.14.440, regional transportation investment districts, and transportation benefit districts under chapter 36.73 RCW must contract, prior to the effective date of a resolution or ordinance imposing a sales and use tax, the administration and collection to the state department of revenue, which must deduct a percentage amount, as provided by contract, not to exceed two percent of the taxes collected for administration and collection expenses incurred by the department. The remainder of any portion of any tax authorized by this chapter that is collected by the department of revenue must be deposited by the state department of revenue in the local sales and use tax account hereby created in the state treasury. Beginning January 1, 2013, the department of revenue must make deposits in the local sales and use tax account on a monthly basis on the last business day of the month in which distributions required in (a) of this subsection are due. Moneys in the local sales and use tax account may be withdrawn only for:

(a) Distribution to counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities districts, public transportation benefit areas, regional transportation investment districts, and transportation benefit districts imposing a sales and use tax; and

(b) Making refunds of taxes imposed under the authority of this chapter and RCW 81.104.170 and exempted under RCW 82.08.962 and 82.12.962.

(2) All administrative provisions in chapters 82.03, 82.08, 82.12, and 82.32 RCW, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended, insofar as they are applicable to state sales and use taxes, are applicable to taxes imposed pursuant to this chapter.

(3) Counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities districts, and regional transportation investment districts may not conduct independent sales or use tax audits of sellers registered under the streamlined sales tax agreement.

(4) Except as provided in RCW 43.08.190 and subsection (5) of this section, all earnings of investments of balances in the local sales and use tax account must be credited to the local sales and use tax account and distributed to the counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities districts, public transportation benefit areas, regional transportation investment districts, and transportation benefit districts monthly.

(2012 Ed.)

(5) Beginning January 1, 2013, the state treasurer must determine the amount of earnings on investments that would have been credited to the local sales and use tax account if the collections had been deposited in the account over the prior month. When distributions are made under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the state treasurer must transfer this amount from the state general fund to the local sales and use tax account and must distribute such sums to the counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities districts, public transportation benefit areas, regional transportation investment districts, and transportation benefit districts. [2012 1st sp.s. c 9 § 1; 2009 c 469 § 107; 2005 c 336 § 20. Prior: 2003 c 168 § 201; 2003 c 83 § 208; 2002 c 56 § 406; 1999 c 165 § 14; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 34; 1991 c 207 § 2; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 201; 1985 c 57 § 81; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 4 § 10; 1971 ex.s. c 296 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 94 § 6.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Effective date—2005 c 336:** See note following RCW 36.73.015.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**Legislative finding, declaration—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 296:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.055 Tax changes.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2), (3), and (4) of this section, a local sales and use tax change shall take effect (a) no sooner than seventy-five days after the department receives notice of the change and (b) only on the first day of January, April, July, or October.

(2) In the case of a local sales and use tax that is a credit against the state sales tax or use tax, a local sales and use tax change shall take effect (a) no sooner than thirty days after the department receives notice of the change and (b) only on the first day of a month.

(3)(a) A local sales and use tax rate increase imposed on services applies to the first billing period starting on or after the effective date of the increase.

(b) A local sales and use tax rate decrease imposed on services applies to bills rendered on or after the effective date of the decrease.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (3), "services" means retail services such as installing and constructing and retail services such as telecommunications, but does not include services such as tattooing.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "local sales and use tax change" means enactment or revision of local sales and use taxes under this chapter or any other statute, including changes resulting from referendum or annexation. [2003 c 168 § 206; 2001 c 320 § 7; 2000 c 104 § 2.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—2000 c 104:** "The legislature finds that retailers have an important role in the state's tax system by collecting sales or use tax from consumers and remitting it to the state. Frequent changes to the tax system place a burden on these businesses. To alleviate that burden and to improve the accuracy of tax collection, it is the intent of the legislature to provide that changes to sales and use tax may be made four times a year and that the department of revenue be provided adequate time to give advance

notice to retailers of any such change. Changes in sales and use tax rates that are the result of annexation are also restricted to this time period, for uniformity and simplification. Additionally, retailers who rely on technology developed and provided by the department of revenue, such as the department's geographic information system, to calculate tax rates shall be held harmless from errors resulting from such use." [2000 c 104 § 1.]

*Statewide sales and use tax changes: RCW 82.08.064.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.060 Distributions to counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities districts, and transportation benefit districts—Imposition at excess rates, effect.**

(1)(a) Monthly, the state treasurer must distribute from the local sales and use tax account to the counties, cities, transportation authorities, public facilities districts, and transportation benefit districts the amount of tax collected on behalf of each taxing authority, less:

- (i) The deduction provided for in RCW 82.14.050; and
- (ii) The amount of any refunds of local sales and use taxes exempted under RCW 82.08.962 and 82.12.962, which must be made without appropriation.

(b) The state treasurer shall make the distribution under this section without appropriation.

(2) In the event that any ordinance or resolution imposes a sales and use tax at a rate in excess of the applicable limits contained herein, such ordinance or resolution shall not be considered void in toto, but only with respect to that portion of the rate which is in excess of the applicable limits contained herein. [2009 c 469 § 108; 2005 c 336 § 21; 1991 c 207 § 3; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 202; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 4 § 11; 1971 ex.s. c 296 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 94 § 7.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Effective date—2005 c 336:** See note following RCW 36.73.015.

**Legislative finding, declaration—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 296:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.070 Uniformity—Rule making—Model ordinance.** It is the intent of this chapter that any local sales and use tax adopted pursuant to this chapter be identical to the state sales and use tax, unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, and with other local sales and use taxes adopted pursuant to this chapter. It is further the intent of this chapter that the local sales and use tax shall be imposed upon an individual taxable event simultaneously with the imposition of the state sales or use tax upon the same taxable event. The rule making powers of the state department of revenue contained in RCW 82.08.060 and 82.32.300 shall be applicable to this chapter. The department shall, as soon as practicable, and with the assistance of the appropriate associations of county prosecutors and city attorneys, draft a model resolution and ordinance. [2003 c 168 § 202; 2000 c 104 § 5; 1970 ex.s. c 94 § 10.]

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2000 c 104:** See notes following RCW 82.14.055.

**82.14.080 Deposit of tax prior to due date—Credit against future tax or assessment—When fund designation permitted—Use of tax revenues received in connection with large construction projects.** The taxes provided by

this chapter may be deposited by any taxpayer prior to the due date thereof with the treasurer or other legal depository for the benefit of the funds to which they belong to be credited against any future tax or assessment that may be levied or become due from the taxpayer: PROVIDED, That the taxpayer may with the concurrence of the legislative authority designate a particular fund of such county or city against which such prepayment of tax or assessment is made. Such prepayment of taxes or assessments shall not be considered to be a debt for the purpose of the limitation of indebtedness imposed by law on a county or city.

By agreement made pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW, counties or cities may utilize tax revenues received under the authority of this chapter in connection with large construction projects, including energy facilities as defined in RCW 80.50.020, for any purpose within their power or powers, privileges or authority exercised or capable of exercise by such counties or cities including, but not limited to, the purpose of the mitigation of socioeconomic impacts that may be caused by such large construction projects: PROVIDED, That the taxable event need not take place within the jurisdiction where the socioeconomic impact occurs if an intergovernmental agreement provides for redistribution. [1982 c 211 § 2.]

**82.14.090 Payment of tax prior to taxable event—When permitted—Deposit with treasurer—Credit against future tax—When fund designation permitted.**

When permitted by resolution or ordinance, any tax authorized by this chapter may be paid prior to the taxable event to which it may be attributable. Such prepayment shall be made by deposit with the treasurer or other legal depository for the benefit of the funds to which they belong. They shall be credited by any county or city against any future tax that may become due from a taxpayer: PROVIDED, That the taxpayer with the concurrence of the legislative authority may designate a particular fund of such county or city against which such prepayment of tax is made. Prepayment of taxes under this section shall not relieve any taxpayer from remitting the full amount of any tax imposed under the authority of this chapter upon the occurrence of the taxable event. [1982 c 211 § 3.]

**82.14.212 Transfer of funds pursuant to government service agreement.** Funds that are distributed to counties or cities pursuant to \*RCW 82.14.200 or 82.14.210 may be transferred by the recipient county or city to another unit of local government pursuant to a government service agreement as provided in RCW 36.115.040 and 36.115.050. [1994 c 266 § 13.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.14.200 and 82.14.210 were repealed by 2012 c 198 § 26.

**82.14.215 Apportionment and distribution—Withholding revenue for noncompliance.** The governor may notify and direct the state treasurer to withhold the revenues to which the county or city is entitled under this chapter if a county or city is found to be in noncompliance pursuant to RCW 36.70A.340. [1991 sp.s. c 32 § 35.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.220 Figures for apportionments and distributions under RCW 82.14.200 and 82.14.210.** The apportionments and distributions by the state treasurer under \*RCW 82.14.200 and 82.14.210 shall be based on figures supplied by the department of revenue. [1984 c 225 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.14.200 and 82.14.210 were repealed by 2012 c 198 § 26.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.230 Natural or manufactured gas—Cities may impose use tax.** (1) The governing body of any city, while not required by legislative mandate to do so, may, by resolution or ordinance for the purposes authorized by this chapter, fix and impose on every person a use tax for the privilege of using natural gas or manufactured gas in the city as a consumer.

(2) The tax is imposed in an amount equal to the value of the article used by the taxpayer multiplied by the rate in effect for the tax on natural gas businesses under RCW 35.21.870 in the city in which the article is used. The "value of the article used," does not include any amounts that are paid for the hire or use of a natural gas business in transporting the gas subject to tax under this subsection if those amounts are subject to tax under RCW 35.21.870.

(3) The tax imposed under this section does not apply to the use of natural or manufactured gas if the person who sold the gas to the consumer has paid a tax under RCW 35.21.870 with respect to the gas for which exemption is sought under this subsection.

(4) There is a credit against the tax levied under this section in an amount equal to any tax paid by:

(a) The person who sold the gas to the consumer when that tax is a gross receipts tax similar to that imposed pursuant to RCW 35.21.870 by another municipality or other unit of local government with respect to the gas for which a credit is sought under this subsection; or

(b) The person consuming the gas upon which a use tax similar to the tax imposed by this section was paid to another municipality or other unit of local government with respect to the gas for which a credit is sought under this subsection.

(5) The use tax imposed must be paid by the consumer. The administration and collection of the tax imposed is pursuant to RCW 82.14.050. [2010 c 127 § 5; 1989 c 384 § 2.]

**Intent—Effective date—1989 c 384:** See notes following RCW 82.12.022.

**82.14.300 Local government criminal justice assistance—Finding.** The legislature finds and declares that local government criminal justice systems are in need of assistance. Many counties and cities are unable to provide sufficient funding for additional police protection, mitigation of congested court systems, public safety education, and relief of overcrowded jails.

In order to ensure public safety, it is necessary to provide fiscal assistance to help local governments to respond immediately to these criminal justice problems, while initiating a review of the criminal justice needs of cities and counties and the resources available to address those needs.

To provide for a more efficient and effective response to these problems, the legislature encourages cities and counties to coordinate strategies against crime and use multijurisdic-

(2012 Ed.)

tional and innovative approaches in addressing criminal justice problems. [1995 c 312 § 83; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.310 County criminal justice assistance account—Transfers from general fund—Distributions based on crime rate and population—Limitations.** (1) The county criminal justice assistance account is created in the state treasury. Beginning in fiscal year 2000, the state treasurer must transfer into the county criminal justice assistance account from the general fund the sum of twenty-three million two hundred thousand dollars divided into four equal deposits occurring on July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1. For each fiscal year thereafter, the state treasurer must increase the total transfer by the fiscal growth factor, as defined in RCW 43.135.025, forecast for that fiscal year by the office of financial management in November of the preceding year.

(2) The moneys deposited in the county criminal justice assistance account for distribution under this section, less any moneys appropriated for purposes under subsection (4) of this section, must be distributed at such times as distributions are made under \*RCW 82.44.150 and on the relative basis of each county's funding factor as determined under this subsection.

(a) A county's funding factor is the sum of:

(i) The population of the county, divided by one thousand, and multiplied by two-tenths;

(ii) The crime rate of the county, multiplied by three-tenths; and

(iii) The annual number of criminal cases filed in the county superior court, for each one thousand in population, multiplied by five-tenths.

(b) Under this section and RCW 82.14.320 and 82.14.330:

(i) The population of the county or city is as last determined by the office of financial management;

(ii) The crime rate of the county or city is the annual occurrence of specified criminal offenses, as calculated in the most recent annual report on crime in Washington state as published by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, for each one thousand in population;

(iii) The annual number of criminal cases filed in the county superior court must be determined by the most recent annual report of the courts of Washington, as published by the administrative office of the courts;

(iv) Distributions and eligibility for distributions in the 1989-1991 biennium must be based on 1988 figures for both the crime rate as described under (ii) of this subsection and the annual number of criminal cases that are filed as described under (iii) of this subsection. Future distributions must be based on the most recent figures for both the crime rate as described under (ii) of this subsection and the annual number of criminal cases that are filed as described under (iii) of this subsection.

(3) Moneys distributed under this section must be expended exclusively for criminal justice purposes and may not be used to replace or supplant existing funding. Criminal justice purposes are defined as activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil or juvenile justice

system occurs, and which includes (a) domestic violence services such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates, as defined in RCW 70.123.020, and (b) during the 2001-2003 fiscal biennium, juvenile dispositional hearings relating to petitions for at-risk youth, truancy, and children in need of services. Existing funding for purposes of this subsection is defined as calendar year 1989 actual operating expenditures for criminal justice purposes. Calendar year 1989 actual operating expenditures for criminal justice purposes exclude the following: Expenditures for extraordinary events not likely to reoccur, changes in contract provisions for criminal justice services, beyond the control of the local jurisdiction receiving the services, and major nonrecurring capital expenditures.

(4) Not more than five percent of the funds deposited to the county criminal justice assistance account may be available for appropriations for enhancements to the state patrol crime laboratory system and the continuing costs related to these enhancements. Funds appropriated from this account for such enhancements may not supplant existing funds from the state general fund.

(5) During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the amount that would otherwise be transferred into the county criminal justice assistance account from the general fund under subsection (1) of this section must be reduced by 3.4 percent. [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 970; 2005 c 282 § 49; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 915; 1999 c 309 § 920; 1998 c 321 § 11 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1995 c 398 § 11; 1993 sp.s. c 21 § 1; 1991 c 311 § 1; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 102.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.44.150 was repealed by 2003 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.320 Municipal criminal justice assistance account—Transfers from general fund—Distributions criteria and formula—Limitations.** (1) The municipal criminal justice assistance account is created in the state treasury. Beginning in fiscal year 2000, the state treasurer must transfer into the municipal criminal justice assistance account for distribution under this section from the general fund the sum of four million six hundred thousand dollars divided into four equal deposits occurring on July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1. For each fiscal year thereafter, the state treasurer must increase the total transfer by the fiscal growth factor, as defined in RCW 43.135.025, forecast for that fiscal year by the office of financial management in November of the preceding year.

(2) No city may receive a distribution under this section from the municipal criminal justice assistance account unless:

(a) The city has a crime rate in excess of one hundred twenty-five percent of the statewide average as calculated in the most recent annual report on crime in Washington state as published by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;

(b) The city has levied the tax authorized in RCW 82.14.030(2) at the maximum rate or the tax authorized in RCW 82.46.010(3) at the maximum rate; and

(c) The city has a per capita yield from the tax imposed under RCW 82.14.030(1) at the maximum rate of less than one hundred fifty percent of the statewide average per capita yield for all cities from such local sales and use tax.

(3) The moneys deposited in the municipal criminal justice assistance account for distribution under this section, less any moneys appropriated for purposes under subsection (7) of this section, must be distributed at such times as distributions are made under \*RCW 82.44.150. The distributions must be made as follows:

(a) Unless reduced by this subsection, thirty percent of the moneys must be distributed ratably based on population as last determined by the office of financial management to those cities eligible under subsection (2) of this section that have a crime rate determined under subsection (2)(a) of this section which is greater than one hundred seventy-five percent of the statewide average crime rate. No city may receive more than fifty percent of any moneys distributed under this subsection (a) but, if a city distribution is reduced as a result of exceeding the fifty percent limitation, the amount not distributed must be distributed under (b) of this subsection.

(b) The remainder of the moneys, including any moneys not distributed in subsection (2)(a) of this section, must be distributed to all cities eligible under subsection (2) of this section ratably based on population as last determined by the office of financial management.

(4) No city may receive more than thirty percent of all moneys distributed under subsection (3) of this section.

(5) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, the distributions to any city that substantially decriminalizes or repeals its criminal code after July 1, 1990, and that does not reimburse the county for costs associated with criminal cases under RCW 3.50.800 or 3.50.805(2), must be made to the county in which the city is located.

(6) Moneys distributed under this section must be expended exclusively for criminal justice purposes and may not be used to replace or supplant existing funding. Criminal justice purposes are defined as activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice system occurs, and which includes domestic violence services such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates, as defined in RCW 70.123.020, and publications and public educational efforts designed to provide information and assistance to parents in dealing with runaway or at-risk youth. Existing funding for purposes of this subsection is defined as calendar year 1989 actual operating expenditures for criminal justice purposes. Calendar year 1989 actual operating expenditures for criminal justice purposes exclude the following: Expenditures for extraordinary events not likely to reoccur, changes in contract provisions for criminal justice services, beyond the control of the local jurisdiction receiving the services, and major nonrecurring capital expenditures.

(7) Not more than five percent of the funds deposited to the municipal criminal justice assistance account may be available for appropriations for enhancements to the state patrol crime laboratory system and the continuing costs

related to these enhancements. Funds appropriated from this account for such enhancements may not supplant existing funds from the state general fund.

(8) During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the amount that would otherwise be transferred into the municipal criminal justice assistance account from the general fund under subsection (1) of this section must be reduced by 3.4 percent. [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 971; 1998 c 321 § 12 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998). Prior: 1995 c 398 § 12; 1995 c 312 § 84; 1993 sp.s. c 21 § 2; 1992 c 55 § 1; prior: 1991 sp.s. c 26 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 30; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 104.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.44.150 was repealed by 2003 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.330 Municipal criminal justice assistance account—Transfers from general fund—Distributions based on crime rate, population, and innovation—Limitations.** (1)(a) Beginning in fiscal year 2000, the state treasurer must transfer into the municipal criminal justice assistance account for distribution under this section from the general fund the sum of four million six hundred thousand dollars divided into four equal deposits occurring on July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1. For each fiscal year thereafter, the state treasurer must increase the total transfer by the fiscal growth factor, as defined in RCW 43.135.025, forecast for that fiscal year by the office of financial management in November of the preceding year. The moneys deposited in the municipal criminal justice assistance account for distribution under this section, less any moneys appropriated for purposes under subsection (4) of this section, must be distributed to the cities of the state as follows:

(i) Twenty percent appropriated for distribution must be distributed to cities with a three-year average violent crime rate for each one thousand in population in excess of one hundred fifty percent of the statewide three-year average violent crime rate for each one thousand in population. The three-year average violent crime rate must be calculated using the violent crime rates for each of the preceding three years from the annual reports on crime in Washington state as published by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs. Moneys must be distributed under this subsection (1)(a) ratably based on population as last determined by the office of financial management, but no city may receive more than one dollar per capita. Moneys remaining undistributed under this subsection at the end of each calendar year must be distributed to the criminal justice training commission to reimburse participating city law enforcement agencies with ten or fewer full-time commissioned patrol officers the cost of temporary replacement of each officer who is enrolled in basic law enforcement training, as provided in RCW 43.101.200.

(ii) Sixteen percent must be distributed to cities ratably based on population as last determined by the office of financial management, but no city may receive less than one thousand dollars.

(b) The moneys deposited in the municipal criminal justice assistance account for distribution under this subsection (1) must be distributed at such times as distributions are made under \*RCW 82.44.150.

(c) Moneys distributed under this subsection (1) must be expended exclusively for criminal justice purposes and may not be used to replace or supplant existing funding. Criminal justice purposes are defined as activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice system occurs, and which includes domestic violence services such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates, as defined in RCW 70.123.020. Existing funding for purposes of this subsection is defined as calendar year 1989 actual operating expenditures for criminal justice purposes. Calendar year 1989 actual operating expenditures for criminal justice purposes exclude the following: Expenditures for extraordinary events not likely to reoccur, changes in contract provisions for criminal justice services, beyond the control of the local jurisdiction receiving the services, and major nonrecurring capital expenditures.

(2)(a) In addition to the distributions under subsection (1) of this section:

(i) Ten percent must be distributed on a per capita basis to cities that contract with another governmental agency for the majority of the city's law enforcement services. Cities that subsequently qualify for this distribution must notify the department of commerce by November 30th for the upcoming calendar year. The department of commerce must provide a list of eligible cities to the state treasurer by December 31st. The state treasurer must modify the distribution of these funds in the following year. Cities have the responsibility to notify the department of commerce of any changes regarding these contractual relationships. Adjustments in the distribution formula to add or delete cities may be made only for the upcoming calendar year; no adjustments may be made retroactively.

(ii) The remaining fifty-four percent must be distributed to cities and towns by the state treasurer on a per capita basis. These funds must be used for: (A) Innovative law enforcement strategies; (B) programs to help at-risk children or child abuse victim response programs; and (C) programs designed to reduce the level of domestic violence or to provide counseling for domestic violence victims.

(b) The moneys deposited in the municipal criminal justice assistance account for distribution under this subsection (2), less any moneys appropriated for purposes under subsection (4) of this section, must be distributed at the times as distributions are made under \*RCW 82.44.150. Moneys remaining undistributed under this subsection at the end of each calendar year must be distributed to the criminal justice training commission to reimburse participating city law enforcement agencies with ten or fewer full-time commissioned patrol officers the cost of temporary replacement of each officer who is enrolled in basic law enforcement training, as provided in RCW 43.101.200.

(c) If a city is found by the state auditor to have expended funds received under this subsection (2) in a manner that does not comply with the criteria under which the moneys were received, the city is ineligible to receive future distributions

under this subsection (2) until the use of the moneys are justified to the satisfaction of the director or are repaid to the state general fund.

(3) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, the distributions to any city that substantially decriminalizes or repeals its criminal code after July 1, 1990, and that does not reimburse the county for costs associated with criminal cases under RCW 3.50.800 or 3.50.805(2), must be made to the county in which the city is located.

(4) Not more than five percent of the funds deposited to the municipal criminal justice assistance account may be available for appropriations for enhancements to the state patrol crime laboratory system and the continuing costs related to these enhancements. Funds appropriated from this account for such enhancements may not supplant existing funds from the state general fund.

(5) During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the amount that would otherwise be transferred into the municipal criminal justice assistance account from the general fund under subsection (1) of this section must be reduced by 3.4 percent. [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 972; 2003 c 90 § 1; 1998 c 321 § 13 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1995 c 398 § 13; 1994 c 273 § 22; 1993 sp.s. c 21 § 3; 1991 c 311 § 4; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 105.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.44.150 was repealed by 2003 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.340 Additional sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes—Referendum—Expenditures.** (1) The legislative authority of any county may fix and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter, provided that such sales and use tax is subject to repeal by referendum, using the procedures provided in RCW 82.14.036. The referendum procedure provided in RCW 82.14.036 is the exclusive method for subjecting any county sales and use tax ordinance or resolution to a referendum vote.

(2) The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state pursuant to chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within such county. The rate of tax equals one-tenth of one percent of the selling price (in the case of a sales tax) or value of the article used (in the case of a use tax).

(3) When distributing moneys collected under this section, the state treasurer must distribute ten percent of the moneys to the county in which the tax was collected. The remainder of the moneys collected under this section must be distributed to the county and the cities within the county ratably based on population as last determined by the office of financial management. In making the distribution based on population, the county must receive that proportion that the unincorporated population of the county bears to the total population of the county and each city must receive that proportion that the city incorporated population bears to the total county population.

(4) Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section must be expended for criminal justice purposes. Criminal justice purposes are defined as activities that substantially assist the criminal justice system, which may include circumstances where ancillary benefit to the civil justice system occurs, and which includes domestic violence services such as those provided by domestic violence programs, community advocates, and legal advocates, as defined in RCW 70.123.020.

(5) In the expenditure of funds for criminal justice purposes as provided in this section, cities and counties, or any combination thereof, are expressly authorized to participate in agreements, pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW, to jointly expend funds for criminal justice purposes of mutual benefit. Such criminal justice purposes of mutual benefit include, but are not limited to, the construction, improvement, and expansion of jails, court facilities, juvenile justice facilities, and services with ancillary benefits to the civil justice system. [2010 c 127 § 3; 1995 c 309 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 21 § 6. Prior: 1991 c 311 § 5; 1991 c 301 § 16; 1990 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 901.]

**Finding—1991 c 301:** See note following RCW 10.99.020.

*Sales and use tax for high capacity transportation service limited by imposition of tax under RCW 82.14.340: RCW 81.104.170.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.350 Sales and use tax for juvenile detention facilities and jails—Colocation.** (1) A county legislative authority in a county with a population of less than one million may submit an authorizing proposition to the county voters, and if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, fix and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter for the purposes designated in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) The tax authorized in this section shall be in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The rate of tax shall equal one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

(3) Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section shall be used solely for the purpose of providing funds for costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of juvenile detention facilities and jails.

(4) Counties are authorized to develop joint ventures to colocate juvenile detention facilities and to colocate jails. [1995 2nd sp.s. c 10 § 1.]

**82.14.360 Special stadium sales and use taxes.** (1) The legislative authority of a county with a population of one million or more may impose a special stadium sales and use tax upon the retail sale or use within the county by restaurants, taverns, and bars of food and beverages that are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The rate of the tax shall not exceed five-tenths of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used in the case of a use tax. The tax authorized under this subsection is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and shall not be credited against any other tax imposed upon

the same taxable event. As used in this section, "restaurant" does not include grocery stores, mini-markets, or convenience stores.

(2) The legislative authority of a county with a population of one million or more may impose a special stadium sales and use tax upon retail car rentals within the county that are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The rate of the tax shall not exceed two percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or rental value of the vehicle in the case of a use tax. The tax imposed under this subsection is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and shall not be credited against any other tax imposed upon the same taxable event.

(3) The revenue from the taxes imposed under the authority of this section shall be used for the purpose of principal and interest payments on bonds, issued by the county, to acquire, construct, own, remodel, maintain, equip, reequip, repair, and operate a baseball stadium. Revenues from the taxes authorized in this section may be used for design and other preconstruction costs of the baseball stadium until bonds are issued for the baseball stadium. The county shall issue bonds, in an amount determined to be necessary by the public facilities district, for the district to acquire, construct, own, and equip the baseball stadium. The county shall have no obligation to issue bonds in an amount greater than that which would be supported by the tax revenues under this section, RCW 82.14.0485, and 36.38.010(4) (a) and (b). If the revenue from the taxes imposed under the authority of this section exceeds the amount needed for such principal and interest payments in any year, the excess shall be used solely:

(a) For early retirement of the bonds issued for the baseball stadium; and

(b) If the revenue from the taxes imposed under this section exceeds the amount needed for the purposes in (a) of this subsection in any year, the excess shall be placed in a contingency fund which may only be used to pay unanticipated capital costs on the baseball stadium, excluding any cost overruns on initial construction.

(4) The proceeds of any bonds issued for the baseball stadium shall be provided to the district.

(5) As used in this section, "baseball stadium" means "baseball stadium" as defined in RCW 82.14.0485.

(6) The taxes imposed under this section shall expire when the bonds issued for the construction of the baseball stadium are retired, but not later than twenty years after the taxes are first collected. [2008 c 86 § 104; 2000 c 103 § 10; 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 201; 1995 1st sp.s. c 14 § 7.]

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.370 Sales and use tax for public facilities in rural counties.** (1) The legislative authority of a rural county may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The rate of tax may not exceed 0.09 percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or value of the article used in the case of a use tax, except that for rural counties with pop-

ulation densities between sixty and one hundred persons per square mile, the rate shall not exceed 0.04 percent before January 1, 2000.

(2) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section must be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid over to the department of revenue under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department of revenue must perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the county at no cost to the county.

(3)(a) Moneys collected under this section may only be used to finance public facilities serving economic development purposes in rural counties and finance personnel in economic development offices. The public facility must be listed as an item in the officially adopted county overall economic development plan, or the economic development section of the county's comprehensive plan, or the comprehensive plan of a city or town located within the county for those counties planning under RCW 36.70A.040. For those counties that do not have an adopted overall economic development plan and do not plan under the growth management act, the public facility must be listed in the county's capital facilities plan or the capital facilities plan of a city or town located within the county.

(b) In implementing this section, the county must consult with cities, towns, and port districts located within the county and the associate development organization serving the county to ensure that the expenditure meets the goals of chapter 130, Laws of 2004 and the requirements of (a) of this subsection. Each county collecting money under this section must report, as follows, to the office of the state auditor, within one hundred fifty days after the close of each fiscal year: (i) A list of new projects begun during the fiscal year, showing that the county has used the funds for those projects consistent with the goals of chapter 130, Laws of 2004 and the requirements of (a) of this subsection; and (ii) expenditures during the fiscal year on projects begun in a previous year. Any projects financed prior to June 10, 2004, from the proceeds of obligations to which the tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section has been pledged may not be deemed to be new projects under this subsection. No new projects funded with money collected under this section may be for justice system facilities.

(c) The definitions in this section apply throughout this section.

(i) "Public facilities" means bridges, roads, domestic and industrial water facilities, sanitary sewer facilities, earth stabilization, storm sewer facilities, railroads, electrical facilities, natural gas facilities, research, testing, training, and incubation facilities in innovation partnership zones designated under RCW 43.330.270, buildings, structures, telecommunications infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or commercial infrastructure, and port facilities in the state of Washington.

(ii) "Economic development purposes" means those purposes which facilitate the creation or retention of businesses and jobs in a county.

(iii) "Economic development office" means an office of a county, port districts, or an associate development organization as defined in RCW 43.330.010, which promotes economic development purposes within the county.

(4) No tax may be collected under this section before July 1, 1998.

(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, no tax may be collected under this section by a county more than twenty-five years after the date that a tax is first imposed under this section.

(b) For counties imposing the tax at the rate of 0.09 percent before August 1, 2009, the tax expires on the date that is twenty-five years after the date that the 0.09 percent tax rate was first imposed by that county.

(5) For purposes of this section, "rural county" means a county with a population density of less than one hundred persons per square mile or a county smaller than two hundred twenty-five square miles as determined by the office of financial management and published each year by the department for the period July 1st to June 30th. [2012 c 225 § 4; 2009 c 511 § 1. Prior: 2007 c 478 § 1; 2007 c 250 § 1; 2004 c 130 § 2; 2002 c 184 § 1; 1999 c 311 § 101; 1998 c 55 § 6; 1997 c 366 § 3.]

**Effective date—2007 c 478:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2007." [2007 c 478 § 2.]

**Intent—2004 c 130:** "It is the intent of the legislature in enacting this 2004 act to reaffirm the original goals of the 1997 act which first provided distressed counties with the local option sales and use tax contained in RCW 82.14.370. The local option tax is now available to all rural counties and the continuing legislative goal for RCW 82.14.370 is to promote the creation, attraction, expansion, and retention of businesses and provide for family wage jobs." [2004 c 130 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—1999 c 311:** "The legislature finds that while Washington's economy is currently prospering, economic growth continues to be uneven, particularly as between metropolitan and rural areas. This has created in effect two Washingtons: One afflicted by inadequate infrastructure to support and attract investment, another suffering from congestion and soaring housing prices. In order to address these problems, the legislature intends to use resources strategically to build on our state's strengths while addressing threats to our prosperity." [1999 c 311 § 1.]

**Intent—1997 c 366:** "The legislature recognizes the economic hardship that rural distressed areas throughout the state have undergone in recent years. Numerous rural distressed areas across the state have encountered serious economic downturns resulting in significant job loss and business failure. In 1991 the legislature enacted two major pieces of legislation to promote economic development and job creation, with particular emphasis on worker training, income, and emergency services support, along with community revitalization through planning services and infrastructure assistance. However even though these programs have been of assistance, rural distressed areas still face serious economic problems including: Above-average unemployment rates from job losses and below-average employment growth; low rate of business start-ups; and persistent erosion of vitally important resource-driven industries.

The legislature also recognizes that rural distressed areas in Washington have an abiding ability and consistent will to overcome these economic obstacles by building upon their historic foundations of business enterprise, local leadership, and outstanding work ethic.

The legislature intends to assist rural distressed areas in their ongoing efforts to address these difficult economic problems by providing a comprehensive and significant array of economic tools, necessary to harness the persistent and undaunted spirit of enterprise that resides in the citizens of rural distressed areas throughout the state.

The further intent of this act is to provide:

- (1) A strategically designed plan of assistance, emphasizing state, local, and private sector leadership and partnership;
- (2) A comprehensive and significant array of business assistance, services, and tax incentives that are accountable and performance driven;
- (3) An array of community assistance including infrastructure development and business retention, attraction, and expansion programs that will provide a competitive advantage to rural distressed areas throughout Washington; and
- (4) Regulatory relief to reduce and streamline zoning, permitting, and regulatory requirements in order to enhance the capability of businesses to grow and prosper in rural distressed areas." [1997 c 366 § 1.]

**82.14.390 Sales and use tax for regional centers.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section, the governing body of a public facilities district (a) created before July 31, 2002, under chapter 35.57 or 36.100 RCW that commences construction of a new regional center, or improvement or rehabilitation of an existing new regional center, before January 1, 2004; (b) created before July 1, 2006, under chapter 35.57 RCW in a county or counties in which there are no other public facilities districts on June 7, 2006, and in which the total population in the public facilities district is greater than ninety thousand that commences construction of a new regional center before February 1, 2007; (c) created under the authority of RCW 35.57.010(1)(d); or (d) created before September 1, 2007, under chapter 35.57 or 36.100 RCW, in a county or counties in which there are no other public facilities districts on July 22, 2007, and in which the total population in the public facilities district is greater than seventy thousand, that commences construction of a new regional center before January 1, 2009, or before January 1, 2011, in the case of a new regional center in a county designated by the president as a disaster area in December 2007, may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the public facilities district. The rate of tax may not exceed 0.033 percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or value of the article used in the case of a use tax.

(2)(a) The governing body of a public facilities district imposing a sales and use tax under the authority of this section may increase the rate of tax up to 0.037 percent if, within three fiscal years of July 1, 2008, the department determines that, as a result of RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020, a public facilities district's sales and use tax collections for fiscal years after July 1, 2008, have been reduced by a net loss of at least 0.50 percent from the fiscal year before July 1, 2008. The fiscal year in which this section becomes effective is the first fiscal year after July 1, 2008.

(b) The department must determine sales and use tax collection net losses under this section as provided in RCW 82.14.500 (2) and (3). The department must provide written notice of its determinations to public facilities districts. Determinations by the department of a public facilities district's sales and use tax collection net losses as a result of RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020 are final and not appealable.

(c) A public facilities district may increase its rate of tax after it has received written notice from the department as provided in (b) of this subsection. The increase in the rate of tax must be made in 0.001 percent increments and must be the least amount necessary to mitigate the net loss in sales and use tax collections as a result of RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020. The increase in the rate of tax is subject to RCW 82.14.055.

(3) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section must be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid over to the department of revenue

under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department of revenue must perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the county at no cost to the public facilities district. During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, distributions by the state to a public facilities district based on the additional rate authorized in subsection (2) of this section must be reduced by 3.4 percent.

(4) No tax may be collected under this section before August 1, 2000. The tax imposed in this section expires when the bonds issued for the construction of the regional center and related parking facilities are retired, but not more than twenty-five years after the tax is first collected.

(5) Moneys collected under this section may only be used for the purposes set forth in RCW 35.57.020 and must be matched with an amount from other public or private sources equal to thirty-three percent of the amount collected under this section; however, amounts generated from non-voter approved taxes authorized under chapter 35.57 RCW or nonvoter approved taxes authorized under chapter 36.100 RCW do not constitute a public or private source. For the purpose of this section, public or private sources includes, but is not limited to cash or in-kind contributions used in all phases of the development or improvement of the regional center, land that is donated and used for the siting of the regional center, cash or in-kind contributions from public or private foundations, or amounts attributed to private sector partners as part of a public and private partnership agreement negotiated by the public facilities district.

(6) The combined total tax levied under this section may not be greater than 0.037 percent. If both a public facilities district created under chapter 35.57 RCW and a public facilities district created under chapter 36.100 RCW impose a tax under this section, the tax imposed by a public facilities district created under chapter 35.57 RCW must be credited against the tax imposed by a public facilities district created under chapter 36.100 RCW.

(7) A public facilities district created under chapter 36.100 RCW is not eligible to impose the tax under this section if the legislative authority of the county where the public facilities district is located has imposed a sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.0485 or 82.14.0494. [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 973; 2008 c 48 § 1. Prior: 2007 c 486 § 2; 2007 c 6 § 904; 2006 c 298 § 1; 2002 c 363 § 4; 1999 c 165 § 13.]

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2008 c 48:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 48 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14.400 Sales and use tax for zoo, aquarium, and wildlife facilities—Authorizing proposition—Distributions.** (1) Upon the joint request of a metropolitan park district, a city with a population of more than one hundred fifty thousand, and a county legislative authority in a county with a national park and a population of more than five hundred thousand and less than one million five hundred thousand, the county shall submit an authorizing proposition to the county voters, fixing and imposing a sales and use tax in accordance

(2012 Ed.)

with this chapter for the purposes designated in subsection (4) of this section and identified in the joint request. Such proposition must be placed on a ballot for a special or general election to be held no later than one year after the date of the joint request.

(2) The proposition is approved if it receives the votes of a majority of those voting on the proposition.

(3) The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The rate of tax shall equal no more than one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

(4) Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section shall be used solely for the purpose of providing funds for:

(a) Costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, or improvement of zoo, aquarium, and wildlife preservation and display facilities that are currently accredited by the American zoo and aquarium association; or

(b) Those costs associated with (a) of this subsection and costs related to parks located within a county described in subsection (1) of this section.

(5) The department of revenue shall perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the county at no cost to the county. In lieu of the charge for the administration and collection of local sales and use taxes under RCW 82.14.050 from which the county is exempt under this subsection (5), a percentage of the tax revenues authorized by this section equal to one-half of the maximum percentage provided in RCW 82.14.050 shall be transferred annually to the \*department of community, trade, and economic development, or its successor agency, from the funds allocated under subsection (6)(b) of this section for a period of twelve years from the first date of distribution of funds under subsection (6)(b) of this section. The \*department of community, trade, and economic development, or its successor agency, shall use funds transferred to it pursuant to this subsection (5) to provide, operate, and maintain community-based housing under chapter 43.185 RCW for persons who are mentally ill.

(6) If the joint request and the authorizing proposition include provisions for funding those costs included within subsection (4)(b) of this section, the tax revenues authorized by this section shall be allocated annually as follows:

(a) Fifty percent to the zoo and aquarium advisory authority; and

(b) Fifty percent to be distributed on a per capita basis as set out in the most recent population figures for unincorporated and incorporated areas only within that county, as determined by the office of financial management, solely for parks, as follows: To any metropolitan park district, to cities and towns not contained within a metropolitan park district, and the remainder to the county. Moneys received under this subsection (6)(b) by a county may not be used to replace or supplant existing per capita funding.

(7) Funds shall be distributed annually by the county treasurer to the county, and cities and towns located within

the county, in the manner set out in subsection (6)(b) of this section.

(8) Prior to expenditure of any funds received by the county under subsection (6)(b) of this section, the county shall establish a process which considers needs throughout the unincorporated areas of the county in consultation with community advisory councils established by ordinance.

(9) By December 31, 2005, and thereafter, the county or any city with a population greater than eighty thousand must provide at least one dollar match for every two dollars received under this section.

(10) Properties subject to a memorandum of agreement between the federal bureau of land management, the advisory council on historic preservation, and the Washington state historic preservation officer have priority for funding from money received under subsection (6)(b) of this section for implementation of the stipulations in the memorandum of agreement.

(a) At least one hundred thousand dollars of the first four years of allocations under subsection (6)(b) of this section, to be matched by the county or city with one dollar for every two dollars received, shall be used to implement the stipulations of the memorandum of agreement and for other historical, archaeological, architectural, and cultural preservation and improvements related to the properties.

(b) The amount in (a) of this subsection shall come equally from the allocations to the county and to the city in which the properties are located, unless otherwise agreed to by the county and the city.

(c) The amount in (a) of this subsection shall not be construed to displace or be offered in lieu of any lease payment from a county or city to the state for the properties in question. [2000 c 240 § 1; 1999 c 104 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**82.14.410 Sales of lodging tax rate changes.** (1) A local sales and use tax change adopted after December 1, 2000, must provide an exemption for those sales of lodging for which, but for the exemption, the total sales tax rate imposed on sales of lodging would exceed the greater of:

(a) Twelve percent; or

(b) The total sales tax rate that would have applied to the sale of lodging if the sale were made on December 1, 2000.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Local sales and use tax change" is defined as provided in RCW 82.14.055.

(b) "Sale of lodging" means the sale of or charge made for the furnishing of lodging and all other services by a hotel, rooming house, tourist court, motel, trailer camp, and the granting of any similar license to use real property.

(c) "Total sales tax rate" means the combined rates of all state and local taxes imposed under this chapter and chapters 36.100, 67.28, \*67.40, and 82.08 RCW, and any other tax authorized after March 29, 2001, if the tax is in the nature of a sales tax collected from the buyer, but excluding taxes imposed under RCW 81.104.170 before December 1, 2000. [2001 c 6 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** A majority of chapter 67.40 RCW was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 14, effective November 30, 2010. RCW 67.40.020 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 15, effective December 30, 2010.

**82.14.415 Sales and use tax for cities to offset municipal service costs to newly annexed areas.** (1) The legislative authority of any city that is located in a county with a population greater than six hundred thousand that annexes an area consistent with its comprehensive plan required by chapter 36.70A RCW may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and is collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the city. The tax may only be imposed by a city if:

(a) The city has commenced annexation of an area having a population of at least ten thousand people, or four thousand in the case of a city described under subsection (3)(a)(i) of this section, prior to January 1, 2015; and

(b) The city legislative authority determines by resolution or ordinance that the projected cost to provide municipal services to the annexation area exceeds the projected general revenue that the city would otherwise receive from the annexation area on an annual basis.

(2) The tax authorized under this section is a credit against the state tax under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department of revenue must perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the city at no cost to the city and must remit the tax to the city as provided in RCW 82.14.060.

(3)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the maximum rate of tax any city may impose under this section is:

(i) 0.1 percent for each annexed area in which the population is greater than ten thousand and less than twenty thousand. The ten thousand population threshold in this subsection (3)(a)(i) is four thousand for a city with a population between one hundred fifteen thousand and one hundred forty thousand and located within a county with a population over one million five hundred thousand; and

(ii) 0.2 percent for an annexed area in which the population is greater than twenty thousand.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2011, the maximum rate of tax imposed under this section is 0.85 percent for an annexed area in which the population is greater than sixteen thousand if the annexed area was, prior to November 1, 2008, officially designated as a potential annexation area by more than one city, one of which has a population greater than four hundred thousand.

(4)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the maximum cumulative rate of tax a city may impose under subsection (3)(a) of this section is 0.2 percent for the total number of annexed areas the city may annex.

(b) The maximum cumulative rate of tax a city may impose under subsection (3)(a) of this section is 0.3 percent, beginning July 1, 2011, if the city commenced annexation of an area, prior to January 1, 2010, that would have otherwise allowed the city to increase the rate of tax imposed under this section absent the rate limit imposed in (a) of this subsection.

(c) The maximum cumulative rate of tax a city may impose under subsection (3)(b) of this section is 0.85 percent for the single annexed area the city may annex and the amount of tax distributed to a city under subsection (3)(b) of

this section may not exceed five million dollars per fiscal year.

(5) The tax imposed by this section may only be imposed at the beginning of a fiscal year and may continue for no more than ten years from the date that each increment of the tax is first imposed. Tax rate increases due to additional annexed areas are effective on July 1st of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the annexation occurred, provided that notice is given to the department as set forth in subsection (9) of this section.

(6) All revenue collected under this section may be used solely to provide, maintain, and operate municipal services for the annexation area.

(7) The revenues from the tax authorized in this section may not exceed that which the city deems necessary to generate revenue equal to the difference between the city's cost to provide, maintain, and operate municipal services for the annexation area and the general revenues that the cities would otherwise expect to receive from the annexation during a year. If the revenues from the tax authorized in this section and the revenues from the annexation area exceed the costs to the city to provide, maintain, and operate municipal services for the annexation area during a given year, the city must notify the department and the tax distributions authorized in this section must be suspended for the remainder of the year.

(8) No tax may be imposed under this section before July 1, 2007. Before imposing a tax under this section, the legislative authority of a city must adopt an ordinance that includes the following:

(a) A certification that the amount needed to provide municipal services to the annexed area reflects the city's true and actual costs;

(b) The rate of tax under this section that is imposed within the city; and

(c) The threshold amount for the first fiscal year following the annexation and passage of the ordinance.

(9) The tax must cease to be distributed to the city for the remainder of the fiscal year once the threshold amount has been reached. No later than March 1st of each year, the city must provide the department with a certification of the city's true and actual costs to provide municipal services to the annexed area, a new threshold amount for the next fiscal year, and notice of any applicable tax rate changes. Distributions of tax under this section must begin again on July 1st of the next fiscal year and continue until the new threshold amount has been reached or June 30th, whichever is sooner. Any revenue generated by the tax in excess of the threshold amount belongs to the state of Washington. Any amount resulting from the threshold amount less the total fiscal year distributions, as of June 30th, may not be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

(10) The tax must cease to be distributed to a city imposing the tax under subsection (3)(b) of this section for the remainder of the fiscal year, if the total distributions to the city imposing the tax exceed five million dollars for the fiscal year.

(11) The resident population of the annexation area must be determined in accordance with chapter 35.13 or 35A.14 RCW.

(12) The following definitions apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(a) "Annexation area" means an area that has been annexed to a city under chapter 35.13 or 35A.14 RCW. "Annexation area" includes all territory described in the city resolution.

(b) "Commenced annexation" means the initiation of annexation proceedings has taken place under the direct petition method or the election method under chapter 35.13 or 35A.14 RCW.

(c) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(d) "Municipal services" means those services customarily provided to the public by city government.

(e) "Fiscal year" means the year beginning July 1st and ending the following June 30th.

(f) "Potential annexation area" means one or more geographic areas that a city has officially designated for potential future annexation, as part of its comprehensive plan adoption process under the state growth management act, chapter 36.70A RCW.

(g) "Threshold amount" means the maximum amount of tax distributions as determined by the city in accordance with subsection (7) of this section that the department must distribute to the city generated from the tax imposed under this section in a fiscal year. [2011 c 353 § 10; 2009 c 550 § 1; 2006 c 361 § 1.]

**Intent—2011 c 353:** See note following RCW 36.70A.130.

**Severability—2006 c 361:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2006 c 361 § 2.]

**82.14.420 Sales and use tax for emergency communication systems and facilities.** (1) A county legislative authority may submit an authorizing proposition to the county voters, and if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, fix and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter for the purposes designated in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) The tax authorized in this section shall be in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county. The rate of tax shall equal one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

(3) Moneys received from any tax imposed under this section shall be used solely for the purpose of providing funds for costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities.

(4) Counties are authorized to develop joint ventures to collocate emergency communication systems and facilities.

(5) Prior to submitting the tax authorization in subsection (2) of this section to the voters in a county that provides emergency communication services to a governmental agency pursuant to a contract, the parties to the contract shall review and negotiate or affirm the terms of the contract.

(6) Prior to submitting the tax authorized in subsection (2) of this section to the voters, a county with a population of more than five hundred thousand in which any city over fifty thousand operates emergency communication systems and

facilities shall enter into an interlocal agreement with the city to determine distribution of the revenue provided in this section. [2002 c 176 § 1.]

**82.14.430 Sales and use tax for regional transportation investment district.** (1) If approved by the majority of the voters within its boundaries voting on the ballot proposition, a regional transportation investment district may impose a sales and use tax of up to 0.1 percent of the selling price or value of the article used in the case of a use tax. The tax authorized by this section is in addition to the tax authorized by RCW 82.14.030 and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the taxing district. Motor vehicles are exempt from the sales and use tax imposed under this subsection.

(2) If approved by the majority of the voters within its boundaries voting on the ballot proposition, a regional transportation investment district may impose a tax on the use of a motor vehicle within a regional transportation investment district. The tax applies to those persons who reside within the regional transportation investment district. The rate of the tax may not exceed 0.1 percent of the value of the motor vehicle. The tax authorized by this subsection is in addition to the tax authorized under RCW 82.14.030 and must be imposed and collected at the time a taxable event under RCW 82.08.020(1) or 82.12.020 takes place. All revenue received under this subsection must be deposited in the local sales and use tax account and distributed to the regional transportation investment district according to RCW 82.14.050. The following provisions apply to the use tax in this subsection:

(a) Where persons are taxable under chapter 82.08 RCW, the seller shall collect the use tax from the buyer using the collection provisions of RCW 82.08.050.

(b) Where persons are taxable under chapter 82.12 RCW, the use tax must be collected using the provisions of RCW 82.12.045.

(c) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in RCW 46.04.320, but does not include farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180 and 46.04.181, off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365, nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310, and snowmobiles as defined in RCW 46.04.546.

(d) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030.

(e) The value of a motor vehicle must be determined under RCW 82.12.010.

(f) Except as specifically stated in this subsection (2), chapters 82.12 and 82.32 RCW apply to the use tax. The use tax is a local tax imposed under the authority of chapter 82.14 RCW, and chapter 82.14 RCW applies fully to the use tax.

(3) In addition to fulfilling the notice requirements under RCW 82.14.055(1), and unless waived by the department, a regional transportation investment district shall provide the department of revenue with digital mapping and legal descriptions of areas in which the tax will be collected. [2011 c 171 § 123; 2006 c 311 § 17; 2002 c 56 § 405.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**82.14.440 Sales and use tax for passenger-only ferry service.** Public transportation benefit areas providing passenger-only ferry service as provided in RCW 36.57A.200 whose boundaries (1) are on the Puget Sound, but (2) do not include an area where a regional transit authority has been formed, may submit an authorizing proposition to the voters and, if approved by a majority of persons voting, fix and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter, solely for the purpose of providing passenger-only ferry service.

The tax authorized by this section is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of a taxable event within the taxing district. The maximum rate of the tax must be approved by the voters and may not exceed four-tenths of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or value of the article used in the case of a use tax. [2003 c 83 § 207.]

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**82.14.450 Sales and use tax for counties and cities.**

(1) A county legislative authority may submit an authorizing proposition to the county voters at a primary or general election and, if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The title of each ballot measure must clearly state the purposes for which the proposed sales and use tax will be used. The rate of tax under this section may not exceed three-tenths of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

(2)(a) A city legislative authority may submit an authorizing proposition to the city voters at a primary or general election and, if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The title of each ballot measure must clearly state the purposes for which the proposed sales and use tax will be used. The rate of tax under this subsection may not exceed one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax. A city may not begin imposing a tax approved by the voters under this subsection prior to January 1, 2011.

(b) If a county adopts an ordinance or resolution to submit a ballot proposition to the voters to impose the sales and use tax under subsection (1) of this section prior to a city within the county adopting an ordinance or resolution to submit a ballot proposition to the voters to impose the tax under this subsection, the rate of tax by the city under this subsection may not exceed an amount that would cause the total county and city tax rate under this section to exceed three-tenths of one percent. This subsection (2)(b) also applies if the county and city adopt an ordinance or resolution to impose sales and use taxes under this section on the same date.

(c) If the city adopts an ordinance or resolution to submit a ballot proposition to the voters to impose the sales and use tax under this subsection prior to the county in which the city is located, the county must provide a credit against its tax under subsection (1) of this section for the city tax under this

subsection to the extent the total county and city tax rate under this section would exceed three-tenths of one percent.

(3) The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county.

(4) The retail sale or use of motor vehicles, and the lease of motor vehicles for up to the first thirty-six months of the lease, are exempt from tax imposed under this section.

(5) One-third of all money received under this section must be used solely for criminal justice purposes, fire protection purposes, or both. For the purposes of this subsection, "criminal justice purposes" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.14.340.

(6) Money received by a county under subsection (1) of this section must be shared between the county and the cities as follows: Sixty percent must be retained by the county and forty percent must be distributed on a per capita basis to cities in the county.

(7) Tax proceeds received by a city imposing a tax under this section must be shared between the county and city as follows: Fifteen percent must be distributed to the county and eighty-five percent is retained by the city. [2010 c 127 § 1; 2009 c 551 § 1; 2007 c 380 § 1; 2003 1st sp.s. c 24 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 1st sp.s. c 24:** "The legislature finds that local governments in the state of Washington face enormous challenges in the area of criminal justice and public health. It is the legislature's intent to allow general local governments to raise revenues in order to better protect the health and safety of Washington state and its residents. It is further the intent of the legislature to provide such local governments relief from regulatory burdens that do not harm the public health and safety of the citizens of the state as a means of minimizing the need to generate new revenues authorized under this act." [2003 1st sp.s. c 24 § 1.]

**Effective date—2003 1st sp.s. c 24:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2003." [2003 1st sp.s. c 24 § 6.]

**Severability—2003 1st sp.s. c 24:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2003 1st sp.s. c 24 § 7.]

**82.14.455 Exemptions—Machinery and equipment used in generating electricity.** The exemptions in RCW 82.08.962, 82.12.962, 82.08.963, and 82.12.963 are for the state and local sales and use taxes and include the sales and use taxes imposed under the authority of this chapter. [2009 c 469 § 105.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**82.14.457 Sales and use tax for digital goods—Apportionment.** (1) A business or other organization that is entitled under RCW 82.12.02088 to apportion the amount of state use tax on the use of digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, prewritten computer software, or services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(6)(b) is also entitled to apportion the amount of local use taxes imposed under the authority of this chapter and RCW 81.104.170 on the use of such products or services.

(2) To ensure that the tax base for state and local use taxes is identical, the measure of local use taxes apportioned

(2012 Ed.)

under this section must be the same as the measure of state use tax apportioned under RCW 82.12.02088.

(3) This section does not affect the sourcing of local use taxes. [2009 c 535 § 703.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.14.460 Sales and use tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts.**

(1)(a) A county legislative authority may authorize, fix, and impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter.

(b) If a county with a population over eight hundred thousand has not imposed the tax authorized under this subsection by January 1, 2011, any city with a population over thirty thousand located in that county may authorize, fix, and impose the sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The county must provide a credit against its tax for the full amount of tax imposed under this subsection (1)(b) by any city located in that county if the county imposes the tax after January 1, 2011.

(2) The tax authorized in this section is in addition to any other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county for a county's tax and within a city for a city's tax. The rate of tax equals one-tenth of one percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

(3) Moneys collected under this section must be used solely for the purpose of providing for the operation or delivery of chemical dependency or mental health treatment programs and services and for the operation or delivery of therapeutic court programs and services. For the purposes of this section, "programs and services" includes, but is not limited to, treatment services, case management, and housing that are a component of a coordinated chemical dependency or mental health treatment program or service.

(4) All moneys collected under this section must be used solely for the purpose of providing new or expanded programs and services as provided in this section, except as follows:

(a) For a county with a population larger than twenty-five thousand or a city with a population over thirty thousand, which initially imposed the tax authorized under this section prior to January 1, 2012, a portion of moneys collected under this section may be used to supplant existing funding for these purposes as follows: Up to fifty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar years 2011-2012; up to forty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2013; up to thirty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2014; up to twenty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2015; and up to ten percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2016;

(b) For a county with a population larger than twenty-five thousand or a city with a population over thirty thousand, which initially imposes the tax authorized under this section after December 31, 2011, a portion of moneys collected under this section may be used to supplant existing funding for these purposes as follows: Up to fifty percent

may be used to supplant existing funding for up to the first three calendar years following adoption; and up to twenty-five percent may be used to supplant existing funding for the fourth and fifth years after adoption;

(c) For a county with a population of less than twenty-five thousand, a portion of moneys collected under this section may be used to supplant existing funding for these purposes as follows: Up to eighty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar years 2011-2012; up to sixty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2013; up to forty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2014; up to twenty percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2015; and up to ten percent may be used to supplant existing funding in calendar year 2016; and

(d) Notwithstanding (a) through (c) of this subsection, moneys collected under this section may be used to support the cost of the judicial officer and support staff of a therapeutic court.

(5) Nothing in this section may be interpreted to prohibit the use of moneys collected under this section for the replacement of lapsed federal funding previously provided for the operation or delivery of services and programs as provided in this section. [2012 c 180 § 1; 2011 c 347 § 1; 2010 c 127 § 2; 2009 c 551 § 2; 2008 c 157 § 2; 2005 c 504 § 804.]

**Findings—Intent—2008 c 157:** "The legislature finds it necessary to clarify the original intent regarding eligible expenditures of the sales and use tax provided in RCW 82.14.460. The legislature intended that upon the original effective date of RCW 82.14.460, the moneys collected under RCW 82.14.460 would be permitted to be used for the purposes as provided in RCW 82.14.460 as clarified by section 2, chapter 157, Laws of 2008." [2008 c 157 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—Severability—Application—Construction—Captions, part headings, subheadings not law—Adoption of rules—Effective dates—2005 c 504:** See notes following RCW 71.05.027.

**Alphabetization—Correction of references—2005 c 504:** See note following RCW 71.05.020.

**82.14.465 Hospital benefit zones—Sales and use tax—Definitions.** (1) A city, town, or county that creates a benefit zone and finances public improvements pursuant to chapter 39.100 RCW may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter and subject to the criteria set forth in this section. Except as provided in this section, the tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the taxing jurisdiction of the city, town, or county. The rate of tax may not exceed the rate provided in RCW 82.08.020(1) in the case of a sales tax or a use tax, less the aggregate rates of any other taxes imposed on the same events that are credited against the state taxes imposed under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW. The tax rate may be no higher than what is reasonably necessary for the local government to receive its entire annual state contribution in a ten-month period of time.

(2) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section must be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid over to the department under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department must perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the city, town, or county at no cost to the city, town, or county.

(3) No tax may be imposed under this section before July 1, 2007. Before imposing a tax under this section, the city, town, or county shall first have received tax allocation revenues during the preceding calendar year. The tax imposed under this section expires on the earlier of the date: (a) The tax allocation revenues are no longer used for public improvements and public improvement costs; (b) the bonds issued to finance or refinance the improvements are no longer outstanding, if the bonds are issued; or (c) that is thirty years after the tax is first imposed.

(4) An ordinance adopted by the legislative authority of a city, town, or county imposing a tax under this section must provide that:

(a) The tax is first imposed on the first day of a fiscal year;

(b) The amount of tax received by the local government in any fiscal year may not exceed the amount of the state contribution;

(c) The tax must cease to be distributed for the remainder of any fiscal year in which either:

(i) The amount of tax distributions totals the amount of the state contribution;

(ii) The amount of tax distributions totals the amount of local public sources, dedicated in the previous calendar year to finance public improvements authorized under chapter 39.100 RCW, expended in the previous year for public improvement costs, or used to pay for other bonds issued to pay for public improvements. Revenues from local public sources, including hospital sources identified in RCW 82.14.465(7)(k), dedicated in the preceding calendar year that are in excess of the project award may be carried forward and used in later years for the purpose of this subsection; or

(iii) The amount of revenue from taxes imposed under this section by all cities, towns, and counties totals the annual state credit limit as provided in RCW 82.32.700(3);

(d) The tax must be distributed again, should it cease to be distributed for any of the reasons provided in (c) of this subsection, at the beginning of the next fiscal year, subject to the restrictions in this section; and

(e) Any revenue generated by the tax in excess of the amounts specified in (b) and (c) of this subsection belong to the state of Washington.

(5) If both a county and a city or town impose a tax under this section, the tax imposed by the city, town, or county is credited as follows:

(a) If the county has created a benefit zone before the city or town, the tax imposed by the county is credited against the tax imposed by the city or town, the purpose of such credit is to give priority to the county tax; and

(b) If the city or town has created a benefit zone before the county, the tax imposed by the city or town is credited against the tax imposed by the county, the purpose of such credit is to give priority to the city or town tax.

(6) The department must determine the amount of tax distributions attributable to each city, town, and county imposing a sales and use tax under this section and must advise a city, town, or county when the tax will cease to be distributed for the remainder of the fiscal year as provided in subsection (4)(c) of this section. Determinations by the department of the amount of taxes attributable to a city, town, or county are final and may not be used to challenge the

validity of any tax imposed under this section. The department must remit any tax revenues in excess of the amounts specified in subsection (4)(b) and (c) of this section to the state treasurer who must deposit the moneys in the general fund.

(7) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section and RCW 82.14.470 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Base year" means the calendar year immediately following the creation of a benefit zone.

(b) "Benefit zone" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 39.100.010.

(c) "Excess local excise taxes" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 39.100.050.

(d) "Excess state excise taxes" means the amount of excise taxes received by the state during the measurement year from taxable activity within the benefit zone over and above the amount of excise taxes received by the state during the base year from taxable activity within the benefit zone. However, if a local government creates the benefit zone and reasonably determines that no activity subject to tax under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW occurred in the twelve months immediately preceding the creation of the benefit zone within the boundaries of the area that became the benefit zone, "excess state excise taxes" means the entire amount of state excise taxes the state receives during a calendar year period beginning with the calendar year immediately following the creation of the benefit zone and continuing with each measurement year thereafter.

(e) "State excise taxes" means revenues derived from state retail sales and use taxes under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW, less the amount of tax distributions from all local retail sales and use taxes imposed on the same taxable events that are credited against the state retail sales and use taxes under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW except for the local tax authorized in this section.

(f) "Fiscal year" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 39.100.030.

(g) "Measurement year" means a calendar year, beginning with the calendar year following the base year and each calendar year thereafter, that is used annually to measure the amount of excess state excise taxes and excess local excise taxes.

(h) "State contribution" means the lesser of two million dollars or an amount equal to excess state excise taxes received by the state during the preceding calendar year.

(i) "Tax allocation revenues" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 39.100.010.

(j) "Public improvements" and "public improvement costs" have the same meanings as provided in RCW 39.100.010.

(k) "Local public sources" includes, but is not limited to, private monetary contributions, assessments, dedicated local government funds, and tax allocation revenues. "Local public sources" does not include local government funds derived from the state-subsidized portion of any state loan or state grant, any local tax that is credited against the state sales and use taxes, or any other state funds. Local public sources may include amounts expended by a hospital in the zone since the date of formation of the zone and may be applied to the year

or years designated by the local government. [2011 c 363 § 3; 2009 c 535 § 1109; 2007 c 266 § 7; 2006 c 111 § 7.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Finding—Application—Effective date—2007 c 266:** See notes following RCW 39.100.010.

**Effective date—2006 c 111:** See RCW 39.100.900.

**82.14.470 Hospital benefit zones—Local public sources dedicated to finance public improvements—Reporting requirements.** (1)(a)(i) Moneys collected from the taxes imposed under RCW 82.14.465 may be used only for the following purposes:

(A) Principal and interest payments on bonds issued to finance or refinance public improvements in a benefit zone under the authority of RCW 39.100.060;

(B) Principal and interest payments on other bonds issued by the local government to finance public improvements; or

(C) Payments for public improvement costs.

(ii) Moneys collected and used as provided in (a)(i) of this subsection must be matched with an amount from local public sources dedicated, as further provided in RCW 82.14.465 (4)(c)(ii) and (7)(k), through December 31st of the previous calendar year to finance public improvements authorized under chapter 39.100 RCW.

(b) Local public sources are dedicated to finance public improvements if they: (i) Are actually expended to pay public improvement costs or debt service on bonds issued for public improvements; or (ii) are required by law or an agreement to be used exclusively to pay public improvement costs or debt service on bonds issued for public improvements.

(c) A city, town, or county is not required to expend taxes imposed under RCW 82.14.465 in the fiscal year in which the taxes are received.

(2) A local government must inform the department by the first day of March of the amount of local public sources allocated to the preceding calendar year to finance public improvements authorized under chapter 39.100 RCW.

(3) If a local government fails to comply with subsection (2) of this section, no tax may be imposed under RCW 82.14.465 in the subsequent fiscal year.

(4)(a) A local government must provide a report to the department and the state auditor by March 1st of each year. A local government must make a good faith effort to provide information required for the report.

(b) The report must contain the following information:

(i) The amount of tax allocation revenues, taxes under RCW 82.14.465, and local public sources received by the local government during the preceding calendar year, and a summary of how these revenues were expended; and

(ii) The names of any businesses known to the local government that have located within the benefit zone as a result of the public improvements undertaken by the local government and financed in whole or in part with hospital benefit zone financing.

(5) The department must make a report available to the public and the legislature by June 1st of each year. The report must include a list of public improvements undertaken by local governments and financed in whole or in part with hospital benefit zone financing, and it must also include a sum-

mary of the information provided to the department by local governments under subsection (4) of this section. [2011 c 363 § 4; 2007 c 266 § 8; 2006 c 111 § 8.]

**Finding—Application—Effective date—2007 c 266:** See notes following RCW 39.100.010.

**Effective date—2006 c 111:** See RCW 39.100.900.

**82.14.475 Sales and use tax for the local infrastructure financing tool program. (Expires June 30, 2039.)** (1) A sponsoring local government, and any cosponsoring local government, that has been approved by the board to use local infrastructure financing may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter and subject to the criteria set forth in this section. Except as provided in this section, the tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and is collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the taxing jurisdiction of the sponsoring local government or cosponsoring local government.

(2) The tax authorized under subsection (1) of this section is credited against the state taxes imposed under RCW 82.08.020(1) and 82.12.020 at the rate provided in RCW 82.08.020(1). The department must perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the sponsoring local government or cosponsoring local government at no cost to the sponsoring local government or cosponsoring local government and must remit the taxes as provided in RCW 82.14.060.

(3) The aggregate rate of tax imposed by the sponsoring local government, and any cosponsoring local government, must not exceed the lesser of:

(a) The rate provided in RCW 82.08.020(1) less:

(i) The aggregate rates of all other local sales and use taxes imposed by any taxing authority on the same taxable events;

(ii) The aggregate rates of all taxes under RCW 82.14.465 and this section that are authorized to be imposed on the same taxable events but have not yet been imposed by a sponsoring local government or cosponsoring local government that has been approved by the department or the community economic revitalization board to receive a state contribution under chapter 39.100 or 39.102 RCW; and

(iii) The percentage amount of distributions required under RCW 82.08.020(5) multiplied by the rate of state taxes imposed under RCW 82.08.020(1); and

(b) The rate, as determined by the sponsoring local government, and any cosponsoring local government, in consultation with the department, reasonably necessary to receive the state contribution over ten months.

(4) Sponsoring local governments that have been approved before October 1, 2008, by the community economic revitalization board for a state contribution must select the rate of tax under this section no later than September 1, 2009.

(5) The department, upon request, must assist a sponsoring local government and cosponsoring local government in establishing their tax rate in accordance with subsection (3) of this section. Once the rate of tax is selected, it may not be increased.

(6)(a) No tax may be imposed under the authority of this section:

(i) Before July 1st of the second calendar year following the year approval by the board under RCW 39.102.040 was made; and

(ii) Until a sponsoring local government reports to the board and the department as required by RCW 39.102.140 that the state has benefited through the receipt of state excise tax allocation revenues or state property tax allocation revenues, or both.

(b) The tax imposed under this section expires when all indebtedness issued under the authority of RCW 39.102.150 is retired and all other contractual obligations relating to the financing of public improvements under chapter 39.102 RCW are satisfied, but not more than twenty-five years after the tax is first imposed.

(7) An ordinance adopted by the legislative authority of a sponsoring local government or cosponsoring local government imposing a tax under this section must provide that:

(a) The tax is first imposed on the first day of a fiscal year;

(b) The cumulative amount of tax received by the sponsoring local government, and any cosponsoring local government, in any fiscal year may not exceed the amount of the state contribution;

(c) The tax will cease to be distributed for the remainder of any fiscal year in which either:

(i) The amount of tax received by the sponsoring local government, and any cosponsoring local government, equals the amount of the state contribution;

(ii) The amount of revenue from taxes imposed under this section by all sponsoring and cosponsoring local governments equals the annual state contribution limit; or

(iii) The amount of tax received by the sponsoring local government equals the amount of project award granted in the approval notice described in RCW 39.102.040;

(d) Neither the local excise tax allocation revenues nor the local property tax allocation revenues may constitute more than eighty percent of the total local funds as described in RCW 39.102.020(28)(b). This requirement applies beginning January 1st of the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which the sponsoring local government begins allocating local excise tax allocation revenues under RCW 39.102.110;

(e) The tax must be distributed again, should it cease to be distributed for any of the reasons provided in (c) of this subsection, at the beginning of the next fiscal year, subject to the restrictions in this section; and

(f) Any revenue generated by the tax in excess of the amounts specified in (c) of this subsection belongs to the state of Washington.

(8) If a county and city cosponsor a revenue development area, the combined amount of distributions received by both the city and county may not exceed the state contribution.

(9) The department must determine the amount of tax receipts distributed to each sponsoring local government, and any cosponsoring local government, imposing sales and use tax under this section and shall advise a sponsoring or cosponsoring local government when tax distributions for the fiscal year equal the amount of state contribution for that fiscal year as provided in subsection (11) of this section. Determinations by the department of the amount of tax distribu-

tions attributable to each sponsoring or cosponsoring local government are final and may not be used to challenge the validity of any tax imposed under this section. The department must remit any tax receipts in excess of the amounts specified in subsection (7)(c) of this section to the state treasurer who must deposit the money in the general fund.

(10) If a sponsoring or cosponsoring local government fails to comply with RCW 39.102.140, no tax may be distributed in the subsequent fiscal year until such time as the sponsoring or cosponsoring local government complies and the department calculates the state contribution amount for such fiscal year.

(11) Each year, the amount of taxes approved by the department for distribution to a sponsoring or cosponsoring local government in the next fiscal year must be equal to the state contribution and may be no more than the total local funds as described in RCW 39.102.020(28)(b). The department must consider information from reports described in RCW 39.102.140 when determining the amount of state contributions for each fiscal year. A sponsoring or cosponsoring local government may not receive, in any fiscal year, more revenues from taxes imposed under the authority of this section than the amount approved annually by the department. The department may not approve the receipt of more distributions of sales and use tax under this section to a sponsoring or cosponsoring local government than is authorized under subsection (7) of this section.

(12) The amount of tax distributions received from taxes imposed under the authority of this section by all sponsoring and cosponsoring local governments is limited annually to not more than seven million five hundred thousand dollars.

(13) The definitions in RCW 39.102.020 apply to this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(14) If a sponsoring local government is a federally recognized Indian tribe, the distribution of the sales and use tax authorized under this section must be authorized through an interlocal agreement pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW.

(15) Subject to RCW 39.102.195, the tax imposed under the authority of this section may be applied either to provide for the payment of debt service on bonds issued under RCW 39.102.150 by the sponsoring local government or to pay public improvement costs on a pay-as-you-go basis, or both.

(16) The tax imposed under the authority of this section must cease to be imposed if the sponsoring local government or cosponsoring local government fails to issue indebtedness under the authority of RCW 39.102.150, and fails to commence construction on public improvements, by June 30th of the fifth fiscal year in which the local tax authorized under this section is imposed.

(17) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Local sales and use taxes" means sales and use taxes imposed by cities, counties, public facilities districts, and other local governments under the authority of this chapter, chapter 67.28 or \*67.40 RCW, or any other chapter, and that are credited against the state sales and use taxes.

(b) "State sales and use taxes" means the tax imposed in RCW 82.08.020(1) and the tax imposed in RCW 82.12.020 at the rate provided in RCW 82.08.020(1). [2010 c 164 § 12; 2009 c 267 § 8; 2007 c 229 § 8; 2006 c 181 § 401.]

(2012 Ed.)

\*Reviser's note: A majority of chapter 67.40 RCW was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 14, effective November 30, 2010. RCW 67.40.020 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 15, effective December 30, 2010.

**Expiration date—2010 c 164 §§ 11 and 12:** See note following RCW 39.102.020.

**Expiration date—2009 c 267:** See note following RCW 39.102.020.

**Application—Severability—Expiration date—2007 c 229:** See notes following RCW 39.102.020.

**Captions and part headings not law—Severability—Construction—Effective date—Expiration date—2006 c 181:** See RCW 39.102.900 through 39.102.904.

**82.14.480 Sales and use tax for health sciences and services authorities. (Expires January 1, 2023.)**

(1) The legislative authority of a local jurisdiction that has created a health sciences and services authority under RCW 35.104.030, prior to January 1, 2010, may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the local jurisdiction. The rate of the tax may not exceed 0.020 percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or the value of the article used in the case of a use tax.

(2) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section must be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid over to the department under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department of revenue must perform the collection of the tax on behalf of the authority at no cost to the authority.

(3) The amounts received under this section may only be used in accordance with RCW 35.104.060 or to finance and retire the indebtedness incurred pursuant to RCW 35.104.070, in whole or in part.

(4) This section expires January 1, 2023. [2010 1st sp.s. c 33 § 3; 2007 c 251 § 11.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2007 c 251:** See notes following RCW 34.104.010.

**82.14.485 Sales and use taxes for regional centers.**

(1) In a county with a population under three hundred thousand, the governing body of a public facilities district, which is created before August 1, 2001, under chapter 35.57 RCW or before January 1, 2000, under chapter 36.100 RCW, in which the total population in the public facilities district is greater than ninety thousand and less than one hundred thousand that commences improvement or rehabilitation of an existing regional center, to be used for community events, and artistic, musical, theatrical, or other cultural exhibitions, presentations, or performances and having two thousand or fewer permanent seats, before January 1, 2009, may impose a sales and use tax in accordance with the terms of this chapter. The tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and shall be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the public facilities district. The rate of tax for a public facilities district created prior to August 1, 2001, under chapter 35.57 RCW, may not exceed 0.025 percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or value of the article used in the case of a use tax. The rate of tax, for a public facilities district created prior to January 1,

2000, under chapter 36.100 RCW, may not exceed 0.020 percent of the selling price in the case of a sales tax or the value of the article used in the case of a use tax.

(2) The tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section shall be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid over to the department under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW. The department shall perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the county at no cost to the public facilities district.

(3) The tax imposed in this section shall expire when the bonds issued for the construction of the regional center and related parking facilities are retired, but not more than twenty-five years after the tax is first collected.

(4) Moneys collected under this section shall only be used for the purposes set forth in RCW 35.57.020 and must be matched with an amount from other public or private sources equal to thirty-three percent of the amount collected under this section, provided that amounts generated from nonvoter-approved taxes authorized under chapter 35.57 RCW may not constitute a public or private source. For the purpose of this section, public or private sources include, but are not limited to cash or in-kind contributions used in all phases of the development or improvement of the regional center, land that is donated and used for the siting of the regional center, cash or in-kind contributions from public or private foundations, or amounts attributed to private sector partners as part of a public and private partnership agreement negotiated by the public facilities district. [2007 c 486 § 3.]

**82.14.490 Sourcing—Sales and use taxes.** Sales and use taxes authorized under this chapter shall be sourced in accordance with RCW 82.32.730. [2007 c 6 § 503.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.14.495 Streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account—Creation.** (1) The streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account is created in the state treasury. The state treasurer shall transfer into the account from the general fund amounts as directed in RCW 82.14.500. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purpose of mitigating the negative fiscal impacts to local taxing jurisdictions as a result of RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020. During the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium, the legislature may transfer from the streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account to the state general fund such amounts as reflect the excess fund balance of the account.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2008, the state treasurer, as directed by the department, shall distribute the funds in the streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account to local taxing jurisdictions in accordance with RCW 82.14.500.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section and RCW 82.14.390 and 82.14.500.

(a) "Agreement" means the same as in RCW 82.32.020.

(b) "Local taxing jurisdiction" means counties, cities, transportation authorities under RCW 82.14.045, public facilities districts under chapters 36.100 and 35.57 RCW, public transportation benefit areas under RCW 82.14.440,

and regional transit authorities under chapter 81.112 RCW, that impose a sales and use tax.

(c) "Loss" or "losses" means the local sales and use tax revenue reduction to a local taxing jurisdiction resulting from the sourcing provisions in RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020.

(d) "Net loss" or "net losses" means a loss offset by any voluntary compliance revenue.

(e) "Voluntary compliance revenue" means the local sales tax revenue gain to each local taxing jurisdiction reported to the department from persons registering through the central registration system authorized under the agreement.

(f) "Working day" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.45.180. [2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 952; 2009 c 4 § 907; 2007 c 6 § 902.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 4:** See note following RCW 43.79.460.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** "(1) The legislature finds and declares that:

(a) Washington state's participation as a member state in the streamlined sales and use tax agreement benefits the state, all its local taxing jurisdictions, and its retailing industry, by increasing state and local revenues, improving the state's business climate, and standardizing and simplifying the state's tax structure;

(b) Participation in the streamlined sales and use tax agreement is a matter of statewide concern and is in the best interests of the state, the general public, and all local jurisdictions that impose a sales and use tax under applicable law;

(c) Participation in the streamlined sales and use tax agreement requires the adoption of the agreement's sourcing provisions, which change the location in which a retail sale of delivered tangible personal property occurs for local sales tax purposes from the point of origin to the point of destination;

(d) Changes in the local sales tax sourcing law provisions to conform with the streamlined sales and use tax agreement will cause sales tax revenues to shift among local taxing jurisdictions. The legislature finds that there will be an unintended adverse impact on local taxing jurisdictions that receive less revenues because local tax revenues will be redistributed, with revenue increases for some jurisdictions and reductions for others, due solely to changes in local sales tax sourcing rules to be implemented under RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020, even though no local taxing jurisdiction has changed its tax rate or tax base;

(e) The purpose of providing mitigation to such jurisdictions is to mitigate the unintended revenue redistribution effect of the sourcing law changes among local governments;

(f) It is in the best interest of the state and all its subdivisions to mitigate the adverse effects of amending the local sales tax sourcing provisions to be in conformance with the streamlined sales and use tax agreement;

(g) Additionally, changes in sourcing laws may have negative implications for industry sectors such as warehousing and manufacturing, as well as jurisdictions that house a concentration of these industries and have made zoning decisions, infrastructure investments, bonding decisions, and land use policy decisions based on point of origin sales tax rules in place before July 1, 2008, and the mitigation provided by RCW 82.14.495, 82.14.500, 82.14.390, and \*44.28.815 is intended to help offset those negative implications; and

(h) It is important that the state of Washington maintain its supply of industrial land for present and future economic development activities, and local governments taking advantage of the mitigation provided by RCW 82.14.495, 82.14.500, 82.14.390, and \*44.28.815 should strive to maintain the supply of industrial land available for economic development efforts.

(2) The legislature intends that the streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account established in RCW 82.14.495 have the sole objective of mitigating, for negatively affected local taxing jurisdictions, the net local sales tax revenue reductions incurred as a result of RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020." [2007 c 6 § 901.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 44.28.815 expired July 1, 2011.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**82.14.500 Streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account—Funding—Determination of losses.** (1)(a) In order to mitigate local sales tax revenue net losses as a result of the sourcing provisions of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement under this title, the state treasurer, on July 1, 2011, and each July 1st thereafter, must transfer into the streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account from the general fund the sum required to mitigate actual net losses as determined under this section.

(b) During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, the amount that would otherwise be transferred under (a) of this subsection must be reduced by 3.4 percent.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2008, and continuing until the department determines annual losses under subsection (3) of this section, the department must determine the amount of local sales tax net loss each local taxing jurisdiction experiences as a result of the sourcing provisions of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement under this title each calendar quarter. The department must determine losses by analyzing and comparing data from tax return information and tax collections for each local taxing jurisdiction before and after July 1, 2008, on a calendar quarter basis. The department's analysis may be revised and supplemented in consultation with the oversight committee as provided in subsection (4) of this section. To determine net losses, the department must reduce losses by the amount of voluntary compliance revenue for the calendar quarter analyzed. Beginning December 31, 2008, distributions must be made quarterly from the streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account by the state treasurer, as directed by the department, to each local taxing jurisdiction, other than public facilities districts for losses in respect to taxes imposed under the authority of RCW 82.14.390, in an amount representing its net losses for the previous calendar quarter. Distributions must be made on the last working day of each calendar quarter and must cease when distributions under subsection (3) of this section begin.

(3)(a) By December 31, 2009, or such later date the department in consultation with the oversight committee determines that sufficient data is available, the department must determine each local taxing jurisdiction's annual loss. The department must determine annual losses by comparing at least twelve months of data from tax return information and tax collections for each local taxing jurisdiction before and after July 1, 2008. The department is not required to determine annual losses on a recurring basis, but may make any adjustments to annual losses as it deems proper as a result of the annual reviews provided in (b) of this subsection. Beginning the calendar quarter in which the department determines annual losses, and each calendar quarter thereafter, distributions must be made from the streamlined sales and use tax mitigation account by the state treasurer on the last working day of the calendar quarter, as directed by the department, to each local taxing jurisdiction, other than public facilities districts for losses in respect to taxes imposed under the authority of RCW 82.14.390, in an amount representing one-fourth of the jurisdiction's annual loss reduced by voluntary compliance revenue reported during the previous calendar quarter.

(2012 Ed.)

(b) The department's analysis of annual losses must be reviewed by December 1st of each year and may be revised and supplemented in consultation with the oversight committee as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(4) The department must convene an oversight committee to assist in the determination of losses. The committee includes one representative of one city whose revenues are increased, one representative of one city whose revenues are reduced, one representative of one county whose revenues are increased, one representative of one county whose revenues are decreased, one representative of one transportation authority under RCW 82.14.045 whose revenues are increased, and one representative of one transportation authority under RCW 82.14.045 whose revenues are reduced, as a result of RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020. Beginning July 1, 2008, the oversight committee must meet quarterly with the department to review and provide additional input and direction on the department's analyses of losses. Local taxing jurisdictions may also present to the oversight committee additional information to improve the department's analyses of the jurisdiction's loss. Beginning January 1, 2010, the oversight committee must meet at least annually with the department by December 1st.

(5) The rule-making provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW do not apply to this section. [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 974; 2007 c 6 § 903.]

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.14.505 Local revitalization financing—Demonstration projects.** (1) Demonstration projects are designated to determine the feasibility of local revitalization financing. For the purpose of this section, "annual state contribution limit" means four million two hundred thousand dollars statewide per fiscal year.

(a) Notwithstanding RCW 39.104.100, the department must approve each demonstration project for 2009 as follows:

(i) The Whitman county Pullman/Moscow corridor improvement project award may not exceed two hundred thousand dollars;

(ii) The University Place improvement project award may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars;

(iii) The Tacoma international financial services area/Tacoma dome project award may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars;

(iv) The Bremerton downtown improvement project award may not exceed three hundred thirty thousand dollars;

(v) The Auburn downtown redevelopment project award may not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars;

(vi) The Vancouver Columbia waterfront/downtown project award may not exceed two hundred twenty thousand dollars; and

(vii) The Spokane University District project award may not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

(b) Notwithstanding RCW 39.104.100, the department must approve each demonstration project for 2010 meeting

the requirements in subsection (2)(c) of this section as follows:

(i) The Richland revitalization area for industry, science and education project award may not exceed three hundred thirty thousand dollars;

(ii) The Lacey gateway town center project award may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars;

(iii) The Mill Creek east gateway planned urban village revitalization area project award may not exceed three hundred thirty thousand dollars;

(iv) The Puyallup river road revitalization area project award may not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars;

(v) The Renton south Lake Washington project award may not exceed five hundred thousand dollars; and

(vi) The New Castle downtown project [award] may not exceed forty thousand dollars.

(2)(a) Local government sponsors of demonstration projects under subsection (1)(a) of this section must submit to the department no later than September 1, 2009, documentation that substantiates that the project has met the conditions, limitations, and requirements provided in chapter 270, Laws of 2009.

(b) Sponsoring local government of demonstration projects under subsection (1)(b) of this section must update and resubmit to the department no later than September 1, 2010, the application already on file with the department to substantiate that the project has met the conditions, limitations, and requirements provided in chapter 270, Laws of 2009 and chapter 164, Laws of 2010 and the project is substantially the same as the project in the original application submitted to the department in 2009.

(c) The department must not approve any resubmitted application unless an economic analysis by a qualified researcher at the department of economics at the University of Washington confirms that there is an eighty-five percent probability that the application's assumptions and estimates of jobs created and increased tax receipts will be achieved by the project and determines that net state tax revenue will increase as a result of the project by an amount that equals or exceeds the award authorized in subsection (1)(b) of this section. Prior to submitting the economic analysis to the department, the qualified researcher must consult with the economic development commission established in chapter 43.162 RCW regarding his or her preliminary findings. The final economic analysis must include comments and recommendations of the economic development commission.

(3) Within ninety days of such submittal, the economic analysis in subsection (2)(c) of this section must be completed and the department must either approve demonstration projects that have met these conditions, limitations, and requirements or deny resubmitted applications that have not met these conditions, limitations, and requirements.

(4) Local government sponsors of demonstration projects may elect to decline the project awards as designated in this section, and may elect instead to submit applications according to the process described in RCW 39.104.100.

(5) If a demonstration project listed in subsection (1)(b) of this section does not update and resubmit its application to the department by the deadline specified in subsection (2)(b) of this section or if the demonstration project withdraws its application, the associated dollar amounts may not be

approved for another project and may not be considered part of the annual state contribution limit under RCW 39.104.020(1). [2010 c 164 § 8; 2009 c 270 § 402.]

**82.14.510 Sales and use tax for local revitalization financing.** (1) Any city or county that has been approved for a project award under RCW 39.104.100 may impose a sales and use tax under the authority of this section in accordance with the terms of this chapter. Except as provided in this section, the tax is in addition to other taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the taxing jurisdiction of the city or county.

(2) The tax authorized under subsection (1) of this section is credited against the state taxes imposed under RCW 82.08.020(1) and 82.12.020 at the rate provided in RCW 82.08.020(1). The department must perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of the city or county at no cost to the city or county. The taxes must be distributed to cities and counties as provided in RCW 82.14.060.

(3) The rate of tax imposed by a city or county may not exceed the lesser of:

(a) The rate provided in RCW 82.08.020(1), less:

(i) The aggregate rates of all other local sales and use taxes imposed by any taxing authority on the same taxable events;

(ii) The aggregate rates of all taxes under RCW 82.14.465 and 82.14.475 and this section that are authorized but have not yet been imposed on the same taxable events by a city or county that has been approved to receive a state contribution by the department or the community economic revitalization board under chapter 39.104, 39.100, or 39.102 RCW; and

(iii) The percentage amount of distributions required under RCW 82.08.020(5) multiplied by the rate of state taxes imposed under RCW 82.08.020(1); and

(b) The rate, as determined by the city or county in consultation with the department, reasonably necessary to receive the project award under RCW 39.104.100 over ten months.

(4) The department, upon request, must assist a city or county in establishing its tax rate in accordance with subsection (3) of this section. Once the rate of tax is selected through the application process and approved under RCW 39.104.100, it may not be increased.

(5)(a) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, no tax may be imposed under the authority of this section before:

(i) July 1, 2011;

(ii) July 1st of the second calendar year following the year in which the department approved the application made under RCW 39.104.100;

(iii) The state sales and use tax increment and state property tax increment for the preceding calendar year equal or exceed the amount of the project award approved by the department under RCW 39.104.100; and

(iv) Bonds have been issued according to RCW 39.104.110.

(b) The tax imposed under this section expires the earlier of the date that the bonds issued under the authority of RCW

39.104.110 are retired or twenty-five years after the tax is first imposed.

(c) For a demonstration project described in RCW 82.14.505(1)(a), no tax may be imposed under the authority of this section before:

(i) July 1, 2010; and

(ii) Bonds have been issued according to RCW 39.104.110.

(6) An ordinance or resolution adopted by the legislative authority of the city or county imposing a tax under this section must provide that:

(a) The tax will first be imposed on the first day of a fiscal year;

(b) The cumulative amount of tax received by the city or county, in any fiscal year, may not exceed the amount approved by the department under subsection (10) of this section;

(c) The department must cease distributing the tax for the remainder of any fiscal year in which either:

(i) The amount of tax received by the city or county equals the amount of distributions approved by the department for the fiscal year under subsection (10) of this section; or

(ii) The amount of revenue distributed to all sponsoring and cosponsoring local governments from taxes imposed under this section equals the annual state contribution limit;

(d) The tax will be distributed again, should it cease to be distributed for any of the reasons provided in (c) of this subsection, at the beginning of the next fiscal year, subject to the restrictions in this section; and

(e) The state is entitled to any revenue generated by the tax in excess of the amounts specified in (c) of this subsection.

(7) If a city or county receives approval for more than one revitalization area within its jurisdiction, the city or county may impose a sales and use tax under this section for each revitalization area.

(8) The department must determine the amount of tax receipts distributed to each city and county imposing a sales and use tax under the authority of this section and must advise a city or county when tax distributions for the fiscal year equal the amount determined by the department in subsection (10) of this section. Determinations by the department of the amount of tax distributions attributable to a city or county are not appealable. The department must remit any tax receipts in excess of the amounts specified in subsection (6)(c) of this section to the state treasurer who must deposit the money in the general fund.

(9) If a city or county fails to comply with RCW 82.32.765, no tax may be distributed in the subsequent fiscal year until such time as the city or county complies and the department calculates the state contribution amount according to subsection (10) of this section for the fiscal year.

(10)(a) For each fiscal year that a city or county imposes the tax under the authority of this section, the department must approve the amount of taxes that may be distributed to the city or county. The amount approved by the department under this subsection is the lesser of:

(i) The state contribution;

(ii) The amount of project award granted by the department as provided in RCW 39.104.100; or

(iii) The total amount of revenues from local public sources dedicated or, in the case of carry forward revenues, deemed dedicated in the preceding calendar year, as reported in the required annual report under RCW 82.32.765.

(b) A city or county may not receive, in any fiscal year, more revenues from taxes imposed under the authority of this section than the amount approved annually by the department.

(11) The amount of tax distributions received from taxes imposed under the authority of this section by all cities and counties is limited annually to not more than the amount of annual state contribution limit.

(12) The definitions in RCW 39.104.020 apply to this section subject to subsection (13) of this section and unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(13) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Local sales and use taxes" means sales and use taxes imposed by cities, counties, public facilities districts, and other local governments under the authority of this chapter, chapter 67.28 or \*67.40 RCW, or any other chapter, and that are credited against the state sales and use taxes.

(b) "State sales and use taxes" means the taxes imposed in RCW 82.08.020(1) and 82.12.020. [2010 c 164 § 9; 2009 c 270 § 601.]

**\*Reviser's note:** A majority of chapter 67.40 RCW was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 14, effective November 30, 2010. RCW 67.40.020 was repealed by 2010 1st sp.s. c 15 § 15, effective December 30, 2010.

**82.14.515 Use of sales and use tax funds—Local revitalization financing.** Money collected from the taxes imposed under RCW 82.14.510 may be used only for the purpose of paying debt service on bonds issued under the authority in RCW 39.104.110. [2009 c 270 § 602.]

**82.14.820 Warehouse and grain elevators and distribution centers—Exemption does not apply.** The exemptions in RCW 82.08.820 and 82.12.820 are for the state portion of the sales and use tax and do not extend to the tax imposed in this chapter. [1997 c 450 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—Report—Effective date—1997 c 450:** See notes following RCW 82.08.820.

**82.14.900 Severability—1970 ex.s. c 94.** No determination that one or more provisions of this 1970 amendatory act, or any part thereof, are invalid shall affect the validity of the remaining provisions. [1970 ex.s. c 94 § 9.]

### Chapter 82.14A RCW

## CITIES AND TOWNS—LICENSE FEES AND TAXES ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

### Sections

- 82.14A.010 License fees or taxes on financial institutions—Restrictions—Application of chapter 82.04 RCW—Rates.
- 82.14A.020 Division of gross income of business between cities, towns and unincorporated areas.
- 82.14A.030 Effective date of resolutions or ordinances.
- 82.14A.900 Effective date—1972 ex.s. c 134.

**82.14A.010 License fees or taxes on financial institutions—Restrictions—Application of chapter 82.04 RCW—Rates.** The governing body of any city or town

which imposes a license fee or tax, by ordinance or resolution, may pursuant to RCW 82.14A.010 through 82.14A.030 only, fix and impose a license fee or tax on national banks, state banks, trust companies, mutual savings banks, building and loan associations, savings and loan associations, and other financial institutions for the act or privilege of engaging in business: PROVIDED, That the definitions, deductions and exemptions set forth in chapter 82.04 RCW, insofar as they shall be applicable shall be applied to a license fee or tax imposed by any city or town, if such fee or tax is measured by the gross income of the business: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the rate of such license fee or tax shall not exceed the rate imposed upon other service type business activity: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in RCW 82.14A.010 through 82.14A.030 shall extend the regulatory power of any city or town. [1972 ex.s. c 134 § 2.]

**82.14A.020 Division of gross income of business between cities, towns and unincorporated areas.** For purposes of RCW 82.14A.010, the state department of revenue is hereby authorized and directed to promulgate, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, rules establishing uniform methods of division of gross income of the business of a single taxpayer between those cities, towns and unincorporated areas in which such taxpayer has a place of business. [1972 ex.s. c 134 § 3.]

**82.14A.030 Effective date of resolutions or ordinances.** No resolution or ordinance or any amendment thereto adopted pursuant to RCW 82.14A.010 shall be effective, except on the first day of a calendar month. [1972 ex.s. c 134 § 5.]

**82.14A.900 Effective date—1972 ex.s. c 134.** Sections 2 through 5 of this 1972 amendatory act shall take effect July 1, 1972. [1972 ex.s. c 134 § 8.]

### Chapter 82.14B RCW COUNTIES—TAX ON TELEPHONE ACCESS LINE USE

#### Sections

82.14B.010	Findings.
82.14B.020	Definitions.
82.14B.030	County enhanced 911 excise tax on use of switched access lines and radio access lines authorized—Amount—State enhanced 911 excise tax—Amount.
82.14B.040	Collection of tax.
82.14B.042	Payment and collection of taxes—Penalties for violations.
82.14B.050	Use of proceeds.
82.14B.055	Use of funds voluntarily remitted.
82.14B.060	County imposition of tax—Ordinance—Department notice.
82.14B.061	Administration by department—Extending reporting periods.
82.14B.063	Administration and collection by department—County enhanced 911 excise tax account created.
82.14B.065	County enhanced 911 excise tax account distributions—Enhanced 911 excise tax imposed in excess of maximum allowable.
82.14B.150	Filing of tax returns—Credit or refund for bad debts.
82.14B.160	Exemption—Activities immune from taxation under constitutions.
82.14B.200	Burden of proof that sale is not to subscriber—Effect of resale certificate—Liability if no retail certificate—Penalties—Exceptions.
82.14B.210	Personal liability upon termination, dissolution, or abandonment of business—Exemptions—Notice—Applicability—Collections.
82.14B.900	Severability—1981 c 160.

**82.14B.010 Findings.** The legislature finds that the state and counties should be provided with an additional revenue source to fund enhanced 911 emergency communications systems throughout the state on a multicounty or countywide basis. The legislature further finds that the most efficient and appropriate method of deriving additional revenue for this purpose is to impose an excise tax on the use of switched access lines, radio access lines, and interconnected voice over internet protocol service lines. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 1; 1991 c 54 § 9; 1981 c 160 § 1.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** "(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this act takes effect October 1, 2010.

(2) Sections 1 through 3, 5 through 7, 10 through 21, and 23 of this act take effect January 1, 2011." [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 27.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14B.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Emergency services communication system" means a multicounty or countywide communications network, including an enhanced 911 emergency communications system, which provides rapid public access for coordinated dispatching of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities for police, fire, medical, or other emergency services.

(2) "Enhanced 911 emergency communications system" means a public communications system consisting of a network, database, and on-premises equipment that is accessed by dialing or accessing 911 and that enables reporting police, fire, medical, or other emergency situations to a public safety answering point. The system includes the capability to selectively route incoming 911 voice or data to the appropriate public safety answering point that operates in a defined 911 service area and the capability to automatically display the name, address, and telephone number of incoming 911 voice or data at the appropriate public safety answering point. "Enhanced 911 emergency communications system" includes the modernization to next generation 911 systems.

(3) "Interconnected voice over internet protocol service" has the same meaning as provided by the federal communications commission in 47 C.F.R. Sec. 9.3 on January 1, 2009, or a subsequent date determined by the department.

(4) "Interconnected voice over internet protocol service line" means an interconnected voice over internet protocol service that offers an active telephone number or successor dialing protocol assigned by a voice over internet protocol provider to a voice over internet protocol service customer that has inbound and outbound calling capability, which can directly access a public safety answering point when such a voice over internet protocol service customer has a place of primary use in the state.

(5) "Local exchange company" has the meaning ascribed to it in RCW 80.04.010.

(6) "Place of primary use" means the street address representative of where the subscriber's use of the radio access line or interconnected voice over internet protocol service line occurs, which must be:

(a) The residential street address or primary business street address of the subscriber; and

(b) In the case of radio access lines, within the licensed service area of the home service provider.

(7) "Private telecommunications system" has the meaning ascribed to it in RCW 80.04.010.

(8) "Radio access line" means the telephone number assigned to or used by a subscriber for two-way local wireless voice service available to the public for hire from a radio communications service company. Radio access lines include, but are not limited to, radio-telephone communications lines used in cellular telephone service, personal communications services, and network radio access lines, or their functional and competitive equivalent. Radio access lines do not include lines that provide access to one-way signaling service, such as paging service, or to communications channels suitable only for data transmission, or to nonlocal radio access line service, such as wireless roaming service, or to a private telecommunications system.

(9) "Radio communications service company" has the meaning ascribed to it in RCW 80.04.010, except that it does not include radio paging providers. It does include those persons or entities that provide commercial mobile radio services, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Sec. 332(d)(1), and both facilities-based and nonfacilities-based resellers.

(10) "Subscriber" means the retail purchaser of telecommunications service, a competitive telephone service, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service.

(11) "Switched access line" means the telephone service line which connects a subscriber's main telephone(s) or equivalent main telephone(s) to the local exchange company's switching office. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 2. Prior: 2007 c 54 § 16; 2007 c 6 § 1009; 2002 c 341 § 7; 1998 c 304 § 2; 1994 c 96 § 2; 1991 c 54 § 10; 1981 c 160 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**Findings—1998 c 304:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The state enhanced 911 excise tax imposed at the current rate of twenty cents per switched access line per month generates adequate tax revenues to enhance the 911 telephone system for switched access lines statewide by December 31, 1998, as mandated in RCW 38.52.510;

(2) The tax revenues generated from the state enhanced 911 excise tax when the tax rate decreases to a maximum of ten cents per switched access line on January 1, 1999, will not be adequate to fund the long-term operation and equipment replacement costs for the enhanced 911 telephone systems in the counties or multicounty regions that receive financial assistance from the state enhanced 911 office;

(3) Some counties or multicounty regions will need financial assistance from the state enhanced 911 office to implement and maintain enhanced 911 because the tax revenue generated from the county enhanced 911 excise tax is not adequate;

(4) Counties with populations of less than seventy-five thousand will need salary assistance to create multicounty regions and counties with populations of seventy-five thousand or more, if requested by smaller counties, will need technical assistance and incentives to provide multicounty services; and

(5) Counties should not request state financial assistance for implementation and maintenance of enhanced 911 for switched access lines unless the county has imposed the maximum enhanced 911 tax authorized in RCW 82.14B.030." [1998 c 304 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—1994 c 96:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Emergency services communication systems, including enhanced 911 telephone systems, are currently funded with revenues from state and local excise taxes imposed on the use of switched access lines;

(b) Users of cellular communication systems and other similar wireless telecommunications systems do not use switched access lines and are not currently subject to these excise taxes; and

(c) The volume of 911 calls by users of cellular communications systems and other similar wireless telecommunications systems has increased in recent years.

(2) The intent of this act is to acknowledge the recommendations regarding 911 emergency communication system funding as detailed in the report to the legislature dated November 1993, entitled "Taxation of Cellular Communications in Washington State," to authorize imposition and collection of the twenty-five cent county tax discussed in chapter 6 of that report, and to require the department of revenue to continue the \*study of such funding as detailed in the report." [1994 c 96 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** See 1992 c 218 and 1994 c 96 § 6.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14B.030 County enhanced 911 excise tax on use of switched access lines and radio access lines authorized—Amount—State enhanced 911 excise tax—Amount.** (1)

The legislative authority of a county may impose a county enhanced 911 excise tax on the use of switched access lines in an amount not exceeding seventy cents per month for each switched access line. The amount of tax must be uniform for each switched access line. Each county must provide notice of the tax to all local exchange companies serving in the county at least sixty days in advance of the date on which the first payment is due. The tax imposed under this subsection must be remitted to the department by local exchange companies on a tax return provided by the department. The tax must be deposited in the county enhanced 911 excise tax account as provided in RCW 82.14B.063.

(2) The legislative authority of a county may also impose a county enhanced 911 excise tax on the use of radio access lines whose place of primary use is located within the county in an amount not exceeding seventy cents per month for each radio access line. The amount of tax must be uniform for each radio access line. The county must provide notice of the tax to all radio communications service companies serving in the county at least sixty days in advance of the date on which the first payment is due. The tax imposed under this section must be remitted to the department by radio communications service companies, including those companies that resell radio access lines, on a tax return provided by the department. The tax must be deposited in the county enhanced 911 excise tax account as provided in RCW 82.14B.063.

(3)(a) The legislative authority of a county may impose a county enhanced 911 excise tax on the use of interconnected voice over internet protocol service lines in an amount not exceeding seventy cents per month for each interconnected voice over internet protocol service line. The amount of tax must be uniform for each line and must be levied on no more than the number of voice over internet protocol service lines on an account that are capable of simultaneous unrestricted outward calling to the public switched telephone network.

(b) The interconnected voice over internet protocol service company must use the place of primary use of the subscriber to determine which county's enhanced 911 excise tax applies to the service provided to the subscriber.

(c) The tax imposed under this section must be remitted to the department by interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies on a tax return provided by the department.

(d) The tax must be deposited in the county enhanced 911 excise tax account as provided in RCW 82.14B.063.

(e) To the extent that a local exchange carrier and an interconnected voice over internet protocol service company contractually jointly provide a single service line, only one service company is responsible for remitting the enhanced 911 excise taxes, and nothing in this section precludes service companies who jointly provide service from agreeing by contract which of them shall remit the taxes collected.

(4) Counties imposing a county enhanced 911 excise tax must provide an annual update to the enhanced 911 coordinator detailing the proportion of their county enhanced 911 excise tax that is being spent on:

(a) Efforts to modernize their existing enhanced 911 communications system; and

(b) Enhanced 911 operational costs.

(5) A state enhanced 911 excise tax is imposed on all switched access lines in the state. The amount of tax may not exceed twenty-five cents per month for each switched access line. The tax must be uniform for each switched access line. The tax imposed under this subsection must be remitted to the department by local exchange companies on a tax return provided by the department. Tax proceeds must be deposited by the treasurer in the enhanced 911 account created in RCW 38.52.540.

(6) A state enhanced 911 excise tax is imposed on all radio access lines whose place of primary use is located within the state in an amount of twenty-five cents per month for each radio access line. The tax must be uniform for each radio access line. The tax imposed under this section must be remitted to the department by radio communications service companies, including those companies that resell radio access lines, on a tax return provided by the department. Tax proceeds must be deposited by the treasurer in the enhanced 911 account created in RCW 38.52.540. The tax imposed under this section is not subject to the state sales and use tax or any local tax.

(7) A state enhanced 911 excise tax is imposed on all interconnected voice over internet protocol service lines in the state. The amount of tax may not exceed twenty-five cents per month for each interconnected voice over internet protocol service line whose place of primary use is located in the state. The amount of tax must be uniform for each line and must be levied on no more than the number of voice over internet protocol service lines on an account that are capable of simultaneous unrestricted outward calling to the public switched telephone network. The tax imposed under this subsection must be remitted to the department by interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies on a tax return provided by the department. Tax proceeds must be deposited by the treasurer in the enhanced 911 account created in RCW 38.52.540.

(8) For calendar year 2011, the taxes imposed by subsections (5) and (7) of this section must be set at their maximum rate. By August 31, 2011, and by August 31st of each year thereafter, the state enhanced 911 coordinator must recommend the level for the next year of the state enhanced 911 excise tax imposed by subsections (5) and (7) of this section, based on a systematic cost and revenue analysis, to the utilities and transportation commission. The commission must by the following October 31st determine the level of the state

enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed by subsections (5) and (7) of this section for the following year. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 3. Prior: 2007 c 54 § 17; 2007 c 6 § 1024; prior: 2002 c 341 § 8; 2002 c 67 § 8; 1998 c 304 § 3; 1994 c 96 § 3; 1991 c 54 § 11; 1981 c 160 § 3.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**Finding—Intent—Effective dates—1994 c 96:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14B.040 Collection of tax.** (1) The state enhanced 911 excise tax and the county enhanced 911 excise tax on switched access lines must be collected from the subscriber by the local exchange company providing the switched access line.

(2) The state enhanced 911 excise tax and the county enhanced 911 excise tax on radio access lines must be collected from the subscriber by the radio communications service company, including those companies that resell radio access lines, providing the radio access line to the subscriber.

(3) The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes on interconnected voice over internet protocol service lines must be collected from the subscriber by the interconnected voice over internet protocol service company providing the interconnected voice over internet protocol service line to the subscriber.

(4) The amount of the tax must be stated separately on the billing statement which is sent to the subscriber. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 6; 2002 c 341 § 9; 1998 c 304 § 4; 1994 c 96 § 4; 1991 c 54 § 12; 1981 c 160 § 4.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**Finding—Intent—Effective dates—1994 c 96:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.14B.042 Payment and collection of taxes—Penalties for violations.** (1) The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed by this chapter must be paid by the subscriber to the local exchange company providing the switched access line, the radio communications service company providing the radio access line, or the interconnected voice over internet protocol service company providing the interconnected voice over internet protocol service line. Each local exchange company, each radio communications service company, and each interconnected voice over internet protocol service company must collect from the subscriber

the full amount of the taxes payable. The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes required by this chapter to be collected by a company are deemed to be held in trust by the company until paid to the department. Any local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company that appropriates or converts the tax collected to its own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax to the extent that the money collected is not available for payment on the due date as prescribed in this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) If any local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company fails to collect the state or county enhanced 911 excise tax or, after collecting the tax, fails to pay it to the department in the manner prescribed by this chapter, whether such failure is the result of its own act or the result of acts or conditions beyond its control, the company is personally liable to the state for the amount of the tax, unless the company has taken from the buyer in good faith documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or is otherwise not liable for the state or county enhanced 911 excise tax.

(3) The amount of tax, until paid by the subscriber to the local exchange company, the radio communications service company, the interconnected voice over internet protocol service company, or to the department, constitutes a debt from the subscriber to the company. Any company that fails or refuses to collect the tax as required with intent to violate the provisions of this chapter or to gain some advantage or benefit, either direct or indirect, and any subscriber who refuses to pay any tax due under this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor. The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes required by this chapter to be collected by the local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company must be stated separately on the billing statement that is sent to the subscriber.

(4) If a subscriber has failed to pay to the local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company the state or county enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed by this chapter and the company has not paid the amount of the tax to the department, the department may, in its discretion, proceed directly against the subscriber for collection of the tax, in which case a penalty of ten percent may be added to the amount of the tax for failure of the subscriber to pay the tax to the company, regardless of when the tax is collected by the department. Tax under this chapter is due as provided under RCW 82.14B.061. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 7; 2009 c 563 § 208; 2002 c 341 § 10; 2000 c 106 § 2; 1998 c 304 § 9.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**82.14B.050 Use of proceeds.** The proceeds of any tax collected under this chapter shall be used by the county only for the emergency services communication system. [1981 c 160 § 5.]

**82.14B.055 Use of funds voluntarily remitted.** For the time period from July 1, 2007, until January 1, 2011, counties and the state are authorized to accept and use funds and any accrued interest voluntarily remitted by interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 24.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**82.14B.060 County imposition of tax—Ordinance—Department notice.** A county legislative authority imposing a tax under this chapter must establish by ordinance all necessary and appropriate procedures for the administration of the county enhanced 911 excise taxes by the department. A county legislative authority imposing a tax under this chapter must provide the department notification of the imposition of the tax or a change in the tax no less than seventy-five days before the effective date of the imposition of the tax or the change in the tax. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 8; 1998 c 304 § 5; 1981 c 160 § 6.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**82.14B.061 Administration by department—Extending reporting periods.** (1) The department must administer and adopt rules as may be necessary to enforce and administer the state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed or authorized by this chapter. Chapter 82.32 RCW, with the exception of RCW 82.32.045, 82.32.145, and 82.32.380, applies to the administration, collection, and enforcement of the state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes.

(2) The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed or authorized by this chapter, along with reports and returns on forms prescribed by the department, are due at the same time the taxpayer reports other taxes under RCW 82.32.045. If no other taxes are reported under RCW 82.32.045, the taxpayer must remit tax on an annual basis in accordance with RCW 82.32.045.

(3) The department may relieve any taxpayer or class of taxpayers from the obligation of remitting monthly and may require the return to cover other longer reporting periods, but in no event may returns be filed for a period greater than one year.

(4) The state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes imposed or authorized by this chapter are in addition to any taxes imposed upon the same persons under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 9; 2002 c 341 § 11; 2000 c 106 § 3; 1998 c 304 § 6.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

[Title 82 RCW—page 189]

**82.14B.063 Administration and collection by department—County enhanced 911 excise tax account created.**

(1) Counties imposing the enhanced 911 excise tax under RCW 82.14B.030 must contract with the department for the administration and collection of the tax. The department may deduct a percentage amount, as provided by contract, of no more than two percent of the enhanced 911 excise taxes collected to cover administration and collection expenses incurred by the department. If a county imposes an enhanced 911 excise tax with an effective date of January 1, 2011, the county must contract with the department for the administration and collection of the tax by October 15, 2010.

(2) The remainder of any portion of the county enhanced 911 excise tax under RCW 82.14B.030 that is collected by the department must be deposited in the county enhanced 911 excise tax account hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer. Expenditures from the account may be used only for distribution to counties imposing the enhanced 911 excise tax. Only the director of the department or his or her designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is not subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, and an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 4.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**82.14B.065 County enhanced 911 excise tax account distributions—Enhanced 911 excise tax imposed in excess of maximum allowable.** (1) All moneys that accrue in the county enhanced 911 excise tax account created in RCW 82.14B.063 must be distributed monthly to the counties in the amount of the taxes collected on behalf of each county, minus the administration and collection fee retained by the department as provided in RCW 82.14B.063.

(2) If a county imposes by resolution or ordinance an enhanced 911 excise tax that is in excess of the maximum allowable county enhanced 911 excise tax provided in RCW 82.14B.030, the ordinance or resolution may not be considered void in its entirety, but only with respect to that portion of the enhanced 911 excise tax that is in excess of the maximum allowable tax. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 5.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**82.14B.150 Filing of tax returns—Credit or refund for bad debts.** (1) A local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company must file tax returns on a cash receipts or accrual basis according to which method of accounting is regularly employed in keeping the books of the company. A company filing returns on a cash receipts basis is not required to pay tax on debt subject to credit or refund under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) A local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company is entitled to a credit or refund for state and county enhanced 911 excise taxes previously paid on bad debts, as that term is used in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 166, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 10; 2004 c 153 § 309; 1998 c 304 § 7.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**82.14B.160 Exemption—Activities immune from taxation under constitutions.** The taxes imposed or authorized by this chapter do not apply to any activity that the state or county is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution of this state or the Constitution or laws of the United States. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 11; 1998 c 304 § 8.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**82.14B.200 Burden of proof that sale is not to subscriber—Effect of resale certificate—Liability if no retail certificate—Penalties—Exceptions.** (1) Unless a local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company has taken from the buyer documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or is otherwise not liable for the tax, the burden of proving that a sale of the use of a switched access line, radio access line, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service line was not a sale to a subscriber or was not otherwise subject to the tax is upon the person who made the sale.

(2) If a local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company does not receive documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or is otherwise not liable for the tax at the time of the sale, have such documentation on file at the time of the sale, or obtain such documentation from the buyer within a reasonable time after the sale, the local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company remains liable for the tax as provided in RCW 82.14B.042, unless the local exchange company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company can demonstrate facts and circumstances according to rules adopted by the department that show the sale was properly made without payment of the state or county enhanced 911 excise tax.

(3) The penalty imposed by RCW 82.32.291 may not be assessed on state or county enhanced 911 excise taxes due but not paid as a result of the improper use of documentation stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or is otherwise not liable for the state or county enhanced 911 excise tax. This subsection does not prohibit or restrict the application of other penalties authorized by law. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 12; 2009 c 563 § 209; 2002 c 341 § 12; 1998 c 304 § 10.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**82.14B.210 Personal liability upon termination, dissolution, or abandonment of business—Exemptions—Notice—Applicability—Collections.** (1) Upon termination, dissolution, or abandonment of a corporate or limited liability company business, any officer, member, manager, or other person having control or supervision of state enhanced 911 excise tax funds collected and held in trust under RCW 82.14B.042, or who is charged with the responsibility for the filing of returns or the payment of state enhanced 911 excise tax funds collected and held in trust under RCW 82.14B.042, is personally liable for any unpaid taxes and interest and penalties on those taxes, if such officer or other person willfully fails to pay or to cause to be paid any state enhanced 911 excise taxes due from the corporation under this chapter. For the purposes of this section, any state enhanced 911 excise taxes that have been paid but not collected are deductible from the state enhanced 911 excise taxes collected but not paid. For purposes of this subsection "willfully fails to pay or to cause to be paid" means that the failure was the result of an intentional, conscious, and voluntary course of action.

(2) The officer, member, manager, or other person is liable only for taxes collected that became due during the period he or she had the control, supervision, responsibility, or duty to act for the corporation described in subsection (1) of this section, plus interest and penalties on those taxes.

(3) Persons liable under subsection (1) of this section are exempt from liability if nonpayment of the state enhanced 911 excise tax funds held in trust is due to reasons beyond their control as determined by the department by rule.

(4) Any person having been issued a notice of assessment under this section is entitled to the appeal procedures under RCW 82.32.160 through 82.32.200.

(5) This section applies only if the department has determined that there is no reasonable means of collecting the state enhanced 911 excise tax funds held in trust directly from the corporation.

(6) This section does not relieve the corporation or limited liability company of other tax liabilities or otherwise impair other tax collection remedies afforded by law.

(7) Collection authority and procedures prescribed in chapter 82.32 RCW apply to collections under this section. [1998 c 304 § 11.]

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**82.14B.900 Severability—1981 c 160.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1981 c 160 § 7.]

## Chapter 82.16 RCW PUBLIC UTILITY TAX

### Sections

82.16.010	Definitions.
82.16.020	Public utility tax imposed—Additional tax imposed—Deposit of moneys.
82.16.030	Taxable under each schedule if within its purview.

(2012 Ed.)

82.16.040	Exemption.
82.16.0421	Exemptions—Sales to electrolytic processing businesses.
82.16.045	Exemptions and credits—Pollution control facilities.
82.16.046	Exemptions—Operation of state route No. 16.
82.16.047	Exemptions—Ride sharing.
82.16.0491	Credit—Contributions to an electric utility rural economic development revolving fund.
82.16.0495	Credit—Electricity sold to a direct service industrial customer.
82.16.0497	Credit—Light and power business, gas distribution business.
82.16.0498	Credit—Sales of electricity or gas to an aluminum smelter.
82.16.050	Deductions in computing tax.
82.16.053	Deductions in computing tax—Light and power businesses.
82.16.055	Deductions relating to energy conservation or production from renewable resources.
82.16.060	May be taxed under other chapters.
82.16.080	Administration.
82.16.090	Light or power and gas distribution businesses—Information required on customer billings.
82.16.100	Solid waste business not subject to chapter.
82.16.110	Renewable energy system cost recovery—Definitions.
82.16.120	Renewable energy system cost recovery—Application to light/power business—Certification—Limitations.
82.16.130	Renewable energy system cost recovery—Light/power business tax credit.
82.16.150	Light and power business—Liability.
82.16.300	Exemptions—Custom farming services.
82.16.305	Exemptions—Joint municipal utility services authorities.

*Commute trip reduction incentives:* Chapter 82.70 RCW.

*Public utility districts, privilege tax:* Chapter 54.28 RCW.

### **82.16.010 Definitions. (Effective until June 30, 2013.)**

For the purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context:

(1) "Express business" means the business of carrying property for public hire on the line of any common carrier operated in this state, when such common carrier is not owned or leased by the person engaging in such business.

(2) "Gas distribution business" means the business of operating a plant or system for the production or distribution for hire or sale of gas, whether manufactured or natural.

(3) "Gross income" means the value proceeding or accruing from the performance of the particular public service or transportation business involved, including operations incidental thereto, but without any deduction on account of the cost of the commodity furnished or sold, the cost of materials used, labor costs, interest, discount, delivery costs, taxes, or any other expense whatsoever paid or accrued and without any deduction on account of losses.

(4) "Light and power business" means the business of operating a plant or system for the generation, production or distribution of electrical energy for hire or sale and/or for the wheeling of electricity for others.

(5) "Log transportation business" means the business of transporting logs by truck, except when such transportation meets the definition of urban transportation business or occurs exclusively upon private roads.

(6) "Motor transportation business" means the business (except urban transportation business) of operating any motor propelled vehicle by which persons or property of others are conveyed for hire, and includes, but is not limited to, the operation of any motor propelled vehicle as an auto transportation company (except urban transportation business), common carrier, or contract carrier as defined by RCW 81.68.010 and 81.80.010. However, "motor transportation business" does not mean or include: (a) A log transportation business; or (b) the transportation of logs or other forest products exclusively upon private roads or private highways.

(7)(a) "Public service business" means any of the businesses defined in subsections (1), (2), (4), (6), (8), (9), (10), (12), and (13) of this section or any business subject to control by the state, or having the powers of eminent domain and the duties incident thereto, or any business hereafter declared by the legislature to be of a public service nature, except telephone business and low-level radioactive waste site operating companies as redefined in RCW 81.04.010. It includes, among others, without limiting the scope hereof: Airplane transportation, boom, dock, ferry, pipe line, toll bridge, toll logging road, water transportation and wharf businesses.

(b) The definitions in this subsection (7)(b) apply throughout this subsection (7).

(i) "Competitive telephone service" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.065.

(ii) "Network telephone service" means the providing by any person of access to a telephone network, telephone network switching service, toll service, or coin telephone services, or the providing of telephonic, video, data, or similar communication or transmission for hire, via a telephone network, toll line or channel, cable, microwave, or similar communication or transmission system. "Network telephone service" includes the provision of transmission to and from the site of an internet provider via a telephone network, toll line or channel, cable, microwave, or similar communication or transmission system. "Network telephone service" does not include the providing of competitive telephone service, the providing of cable television service, the providing of broadcast services by radio or television stations, nor the provision of internet access as defined in RCW 82.04.297, including the reception of dial-in connection, provided at the site of the internet service provider.

(iii) "Telephone business" means the business of providing network telephone service. It includes cooperative or farmer line telephone companies or associations operating an exchange.

(iv) "Telephone service" means competitive telephone service or network telephone service, or both, as defined in (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection.

(8) "Railroad business" means the business of operating any railroad, by whatever power operated, for public use in the conveyance of persons or property for hire. It shall not, however, include any business herein defined as an urban transportation business.

(9) "Railroad car business" means the business of operating stock cars, furniture cars, refrigerator cars, fruit cars, poultry cars, tank cars, sleeping cars, parlor cars, buffet cars, tourist cars, or any other kinds of cars used for transportation of property or persons upon the line of any railroad operated in this state when such railroad is not owned or leased by the person engaging in such business.

(10) "Telegraph business" means the business of affording telegraphic communication for hire.

(11) "Tugboat business" means the business of operating tugboats, towboats, wharf boats or similar vessels in the towing or pushing of vessels, barges or rafts for hire.

(12) "Urban transportation business" means the business of operating any vehicle for public use in the conveyance of persons or property for hire, insofar as (a) operating entirely within the corporate limits of any city or town, or within five miles of the corporate limits thereof, or (b) operating entirely

within and between cities and towns whose corporate limits are not more than five miles apart or within five miles of the corporate limits of either thereof. Included herein, but without limiting the scope hereof, is the business of operating passenger vehicles of every type and also the business of operating cartage, pickup, or delivery services, including in such services the collection and distribution of property arriving from or destined to a point within or without the state, whether or not such collection or distribution be made by the person performing a local or interstate line-haul of such property.

(13) "Water distribution business" means the business of operating a plant or system for the distribution of water for hire or sale.

(14) The meaning attributed, in chapter 82.04 RCW, to the term "tax year," "person," "value proceeding or accruing," "business," "engaging in business," "in this state," "within this state," "cash discount" and "successor" applies equally in the provisions of this chapter. [2010 c 106 § 224. Prior: 2009 c 535 § 1110; 2009 c 469 § 701; 2007 c 6 § 1023; 1996 c 150 § 1; 1994 c 163 § 4; 1991 c 272 § 14; 1989 c 302 § 203; prior: 1989 c 302 § 102; 1986 c 226 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 32; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 1; 1981 c 144 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 20; 1961 c 293 § 12; 1961 c 15 § 82.16.010; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 15; 1955 c 389 § 28; 1949 c 228 § 10; 1943 c 156 § 10; 1941 c 178 § 12; 1939 c 225 § 20; 1937 c 227 § 11; 1935 c 180 § 37; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-37.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 106 § 224:** "Section 224 of this act expires June 30, 2013." [2010 c 106 § 410.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Expiration date—2009 c 469 §§ 701 and 702:** "Sections 701 and 702 of this act expire June 30, 2013." [2009 c 469 § 905.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Finding, purpose—1989 c 302:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.

**Intent—1981 c 144:** "The legislature recognizes that there have been significant changes in the nature of the telephone business in recent years. Once solely the domain of regulated monopolies, the telephone business has now been opened up to competition with respect to most of its services and equipment. As a result of this competition, the state and local excise tax structure in the state of Washington has become discriminatory when applied to regulated telephone company transactions that are similar in nature to those consummated by nonregulated competitors. Telephone companies are forced to operate at a significant state and local tax disadvantage when compared to these nonregulated competitors.

To remedy this situation, it is the intent of the legislature to place telephone companies and nonregulated competitors of telephone companies on an equal excise tax basis with regard to the providing of similar goods and services. Therefore competitive telephone services shall for excise tax purposes only, unless otherwise provided, be treated as retail sales under the applicable state and local business and occupation and sales and use taxes. This shall not affect any requirement that regulated telephone companies have under Title 80 RCW, unless otherwise provided.

Nothing in this act affects the authority and responsibility of the Washington utilities and transportation commission to set fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient rates for telephone service." [1981 c 144 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.010 Definitions. (Effective June 30, 2013.)** For the purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context:

(1) "Express business" means the business of carrying property for public hire on the line of any common carrier operated in this state, when such common carrier is not owned or leased by the person engaging in such business.

(2) "Gas distribution business" means the business of operating a plant or system for the production or distribution for hire or sale of gas, whether manufactured or natural.

(3) "Gross income" means the value proceeding or accruing from the performance of the particular public service or transportation business involved, including operations incidental thereto, but without any deduction on account of the cost of the commodity furnished or sold, the cost of materials used, labor costs, interest, discount, delivery costs, taxes, or any other expense whatsoever paid or accrued and without any deduction on account of losses.

(4) "Light and power business" means the business of operating a plant or system for the generation, production or distribution of electrical energy for hire or sale and/or for the wheeling of electricity for others.

(5) "Motor transportation business" means the business (except urban transportation business) of operating any motor propelled vehicle by which persons or property of others are conveyed for hire, and includes, but is not limited to, the operation of any motor propelled vehicle as an auto transportation company (except urban transportation business), common carrier, or contract carrier as defined by RCW 81.68.010 and 81.80.010. However, "motor transportation business" does not mean or include the transportation of logs or other forest products exclusively upon private roads or private highways.

(6)(a) "Public service business" means any of the businesses defined in subsections (1), (2), (4), (5), (7), (8), (9), (11), and (12) of this section or any business subject to control by the state, or having the powers of eminent domain and the duties incident thereto, or any business hereafter declared by the legislature to be of a public service nature, except telephone business and low-level radioactive waste site operating companies as redefined in RCW 81.04.010. It includes, among others, without limiting the scope hereof: Airplane transportation, boom, dock, ferry, pipe line, toll bridge, toll logging road, water transportation and wharf businesses.

(b) The definitions in this subsection (6)(b) apply throughout this subsection (6).

(i) "Competitive telephone service" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.065.

(ii) "Network telephone service" means the providing by any person of access to a telephone network, telephone network switching service, toll service, or coin telephone services, or the providing of telephonic, video, data, or similar communication or transmission for hire, via a telephone network, toll line or channel, cable, microwave, or similar communication or transmission system. "Network telephone service" includes the provision of transmission to and from the site of an internet provider via a telephone network, toll line or channel, cable, microwave, or similar communication or transmission system. "Network telephone service" does not include the providing of competitive telephone service, the providing of cable television service, the providing of broadcast services by radio or television stations, nor the provision of internet access as defined in RCW 82.04.297, including

(2012 Ed.)

the reception of dial-in connection, provided at the site of the internet service provider.

(iii) "Telephone business" means the business of providing network telephone service. It includes cooperative or farmer line telephone companies or associations operating an exchange.

(iv) "Telephone service" means competitive telephone service or network telephone service, or both, as defined in (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection.

(7) "Railroad business" means the business of operating any railroad, by whatever power operated, for public use in the conveyance of persons or property for hire. It shall not, however, include any business herein defined as an urban transportation business.

(8) "Railroad car business" means the business of operating stock cars, furniture cars, refrigerator cars, fruit cars, poultry cars, tank cars, sleeping cars, parlor cars, buffet cars, tourist cars, or any other kinds of cars used for transportation of property or persons upon the line of any railroad operated in this state when such railroad is not owned or leased by the person engaging in such business.

(9) "Telegraph business" means the business of affording telegraphic communication for hire.

(10) "Tugboat business" means the business of operating tugboats, towboats, wharf boats or similar vessels in the towing or pushing of vessels, barges or rafts for hire.

(11) "Urban transportation business" means the business of operating any vehicle for public use in the conveyance of persons or property for hire, insofar as (a) operating entirely within the corporate limits of any city or town, or within five miles of the corporate limits thereof, or (b) operating entirely within and between cities and towns whose corporate limits are not more than five miles apart or within five miles of the corporate limits of either thereof. Included herein, but without limiting the scope hereof, is the business of operating passenger vehicles of every type and also the business of operating cartage, pickup, or delivery services, including in such services the collection and distribution of property arriving from or destined to a point within or without the state, whether or not such collection or distribution be made by the person performing a local or interstate line-haul of such property.

(12) "Water distribution business" means the business of operating a plant or system for the distribution of water for hire or sale.

(13) The meaning attributed, in chapter 82.04 RCW, to the term "tax year," "person," "value proceeding or accruing," "business," "engaging in business," "in this state," "within this state," "cash discount" and "successor" shall apply equally in the provisions of this chapter. [2009 c 535 § 1110; 2007 c 6 § 1023; 1996 c 150 § 1; 1994 c 163 § 4; 1991 c 272 § 14; 1989 c 302 § 203. Prior: 1989 c 302 § 102; 1986 c 226 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 32; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 1; 1981 c 144 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 20; 1961 c 293 § 12; 1961 c 15 § 82.16.010; prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 15; 1955 c 389 § 28; 1949 c 228 § 10; 1943 c 156 § 10; 1941 c 178 § 12; 1939 c 225 § 20; 1937 c 227 § 11; 1935 c 180 § 37; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-37.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Finding, purpose—1989 c 302:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.

**Intent—1981 c 144:** "The legislature recognizes that there have been significant changes in the nature of the telephone business in recent years. Once solely the domain of regulated monopolies, the telephone business has now been opened up to competition with respect to most of its services and equipment. As a result of this competition, the state and local excise tax structure in the state of Washington has become discriminatory when applied to regulated telephone company transactions that are similar in nature to those consummated by nonregulated competitors. Telephone companies are forced to operate at a significant state and local tax disadvantage when compared to these nonregulated competitors.

To remedy this situation, it is the intent of the legislature to place telephone companies and nonregulated competitors of telephone companies on an equal excise tax basis with regard to the providing of similar goods and services. Therefore competitive telephone services shall for excise tax purposes only, unless otherwise provided, be treated as retail sales under the applicable state and local business and occupation and sales and use taxes. This shall not affect any requirement that regulated telephone companies have under Title 80 RCW, unless otherwise provided.

Nothing in this act affects the authority and responsibility of the Washington utilities and transportation commission to set fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient rates for telephone service." [1981 c 144 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.020 Public utility tax imposed—Additional tax imposed—Deposit of moneys. (Effective until June 30, 2013.)** (1) There is levied and there shall be collected from every person a tax for the act or privilege of engaging within this state in any one or more of the businesses herein mentioned. The tax shall be equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate set out after the business, as follows:

- (a) Express, sewerage collection, and telegraph businesses: Three and six-tenths percent;
- (b) Light and power business: Three and sixty-two one-hundredths percent;
- (c) Gas distribution business: Three and six-tenths percent;
- (d) Urban transportation business: Six-tenths of one percent;
- (e) Vessels under sixty-five feet in length, except tug-boats, operating upon the waters within the state: Six-tenths of one percent;
- (f) Motor transportation, railroad, railroad car, and tug-boat businesses, and all public service businesses other than ones mentioned above: One and eight-tenths of one percent;
- (g) Water distribution business: Four and seven-tenths percent;
- (h) Log transportation business: One and twenty-eight one-hundredths percent.

(2) An additional tax is imposed equal to the rate specified in RCW 82.02.030 multiplied by the tax payable under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Twenty percent of the moneys collected under subsection (1) of this section on water distribution businesses and sixty percent of the moneys collected under subsection (1) of this section on sewerage collection businesses shall be deposited in the public works assistance account created in RCW 43.155.050: PROVIDED, That during the fiscal year 2011, twenty percent of the moneys collected under subsec-

tion (1) of this section on water distribution businesses and sixty percent of the moneys collected under subsection (1) of this section on sewerage collection businesses must be deposited in the general fund for general purpose expenditures. [2011 1st sp.s. c 48 § 7032; 2009 c 469 § 702; 1996 c 150 § 2; 1989 c 302 § 204; 1986 c 282 § 14; 1985 c 471 § 10; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 13; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 5 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 12; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 24; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 21; 1961 c 293 § 13; 1961 c 15 § 82.16.020. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 16; 1939 c 225 § 19; 1935 c 180 § 36; RRS § 8370-36.]

**Reviser's note:** The amendatory language added to this section by 2011 1st sp.s. c 48 § 7032 was inadvertently not expired. The same language was added to the version of this section that takes effect June 30, 2013.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 48:** See note following RCW 39.35B.050.

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Expiration date—2009 c 469 §§ 701 and 702:** See note following RCW 82.16.010.

**Finding, purpose—1989 c 302:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.020 Public utility tax imposed—Additional tax imposed—Deposit of moneys. (Effective June 30, 2013.)**

(1) There is levied and there shall be collected from every person a tax for the act or privilege of engaging within this state in any one or more of the businesses herein mentioned. The tax shall be equal to the gross income of the business, multiplied by the rate set out after the business, as follows:

- (a) Express, sewerage collection, and telegraph businesses: Three and six-tenths percent;
- (b) Light and power business: Three and sixty-two one-hundredths percent;
- (c) Gas distribution business: Three and six-tenths percent;
- (d) Urban transportation business: Six-tenths of one percent;
- (e) Vessels under sixty-five feet in length, except tug-boats, operating upon the waters within the state: Six-tenths of one percent;
- (f) Motor transportation, railroad, railroad car, and tug-boat businesses, and all public service businesses other than ones mentioned above: One and eight-tenths of one percent;
- (g) Water distribution business: Four and seven-tenths percent.

(2) An additional tax is imposed equal to the rate specified in RCW 82.02.030 multiplied by the tax payable under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Twenty percent of the moneys collected under subsection (1) of this section on water distribution businesses and sixty percent of the moneys collected under subsection (1) of this section on sewerage collection businesses shall be deposited in the public works assistance account created in RCW 43.155.050: PROVIDED, That during the fiscal year 2011, twenty percent of the moneys collected under subsection (1) of this section on water distribution businesses and sixty percent of the moneys collected under subsection (1) of this section on sewerage collection businesses must be deposited in the general fund for general purpose expenditures. [2011 1st sp.s. c 48 § 7033; 1996 c 150 § 2; 1989 c 302 § 204; 1986 c 282 § 14; 1985 c 471 § 10; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 13;

1982 2nd ex.s. c 5 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 12; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 24; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 21; 1961 c 293 § 13; 1961 c 15 § 82.16.020. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 16; 1939 c 225 § 19; 1935 c 180 § 36; RRS § 8370-36.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 48:** See note following RCW 39.35B.050.

**Finding, purpose—1989 c 302:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.030 Taxable under each schedule if within its purview.** Every person engaging in businesses which are within the purview of two or more of schedules of RCW 82.16.020(1), shall be taxable under each schedule applicable to the businesses engaged in. [1989 c 302 § 205; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.16.030. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 38; RRS § 8370-38.]

**Finding, purpose—1989 c 302:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.040 Exemption.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to persons engaging in one or more businesses taxable under this chapter whose total gross income is less than two thousand dollars for a monthly period or portion thereof. Any person claiming exemption under this section may be required to file returns even though no tax may be due. If the total gross income for a taxable monthly period is two thousand dollars, or more, no exemption or deductions from the gross operating revenue is allowed by this provision. [1996 c 111 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.16.040. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 17; 1959 c 197 § 27; 1935 c 180 § 39; RRS § 8370-39.]

**Findings—Purpose—Effective date—1996 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.32.030.

**82.16.0421 Exemptions—Sales to electrolytic processing businesses. (Expires June 30, 2019.)** (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Chlor-alkali electrolytic processing business" means a person who is engaged in a business that uses more than ten average megawatts of electricity per month in a chlor-alkali electrolytic process to split the electrochemical bonds of sodium chloride and water to make chlorine and sodium hydroxide. A "chlor-alkali electrolytic processing business" does not include direct service industrial customers or their subsidiaries that contract for the purchase of power from the Bonneville power administration as of June 10, 2004.

(b) "Sodium chlorate electrolytic processing business" means a person who is engaged in a business that uses more than ten average megawatts of electricity per month in a sodium chlorate electrolytic process to split the electrochemical bonds of sodium chloride and water to make sodium chlorate and hydrogen. A "sodium chlorate electrolytic processing business" does not include direct service industrial customers or their subsidiaries that contract for the purchase of power from the Bonneville power administration as of June 10, 2004.

(2) Effective July 1, 2004, the tax levied under this chapter does not apply to sales of electricity made by a light and power business to a chlor-alkali electrolytic processing business or a sodium chlorate electrolytic processing business for the electrolytic process if the contract for sale of electricity to the business contains the following terms:

(a) The electricity to be used in the electrolytic process is separately metered from the electricity used for general operations of the business;

(b) The price charged for the electricity used in the electrolytic process will be reduced by an amount equal to the tax exemption available to the light and power business under this section; and

(c) Disallowance of all or part of the exemption under this section is a breach of contract and the damages to be paid by the chlor-alkali electrolytic processing business or the sodium chlorate electrolytic processing business are the amount of the tax exemption disallowed.

(3) The exemption provided for in this section does not apply to amounts received from the remarketing or resale of electricity originally obtained by contract for the electrolytic process.

(4) In order to claim an exemption under this section, the chlor-alkali electrolytic processing business or the sodium chlorate electrolytic processing business must provide the light and power business with an exemption certificate in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

(5) A person receiving the benefit of the exemption provided in this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(6)(a) This section does not apply to sales of electricity made after December 31, 2018.

(b) This section expires June 30, 2019. [2010 c 114 § 133; 2009 c 434 § 1; 2004 c 240 § 1.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**82.16.045 Exemptions and credits—Pollution control facilities.** See chapter 82.34 RCW.

**82.16.046 Exemptions—Operation of state route No. 16.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply to amounts received from operating state route number 16 corridor transportation systems and facilities constructed and operated under chapter 47.46 RCW. [1998 c 179 § 5.]

**Finding—1998 c 179:** See note following RCW 35.21.718.

**82.16.047 Exemptions—Ride sharing.** This chapter does not apply to any funds received in the course of commuter ride sharing or ride sharing for persons with special transportation needs in accordance with RCW 46.74.010. [1999 c 358 § 12; 1979 c 111 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.0491 Credit—Contributions to an electric utility rural economic development revolving fund.** (1) The following definitions apply to this section:

(a) "Qualifying project" means a project designed to achieve job creation or business retention, to add or upgrade nonelectrical infrastructure, to add or upgrade health and safety facilities, to accomplish energy and water use efficiency improvements, including renewable energy development, or to add or upgrade emergency services in any designated qualifying rural area.

(b) "Qualifying rural area" means:

(i) A rural county as defined in RCW 82.14.370; or

(ii) Any geographic area in the state that receives electricity from a light and power business with twelve thousand or fewer customers.

(c) "Electric utility rural economic development revolving fund" means a fund devoted exclusively to funding qualifying projects in qualifying rural areas.

(d) "Local board" is (i) a board of directors with at least, but not limited to, three members representing local businesses and community groups who have been appointed by the sponsoring electric utility to oversee and direct the activities of the electric utility rural economic development revolving fund; or (ii) a board of directors of an existing associate development organization serving the qualifying rural area who have been designated by the sponsoring electrical utility to oversee and direct the activities of the electric utility rural economic development revolving fund.

(2) A light and power business shall be allowed a credit against taxes due under this chapter in an amount equal to fifty percent of contributions made in any fiscal year directly to an electric utility rural economic development revolving fund. The credit shall be taken in a form and manner as required by the department. The credit under this section shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars per fiscal year per light and power business. The credit may not exceed the tax that would otherwise be due under this chapter. Refunds shall not be granted in the place of credits. Expenditures not used to earn a credit in one fiscal year may not be used to earn a credit in subsequent years, except that this limitation does not apply to expenditures made between January 1, 2004, and March 31, 2004, which expenditures may be used to earn a credit through December 30, 2004.

(3) The right to earn tax credits under this section expires June 30, 2011.

(4) To qualify for the credit in subsection (2) of this section, the light and power business shall establish, or have a local board establish with the business's contribution, an electric utility rural economic development revolving fund which is governed by a local board whose members shall reside or work in the qualifying rural area served by the light and power business. Expenditures from the electric utility rural economic development revolving fund shall be made solely on qualifying projects, and the local board shall have authority to determine all criteria and conditions for the expenditure of funds from the electric utility rural economic development revolving fund, and for the terms and conditions of repayment.

(5) Any funds repaid to the electric utility rural economic development revolving fund by recipients shall be made available for additional qualifying projects.

(6) If at any time the electric utility rural economic development revolving fund is dissolved, any moneys claimed as a tax credit under this section shall either be granted to a qualifying project or refunded to the state within two years of termination.

(7) The total amount of credits that may be used in any fiscal year shall not exceed three hundred fifty thousand dollars in any fiscal year. The department shall allow the use of earned credits on a first-come, first-served basis. Unused earned credits may be carried over to subsequent years.

(8) The following provisions apply to expenditures under subsection (2) of this section made between January 1, 2004, and March 31, 2004:

(a) Credits earned from such expenditures are not considered in computing the statewide limitation set forth in subsection (7) of this section for the period July 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004; and

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, the credit allowed under this section for light and power businesses making expenditures is limited to thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars. [2008 c 131 § 4; 2004 c 238 § 1; 1999 c 311 § 402.]

**Effective date—2008 c 131:** See note following RCW 43.160.020.

**Finding—2004 c 238:** "(1) The legislature finds that accountability and effectiveness are important aspects of setting tax policy. In order to make policy choices regarding the best use of limited state resources the legislature needs information to evaluate whether the stated goals of legislation were achieved.

(2) The goal of the tax credit available to light and power businesses for contributing to an electric utility rural economic development revolving fund in RCW 82.16.0491 is to support qualifying projects that create or retain jobs, add or upgrade health and safety facilities, facilitate energy and water conservation, or develop renewable sources of energy in a qualified area. The goal of this tax credit is achieved when the investment of the revolving funds established under RCW 82.16.0491 have generated capital investment in an amount of four million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars or more within a five-year period." [2004 c 238 § 2.]

**Effective date—2004 c 238:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2004." [2004 c 238 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—1999 c 311:** "The legislature finds that it is necessary to employ multiple approaches to revitalize the economy of Washington state's rural areas. The legislature also finds that where possible, Washington state should develop programs which can complement other private, state, and federal programs. It is the intent of section 402 of this act to complement such rural economic development efforts by creating a public utility tax offset program to help establish locally based electric utility revolving fund programs to be used for economic development and job creation." [1999 c 311 § 401.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.0495 Credit—Electricity sold to a direct service industrial customer.** (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Direct service industrial customer" means a person who is an industrial customer that contracts for the purchase of power from the Bonneville Power Administration for direct consumption as of May 8, 2001. "Direct service industrial customer" includes a person who is a subsidiary that is more than fifty percent owned by a direct service industrial customer and who receives power from the Bonneville Power Administration pursuant to the parent's contract for power.

(b) "Facility" means a gas turbine electrical generation facility that does not exist on May 8, 2001.

(c) "Average annual employment" means the total employment in this state for a calendar year at the direct service industrial customer's location where electricity from the facility will be consumed.

(2) Effective July 1, 2001, a credit is allowed against the tax due under this chapter on sales of electricity made from a facility to a direct service industrial customer if the contract for sale of electricity to a direct service industrial customer contains the following terms:

(a) Sales of electricity from the facility to the direct service industrial customer will be made for ten consecutive years or more;

(b) The price charged for the electricity will be reduced by an amount equal to the tax credit; and

(c) Disallowance of all or part of the credit under subsection (5) of this section is a breach of contract and the damages to be paid by the direct service industrial customer to the facility are the amount of tax credit disallowed.

(3) The credit is equal to the gross proceeds from the sale of the electricity to a direct service industrial customer multiplied by the rate in effect at the time of the sale for the public utility tax on light and power businesses under RCW 82.16.020. The credit may be used each reporting period for sixty months following the first month electricity is sold from a facility to a direct service industrial customer. Credit under this section is limited to the amount of tax imposed under this chapter. Refunds shall not be given in place of credits and credits may not be carried over to subsequent calendar years.

(4) Application for credit shall be made before the first sale of electricity from a facility to a direct service industrial customer. The application shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the department and shall include but is not limited to information regarding the location of the facility, identification of the direct service industrial customer who will receive electricity from the facility, the projected date of the first sale of electricity to a direct service industrial customer, the date construction is projected to begin or did begin, and the average annual employment in the state of the direct service industrial customer who will receive electricity from the facility for the six calendar years immediately preceding the year in which the application is made. A copy of the contract for sale of electricity must be attached to the application. The department shall rule on the application within thirty days of receipt.

(5) All or part of the credit shall be disallowed and must be paid if the average of the direct service industrial customer's average annual employment for the five calendar years subsequent to the calendar year containing the first month of sale of electricity from a facility to a direct service industrial customer is less than the six-year average annual employment stated on the application for credit under this section. The direct service industrial customer shall certify to the department and to the facility by June 1st of the sixth calendar year following the calendar year in which the month of first sale occurs the average annual employment for each of the five prior calendar years. All or part of the credit that shall be disallowed and must be paid is commensurate with the decrease in the five-year average of average annual employment as follows:

<u>Decrease in Average Annual Employment Over Five-Year Period</u>	<u>% of Credit to be Paid</u>
Less than 10%	10%
10% or more but less than 25%	25%
25% or more but less than 50%	50%
50% or more but less than 75%	75%
75% or more	100%

(2012 Ed.)

(6)(a) Payments on credit that is disallowed shall begin in the sixth calendar year following the calendar year in which the month following the first month of sale of electricity from a facility to a direct service industrial customer occurs. The first payment will be due on or before December 31st with subsequent annual payments due on or before December 31st of the following four years according to the schedule in this subsection.

<u>Payment Year</u>	<u>% of Credit to be Paid</u>
1	10%
2	15%
3	20%
4	25%
5	30%

(b) The department may authorize an accelerated payment schedule upon request of the taxpayer.

(c) Interest shall not be charged on the credit that is disallowed for the sixty-month period the credit may be taken, although all other penalties and interest applicable to delinquent excise taxes may be assessed and imposed. The debt for credit that is disallowed and must be paid will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the taxpayer. Transfer of ownership of the facility does not affect eligibility for this credit. However, the credit is available to the successor only if the eligibility conditions of this section are met.

(7) The employment security department shall make, and certify to the department of revenue, all determinations of employment under this section as requested by the department. [2001 c 214 § 11.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.0497 Credit—Light and power business, gas distribution business.** (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Base credit" means the maximum amount of credit against the tax imposed by this chapter that each light and power business or gas distribution business may take each fiscal year as calculated by the department. The base credit is equal to the proportionate share that the total grants received by each light and power business or gas distribution business in the prior fiscal year bears to the total grants received by all light and power businesses and gas distribution businesses in the prior fiscal year multiplied by five million five hundred thousand dollars for fiscal year 2007, and two million five hundred thousand dollars for all other fiscal years before and after fiscal year 2007.

(b) "Billing discount" means a reduction in the amount charged for providing service to qualifying persons in Washington made by a light and power business or a gas distribution business. Billing discount does not include grants received by the light and power business or a gas distribution business.

(c) "Grant" means funds provided to a light and power business or gas distribution business by the \*department of community, trade, and economic development or by a qualifying organization.

[Title 82 RCW—page 197]

(d) "Low-income home energy assistance program" means energy assistance programs for low-income households as defined on December 31, 2000, in the low-income home energy assistance act of 1981 as amended August 1, 1999, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 8623 et seq.

(e) "Qualifying person" means a Washington resident who applies for assistance and qualifies for a grant regardless of whether that person receives a grant.

(f) "Qualifying contribution" means money given by a light and power business or a gas distribution business to a qualifying organization, exclusive of money received in the prior fiscal year from its customers for the purpose of assisting other customers.

(g) "Qualifying organization" means an entity that has a contractual agreement with the \*department of community, trade, and economic development to administer in a specified service area low-income home energy assistance funds received from the federal government and such other funds that may be received by the entity.

(2) Subject to the limitations in this section, a light and power business or a gas distribution business may take a credit each fiscal year against the tax imposed under this chapter.

(a)(i) A credit may be taken for qualifying contributions if the dollar amount of qualifying contributions for the fiscal year in which the tax credit is taken is greater than one hundred twenty-five percent of the dollar amount of qualifying contributions given in fiscal year 2000.

(ii) If no qualifying contributions were given in fiscal year 2000, a credit shall be allowed for the first fiscal year that qualifying contributions are given. Thereafter, credit shall be allowed if the qualifying contributions given exceed one hundred twenty-five percent of qualifying contributions given in the first fiscal year.

(iii) The amount of credit shall be fifty percent of the dollar amount of qualifying contributions given in the fiscal year in which the tax credit is taken.

(b)(i) A credit may be taken for billing discounts if the dollar amount of billing discounts for the fiscal year in which the tax credit is taken is greater than one hundred twenty-five percent of the dollar amount of billing discounts given in fiscal year 2000.

(ii) If no billing discounts were given in fiscal year 2000, a credit shall be allowed in the first fiscal year that billing discounts are given. Thereafter, credit shall be allowed if the dollar amount of billing discounts given exceeds one hundred twenty-five percent of billing discounts given in the first fiscal year.

(iii) The amount of credit shall be fifty percent of the dollar amount of the billing discounts given in the fiscal year in which the tax credit is taken.

(c) The total amount of credit that may be taken for qualifying contributions and billing discounts in a fiscal year is limited to the base credit for the same fiscal year.

(3)(a)(i) Except as provided in (a)(ii) of this subsection, the total amount of credit, statewide, that may be taken in any fiscal year shall not exceed two million five hundred thousand dollars.

(ii) The total amount of credit, statewide, that may be taken in fiscal year 2007 shall not exceed five million five hundred thousand dollars.

(b) By May 1st of each year starting in 2002, the \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall notify the department of revenue in writing of the grants received in the current fiscal year by each light and power business and gas distribution business.

(4)(a) Not later than June 1st of each year beginning in 2002, the department shall publish the base credit for each light and power business and gas distribution business for the next fiscal year.

(b) Not later than July 1st of each year beginning in 2002, application for credit must be made to the department including but not limited to the following information: Billing discounts given by the applicant in fiscal year 2000; qualifying contributions given by the applicant in the prior fiscal year; the amount of money received in the prior fiscal year from customers for the purpose of assisting other customers; the base credit for the next fiscal year for the applicant; the qualifying contributions anticipated to be given in the next fiscal year; and billing discounts anticipated to be given in the next fiscal year. No credit under this section will be allowed to a light and power business or gas distribution business that does not file the application by July 1st.

(c) Not later than August 1st of each year beginning in 2002, the department shall notify each applicant of the amount of credit that may be taken in that fiscal year.

(d) The balance of base credits not used by other light and power businesses and gas distribution businesses shall be ratably distributed to applicants under the formula in subsection (1)(a) of this section. The total amount of credit that may be taken by an applicant is the base credit plus any ratable portion of unused base credit.

(5) The credit taken under this section is limited to the amount of tax imposed under this chapter for the fiscal year. The credit must be claimed in the fiscal year in which the billing reduction is made. Any unused credit expires. Refunds shall not be given in place of credits.

(6) No credit may be taken for billing discounts made before July 1, 2001. Within two weeks of May 8, 2001, the \*department of community, trade, and economic development shall notify the department of revenue in writing of the grants received in fiscal year 2001 by each light and power business and gas distribution business. Within four weeks of May 8, 2001, the department of revenue shall publish the base credit for each light and power business and gas distribution business for fiscal year 2002. Within eight weeks of May 8, 2001, application to the department must be made showing the information required in subsection (4)(b) of this section. Within twelve weeks of May 8, 2001, the department shall notify each applicant of the amount of credit that may be taken in fiscal year 2002. [2006 c 213 § 1; 2001 c 214 § 13.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Effective date—2006 c 213:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 213 § 2.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.0498 Credit—Sales of electricity or gas to an aluminum smelter.** (1) A person who is subject to tax under this chapter on gross income from sales of electricity, natural

gas, or manufactured gas made to an aluminum smelter is eligible for an exemption from the tax in the form of a credit, if the contract for sale of electricity or gas to the aluminum smelter specifies that the price charged for the electricity or gas will be reduced by an amount equal to the credit.

(2) The credit is equal to the gross income from the sale of the electricity or gas to an aluminum smelter multiplied by the corresponding rate in effect at the time of the sale for the public utility tax under RCW 82.16.020.

(3) The exemption provided for in this section does not apply to amounts received from the remarketing or resale of electricity originally obtained by contract for the smelting process.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "aluminum smelter" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.217. [2004 c 24 § 13.]

**Intent—Effective date—2004 c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.04.2909.

**82.16.050 Deductions in computing tax.** In computing tax there may be deducted from the gross income the following items:

(1) Amounts derived by municipally owned or operated public service businesses, directly from taxes levied for the support or maintenance thereof. This subsection may not be construed to exempt service charges which are spread on the property tax rolls and collected as taxes;

(2) Amounts derived from the sale of commodities to persons in the same public service business as the seller, for resale as such within this state. This deduction is allowed only with respect to water distribution, gas distribution or other public service businesses which furnish water, gas or any other commodity in the performance of public service businesses;

(3) Amounts actually paid by a taxpayer to another person taxable under this chapter as the latter's portion of the consideration due for services furnished jointly by both, if the total amount has been credited to and appears in the gross income reported for tax by the former;

(4) The amount of cash discount actually taken by the purchaser or customer;

(5) The amount of bad debts, as that term is used in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 166, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003, on which tax was previously paid under this chapter;

(6) Amounts derived from business which the state is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution of this state or the Constitution or laws of the United States;

(7) Amounts derived from the distribution of water through an irrigation system, for irrigation purposes;

(8) Amounts derived from the transportation of commodities from points of origin in this state to final destination outside this state, or from points of origin outside this state to final destination in this state, with respect to which the carrier grants to the shipper the privilege of stopping the shipment in transit at some point in this state for the purpose of storing, manufacturing, milling, or other processing, and thereafter forwards the same commodity, or its equivalent, in the same or converted form, under a through freight rate from point of origin to final destination;

(9) Amounts derived from the transportation of commodities from points of origin in the state to an export eleva-

tor, wharf, dock or ship side on tidewater or its navigable tributaries to be forwarded, without intervening transportation, by vessel, in their original form, to interstate or foreign destinations. No deduction is allowed under this subsection when the point of origin and the point of delivery to the export elevator, wharf, dock, or ship side are located within the corporate limits of the same city or town;

(10) Amounts derived from the transportation of agricultural commodities, not including manufactured substances or articles, from points of origin in the state to interim storage facilities in this state for transshipment, without intervening transportation, to an export elevator, wharf, dock, or ship side on tidewater or its navigable tributaries to be forwarded, without intervening transportation, by vessel, in their original form, to interstate or foreign destinations. If agricultural commodities are transshipped from interim storage facilities in this state to storage facilities at a port on tidewater or its navigable tributaries, the same agricultural commodity dealer must operate both the interim storage facilities and the storage facilities at the port.

(a) The deduction under this subsection is available only when the person claiming the deduction obtains a certificate from the agricultural commodity dealer operating the interim storage facilities, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, certifying that:

(i) More than ninety-six percent of all of the type of agricultural commodity delivered by the person claiming the deduction under this subsection and delivered by all other persons to the dealer's interim storage facilities during the preceding calendar year was shipped by vessel in original form to interstate or foreign destinations; and

(ii) Any of the agricultural commodity that is transshipped to ports on tidewater or its navigable tributaries will be received at storage facilities operated by the same agricultural commodity dealer and will be shipped from such facilities, without intervening transportation, by vessel, in their original form, to interstate or foreign destinations.

(b) As used in this subsection, "agricultural commodity" has the same meaning as agricultural product in RCW 82.04.213;

(11) Amounts derived from the production, sale, or transfer of electrical energy for resale within or outside the state or for consumption outside the state;

(12) Amounts derived from the distribution of water by a nonprofit water association and used for capital improvements by that nonprofit water association;

(13) Amounts paid by a sewerage collection business taxable under RCW 82.16.020(1)(a) to a person taxable under chapter 82.04 RCW for the treatment or disposal of sewage;

(14) Amounts derived from fees or charges imposed on persons for transit services provided by a public transportation agency. For the purposes of this subsection, "public transportation agency" means a municipality, as defined in RCW 35.58.272, and urban public transportation systems, as defined in RCW 47.04.082. Public transportation agencies shall spend an amount equal to the reduction in tax provided by this tax deduction solely to adjust routes to improve access for citizens using food banks and senior citizen services or to extend or add new routes to assist low-income citizens and seniors. [2007 c 330 § 1; 2006 c 336 § 1; 2004 c 153 § 308;

2000 c 245 § 1; 1994 c 124 § 12; 1989 c 302 § 103; 1987 c 207 § 1; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 368 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 25; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 22; 1961 c 15 § 82.16.050. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 3 § 18; 1949 c 228 § 11; 1937 c 227 § 12; 1935 c 180 § 40; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-40.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Finding, purpose—1989 c 302:** See note following RCW 82.04.120.  
Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.053 Deductions in computing tax—Light and power businesses.** (1) In computing tax under this chapter, a light and power business may deduct from gross income the lesser of the amounts determined under subsections (2) through (4) of this section.

(2)(a) Fifty percent of wholesale power cost paid during the reporting period, if the light and power business has fewer than five and one-half customers per mile of line.

(b) Forty percent of wholesale power cost paid during the reporting period, if the light and power business has more than five and one-half but less than eleven customers per mile.

(c) Thirty percent of the wholesale power cost paid during the reporting period, if the light and power business has more than eleven but less than seventeen customers per mile of line.

(d) Zero if the light and power business has more than seventeen customers per mile of line.

(3) Wholesale power cost multiplied by the percentage by which the average retail electric power rates for the light and power business exceed the state average electric power rate. If more than fifty percent of the kilowatt-hours sold by a light and power business are sold to irrigators, then only sales to nonirrigators shall be used to calculate the average electric power rate for that light and power business. For purposes of this subsection, the department shall determine state average electric power rate each year based on the most recent available data and shall inform taxpayers of its determination.

(4) Four hundred thousand dollars per month. [1996 c 145 § 1; 1994 c 236 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.055 Deductions relating to energy conservation or production from renewable resources.** (1) In computing tax under this chapter there shall be deducted from the gross income:

(a) An amount equal to the cost of production at the plant for consumption within the state of Washington of:

(i) Electrical energy produced or generated from cogeneration as defined in \*RCW 82.35.020; and

(ii) Electrical energy or gas produced or generated from renewable energy resources such as solar energy, wind energy, hydroelectric energy, geothermal energy, wood, wood wastes, municipal wastes, agricultural products and wastes, and end-use waste heat; and

(b) Those amounts expended to improve consumers' efficiency of energy end use or to otherwise reduce the use of electrical energy or gas by the consumer.

(2) This section applies only to new facilities for the production or generation of energy from cogeneration or renewable energy resources or measures to improve the efficiency

of energy end use on which construction or installation is begun after June 12, 1980, and before January 1, 1990.

(3) Deductions under subsection (1)(a) of this section shall be allowed for a period not to exceed thirty years after the project is placed in operation.

(4) Measures or projects encouraged under this section shall at the time they are placed in service be reasonably expected to save, produce, or generate energy at a total incremental system cost per unit of energy delivered to end use which is less than or equal to the incremental system cost per unit of energy delivered to end use from similarly available conventional energy resources which utilize nuclear energy or fossil fuels and which the gas or electric utility could acquire to meet energy demand in the same time period.

(5) The department of revenue, after consultation with the utilities and transportation commission in the case of investor-owned utilities and the governing bodies of locally regulated utilities, shall determine the eligibility of individual projects and measures for deductions under this section. [1980 c 149 § 3.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 82.35.020 was repealed by 2005 c 443 § 7, effective July 1, 2006.

**Legislative finding—1980 c 149:** See RCW 80.28.024.

*Utility rate structures encouraging energy conservation and production from renewable resources: RCW 80.28.025.*

**82.16.060 May be taxed under other chapters.** Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt persons taxable under the provisions of this chapter from tax under any other chapters of this title with respect to activities other than those specifically within the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 15 § 82.16.060. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 41; RRS § 8370-41.]

**82.16.080 Administration.** All of the provisions contained in chapter 82.32 RCW shall have full force and application with respect to taxes imposed under the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 15 § 82.16.080. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 43; RRS § 8370-43.]

**82.16.090 Light or power and gas distribution businesses—Information required on customer billings.** Any customer billing issued by a light or power business or gas distribution business that serves a total of more than twenty thousand customers and operates within the state shall include the following information:

(1) The rates and amounts of taxes paid directly by the customer upon products or services rendered by the light and power business or gas distribution business; and

(2) The rate, origin and approximate amount of each tax levied upon the revenue of the light and power business or gas distribution business and added as a component of the amount charged to the customer. Taxes based upon revenue of the light and power business or gas distribution business to be listed on the customer billing need not include taxes levied by the federal government or taxes levied under chapters 54.28, 80.24, or 82.04 RCW. [1988 c 228 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.100 Solid waste business not subject to chapter.** The business of collection, receipt, transfer, including transportation between any locations, storage, or disposal of solid

waste is not subject to this chapter. Any such business activities are subject to taxation under the classification in RCW 82.04.290(2). "Solid waste" for purposes of this section is defined in RCW 82.18.010. [2001 c 320 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.16.110 Renewable energy system cost recovery—Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Administrator" means an owner and assignee of a community solar project as defined in subsection (2)(a)(i) of this section that is responsible for applying for the investment cost recovery incentive on behalf of the other owners and performing such administrative tasks on behalf of the other owners as may be necessary, such as receiving investment cost recovery incentive payments, and allocating and paying appropriate amounts of such payments to the other owners.

(2)(a) "Community solar project" means:

(i) A solar energy system that is capable of generating up to seventy-five kilowatts of electricity and is owned by local individuals, households, nonprofit organizations, or nonprofit businesses that is placed on the property owned by a cooperating local governmental entity that is not in the light and power business or in the gas distribution business;

(ii) A utility-owned solar energy system that is capable of generating up to seventy-five kilowatts of electricity and that is voluntarily funded by the utility's ratepayers where, in exchange for their financial support, the utility gives contributors a payment or credit on their utility bill for the value of the electricity produced by the project; or

(iii) A solar energy system, placed on the property owned by a cooperating local governmental entity that is not in the light and power business or in the gas distribution business, that is capable of generating up to seventy-five kilowatts of electricity, and that is owned by a company whose members are each eligible for an investment cost recovery incentive for the same customer-generated electricity as provided in RCW 82.16.120.

(b) For the purposes of "community solar project" as defined in (a) of this subsection:

(i) "Company" means an entity that is:

(A)(I) A limited liability company;

(II) A cooperative formed under chapter 23.86 RCW; or

(III) A mutual corporation or association formed under chapter 24.06 RCW; and

(B) Not a "utility" as defined in this subsection (2)(b); and

(ii) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, as of January 1, 2009; and

(iii) "Utility" means a light and power business, an electric cooperative, or a mutual corporation that provides electricity service.

(3) "Customer-generated electricity" means a community solar project or the alternating current electricity that is generated from a renewable energy system located in Washington and installed on an individual's, businesses', or local government's real property that is also provided electricity generated by a light and power business. Except for community solar projects, a system located on a leasehold interest

(2012 Ed.)

does not qualify under this definition. Except for utility-owned community solar projects, "customer-generated electricity" does not include electricity generated by a light and power business with greater than one thousand megawatt hours of annual sales or a gas distribution business.

(4) "Economic development kilowatt-hour" means the actual kilowatt-hour measurement of customer-generated electricity multiplied by the appropriate economic development factor.

(5) "Local governmental entity" means any unit of local government of this state including, but not limited to, counties, cities, towns, municipal corporations, quasi-municipal corporations, special purpose districts, and school districts.

(6) "Photovoltaic cell" means a device that converts light directly into electricity without moving parts.

(7) "Renewable energy system" means a solar energy system, an anaerobic digester as defined in RCW 82.08.900, or a wind generator used for producing electricity.

(8) "Solar energy system" means any device or combination of devices or elements that rely upon direct sunlight as an energy source for use in the generation of electricity.

(9) "Solar inverter" means the device used to convert direct current to alternating current in a solar energy system.

(10) "Solar module" means the smallest nondivisible self-contained physical structure housing interconnected photovoltaic cells and providing a single direct current electrical output.

(11) "Stirling converter" means a device that produces electricity by converting heat from a solar source utilizing a stirling engine. [2011 c 179 § 2. Prior: 2010 c 202 § 1; 2010 c 106 § 225; 2009 c 469 § 504; 2005 c 300 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Findings—Intent—2005 c 300:** "The legislature finds that the use of renewable energy resources generated from local sources such as solar and wind power benefit our state by reducing the load on the state's electric energy grid, by providing nonpolluting sources of electricity generation, and by the creation of jobs for local industries that develop and sell renewable energy products and technologies.

The legislature finds that Washington state has become a national and international leader in the technologies related to the solar electric markets. The state can support these industries by providing incentives for the purchase of locally made renewable energy products. Locally made renewable technologies benefit and protect the state's environment. The legislature also finds that the state's economy can be enhanced through the creation of incentives to develop additional renewable energy industries in the state.

The legislature intends to provide incentives for the greater use of locally created renewable energy technologies, support and retain existing local industries, and create new opportunities for renewable energy industries to develop in Washington state." [2005 c 300 § 1.]

**Effective date—2005 c 300:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2005." [2005 c 300 § 8.]

**82.16.120 Renewable energy system cost recovery—Application to light/power business—Certification—Limitations.** (1)(a) Any individual, business, local governmental entity, not in the light and power business or in the gas distribution business, or a participant in a community solar project may apply to the light and power business serving the situs of the system, each fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2005, for an investment cost recovery incentive for each kilo-

watt-hour from a customer-generated electricity renewable energy system.

(b) In the case of a community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(i), the administrator must apply for the investment cost recovery incentive on behalf of each of the other owners.

(c) In the case of a community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(iii), the company owning the community solar project must apply for the investment cost recovery incentive on behalf of each member of the company.

(2)(a) Before submitting for the first time the application for the incentive allowed under subsection (4) of this section, the applicant must submit to the department of revenue and to the climate and rural energy development center at the Washington State University, established under RCW 28B.30.642, a certification in a form and manner prescribed by the department that includes, but is not limited to, the following information:

(i) The name and address of the applicant and location of the renewable energy system.

(A) If the applicant is an administrator of a community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(i), the certification must also include the name and address of each of the owners of the community solar project.

(B) If the applicant is a company that owns a community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(iii), the certification must also include the name and address of each member of the company;

(ii) The applicant's tax registration number;

(iii) That the electricity produced by the applicant meets the definition of "customer-generated electricity" and that the renewable energy system produces electricity with:

(A) Any solar inverters and solar modules manufactured in Washington state;

(B) A wind generator powered by blades manufactured in Washington state;

(C) A solar inverter manufactured in Washington state;

(D) A solar module manufactured in Washington state;

(E) A stirling converter manufactured in Washington state; or

(F) Solar or wind equipment manufactured outside of Washington state;

(iv) That the electricity can be transformed or transmitted for entry into or operation in parallel with electricity transmission and distribution systems; and

(v) The date that the renewable energy system received its final electrical permit from the applicable local jurisdiction.

(b) Within thirty days of receipt of the certification the department of revenue must notify the applicant by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, whether the renewable energy system qualifies for an incentive under this section. The department may consult with the climate and rural energy development center to determine eligibility for the incentive. System certifications and the information contained therein are subject to disclosure under RCW 82.32.330(3)(l).

(3)(a) By August 1st of each year application for the incentive must be made to the light and power business serving the situs of the system by certification in a form and man-

ner prescribed by the department that includes, but is not limited to, the following information:

(i) The name and address of the applicant and location of the renewable energy system.

(A) If the applicant is an administrator of a community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(i), the application must also include the name and address of each of the owners of the community solar project.

(B) If the applicant is a company that owns a community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(iii), the application must also include the name and address of each member of the company;

(ii) The applicant's tax registration number;

(iii) The date of the notification from the department of revenue stating that the renewable energy system is eligible for the incentives under this section; and

(iv) A statement of the amount of kilowatt-hours generated by the renewable energy system in the prior fiscal year.

(b) Within sixty days of receipt of the incentive certification the light and power business serving the situs of the system must notify the applicant in writing whether the incentive payment will be authorized or denied. The business may consult with the climate and rural energy development center to determine eligibility for the incentive payment. Incentive certifications and the information contained therein are subject to disclosure under RCW 82.32.330(3)(l).

(c)(i) Persons, administrators of community solar projects, and companies receiving incentive payments must keep and preserve, for a period of five years, suitable records as may be necessary to determine the amount of incentive applied for and received. Such records must be open for examination at any time upon notice by the light and power business that made the payment or by the department. If upon examination of any records or from other information obtained by the business or department it appears that an incentive has been paid in an amount that exceeds the correct amount of incentive payable, the business may assess against the person for the amount found to have been paid in excess of the correct amount of incentive payable and must add thereto interest on the amount. Interest is assessed in the manner that the department assesses interest upon delinquent tax under RCW 82.32.050.

(ii) If it appears that the amount of incentive paid is less than the correct amount of incentive payable the business may authorize additional payment.

(4) Except for community solar projects, the investment cost recovery incentive may be paid fifteen cents per economic development kilowatt-hour unless requests exceed the amount authorized for credit to the participating light and power business. For community solar projects, the investment cost recovery incentive may be paid thirty cents per economic development kilowatt-hour unless requests exceed the amount authorized for credit to the participating light and power business. For the purposes of this section, the rate paid for the investment cost recovery incentive may be multiplied by the following factors:

(a) For customer-generated electricity produced using solar modules manufactured in Washington state or a solar stirling converter manufactured in Washington state, two and four-tenths;

(b) For customer-generated electricity produced using a solar or a wind generator equipped with an inverter manufactured in Washington state, one and two-tenths;

(c) For customer-generated electricity produced using an anaerobic digester, or by other solar equipment or using a wind generator equipped with blades manufactured in Washington state, one; and

(d) For all other customer-generated electricity produced by wind, eight-tenths.

(5)(a) No individual, household, business, or local governmental entity is eligible for incentives provided under subsection (4) of this section for more than five thousand dollars per year.

(b) Except as provided in (c) through (e) of this subsection (5), each applicant in a community solar project is eligible for up to five thousand dollars per year.

(c) Where the applicant is an administrator of a community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(i), each owner is eligible for an incentive but only in proportion to the ownership share of the project, up to five thousand dollars per year.

(d) Where the applicant is a company owning a community solar project that has applied for an investment cost recovery incentive on behalf of its members, each member of the company is eligible for an incentive that would otherwise belong to the company but only in proportion to each ownership share of the company, up to five thousand dollars per year. The company itself is not eligible for incentives under this section.

(e) In the case of a utility-owned community solar project, each ratepayer that contributes to the project is eligible for an incentive in proportion to the contribution, up to five thousand dollars per year.

(6) If requests for the investment cost recovery incentive exceed the amount of funds available for credit to the participating light and power business, the incentive payments must be reduced proportionately.

(7) The climate and rural energy development center at Washington State University energy program may establish guidelines and standards for technologies that are identified as Washington manufactured and therefore most beneficial to the state's environment.

(8) The environmental attributes of the renewable energy system belong to the applicant, and do not transfer to the state or the light and power business upon receipt of the investment cost recovery incentive.

(9) No incentive may be paid under this section for kilowatt-hours generated before July 1, 2005, or after June 30, 2020. [2011 c 179 § 3. Prior: 2010 c 202 § 2; 2010 c 106 § 103; 2009 c 469 § 505; 2007 c 111 § 101; 2005 c 300 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2007 c 111 § 401.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2005 c 300:** See notes following RCW 82.16.110.

**82.16.130 Renewable energy system cost recovery—Light/power business tax credit.** (1) A light and power business shall be allowed a credit against taxes due under this chapter in an amount equal to investment cost recovery

(2012 Ed.)

incentive payments made in any fiscal year under RCW 82.16.120. The credit shall be taken in a form and manner as required by the department. The credit under this section for the fiscal year may not exceed one-half percent of the businesses' taxable power sales due under RCW 82.16.020(1)(b) or one hundred thousand dollars, whichever is greater. Incentive payments to participants in a utility-owned community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(ii) may only account for up to twenty-five percent of the total allowable credit. Incentive payments to participants in a company-owned community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a)(iii) may only account for up to five percent of the total allowable credit. The credit may not exceed the tax that would otherwise be due under this chapter. Refunds shall not be granted in the place of credits. Expenditures not used to earn a credit in one fiscal year may not be used to earn a credit in subsequent years.

(2) For any business that has claimed credit for amounts that exceed the correct amount of the incentive payable under RCW 82.16.120, the amount of tax against which credit was claimed for the excess payments shall be immediately due and payable. The department shall assess interest but not penalties on the taxes against which the credit was claimed. Interest shall be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, retroactively to the date the credit was claimed, and shall accrue until the taxes against which the credit was claimed are repaid.

(3) The right to earn tax credits under this section expires June 30, 2020. Credits may not be claimed after June 30, 2021. [2010 c 202 § 3; 2009 c 469 § 506; 2005 c 300 § 4.]

**Effective date—2009 c 469:** See note following RCW 82.08.962.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2005 c 300:** See notes following RCW 82.16.110.

**82.16.150 Light and power business—Liability.** Owners of a community solar project as defined in RCW 82.16.110(2)(a) (i) and (iii) must agree to hold harmless the light and power business serving the situs of the system, including any employee, for the good faith reliance on the information contained in an application or certification submitted by an administrator or company. In addition, the light and power business and any employee is immune from civil liability for the good faith reliance on any misstatement that may be made in such application or certification. Should a light and power business or employee prevail upon the defense provided in this section, it is entitled to recover expenses and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in establishing the defense. [2010 c 202 § 5.]

**82.16.300 Exemptions—Custom farming services. (Expires December 31, 2020.)** (1) This chapter shall not apply to any person hauling agricultural products or farm machinery or equipment for a farmer or for a person performing custom farming services, when the person providing the hauling and the farmer or person performing custom farming services are related.

(2) The exemption provided by this section shall not apply to the hauling of any substances or articles manufactured from agricultural products. For the purposes of this subsection, "manufactured" has the same meaning as "to manufacture" in RCW 82.04.120.

(3) The definitions in RCW 82.04.213 and 82.04.625 apply to this section. [2007 c 334 § 2.]

**Effective date—Expiration date—2007 c 334:** See notes following RCW 82.04.625.

**82.16.305 Exemptions—Joint municipal utility services authorities.** This chapter does not apply to any payments between, or any transfer of assets to or from, a joint municipal utility services authority created under chapter 39.106 RCW and any of its members. [2011 c 258 § 14.]

**Short title—Purpose—Intent—2011 c 258:** See RCW 39.106.010.

**Chapter 82.18 RCW**  
**SOLID WASTE COLLECTION TAX**  
(Formerly: Refuse collection tax)

Sections

82.18.010	Definitions.
82.18.020	Solid waste collection tax—Revenue to public works assistance account per RCW 82.18.040.
82.18.030	Collection of tax.
82.18.040	Collection of tax—Payment to state.
82.18.050	Federal government exempt from tax.
82.18.060	No multiple taxation of single transaction.
82.18.070	Applicability of general administrative provisions.
82.18.080	Enforcement.
82.18.900	Severability—1986 c 282.
82.18.901	Severability—1989 c 431.

*Solid waste management—Reduction and recycling: Chapter 70.95 RCW.*

**82.18.010 Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Solid waste collection business" means every person who receives solid waste for transfer, storage, or disposal including but not limited to all collection services, public or private dumps, transfer stations, and similar operations.

(2) "Person" shall have the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030 or any later, superseding section.

(3) "Solid waste" means garbage, trash, rubbish, or other material discarded as worthless or not economically viable for further use. The term does not include hazardous or toxic waste nor does it include material collected primarily for recycling or salvage.

(4) "Taxpayer" means that person upon whom the solid waste collection tax is imposed. [1989 c 431 § 78; 1986 c 282 § 6.]

**82.18.020 Solid waste collection tax—Revenue to public works assistance account per RCW 82.18.040.** There is imposed on each person using the solid waste services of a solid waste collection business a solid waste collection tax equal to three and six-tenths percent of the consideration charged for the services. [1989 c 431 § 79; 1986 c 282 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.18.030 Collection of tax.** The person collecting the charges made for using the solid waste collection business shall collect the tax imposed in this chapter. If any person charged with collecting the tax fails to bill the taxpayer for the tax, or in the alternative has not notified the taxpayer in writing of the imposition of the tax, or having collected the tax, fails to pay it to the department in the manner prescribed by this chapter, whether such failure is the result of the person's own acts or the result of acts or conditions beyond the

person's control, he or she shall, nevertheless, be personally liable to the state for the amount of the tax. [1989 c 431 § 84; 1986 c 282 § 8.]

**82.18.040 Collection of tax—Payment to state.** (1) Taxes collected under this chapter must be held in trust until paid to the state. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (1), taxes received by the state must be deposited in the public works assistance account created in RCW 43.155.050. For the period beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2015, taxes received by the state under this chapter must be deposited in the general fund for general purpose expenditures. For fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018, one-half of the taxes received by the state under this chapter must be deposited in the general fund for general purpose expenditures and the remainder deposited in the public works assistance account. Any person collecting the tax who appropriates or converts the tax collected is guilty of a gross misdemeanor if the money required to be collected is not available for payment on the date payment is due. If a taxpayer fails to pay the tax imposed by this chapter to the person charged with collection of the tax and the person charged with collection fails to pay the tax to the department, the department may, in its discretion, proceed directly against the taxpayer for collection of the tax.

(2) The tax is due from the taxpayer within twenty-five days from the date the taxpayer is billed by the person collecting the tax.

(3) The tax is due from the person collecting the tax at the end of the tax period in which the tax is received from the taxpayer. If the taxpayer remits only a portion of the total amount billed for taxes, consideration, and related charges, the amount remitted must be applied first to payment of the solid waste collection tax and this tax has priority over all other claims to the amount remitted. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 5 § 2; 2011 1st sp.s. c 48 § 7034; 2000 c 103 § 11; 1989 c 431 § 85; 1986 c 282 § 9.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 5 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 2, 2012]." [2012 2nd sp.s. c 5 § 13.]

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 48:** See note following RCW 39.35B.050.

**82.18.050 Federal government exempt from tax.** The solid waste collection taxes imposed in this chapter shall not apply to any agency, division, or branch of the federal government or to services rendered under a contract therewith. [1989 c 431 § 86; 1986 c 282 § 10.]

**82.18.060 No multiple taxation of single transaction.** To prevent pyramiding and multiple taxation of a single transaction, the solid waste collection taxes imposed in this chapter shall not apply to any solid waste collection business using the services of another solid waste collection business for the transfer, storage, processing, or disposal of the waste collected during the transaction.

To be eligible for this exemption, a person first must be certified by the department of revenue as a solid waste collection business. [1989 c 431 § 87; 1986 c 282 § 11.]

**82.18.070 Applicability of general administrative provisions.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the taxes imposed under this chapter. [1989 c 431 § 88; 1986 c 282 § 12.]

**82.18.080 Enforcement.** The department of revenue shall have the power to enforce the taxes imposed in this chapter through appropriate rules. [1989 c 431 § 89; 1986 c 282 § 13.]

**82.18.900 Severability—1986 c 282.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1986 c 282 § 22.]

**82.18.901 Severability—1989 c 431.** See RCW 70.95.901.

### Chapter 82.19 RCW LITTER TAX

#### Sections

82.19.010	Litter tax imposed—Report to the legislature—Time of collection.
82.19.020	Application to certain products.
82.19.030	Rule-making authority tax—Items subject to—Reporting and accounting.
82.19.040	Application of chapters 82.04 and 82.32 RCW—Disposition of revenue.
82.19.050	Exemptions.
82.19.900	Effective date—1992 c 175.

**82.19.010 Litter tax imposed—Report to the legislature—Time of collection.** (1) In addition to any other taxes, there is hereby levied and there shall be collected by the department of revenue from every person for the privilege of engaging within this state in business as a manufacturer, as a wholesaler, or as a retailer, a litter tax equal to the value of products listed in RCW 82.19.020, including by-products, manufactured within this state, multiplied by fifteen one-thousandths of one percent in the case of manufacturers, and equal to the gross proceeds of sales of the products listed in RCW 82.19.020 that are sold within this state multiplied by fifteen one-thousandths of one percent in the case of wholesalers and retailers.

(2) The frequency and time of collection of the tax will coincide with the reporting periods by payers of their business and occupation tax. [2008 c 86 § 201; 1998 c 257 § 7; 1992 c 175 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 12. Formerly RCW 70.93.120.]

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

**82.19.020 Application to certain products.** To accomplish effective litter control within the state and to allocate a portion of the cost of administering this chapter to those industries whose products, including the packages, wrappings, and containers thereof, are reasonably related to the litter problem, the tax imposed in this chapter shall only apply to the value of products or the gross proceeds of sales of products falling into the following categories:

- (1) Food for human or pet consumption.

- (2) Groceries.
- (3) Cigarettes and tobacco products.
- (4) Soft drinks and carbonated waters.
- (5) Beer and other malt beverages.
- (6) Wine.
- (7) Newspapers and magazines.
- (8) Household paper and paper products.
- (9) Glass containers.
- (10) Metal containers.
- (11) Plastic or fiber containers made of synthetic material.
- (12) Cleaning agents and toiletries.
- (13) Nondrug drugstore sundry products. [1992 c 175 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 13. Formerly RCW 70.93.130.]

**82.19.030 Rule-making authority tax—Items subject to—Reporting and accounting.** (1) The department of revenue, by rule, may, if such is required, define those items subject to tax under RCW 82.19.020. In making any such definitions, the department of revenue shall be guided by the following standards:

(a) It is the purpose of this chapter to accomplish effective control of litter within this state;

(b) It is the purpose of this chapter to allocate a portion of the cost of administration of this chapter to those industries manufacturing and/or selling products and the packages, wrappings, or containers thereof which are reasonably related to the litter problem within this state.

(2) Instead of requiring each business to separately account for taxable and nontaxable products under this chapter, the department may provide, by rule, that the tax imposed in this chapter be reported and paid based on a percentage of total sales for a particular type of business if the department determines that the percentage reasonably approximates the taxable activity of the particular type of business. [1992 c 175 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 14. Formerly RCW 70.93.140.]

**82.19.040 Application of chapters 82.04 and 82.32 RCW—Disposition of revenue.** (1) To the extent applicable, all of the definitions of chapter 82.04 RCW and all of the provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW apply to the tax imposed in this chapter.

(2) Taxes collected under this chapter shall be deposited in the waste reduction, recycling, and litter control account under RCW 70.93.180. [2001 c 118 § 6; 1992 c 175 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 16. Formerly RCW 70.93.160.]

**82.19.050 Exemptions.** The litter tax imposed in this chapter does not apply to:

(1) The manufacture or sale of products for use and consumption outside the state;

(2) The value of products or gross proceeds of the sales exempt from tax under RCW 82.04.330;

(3) The sale of products for resale by a qualified grocery distribution cooperative to customer-owners of the grocery distribution cooperative. For the purposes of this section, "qualified grocery distribution cooperative" and "customer-owner" have the meanings given in RCW 82.04.298;

(4) The sale of food or beverages by retailers that are sold solely for immediate consumption indoors at the seller's place of business or at a deck or patio at the seller's place of

business, or indoors at an eating area that is contiguous to the seller's place of business; or

(5)(a) The sale of prepared food or beverages by caterers where the food or beverages are to be served for immediate consumption in or on individual nonsingle use containers at premises occupied or controlled by the customer.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) "Prepared food" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.08.0293.

(ii) "Nonsingle use container" means a receptacle for holding a single individual's food or beverage that is designed to be used more than once. Nonsingle use containers do not include pizza delivery bags and similar insulated containers that do not directly contact the food. Nonsingle use containers do not include plastic or paper plates or other containers that are disposable.

(iii) "Caterer" means a person contracted to prepare food where the final cooking or serving occurs at a location selected by the customer. [2005 c 289 § 1; 2003 c 120 § 1; 2001 1st sp.s. c 9 § 7; (2001 1st sp.s. c 9 § 8 expired July 22, 2001); 2001 c 118 § 7; 1992 c 175 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 307 § 17. Formerly RCW 70.93.170.]

**Effective date—2003 c 120:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 7, 2003]." [2003 c 120 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.19.900 Effective date—1992 c 175.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1992. [1992 c 175 § 11.]

### Chapter 82.21 RCW

#### HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE TAX— MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT

##### Sections

82.21.010	Intent of pollution tax.
82.21.020	Definitions.
82.21.030	Pollution tax.
82.21.040	Exemptions.
82.21.050	Credits.
82.21.900	Short title—1989 c 2.
82.21.905	Captions—1989 c 2.
82.21.910	Construction—1989 c 2.
82.21.915	Existing agreements—1989 c 2.
82.21.920	Effective date—1989 c 2.
82.21.921	Severability—1989 c 2.

**82.21.010 Intent of pollution tax.** It is the intent of this chapter to impose a tax only once for each hazardous substance possessed in this state and to tax the first possession of all hazardous substances, including substances and products that the department of ecology determines to present a threat to human health or the environment. However, it is not intended to impose a tax on the first possession of small amounts of any hazardous substance (other than petroleum and pesticide products) that is first possessed by a retailer for the purpose of sale to ultimate consumers. This chapter is not intended to exempt any person from tax liability under any other law. [1989 c 2 § 8 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**82.21.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Hazardous substance" means:

(a) Any substance that, on March 1, 2002, is a hazardous substance under section 101(14) of the federal comprehensive environmental response, compensation, and liability act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601(14), as amended by Public Law 99-499 on October 17, 1986, except that hazardous substance does not include the following noncompound metals when in solid form in a particle larger than one hundred micrometers (0.004 inches) in diameter: Antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, or zinc;

(b) Petroleum products;

(c) Any pesticide product required to be registered under section 136a of the federal insecticide, fungicide and rodenticide act, 7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq., as amended by Public Law 104-170 on August 3, 1996; and

(d) Any other substance, category of substance, and any product or category of product determined by the director of ecology by rule to present a threat to human health or the environment if released into the environment. The director of ecology shall not add or delete substances from this definition more often than twice during each calendar year. For tax purposes, changes in this definition shall take effect on the first day of the next month that is at least thirty days after the effective date of the rule. The word "product" or "products" as used in this paragraph (d) means an item or items containing both: (i) One or more substances that are hazardous substances under (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection or that are substances or categories of substances determined under this paragraph (d) to present a threat to human health or the environment if released into the environment; and (ii) one or more substances that are not hazardous substances.

(2) "Petroleum product" means plant condensate, lubricating oil, gasoline, aviation fuel, kerosene, diesel motor fuel, benzol, fuel oil, residual oil, liquefied or liquefiable gases such as butane, ethane, and propane, and every other product derived from the refining of crude oil, but the term does not include crude oil.

(3) "Possession" means the control of a hazardous substance located within this state and includes both actual and constructive possession. "Actual possession" occurs when the person with control has physical possession. "Constructive possession" occurs when the person with control does not have physical possession. "Control" means the power to sell or use a hazardous substance or to authorize the sale or use by another.

(4) "Previously taxed hazardous substance" means a hazardous substance in respect to which a tax has been paid under this chapter and which has not been remanufactured or reprocessed in any manner (other than mere repackaging or recycling for beneficial reuse) since the tax was paid.

(5) "Wholesale value" means fair market wholesale value, determined as nearly as possible according to the wholesale selling price at the place of use of similar substances of like quality and character, in accordance with rules of the department.

(6) Except for terms defined in this section, the definitions in chapters 82.04, 82.08, and 82.12 RCW apply to this

chapter. [2002 c 105 § 1; 1989 c 2 § 9 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Effective date—2002 c 105:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2002." [2002 c 105 § 2.]

**82.21.030 Pollution tax.** (1) A tax is imposed on the privilege of possession of hazardous substances in this state. The rate of the tax shall be seven-tenths of one percent multiplied by the wholesale value of the substance.

(2) Moneys collected under this chapter shall be deposited in the toxics control accounts under RCW 70.105D.070.

(3) Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the tax imposed in this chapter. The tax due dates, reporting periods, and return requirements applicable to chapter 82.04 RCW apply equally to the tax imposed in this chapter. [1989 c 2 § 10 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**82.21.040 Exemptions.** The following are exempt from the tax imposed in this chapter:

(1) Any successive possession of a previously taxed hazardous substance. If tax due under this chapter has not been paid with respect to a hazardous substance, the department may collect the tax from any person who has had possession of the hazardous substance. If the tax is paid by any person other than the first person having taxable possession of a hazardous substance, the amount of tax paid shall constitute a debt owed by the first person having taxable possession to the person who paid the tax.

(2) Any possession of a hazardous substance by a natural person under circumstances where the substance is used, or is to be used, for a personal or domestic purpose (and not for any business purpose) by that person or a relative of, or person residing in the same dwelling as, that person.

(3) Any possession of a hazardous substance amount which is determined as minimal by the department of ecology and which is possessed by a retailer for the purpose of making sales to ultimate consumers. This exemption does not apply to pesticide or petroleum products.

(4) Any possession of alumina or natural gas.

(5) Persons or activities which the state is prohibited from taxing under the United States Constitution.

(6) Any persons possessing a hazardous substance where such possession first occurred before March 1, 1989. [1989 c 2 § 11 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**82.21.050 Credits.** (1) Credit shall be allowed in accordance with rules of the department of revenue for taxes paid under this chapter with respect to fuel carried from this state in the fuel tank of any airplane, ship, truck, or other vehicle.

(2) Credit shall be allowed, in accordance with rules of the department, against the taxes imposed in this chapter for any hazardous substance tax paid to another state with respect to the same hazardous substance. The amount of the credit shall not exceed the tax liability arising under this chapter with respect to that hazardous substance. For the purpose of this subsection:

(a) "Hazardous substance tax" means a tax:

(i) Which is imposed on the act or privilege of possessing hazardous substances, and which is not generally imposed on other activities or privileges; and

(2012 Ed.)

(ii) Which is measured by the value of the hazardous substance, in terms of wholesale value or other terms, and in the determination of which the deductions allowed would not constitute the tax an income tax or value added tax.

(b) "State" means (i) the state of Washington, (ii) a state of the United States other than Washington, or any political subdivision of such other state, (iii) the District of Columbia, and (iv) any foreign country or political subdivision thereof. [1989 c 2 § 12 (Initiative Measure No. 97, approved November 8, 1988).]

**82.21.900 Short title—1989 c 2.** See RCW 70.105D.900.

**82.21.905 Captions—1989 c 2.** See RCW 70.105D.905.

**82.21.910 Construction—1989 c 2.** See RCW 70.105D.910.

**82.21.915 Existing agreements—1989 c 2.** See RCW 70.105D.915.

**82.21.920 Effective date—1989 c 2.** See RCW 70.105D.920.

**82.21.921 Severability—1989 c 2.** See RCW 70.105D.921.

### Chapter 82.23A RCW

## PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM FUNDING

(Formerly: Tax on petroleum products)

### Sections

82.23A.005	Intent.
82.23A.010	Definitions.
82.23A.020	Tax imposed—Revenues to be deposited in the pollution liability insurance program trust account.
82.23A.030	Exemptions from tax.
82.23A.040	Credit authorized.
82.23A.900	Effective date—1989 c 383.
82.23A.901	Severability—1989 c 383.
82.23A.902	Expiration of chapter.

**82.23A.005 Intent. (Expires July 1, 2020.)** It is the intent of this chapter to impose a tax only once for each petroleum product possessed in this state and to tax the first possession of all petroleum products. This chapter is not intended to exempt any person from tax liability under any other law. [1989 c 383 § 14.]

**82.23A.010 Definitions. (Expires July 1, 2020.)** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Petroleum product" means plant condensate, lubricating oil, gasoline, aviation fuel, kerosene, diesel motor fuel, benzol, fuel oil, residual oil, and every other product derived from the refining of crude oil, but the term does not include crude oil or liquefiable gases.

(2) "Possession" means the control of a petroleum product located within this state and includes both actual and constructive possession. "Actual possession" occurs when the person with control has physical possession. "Constructive

possession" occurs when the person with control does not have physical possession. "Control" means the power to sell or use a petroleum product or to authorize the sale or use by another.

(3) "Previously taxed petroleum product" means a petroleum product in respect to which a tax has been paid under this chapter and that has not been remanufactured or reprocessed in any manner (other than mere repackaging or recycling for beneficial reuse) since the tax was paid.

(4) "Rack" means a mechanism for delivering petroleum products from a refinery or terminal into a truck, trailer, railcar, or other means of nonbulk transfer. For the purposes of this definition:

(a) "Terminal" has the same definition as in RCW 82.36.010 and 82.38.020; and

(b) "Nonbulk transfer" means a transfer that does not meet the definition of "bulk transfer" as defined in RCW 82.36.010 and 82.38.020.

(5) "Wholesale value" means fair market wholesale value, determined as nearly as possible according to the wholesale selling price at the place of use of similar products of like quality and character, in accordance with rules of the department.

(6) Except for terms defined in this section, the definitions in chapters 82.04, 82.08, and 82.12 RCW apply to this chapter. [2012 1st sp.s. c 3 § 4; 2004 c 203 § 4; 1989 c 383 § 15.]

**82.23A.020 Tax imposed—Revenues to be deposited in the pollution liability insurance program trust account. (Expires July 1, 2020.)** (1) A tax is imposed on the privilege of possession of petroleum products in this state. The rate of the tax shall be thirty one-hundredths of one percent multiplied by the wholesale value of the petroleum product. For purposes of determining the tax imposed under this section for petroleum products introduced at the rack, the wholesale value is determined when the petroleum product is removed at the rack unless the removal is to an exporter licensed under chapter 82.36 or 82.38 RCW for direct delivery to a destination outside of the state. For all other cases, the wholesale value is determined upon the first nonbulk possession in the state.

(2) Moneys collected under this chapter shall be deposited in the pollution liability insurance program trust account under RCW 70.148.020.

(3) Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the tax imposed in this chapter. The tax due dates, reporting periods, and return requirements applicable to chapter 82.04 RCW apply equally to the tax imposed in this chapter.

(4) Within thirty days after the end of each calendar quarter the department shall determine the "quarterly balance," which shall be the cash balance in the pollution liability insurance program trust account as of the last day of that calendar quarter, after excluding the reserves determined for that quarter under RCW 70.148.020 (2) and (3). Balance determinations by the department under this section are final and shall not be used to challenge the validity of any tax imposed under this section. For each subsequent calendar quarter, tax shall be imposed under this section during the entire calendar quarter unless:

(a) Tax was imposed under this section during the immediately preceding calendar quarter, and the most recent quarterly balance is more than fifteen million dollars; or

(b) Tax was not imposed under this section during the immediately preceding calendar quarter, and the most recent quarterly balance is more than seven million five hundred thousand dollars. [2012 1st sp.s. c 3 § 5; 1991 c 4 § 8; 1990 c 64 § 12; 1989 c 383 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.23A.030 Exemptions from tax. (Expires July 1, 2020.)** The following are exempt from the tax imposed in this chapter:

(1) Any successive possession of a previously taxed petroleum product. If tax due under this chapter has not been paid with respect to a petroleum product, the department may collect the tax from any person who has had possession of the petroleum product. If the tax is paid by any person other than the first person having taxable possession of a petroleum product, the amount of tax paid shall constitute a debt owed by the first person having taxable possession to the person who paid the tax.

(2) Any possession of a petroleum product by a natural person under circumstances where the substance is used, or is to be used, for a personal or domestic purpose (and not for any business purpose) by that person or a relative of, or person residing in the same dwelling as, that person.

(3) Persons or activities which the state is prohibited from taxing under the United States Constitution.

(4) Any persons possessing a petroleum product where such possession first occurred before July 1, 1989.

(5) Any possession of (a) natural gas, (b) petroleum coke, or (c) liquid fuel or fuel gas used in petroleum processing.

(6) Any possession of petroleum products that are exported for use or sale outside this state as fuel.

(7) Any possession of petroleum products packaged for sale to ultimate consumers. [1989 c 383 § 17.]

**82.23A.040 Credit authorized. (Expires July 1, 2020.)**

(1) Credit shall be allowed in accordance with rules of the department of revenue for taxes paid under this chapter with respect to fuel carried from this state in the fuel tank of any airplane, ship, truck, or other vehicle.

(2) Credit shall be allowed, in accordance with rules of the department, against the taxes imposed in this chapter for any petroleum product tax paid to another state with respect to the same petroleum product. The amount of the credit shall not exceed the tax liability arising under this chapter with respect to that petroleum product. For the purpose of this subsection:

(a) "Petroleum product tax" means a tax:

(i) That is imposed on the act or privilege of possessing petroleum products, and that is not generally imposed on other activities or privileges; and

(ii) That is measured by the value of the petroleum product, in terms of wholesale value or other terms, and in the determination of which the deductions allowed would not constitute the tax an income tax or value added tax.

(b) "State" means (i) a state of the United States other than Washington, or any political subdivision of such other

state, (ii) the District of Columbia, and (iii) any foreign country or political subdivision thereof. [1989 c 383 § 18.]

**82.23A.900 Effective date—1989 c 383. (Expires July 1, 2020.)** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately, except RCW 82.23A.005 through 82.23A.040 shall take effect July 1, 1989. [1989 c 383 § 22.]

**82.23A.901 Severability—1989 c 383.** See RCW 70.148.901.

**82.23A.902 Expiration of chapter.** This chapter expires July 1, 2020, coinciding with the expiration of chapter 70.148 RCW. [2012 1st sp.s. c 3 § 6; 2006 c 276 § 5; 2000 c 16 § 3; 1996 c 88 § 3.]

### Chapter 82.23B RCW OIL SPILL RESPONSE TAX

#### Sections

82.23B.010	Definitions.
82.23B.020	Oil spill response tax—Oil spill administration tax.
82.23B.030	Exemption.
82.23B.040	Credit—Crude oil or petroleum exported or sold for export.
82.23B.045	Refund or credit—Petroleum products used by consumers for nonfuel purpose or used in manufacture of nonfuel item.
82.23B.050	Rules.
82.23B.060	Imposition of taxes.
82.23B.900	Effective dates—Severability—1991 c 200.
82.23B.901	Savings—1992 c 73.
82.23B.902	Effective dates—1992 c 73.

**82.23B.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Barrel" means a unit of measurement of volume equal to forty-two United States gallons of crude oil or petroleum product.

(2) "Crude oil" means any naturally occurring liquid hydrocarbons at atmospheric temperature and pressure coming from the earth, including condensate and natural gasoline.

(3) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(4) "Marine terminal" means a facility of any kind, other than a waterborne vessel, that is used for transferring crude oil or petroleum products to or from a waterborne vessel or barge.

(5) "Navigable waters" means those waters of the state and their adjoining shorelines that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, including the Columbia and Snake rivers.

(6) "Person" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.030.

(7) "Petroleum product" means any liquid hydrocarbons at atmospheric temperature and pressure that are the product of the fractionation, distillation, or other refining or processing of crude oil, and that are used as, useable as, or may be refined as a fuel or fuel blendstock, including but not limited to, gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, bunker fuel, and fuels containing a blend of alcohol and petroleum.

(8) "Taxpayer" means the person owning crude oil or petroleum products immediately after receipt of the same into the storage tanks of a marine terminal in this state from a

waterborne vessel or barge and who is liable for the taxes imposed by this chapter.

(9) "Waterborne vessel or barge" means any ship, barge, or other watercraft capable of travelling on the navigable waters of this state and capable of transporting any crude oil or petroleum product in quantities of ten thousand gallons or more for purposes other than providing fuel for its motor or engine. [1992 c 73 § 6; 1991 c 200 § 801.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.23B.020 Oil spill response tax—Oil spill administration tax.** (1) An oil spill response tax is imposed on the privilege of receiving crude oil or petroleum products at a marine terminal within this state from a waterborne vessel or barge operating on the navigable waters of this state. The tax imposed in this section is levied upon the owner of the crude oil or petroleum products immediately after receipt of the same into the storage tanks of a marine terminal from a waterborne vessel or barge at the rate of one cent per barrel of crude oil or petroleum product received.

(2) In addition to the tax imposed in subsection (1) of this section, an oil spill administration tax is imposed on the privilege of receiving crude oil or petroleum products at a marine terminal within this state from a waterborne vessel or barge operating on the navigable waters of this state. The tax imposed in this section is levied upon the owner of the crude oil or petroleum products immediately after receipt of the same into the storage tanks of a marine terminal from a waterborne vessel or barge at the rate of four cents per barrel of crude oil or petroleum product.

(3) The taxes imposed by this chapter shall be collected by the marine terminal operator from the taxpayer. If any person charged with collecting the taxes fails to bill the taxpayer for the taxes, or in the alternative has not notified the taxpayer in writing of the imposition of the taxes, or having collected the taxes, fails to pay them to the department in the manner prescribed by this chapter, whether such failure is the result of the person's own acts or the result of acts or conditions beyond the person's control, he or she shall, nevertheless, be personally liable to the state for the amount of the taxes. Payment of the taxes by the owner to a marine terminal operator shall relieve the owner from further liability for the taxes.

(4) Taxes collected under this chapter shall be held in trust until paid to the department. Any person collecting the taxes who appropriates or converts the taxes collected shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor if the money required to be collected is not available for payment on the date payment is due. The taxes required by this chapter to be collected shall be stated separately from other charges made by the marine terminal operator in any invoice or other statement of account provided to the taxpayer.

(5) If a taxpayer fails to pay the taxes imposed by this chapter to the person charged with collection of the taxes and the person charged with collection fails to pay the taxes to the department, the department may, in its discretion, proceed directly against the taxpayer for collection of the taxes.

(6) The taxes shall be due from the marine terminal operator, along with reports and returns on forms prescribed by the department, within twenty-five days after the end of the month in which the taxable activity occurs.

(7) The amount of taxes, until paid by the taxpayer to the marine terminal operator or to the department, shall constitute a debt from the taxpayer to the marine terminal operator. Any person required to collect the taxes under this chapter who, with intent to violate the provisions of this chapter, fails or refuses to do so as required and any taxpayer who refuses to pay any taxes due under this chapter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor as provided in chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(8) Upon prior approval of the department, the taxpayer may pay the taxes imposed by this chapter directly to the department. The department shall give its approval for direct payment under this section whenever it appears, in the department's judgment, that direct payment will enhance the administration of the taxes imposed under this chapter. The department shall provide by rule for the issuance of a direct payment certificate to any taxpayer qualifying for direct payment of the taxes. Good faith acceptance of a direct payment certificate by a terminal operator shall relieve the marine terminal operator from any liability for the collection or payment of the taxes imposed under this chapter.

(9) All receipts from the tax imposed in subsection (1) of this section shall be deposited into the state oil spill response account. All receipts from the tax imposed in subsection (2) of this section shall be deposited into the oil spill prevention account.

(10) Within forty-five days after the end of each calendar quarter, the office of financial management shall determine the balance of the oil spill response account as of the last day of that calendar quarter. Balance determinations by the office of financial management under this section are final and shall not be used to challenge the validity of any tax imposed under this chapter. The office of financial management shall promptly notify the departments of revenue and ecology of the account balance once a determination is made. For each subsequent calendar quarter, the tax imposed by subsection (1) of this section shall be imposed during the entire calendar quarter unless:

(a) Tax was imposed under subsection (1) of this section during the immediately preceding calendar quarter, and the most recent quarterly balance is more than nine million dollars; or

(b) Tax was not imposed under subsection (1) of this section during the immediately preceding calendar quarter, and the most recent quarterly balance is more than eight million dollars. [2006 c 256 § 2; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 9; 2000 c 69 § 25; 1999 sp.s. c 7 § 1; 1997 c 449 § 2; 1995 c 399 § 214; 1992 c 73 § 7; 1991 c 200 § 802.]

**Effective dates—Application—Savings—2006 c 256:** See notes following RCW 82.32.045.

**Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 63.29.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.23B.030 Exemption.** The taxes imposed under this chapter shall only apply to the first receipt of crude oil or petroleum products at a marine terminal in this state and not to the later transporting and subsequent receipt of the same oil or petroleum product, whether in the form originally received at a marine terminal in this state or after refining or other processing. [1992 c 73 § 9; 1991 c 200 § 803.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.23B.040 Credit—Crude oil or petroleum exported or sold for export.** Credit shall be allowed against the taxes imposed under this chapter for any crude oil or petroleum products received at a marine terminal and subsequently exported from or sold for export from the state. [1992 c 73 § 10; 1991 c 200 § 804.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.23B.045 Refund or credit—Petroleum products used by consumers for nonfuel purpose or used in manufacture of nonfuel item.** (1) Any person having paid the tax imposed by this chapter who uses petroleum products as a consumer for a purpose other than as a fuel may claim refund or credit against the tax imposed under this chapter. For this purpose, the term consumer shall be defined as provided in RCW 82.04.190.

(2) Any person having paid the tax imposed by this chapter who uses petroleum products as a component or ingredient in the manufacture of an item which is not a fuel may claim a refund or credit against the tax imposed by this chapter.

(3) The amount of refund or credit claimed under this section may not exceed the amount of tax paid by the person making such claim on the petroleum products so consumed or used. The refund or credit allowed by this section shall be claimed on such forms and subject to such requirements as the department may prescribe by rule. [1992 c 73 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.23B.050 Rules.** The department shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to enforce and administer the provisions of this chapter. Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration, collection, and enforcement of the taxes levied under this chapter. [1991 c 200 § 808.]

**82.23B.060 Imposition of taxes.** The taxes imposed in this chapter shall take effect October 1, 1991. [1991 c 200 § 809.]

**82.23B.900 Effective dates—Severability—1991 c 200.** See RCW 90.56.901 and 90.56.904.

**82.23B.901 Savings—1992 c 73.** The amendment of RCW 82.23B.010, 82.23B.020, 82.23B.030, and 82.23B.040 by chapter 73, Laws of 1992, shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections or under any rule or order adopted under the sections, nor as affecting any proceeding instituted under the sections. [1992 c 73 § 44.]

**82.23B.902 Effective dates—1992 c 73.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 26, 1992], except sections 6, 7, 9, and 10 of this act shall take effect October 1, 1992. [1992 c 73 § 46.]

**Chapter 82.24 RCW**  
**TAX ON CIGARETTES**

Sections	
82.24.010	Definitions.
82.24.020	Tax imposed—Absorption of tax—Possession defined—Exempt tribal members.
82.24.026	Additional tax imposed—Where deposited.
82.24.030	Stamps.
82.24.035	Circumstances when no stamp may be affixed—Violation of consumer protection act.
82.24.040	Duty of wholesaler.
82.24.050	Retailer—Possession of unstamped cigarettes—Access to commercial cigarette-making machines.
82.24.060	Stamps—How affixed.
82.24.080	Legislative intent—Taxable event—Tax liability.
82.24.090	Records—Preservation—Reports.
82.24.100	Forgery or counterfeiting of stamps—Penalty.
82.24.110	Other offenses—Penalties.
82.24.120	Violations—Penalties and interest.
82.24.130	Seizure and forfeiture.
82.24.135	Forfeiture procedure.
82.24.145	Forfeited property—Retention, sale, or destruction—Use of sale proceeds.
82.24.180	Seized property may be returned—Penalty, interest.
82.24.190	Search and seizure.
82.24.210	Redemption of stamps.
82.24.230	Administration.
82.24.235	Rules.
82.24.250	Transportation of unstamped cigarettes—Invoices and delivery tickets required—Stop and inspect.
82.24.260	Selling or disposal of unstamped cigarettes—Person to pay and remit tax or affix stamps—Liability.
82.24.280	Liability from tax increase—Interest and penalties on unpaid tax—Administration.
82.24.290	Exceptions—Federal instrumentalities and purchasers from federal instrumentalities.
82.24.295	Exceptions—Sales by Indian retailer under cigarette tax contract.
82.24.300	Exceptions—Puyallup Tribe of Indians.
82.24.302	Exceptions—Sales by tribal retailers—Yakama Nation.
82.24.500	Business of cigarette purchase, sale, consignment, distribution, or providing access to cigarette-making machines—License required—Penalty.
82.24.510	Wholesaler's and retailer's licenses—Application and issuance—Criminal background check.
82.24.520	Wholesaler's license—Fee—Display of license—Bond.
82.24.530	Retailer's license—Vending machines—Cigarette-making machines.
82.24.540	Licensee to operate within scope of license—Penalty.
82.24.550	Enforcement—Rules—Notice—Hearing—Reinstatement of license—Appeal.
82.24.551	Enforcement—Appointment of officers of liquor control board.
82.24.552	Enforcement—Administration—Inspection of books and records.
82.24.560	Fees and penalties credited to general fund.
82.24.570	Counterfeit cigarette offenses—Penalties.
82.24.900	Construction—1961 c 15.

*Minors: Chapter 70.155 RCW.*

**82.24.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the liquor control board.
- (2) "Cigarette" means any roll for smoking made wholly or in part of tobacco, irrespective of size or shape and irrespective of the tobacco being flavored, adulterated, or mixed with any other ingredient, where such roll has a wrapper or cover made of paper or any material, except where such wrapper is wholly or in the greater part made of natural leaf tobacco in its natural state. "Cigarette" includes a roll-your-own cigarette.
- (3) "Cigarette paper" means any paper or any other material except tobacco, prepared for use as a cigarette wrapper.

(2012 Ed.)

(4) "Cigarette tube" means cigarette paper made into a hollow cylinder for use in making cigarettes.

(5) "Commercial cigarette-making machine" means a machine that is operated in a retail establishment and that is capable of being loaded with loose tobacco, cigarette paper or tubes, and any other components related to the production of roll-your-own cigarettes, including filters.

(6) "Indian tribal organization" means a federally recognized Indian tribe, or tribal entity, and includes an Indian wholesaler or retailer that is owned by an Indian who is an enrolled tribal member conducting business under tribal license or similar tribal approval within Indian country. For purposes of this chapter "Indian country" is defined in the manner set forth in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.

(7) "Precollection obligation" means the obligation of a seller otherwise exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter to collect the tax from that seller's buyer.

(8) "Retailer" means every person, other than a wholesaler, who purchases, sells, offers for sale or distributes any one or more of the articles taxed herein, irrespective of quantity or amount, or the number of sales, and all persons operating under a retailer's registration certificate.

(9) "Retail selling price" means the ordinary, customary or usual price paid by the consumer for each package of cigarettes, less the tax levied by this chapter and less any similar tax levied by this state.

(10) "Roll-your-own cigarettes" means cigarettes produced by a commercial cigarette-making machine.

(11) "Stamp" means the stamp or stamps by use of which the tax levy under this chapter is paid or identification is made of those cigarettes with respect to which no tax is imposed.

(12) "Wholesaler" means every person who purchases, sells, or distributes any one or more of the articles taxed herein to retailers for the purpose of resale only.

(13) The meaning attributed, in chapter 82.04 RCW, to the words "person," "sale," "business" and "successor" applies equally in this chapter. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 1; 1997 c 420 § 3; 1995 c 278 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.010. Prior: 1959 c 270 § 9; 1949 c 228 § 14; 1935 c 180 § 83; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-83.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.020 Tax imposed—Absorption of tax—Possession defined—Exempt tribal members.** (1) There is levied and collected as provided in this chapter, a tax upon the sale, use, consumption, handling, possession, or distribution of all cigarettes, in an amount equal to 12.125 cents per cigarette.

(2) Wholesalers subject to the payment of this tax may, if they wish, absorb five one-hundredths cents per cigarette of the tax and not pass it on to purchasers without being in violation of this section or any other act relating to the sale or taxation of cigarettes.

(3) For purposes of this chapter, "possession" means both (a) physical possession by the purchaser and, (b) when cigarettes are being transported to or held for the purchaser or his or her designee by a person other than the purchaser, constructive possession by the purchaser or his or her designee,

which constructive possession is deemed to occur at the location of the cigarettes being so transported or held.

(4) In accordance with federal law and rules prescribed by the department, an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe may purchase cigarettes from an Indian tribal organization under the jurisdiction of the member's tribe for the member's own use exempt from the applicable taxes imposed by this chapter. Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, any person, who purchases cigarettes from an Indian tribal organization and who is not an enrolled member of the federally recognized Indian tribe within whose jurisdiction the sale takes place, is not exempt from the applicable taxes imposed by this chapter.

(5) If the state enters into a cigarette tax contract or agreement with a federally recognized Indian tribe under chapter 43.06 RCW, the terms of the contract or agreement take precedence over any conflicting provisions of this chapter while the contract or agreement is in effect. [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 2; 2009 c 479 § 66. Prior: 2008 c 226 § 3; 2008 c 86 § 301; 2003 c 114 § 1; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 904 (Referendum Bill No. 43, approved November 8, 1994); 1993 c 492 § 307; 1989 c 271 § 504; 1987 c 80 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 15; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 8; 1981 c 172 § 6; 1972 ex.s. c 157 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 13; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 23; 1961 ex.s. c 24 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.020; prior: 1959 c 270 § 2; prior: 1949 c 228 § 13, part; 1943 c 156 § 11, part; 1941 c 178 § 13, part; 1939 c 225 § 23, part; 1935 c 180 § 82, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-82, part.]

**Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act applies only with respect to tax liability incurred under chapter 82.24 RCW on or after May 1, 2010, for the sale, use, consumption, handling, possession, or distribution of cigarettes." [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 9.]

**Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 22:** "It is the intent of the legislature to use revenue raised from taxes levied on the sales of cigarettes and other tobacco products to fund basic health care services." [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 22:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect May 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 12.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Finding—Intent—2008 c 226:** See note following RCW 82.24.080.

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective dates—Contingent expiration date—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.026 Additional tax imposed—Where deposited.** In addition to the tax imposed upon the sale, use, consumption, handling, possession, or distribution of cigarettes set forth in RCW 82.24.020, there is imposed a tax in an amount equal to three cents per cigarette.

Beginning July 1, 2010, the revenue collected under this section must be deposited into the general fund. [2011 c 334 § 1; 2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 3; 2009 c 479 § 67; 2008 c 86 § 302; 2005 c 514 § 1102.]

**Effective date—2011 c 334:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 12, 2011]." [2011 c 334 § 2.]

**Intent—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 22:** See notes following RCW 82.24.020.

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.24.030 Stamps.** (1) In order to enforce collection of the tax hereby levied, the department of revenue must design and have printed stamps of such size and denominations as may be determined by the department. The stamps must be affixed on the smallest container or package that will be handled, sold, used, consumed, or distributed, to permit the department to readily ascertain by inspection, whether or not such tax has been paid or whether an exemption from the tax applies.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, only a wholesaler may cause to be affixed on every package of cigarettes, stamps of an amount equaling the tax due thereon or stamps identifying the cigarettes as exempt before he or she sells, offers for sale, uses, consumes, handles, removes, or otherwise disturbs and distributes the same. However, where it is established to the satisfaction of the department that it is impractical to affix such stamps to the smallest container or package, the department may authorize the affixing of stamps of appropriate denomination to a large container or package.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, only wholesalers may purchase or obtain cigarette stamps. Wholesalers may not sell or provide stamps to any other wholesaler or person.

(4) Each roll of stamps, or group of sheets, must have a separate serial number, which is legible at the point of sale. The department of revenue must keep records of which wholesaler purchases each roll or group of sheets. If the department of revenue permits wholesalers to purchase partial rolls or sheets, in no case may stamps bearing the same serial number be sold to more than one wholesaler. The remainder of the roll or sheet, if any, must either be retained for later purchases by the same wholesaler or destroyed.

(5) Nothing in this section may be construed as limiting any otherwise lawful activity under a cigarette tax compact pursuant to chapter 43.06 RCW.

(6) In order to enforce collection of the tax in the case of roll-your-own cigarettes, a retailer must affix a stamp or stamps to each box or similar container provided by the retailer to the consumer. The box or similar container must be used by a consumer to transport roll-your-own cigarettes from the retailer's place of business. A retailer must provide cigarette tubes to a consumer in one or more twenty unit denominations. Stamps must be for an amount equaling the tax due under this chapter. Each cigarette tube or paper provided to the consumer is deemed a cigarette for purposes of imposing and collecting taxes under this chapter. Stamps for roll-your-own cigarettes must be issued and affixed in a manner determined by the department but as consistent as practicable with the stamping requirements for wholesalers. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 2; 2003 c 114 § 2; 1995 c 278 § 2; 1990 c 216 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 61; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.030. Prior: 1959 c 270 § 3; prior: 1949 c 228 § 13, part; 1943 c 156 § 11, part; 1941 c 178 § 13, part; 1939 c 225 § 23, part; 1935 c 180 § 82, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-82, part.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2012." [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.035 Circumstances when no stamp may be affixed—Violation of consumer protection act.** (1) No stamp may be affixed to, or made upon, any container or package of cigarettes if:

(a) The container or package differs in any respect with the requirements of the federal cigarette labeling and advertising act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 1331 et seq.) for the placement of labels, warnings, or any other information upon a package of cigarettes that is to be sold within the United States;

(b) The container or package has been imported into the United States after January 1, 2000, in violation of 26 U.S.C. Sec. 5754;

(c) The container or package, including a container of individually stamped containers or packages, is labeled "For Export Only," "U.S. Tax Exempt," "For Use Outside U.S.," or similar wording indicating that the manufacturer did not intend that the product be sold in the United States; or

(d) The container or package has been altered by adding or deleting the wording, labels, or warnings described in (a) or (c) of this subsection.

(2) In addition to the penalty and forfeiture provisions otherwise provided for in this chapter, a violation of this section is a deceptive act or practice under the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.

(3) Subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply to boxes or similar containers used by a consumer to transport roll-your-own cigarettes. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 3; 1999 c 193 § 5.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**Intent—Finding—1999 c 193:** "(1) Cigarette smoking presents serious public health concerns to the state and to the citizens of the state. The surgeon general has determined that smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, and other serious diseases and that there are hundreds of thousands of tobacco-related deaths in the United States each year. These diseases most often do not appear until many years after the person in question begins smoking.

(2) It is the policy of the state that consumers be adequately informed about the adverse health effects of cigarette smoking by including warning notices on each package of cigarettes.

(3) It is the policy of the state that manufacturers and importers of cigarettes not make any material misrepresentation of fact regarding the health consequences of using cigarettes, including compliance with applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies.

(4) It is the intent of the legislature to align state law with federal laws, regulations, and policies relating to the manufacture, importation, and marketing of cigarettes, and in particular, the federal cigarette labeling and advertising act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 1331 et seq.) and 26 U.S.C. Sec. 5754.

(5) The legislature finds that consumers and retailers purchasing cigarettes are entitled to be fully informed about any adverse health effects of cigarette smoking by inclusion of warning notices on each package of cigarettes and to be assured through appropriate enforcement measures that cigarettes they purchase were manufactured for consumption within the United States." [1999 c 193 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.040 Duty of wholesaler.** (1) Except as authorized by this chapter, no person other than a licensed wholesaler shall possess in this state unstamped cigarettes.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) No wholesaler in this state may possess within this state unstamped cigarettes except that:

(a) Every wholesaler in the state who is licensed under Washington state law may possess within this state unstamped cigarettes for such period of time after receipt as is reasonably necessary to affix the stamps as required; and

(b) Any wholesaler in the state who is licensed under Washington state law and who furnishes a surety bond in a sum satisfactory to the department, shall be permitted to set aside, without affixing the stamps required by this chapter, such part of the wholesaler's stock as may be necessary for the conduct of the wholesaler's business in making sales to persons in another state or foreign country or to instrumentalities of the federal government. Such unstamped stock shall be kept separate and apart from stamped stock.

(3) Every wholesaler licensed under Washington state law shall, at the time of shipping or delivering any of the articles taxed herein to a point outside of this state or to a federal instrumentality, make a true duplicate invoice of the same which shall show full and complete details of the sale or delivery, whether or not stamps were affixed thereto, and shall transmit such true duplicate invoice to the department, at Olympia, not later than the fifteenth day of the following calendar month. For failure to comply with the requirements of this section, the department may revoke the permission granted to the taxpayer to maintain a stock of goods to which the stamps required by this chapter have not been affixed.

(4) Unstamped cigarettes possessed by a wholesaler under subsection (2) of this section that are transferred by the wholesaler to another facility of the wholesaler within the borders of Washington shall be transferred in compliance with RCW 82.24.250.

(5) Every wholesaler who is licensed by Washington state law shall sell cigarettes to retailers located in Washington only if the retailer has a current cigarette retailer's license or is an Indian tribal organization authorized to possess untaxed cigarettes under this chapter and the rules adopted by the department.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting any otherwise lawful activity under a cigarette tax compact pursuant to chapter 43.06 RCW. [2003 c 114 § 3; 1995 c 278 § 3; 1990 c 216 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 214 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.040. Prior: 1959 c 270 § 4; prior: 1949 c 228 § 13, part; 1943 c 156 § 11, part; 1941 c 178 § 13, part; 1939 c 225 § 23, part; 1935 c 180 § 82, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-82, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.050 Retailer—Possession of unstamped cigarettes—Access to commercial cigarette-making machines.** (1) No retailer in this state may possess unstamped cigarettes within this state unless the person is also a wholesaler in possession of the cigarettes in accordance with RCW 82.24.040.

(2) A retailer may obtain cigarettes only from a wholesaler subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(3) Only a retailer licensed under this chapter may provide consumers with access to a commercial cigarette-making machine to make roll-your-own cigarettes. A retailer is prohibited from allowing the use of a commercial cigarette-making machine by a person unless, contemporaneously to

the person's use of the machine, the retailer provides the consumer with a box or similar container to transport roll-your-own cigarettes and such box is affixed with the appropriate stamp or stamps as required under RCW 82.24.030(6). A consumer must transport roll-your-own cigarettes from a retailer's place of business only in such box or similar container.

(4) A commercial cigarette-making machine must have a secure meter that counts the number of cigarettes made, manufactured, or fabricated by the machine and that cannot be accessed, except for the sole purpose of taking meter readings, altered or reset by the machine operator. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 4; 2003 c 114 § 4; 1995 c 278 § 4; 1990 c 216 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 214 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.050. Prior: 1959 c 270 § 5; prior: 1949 c 228 § 13, part; 1943 c 156 § 11, part; 1941 c 178 § 13, part; 1939 c 225 § 23, part; 1935 c 180 § 82, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-82, part.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.060 Stamps—How affixed.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, stamps must be affixed in such manner that they cannot be removed from the package or container without being mutilated or destroyed, which stamps so affixed are evidence of the tax imposed.

(2) In the case of cigarettes contained in individual packages, as distinguished from cartons or larger units, the stamps must be affixed securely on each individual package.

(3) With respect to roll-your-own cigarettes, stamps must be affixed securely on each individual box or similar container provided by the retailer to the consumer. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.060. Prior: 1959 c 270 § 6; prior: 1949 c 228 § 13, part; 1943 c 156 § 11, part; 1941 c 178 § 13, part; 1939 c 225 § 23, part; 1935 c 180 § 82, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-82, part.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**82.24.080 Legislative intent—Taxable event—Tax liability.** (1) It is the intent and purpose of this chapter to levy a tax on all of the articles taxed under this chapter, sold, used, consumed, handled, possessed, or distributed within this state and to collect the tax from the person who first sells, uses, consumes, handles, possesses (either physically or constructively, in accordance with RCW 82.24.020) or distributes them in the state. It is further the intent and purpose of this chapter that whenever any of the articles taxed under this chapter is given away for advertising or any other purpose, it shall be taxed in the same manner as if it were sold, used, consumed, handled, possessed, or distributed in this state.

(2) It is also the intent and purpose of this chapter that the tax shall be imposed at the time and place of the first taxable event and upon the first taxable person within this state. Any person whose activities would otherwise require payment of the tax imposed by subsection (1) of this section but who is exempt from the tax nevertheless has a precollection obligation for the tax that must be imposed on the first taxable event within this state. A precollection obligation may not be imposed upon a person exempt from the tax who sells, distributes, or transfers possession of cigarettes to another per-

son who, by law, is exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter or upon whom the obligation for collection of the tax may not be imposed. Failure to pay the tax with respect to a taxable event shall not prevent tax liability from arising by reason of a subsequent taxable event.

(3) In the event of an increase in the rate of the tax imposed under this chapter, it is the intent of the legislature that the first person who sells, uses, consumes, handles, possesses, or distributes previously taxed articles after the effective date of the rate increase shall be liable for the additional tax, or its precollection obligation as required by this chapter, represented by the rate increase. The failure to pay the additional tax with respect to the first taxable event after the effective date of a rate increase shall not prevent tax liability for the additional tax from arising from a subsequent taxable event.

(4) It is the intent of the legislature that, in the absence of a cigarette tax contract or agreement under chapter 43.06 RCW, applicable taxes imposed by this chapter be collected on cigarettes sold by an Indian tribal organization to any person who is not an enrolled member of the federally recognized Indian tribe within whose jurisdiction the sale takes place consistent with collection of these taxes generally within the state. The legislature finds that applicable collection and enforcement measures under this chapter are reasonably necessary to prevent fraudulent transactions and place a minimal burden on the Indian tribal organization, pursuant to the United States supreme court's decision in *Washington v. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation*, 447 U.S. 134 (1980). [2008 c 226 § 2; 1995 c 278 § 5; 1993 c 492 § 308; 1972 ex.s. c 157 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.080. Prior: 1959 c 270 § 8; prior: 1949 c 228 § 13, part; 1943 c 156 § 11, part; 1941 c 178 § 13, part; 1939 c 225 § 23, part; 1935 c 180 § 82, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-82, part.]

**Finding—Intent—2008 c 226:** "The legislature finds that under Article III of the treaty with the Yakamas of 1855, members of the Yakama Nation have the right to travel upon all public highways. It is the legislature's intent to honor the treaty rights of the Yakama Nation, while protecting the state's interest in collecting and enforcing its cigarette taxes." [2008 c 226 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.090 Records—Preservation—Reports.** (1) Every wholesaler or retailer subject to the provisions of this chapter shall keep and preserve for a period of five years an accurate set of records. These records must show all transactions relating to the purchase and sale of any of the articles taxed under this chapter and show all physical inventories performed on those articles, all invoices, and a record of all stamps purchased. All such records and all stock of taxable articles on hand shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by the department of revenue or its duly authorized agent.

(2) All wholesalers shall within fifteen days after the first day of each month file with the department of revenue a report of all drop shipment sales made by them to retailers within this state during the preceding month. The report shall show the name and address of the retailer to whom the cigarettes were sold, the kind and quantity, and the date of delivery thereof. [1995 c 278 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 62; 1961

c 15 § 82.24.090. Prior: 1941 c 178 § 14; 1939 c 225 § 24; 1935 c 180 § 84; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-84.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.100 Forgery or counterfeiting of stamps—Penalty.** To forge or counterfeit any stamp of the kind herein provided is a felony. [1961 c 15 § 82.24.100. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 85; RRS § 8370-85.]

**82.24.110 Other offenses—Penalties.** (1) Each of the following acts is a gross misdemeanor and punishable as such:

(a) To sell, except as a licensed wholesaler engaged in interstate commerce as to the article being taxed herein, without the stamp first being affixed;

(b) To sell in Washington as a wholesaler to a retailer who does not possess and is required to possess a current cigarette retailer's license;

(c) To use or have in possession knowingly or intentionally any forged or counterfeit stamps;

(d) For any person other than the department of revenue or its duly authorized agent to sell any stamps not affixed to any of the articles taxed herein whether such stamps are genuine or counterfeit;

(e) For any person other than the department of revenue, its duly authorized agent, or a licensed wholesaler who has lawfully purchased or obtained them to possess any stamps not affixed to any of the articles taxed herein whether such stamps are genuine or counterfeit;

(f) To violate any of the provisions of this chapter;

(g) To violate any lawful rule made and published by the department of revenue or the board;

(h) To use any stamps more than once or any individual stamped box or similar container used to transport roll-your-own cigarettes more than once;

(i) To refuse to allow the department of revenue or its duly authorized agent, on demand, to make full inspection of any place of business where any of the articles herein taxed are sold or otherwise hinder or prevent such inspection;

(j) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, for any retailer to have in possession in any place of business any of the articles herein taxed, unless the same have the proper stamps attached;

(k) For any person to make, use, or present or exhibit to the department of revenue or its duly authorized agent, any invoice for any of the articles herein taxed which bears an untrue date or falsely states the nature or quantity of the goods therein invoiced;

(l) For any wholesaler or retailer or his or her agents or employees to fail to produce on demand of the department of revenue all invoices of all the articles herein taxed or stamps bought by him or her or received in his or her place of business within five years prior to such demand unless he or she can show by satisfactory proof that the nonproduction of the invoices was due to causes beyond his or her control;

(m) For any person to receive in this state any shipment of any of the articles taxed herein, when the same are not stamped, for the purpose of avoiding payment of tax. It is presumed that persons other than dealers who purchase or receive shipments of unstamped cigarettes do so to avoid payment of the tax imposed herein;

(2012 Ed.)

(n) For any person to possess or transport in this state a quantity of ten thousand cigarettes or less unless the proper stamps required by this chapter have been affixed or unless: (i) Notice of the possession or transportation has been given as required by RCW 82.24.250; (ii) the person transporting the cigarettes has in actual possession invoices or delivery tickets which show the true name and address of the consignor or seller, the true name and address of the consignee or purchaser, and the quantity and brands of the cigarettes so transported; and (iii) the cigarettes are consigned to or purchased by any person in this state who is authorized by this chapter to possess unstamped cigarettes in this state;

(o) For any person to possess or receive in this state a quantity of ten thousand cigarettes or less unless the proper stamps required by this chapter have been affixed or unless the person is authorized by this chapter to possess unstamped cigarettes in this state and is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter;

(p) To possess, sell, distribute, purchase, receive, ship, or transport within this state any container or package of cigarettes that does not comply with this chapter; and

(q) For a retailer to provide consumers with access to a commercial cigarette-making machine without providing a box or similar container that has a properly affixed stamp or stamps.

(2) It is unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to possess or to:

(a) Transport in this state a quantity in excess of ten thousand cigarettes unless the proper stamps required by this chapter are affixed thereto or unless: (i) Proper notice as required by RCW 82.24.250 has been given; (ii) the person transporting the cigarettes actually possesses invoices or delivery tickets showing the true name and address of the consignor or seller, the true name and address of the consignee or purchaser, and the quantity and brands of the cigarettes so transported; and (iii) the cigarettes are consigned to or purchased by a person in this state who is authorized by this chapter to possess unstamped cigarettes in this state; or

(b) Receive in this state a quantity in excess of ten thousand cigarettes unless the proper stamps required by this chapter are affixed thereto or unless the person is authorized by this chapter to possess unstamped cigarettes in this state and is in compliance with this chapter.

(3) Violation of subsection (2) of this section is punished as a class C felony under Title 9A RCW.

(4) All agents, employees, and others who aid, abet, or otherwise participate in any way in the violation of the provisions of this chapter or in any of the offenses described in this chapter are guilty and punishable as principals, to the same extent as any wholesaler or retailer or any other person violating this chapter.

(5) For purposes of this section, "person authorized by this chapter to possess unstamped cigarettes in this state" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.24.250. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 6; 2008 c 226 § 4; 2003 c 114 § 5; 1999 c 193 § 2; 1997 c 420 § 4; 1995 c 278 § 7; 1990 c 216 § 4; 1987 c 496 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 63; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.110. Prior: 1941 c 178 § 15; 1935 c 180 § 86; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-86.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**Finding—Intent—2008 c 226:** See note following RCW 82.24.080.

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Effective date—1999 c 193:** See notes following RCW 82.24.035.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.120 Violations—Penalties and interest.** (1) If any person, subject to the provisions of this chapter or any rules adopted by the department of revenue under authority of this section, is found to have failed to affix the stamps required, or to have them affixed as provided in this section, or to pay any tax due under this section, or to have violated any of the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted by the department of revenue in the administration of this chapter, there must be assessed and collected from such person, in addition to any tax that may be found due, a remedial penalty equal to the greater of ten dollars per package of unstamped cigarettes or ten dollars per twenty roll-your-own cigarettes, or two hundred fifty dollars, plus interest on the amount of the tax at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the tax became due until the date of payment, and upon notice mailed to the last known address of the person or provided electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135. The amount is due and payable in thirty days from the date of the notice. If the amount remains unpaid, the department or its duly authorized agent may make immediate demand upon such person for the payment of all such taxes, penalties, and interest.

(2) The department, for good reason shown, may waive or cancel all or any part of penalties imposed, but the taxpayer must pay all taxes due and interest thereon, at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the tax became due until the date of payment.

(3) The keeping of any unstamped articles coming within the provisions of this chapter is prima facie evidence of intent to violate the provisions of this chapter.

(4) This section does not apply to taxes or tax increases due under RCW 82.24.280. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 7; 2007 c 111 § 102; 2006 c 14 § 6; 1996 c 149 § 7; 1995 c 278 § 8; 1990 c 267 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 64; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.120. Prior: 1949 c 228 § 15; 1939 c 225 § 25; 1935 c 180 § 87; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-87.]

**Reviser's note:** In an order on motion for reconsideration and request for stay pending appeal dated September 25, 2006, the United States District Court for the Western District ruled that chapter 14, Laws of 2006 is preempted by the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1334(b) only in application of the law to cigarette sampling. (Case No. C06-5223, W.D. Wash. 2006.)

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 14:** See note following RCW 70.155.050.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.130 Seizure and forfeiture.** (1) The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture:

(a) Subject to RCW 82.24.250, any articles taxed in this chapter that are found at any point within this state, which articles are held, owned, or possessed by any person, and that do not have the stamps affixed to the packages or containers; any container or package of cigarettes possessed or held for

sale that does not comply with this chapter; and any container or package of cigarettes that is manufactured, sold, or possessed in violation of RCW 82.24.570.

(b) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels, which are used, or intended for use, to transport, or in any manner to facilitate the transportation, for the purpose of sale or receipt of property described in (a) of this subsection, except:

(i) A conveyance used by any person as a common or contract carrier having in actual possession invoices or delivery tickets showing the true name and address of the consignor or seller, the true name of the consignee or purchaser, and the quantity and brands of the cigarettes transported, unless it appears that the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or privy to a violation of this chapter;

(ii) A conveyance subject to forfeiture under this section by reason of any act or omission of which the owner thereof establishes to have been committed or omitted without his or her knowledge or consent;

(iii) A conveyance encumbered by a bona fide security interest if the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission.

(c) Any vending machine or commercial cigarette-making machine used for the purpose of violating the provisions of this chapter.

(d) Any cigarettes that are stamped, sold, imported, or offered or possessed for sale in this state in violation of RCW 70.158.030(3). For the purposes of this subsection (1)(d), "cigarettes" has the meaning as provided in RCW 70.158.020(3).

(2) Property subject to forfeiture under this chapter may be seized by any agent of the department authorized to collect taxes, any enforcement officer of the board, or law enforcement officer of this state upon process issued by any superior court or district court having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process may be made if:

(a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant; or

(b) The department, the board, or the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of this chapter and exigent circumstances exist making procurement of a search warrant impracticable.

(3) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, articles taxed in this chapter which are in the possession of a wholesaler, licensed under Washington state law, for a period of time necessary to affix the stamps after receipt of the articles, are not considered contraband unless they are manufactured, sold, or possessed in violation of RCW 82.24.570. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 8. Prior: 2003 c 114 § 7; 2003 c 113 § 4; 2003 c 25 § 9; 1999 c 193 § 3; 1997 c 420 § 5; 1990 c 216 § 5; 1987 c 496 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 157 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.130; prior: 1941 c 178 § 16; 1935 c 180 § 88; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-88.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**Conflict of law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 25:** See RCW 70.158.900 and 70.158.901.

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Effective date—1999 c 193:** See notes following RCW 82.24.035.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.135 Forfeiture procedure.** In all cases of seizure of any property made subject to forfeiture under this chapter the department or the board shall proceed as follows:

(1) Forfeiture shall be deemed to have commenced by the seizure. Notice of seizure shall be given to the department or the board immediately if the seizure is made by someone other than an agent of the department or the board authorized to collect taxes.

(2) Upon notification or seizure by the department or the board or upon receipt of property subject to forfeiture under this chapter from any other person, the department or the board shall list and particularly describe the property seized in duplicate and have the property appraised by a qualified person not employed by the department or the board or acting as its agent. Listing and appraisal of the property shall be properly attested by the department or the board and the appraiser, who shall be allowed a reasonable appraisal fee. No appraisal is required if the property seized is judged by the department or the board to be less than one hundred dollars in value.

(3) The department or the board shall cause notice to be served within five days following the seizure or notification to the department or the board of the seizure on the owner of the property seized, if known, on the person in charge thereof, and on any other person having any known right or interest therein, of the seizure and intended forfeiture of the seized property. The notice may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule including but not limited to service by mail. The department may also furnish notice electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135. If service is by mail or notice is provided electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, the notice shall also be served by certified mail with return receipt requested. Electronic notification or service by mail shall be deemed complete upon mailing the notice, electronically sending the notice, or electronically notifying the person or persons entitled to the notice that the notice is available to be accessed by the person or persons, within the five-day period following the seizure or notification of the seizure to the department or the board.

(4) If no person notifies the department or the board in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the items seized within fifteen days of the date of the notice of seizure, the item seized shall be considered forfeited.

(5) If any person notifies the department or the board, in writing, of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the items seized within fifteen days of the date of the notice of seizure, the person or persons shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right. The hearing shall be before the director or the director's designee or the board or the board's designee, except that any person asserting a claim or right may bring an action for return of the seized items in the superior court of the county in which such property was seized, if the aggregate value of the article or articles involved is more than five hundred dollars. A hearing and any appeal therefrom shall be in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. The burden of proof by a

preponderance of the evidence shall be upon the person claiming to be the lawful owner or the person claiming to have the lawful right to possession of the items seized. The department or the board shall promptly return the article or articles to the claimant upon a determination that the claimant is the present lawful owner or is lawfully entitled to possession thereof of the items seized. [2007 c 111 § 103; 1998 c 53 § 1; 1987 c 496 § 3.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.145 Forfeited property—Retention, sale, or destruction—Use of sale proceeds.** When property is forfeited under this chapter the department may:

(1) Retain the property or any part thereof for official use or upon application by any law enforcement agency of this state, another state, or the District of Columbia, or of the United States for the exclusive use of enforcing the provisions of this chapter or the laws of any other state or the District of Columbia or of the United States.

(2) Sell the property at public auction to the highest bidder after due advertisement, but the department before delivering any of the goods so seized shall require the person to whom the property is sold to affix the proper amount of stamps. The proceeds of the sale and all moneys forfeited under this chapter shall be first applied to the payment of all proper expenses of any investigation leading to the seizure and of the proceedings for forfeiture and sale, including expenses of seizure, maintenance of custody, advertising, and court costs. The balance of the proceeds and all moneys shall be deposited in the general fund of the state. Proper expenses of investigation includes costs incurred by any law enforcement agency or any federal, state, or local agency.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, cigarettes seized for a violation of RCW 82.24.035 or 70.158.030(3) shall be destroyed. For the purposes of this subsection (3) "cigarettes" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 70.158.020(3). [2003 c 25 § 10; 1999 c 193 § 4; 1987 c 496 § 4.]

**Conflict of law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 25:** See RCW 70.158.900 and 70.158.901.

**Intent—Finding—Severability—Effective date—1999 c 193:** See notes following RCW 82.24.035.

**82.24.180 Seized property may be returned—Penalty, interest.** (1) The department of revenue may return any property seized under the provisions of this chapter when it is shown that there was no intention to violate the provisions thereof.

(2) When any property is returned under this section, the department may return such goods to the parties from whom they were seized if and when such parties affix the proper amount of stamps thereto, and pay to the department as penalty an amount equal to the greater of ten dollars per package of unstamped cigarettes or ten dollars per twenty roll-your-own cigarettes, or two hundred fifty dollars, and interest on the amount of the tax at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the tax became due until the date of payment, and in such cases, no advertisement shall be made or notices posted in connection with said seizure.

[2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 9; 1996 c 149 § 8; 1990 c 267 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 66; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.180. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 90; RRS § 8370-90.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.190 Search and seizure.** When the department of revenue or the board has good reason to believe that any of the articles taxed herein are being kept, sold, offered for sale, or given away in violation of the provisions of this chapter or regulations issued under authority hereof, it may make affidavit of such fact, describing the place or thing to be searched, before any judge of any court in this state, and such judge shall issue a search warrant directed to the sheriff, any deputy, police officer, or duly authorized agent of the department of revenue commanding him or her diligently to search any building, room in a building, place or vehicle as may be designated in the affidavit and search warrant, and to seize such tobacco so possessed and to hold the same until disposed of by law, and to arrest the person in possession or control thereof. If upon the return of such warrant, it shall appear that any of the articles taxed herein, unlawfully possessed, were seized, the same shall be sold as provided in this chapter. [1997 c 420 § 6; 1987 c 202 § 244; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 67; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.190. Prior: 1949 c 228 § 16; 1935 c 180 § 91; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-91.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.210 Redemption of stamps.** The department of revenue may promulgate rules and regulations providing for the refund to dealers for the cost of stamps affixed to articles taxed herein, which by reason of damage become unfit for sale and are destroyed by the dealer or returned to the manufacturer or jobber. In the case of any articles to which stamps have been affixed, and which articles have been sold and shipped to a regular dealer in such articles in another state, the seller in this state shall be entitled to a refund of the actual amount of the stamps so affixed, less the affixing discount, upon condition that the seller in this state makes affidavit that the articles were sold and shipped outside of the state and that he has received from the purchaser outside the state a written acknowledgment that he has received such articles with the amount of stamps affixed thereto, together with the name and address of such purchaser. The department of revenue may redeem any unused stamps purchased from it at the face value thereof less the affixing discount. A distributor or wholesaler that has lawfully affixed stamps to cigarettes, and subsequently is unable to sell those cigarettes lawfully because the cigarettes are removed from the directory created pursuant to RCW 70.158.030(2), may apply to the department for a refund of the cost of the stamps. [2003 c 25 § 11; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 68; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.210. Prior: 1949 c 228 § 17; 1941 c 178 § 17; 1935 c 180 § 92; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-92.]

**Conflict of law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 25:** See RCW 70.158.900 and 70.158.901.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.230 Administration.** All of the provisions contained in chapter 82.32 RCW shall have full force and application with respect to taxes imposed under the provisions of this chapter, except the following sections: RCW 82.32.050, 82.32.060, 82.32.070, 82.32.100, and 82.32.270, except as noted otherwise in RCW 82.24.280. [2006 c 14 § 7; 1995 c 278 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 82.24.230. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 95; RRS § 8370-95.]

**Reviser's note:** In an order on motion for reconsideration and request for stay pending appeal dated September 25, 2006, the United States District Court for the Western District ruled that chapter 14, Laws of 2006 is preempted by the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1334(b) only in application of the law to cigarette sampling. (Case No. C06-5223, W.D. Wash. 2006.)

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 14:** See note following RCW 70.155.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.235 Rules.** The department may adopt such rules as are necessary to enforce and administer this chapter. [1995 c 278 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.250 Transportation of unstamped cigarettes—Invoices and delivery tickets required—Stop and inspect.** (1) No person other than: (a) A licensed wholesaler in the wholesaler's own vehicle; or (b) a person who has given notice to the board in advance of the commencement of transportation shall transport or cause to be transported in this state cigarettes not having the stamps affixed to the packages or containers.

(2) When transporting unstamped cigarettes, such persons shall have in their actual possession or cause to have in the actual possession of those persons transporting such cigarettes on their behalf invoices or delivery tickets for such cigarettes, which shall show the true name and address of the consignor or seller, the true name and address of the consignee or purchaser, and the quantity and brands of the cigarettes so transported.

(3) If unstamped cigarettes are consigned to or purchased by any person in this state such purchaser or consignee must be a person who is authorized by this chapter to possess unstamped cigarettes in this state.

(4) In the absence of the notice of transportation required by this section or in the absence of such invoices or delivery tickets, or, if the name or address of the consignee or purchaser is falsified or if the purchaser or consignee is not a person authorized by this chapter to possess unstamped cigarettes, the cigarettes so transported shall be deemed contraband subject to seizure and sale under the provisions of RCW 82.24.130.

(5) Transportation of cigarettes from a point outside this state to a point in some other state will not be considered a violation of this section provided that the person so transporting such cigarettes has in his possession adequate invoices or delivery tickets which give the true name and address of such out-of-state seller or consignor and such out-of-state purchaser or consignee.

(6) In any case where the department or its duly authorized agent, or any peace officer of the state, has knowledge or reasonable grounds to believe that any vehicle is transporting cigarettes in violation of this section, the department,

such agent, or such police officer, is authorized to stop such vehicle and to inspect the same for contraband cigarettes.

(7) For purposes of this section, the term "person authorized by this chapter to possess unstamped cigarettes in this state" means:

(a) A wholesaler, licensed under Washington state law;

(b) The United States or an agency thereof;

(c) Any person, including an Indian tribal organization, who, after notice has been given to the board as provided in this section, brings or causes to be brought into the state unstamped cigarettes, if within a period of time after receipt of the cigarettes as the department determines by rule to be reasonably necessary for the purpose the person has caused stamps to be affixed in accordance with RCW 82.24.030 or otherwise made payment of the tax required by this chapter in the manner set forth in rules adopted by the department; and

(d) Any purchaser or consignee of unstamped cigarettes, including an Indian tribal organization, who has given notice to the board in advance of receiving unstamped cigarettes and who within a period of time after receipt of the cigarettes as the department determines by rule to be reasonably necessary for the purpose the person has caused stamps to be affixed in accordance with RCW 82.24.030 or otherwise made payment of the tax required by this chapter in the manner set forth in rules adopted by the department.

Nothing in this subsection (7) shall be construed as modifying RCW 82.24.050 or 82.24.110.

(8) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting any otherwise lawful activity under a cigarette tax compact pursuant to chapter 43.06 RCW.

(9) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the right to travel upon all public highways under Article III of the treaty with the Yakamas of 1855. [2008 c 226 § 5; 2003 c 114 § 8; 1997 c 420 § 7; 1995 c 278 § 10; 1990 c 216 § 6; 1972 ex.s. c 157 § 6.]

**Finding—Intent—2008 c 226:** See note following RCW 82.24.080.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.260 Selling or disposal of unstamped cigarettes—Person to pay and remit tax or affix stamps—Liability.** (1) Other than:

(a) A wholesaler required to be licensed under this chapter;

(b) A federal instrumentality with respect to sales to authorized military personnel; or

(c) An Indian tribal organization with respect to sales to enrolled members of the tribe,

a person who is in lawful possession of unstamped cigarettes and who intends to sell or otherwise dispose of the cigarettes shall pay, or satisfy its precollection obligation that is imposed by this chapter, the tax required by this chapter by remitting the tax or causing stamps to be affixed in the manner provided in rules adopted by the department.

(2) When stamps are required to be affixed, the person may deduct from the tax collected the compensation allowable under this chapter. The remittance or the affixing of stamps shall, in the case of cigarettes obtained in the manner set forth in RCW 82.24.250(7)(c), be made at the same time and manner as required in RCW 82.24.250(7)(c).

(2012 Ed.)

(3) This section shall not relieve the buyer or possessor of unstamped cigarettes from personal liability for the tax imposed by this chapter.

(4) Nothing in this section shall relieve a wholesaler from the requirements of affixing stamps pursuant to RCW 82.24.040 and 82.24.050. [2003 c 114 § 9; 1995 c 278 § 11; 1987 c 80 § 3; 1986 c 3 § 13. Prior: 1983 c 189 § 3; 1983 c 3 § 217; 1975 1st ex.s. c 22 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 157 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.280 Liability from tax increase—Interest and penalties on unpaid tax—Administration.** (1) Any additional tax liability arising from a tax rate increase under this chapter shall be paid, along with reports and returns prescribed by the department, on or before the last day of the month in which the increase becomes effective.

(2) If not paid by the due date, interest shall apply to any unpaid tax. Interest shall be calculated at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) from the date the tax became due until the date of payment.

(3) If upon examination of any returns or from other information obtained by the department it appears that a tax or penalty has been paid less than that properly due, the department shall assess against the taxpayer such additional amount found to be due. The department shall notify the taxpayer by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of the additional amount due, including any applicable penalties and interest. The taxpayer shall pay the additional amount within thirty days from the date of the notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.

(4) All of chapter 82.32 RCW applies to tax rate increases except: RCW 82.32.050(1) and 82.32.270. [2007 c 111 § 104; 1996 c 149 § 10; 1995 c 278 § 13.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.290 Exceptions—Federal instrumentalities and purchasers from federal instrumentalities.** The taxes imposed by this chapter do not apply to the sale of cigarettes to:

(1) United States army, navy, air force, marine corps, or coast guard exchanges and commissaries and navy or coast guard ships' stores;

(2) The United States veterans' administration; or

(3) Any authorized purchaser from the federal instrumentalities named in subsection (1) or (2) of this section. [1995 c 278 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.24.295 Exceptions—Sales by Indian retailer under cigarette tax contract.** (1) The taxes imposed by this chapter do not apply to the sale, use, consumption, handling, possession, or distribution of cigarettes by an Indian retailer during the effective period of a cigarette tax contract subject to RCW 43.06.455.

(2) Effective July 1, 2002, wholesalers and retailers subject to the provisions of this chapter are allowed compensation for their services in affixing the stamps required under

this chapter a sum computed at the rate of six dollars per one thousand stamps purchased or affixed by them.

(3) In addition to the compensation allowed under subsection (2) of this section, retailers purchasing stamps for roll-your-own cigarettes are allowed additional compensation to offset the cost of the tax under chapter 82.26 RCW. The amount equals five cents per cigarette. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 10; 2001 c 235 § 6.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**Intent—Finding—2001 c 235:** See RCW 43.06.450.

### **82.24.300 Exceptions—Puyallup Tribe of Indians.**

The taxes imposed by this chapter do not apply to the sale, use, consumption, handling, possession, or distribution of cigarettes by an Indian retailer during the effective period of a cigarette tax agreement under RCW 43.06.465. [2005 c 11 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—Explanatory statement—Effective date—2005 c 11:** See notes following RCW 43.06.465.

**82.24.302 Exceptions—Sales by tribal retailers—Yakama Nation.** The taxes imposed by this chapter do not apply to the sale, use, consumption, handling, possession, or distribution of cigarettes by a tribal retailer during the effective period of a cigarette tax agreement under RCW 43.06.466. [2008 c 228 § 2.]

**Authorization for agreement—Effective date—2008 c 228:** See notes following RCW 43.06.466.

**82.24.500 Business of cigarette purchase, sale, consignment, distribution, or providing access to cigarette-making machines—License required—Penalty.** No person may engage in or conduct the business of purchasing, selling, consigning, or distributing cigarettes in this state without a license under this chapter, or providing consumers with access to a commercial cigarette-making machine without a license under this chapter. A violation of this section is a class C felony. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 11; 2003 c 114 § 10; 1986 c 321 § 4.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**Policy—Intent—1986 c 321:** "It is the policy of the legislature to encourage competition by reducing the government's role in price setting. It is the legislature's intent to leave price setting mainly to the forces of the marketplace. In the field of cigarette sales, the legislature finds that the goal of open competition should be balanced against the public policy disallowing use of cigarette sales as loss leaders. To balance these public policies, it is the intent of the legislature to repeal the unfair cigarette sales below cost act and to declare the use of cigarettes as loss leaders as an unfair practice under the consumer protection act." [1986 c 321 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **82.24.510 Wholesaler's and retailer's licenses—Application and issuance—Criminal background check.**

(1) The licenses issuable under this chapter are as follows:

- (a) A wholesaler's license.
- (b) A retailer's license.

(2) Application for the licenses shall be made through the master license system under chapter 19.02 RCW. The board shall adopt rules regarding the regulation of the licenses. The board may refrain from the issuance of any license under this chapter if the board has reasonable cause to

believe that the applicant has wilfully withheld information requested for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the applicant to receive a license, or if the board has reasonable cause to believe that information submitted in the application is false or misleading or is not made in good faith. In addition, for the purpose of reviewing an application for a wholesaler's license or retailer's license and for considering the denial, suspension, or revocation of any such license, the board may consider any prior criminal conduct of the applicant, including an administrative violation history record with the board and a criminal history record information check within the previous five years, in any state, tribal, or federal jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or possessions, and the provisions of RCW 9.95.240 and chapter 9.96A RCW shall not apply to such cases. The board may, in its discretion, grant or refuse the wholesaler's license or retailer's license, subject to the provisions of RCW 82.24.550.

(3) No person may qualify for a wholesaler's license or a retailer's license under this section without first undergoing a criminal background check. The background check shall be performed by the board and must disclose any criminal conduct within the previous five years in any state, tribal, or federal jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or possessions. A person who possesses a valid license on July 22, 2001, is subject to this subsection and subsection (2) of this section beginning on the date of the person's master license expiration, and thereafter. If the applicant or licensee also has a license issued under chapter 66.24 or 82.26 RCW, the background check done under the authority of chapter 66.24 or 82.26 RCW satisfies the requirements of this section.

(4) Each such license shall expire on the master license expiration date, and each such license shall be continued annually if the licensee has paid the required fee and complied with all the provisions of this chapter and the rules of the board made pursuant thereto.

(5) Each license and any other evidence of the license that the board requires must be exhibited in each place of business for which it is issued and in the manner required for the display of a master license. [2009 c 154 § 1; 2001 c 235 § 8; 1986 c 321 § 5.]

**Intent—Finding—2001 c 235:** See RCW 43.06.450.

**Policy—Intent—Savings—Effective date—1986 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.24.500.

**82.24.520 Wholesaler's license—Fee—Display of license—Bond.** A fee of six hundred fifty dollars shall accompany each wholesaler's license application or license renewal application. If a wholesaler sells or intends to sell cigarettes at two or more places of business, whether established or temporary, a separate license with a license fee of one hundred fifteen dollars shall be required for each additional place of business. Each license, or certificate thereof, and such other evidence of license as the department of revenue requires, shall be exhibited in the place of business for which it is issued and in such manner as is prescribed for the display of a master license. The department of revenue shall require each licensed wholesaler to file with the department a bond in an amount not less than one thousand dollars to guarantee the proper performance of the duties and the discharge of the liabilities under this chapter. The bond shall be exe-

cuted by such licensed wholesaler as principal, and by a corporation approved by the department of revenue and authorized to engage in business as a surety company in this state, as surety. The bond shall run concurrently with the wholesaler's license. [1986 c 321 § 6.]

**Policy—Intent—Savings—Effective date—1986 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.24.500.

**82.24.530 Retailer's license—Vending machines—Cigarette-making machines.** A fee of ninety-three dollars must accompany each retailer's license application or license renewal application. A separate license is required for each separate location at which the retailer operates. A fee of thirty additional dollars for each vending machine must accompany each application or renewal for a license issued to a retail dealer operating a cigarette vending machine. An additional fee of ninety-three dollars shall accompany each application or renewal for a license issued to a retail dealer operating a cigarette-making machine. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 12; 1993 c 507 § 15; 1986 c 321 § 7.]

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 82.24.030.

**Finding—Severability—1993 c 507:** See RCW 70.155.005 and 70.155.900.

**Policy—Intent—Savings—Effective date—1986 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.24.500.

*Minors, access to tobacco, role of liquor control board: Chapter 70.155 RCW.*

**82.24.540 Licensee to operate within scope of license—Penalty.** Any person licensed only as a wholesaler, or as a retail dealer, shall not operate in any other capacity unless the additional appropriate license or licenses are first secured. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor. [1986 c 321 § 8.]

**Policy—Intent—Savings—Effective date—1986 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.24.500.

**82.24.550 Enforcement—Rules—Notice—Hearing—Reinstatement of license—Appeal.** (1) The board shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. The board may adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary to enforce and administer the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The department may adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary to administer the provisions of this chapter. The board may revoke or suspend the license or permit of any wholesale or retail cigarette dealer in the state upon sufficient cause appearing of the violation of this chapter or upon the failure of such licensee to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter.

(3) A license shall not be suspended or revoked except upon notice to the licensee and after a hearing as prescribed by the board. The board, upon finding that the licensee has failed to comply with any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted under this chapter, shall, in the case of the first offense, suspend the license or licenses of the licensee for a period of not less than thirty consecutive business days, and, in the case of a second or further offense, shall suspend the license or licenses for a period of not less than ninety consecutive business days nor more than twelve months, and, in the event the board finds the licensee has been guilty of willful

(2012 Ed.)

and persistent violations, it may revoke the license or licenses.

(4) Any licenses issued under chapter 82.26 RCW to a person whose license or licenses have been suspended or revoked under this section shall also be suspended or revoked during the period of suspension or revocation under this section.

(5) Any person whose license or licenses have been revoked under this section may reapply to the board at the expiration of one year from the date of revocation of the license or licenses. The license or licenses may be approved by the board if it appears to the satisfaction of the board that the licensee will comply with the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

(6) A person whose license has been suspended or revoked shall not sell cigarettes or tobacco products or permit cigarettes or tobacco products to be sold during the period of such suspension or revocation on the premises occupied by the person or upon other premises controlled by the person or others or in any other manner or form whatever.

(7) Any determination and order by the board, and any order of suspension or revocation by the board of the license or licenses issued under this chapter, or refusal to reinstate a license or licenses after revocation shall be reviewable by an appeal to the superior court of Thurston county. The superior court shall review the order or ruling of the board and may hear the matter de novo, having due regard to the provisions of this chapter and the duties imposed upon the board.

(8) If the board makes an initial decision to deny a license or renewal, or suspend or revoke a license, the applicant may request a hearing subject to the applicable provisions under Title 34 RCW.

(9) For purposes of this section, "tobacco products" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.26.010. [2009 c 154 § 2; 2005 c 180 § 19; 1997 c 420 § 8; 1993 c 507 § 17; 1986 c 321 § 9.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**Finding—Severability—1993 c 507:** See RCW 70.155.005 and 70.155.900.

**Policy—Intent—Savings—Effective date—1986 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.24.500.

**82.24.551 Enforcement—Appointment of officers of liquor control board.** The department shall appoint, as duly authorized agents, enforcement officers of the liquor control board to enforce provisions of this chapter. These officers shall not be considered employees of the department. [1997 c 420 § 10.]

**82.24.552 Enforcement—Administration—Inspection of books and records.** (1) For the purposes of obtaining information concerning any matter relating to the administration or enforcement of this chapter, the department, the board, or any of its agents may inspect the books, documents, or records of any person transporting cigarettes for sale to any person or entity in the state, and books, documents, or records containing any information relating to the transportation or possession of cigarettes for sale in the possession of a specific common carrier as defined in RCW 81.80.010 doing business in this state, or books, documents, and records of vehicle

rental agencies whose vehicles are being rented for the purpose of transporting contraband cigarettes.

(2) If a person neglects or refuses to produce and submit for inspection any book, record, or document as required by this section when requested to do so by the department, the board, or its agent, then the department or the board may seek an order in superior court compelling production of the books, records, or documents. [2007 c 221 § 2.]

**82.24.560 Fees and penalties credited to general fund.** Except as specified in RCW 70.155.120, all fees and penalties received or collected by the department of revenue pursuant to this chapter shall be paid to the state treasurer, to be credited to the general fund. [1993 c 507 § 18; 1986 c 321 § 10.]

**Finding—Severability—1993 c 507:** See RCW 70.155.005 and 70.155.900.

**Policy—Intent—Savings—Effective date—1986 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.24.500.

### 82.24.570 Counterfeit cigarette offenses—Penalties.

(1) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly manufacture, sell, or possess counterfeit cigarettes. A cigarette is "counterfeit" if:

(a) The cigarette or its packaging bears any reproduction or copy of a trademark, service mark, trade name, label, term, design, or work adopted or used by a manufacturer to identify its own cigarettes; and

(b) The cigarette is not manufactured by the owner or holder of that trademark, service mark, trade name, label, term, design, or work, or by any authorized licensee of that person.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a class C felony which is punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to ten thousand dollars.

(3) Any person who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of the provisions of this section is guilty of a class B felony which is punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to twenty thousand dollars. [2003 c 114 § 6.]

**82.24.900 Construction—1961 c 15.** The provisions of this chapter shall not apply in any case in which the state of Washington is prohibited from taxing under the Constitution of this state or the Constitution or the laws of the United States. [1961 c 15 § 82.24.900. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 94; RRS § 8370-94.]

## Chapter 82.26 RCW TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

### Sections

82.26.010	Definitions.
82.26.020	Tax imposed—Deposited into the general fund.
82.26.030	Legislative intent—Purpose.
82.26.040	When tax not applicable under laws of United States.
82.26.060	Books and records to be preserved—Entry and inspection by department or board.
82.26.070	Preservation of invoices of sales to other than ultimate consumer.
82.26.080	Retailer invoices—Requirements—Inspection.
82.26.090	Records of shipments, deliveries from public warehouse of first destination—Preservation—Inspection.
82.26.100	Reports and returns.

82.26.105	Inspection of books, documents, or records of carriers.
82.26.110	When credit may be obtained for tax paid.
82.26.120	Administration.
82.26.121	Enforcement—Appointment of officers of liquor control board.
82.26.130	Invoices—Nonpayment—Penalties and interest.
82.26.140	Transport of tobacco products—Requirements—Vehicle inspection.
82.26.150	Distributor's license, retailer's license—Application—Approval—Display.
82.26.160	Distributor's license—Application fees.
82.26.170	Retailer's license—Application fee.
82.26.180	Board web site listing distributors and retailers.
82.26.190	Distributors and retailers—Valid license required—Violations—Penalties.
82.26.200	Sales from distributors to retailers—Requirements.
82.26.210	Manufacturer's representatives—Requirements.
82.26.220	Enforcement, administration of chapter—License suspension, revocation.
82.26.230	Enforcement—Unlicensed distributors or retailers—Seizure and forfeiture of property.
82.26.240	Seizure and forfeiture of property—Department and board requirements.
82.26.250	Enforcement—Search warrants.
82.26.260	Tobacco product code—Tax payment and exemption verification.

*Minors: Chapter 70.155 RCW.*

**82.26.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Actual price" means the total amount of consideration for which tobacco products are sold, valued in money, whether received in money or otherwise, including any charges by the seller necessary to complete the sale such as charges for delivery, freight, transportation, or handling.

(2) "Affiliated" means related in any way by virtue of any form or amount of common ownership, control, operation, or management.

(3) "Board" means the liquor control board.

(4) "Business" means any trade, occupation, activity, or enterprise engaged in for the purpose of selling or distributing tobacco products in this state.

(5) "Cigar" means a roll for smoking that is of any size or shape and that is made wholly or in part of tobacco, irrespective of whether the tobacco is pure or flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredient, if the roll has a wrapper made wholly or in greater part of tobacco. "Cigar" does not include a cigarette.

(6) "Cigarette" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.24.010.

(7) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(8) "Distributor" means (a) any person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products in this state who brings, or causes to be brought, into this state from without the state any tobacco products for sale, (b) any person who makes, manufactures, fabricates, or stores tobacco products in this state for sale in this state, (c) any person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products without this state who ships or transports tobacco products to retailers in this state, to be sold by those retailers, (d) any person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products in this state who handles for sale any tobacco products that are within this state but upon which tax has not been imposed.

(9) "Indian country" means the same as defined in chapter 82.24 RCW.

(10) "Little cigar" means a cigar that has a cellulose acetate integrated filter.

(11) "Manufacturer" means a person who manufactures and sells tobacco products.

(12) "Manufacturer's representative" means a person hired by a manufacturer to sell or distribute the manufacturer's tobacco products, and includes employees and independent contractors.

(13) "Moist snuff" means tobacco that is finely cut, ground, or powdered; is not for smoking; and is intended to be placed in the oral, but not the nasal, cavity.

(14) "Person" means any individual, receiver, administrator, executor, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm, copartnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust, municipal corporation, the state and its departments and institutions, political subdivision of the state of Washington, corporation, limited liability company, association, society, any group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative, fraternal, nonprofit, or otherwise. The term excludes any person immune from state taxation, including the United States or its instrumentalities, and federally recognized Indian tribes and enrolled tribal members, conducting business within Indian country.

(15) "Place of business" means any place where tobacco products are sold or where tobacco products are manufactured, stored, or kept for the purpose of sale, including any vessel, vehicle, airplane, train, or vending machine.

(16) "Retail outlet" means each place of business from which tobacco products are sold to consumers.

(17) "Retailer" means any person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products to ultimate consumers.

(18)(a) "Sale" means any transfer, exchange, or barter, in any manner or by any means whatsoever, for a consideration, and includes and means all sales made by any person.

(b) The term "sale" includes a gift by a person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products, for advertising, promoting, or as a means of evading the provisions of this chapter.

(19)(a) "Taxable sales price" means:

(i) In the case of a taxpayer that is not affiliated with the manufacturer, distributor, or other person from whom the taxpayer purchased tobacco products, the actual price for which the taxpayer purchased the tobacco products;

(ii) In the case of a taxpayer that purchases tobacco products from an affiliated manufacturer, affiliated distributor, or other affiliated person, and that sells those tobacco products to unaffiliated distributors, unaffiliated retailers, or ultimate consumers, the actual price for which that taxpayer sells those tobacco products to unaffiliated distributors, unaffiliated retailers, or ultimate consumers;

(iii) In the case of a taxpayer that sells tobacco products only to affiliated distributors or affiliated retailers, the price, determined as nearly as possible according to the actual price, that other distributors sell similar tobacco products of like quality and character to unaffiliated distributors, unaffiliated retailers, or ultimate consumers;

(iv) In the case of a taxpayer that is a manufacturer selling tobacco products directly to ultimate consumers, the actual price for which the taxpayer sells those tobacco products to ultimate consumers;

(v) In the case of a taxpayer that has acquired tobacco products under a sale as defined in subsection (18)(b) of this section, the price, determined as nearly as possible according

to the actual price, that the taxpayer or other distributors sell the same tobacco products or similar tobacco products of like quality and character to unaffiliated distributors, unaffiliated retailers, or ultimate consumers; or

(vi) In any case where (a)(i) through (v) of this subsection do not apply, the price, determined as nearly as possible according to the actual price, that the taxpayer or other distributors sell the same tobacco products or similar tobacco products of like quality and character to unaffiliated distributors, unaffiliated retailers, or ultimate consumers.

(b) For purposes of (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection only, "person" includes both persons as defined in subsection (14) of this section and any person immune from state taxation, including the United States or its instrumentalities, and federally recognized Indian tribes and enrolled tribal members, conducting business within Indian country.

(c) The department may adopt rules regarding the determination of taxable sales price under this subsection.

(20) "Taxpayer" means a person liable for the tax imposed by this chapter.

(21) "Tobacco products" means cigars, cheroots, stogies, periques, granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco, snuff, snuff flour, cavendish, plug and twist tobacco, fine-cut and other chewing tobaccos, shorts, refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco, and other kinds and forms of tobacco, prepared in such manner as to be suitable for chewing or smoking in a pipe or otherwise, or both for chewing and smoking, and any other product, regardless of form, that contains tobacco and is intended for human consumption or placement in the oral or nasal cavity or absorption into the human body by any other means, but does not include cigarettes as defined in RCW 82.24.010.

(22) "Unaffiliated distributor" means a distributor that is not affiliated with the manufacturer, distributor, or other person from whom the distributor has purchased tobacco products.

(23) "Unaffiliated retailer" means a retailer that is not affiliated with the manufacturer, distributor, or other person from whom the retailer has purchased tobacco products. [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 4; 2005 c 180 § 2; 2002 c 325 § 1; 1995 c 278 § 16; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 70; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.010. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 11.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Intent—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 22:** See notes following RCW 82.24.020.

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**Effective date—2002 c 325:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2002." [2002 c 325 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.26.020 Tax imposed—Deposited into the general fund.** (1) There is levied and collected a tax upon the sale, handling, or distribution of all tobacco products in this state at the following rate:

(a) For cigars except little cigars, ninety-five percent of the taxable sales price of cigars, not to exceed sixty-five cents per cigar;

(b) For all tobacco products except those covered under separate provisions of this subsection, ninety-five percent of the taxable sales price;

(c) For moist snuff, as established in this subsection (1)(c) and computed on the net weight listed by the manufacturer:

(i) On each single unit consumer-sized can or package whose net weight is one and two-tenths ounces or less, a rate per single unit that is equal to the greater of 2.526 dollars or eighty-three and one-half percent of the cigarette tax under chapter 82.24 RCW multiplied by twenty; or

(ii) On each single unit consumer-sized can or package whose net weight is more than one and two-tenths ounces, a proportionate tax at the rate established in (c)(i) of this subsection (1) on each ounce or fractional part of an ounce; and

(d) For little cigars, an amount per cigar equal to the cigarette tax under chapter 82.24 RCW.

(2) Taxes under this section must be imposed at the time the distributor (a) brings, or causes to be brought, into this state from without the state tobacco products for sale, (b) makes, manufactures, fabricates, or stores tobacco products in this state for sale in this state, (c) ships or transports tobacco products to retailers in this state, to be sold by those retailers, or (d) handles for sale any tobacco products that are within this state but upon which tax has not been imposed.

(3) The moneys collected under this section must be deposited into the state general fund. [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 5; 2009 c 479 § 70; 2005 c 180 § 3; 2002 c 325 § 2; 1993 c 492 § 309; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 16; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 71; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 77; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 25; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.020. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 12.]

**Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 5:** "Section 5(1) (a), (b), and (d) of this act applies only with respect to tax liability incurred under chapter 82.26 RCW on or after May 1, 2010, for the sale, handling, or distribution of cigars, little cigars, and other tobacco products." [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 10.]

**Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 5:** "Section 5(1)(c), chapter 22, Laws of 2010 1st sp. sess. applies only with respect to tax liability incurred under chapter 82.26 RCW on or after October 1, 2010, for the sale, handling, or distribution of moist snuff." [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 11.]

**Intent—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 22:** See notes following RCW 82.24.020.

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**Effective date—2002 c 325:** See note following RCW 82.26.010.

**Finding—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.26.030 Legislative intent—Purpose.** It is the intent and purpose of this chapter to levy a tax on all tobacco products sold, used, consumed, handled, or distributed within this state and to collect the tax from the distributor as defined in RCW 82.26.010. It is the further intent and purpose of this chapter to impose the tax once, and only once, on all tobacco products for sale in this state, but nothing in this chapter may be construed to exempt any person taxable under any other law or under any other tax imposed under Title 82 RCW. It is the further intent and purpose of this chapter that the distributor who first possesses the tobacco product in this state is the distributor liable for the tax and that (1) for moist snuff the tax will be based on the net weight listed by the manufacturer and (2) in most other instances the tax will be based on the actual price that the distributor paid for the tobacco prod-

uct, unless the distributor is affiliated with the seller. [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 7; 2005 c 180 § 1; 2002 c 325 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.030. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 13.]

**Intent—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 22:** See notes following RCW 82.24.020.

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**Effective date—2002 c 325:** See note following RCW 82.26.010.

**82.26.040 When tax not applicable under laws of United States.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.26.020 shall not apply with respect to any tobacco products which under the Constitution and laws of the United States may not be made the subject of taxation by this state. [1961 c 15 § 82.26.040. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 14.]

**82.26.060 Books and records to be preserved—Entry and inspection by department or board.** (1) Every distributor shall keep at each place of business complete and accurate records for that place of business, including itemized invoices, of tobacco products held, purchased, manufactured, brought in or caused to be brought in from without the state, or shipped or transported to retailers in this state, and of all sales of tobacco products made.

(2) These records shall show the names and addresses of purchasers, the inventory of all tobacco products, and other pertinent papers and documents relating to the purchase, sale, or disposition of tobacco products. All invoices and other records required by this section to be kept shall be preserved for a period of five years from the date of the invoices or other documents or the date of the entries appearing in the records.

(3) At any time during usual business hours the department, board, or its duly authorized agents or employees, may enter any place of business of a distributor, without a search warrant, and inspect the premises, the records required to be kept under this chapter, and the tobacco products contained therein, to determine whether or not all the provisions of this chapter are being fully complied with. If the department, board, or any of its agents or employees, are denied free access or are hindered or interfered with in making such examination, the registration certificate issued under RCW 82.32.030 of the distributor at such premises shall be subject to revocation, and any licenses issued under this chapter or chapter 82.24 RCW are subject to suspension or revocation, by the department or board. [2009 c 154 § 3; 2005 c 180 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 73; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.060. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 16.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.26.070 Preservation of invoices of sales to other than ultimate consumer.** Every person required to be licensed under this chapter who sells tobacco products to persons other than the ultimate consumer shall render with each sale itemized invoices showing the seller's name and address, the purchaser's name and address, the date of sale, and all prices. The person shall preserve legible copies of all such invoices for five years from the date of sale. [2005 c 180 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.070. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 17.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.080 Retailer invoices—Requirements—Inspection.** (1) Every retailer shall procure itemized invoices of all tobacco products purchased. The invoices shall show the seller's name and address, the date of purchase, and all prices and discounts.

(2) The retailer shall keep at each retail outlet copies of complete, accurate, and legible invoices for that retail outlet or place of business. All invoices required to be kept under this section shall be preserved for five years from the date of purchase.

(3) At any time during usual business hours the department, board, or its duly authorized agents or employees may enter any retail outlet without a search warrant, and inspect the premises for invoices required to be kept under this section and the tobacco products contained in the retail outlet, to determine whether or not all the provisions of this chapter are being fully complied with. If the department, board, or any of its agents or employees, are denied free access or are hindered or interfered with in making the inspection, the registration certificate issued under RCW 82.32.030 of the retailer at the premises is subject to revocation, and any licenses issued under this chapter or chapter 82.24 RCW are subject to suspension or revocation by the department. [2005 c 180 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 74; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.080. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 18.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.26.090 Records of shipments, deliveries from public warehouse of first destination—Preservation—Inspection.** Records of all deliveries or shipments of tobacco products from any public warehouse of first destination in this state shall be kept by the warehouse and be available to the department of revenue for inspection. They shall show the name and address of the consignee, the date, the quantity of tobacco products delivered, and such other information as the department may require. These records shall be preserved for five years from the date of delivery of the tobacco products. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 75; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.090. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.26.100 Reports and returns.** Every taxpayer shall report and make returns as provided in RCW 82.32.045. [2005 c 180 § 8; 1983 c 3 § 218; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.100. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 20.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.105 Inspection of books, documents, or records of carriers.** (1) For the purposes of obtaining information concerning any matter relating to the administration or enforcement of this chapter, the department, the board, or any of its agents may inspect the books, documents, or records of any person transporting tobacco products for sale to any person or entity in the state, and books, documents, or records containing any information relating to the transportation or possession of tobacco products for sale in the possession of a specific common carrier as defined in RCW 81.80.010 doing business in this state, or books, documents, and records of vehicle rental agencies whose vehicles are being rented for the purpose of transporting contraband tobacco products.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) If a person neglects or refuses to produce and submit for inspection any book, record, or document as required by this section when requested to do so by the department, the board, or its agent, then the department or the board may seek an order in superior court compelling production of the books, records, or documents. [2007 c 221 § 3; 2005 c 180 § 6.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2005." [2005 c 180 § 25.]

**82.26.110 When credit may be obtained for tax paid.**

(1)(a) Where tobacco products upon which the tax imposed by this chapter has been reported and paid are shipped or transported outside this state by the distributor to a person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products, to be sold by that person, or are returned to the manufacturer by the distributor or destroyed by the distributor, or are sold by the distributor to the United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or are sold by the distributor to any Indian tribal organization, credit of such tax may be made to the distributor in accordance with rules prescribed by the department.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply:

(i) "Indian distributor" means a federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal entity that would otherwise meet the definition of distributor under RCW 82.26.010, if federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal entities were not excluded from the definition of person in RCW 82.26.010.

(ii) "Indian retailer" means a federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal entity that would otherwise meet the definition of retailer under RCW 82.26.010, if federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal entities were not excluded from the definition of person in RCW 82.26.010.

(iii) "Indian tribal organization" means a federally recognized Indian tribe, or tribal entity, and includes an Indian distributor or retailer that is owned by an Indian who is an enrolled tribal member conducting business under tribal license or similar tribal approval within Indian country.

(2) Credit allowed under this section shall be determined based on the tax rate in effect for the period for which the tax imposed by this chapter, for which a credit is sought, was paid. [2007 c 221 § 4; 2005 c 180 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 76; 1961 c 15 § 82.26.110. Prior: 1959 ex.s. c 5 § 21.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.26.120 Administration.** All of the provisions contained in chapter 82.32 RCW shall have full force and application with respect to taxes imposed under the provisions of this chapter. [1963 ex.s. c 28 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.26.121 Enforcement—Appointment of officers of liquor control board.** The department shall appoint, as duly authorized agents, enforcement officers of the liquor control board to enforce provisions of this chapter. These officers shall not be considered employees of the department. [1997 c 420 § 11.]

**82.26.130 Invoices—Nonpayment—Penalties and interest.** (1) The department shall by rule establish the invoice detail required under RCW 82.26.060 for a distributor under \*RCW 82.26.010(3)(d) and for those invoices required to be provided to retailers under RCW 82.26.070.

(2) If a retailer fails to keep invoices as required under chapter 82.32 RCW, the retailer is liable for the tax owed on any uninvoiced tobacco products but not penalties and interest, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) If the department finds that the nonpayment of tax by the retailer was willful or if in the case of a second or plural nonpayment of tax by the retailer, penalties and interest shall be assessed in accordance with chapter 82.32 RCW. [2002 c 325 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.26.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (3)(d) to subsection (8)(d).

**Effective date—2002 c 325:** See note following RCW 82.26.010.

**82.26.140 Transport of tobacco products—Requirements—Vehicle inspection.** (1) No person other than (a) a licensed distributor in the distributor's own vehicle, a manufacturer's representative authorized to sell or distribute tobacco products in this state under RCW 82.26.210, or a licensed retailer in the retailer's own vehicle, or (b) a person who has given notice to the board in advance of the commencement of transportation shall transport or cause to be transported in this state tobacco products for sale.

(2) When transporting tobacco products for sale, the person shall have in his or her actual possession, or cause to have in the actual possession of those persons transporting such tobacco products on his or her behalf, invoices or delivery tickets for the tobacco products, which shall show the true name and address of the consignor or seller, the true name and address of the consignee or purchaser, and the quantity and brands of the tobacco products being transported.

(3) In any case where the department or the board, or any peace officer of the state, has knowledge or reasonable grounds to believe that any vehicle is transporting tobacco products in violation of this section, the department, the board, or peace officer, is authorized to stop the vehicle and to inspect it for contraband tobacco products. [2005 c 180 § 10.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.150 Distributor's license, retailer's license—Application—Approval—Display.** (1) The licenses issuable by the board under this chapter are as follows:

(a) A distributor's license; and

(b) A retailer's license.

(2) Application for the licenses shall be made through the master license system under chapter 19.02 RCW. The board may adopt rules regarding the regulation of the licenses. The board may refuse to issue any license under this chapter if the board has reasonable cause to believe that the applicant has willfully withheld information requested for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the applicant to receive a license, or if the board has reasonable cause to believe that information submitted in the application is false or misleading or is not made in good faith. In addition, for the purpose of reviewing an application for a distributor's license or retailer's license and for considering the denial,

suspension, or revocation of any such license, the board may consider criminal conduct of the applicant, including an administrative violation history record with the board and a criminal history record information check within the previous five years, in any state, tribal, or federal jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or possessions, and the provisions of RCW 9.95.240 and chapter 9.96A RCW shall not apply to such cases. The board may, in its discretion, issue or refuse to issue the distributor's license or retailer's license, subject to the provisions of RCW 82.26.220.

(3) No person may qualify for a distributor's license or a retailer's license under this section without first undergoing a criminal background check. The background check shall be performed by the board and must disclose any criminal conduct within the previous five years in any state, tribal, or federal jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or possessions. If the applicant or licensee also has a license issued under chapter 66.24 or 82.24 RCW, the background check done under the authority of chapter 66.24 or 82.24 RCW satisfies the requirements of this section.

(4) Each license issued under this chapter shall expire on the master license expiration date. The license shall be continued annually if the licensee has paid the required fee and complied with all the provisions of this chapter and the rules of the board adopted pursuant to this chapter.

(5) Each license and any other evidence of the license required under this chapter must be exhibited in each place of business for which it is issued and in the manner required for the display of a master license. [2009 c 154 § 4; 2005 c 180 § 11.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.160 Distributor's license—Application fees.** (1) A fee of six hundred fifty dollars shall accompany each distributor's license application or license renewal application. If a distributor sells or intends to sell tobacco products at two or more places of business, whether established or temporary, a separate license with a license fee of one hundred fifteen dollars shall be required for each additional place of business.

(2) The fees imposed under subsection (1) of this section do not apply to any person applying for a distributor's license or for renewal of a distributor's license if the person has a valid wholesaler's license under RCW 82.24.510 for the place of business associated with the distributor's license application or license renewal application. [2005 c 180 § 12.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.170 Retailer's license—Application fee.** (1) A fee of ninety-three dollars shall accompany each retailer's license application or license renewal application. A separate license is required for each separate location at which the retailer operates.

(2) The fee imposed under subsection (1) of this section does not apply to any person applying for a retailer's license or for renewal of a retailer's license if the person has a valid retailer's license under RCW 82.24.510 for the place of business associated with the retailer's license application or renewal application. [2005 c 180 § 13.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.180 Board web site listing distributors and retailers.** The board shall compile and maintain a current record of the names of all distributors and retailers licensed under this chapter and the status of their license or licenses. The information must be updated on a monthly basis and published on the board's official internet web site. This information is not subject to the confidentiality provisions of RCW 82.32.330 and shall be disclosed to manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and the general public upon request. [2009 c 154 § 5; 2005 c 180 § 15.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.190 Distributors and retailers—Valid license required—Violations—Penalties.** (1)(a) No person may engage in or conduct business as a distributor or retailer in this state after September 30, 2005, without a valid license issued under this chapter. Any person who sells tobacco products to persons other than ultimate consumers or who meets the definition of distributor under \*RCW 82.26.010(3)(d) must obtain a distributor's license under this chapter. Any person who sells tobacco products to ultimate consumers must obtain a retailer's license under this chapter.

(b) A violation of this subsection (1) is punishable as a class C felony according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(2)(a) No person engaged in or conducting business as a distributor or retailer in this state may:

(i) Refuse to allow the department or the board, on demand, to make a full inspection of any place of business where any of the tobacco products taxed under this chapter are sold, stored, or handled, or otherwise hinder or prevent such inspection;

(ii) Make, use, or present or exhibit to the department or the board any invoice for any of the tobacco products taxed under this chapter that bears an untrue date or falsely states the nature or quantity of the goods invoiced; or

(iii) Fail to produce on demand of the department or the board all invoices of all the tobacco products taxed under this chapter within five years prior to such demand unless the person can show by satisfactory proof that the nonproduction of the invoices was due to causes beyond the person's control.

(b) No person, other than a licensed distributor or retailer, may transport tobacco products for sale in this state for which the taxes imposed under this chapter have not been paid unless:

(i) Notice of the transportation has been given as required under RCW 82.26.140;

(ii) The person transporting the tobacco products actually possesses invoices or delivery tickets showing the true name and address of the consignor or seller, the true name and address of the consignee or purchaser, and the quantity and brands of tobacco products being transported; and

(iii) The tobacco products are consigned to or purchased by a person in this state who is licensed under this chapter.

(c) A violation of this subsection (2) is a gross misdemeanor.

(3) Any person licensed under this chapter as a distributor, and any person licensed under this chapter as a retailer, shall not operate in any other capacity unless the additional appropriate license is first secured. A violation of this subsection (3) is a misdemeanor.

(2012 Ed.)

(4) The penalties provided in this section are in addition to any other penalties provided by law for violating the provisions of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. [2009 c 154 § 6; 2005 c 180 § 16.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.26.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (3)(d) to subsection (8)(d).

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.200 Sales from distributors to retailers—Requirements.** (1) A retailer that obtains tobacco products from an unlicensed distributor or any other person that is not licensed under this chapter must be licensed both as a retailer and a distributor under this chapter and is liable for the tax imposed under RCW 82.26.020 with respect to the tobacco products acquired from the unlicensed person that are held for sale, handling, or distribution in this state. For the purposes of this subsection, "person" includes both persons defined in \*RCW 82.26.010(10) and any person immune from state taxation, such as the United States or its instrumentalities, and federally recognized Indian tribes and enrolled tribal members, conducting business within Indian country.

(2) Every distributor licensed under this chapter shall sell tobacco products to retailers located in Washington only if the retailer has a current retailer's license under this chapter. [2005 c 180 § 17.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.26.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (10) to subsection (14).

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.210 Manufacturer's representatives—Requirements.** A manufacturer that has manufacturer's representatives who sell or distribute the manufacturer's tobacco products in this state must provide the board a list of the names and addresses of all such representatives and must ensure that the list provided to the board is kept current. A manufacturer's representative is not authorized to distribute or sell tobacco products in this state unless the manufacturer that hired the representative has a valid distributor's license under this chapter and that manufacturer provides the board a current list of all of its manufacturer's representatives as required by this section. A manufacturer's representative must carry a copy of the distributor's license of the manufacturer that hired the representative at all times when selling or distributing the manufacturer's tobacco products. [2009 c 154 § 7; 2005 c 180 § 14.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.220 Enforcement, administration of chapter—License suspension, revocation.** (1) The board shall enforce this chapter. The board may adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary to enforce and administer this chapter.

(2) The department may adopt, amend, and repeal rules necessary to administer this chapter. The board may revoke or suspend the distributor's or retailer's license of any distributor or retailer of tobacco products in the state upon sufficient cause showing a violation of this chapter or upon the failure of the licensee to comply with any of the rules adopted under it.

(3) A license shall not be suspended or revoked except upon notice to the licensee and after a hearing as prescribed

by the board. The board, upon finding that the licensee has failed to comply with any provision of this chapter or of any rule adopted under it, shall, in the case of the first offense, suspend the license or licenses of the licensee for a period of not less than thirty consecutive business days, and in the case of a second or further offense, suspend the license or licenses for a period of not less than ninety consecutive business days but not more than twelve months, and in the event the board finds the licensee has been guilty of willful and persistent violations, it may revoke the license or licenses.

(4) Any licenses issued under chapter 82.24 RCW to a person whose license or licenses have been suspended or revoked under this section shall also be suspended or revoked during the period of suspension or revocation under this section.

(5) Any person whose license or licenses have been revoked under this section may reapply to the board at the expiration of one year of the license or licenses. The license or licenses may be approved by the board if it appears to the satisfaction of the board that the licensee will comply with the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

(6) A person whose license has been suspended or revoked shall not sell tobacco products or cigarettes or permit tobacco products or cigarettes to be sold during the period of suspension or revocation on the premises occupied by the person or upon other premises controlled by the person or others or in any other manner or form.

(7) Any determination and order by the board, and any order of suspension or revocation by the board of the license or licenses issued under this chapter, or refusal to reinstate a license or licenses after revocation is reviewable by an appeal to the superior court of Thurston county. The superior court shall review the order or ruling of the board and may hear the matter de novo, having due regard to the provisions of this chapter and the duties imposed upon the board.

(8) If the board makes an initial decision to deny a license or renewal, or suspend or revoke a license, the applicant may request a hearing subject to the applicable provisions under Title 34 RCW. [2009 c 154 § 8; 2005 c 180 § 18.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.230 Enforcement—Unlicensed distributors or retailers—Seizure and forfeiture of property.** (1) Any tobacco products in the possession of a person selling tobacco products in this state acting as a distributor or retailer and who is not licensed as required under RCW 82.26.190, or a person who is selling tobacco products in violation of RCW 82.26.220(6), may be seized without a warrant by any agent of the department, agent of the board, or law enforcement officer of this state. Any tobacco products seized under this subsection shall be deemed forfeited.

(2) Any tobacco products in the possession of a person who is not a licensed distributor or retailer and who transports tobacco products for sale without having provided notice to the board required under RCW 82.26.140, or without invoices or delivery tickets showing the true name and address of the consignor or seller, the true name and address of the consignee or purchaser, and the quantity and brands of tobacco products being transported may be seized and are subject to forfeiture.

(3) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels that are used, or intended for use to transport, or in any manner to facilitate the transportation, for the purpose of sale or receipt of tobacco products under subsection (2) of this section, may be seized and are subject to forfeiture except:

(a) A conveyance used by any person as a common or contract carrier having in actual possession invoices or delivery tickets showing the true name and address of the consignor or seller, the true name of the consignee or purchaser, and the quantity and brands of the tobacco products transported, unless it appears that the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or privy to a violation of this chapter;

(b) A conveyance subject to forfeiture under this section by reason of any act or omission of which the owner establishes to have been committed or omitted without his or her knowledge or consent; or

(c) A conveyance encumbered by a bona fide security interest if the secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the act or omission.

(4) Property subject to forfeiture under subsections (2) and (3) of this section may be seized by any agent of the department, the board, or law enforcement officer of this state upon process issued by any superior court or district court having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process may be made if:

(a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search warrant or an inspection under an administrative inspection warrant; or

(b) The department, board, or law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of this chapter and exigent circumstances exist making procurement of a search warrant impracticable.

(5) This section shall not be construed to require the seizure of tobacco products if the department's agent, board's agent, or law enforcement officer reasonably believes that the tobacco products are possessed for personal consumption by the person in possession of the tobacco products.

(6) Any tobacco products seized by a law enforcement officer shall be turned over to the board as soon as practicable. [2005 c 180 § 20.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.240 Seizure and forfeiture of property—Department and board requirements.** (1) In all cases of seizure of any tobacco products made subject to forfeiture under this chapter, the department or board shall proceed as provided in RCW 82.24.135.

(2) When tobacco products are forfeited under this chapter, the department or board may:

(a) Retain the property for official use or upon application by any law enforcement agency of this state, another state, or the District of Columbia, or of the United States for the exclusive use of enforcing this chapter or the laws of any other state or the District of Columbia or of the United States; or

(b) Sell the tobacco products at public auction to the highest bidder after due advertisement. Before delivering any of the goods to the successful bidder, the department or board shall require the purchaser to pay the proper amount of

any tax due. The proceeds of the sale shall be first applied to the payment of all proper expenses of any investigation leading to the seizure and of the proceedings for forfeiture and sale, including expenses of seizure, maintenance of custody, advertising, and court costs. The balance of the proceeds and all money shall be deposited in the general fund of the state. Proper expenses of investigation include costs incurred by any law enforcement agency or any federal, state, or local agency.

(3) The department or the board may return any property seized under the provisions of this chapter when it is shown that there was no intention to violate the provisions of this chapter. When any property is returned under this section, the department or the board may return the property to the parties from whom they were seized if and when such parties have paid the proper amount of tax due under this chapter. [2005 c 180 § 21.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.250 Enforcement—Search warrants.** When the department or the board has good reason to believe that any of the tobacco products taxed under this chapter are being kept, sold, offered for sale, or given away in violation of the provisions of this chapter, it may make affidavit of facts describing the place or thing to be searched, before any judge of any court in this state, and the judge shall issue a search warrant directed to the sheriff, any deputy, police officer, or duly authorized agent of the department or the board commanding him or her diligently to search any building, room in a building, place, or vehicle as may be designated in the affidavit and search warrant, and to seize the tobacco products and hold them until disposed of by law. [2005 c 180 § 22.]

**Effective date—2005 c 180:** See note following RCW 82.26.105.

**82.26.260 Tobacco product code—Tax payment and exemption verification.** (1)(a) Within one year following the date on which the requirement for a tobacco product code is effective, payment of, or exemption from, the tax imposed in RCW 82.26.020 must be verifiable on each single-unit consumer-sized can or package of moist snuff, as provided in (b) of this subsection.

(b) Within thirty days following the date on which notice of proposed rule making to require a tobacco product code is published in the federal register, the department must commence to develop a method for using a tobacco product code to verify payment of, or exemption from, the tax imposed in RCW 82.26.020; to develop and implement a pilot project to test the method; and to develop a plan for adoption of rules to implement the method. The department must report to the legislature on its progress annually by December 1st through the year following the year in which the method is implemented.

(2) If notice of proposed rule making to require a tobacco product code is not published in the federal register by July 1, 2011, the department must determine and recommend to the legislature by November 1, 2014, a method to verify payment of, or exemption from, the tax imposed in RCW 82.26.020, by means of stamping, use of manufacturers' digitally readable product identifiers, or any other method, and must complete and present to the legislature a study of compliance with the tax imposed in RCW 82.26.020, the effect of noncompliance

on state revenue, and the effect of adopting a method to verify payment of, or exemption from, the tax.

(3) For purposes of this section, "tobacco product code" means a code that is required on the label of a tobacco product for purposes of tracking or tracing the product through the distribution system under final regulations adopted by the secretary of the United States department of health and human services. [2010 1st sp.s. c 22 § 6.]

**Intent—Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 22:** See notes following RCW 82.24.020.

## Chapter 82.27 RCW

### TAX ON ENHANCED FOOD FISH

#### Sections

82.27.010	Definitions.
82.27.020	Excise tax imposed—Deduction—Measure of tax—Rates—Additional tax imposed.
82.27.030	Exemptions.
82.27.040	Credit for taxes paid to another taxing authority.
82.27.050	Application of excise taxes' administrative provisions and definitions.
82.27.060	Payment of tax—Remittance—Returns.
82.27.070	Deposit of taxes.
82.27.900	Effective date—Implementation—1980 c 98.
82.27.901	Severability—1985 c 413.

**82.27.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Enhanced food fish" includes all species of food fish, except all species of tuna, mackerel, and jack; shellfish; and anadromous game fish, including by-products and parts thereof, originating within the territorial and adjacent waters of Washington and salmon originating from within the territorial and adjacent waters of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, and all troll-caught Chinook salmon originating from within the territorial and adjacent waters of southeast Alaska. As used in this subsection, "adjacent" waters of Oregon, Washington, and Alaska are those comprising the United States fish conservation zone; "adjacent" waters of British Columbia are those comprising the Canadian two hundred mile exclusive economic zone; and "southeast Alaska" means that portion of Alaska south and east of Cape Suckling to the Canadian border. For purposes of this chapter, point of origination is established by a document which identifies the product and state or province in which it originates, including, but not limited to fish tickets, bills of lading, invoices, or other documentation required to be kept by governmental agencies.

(2) "Commercial" means related to or connected with buying, selling, bartering, or processing.

(3) "Possession" means the control of enhanced food fish by the owner and includes both actual and constructive possession. Constructive possession occurs when the person has legal ownership but not actual possession of the enhanced food fish.

(4) "Anadromous game fish" means steelhead trout and anadromous cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char and includes by-products and also parts of anadromous game fish, whether fresh, frozen, canned, or otherwise.

(5) "Landed" means the act of physically placing enhanced food fish (a) on a tender in the territorial waters of

Washington; or (b) on any land within or without the state of Washington including wharves, piers, or any such extensions therefrom. [1995 c 372 § 4; 1985 c 413 § 1. Prior: 1983 1st ex.s. c 46 § 180; 1983 c 284 § 5; 1980 c 98 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1983 c 284:** See note following RCW 82.27.020.

**82.27.020 Excise tax imposed—Deduction—Measure of tax—Rates—Additional tax imposed.** (1) In addition to all other taxes, licenses, or fees provided by law there is established an excise tax on the commercial possession of enhanced food fish as provided in this chapter. The tax is levied upon and shall be collected from the owner of the enhanced food fish whose possession constitutes the taxable event. The taxable event is the first possession in Washington by an owner after the enhanced food fish has been landed. Processing and handling of enhanced food fish by a person who is not the owner is not a taxable event to the processor or handler.

(2) A person in possession of enhanced food fish and liable to this tax may deduct from the price paid to the person from which the enhanced food fish (except oysters) are purchased an amount equal to a tax at one-half the rate levied in this section upon these products.

(3) The measure of the tax is the value of the enhanced food fish at the point of landing.

(4) The tax shall be equal to the measure of the tax multiplied by the rates for enhanced food fish as follows:

(a) Chinook, coho, and chum salmon and anadromous game fish: Five and twenty-five one-hundredths percent;

(b) Pink and sockeye salmon: Three and fifteen one-hundredths percent;

(c) Other food fish and shellfish, except oysters, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers: Two and one-tenth percent;

(d) Oysters: Eight one-hundredths of one percent;

(e) Sea urchins: Four and six-tenths percent through December 31, 2013, or until the department of fish and wildlife notifies the department that the number of sea urchin licenses has been reduced to twenty licenses, whichever occurs first, and two and one-tenth percent thereafter; and

(f) Sea cucumbers: Four and six-tenths percent through December 31, 2013, or until the department of fish and wildlife notifies the department that the number of sea cucumber licenses has been reduced to twenty licenses, whichever occurs first, and two and one-tenth percent thereafter.

(5) An additional tax is imposed equal to the rate specified in RCW 82.02.030 multiplied by the tax payable under subsection (4) of this section. [2010 c 193 § 16; 2005 c 110 § 3; 2001 c 320 § 9; 1999 c 126 § 3; 1993 sp.s. c 17 § 12; 1985 c 413 § 2; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 17; 1983 c 284 § 6; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 10; 1980 c 98 § 2.]

**Finding—Contingent effective date—Severability—1993 sp.s. c 17:** See notes following RCW 77.32.520.

**Findings—Intent—1983 c 284:** "The legislature finds that there are commercial fish buyers benefiting financially from the propagation of game fish in the state. The legislature recognizes that license fees obtained from sports fishermen support the majority of the production of these game fish. The legislature finds that commercial operations which benefit from the commercial harvest of these fish should pay a tax to assist in the funding of these facilities. However, the intent of the legislature is not to support the commercial harvest of steelhead and other game fish." [1983 c 284 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.27.030 Exemptions.** The tax imposed by RCW 82.27.020 shall not apply to: (1) Enhanced food fish originating outside the state which enters the state as (a) frozen enhanced food fish or (b) enhanced food fish packaged for retail sales; (2) the growing, processing, or dealing with food fish or shellfish which are raised from eggs, fry, or larvae and which are under the physical control of the grower at all times until being sold or harvested; and (3) food fish, shellfish, anadromous game fish, and by-products or parts of food fish shipped from outside the state which enter the state, except as provided in RCW 82.27.010, provided the taxpayer must have documentation showing shipping origination of fish exempt under this subsection to qualify for exemption. Such documentation includes, but is not limited to fish tickets, bills of lading, invoices, or other documentation required to be kept by governmental agencies. [1995 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 1; 1985 c 413 § 3; 1980 c 98 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.27.040 Credit for taxes paid to another taxing authority.** A credit shall be allowed against the tax imposed by RCW 82.27.020 upon enhanced food fish with respect to any tax previously paid on that same enhanced food fish to any other legally established taxing authority. To qualify for a credit, the owner of the enhanced food fish must have documentation showing a tax was paid in another jurisdiction. [1985 c 413 § 4; 1980 c 98 § 4.]

**82.27.050 Application of excise taxes' administrative provisions and definitions.** All of the provisions of chapters 82.02 and 82.32 RCW shall be applicable and have full force and effect with respect to taxes imposed under this chapter. The meaning attributed to words and phrases in chapter 82.04 RCW, insofar as applicable, shall have full force and effect with respect to taxes imposed under this chapter. [1980 c 98 § 5.]

**82.27.060 Payment of tax—Remittance—Returns.** The taxes levied by this chapter shall be due for payment monthly and remittance therefor shall be made within twenty-five days after the end of the month in which the taxable activity occurs. The taxpayer on or before the due date shall make out a signed return, setting out such information as the department of revenue may require, including the gross measure of the tax, any deductions, credits, or exemptions claimed, and the amount of tax due for the preceding monthly period, which amount shall be transmitted to the department along with the return.

The department may relieve any taxpayer from the obligation of filing a monthly return and may require the return to cover other periods, but in no event may periodic returns be filed for a period greater than one year. In such cases tax payments are due on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the end of the period covered by the return. [2006 c 256 § 3; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 10; 1990 c 214 § 1; 1980 c 98 § 6.]

**Effective dates—Application—Savings—2006 c 256:** See notes following RCW 82.32.045.

**Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 63.29.020.

**82.27.070 Deposit of taxes.** All taxes collected by the department of revenue under this chapter shall be deposited in the state general fund except for the excise tax on anadromous game fish, which shall be deposited in the state wildlife account. From January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2013, or until the department of fish and wildlife notifies the department that the license reduction goals of the sea urchin or sea cucumber fishery have been met, whichever occurs first, twenty-five forty-sixths of the revenues derived from the excise tax on sea urchins collected under RCW 82.27.020 shall be deposited into the sea urchin dive fishery account created in RCW 77.70.150, and twenty-five forty-sixths of the revenues derived from the excise tax on sea cucumbers collected under RCW 82.27.020 shall be deposited into the sea cucumber dive fishery account created in RCW 77.70.190. [2010 c 193 § 17; 2005 c 110 § 4; 2003 c 39 § 46; 1999 c 126 § 4; 1988 c 36 § 61; 1983 c 284 § 7; 1980 c 98 § 7.]

**Findings—Intent—1983 c 284:** See note following RCW 82.27.020.

**82.27.900 Effective date—Implementation—1980 c 98.** This act shall take effect on July 1, 1980. The director of revenue is authorized to immediately take such steps as are necessary to insure that this act is implemented on its effective date. [1980 c 98 § 11.]

**82.27.901 Severability—1985 c 413.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1985 c 413 § 6.]

## Chapter 82.29A RCW LEASEHOLD EXCISE TAX

### Sections

82.29A.010	Legislative findings and recognition.
82.29A.020	Definitions.
82.29A.030	Tax imposed—Credit—Additional tax imposed.
82.29A.040	Counties and cities authorized to impose tax—Maximum rate—Credit—Collection.
82.29A.050	Payment—Due dates—Collection and remittance—Liability—Reporting.
82.29A.060	Administration—Appraisal appeal—Audits.
82.29A.070	Disposition of revenue.
82.29A.080	Counties and cities to contract with state for administration and collection—Local leasehold excise tax account.
82.29A.090	Distributions to counties and cities.
82.29A.100	Distributions by county treasurers.
82.29A.110	Consistency and uniformity of local leasehold tax with state leasehold tax—Model ordinance.
82.29A.120	Allowable credits.
82.29A.125	Exemptions—Electric vehicle infrastructure.
82.29A.130	Exemptions—Certain property.
82.29A.132	Exemptions—Operation of state route No. 16.
82.29A.134	Exemptions—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.
82.29A.135	Exemptions—Property used to manufacture alcohol, biodiesel, or wood biomass fuel.
82.29A.136	Exemptions—Certain residential and recreational lots.
82.29A.137	Exemptions—Certain leasehold interests related to the manufacture of superefficient airplanes.
82.29A.138	Exemptions—Certain amateur radio repeaters.
82.29A.140	Rules and regulations.
82.29A.160	Improvements not defined as contract rent taxable under Title 84 RCW.

**Reviser's note:** Throughout chapter 82.29A RCW the term "this 1976 amendatory act" has been changed to "this chapter, RCW 84.36.451 and 84.40.175." This 1976 amendatory act [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61] also repealed chapter 82.29 RCW, RCW 84.36.450, 84.36.455, and 84.36.460.

(2012 Ed.)

### 82.29A.010 Legislative findings and recognition.

(1)(a) The legislature hereby recognizes that properties of the state of Washington, counties, school districts, and other municipal corporations are exempted by Article 7, section 1 of the state Constitution from property tax obligations, but that private lessees of such public properties receive substantial benefits from governmental services provided by units of government.

(b) The legislature further recognizes that a uniform method of taxation should apply to such leasehold interests in publicly owned property.

(c) The legislature finds that lessees of publicly owned property or community centers are entitled to those same governmental services and does hereby provide for a leasehold excise tax to fairly compensate governmental units for services rendered to such lessees of publicly owned property or community centers. For the purposes of this subsection, "community center" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 84.36.010.

(2) The legislature further finds that experience gained by lessors, lessees, and the department of revenue since enactment of the leasehold excise tax under this chapter has shed light on areas in the leasehold excise statutes that need explanation and clarification. The purpose of chapter 220, Laws of 1999 is to make those changes. [2010 c 281 § 2; 1999 c 220 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 1.]

**Application—2010 c 281:** See note following RCW 84.36.010.

**82.29A.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context requires otherwise.

(1) "Leasehold interest" means an interest in publicly owned real or personal property which exists by virtue of any lease, permit, license, or any other agreement, written or verbal, between the public owner of the property and a person who would not be exempt from property taxes if that person owned the property in fee, granting possession and use, to a degree less than fee simple ownership. However, no interest in personal property (excluding land or buildings) which is owned by the United States, whether or not as trustee, or by any foreign government may constitute a leasehold interest hereunder when the right to use such property is granted pursuant to a contract solely for the manufacture or production of articles for sale to the United States or any foreign government. The term "leasehold interest" includes the rights of use or occupancy by others of property which is owned in fee or held in trust by a public corporation, commission, or authority created under RCW 35.21.730 or 35.21.660 if the property is listed on or is within a district listed on any federal or state register of historical sites. The term "leasehold interest" does not include road or utility easements, rights of access, occupancy, or use granted solely for the purpose of removing materials or products purchased from a public owner or the lessee of a public owner, or rights of access, occupancy, or use granted solely for the purpose of natural energy resource exploration. "Leasehold interest" does not include the preferential use of publicly owned cargo cranes and docks and associated areas used in the loading and discharging of cargo located at a port district marine facility. "Preferential use" means that publicly owned real or personal property is used by a private party under a written agreement with the public

owner, but the public owner or any third party maintains a right to use the property when not being used by the private party.

(2)(a) "Taxable rent" means contract rent as defined in (c) of this subsection in all cases where the lease or agreement has been established or renegotiated through competitive bidding, or negotiated or renegotiated in accordance with statutory requirements regarding the rent payable, or negotiated or renegotiated under circumstances, established by public record, clearly showing that the contract rent was the maximum attainable by the lessor. However, after January 1, 1986, with respect to any lease which has been in effect for ten years or more without renegotiation, taxable rent may be established by procedures set forth in (g) of this subsection. All other leasehold interests are subject to the determination of taxable rent under the terms of (g) of this subsection.

(b) For purposes of determining leasehold excise tax on any lands on the Hanford reservation subleased to a private or public entity by the department of ecology, taxable rent includes only the annual cash rental payment made by such entity to the department of ecology as specifically referred to as rent in the sublease agreement between the parties and does not include any other fees, assessments, or charges imposed on or collected by such entity irrespective of whether the private or public entity pays or collects such other fees, assessments, or charges as specified in the sublease agreement.

(c) "Contract rent" means the amount of consideration due as payment for a leasehold interest, including: The total of cash payments made to the lessor or to another party for the benefit of the lessor according to the requirements of the lease or agreement, including any rents paid by a sublessee; expenditures for the protection of the lessor's interest when required by the terms of the lease or agreement; and expenditures for improvements to the property to the extent that such improvements become the property of the lessor. Where the consideration conveyed for the leasehold interest is made in combination with payment for concession or other rights granted by the lessor, only that portion of such payment which represents consideration for the leasehold interest is part of contract rent.

(d) "Contract rent" does not include: (i) Expenditures made by the lessee, which under the terms of the lease or agreement, are to be reimbursed by the lessor to the lessee or expenditures for improvements and protection made pursuant to a lease or an agreement which requires that the use of the improved property be open to the general public and that no profit will inure to the lessee from the lease; (ii) expenditures made by the lessee for the replacement or repair of facilities due to fire or other casualty including payments for insurance to provide reimbursement for losses or payments to a public or private entity for protection of such property from damage or loss or for alterations or additions made necessary by an action of government taken after the date of the execution of the lease or agreement; (iii) improvements added to publicly owned property by a sublessee under an agreement executed prior to January 1, 1976, which have been taxed as personal property of the sublessee prior to January 1, 1976, or improvements made by a sublessee of the same lessee under a similar agreement executed prior to January 1, 1976, and such improvements are taxable to the sublessee as personal

property; (iv) improvements added to publicly owned property if such improvements are being taxed as personal property to any person.

(e) Any prepaid contract rent is considered to have been paid in the year due and not in the year actually paid with respect to prepayment for a period of more than one year. Expenditures for improvements with a useful life of more than one year which are included as part of contract rent must be treated as prepaid contract rent and prorated over the useful life of the improvement or the remaining term of the lease or agreement if the useful life is in excess of the remaining term of the lease or agreement. Rent prepaid prior to January 1, 1976, must be prorated from the date of prepayment.

(f) With respect to a "product lease", the value is that value determined at the time of sale under terms of the lease.

(g) If it is determined by the department of revenue, upon examination of a lessee's accounts or those of a lessor of publicly owned property, that a lessee is occupying or using publicly owned property in such a manner as to create a leasehold interest and that such leasehold interest has not been established through competitive bidding, or negotiated in accordance with statutory requirements regarding the rent payable, or negotiated under circumstances, established by public record, clearly showing that the contract rent was the maximum attainable by the lessor, the department may establish a taxable rent computation for use in determining the tax payable under authority granted in this chapter based upon the following criteria: (i) Consideration must be given to rental being paid to other lessors by lessees of similar property for similar purposes over similar periods of time; (ii) consideration must be given to what would be considered a fair rate of return on the market value of the property leased less reasonable deductions for any restrictions on use, special operating requirements or provisions for concurrent use by the lessor, another person or the general public.

(3) "Product lease" as used in this chapter means a lease of property for use in the production of agricultural or marine products to the extent that such lease provides for the contract rent to be paid by the delivery of a stated percentage of the production of such agricultural or marine products to the credit of the lessor or the payment to the lessor of a stated percentage of the proceeds from the sale of such products.

(4) "Renegotiated" means a change in the lease agreement which changes the agreed time of possession, restrictions on use, the rate of the cash rental or of any other consideration payable by the lessee to or for the benefit of the lessor, other than any such change required by the terms of the lease or agreement. In addition "renegotiated" means a continuation of possession by the lessee beyond the date when, under the terms of the lease agreement, the lessee had the right to vacate the premises without any further liability to the lessor.

(5) "City" means any city or town.

(6) "Products" includes natural resource products such as cut or picked evergreen foliage, Cascara bark, wild edible mushrooms, native ornamental trees and shrubs, ore and minerals, natural gas, geothermal water and steam, and forage removed through the grazing of livestock. [2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 501; 1999 c 220 § 2; 1991 c 272 § 23; 1986 c 285 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 196 § 11; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 2.]

**Existing rights, liabilities, or obligations—Effective dates—Contingent effective dates—2012 2nd sp.s. c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.04.29005.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.030 Tax imposed—Credit—Additional tax imposed.** (1)(a) There is levied and collected a leasehold excise tax on the act or privilege of occupying or using publicly owned real or personal property or real or personal property of a community center through a leasehold interest on and after January 1, 1976, at a rate of twelve percent of taxable rent. However, after the computation of the tax a credit is allowed for any tax collected pursuant to RCW 82.29A.040.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "community center" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 84.36.010.

(2) An additional tax is imposed equal to the rate specified in RCW 82.02.030 multiplied by the tax payable under subsection (1) of this section. [2010 c 281 § 3; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 18; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 11; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 3.]

**Application—2010 c 281:** See note following RCW 84.36.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.040 Counties and cities authorized to impose tax—Maximum rate—Credit—Collection.** The legislative body of any county or city is hereby authorized to levy and collect a leasehold excise tax on the act or privilege of occupying or using publicly owned real or personal property through a leasehold interest in publicly owned property within the territorial limits of such county or city. The tax levied by a county under authority of this section shall not exceed six percent and the tax levied by a city shall not exceed four percent of taxable rent: PROVIDED, That any county ordinance levying such tax shall contain a provision allowing a credit against the county tax for the full amount of any city tax imposed upon the same taxable event.

The department of revenue shall perform the collection of such taxes on behalf of such county or city. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 4.]

**82.29A.050 Payment—Due dates—Collection and remittance—Liability—Reporting.** (1) The leasehold excise taxes provided for in RCW 82.29A.030 and 82.29A.040 shall be paid by the lessee to the lessor and the lessor shall collect such tax and remit the same to the department of revenue. The tax shall be payable at the same time as payments are due to the lessor for use of the property from which the leasehold interest arises, and in the case of payment of contract rent to a person other than the lessor, at the time of payment. The tax payment shall be accompanied by such information as the department of revenue may require. In the case of prepaid contract rent the payment may be prorated in accordance with instructions of the department of revenue and the prorated portion of the tax shall be due, one-half not later than May 31 and the other half not later than November 30 each year.

(2) The lessor receiving taxes payable under the provisions of this chapter shall remit the same together with a return provided by the department, to the department of revenue on or before the last day of the month following the

month in which the tax is collected. The department may relieve any taxpayer or class of taxpayers from the obligation of filing monthly returns and may require the return to cover other reporting periods, but in no event shall returns be filed for a period greater than one year. The lessor shall be fully liable for collection and remittance of the tax. The amount of tax until paid by the lessee to the lessor shall constitute a debt from the lessee to the lessor. The tax required by this chapter shall be stated separately from contract rent, and if not so separately stated for purposes of determining the tax due from the lessee to the lessor and from the lessor to the department, the contract rent does not include the tax imposed by this chapter. Where a lessee has failed to pay to the lessor the tax imposed by this chapter and the lessor has not paid the amount of the tax to the department, the department may, in its discretion, proceed directly against the lessee for collection of the tax: PROVIDED, That taxes due where contract rent has not been paid shall be reported by the lessor to the department and the lessee alone shall be liable for payment of the tax to the department.

(3) Each person having a leasehold interest subject to the tax provided for in this chapter arising out of a lease of federally owned or federal trust lands shall report and remit the tax due directly to the department of revenue in the same manner and at the same time as the lessor would be required to report and remit the tax if such lessor were a state public entity. [1992 c 206 § 6; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.060 Administration—Appraisal appeal—Audits.** (1) All administrative provisions in chapters 82.02 and 82.32 RCW shall be applicable to taxes imposed pursuant to this chapter.

(2) A lessee, or a sublessee in the case where the sublessee is responsible for paying the tax imposed under this chapter, of property used for residential purposes may petition the county board of equalization for a change in appraised value when the department of revenue establishes taxable rent under \*RCW 82.29A.020(2)(b) based on an appraisal done by the county assessor at the request of the department. The petition must be on forms prescribed or approved by the department of revenue and any petition not conforming to those requirements or not properly completed shall not be considered by the board. The petition must be filed with the board within the time period set forth in RCW 84.40.038. A decision of the board of equalization may be appealed by the taxpayer to the board of tax appeals as provided in RCW 84.08.130.

A sublessee, in the case where the sublessee is responsible for paying the tax imposed under this chapter, of property used for residential purposes may petition the department for a change in taxable rent when the department of revenue establishes taxable rent under \*RCW 82.29A.020(2)(b).

Any change in tax resulting from an appeal under this subsection shall be allocated to the lessee or sublessee responsible for paying the tax.

(3) This section shall not authorize the issuance of any levy upon any property owned by the public lessor.

(4) In selecting leasehold excise tax returns for audit the department of revenue shall give priority to any return an audit of which is specifically requested in writing by the

county assessor or treasurer or other chief financial officer of any city or county affected by such return. Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 82.32.330, findings of fact and determinations of the amount of taxable rent made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times. [1994 c 95 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.29A.020 was amended by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 501, changing subsection (2)(b) to subsection (2)(g).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.070 Disposition of revenue.** All moneys received by the department of revenue from taxes levied under provisions of RCW 82.29A.030 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and deposited in the general fund. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 7.]

**82.29A.080 Counties and cities to contract with state for administration and collection—Local leasehold excise tax account.** The counties and cities shall contract, prior to the effective date of an ordinance imposing a leasehold excise tax, with the department of revenue for administration and collection. The department of revenue shall deduct a percentage amount, as provided by such contract, not to exceed two percent of the taxes collected, for administration and collection expenses incurred by the department. The remainder of any portion of any tax authorized by RCW 82.29A.040, which is collected by the department of revenue, must be remitted to the state treasurer who shall deposit the funds in the local leasehold excise tax account hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys in the local leasehold excise tax account may be spent only for distribution to counties and cities imposing a leasehold excise tax. [2008 c 86 § 401; 2002 c 371 § 925; 1985 c 57 § 84; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 4 § 8; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 8.]

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 371:** See notes following RCW 9.46.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.090 Distributions to counties and cities.** (1) Bimonthly the state treasurer shall make distribution from the local leasehold excise tax account to the counties and cities the amount of tax collected on behalf of each county or city.

(2) Earnings accrued through July 31, 2002, shall be disbursed to counties and cities proportionate to the amount of tax collected annually on behalf of each county or city.

(3) After July 31, 2002, bimonthly the state treasurer shall disburse earnings from the local leasehold excise tax account to the counties or cities proportionate to the amount of tax collected on behalf of each county or city.

(4) The state treasurer shall make the distribution under this section without appropriation. [2002 c 177 § 1; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 4 § 9; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.100 Distributions by county treasurers.** Any moneys received by a county from the leasehold excise tax provided for under RCW 82.29A.040 shall be distributed proportionately by the county treasurer in accordance with

RCW 84.56.230 as though such moneys were receipts from regular ad valorem property tax levies within such county: PROVIDED, That no distribution shall be made to the state or any city: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the pro rata calculation for proportionate distribution to taxing districts shall not include consideration of any rate(s) of levy by the state or any city. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 10.]

**82.29A.110 Consistency and uniformity of local leasehold tax with state leasehold tax—Model ordinance.**

It is the intent of this chapter that any local leasehold excise tax adopted pursuant to this chapter be as consistent and uniform as possible with the state leasehold excise tax. It is further the intent of this chapter that the local leasehold excise tax shall be imposed upon an individual taxable event simultaneously with the imposition of the state leasehold excise tax upon the same taxable event. The department shall, as soon as practicable, and with the assistance of the appropriate associations of county prosecutors and city attorneys, draft a model ordinance. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 11.]

**82.29A.120 Allowable credits.** After computation of the taxes imposed pursuant to RCW 82.29A.030 and 82.29A.040 there shall be allowed the following credits in determining the tax payable:

(1) With respect to a leasehold interest other than a product lease, executed with an effective date of April 1, 1986, or thereafter, or a leasehold interest in respect to which the department of revenue under the authority of RCW 82.29A.020 does adjust the contract rent base used for computing the tax provided for in RCW 82.29A.030, there shall be allowed a credit against the tax as otherwise computed equal to the amount, if any, that such tax exceeds the property tax that would apply to such leased property without regard to any property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.381, if it were privately owned by the lessee or if it were privately owned by any sublessee if the value of the credit inures to the sublessee. For lessees and sublessees who would qualify for a property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.381 if the property were privately owned, the tax otherwise due after this credit shall be reduced by a percentage equal to the percentage reduction in property tax that would result from the property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.381.

(2) With respect to a product lease, a credit of thirty-three percent of the tax otherwise due. [1994 c 95 § 2; 1986 c 285 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.125 Exemptions—Electric vehicle infrastructure. (Expires January 1, 2020.)** (1) Leasehold excise tax may not be imposed on leases to tenants of public lands for purposes of installing, maintaining, and operating electric vehicle infrastructure.

(2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Battery charging station" means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(b) "Battery exchange station" means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(c) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

(d) "Rapid charging station" means an industrial grade electrical outlet that allows for faster recharging of electric vehicle batteries through higher power levels, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.28 RCW and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

(3) This section expires January 1, 2020. [2009 c 459 § 3.]

**Finding—Purpose—2009 c 459:** See note following RCW 47.80.090. *Regional transportation planning organizations—Electric vehicle infrastructure: RCW 47.80.090.*

**82.29A.130 Exemptions—Certain property.** The following leasehold interests shall be exempt from taxes imposed pursuant to RCW 82.29A.030 and 82.29A.040:

(1) All leasehold interests constituting a part of the operating properties of any public utility which is assessed and taxed as a public utility pursuant to chapter 84.12 RCW.

(2) All leasehold interests in facilities owned or used by a school, college or university which leasehold provides housing for students and which is otherwise exempt from taxation under provisions of RCW 84.36.010 and 84.36.050.

(3) All leasehold interests of subsidized housing where the fee ownership of such property is vested in the government of the United States, or the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof but only if income qualification exists for such housing.

(4) All leasehold interests used for fair purposes of a nonprofit fair association that sponsors or conducts a fair or fairs which receive support from revenues collected pursuant to RCW 67.16.100 and allocated by the director of the department of agriculture where the fee ownership of such property is vested in the government of the United States, the state of Washington or any of its political subdivisions: PROVIDED, That this exemption shall not apply to the leasehold interest of any sublessee of such nonprofit fair association if such leasehold interest would be taxable if it were the primary lease.

(5) All leasehold interests in any property of any public entity used as a residence by an employee of that public entity who is required as a condition of employment to live in the publicly owned property.

(6) All leasehold interests held by enrolled Indians of lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribe where the fee ownership of such property is vested in or held in trust by the United States and which are not subleased to other than to a lessee which would qualify pursuant to this chapter, RCW 84.36.451 and 84.40.175.

(7) All leasehold interests in any real property of any Indian or Indian tribe, band, or community that is held in trust

by the United States or is subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States: PROVIDED, That this exemption shall apply only where it is determined that contract rent paid is greater than or equal to ninety percent of fair market rental, to be determined by the department of revenue using the same criteria used to establish taxable rent in \*RCW 82.29A.020(2)(b).

(8) All leasehold interests for which annual taxable rent is less than two hundred fifty dollars per year. For purposes of this subsection leasehold interests held by the same lessee in contiguous properties owned by the same lessor shall be deemed a single leasehold interest.

(9) All leasehold interests which give use or possession of the leased property for a continuous period of less than thirty days: PROVIDED, That for purposes of this subsection, successive leases or lease renewals giving substantially continuous use of possession of the same property to the same lessee shall be deemed a single leasehold interest: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no leasehold interest shall be deemed to give use or possession for a period of less than thirty days solely by virtue of the reservation by the public lessor of the right to use the property or to allow third parties to use the property on an occasional, temporary basis.

(10) All leasehold interests under month-to-month leases in residential units rented for residential purposes of the lessee pending destruction or removal for the purpose of constructing a public highway or building.

(11) All leasehold interests in any publicly owned real or personal property to the extent such leasehold interests arises solely by virtue of a contract for public improvements or work executed under the public works statutes of this state or of the United States between the public owner of the property and a contractor.

(12) All leasehold interests that give use or possession of state adult correctional facilities for the purposes of operating correctional industries under RCW 72.09.100.

(13) All leasehold interests used to provide organized and supervised recreational activities for persons with disabilities of all ages in a camp facility and for public recreational purposes by a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation that would be exempt from property tax under RCW 84.36.030(1) if it owned the property. If the publicly owned property is used for any taxable purpose, the leasehold excise taxes set forth in RCW 82.29A.030 and 82.29A.040 shall be imposed and shall be apportioned accordingly.

(14) All leasehold interests in the public or entertainment areas of a baseball stadium with natural turf and a retractable roof or canopy that is in a county with a population of over one million, that has a seating capacity of over forty thousand, and that is constructed on or after January 1, 1995. "Public or entertainment areas" include ticket sales areas, ramps and stairs, lobbies and concourses, parking areas, concession areas, restaurants, hospitality and stadium club areas, kitchens or other work areas primarily servicing other public or entertainment areas, public rest room areas, press and media areas, control booths, broadcast and production areas, retail sales areas, museum and exhibit areas, scoreboards or other public displays, storage areas, loading, staging, and servicing areas, seating areas and suites, the playing field, and any other areas to which the public has access or which are used for the production of the entertainment event or other

public usage, and any other personal property used for these purposes. "Public or entertainment areas" does not include locker rooms or private offices exclusively used by the lessee.

(15) All leasehold interests in the public or entertainment areas of a stadium and exhibition center, as defined in RCW 36.102.010, that is constructed on or after January 1, 1998. For the purposes of this subsection, "public or entertainment areas" has the same meaning as in subsection (14) of this section, and includes exhibition areas.

(16) All leasehold interests in public facilities districts, as provided in chapter 36.100 or 35.57 RCW.

(17) All leasehold interests in property that is: (a) Owned by the United States government or a municipal corporation; (b) listed on any federal or state register of historical sites; and (c) wholly contained within a designated national historic reserve under 16 U.S.C. Sec. 461.

(18) All leasehold interests in the public or entertainment areas of an amphitheater if a private entity is responsible for one hundred percent of the cost of constructing the amphitheater which is not reimbursed by the public owner, both the public owner and the private lessee sponsor events at the facility on a regular basis, the lessee is responsible under the lease or agreement to operate and maintain the facility, and the amphitheater has a seating capacity of over seventeen thousand reserved and general admission seats and is in a county that had a population of over three hundred fifty thousand, but less than four hundred twenty-five thousand when the amphitheater first opened to the public.

For the purposes of this subsection, "public or entertainment areas" include box offices or other ticket sales areas, entrance gates, ramps and stairs, lobbies and concourses, parking areas, concession areas, restaurants, hospitality areas, kitchens or other work areas primarily servicing other public or entertainment areas, public rest room areas, press and media areas, control booths, broadcast and production areas, retail sales areas, museum and exhibit areas, scoreboards or other public displays, storage areas, loading, staging, and servicing areas, seating areas including lawn seating areas and suites, stages, and any other areas to which the public has access or which are used for the production of the entertainment event or other public usage, and any other personal property used for these purposes. "Public or entertainment areas" does not include office areas used predominately by the lessee.

(19) All leasehold interests in real property used for the placement of military housing meeting the requirements of RCW 84.36.665. [2008 c 194 § 1; 2008 c 84 § 2; 2007 c 90 § 1. Prior: 2005 c 514 § 601; 2005 c 170 § 1; 1999 c 165 § 21; 1997 c 220 § 202 (Referendum Bill No. 48, approved June 17, 1997); 1995 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 307; 1995 c 138 § 1; 1992 c 123 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 13.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 82.29A.020 was amended by 2012 2nd sp.s. c 6 § 501, changing subsection (2)(b) to subsection (2)(g).

(2) This section was amended by 2008 c 84 § 2 and by 2008 c 194 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**Referendum—Other legislation limited—Legislators' personal intent not indicated—Reimbursements for election—Voters' pamphlet, election requirements—1997 c 220:** See RCW 36.102.800 through 36.102.803.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.132 Exemptions—Operation of state route No. 16.** All leasehold interests in the state route number 16 corridor transportation systems and facilities constructed and operated under chapter 47.46 RCW are exempt from tax under this chapter. [1998 c 179 § 6.]

**Finding—1998 c 179:** See note following RCW 35.21.718.

**82.29A.134 Exemptions—Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.** All leasehold interests in property of a regional transit authority or public corporation created under RCW 81.112.320 under an agreement under RCW 81.112.300 are exempt from tax under this chapter. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 25.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**82.29A.135 Exemptions—Property used to manufacture alcohol, biodiesel, or wood biomass fuel.** (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Alcohol fuel" means any alcohol made from a product other than petroleum or natural gas, which is used alone or in combination with gasoline or other petroleum products for use as a fuel for motor vehicles, farm implements, and machines or implements of husbandry.

(b) "Anaerobic digester" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.08.900.

(c) "Biodiesel feedstock" means oil that is produced from an agricultural crop for the sole purpose of ultimately producing biodiesel fuel.

(d) "Biodiesel fuel" means a mono alkyl ester of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats for use in compression-ignition engines and that meets the requirements of the American society of testing and materials specification D 6751 in effect as of January 1, 2003.

(e) "Wood biomass fuel" means a pyrolytic liquid fuel or synthesis gas-derived liquid fuel, used in internal combustion engines, and produced from wood, forest, or field residue, or dedicated energy crops that do not include wood pieces that have been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol, or copper-chrome-arsenic.

(2)(a) All leasehold interests in buildings, machinery, equipment, and other personal property which are used primarily for the manufacturing of alcohol fuel, wood biomass fuel, biodiesel fuel, biodiesel feedstock, or the operation of an anaerobic digester, the land upon which this property is located, and land that is reasonably necessary in the manufacturing of alcohol fuel, wood biomass fuel, biodiesel fuel, biodiesel feedstock, or the operation of an anaerobic digester, but not land necessary for growing of crops, which together comprise a new manufacturing facility or an addition to an existing manufacturing facility, are exempt from leasehold taxes for a period of six years from the date on which the facility or the addition to the existing facility becomes operational.

(b) For manufacturing facilities which produce products in addition to alcohol fuel, wood biomass fuel, biodiesel fuel,

or biodiesel feedstock, the amount of the leasehold tax exemption is based upon the annual percentage of the total value of all products manufactured that is the value of the alcohol fuel, wood biomass fuel, biodiesel fuel, and biodiesel feedstock manufactured.

(3) Claims for exemptions authorized by this section must be filed with the department of revenue on forms prescribed by the department of revenue and furnished by the department of revenue. Once filed, the exemption is valid for six years and may not be renewed. The department of revenue must verify and approve claims as the department of revenue determines to be justified and in accordance with this section. No claims may be filed after December 31, 2015, except for claims for anaerobic digesters, which may be filed no later than December 31, 2012.

The department of revenue may promulgate such rules, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, as are necessary to properly administer this section. [2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 6; 2008 c 268 § 2. Prior: 2003 c 339 § 10; 2003 c 261 § 10; 1985 c 371 § 3; 1980 c 157 § 2.]

**Effective date—2008 c 268:** See note following RCW 84.36.635.

**Effective dates—2003 c 339:** See note following RCW 84.36.640.

**Effective dates—2003 c 261:** See note following RCW 84.36.635.

**82.29A.136 Exemptions—Certain residential and recreational lots.** All leasehold interests consisting of three thousand or more residential and recreational lots that are or may be subleased for residential and recreational purposes are exempt from tax under this chapter. [2001 c 26 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.29A.137 Exemptions—Certain leasehold interests related to the manufacture of superefficient airplanes. (Expires July 1, 2024.)** (1) All leasehold interests in port district facilities exempt from tax under RCW 82.08.980 or 82.12.980 and used by a manufacturer engaged in the manufacturing of superefficient airplanes, as defined in RCW 82.32.550, are exempt from tax under this chapter. A person claiming the credit under RCW 82.04.4463 is not eligible for the exemption under this section.

(2) In addition to all other requirements under this title, a person claiming the exemption under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2024. [2010 c 114 § 134; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 13.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**82.29A.138 Exemptions—Certain amateur radio repeaters.** (1) All leasehold interests in property used for the placement of amateur radio repeaters that are made available for use by, or are used in support of, a public agency in the event of an emergency or potential emergency to which the agency is, or may be, a qualified responder, are exempt from tax under this chapter.

(2) For purposes of this section, "amateur radio repeater" means an electronic device that receives a weak or low-level amateur radio signal and retransmits it at a higher level or higher power, so that the signal can cover longer distances

(2012 Ed.)

without degradation, and is used by amateur radio operators possessing a valid license issued by the federal communications commission. [2007 c 21 § 1.]

**82.29A.140 Rules and regulations.** The department of revenue of the state of Washington shall make such rules and regulations consistent with chapter 34.05 RCW and the provisions of this chapter, RCW 84.36.451 and 84.40.175 as shall be necessary to permit its effective administration including procedures for collection and remittance of taxes imposed by this chapter, and for intervention by the cities and counties levying under RCW 82.29A.040, in proceedings involving such levies and taxes collected pursuant thereto. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 16.]

**82.29A.160 Improvements not defined as contract rent taxable under Title 84 RCW.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, RCW 84.36.451 and 84.40.175, improvements owned or being acquired by contract purchase or otherwise by any lessee or sublessee which are not defined as contract rent shall be taxable to such lessee or sublessee under Title 84 RCW at their full true and fair value without any deduction for interests held by the lessor or others. [1986 c 251 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 18.]

**Chapter 82.32 RCW  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

Sections	
82.32.010	Application of chapter stated.
82.32.020	Definitions.
82.32.023	Definition of product for agreement purposes.
82.32.026	Registration—Seller's agent—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
82.32.030	Registration certificates—Threshold levels—Central registration system.
82.32.033	Registration certificates—Special events—Promoter's duties—Penalties—Definitions.
82.32.045	Taxes—When due and payable—Reporting periods—Verified annual returns—Relief from filing requirements.
82.32.050	Deficient tax or penalty payments—Notice—Interest—Limitations—Time extension or correction of an assessment during state of emergency.
82.32.052	Interest and penalties—Waiver for amounts unpaid as of February 1, 2011.
82.32.055	Interest and penalties—Waiver for military personnel.
82.32.060	Excess payment of tax, penalty, or interest—Credit or refund—Payment of judgments for refund.
82.32.062	Additional offset for excess payment of sales tax.
82.32.065	Tax refund to consumer under new motor vehicle warranty laws—Credit or refund to new motor vehicle manufacturer.
82.32.070	Records to be preserved—Examination—Estoppel to question assessment—Unified business identifier account number records.
82.32.080	Payment by check—Electronic funds transfer—Rules—Mailing returns or remittances—Time extension—Deposits—Time extension during state of emergency—Records—Payment must accompany return.
82.32.085	Electronic funds transfer—Generally.
82.32.087	Direct pay permits.
82.32.090	Late payment—Disregard of written instructions—Evasion—Penalties.
82.32.100	Failure to file returns or provide records—Assessment of tax by department—Penalties and interest.
82.32.105	Waiver or cancellation of penalties or interest—Rules.
82.32.110	Examination of books or records—Subpoenas—Contempt of court.
82.32.117	Application for court approval of subpoena prior to issuance—No notice required.
82.32.120	Oaths and acknowledgments.
82.32.130	Notice and orders—Service.
82.32.135	Notice, assessment, other information—Electronic delivery.
82.32.140	Taxpayer quitting business—Liability of successor.

- 82.32.145 Limited liability business entity—Terminated, dissolved, abandoned, insolvent—Collection of unpaid trust fund taxes.
- 82.32.150 Contest of tax—Prepayment required—Restraining orders and injunctions barred.
- 82.32.160 Correction of tax—Administrative procedure—Conference—Determination by department.
- 82.32.170 Reduction of tax after payment—Petition—Conference—Determination by department.
- 82.32.180 Court appeal—Procedure.
- 82.32.190 Stay of collection pending suit—Interest.
- 82.32.200 Stay of collection—Bond—Interest.
- 82.32.210 Tax warrant—Filing—Lien—Effect.
- 82.32.212 Tax warrant—Notice of lien.
- 82.32.215 Revocation of certificate of registration.
- 82.32.220 Execution of warrant—Levy upon property—Satisfaction.
- 82.32.230 Agent of the department of revenue may execute.
- 82.32.235 Notice and order to withhold and deliver property due or owned by taxpayer—Bond—Judgment by default.
- 82.32.237 Notice and order to withhold and deliver—Continuing lien—Effective date.
- 82.32.240 Tax constitutes debt to the state—Priority of lien.
- 82.32.245 Search for and seizure of property—Warrant—Procedure.
- 82.32.260 Payment condition to dissolution or withdrawal of corporation.
- 82.32.265 Use of collection agencies to collect taxes outside the state.
- 82.32.270 Accounting period prescribed.
- 82.32.280 Tax declared additional.
- 82.32.290 Unlawful acts—Penalties.
- 82.32.291 Reseller permit—Unlawful use—Penalty—Rules.
- 82.32.300 Department of revenue to administer—Chapters enforced by liquor control board.
- 82.32.310 Immunity of officers, agents, etc., of the department of revenue acting in good faith.
- 82.32.320 Revenue to state treasurer—Allocation for return or payment for less than the full amount due.
- 82.32.330 Disclosure of return or tax information.
- 82.32.340 Chargeoff of uncollectible taxes—Destruction of files and records.
- 82.32.350 Closing agreements authorized.
- 82.32.360 Conclusive effect of agreements.
- 82.32.380 Revenues to be deposited in general fund.
- 82.32.393 Thermal electric generation facilities with tax exemptions for air pollution control equipment—Payments upon cessation of operation.
- 82.32.394 Revenues from sale or use of leaded racing fuel to be deposited into the advanced environmental mitigation revolving account.
- 82.32.410 Written determinations as precedents.
- 82.32.430 Liability for tax rate calculation errors—Geographic information system.
- 82.32.440 Project on sales and use tax exemption requirements.
- 82.32.450 Natural or manufactured gas, electricity—Maximum combined credits and deferrals allowed—Availability of credits and deferrals.
- 82.32.470 Transfer of sales and use tax on toll projects.
- 82.32.480 Washington forest products commission—Disclosure of taxpayer information.
- 82.32.490 Electronic database for use by mobile telecommunications service provider.
- 82.32.495 Liability of mobile telecommunications service provider if no database provided.
- 82.32.500 Determination of taxing jurisdiction for telecommunications services.
- 82.32.505 Telecommunications services—Place of primary use.
- 82.32.510 Scope of mobile telecommunications act—Identification of taxable and nontaxable charges.
- 82.32.515 Applicability of telephone and telecommunications definitions.
- 82.32.520 Sourcing of calls.
- 82.32.525 Purchaser's cause of action for over-collected sales or use tax.
- 82.32.530 Seller nexus.
- 82.32.532 Digital products—Nexus.
- 82.32.533 Digital products—Amnesty.
- 82.32.534 Annual report requirement for tax preferences.
- 82.32.550 "Commercial airplane," "component," and "superefficient airplane"—Definitions.
- 82.32.555 Telecommunications and ancillary services taxes—Identification of taxable and nontaxable charges.
- 82.32.580 Sales and use tax deferral—Historic automobile museum.
- 82.32.585 Annual survey requirement for tax preferences.
- 82.32.590 Annual surveys or reports for tax incentives—Failure to file.
- 82.32.600 Annual surveys or reports for tax incentives—Electronic filing.
- 82.32.655 Tax avoidance.
- 82.32.660 Tax avoidance—Statutory application.
- 82.32.700 Administration of the sales and use tax for hospital benefit zones.
- 82.32.710 Professional employer organizations—Eligibility for tax incentives—Responsibility for reports/surveys.
- 82.32.715 Monetary allowances—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.720 Vendor compensation—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.725 Amnesty—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.730 Sourcing—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.735 Confidentiality and privacy—Certified service providers—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.740 Taxability matrix—Liability—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.745 Software certification by department—Classifications—Liability—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.750 Purchaser liability—Penalty—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.755 Sourcing compliance—Taxpayer relief—Interest and penalties—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.760 Sourcing compliance—Taxpayer relief—Credits—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.
- 82.32.765 Local revitalization financing—Reporting requirements.
- 82.32.770 Sourcing compliance—Tax payer relief—Collection and remittance errors.
- 82.32.780 Reseller's permit—Taxpayer application.
- 82.32.783 Reseller's permit—Contractor application.
- 82.32.784 Reseller's permit—Information required.
- 82.32.785 Reseller's permit—Voluntary electronic verification.
- 82.32.787 Reseller's permit—Request for copies.
- 82.32.790 Tax incentives contingent upon semiconductor microchip fabrication facility siting and operation.
- 82.32.795 Candy list—Compilation.
- 82.32.800 Contributions of high technology research and development tax credit—Opportunity expansion account.

*Debts owed state: RCW 43.17.240.*

*Refunds of erroneous or excessive payments: RCW 43.88.170.*

*Tax returns, remittances, etc., filing and receipt when transmitted by mail: RCW 1.12.070.*

**82.32.010 Application of chapter stated.** The provisions of this chapter apply with respect to the taxes imposed under chapters 82.04 through 82.14 RCW, under chapter 82.14B RCW, under chapters 82.16 through 82.29A RCW of this title, under chapter 84.33 RCW, and under other titles, chapters, and sections in such manner and to such extent as indicated in each such title, chapter, or section. [2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 13; 1998 c 304 § 12; 1984 c 204 § 26; 1983 c 3 § 219; 1981 c 148 § 12; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.010. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 185; RRS § 8370-185.]

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**Purpose—Severability—Effective dates—1981 c 148:** See notes following RCW 84.33.130.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.020 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) The meaning attributed in chapters 82.01 through 82.27 RCW to the words and phrases "tax year," "taxable year," "person," "company," "gross proceeds of sales," "gross income of the business," "business," "engaging in business," "successor," "gross operating revenue," "gross income," "taxpayer," "retail sale," "seller," "buyer," "purchaser," "extended warranty," and "value of products" shall apply equally to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) Whenever "property" or "personal property" is used, those terms must be construed to include digital goods and digital codes unless: (a) It is clear from the context that the

term "personal property" is intended only to refer to tangible personal property; (b) it is clear from the context that the term "property" is intended only to refer to tangible personal property, real property, or both; or (c) to construe the term "property" or "personal property" as including digital goods and digital codes would yield unlikely, absurd, or strained consequences.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Agreement" means the streamlined sales and use tax agreement.

(b) "Associate member" means a petitioning state that is found to be in compliance with the agreement and changes to its laws, rules, or other authorities necessary to bring it into compliance are not in effect, but are scheduled to take effect on or before January 1, 2008. The petitioning states, by majority vote, may also grant associate member status to a petitioning state that does not receive an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the petitioning states upon a finding that the state has achieved substantial compliance with the terms of the agreement as a whole, but not necessarily each required provision, measured qualitatively, and there is a reasonable expectation that the state will achieve compliance by January 1, 2008.

(c) "Certified automated system" means software certified under the agreement to calculate the tax imposed by each jurisdiction on a transaction, determine the amount of tax to remit to the appropriate state, and maintain a record of the transaction.

(d) "Certified service provider" means an agent certified under the agreement to perform all of the seller's sales and use tax functions, other than the seller's obligation to remit tax on its own purchases.

(e)(i) "Member state" means a state that:

(A) Has petitioned for membership in the agreement and submitted a certificate of compliance; and

(B) Before the effective date of the agreement, has been found to be in compliance with the requirements of the agreement by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the other petitioning states; or

(C) After the effective date of the agreement, has been found to be in compliance with the agreement by a three-fourths vote of the entire governing board of the agreement.

(ii) Membership by reason of (e)(i)(A) and (B) of this subsection is effective on the first day of a calendar quarter at least sixty days after at least ten states comprising at least twenty percent of the total population, as determined by the 2000 federal census, of all states imposing a state sales tax have petitioned for membership and have either been found in compliance with the agreement or have been found to be an associate member under section 704 of the agreement.

(iii) Membership by reason of (e)(i)(A) and (C) of this subsection is effective on the state's proposed date of entry or the first day of the calendar quarter after its petition is approved by the governing board, whichever is later, and is at least sixty days after its petition is approved.

(f) "Model 1 seller" means a seller that has selected a certified service provider as its agent to perform all the seller's sales and use tax functions, other than the seller's obligation to remit tax on its own purchases.

(g) "Model 2 seller" means a seller that has selected a certified automated system to perform part of its sales and use tax functions, but retains responsibility for remitting the tax.

(h) "Model 3 seller" means a seller that has sales in at least five member states, has total annual sales revenue of at least five hundred million dollars, has a proprietary system that calculates the amount of tax due each jurisdiction, and has entered into a performance agreement with the member states that establishes a tax performance standard for the seller. As used in this subsection (3)(h), a seller includes an affiliated group of sellers using the same proprietary system.

(i) "Source" means the location in which the sale or use of tangible personal property, a digital good or digital code, an extended warranty, or a digital automated service or other service, subject to tax under chapter 82.08, 82.12, 82.14, or 82.14B RCW, is deemed to occur. [2009 c 535 § 1111; 2007 c 6 § 101; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 16; 1983 c 3 § 220; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.020. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 186; RRS § 8370-186.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—2007 c 6:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2007 c 6 § 1702.]

**Savings—2007 c 6:** "This act does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended or repealed in this act or under any rule or order adopted under those sections, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under those sections." [2007 c 6 § 1703.]

**Effective date—2007 c 6:** "Sections 101 through 105, 201, 202, 401, 501 through 503, 601, 701 through 703, 801, 802, 901 through 905, 1001, 1002, 1004, 1005, 1007 through 1013, 1015 through 1017, 1019 through 1024, 1101 through 1104, 1201 through 1203, 1302, 1401 through 1403, 1501, 1502, and 1601 of this act take effect July 1, 2008." [2007 c 6 § 1704.]

**Severability—2007 c 6:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2007 c 6 § 1708.]

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 63.29.020.

**82.32.023 Definition of product for agreement purposes.** For purposes of construing those provisions of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement that have been incorporated into this title, and unless the context requires otherwise, the terms "product" and "products" refer to tangible personal property, digital goods, digital codes, digital automated services, other services, extended warranties, and anything else that can be sold or used. [2009 c 535 § 1112; 2007 c 6 § 104.]

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.026 Registration—Seller's agent—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) A seller, by written agreement, may appoint a person to represent the seller as its agent. The seller's agent has authority to register the seller with the department under RCW 82.32.030. An agent may also be a certified service provider, with authority to perform all the seller's sales and use tax functions, except that the

seller remains responsible for remitting the tax on its own purchases.

(2) The seller or its agent must provide the department with a copy of the written agreement upon request. [2007 c 6 § 201.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.030 Registration certificates—Threshold lev- els—Central registration system.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, if any person engages in any business or performs any act upon which a tax is imposed by the preceding chapters, he or she must, under such rules as the department prescribes, apply for and obtain from the department a registration certificate. Such registra- tion certificate is personal and nontransferable and is valid as long as the taxpayer continues in business and pays the tax accrued to the state. In case business is transacted at two or more separate places by one taxpayer, a separate registration certificate for each place at which business is transacted with the public is required. Each certificate must be numbered and must show the name, residence, and place and character of business of the taxpayer and such other information as the department of revenue deems necessary and must be posted in a conspicuous place at the place of business for which it is issued. Where a place of business of the taxpayer is changed, the taxpayer must return to the department the existing certifi- cate, and a new certificate will be issued for the new place of business. No person required to be registered under this sec- tion may engage in any business taxable hereunder without first being so registered. The department, by rule, may pro- vide for the issuance of certificates of registration to tempo- rary places of business.

(2) Unless the person is a dealer as defined in RCW 9.41.010, registration under this section is not required if the following conditions are met:

(a) A person's value of products, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income of the business, from all business activities taxable under chapter 82.04 RCW, is less than twelve thou- sand dollars per year;

(b) The person's gross income of the business from all activities taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW is less than twelve thousand dollars per year;

(c) The person is not required to collect or pay to the department of revenue any other tax or fee which the depart- ment is authorized to collect; and

(d) The person is not otherwise required to obtain a license subject to the master application procedure provided in chapter 19.02 RCW.

(3) All persons who agree to collect and remit sales and use tax to the department under the agreement must register through the central registration system authorized under the agreement. Persons required to register under subsection (1) of this section are not relieved of that requirement because of registration under this subsection (3).

(4) Persons registered under subsection (3) of this sec- tion who are not required to register under subsection (1) of this section and who are not otherwise subject to the require- ments of chapter 19.02 RCW are not subject to the fees imposed by the department under the authority of RCW

19.02.075. [2011 c 298 § 38; 2007 c 6 § 202; 1996 c 111 § 2. Prior: 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 446; 1994 sp.s. c 2 § 2; 1992 c 206 § 8; 1982 1st ex.s. c 4 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 95 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 77; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.030; prior: 1941 c 178 § 19, part; 1937 c 227 § 16, part; 1935 c 180 § 187, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8370-187, part.]

**Purpose—Intent—Agency transfer—Contracting—Effective date—2011 c 289:** See notes following RCW 19.02.020.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability— 2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Findings—Purpose—1996 c 111:** "The legislature finds that small businesses play a vital role in the state's current and future economic health. The legislature also finds that the state's excise tax reporting and registration requirements are unduly burdensome for small businesses incurring little or no tax liability. The legislature recognizes the costs associated in complying with the reporting and registration requirements that are hindering the further development of those businesses. For these reasons the legislature with this act simplifies the tax reporting and registration requirements for certain small businesses." [1996 c 111 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.033 Registration certificates—Special events— Promoter's duties—Penalties—Definitions.** (1) A prom- oter of a special event within the state of Washington shall not permit a vendor to make or solicit retail sales of tangible personal property or services at the special event unless the promoter makes a good faith effort to obtain verification that the vendor has obtained a certificate of registration from the department.

(2) A promoter of a special event shall:

(a) Keep, in addition to the records required under RCW 82.32.070, a record of the dates and place of each special event, and the name, address, and registration certificate number of each vendor permitted to make or solicit retail sales of tangible personal property or services at the special event. The record of the date and place of a special event, and the name, address, and registration certificate number of each vendor at the event shall be preserved for a period of one year from the date of a special event; and

(b) Provide to the department, within twenty days of receipt of a written request from the department, a list of ven- dors permitted to make or solicit retail sales of tangible per- sonal property or services. The list shall be in a form and contain such information as the department may require, and shall include the date and place of the event, and the name, address, and registration certificate number of each vendor.

(3) If a promoter fails to make a good faith effort to com- ply with the provisions of this section, the promoter is liable for the penalties provided in this subsection (3).

(a) If a promoter fails to make a good faith effort to com- ply with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the department shall impose a penalty of one hundred dollars for each vendor permitted to make or solicit retail sales of tangi- ble personal property or services at the special event.

(b) If a promoter fails to make a good faith effort to com- ply with the provisions of subsection (2)(b) of this section, the department shall impose a penalty of:

(i) Two hundred fifty dollars if the information requested is not received by the department within twenty days of the department's written request; and

(ii) One hundred dollars for each vendor for whom the information as required by subsection (2)(b) of this section is not provided to the department.

(4) The aggregate of penalties imposed under subsection (3) of this section may not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for a special event if the promoter has not previously been penalized under this section. Under no circumstances is a promoter liable for sales tax or business and occupation tax not remitted to the department by a vendor at a special event.

(5) The department shall notify a promoter by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of any penalty imposed under this section, and the penalty shall be due within thirty days from the date of the notice. If any penalty imposed under this section is not received by the department by the due date, there shall be assessed interest on the unpaid amount beginning the day following the due date until the penalty is paid in full. The rate of interest shall be computed on a daily basis on the amount of outstanding penalty at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate computed shall be adjusted annually in the same manner as provided in RCW 82.32.050(1)(c).

(6) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Promoter" means a person who organizes, operates, or sponsors a special event and who contracts with vendors for participation in the special event.

(b) "Special event" means an entertainment, amusement, recreational, educational, or marketing event, whether held on a regular or irregular basis, at which more than one vendor makes or solicits retail sales of tangible personal property or services. The term includes, but is not limited to: Auto shows, recreational vehicle shows, boat shows, home shows, garden shows, hunting and fishing shows, stamp shows, comic book shows, sports memorabilia shows, craft shows, art shows, antique shows, flea markets, exhibitions, festivals, concerts, swap meets, bazaars, carnivals, athletic contests, circuses, fairs, or other similar activities. "Special event" does not include an event that is organized for the exclusive benefit of any nonprofit organization as defined in RCW 82.04.3651. An event is organized for the exclusive benefit of a nonprofit organization if all of the gross proceeds of retail sales of all vendors at the event inure to the benefit of the nonprofit organization on whose behalf the event is being held. "Special event" does not include athletic contests that involve competition between teams, when such competition consists of more than five contests in a calendar year by at least one team at the same facility or site.

(c) "Vendor" means a person who, at a special event, makes or solicits retail sales of tangible personal property or services.

(7) "Good faith effort to comply" and "good faith effort to obtain" may be shown by, but is not limited to, circumstances where a promoter:

(a) Includes a statement on all written contracts with its vendors that a valid registration certificate number issued by the department of revenue is required for participation in the special event and requires vendors to indicate their registration certificate number on these contracts; and

(b) Provides the department with a list of vendors and their associated registration certificate numbers as provided in subsection (2)(b) of this section.

(8) This section does not apply to:

(a) A special event whose promoter does not charge more than two hundred dollars for a vendor to participate in a special event;

(b) A special event whose promoter charges a percentage of sales instead of, or in addition to, a flat charge for a vendor to participate in a special event if the promoter, in good faith, believes that no vendor will pay more than two hundred dollars to participate in the special event; or

(c) A person who does not organize, operate, or sponsor a special event, but only provides a venue, supplies, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, or services to a promoter of a special event. [2007 c 111 § 105; 2004 c 253 § 1; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 15.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 63.29.020.

**82.32.045 Taxes—When due and payable—Reporting periods—Verified annual returns—Relief from filing requirements.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, payments of the taxes imposed under chapters 82.04, 82.08, 82.12, 82.14, and 82.16 RCW, along with reports and returns on forms prescribed by the department, are due monthly within twenty-five days after the end of the month in which the taxable activities occur.

(2) The department of revenue may relieve any taxpayer or class of taxpayers from the obligation of remitting monthly and may require the return to cover other longer reporting periods, but in no event may returns be filed for a period greater than one year. For these taxpayers, tax payments are due on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the end of the period covered by the return.

(3) The department of revenue may also require verified annual returns from any taxpayer, setting forth such additional information as it may deem necessary to correctly determine tax liability.

(4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the department may relieve any person of the requirement to file returns if the following conditions are met:

(a) The person's value of products, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income of the business, from all business activities taxable under chapter 82.04 RCW, is less than:

(i) Twenty-eight thousand dollars per year; or

(ii) Forty-six thousand six hundred sixty-seven dollars per year for persons generating at least fifty percent of their taxable amount from activities taxable under RCW 82.04.255, 82.04.290(2)(a), and 82.04.285;

(b) The person's gross income of the business from all activities taxable under chapter 82.16 RCW is less than twenty-four thousand dollars per year; and

(c) The person is not required to collect or pay to the department of revenue any other tax or fee which the department is authorized to collect. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1103; 2006 c 256 § 1; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 8; 1999 c 357 § 1; 1996 c 111 § 3; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 63; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 27; 1981 c 172 § 7; 1981 c 7 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective dates—2006 c 256:** "(1) Sections 1 through 4 of this act take effect August 1, 2006.

(2) Sections 6 and 7 of this act take effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 256 § 9.]

**Application—2006 c 256:** "(1) Sections 1 through 3 of this act apply to returns due after July 31, 2006.

(2) Section 4 of this act applies to payments due after July 31, 2006.

(3) Section 6 of this act only applies to assessments originally issued after June 30, 2006." [2006 c 256 § 7.]

**Savings—2006 c 256:** "This act does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended in this act or under any rule or order adopted under those sections, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under those sections." [2006 c 256 § 8.]

**Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 63.29.020.

**Intent—1999 c 357:** "It is the intent of the legislature to allow the department of revenue to increase its ability to provide timely and cost-effective service to taxpayers." [1999 c 357 § 2.]

**Findings—Purpose—Effective date—1996 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.32.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.050 Deficient tax or penalty payments—Notice—Interest—Limitations—Time extension or correction of an assessment during state of emergency.** (1) If upon examination of any returns or from other information obtained by the department it appears that a tax or penalty has been paid less than that properly due, the department shall assess against the taxpayer such additional amount found to be due and shall add thereto interest on the tax only. The department shall notify the taxpayer by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of the additional amount and the additional amount shall become due and shall be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.

(a) For tax liabilities arising before January 1, 1992, interest shall be computed at the rate of nine percent per annum from the last day of the year in which the deficiency is incurred until the earlier of December 31, 1998, or the date of payment. After December 31, 1998, the rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.

(b) For tax liabilities arising after December 31, 1991, the rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section from the last day of the year in which the deficiency is incurred until the date of payment. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.

(c) Interest imposed after December 31, 1998, shall be computed from the last day of the month following each calendar year included in a notice, and the last day of the month following the final month included in a notice if not the end of a calendar year, until the due date of the notice. If payment in full is not made by the due date of the notice, additional interest shall be computed until the date of payment. The rate of interest shall be variable and computed as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the rate of interest to be charged to the taxpayer shall be an average of the federal short-term rate as defined in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1274(d) plus two percentage points. The rate set for each new year shall be computed by taking an arithmetical average to the nearest percentage point of the federal short-term rate, compounded annually. That average shall be calculated using the rates from four months: January, April, and July of the calendar year immediately preceding the new year, and October of the previous preceding year.

(3) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the department, on its own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may extend the due date of any assessment or correction of an assessment for additional taxes, penalties, or interest as the department deems proper.

(4) No assessment or correction of an assessment for additional taxes, penalties, or interest due may be made by the department more than four years after the close of the tax year, except (a) against a taxpayer who has not registered as required by this chapter, (b) upon a showing of fraud or of misrepresentation of a material fact by the taxpayer, or (c) where a taxpayer has executed a written waiver of such limitation. The execution of a written waiver shall also extend the period for making a refund or credit as provided in RCW 82.32.060(2).

(5) For the purposes of this section, "return" means any document a person is required by the state of Washington to file to satisfy or establish a tax or fee obligation that is administered or collected by the department of revenue and that has a statutorily defined due date. [2008 c 181 § 501; 2007 c 111 § 106; 2003 c 73 § 1; 1997 c 157 § 1; 1996 c 149 § 2; 1992 c 169 § 1; 1991 c 142 § 9; 1989 c 378 § 19; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 16; 1965 ex.s. c 141 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.050. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 5; 1949 c 228 § 20; 1945 c 249 § 9; 1939 c 225 § 27; 1937 c 227 § 17; 1935 c 180 § 188; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-188.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**Findings—Intent—1996 c 149:** "The legislature finds that a consistent application of interest and penalties is in the best interest of the residents of the state of Washington. The legislature also finds that the goal of the department of revenue's interest and penalty system should be to encourage taxpayers to voluntarily comply with Washington's tax code in a timely manner. The administration of tax programs requires that there be consequences for those taxpayers who do not timely satisfy their reporting and tax obligations, but these consequences should not be so severe as to discourage taxpayers from voluntarily satisfying their tax obligations.

It is the intent of the legislature that, to the extent possible, a single interest and penalty system apply to all tax programs administered by the department of revenue." [1996 c 149 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.052 Interest and penalties—Waiver for amounts unpaid as of February 1, 2011.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, the department must waive all penalties and interest otherwise due under this chapter and that are unpaid as of February 1, 2011, if all of the following circumstances are met:

(a) The penalties and interest are imposed with respect to: (i) State business and occupation tax, state public utility

tax, state or local sales tax, or state or local use tax; and (ii) tax liability that first became due to the department before February 1, 2011, which includes taxes billed to the taxpayer, or disclosed by the taxpayer to the department, on or after February 1, 2011, but that were required by this chapter to have been reported and paid by the taxpayer before February 1, 2011;

(b) The taxpayer must file with the department no later than April 18, 2011: (i) All outstanding tax returns for the taxes specified in (a)(i) of this subsection (1); and (ii) any amended returns covering tax liabilities with respect to which a penalty and interest waiver under this section is requested;

(c) Before May 1, 2011, the taxpayer must remit full payment to the department of the balance due on all tax liabilities for which a penalty and interest waiver under this section is requested. If a waiver is requested for penalties or interest associated with an invoice that has been billed to the taxpayer, the taxpayer must remit full payment to the department of the entire balance due on that invoice other than any penalty and interest eligible for waiver under this section, even if the invoice includes taxes not specified in (a)(i) of this subsection (1). If the invoice is a tax warrant, the taxpayer must also remit full payment to the department of any filing or other fees added to the tax warrant, including the filing fees provided in RCW 36.18.012 (2) and (10), the fee imposed in RCW 36.18.016(4), and the surcharge imposed in RCW 40.14.027;

(d) The taxpayer must file and pay in full by the due date all tax returns that become due after January 31, 2011, and before May 1, 2011, for all taxes administered by the department under this chapter;

(e) No later than April 18, 2011, the department must receive a completed application for penalty and interest waiver under this section in a form and manner prescribed by the department;

(f) The taxpayer must never have had an evasion penalty assessed against the taxpayer by the department under RCW 82.32.090 or a penalty assessed against the taxpayer by the department under RCW 82.32.291 for misusing a reseller permit or resale certificate; and

(g) The taxpayer must never have been a defendant in a criminal prosecution related to an offense involving the failure to collect or pay the proper amount of any tax administered by the department under this chapter.

(2) Taxpayers receiving penalty or interest relief under this section may not seek a refund, or otherwise challenge the amount, of any tax liability paid as required by subsection (1)(c) of this section. This subsection (2) applies to refund requests or appeals filed directly with the department and to proceedings brought in any court or administrative tribunal.

(3) All tax liability reported and paid as required in subsection (1)(b), (c), and (d) of this section is subject to verification by the department as provided in RCW 82.32.050. This section does not preclude the assessment of taxes, penalties, and interest with respect to any amounts determined by the department to have been underpaid for any tax period for which the taxpayer previously received penalty or interest relief under this section.

(4) This section does not authorize the department to waive the evasion penalty currently authorized by RCW (2012 Ed.)

82.32.090(7) or the penalty currently authorized by RCW 82.32.291 for misusing a reseller permit or resale certificate.

(5) If taxpayers are current for tax returns due as of November 25, 2010, tax liability that accrues after that date would not qualify under this section.

(6) Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring a taxpayer to have first paid any penalty or interest for which a waiver is sought under this section.

(7) Solely for purposes of determining whether a taxpayer qualifies for a waiver of penalties or interest under this section with respect to a balance owing as of February 1, 2011, on any invoice issued by the department, any payments made to the department on that taxpayer's account before May 1, 2011, are deemed to have been applied first to any of the taxes specified in subsection (1)(a)(i) of this section, then to any other taxes, and then to penalties or interest, if such payments were applied either:

(a) To that invoice; or

(b) Against any liability reflected in that invoice before that invoice was issued by the department.

(8) A taxpayer in a bankruptcy proceeding is ineligible for relief under this section to the extent that the payment of any tax debt by the taxpayer to the department as required under this section violates the federal bankruptcy code. [2010 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 2nd sp.s. c 2:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect February 1, 2011." [2010 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 3.]

**82.32.055 Interest and penalties—Waiver for military personnel.** (1) Subject to the requirements in subsections (2) through (4) of this section, the department shall waive or cancel interest and penalties imposed under this chapter if the interest and penalties are:

(a) Imposed during any period of armed conflict; and

(b) Imposed on a taxpayer where a majority owner of the taxpayer is an individual who is on active duty in the military, and the individual is participating in a conflict and assigned to a duty station outside the territorial boundaries of the United States.

(2) To receive a waiver or cancellation of interest and penalties under this section, the taxpayer must submit to the department a copy of the individual's deployment orders for deployment outside the territorial boundaries of the United States.

(3) The department may not waive or cancel interest and penalties under this section if the gross income of the business exceeded one million dollars in the calendar year prior to the individual's initial deployment outside the United States for the armed conflict. The department may not waive or cancel interest and penalties under this section for a taxpayer for more than twenty-four months.

(4) During any period of armed conflict, for any notice sent to a taxpayer that requires a payment of interest, penalties, or both, the notice must clearly indicate on or in the notice that interest and penalties may be waived under this section for qualifying taxpayers. [2008 c 184 § 1.]

**82.32.060 Excess payment of tax, penalty, or interest—Credit or refund—Payment of judgments for**

**refund.** (1) If, upon receipt of an application by a taxpayer for a refund or for an audit of the taxpayer's records, or upon an examination of the returns or records of any taxpayer, it is determined by the department that within the statutory period for assessment of taxes, penalties, or interest prescribed by RCW 82.32.050 any amount of tax, penalty, or interest has been paid in excess of that properly due, the excess amount paid within, or attributable to, such period must be credited to the taxpayer's account or must be refunded to the taxpayer, at the taxpayer's option. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no refund or credit may be made for taxes, penalties, or interest paid more than four years prior to the beginning of the calendar year in which the refund application is made or examination of records is completed.

(2)(a) The execution of a written waiver under RCW 82.32.050 or 82.32.100 will extend the time for making a refund or credit of any taxes paid during, or attributable to, the years covered by the waiver if, prior to the expiration of the waiver period, an application for refund of such taxes is made by the taxpayer or the department discovers a refund or credit is due.

(b) A refund or credit must be allowed for an excess payment resulting from the failure to claim a bad debt deduction, credit, or refund under RCW 82.04.4284, 82.08.037, 82.12.037, 82.14B.150, or 82.16.050(5) for debts that became bad debts under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 166, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003, less than four years prior to the beginning of the calendar year in which the refund application is made or examination of records is completed.

(3) Any such refunds must be made by means of vouchers approved by the department and by the issuance of state warrants drawn upon and payable from such funds as the legislature may provide. However, taxpayers who are required to pay taxes by electronic funds transfer under RCW 82.32.080 must have any refunds paid by electronic funds transfer if the department has the necessary account information to facilitate a refund by electronic funds transfer.

(4) Any judgment for which a recovery is granted by any court of competent jurisdiction, not appealed from, for tax, penalties, and interest which were paid by the taxpayer, and costs, in a suit by any taxpayer must be paid in the same manner, as provided in subsection (3) of this section, upon the filing with the department of a certified copy of the order or judgment of the court.

(a) Interest at the rate of three percent per annum must be allowed by the department and by any court on the amount of any refund, credit, or other recovery allowed to a taxpayer for taxes, penalties, or interest paid by the taxpayer before January 1, 1992. This rate of interest applies for all interest allowed through December 31, 1998. Interest allowed after December 31, 1998, must be computed at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed must be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.

(b) For refunds or credits of amounts paid or other recovery allowed to a taxpayer after December 31, 1991, the rate of interest must be the rate as computed for assessments under RCW 82.32.050(2) less one percent. This rate of interest applies for all interest allowed through December 31, 1998. Interest allowed after December 31, 1998, must be computed at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so

computed must be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year.

(5) Interest allowed on a credit notice or refund issued after December 31, 2003, must be computed as follows:

(a) If all overpayments for each calendar year and all reporting periods ending with the final month included in a notice or refund were made on or before the due date of the final return for each calendar year or the final reporting period included in the notice or refund:

(i) Interest must be computed from January 31st following each calendar year included in a notice or refund; or

(ii) Interest must be computed from the last day of the month following the final month included in a notice or refund.

(b) If the taxpayer has not made all overpayments for each calendar year and all reporting periods ending with the final month included in a notice or refund on or before the dates specified by RCW 82.32.045 for the final return for each calendar year or the final month included in the notice or refund, interest must be computed from the last day of the month following the date on which payment in full of the liabilities was made for each calendar year included in a notice or refund, and the last day of the month following the date on which payment in full of the liabilities was made if the final month included in a notice or refund is not the end of a calendar year.

(c) Interest included in a credit notice must accrue up to the date the taxpayer could reasonably be expected to use the credit notice, as defined by the department's rules. If a credit notice is converted to a refund, interest must be recomputed to the date the refund is issued, but not to exceed the amount of interest that would have been allowed with the credit notice. [2009 c 176 § 4; 2004 c 153 § 306; 2003 c 73 § 2; 1999 c 358 § 13; 1997 c 157 § 2; 1992 c 169 § 2; 1991 c 142 § 10; 1990 c 69 § 1; 1989 c 378 § 20; 1979 ex.s. c 95 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 17; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 27; 1963 c 22 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.060. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 6; 1949 c 228 § 21; 1935 c 180 § 189; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-189.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective date—2003 c 73 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act takes effect January 1, 2004." [2003 c 73 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.062 Additional offset for excess payment of sales tax.** In addition to the procedure set forth in RCW 82.32.060 and as an exception to the four-year period explicitly set forth in RCW 82.32.060, an offset for a tax that has been paid in excess of that properly due may be taken under the following conditions: (1) The tax paid in excess of that properly due was sales tax paid on the purchase of property acquired for leasing; (2) the taxpayer was at the time of purchase entitled to purchase the property at wholesale under RCW 82.04.060; and (3) the taxpayer substantiates that sales tax was paid at the time of purchase and that there was no intervening use of the equipment by the taxpayer. The offset is applied to and reduced by the amount of retail sales tax otherwise due from the beginning of lease of the property until the offset is extinguished. [2002 c 57 § 1.]

**82.32.065 Tax refund to consumer under new motor vehicle warranty laws—Credit or refund to new motor vehicle manufacturer.** If a manufacturer makes a refund of sales tax to a consumer upon return of a new motor vehicle under chapter 19.118 RCW, the department shall credit or refund to the manufacturer the amount of the tax refunded, upon receipt of documentation as required by the department. [1987 c 344 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.070 Records to be preserved—Examination—Estoppel to question assessment—Unified business identifier account number records.** (1) Every person liable for any fee or tax imposed by chapters 82.04 through 82.27 RCW shall keep and preserve, for a period of five years, suitable records as may be necessary to determine the amount of any tax for which he may be liable, which records shall include copies of all federal income tax and state tax returns and reports made by him. All his books, records, and invoices shall be open for examination at any time by the department of revenue. In the case of an out-of-state person or concern which does not keep the necessary books and records within this state, it shall be sufficient if it produces within the state such books and records as shall be required by the department of revenue, or permits the examination by an agent authorized or designated by the department of revenue at the place where such books and records are kept. Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be forever barred from questioning, in any court action or proceedings, the correctness of any assessment of taxes made by the department of revenue based upon any period for which such books, records, and invoices have not been so kept and preserved.

(2) A person liable for any fee or tax imposed by chapters 82.04 through 82.27 RCW who contracts with another person or entity for work subject to chapter 18.27 or 19.28 RCW shall obtain and preserve a record of the unified business identifier account number for the person or entity performing the work. Failure to obtain or maintain the record is subject to RCW 39.06.010 and to a penalty determined by the director, but not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars. The department shall notify the taxpayer and collect the penalty in the same manner as penalties under RCW 82.32.100. [1999 c 358 § 14; 1997 c 54 § 4; 1983 c 3 § 221; 1967 ex.s. c 89 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.070. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 7; 1935 c 180 § 190; RRS § 8370-190.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.080 Payment by check—Electronic funds transfer—Rules—Mailing returns or remittances—Time extension—Deposits—Time extension during state of emergency—Records—Payment must accompany return.** (1) When authorized by the department, payment of the tax may be made by uncertified check under such rules as the department prescribes, but, if a check so received is not paid by the bank on which it is drawn, the taxpayer, by whom such check is tendered, will remain liable for payment of the tax and for all legal penalties and interest, the same as if such check had not been tendered.

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, payment of the tax must be made by electronic funds transfer,

as defined in RCW 82.32.085. As an alternative to electronic funds transfer, the department may authorize other forms of electronic payment, such as payment by credit card. All taxes administered by this chapter are subject to this requirement, except that the department may exclude any taxes not reported on the combined excise tax return or any successor return from the electronic payment requirement in this subsection.

(b) The department may waive the electronic payment requirement in this subsection for any taxpayer or class of taxpayers, for good cause or for whom the department has assigned a reporting frequency that is less than quarterly. In the discretion of the department, a waiver under this subsection may be made temporary or permanent, and may be made on the department's own motion.

(c) The department is authorized to accept payment of taxes by electronic funds transfer or other acceptable forms of electronic payment from taxpayers that are not subject to the mandatory electronic payment requirements in this subsection.

(3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, returns must be filed electronically using the department's online tax filing service or other method of electronic reporting as the department may authorize.

(b) The department may waive the electronic filing requirement in this subsection for any taxpayer or class of taxpayers, for good cause or for whom the department has assigned a reporting frequency that is less than quarterly. In the discretion of the department, a waiver under this subsection may be made temporary or permanent, and may be made on the department's own motion.

(c) The department is authorized to allow electronic filing of returns from taxpayers that are not subject to the mandatory electronic filing requirements in this subsection.

(4)(a)(i) The department, for good cause shown, may extend the time for making and filing any return, and may grant such reasonable additional time within which to make and file returns as it may deem proper, but any permanent extension granting the taxpayer a reporting date without penalty more than ten days beyond the due date, and any extension in excess of thirty days must be conditional on deposit with the department of an amount to be determined by the department which is approximately equal to the estimated tax liability for the reporting period or periods for which the extension is granted. In the case of a permanent extension or a temporary extension of more than thirty days the deposit must be deposited within the state treasury with other tax funds and a credit recorded to the taxpayer's account which may be applied to taxpayer's liability upon cancellation of the permanent extension or upon reporting of the tax liability where an extension of more than thirty days has been granted.

(ii) The department must review the requirement for deposit at least annually and may require a change in the amount of the deposit required when it believes that such amount does not approximate the tax liability for the reporting period or periods for which the extension is granted.

(b) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the department, on its own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may extend the time for making or filing any return as the department deems proper. The department may not require any

deposit as a condition for granting an extension under this subsection (4)(b).

(5)(a) The department must keep full and accurate records of all funds received and disbursed by it. Subject to the provisions of RCW 82.32.105, 82.32.052, and 82.32.350, the department must apply the payment of the taxpayer in the following order, without regard to any direction of the taxpayer: (i) Interest; (ii) penalties; (iii) fees; (iv) other nontax amounts; (v) taxes, except spirits taxes; and (vi) spirits taxes.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, "spirits taxes" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.08.155.

(6) The department may refuse to accept any return that is not accompanied by a remittance of the tax shown to be due thereon or that is not filed electronically as required in this section. When such return is not accepted, the taxpayer is deemed to have failed or refused to file a return and is subject to the procedures provided in RCW 82.32.100 and to the penalties provided in RCW 82.32.090. The above authority to refuse to accept a return may not apply when a return is timely filed electronically and a timely payment has been made by electronic funds transfer or other form of electronic payment as authorized by the department.

(7) Except for returns and remittances required to be transmitted to the department electronically under this section and except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a return or remittance that is transmitted to the department by United States mail is deemed filed or received on the date shown by the post office cancellation mark stamped upon the envelope containing it. A return or remittance that is transmitted to the department electronically is deemed filed or received according to procedures set forth by the department.

(8)(a) For purposes of subsections (2) and (3) of this section, "good cause" means the inability of a taxpayer to comply with the requirements of subsection (2) or (3) of this section because:

(i) The taxpayer does not have the equipment or software necessary to enable the taxpayer to comply with subsection (2) or (3) of this section;

(ii) The equipment or software necessary to enable the taxpayer to comply with subsection (2) or (3) of this section is not functioning properly;

(iii) The taxpayer does not have access to the internet using the taxpayer's own equipment;

(iv) The taxpayer does not have a bank account or a credit card;

(v) The taxpayer's bank is unable to send or receive electronic funds transfer transactions; or

(vi) Some other circumstance or condition exists that, in the department's judgment, prevents the taxpayer from complying with the requirements of subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

(b) "Good cause" also includes any circumstance that, in the department's judgment, supports the efficient or effective administration of the tax laws of this state, including providing relief from the requirements of subsection (2) or (3) of this section to any taxpayer that is voluntarily collecting and remitting this state's sales or use taxes on sales to Washington customers but has no legal requirement to be registered with the department. [2012 c 39 § 2. Prior: 2011 c 24 § 1; 2010 2nd sp.s. c 2 § 2; prior: 2010 c 111 § 304; 2010 c 106 § 226; 2009 c 176 § 2; 2008 c 181 § 502; 1999 c 357 § 3; 1997

c 156 § 3; 1990 c 69 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 18; 1965 ex.s. c 141 § 2; 1963 ex.s. c 28 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.080; prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 8; 1949 c 228 § 22; 1935 c 180 § 191; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-191.]

**Construction—Effective date—2012 c 39:** See notes following RCW 82.08.155.

**Application—2011 c 24:** "This act applies only to tax returns and payments originally due after July 22, 2011, including tax returns and payments for tax liabilities incurred before July 22, 2011, and originally due after July 22, 2011." [2011 c 24 § 4.]

**Effective date—2010 2nd sp.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 82.32.052.

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**Intent—Effective date—1999 c 357:** See notes following RCW 82.32.045.

*Findings—Payment of excise taxes by electronic funds transfer—2006 c 256:* See note following RCW 82.32.045.

*Tax returns, remittances, etc., filing and receipt when transmitted by mail:* RCW 1.12.070.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.085 Electronic funds transfer—Generally.** (1) "Electronic funds transfer" means any transfer of funds, other than a transaction originated or accomplished by conventional check, drafts, or similar paper instrument, which is initiated through an electronic terminal, telephonic instrument, or computer or magnetic tape so as to order, instruct, or authorize a financial institution to debit or credit a checking or other deposit account. "Electronic funds transfer" includes payments made by electronic check (e-check).

(2)(a) An electronic funds transfer using the automated clearinghouse credit method must be completed so that the state receives collectible funds on or before the next banking day following the due date.

(b) A remittance made using the automated clearinghouse debit method or any other method of electronic payment authorized by the department will be deemed to be received on the due date if the electronic funds transfer or other electronic payment is initiated on or before 11:59 p.m. pacific time on the due date with an effective payment date on or before the next banking day following the due date.

(3) The department must adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of RCW 82.32.080 and this section. The rules must include but are not limited to: (a) Coordinating the filing of tax returns with payment by electronic funds transfer or other form of electronic payment as authorized by the department; (b) form and content of electronic funds transfer; (c) voluntary use of electronic funds transfer with permission of the department for those taxpayers that are not subject to the mandatory electronic payment requirement in RCW 82.32.080; (d) use of commonly accepted means of electronic funds transfer; (e) means of crediting and recording proof of payment; and (f) means of correcting errors in transmission. [2011 c 24 § 2; 2009 c 176 § 3; 2006 c 256 § 4; 1990 c 69 § 3.]

**Application—2011 c 24:** See note following RCW 82.32.080.

**Findings—Payment of excise taxes by electronic funds transfer—2006 c 256:** "(1) The legislature recognizes the following with respect to the payment of excise taxes to the department of revenue by electronic funds transfer:

(a) Taxpayers required to pay their taxes by electronic funds transfer must do so through the use of either the automated clearinghouse debit method or automated clearinghouse credit method;

(b) For a remittance by electronic funds transfer to be considered timely, the transfer must be completed so that the state receives collectible funds on or before the next banking day following the due date;

(c) For the state to receive collectible funds on or before the next banking day following the due date, taxpayers using the automated clearinghouse debit method must initiate the transfer before 5:00 p.m. pacific time on the due date;

(d) The department of revenue receives information identifying the precise date and time the electronic funds transfer is initiated when a taxpayer uses the debit method; and

(e) The department receives information identifying only the date that the state receives collectible funds when a taxpayer uses the automated clearinghouse credit method.

(2) The legislature therefore finds that a remittance made using the automated clearinghouse debit method should be deemed to be received on the due date if the transfer is initiated on or before 11:59 p.m. pacific time on the due date with an effective payment date on or before the next banking day following the due date. The legislature further finds that because the department does not receive information about when an electronic funds transfer is initiated when a taxpayer uses the automated clearinghouse credit method, such transfers must be completed so that the state receives collectible funds on or before the next banking day following the due date." [2006 c 256 § 5.]

**Effective dates—Application—Savings—2006 c 256:** See notes following RCW 82.32.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.087 Direct pay permits.** (1) The director may grant a direct pay permit to a taxpayer who demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the director, that the taxpayer meets the requirements of this section. The direct pay permit allows the taxpayer to accrue and remit directly to the department use tax on the acquisition of tangible personal property or sales tax on the sale of or charges made for labor and/or services, in accordance with all of the applicable provisions of this title. Any taxpayer that uses a direct pay permit shall remit state and local sales or use tax directly to the department. The agreement by the purchaser to remit tax directly to the department, rather than pay sales or use tax to the seller, relieves the seller of the obligation to collect sales or use tax and requires the buyer to pay use tax on the tangible personal property and sales tax on the sale of or charges made for labor and/or services.

(2)(a) A taxpayer may apply for a permit under this section if: (i) The taxpayer's cumulative tax liability is reasonably expected to be two hundred forty thousand dollars or more in the current calendar year; or (ii) the taxpayer makes purchases subject to the taxes imposed under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW in excess of ten million dollars per calendar year. For the purposes of this section, "tax liability" means the amount required to be remitted to the department for taxes administered under this chapter, except for the taxes imposed or authorized by chapters 82.14A, 82.14B, 82.24, 82.27, 82.29A, and 84.33 RCW.

(b) Application for a permit must be made in writing to the director in a form and manner prescribed by the department. A taxpayer who transacts business in two or more locations may submit one application to cover the multiple locations.

(2012 Ed.)

(c) The director must review a direct pay permit application in a timely manner and shall notify the applicant, in writing, of the approval or denial of the application. The department must approve or deny an application based on the applicant's ability to comply with local government use tax coding capabilities and responsibilities; requirements for vendor notification; recordkeeping obligations; electronic data capabilities; and tax reporting procedures. Additionally, an application may be denied if the director determines that denial would be in the best interest of collecting taxes due under this title. The department must provide a direct pay permit to an approved applicant with the notice of approval. The direct pay permit shall clearly state that the holder is solely responsible for the accrual and payment of the tax imposed under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW and that the seller is relieved of liability to collect tax imposed under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW on all sales to the direct pay permit holder. The taxpayer may petition the director for reconsideration of a denial.

(d) A taxpayer who uses a direct pay permit must continue to maintain records that are necessary to a determination of the tax liability in accordance with this title. A direct pay permit is not transferable and the use of a direct pay permit may not be assigned to a third party.

(3) Taxes for which the direct pay permit is used are due and payable on the tax return for the reporting period in which the taxpayer (a) receives the tangible personal property purchased or in which the labor and/or services are performed or (b) receives an invoice for such property or such labor and/or services, whichever period is earlier.

(4) The holder of a direct pay permit must furnish a copy of the direct pay permit to each vendor with whom the taxpayer has opted to use a direct pay permit. Sellers who make sales upon which the sales or use tax is not collected by reason of the provisions of this section, in addition to existing requirements under this title, must maintain a copy of the direct pay permit and any such records or information as the department may specify.

(5) A direct pay permit is subject to revocation by the director at any time the department determines that the taxpayer has violated any provision of this section or that revocation would be in the best interests of collecting the taxes due under this title. The notice of revocation must be in writing and is effective either as of the end of the taxpayer's next normal reporting period or a date deemed appropriate by the director and identified in the revocation notice. The taxpayer may petition the director for reconsideration of a revocation and reinstatement of the permit.

(6) Any taxpayer who chooses to no longer use a direct pay permit or whose permit is revoked by the department, must return the permit to the department and immediately make a good faith effort to notify all vendors to whom the permit was given, advising them that the permit is no longer valid.

(7) Except as provided in this subsection, the direct pay permit may be used for any purchase of tangible personal property and any retail sale under RCW 82.04.050. The direct pay permit may not be used for:

(a) Purchases of meals or beverages;

(b) Purchases of motor vehicles, trailers, boats, airplanes, and other property subject to requirements for title transactions by the department of licensing;

(c) Purchases for which a reseller permit or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 may be used;

(d) Purchases that meet the definitions of RCW 82.04.050 (2) (e) and (f), (3) (a) through (d), (f), and (g), and (5); or

(e) Other activities subject to tax under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW that the department by rule designates, consistent with the purposes of this section, as activities for which a direct pay permit is not appropriate and may not be used. [2010 c 112 § 10. Prior: 2009 c 563 § 210; 2009 c 176 § 5; 2001 c 188 § 2.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—2001 c 188:** "The legislature finds that programs to allow buyers to remit sales and use tax, rather than traditional collection and remittance by the seller of sales and use tax, can assist in tax compliance, ease administrative burdens, and reduce impacts on buyers and sellers. It is the intent of the legislature to grant the department of revenue the authority to permit certain buyers direct payment authority of tax in those instances where it can be shown, to the satisfaction of the department, that direct payment does not burden sellers and does not complicate administration for the department. Buyers authorized for direct payment will remit tax directly to the department, and will pay use tax on tangible personal property and sales tax on retail labor and/or services.

This act does not affect the requirements to use a resale certificate nor does it affect the business and occupation tax treatment of the seller." [2001 c 188 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.090 Late payment—Disregard of written instructions—Evasion—Penalties.** (1) If payment of any tax due on a return to be filed by a taxpayer is not received by the department of revenue by the due date, there is assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received on or before the last day of the month following the due date, there is assessed a total penalty of fifteen percent of the amount of the tax under this subsection; and if the tax is not received on or before the last day of the second month following the due date, there is assessed a total penalty of twenty-five percent of the amount of the tax under this subsection. No penalty so added may be less than five dollars.

(2) If the department of revenue determines that any tax has been substantially underpaid, there is assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax determined by the department to be due. If payment of any tax determined by the department to be due is not received by the department by the due date specified in the notice, or any extension thereof, there is assessed a total penalty of fifteen percent of the amount of the tax under this subsection; and if payment of any tax determined by the department to be due is not received on or before the thirtieth day following the due date specified in the notice of tax due, or any extension thereof, there is assessed a total penalty of twenty-five percent of the amount of the tax under this subsection. No penalty so added may be less than five dollars. As used in this section, "substantially underpaid" means that the taxpayer has paid less than eighty percent of the amount of tax determined by the

department to be due for all of the types of taxes included in, and for the entire period of time covered by, the department's examination, and the amount of underpayment is at least one thousand dollars.

(3) If a warrant is issued by the department of revenue for the collection of taxes, increases, and penalties, there is added thereto a penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax, but not less than ten dollars.

(4) If the department finds that a person has engaged in any business or performed any act upon which a tax is imposed under this title and that person has not obtained from the department a registration certificate as required by RCW 82.32.030, the department must impose a penalty of five percent of the amount of tax due from that person for the period that the person was not registered as required by RCW 82.32.030. The department may not impose the penalty under this subsection (4) if a person who has engaged in business taxable under this title without first having registered as required by RCW 82.32.030, prior to any notification by the department of the need to register, obtains a registration certificate from the department.

(5) If the department finds that a taxpayer has disregarded specific written instructions as to reporting or tax liabilities, or willfully disregarded the requirement to file returns or remit payment electronically, as provided by RCW 82.32.080, the department must add a penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax that should have been reported and/or paid electronically or the additional tax found due if there is a deficiency because of the failure to follow the instructions. A taxpayer disregards specific written instructions when the department has informed the taxpayer in writing of the taxpayer's tax obligations and the taxpayer fails to act in accordance with those instructions unless, in the case of a deficiency, the department has not issued final instructions because the matter is under appeal pursuant to this chapter or departmental regulations. The department may not assess the penalty under this section upon any taxpayer who has made a good faith effort to comply with the specific written instructions provided by the department to that taxpayer. A taxpayer will be considered to have made a good faith effort to comply with specific written instructions to file returns and/or remit taxes electronically only if the taxpayer can show good cause, as defined in RCW 82.32.080, for the failure to comply with such instructions. A taxpayer will be considered to have willfully disregarded the requirement to file returns or remit payment electronically if the department has mailed or otherwise delivered the specific written instructions to the taxpayer on at least two occasions. Specific written instructions may be given as a part of a tax assessment, audit, determination, closing agreement, or other written communication, provided that such specific written instructions apply only to the taxpayer addressed or referenced on such communication. Any specific written instructions by the department must be clearly identified as such and must inform the taxpayer that failure to follow the instructions may subject the taxpayer to the penalties imposed by this subsection. If the department determines that it is necessary to provide specific written instructions to a taxpayer that does not comply with the requirement to file returns or remit payment electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.080, the specific written instructions must provide the taxpayer with a mini-

num of forty-five days to come into compliance with its electronic filing and/or payment obligations before the department may impose the penalty authorized in this subsection.

(6) If the department finds that all or any part of a deficiency resulted from engaging in a disregarded transaction, as described in RCW 82.32.655(3), the department must assess a penalty of thirty-five percent of the additional tax found to be due as a result of engaging in a transaction disregarded by the department under RCW 82.32.655(2). The penalty provided in this subsection may be assessed together with any other applicable penalties provided in this section on the same tax found to be due, except for the evasion penalty provided in subsection (7) of this section. The department may not assess the penalty under this subsection if, before the department discovers the taxpayer's use of a transaction described under RCW 82.32.655(3), the taxpayer discloses its participation in the transaction to the department.

(7) If the department finds that all or any part of the deficiency resulted from an intent to evade the tax payable hereunder, a further penalty of fifty percent of the additional tax found to be due must be added.

(8) The penalties imposed under subsections (1) through (4) of this section can each be imposed on the same tax found to be due. This subsection does not prohibit or restrict the application of other penalties authorized by law.

(9) The department may not impose the evasion penalty in combination with the penalty for disregarding specific written instructions or the penalty provided in subsection (6) of this section on the same tax found to be due.

(10) For the purposes of this section, "return" means any document a person is required by the state of Washington to file to satisfy or establish a tax or fee obligation that is administered or collected by the department, and that has a statutorily defined due date. [2011 c 24 § 3; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 203; 2006 c 256 § 6; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 13; 2000 c 229 § 7; 1999 c 277 § 11; 1996 c 149 § 15; 1992 c 206 § 3; 1991 c 142 § 11; 1987 c 502 § 9; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 23; 1983 c 7 § 32; 1981 c 172 § 8; 1981 c 7 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 179 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 26; 1965 ex.s. c 141 § 3; 1963 ex.s. c 28 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.090. Prior: 1959 c 197 § 12; 1955 c 110 § 1; 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 9; 1949 c 228 § 23; 1937 c 227 § 18; 1935 c 180 § 192; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-192.]

**Application—2011 c 24:** See note following RCW 82.32.080.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective dates—Application—Savings—2006 c 256:** See notes following RCW 82.32.045.

**Application—2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 13:** "Except as otherwise provided in this section, section 13 of this act applies to all penalties imposed after June 30, 2003. The five percent penalty imposed in section 13(2) of this act applies to all assessments originally issued after June 30, 2003." [2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 14.]

**Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 63.29.020.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **82.32.100 Failure to file returns or provide records—Assessment of tax by department—Penalties and interest.**

(2012 Ed.)

(1) If any person fails or refuses to make any return or to make available for examination the records required by this chapter, the department shall proceed, in such manner as it may deem best, to obtain facts and information on which to base its estimate of the tax; and to this end the department may examine the records of any such person as provided in RCW 82.32.110.

(2) As soon as the department procures such facts and information as it is able to obtain upon which to base the assessment of any tax payable by any person who has failed or refused to make a return, it shall proceed to determine and assess against such person the tax and any applicable penalties or interest due, but such action shall not deprive such person from appealing the assessment as provided in this chapter. The department shall notify the taxpayer by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of the total amount of such tax, penalties, and interest, and the total amount shall become due and shall be paid within thirty days from the date of such notice.

(3) No assessment or correction of an assessment may be made by the department more than four years after the close of the tax year, except (a) against a taxpayer who has not registered as required by this chapter, (b) upon a showing of fraud or of misrepresentation of a material fact by the taxpayer, or (c) where a taxpayer has executed a written waiver of such limitation. The execution of a written waiver shall also extend the period for making a refund or credit as provided in RCW 82.32.060(2). [2007 c 111 § 107; 1992 c 169 § 3; 1989 c 378 § 21; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 20; 1965 ex.s. c 141 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.100. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 10; 1935 c 180 § 194; RRS § 8370-194.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.105 Waiver or cancellation of penalties or interest—Rules.** (1) If the department of revenue finds that the payment by a taxpayer of a tax less than that properly due or the failure of a taxpayer to pay any tax by the due date was the result of circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer, the department of revenue shall waive or cancel any penalties imposed under this chapter with respect to such tax.

(2) The department shall waive or cancel the penalty imposed under RCW 82.32.090(1) when the circumstances under which the delinquency occurred do not qualify for waiver or cancellation under subsection (1) of this section if:

(a) The taxpayer requests the waiver for a tax return required to be filed under RCW 82.32.045, 82.14B.061, 82.23B.020, 82.27.060, 82.29A.050, or 84.33.086; and

(b) The taxpayer has timely filed and remitted payment on all tax returns due for that tax program for a period of twenty-four months immediately preceding the period covered by the return for which the waiver is being requested.

(3) The department shall waive or cancel interest imposed under this chapter if:

(a) The failure to timely pay the tax was the direct result of written instructions given the taxpayer by the department; or

(b) The extension of a due date for payment of an assessment of deficiency was not at the request of the taxpayer and was for the sole convenience of the department.

(4) The department of revenue shall adopt rules for the waiver or cancellation of penalties and interest imposed by this chapter. [1998 c 304 § 13; 1996 c 149 § 17; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 78; 1965 ex.s. c 141 § 8.]

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.110 Examination of books or records—Subpoenas—Contempt of court.** The department of revenue or its duly authorized agent may examine any books, papers, records, or other data, or stock of merchandise bearing upon the amount of any tax payable or upon the correctness of any return, or for the purpose of making a return where none has been made, or in order to ascertain whether a return should be made; and may require the attendance of any person at a time and place fixed in a summons served by any sheriff in the same manner as a subpoena is served in a civil case, or served in like manner by an agent of the department of revenue.

The persons summoned may be required to testify and produce any books, papers, records, or data required by the department with respect to any tax, or the liability of any person therefor.

The director of the department of revenue, or any duly authorized agent thereof, shall have power to administer an oath to the person required to testify; and any person giving false testimony after the administration of such oath shall be guilty of perjury in the first degree.

If any person summoned as a witness before the department, or its authorized agent, fails or refuses to obey the summons, or refuses to testify or answer any material questions, or to produce any book, record, paper, or data when required to do so, the person is subject to proceedings for contempt, and the department shall thereupon institute contempt of court proceedings in the superior court of Thurston county or of the county in which such person resides. [1989 c 373 § 27; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 79; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.110. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 194; RRS § 8370-194.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.117 Application for court approval of subpoena prior to issuance—No notice required.** (1) The department or its duly authorized agent may apply for and obtain a superior court order approving and authorizing a subpoena in advance of its issuance. The application may be made in the county where the subpoenaed person resides or is found, or the county where the subpoenaed records or documents are located, or in Thurston county. The application must:

(a) State that an order is sought pursuant to this subsection;

(b) Adequately specify the records, documents, or testimony; and

(c) Declare under oath that an investigation is being conducted for a lawfully authorized purpose related to an investigation within the department's authority and that the subpoenaed documents or testimony are reasonably related to an investigation within the department's authority.

[Title 82 RCW—page 250]

(2) Where the application under this subsection is made to the satisfaction of the court, the court must issue an order approving the subpoena. An order under this subsection constitutes authority of law for the agency to subpoena the records or testimony.

(3) The department or its duly authorized agent may seek approval and a court may issue an order under this subsection without prior notice to any person, including the person to whom the subpoena is directed and the person who is the subject of an investigation.

(4) This section does not preclude the use of other legally authorized means of obtaining records, nor preclude the assertion of any legally recognized privileges.

(5) The department may not disclose any return or tax information, as defined in RCW 82.32.330, obtained in response to a subpoena issued under this section, except as authorized in RCW 82.32.330.

(6) A third party may not be held civilly liable for any harm resulting from that person's compliance with a subpoena issued under the authority of this section.

(7) The entire court file of any proceeding instituted under this section must be sealed and is not open to public inspection by any person except upon order of the court as authorized by law. [2011 c 174 § 401; 2010 c 22 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 22:** See note following RCW 51.04.040.

**82.32.120 Oaths and acknowledgments.** All officers empowered by law to administer oaths, the director of the department of revenue, and such officers as he may designate shall have the power to administer an oath to any person or to take the acknowledgment of any person with respect to any return or report required by law or the rules and regulations of the department of revenue. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 80; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.120. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 195; RRS § 8370-195.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.130 Notice and orders—Service.** Notwithstanding any other law, any notice or order required by this title to be mailed to any taxpayer may be provided electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, served in the manner prescribed by law for personal service of summons and complaint in the commencement of actions in the superior courts of the state. However if the notice or order is mailed, it shall be addressed to the address of the taxpayer as shown by the records of the department, or, if no such address is shown, to such address as the department is able to ascertain by reasonable effort. Failure of the taxpayer to receive such notice or order whether served, mailed, or provided electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135 shall not release the taxpayer from any tax or any increases or penalties thereon. [2007 c 111 § 108; 1979 ex.s. c 95 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 81; 1967 c 237 § 20; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.130. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 196; RRS § 8370-196.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.135 Notice, assessment, other information—Electronic delivery.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whenever the department is required to send any assessment, notice, or any other information to persons by

(2012 Ed.)

regular mail, the department must instead provide the assessment, notice, or other information electronically. The department may implement the requirement in this subsection in phases. The department, for good cause, may waive the requirement in this subsection for any taxpayer. In the discretion of the department, a waiver under this subsection may be made temporary or permanent, and may be made on the department's own motion.

(2) If the assessment, notice, or other information is subject to the confidentiality provisions of RCW 82.32.330, the department must use methods reasonably designed to protect the information from unauthorized disclosure. The provisions of this subsection (2) may be waived by a taxpayer. The waiver must be in writing and may be provided to the department electronically. A person may provide a waiver with respect to a particular item of information or may give a blanket waiver with respect to any item of information or certain items of information to be provided electronically. A blanket waiver will continue until revoked in writing by the taxpayer. Such revocation may be provided to the department electronically in a manner provided or approved by the department.

(3) Any assessment, notice, or other information provided by the department electronically to a person is deemed to be received by the taxpayer on the date that the department electronically sends the information to the person or electronically notifies the person that the information is available to be accessed by the person.

(4) This section also applies to any information that is not expressly required by statute to be sent by regular mail, but is customarily sent by the department using regular mail, to persons entitled to receive the information.

(5)(a) For purposes of this section, "good cause" includes the inability of the department to comply with this section for any reason, including lacking information necessary to send information to a person electronically or to electronically notify a person that information is available to be accessed by the person.

(b) "Good cause" also includes the inability of a person to receive or otherwise obtain information from the department electronically because:

(i) The person does not have the equipment or software necessary to enable the person to receive or otherwise obtain information from the department electronically;

(ii) The equipment or software necessary to enable the person to receive or otherwise obtain information from the department electronically is not functioning properly;

(iii) The person does not have access to the internet using the person's own equipment; or

(iv) Some other circumstance or condition exists that, in the department's judgment, prevents the taxpayer from receiving or otherwise obtaining information from the department electronically. [2009 c 176 § 1; 2007 c 111 § 113.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**82.32.140 Taxpayer quitting business—Liability of successor.** (1) Whenever any taxpayer quits business, or sells out, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of more than fifty percent of the fair market value of either its tangible or intangible assets, any tax payable hereunder shall become imme-

diately due and payable, and such taxpayer shall, within ten days thereafter, make a return and pay the tax due, unless an extension is granted under RCW 82.32.080.

(2) Any person who becomes a successor shall withhold from the purchase price a sum sufficient to pay any tax due from the taxpayer until such time as the taxpayer shall produce a receipt from the department of revenue showing payment in full of any tax due or a certificate that no tax is due. If any tax is not paid by the taxpayer within ten days from the date of such sale, exchange, or disposal, the successor shall become liable for the payment of the full amount of tax. If the fair market value of the assets acquired by a successor is less than fifty thousand dollars, the successor's liability for payment of the unpaid tax is limited to the fair market value of the assets acquired from the taxpayer. The burden of establishing the fair market value of the assets acquired is on the successor.

(3) The payment of any tax by a successor shall, to the extent thereof, be deemed a payment upon the purchase price; and if such payment is greater in amount than the purchase price the amount of the difference shall become a debt due the successor from the taxpayer.

(4) No successor shall be liable for any tax due from the person from whom the successor has acquired a business or stock of goods if the successor gives written notice to the department of revenue of such acquisition and no assessment is issued by the department of revenue within six months of receipt of such notice against the former operator of the business and a copy thereof mailed to the successor or provided electronically to the successor in accordance with RCW 82.32.135. [2008 c 181 § 503; 2007 c 111 § 109; 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 12; 1985 c 414 § 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 82; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.140. Prior: 1957 c 88 § 1; 1935 c 180 § 197; RRS § 8370-197.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**Effective dates—2003 1st sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 63.29.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.145 Limited liability business entity—Terminated, dissolved, abandoned, insolvent—Collection of unpaid trust fund taxes.** (1) Whenever the department has issued a warrant under RCW 82.32.210 for the collection of unpaid trust fund taxes from a limited liability business entity and that business entity has been terminated, dissolved, or abandoned, or is insolvent, the department may pursue collection of the entity's unpaid trust fund taxes, including penalties and interest on those taxes, against any or all of the responsible individuals. For purposes of this subsection, "insolvent" means the condition that results when the sum of the entity's debts exceeds the fair market value of its assets. The department may presume that an entity is insolvent if the entity refuses to disclose to the department the nature of its assets and liabilities.

(2) Personal liability under this section may be imposed for state and local trust fund taxes.

(3)(a) For a responsible individual who is the current or a former chief executive or chief financial officer, liability

under this section applies regardless of fault or whether the individual was or should have been aware of the unpaid trust fund tax liability of the limited liability business entity.

(b) For any other responsible individual, liability under this section applies only if he or she willfully fails to pay or to cause to be paid to the department the trust fund taxes due from the limited liability business entity.

(4)(a) Except as provided in this subsection (4)(a), a responsible individual who is the current or a former chief executive or chief financial officer is liable under this section only for trust fund tax liability accrued during the period that he or she was the chief executive or chief financial officer. However, if the responsible individual had the responsibility or duty to remit payment of the limited liability business entity's trust fund taxes to the department during any period of time that the person was not the chief executive or chief financial officer, that individual is also liable for trust fund tax liability that became due during the period that he or she had the duty to remit payment of the limited liability business entity's taxes to the department but was not the chief executive or chief financial officer.

(b) All other responsible individuals are liable under this section only for trust fund tax liability that became due during the period he or she had the responsibility or duty to remit payment of the limited liability business entity's taxes to the department.

(5) Persons described in subsection (3)(b) of this section are exempt from liability under this section in situations where nonpayment of the limited liability business entity's trust fund taxes is due to reasons beyond their control as determined by the department by rule.

(6) Any person having been issued a notice of assessment under this section is entitled to the appeal procedures under RCW 82.32.160, 82.32.170, 82.32.180, 82.32.190, and 82.32.200.

(7) This section does not relieve the limited liability business entity of its trust fund tax liability or otherwise impair other tax collection remedies afforded by law.

(8) Collection authority and procedures prescribed in this chapter apply to collections under this section.

(9) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Chief executive" means: The president of a corporation; or for other entities or organizations other than corporations or if the corporation does not have a president as one of its officers, the highest ranking executive manager or administrator in charge of the management of the company or organization.

(b) "Chief financial officer" means: The treasurer of a corporation; or for entities or organizations other than corporations or if a corporation does not have a treasurer as one of its officers, the highest senior manager who is responsible for overseeing the financial activities of the entire company or organization.

(c) "Limited liability business entity" means a type of business entity that generally shields its owners from personal liability for the debts, obligations, and liabilities of the entity, or a business entity that is managed or owned in whole or in part by an entity that generally shields its owners from personal liability for the debts, obligations, and liabilities of the entity. Limited liability business entities include corpora-

tions, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, trusts, general partnerships and joint ventures in which one or more of the partners or parties are also limited liability business entities, and limited partnerships in which one or more of the general partners are also limited liability business entities.

(d) "Manager" has the same meaning as in RCW 25.15.005.

(e) "Member" has the same meaning as in RCW 25.15.005, except that the term only includes members of member-managed limited liability companies.

(f) "Officer" means any officer or assistant officer of a corporation, including the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

(g)(i) "Responsible individual" includes any current or former officer, manager, member, partner, or trustee of a limited liability business entity with an unpaid tax warrant issued by the department.

(ii) "Responsible individual" also includes any current or former employee or other individual, but only if the individual had the responsibility or duty to remit payment of the limited liability business entity's unpaid trust fund tax liability reflected in a tax warrant issued by the department.

(iii) Whenever any taxpayer has one or more limited liability business entities as a member, manager, or partner, "responsible individual" also includes any current and former officers, members, or managers of the limited liability business entity or entities or of any other limited liability business entity involved directly in the management of the taxpayer. For purposes of this subsection (9)(g)(iii), "taxpayer" means a limited liability business entity with an unpaid tax warrant issued against it by the department.

(h) "Trust fund taxes" means taxes collected from purchasers and held in trust under RCW 82.08.050, including taxes imposed under RCW 82.08.020 and 82.08.150.

(i) "Willfully fails to pay or to cause to be paid" means that the failure was the result of an intentional, conscious, and voluntary course of action. [2012 c 39 § 8; 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 801; 1995 c 318 § 2; 1987 c 245 § 1.]

**Construction—Effective date—2012 c 39:** See notes following RCW 82.08.155.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.150 Contest of tax—Prepayment required—Restraining orders and injunctions barred.** All taxes, penalties, and interest shall be paid in full before any action may be instituted in any court to contest all or any part of such taxes, penalties, or interest. No restraining order or injunction shall be granted or issued by any court or judge to restrain or enjoin the collection of any tax or penalty or any part thereof, except upon the ground that the assessment thereof was in violation of the Constitution of the United States or that of the state. [1961 c 15 § 82.32.150. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 198; RRS § 8370-198.]

**82.32.160 Correction of tax—Administrative procedure—Conference—Determination by department.** Any

person having been issued a notice of additional taxes, delinquent taxes, interest, or penalties assessed by the department, may within thirty days after the issuance of the original notice of the amount thereof or within the period covered by any extension of the due date thereof granted by the department petition the department in writing for a correction of the amount of the assessment, and a conference for examination and review of the assessment. The petition shall set forth the reasons why the correction should be granted and the amount of the tax, interest, or penalties, which the petitioner believes to be due. The department shall promptly consider the petition and may grant or deny it. If denied, the petitioner shall be notified by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, thereof forthwith. If a conference is granted, the department shall fix the time and place therefor and notify the petitioner thereof by mail or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135. After the conference the department may make such determination as may appear to it to be just and lawful and shall mail a copy of its determination to the petitioner, or provide a copy of its determination electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135. If no such petition is filed within the thirty-day period the assessment covered by the notice shall become final.

The procedures provided for herein shall apply also to a notice denying, in whole or in part, an application for a pollution control tax exemption and credit certificate, with such modifications to such procedures established by departmental rules and regulations as may be necessary to accommodate a claim for exemption or credit. [2007 c 111 § 110; 1989 c 378 § 22; 1975 1st ex.s. c 158 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 49; 1963 ex.s. c 28 § 8; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.160. Prior: 1939 c 225 § 29, part; 1935 c 180 § 199, part; RRS § 8370-199, part.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.170 Reduction of tax after payment—Petition—Conference—Determination by department.** Any person, having paid any tax, original assessment, additional assessment, or corrected assessment of any tax, may apply to the department within the time limitation for refund provided in this chapter, by petition in writing for a correction of the amount paid, and a conference for examination and review of the tax liability, in which petition he shall set forth the reasons why the conference should be granted, and the amount in which the tax, interest, or penalty, should be refunded. The department shall promptly consider the petition, and may grant or deny it. If denied, the petitioner shall be notified by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, thereof forthwith. If a conference is granted, the department shall notify the petitioner by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of the time and place fixed therefor. After the hearing the department may make such determination as may appear to it just and lawful, and shall mail a copy of its determination to the petitioner, or provide a copy of its determination electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135. [2007 c 111 § 111; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 50; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.170. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 11; 1939 c 225 § 29, part; 1935 c 180 § 199, part; RRS § 8370-199, part.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

(2012 Ed.)

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.180 Court appeal—Procedure.** Any person, except one who has failed to keep and preserve books, records, and invoices as required in this chapter and chapter 82.24 RCW, having paid any tax as required and feeling aggrieved by the amount of the tax may appeal to the superior court of Thurston county, within the time limitation for a refund provided in chapter 82.32 RCW or, if an application for refund has been made to the department within that time limitation, then within thirty days after rejection of the application, whichever time limitation is later. In the appeal the taxpayer shall set forth the amount of the tax imposed upon the taxpayer which the taxpayer concedes to be the correct tax and the reason why the tax should be reduced or abated. The appeal shall be perfected by serving a copy of the notice of appeal upon the department within the time herein specified and by filing the original thereof with proof of service with the clerk of the superior court of Thurston county.

The trial in the superior court on appeal shall be de novo and without the necessity of any pleadings other than the notice of appeal. At trial, the burden shall rest upon the taxpayer to prove that the tax as paid by the taxpayer is incorrect, either in whole or in part, and to establish the correct amount of the tax. In such proceeding the taxpayer shall be deemed the plaintiff, and the state, the defendant; and both parties shall be entitled to subpoena the attendance of witnesses as in other civil actions and to produce evidence that is competent, relevant, and material to determine the correct amount of the tax that should be paid by the taxpayer. Either party may seek appellate review in the same manner as other civil actions are appealed to the appellate courts.

It shall not be necessary for the taxpayer to protest against the payment of any tax or to make any demand to have the same refunded or to petition the director for a hearing in order to appeal to the superior court, but no court action or proceeding of any kind shall be maintained by the taxpayer to recover any tax paid, or any part thereof, except as herein provided.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to any tax payment which has been the subject of an appeal to the board of tax appeals with respect to which appeal a formal hearing has been elected. [1997 c 156 § 4; 1992 c 206 § 4; 1989 c 378 § 23; 1988 c 202 § 67; 1971 c 81 § 148; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 51; 1965 ex.s. c 141 § 5; 1963 ex.s. c 28 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.180. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 12; 1939 c 225 § 29, part; 1935 c 180 § 199, part; RRS § 8370-199, part.]

*Appeal to board of tax appeals, formal hearing: RCW 82.03.160.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.190 Stay of collection pending suit—Interest.** (1) The department, by its order, may hold in abeyance the collection of tax from any taxpayer or any group of taxpayers when a question bearing on their liability for tax hereunder is pending before the courts. The department may impose such conditions as may be deemed just and equitable and shall require the payment of interest at the rate of three-quarters of one percent of the amount of the tax for each thirty days or portion thereof from the date upon which such tax became due until the date of payment.

(2) Interest imposed under this section for periods after January 1, 1997, shall be computed on a daily basis at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year. Interest for taxes held in abeyance under this section before January 1, 1997, but outstanding after January 1, 1997, shall not be recalculated but shall remain at three-quarters of one percent per each thirty days or portion thereof. [1996 c 149 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 21; 1965 ex.s. c 141 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.190. Prior: 1937 c 227 § 19; 1935 c 180 § 200; RRS § 8370-200.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.200 Stay of collection—Bond—Interest.** (1) When any assessment or additional assessment has been made, the taxpayer may obtain a stay of collection, under such circumstances and for such periods as the department of revenue may by general regulation provide, of the whole or any part thereof, by filing with the department a bond in an amount, not exceeding twice the amount on which stay is desired, and with sureties as the department deems necessary, conditioned for the payment of the amount of the assessments, collection of which is stayed by the bond, together with the interest thereon at the rate of one percent of the amount of such assessment for each thirty days or portion thereof from the date the bond is filed until the date of payment.

(2) Interest imposed under this section after January 1, 1997, shall be computed on a daily basis on the amount of tax at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year. Interest for bonds filed before January 1, 1997, but outstanding after January 1, 1997, shall not be recalculated but shall remain at one percent per each thirty days or portion thereof. [1996 c 149 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 83; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.200. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 201; RRS § 8370-201.]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.210 Tax warrant—Filing—Lien—Effect.** (1) If any fee, tax, increase, or penalty or any portion thereof is not paid within fifteen days after it becomes due, the department may issue a warrant in the amount of the unpaid sums, together with interest thereon from the date the warrant is issued until the date of payment. If, however, the department believes that a taxpayer is about to cease business, leave the state, or remove or dissipate the assets out of which fees, taxes or penalties might be satisfied and that any tax or penalty will not be paid when due, it may declare the fee, tax or penalty to be immediately due and payable and may issue a warrant immediately.

(a) Interest imposed before January 1, 1999, is computed at the rate of one percent of the amount of the warrant for each thirty days or portion thereof.

(b) Interest imposed after December 31, 1998, is computed on a daily basis on the amount of outstanding tax or fee at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed must be adjusted on the first day of January of each

year for use in computing interest for that calendar year. As used in this subsection, "fee" does not include an administrative filing fee such as a court filing fee and warrant fee.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 82.32.212, the department must file a copy of the warrant with the clerk of the superior court of any county of the state in which real and/or personal property of the taxpayer may be found. The clerk is entitled to a filing fee under RCW 36.18.012(10). Upon filing, the clerk will enter in the judgment docket, the name of the taxpayer mentioned in the warrant and in appropriate columns the amount of the fee, tax or portion thereof and any increases and penalties for which the warrant is issued and the date when the copy is filed. The amount of the warrant so docketed is a specific lien upon all goods, wares, merchandise, fixtures, equipment, or other personal property used in the conduct of the business of the taxpayer against whom the warrant is issued, including property owned by third persons who have a beneficial interest, direct or indirect, in the operation of the business, and no sale or transfer of the personal property in any way affects the lien.

(3) The lien is not superior, however, to bona fide interests of third persons that vested before the filing of the warrant when the third persons do not have a beneficial interest, direct or indirect, in the operation of the business, other than to secure payment of a debt or to receive a regular rental on equipment. The phrase "bona fide interests of third persons" does not include any mortgage of real or personal property or any other credit transaction that results in the mortgagee or the holder of the security acting as trustee for unsecured creditors of the taxpayer mentioned in the warrant who executed the chattel or real property mortgage or the document evidencing the credit transaction.

(4) The amount of the warrant so docketed is also a lien upon the title to and interest in all other real and personal property of the taxpayer against whom it is issued the same as a judgment in a civil case duly docketed in the office of the clerk. The warrant so docketed is sufficient to support the issuance of writs of garnishment in favor of the state as provided by law for judgments wholly or partially unsatisfied. [2011 c 131 § 1; 2001 c 146 § 12; 1998 c 311 § 8; 1997 c 157 § 3; 1987 c 405 § 15; 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 8; 1967 ex.s. c 89 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.210. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 38; prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 13; 1949 c 228 § 225, part; 1937 c 227 § 20, part; 1935 c 180 § 202, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-202, part.]

**Effective date—2011 c 131:** See note following RCW 82.32.212.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.212 Tax warrant—Notice of lien.** (1) To secure payment of a tax warrant issued by the department under RCW 82.32.210, the department may issue a notice of lien against any real property in which the taxpayer against whom the warrant was issued has an ownership interest, if the total amount for which the warrant was issued exceeds twenty-five thousand dollars and the department determines that issuing the notice of lien would best protect the state's interest in collecting the amount due on the warrant. The department must file the notice of lien with the recording officer of the county where the real property is located. The recording officer is entitled to a filing fee as provided under RCW 36.18.010.

(2)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, recording a notice of lien as authorized in this section is in lieu of filing with the clerk of the superior court a copy of the warrant secured by the notice of lien.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection (2), the department may file with the superior court a warrant that is secured by a notice of lien under this section if: (i) The department determines that filing the warrant is in the best interest of collecting the amount due on the tax warrant; or (ii) the warrant remains unpaid six months after the notice of lien was issued.

(3) If a warrant has been filed with the clerk of the superior court, the department may issue and record a notice of lien against real property of the taxpayer and file a conditional satisfaction of the warrant with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which the warrant was filed, if the department determines that such actions are in the best interest of collecting the amount due on the warrant.

(a) A warrant for which a conditional satisfaction is filed will continue to accrue interest on the unpaid balance as provided in RCW 82.32.210.

(b)(i) The department may refile a warrant for which a conditional satisfaction has been filed if: (A) The department determines that refiling the warrant is in the best interest of collecting the amount due on the warrant; or (B) the warrant remains unpaid six months after the notice of lien was issued.

(ii) A warrant is refiled in the same manner as it was originally filed.

(c) A warrant that is refiled as provided in this subsection (3) reinstates the liens provided under RCW 82.32.210 as of the date the warrant is refiled.

(d) For the purposes of this subsection (3), a "conditional satisfaction" is a document issued by the department, which, when filed with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which the warrant was filed, releases the liens provided under RCW 82.32.210 without prejudice to refile the warrant at a later date.

(4) When a taxpayer has requested the department to use the collection authority under this section, in order to determine if the issuance of a notice of lien would best protect the state's interest in collecting the amount due on the warrant, the department may require the taxpayer to:

(a) Provide, at the taxpayer's expense, the department with a current abstract of title as defined by RCW 48.29.010 from a title insurer that possesses a certificate of authority issued under Title 48 RCW; and

(b) Authorize the department to obtain the taxpayer's current credit report.

(5) A notice of lien issued under this section must include the following information:

(a) The name of the taxpayer who has an interest in the real property against which the notice of lien is filed;

(b) The taxpayer's tax registration number issued as provided in RCW 82.32.030;

(c) The number of the warrant issued by the department;

(d) The amount for which the warrant was issued;

(e) The legal description, tax parcel number assigned under RCW 84.40.160, and the street address, if available, of the real property against which the notice of lien is issued; and

(f) Any other information the department determines would be useful.

(6) The notice of lien issued under this section is superior to all other liens and encumbrances, except:

(a) Bona fide interests of third persons that had vested prior to the recording of the notice of lien, if the third persons do not have a beneficial interest, direct or indirect, in the operation of the taxpayer's business, other than the securing of the payment of a debt or the receiving of a regular rental on equipment. For purposes of this subsection, "bona fide interests of third persons" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.32.210; and

(b) Property taxes and special assessments against the property.

(7) The department must release a notice of lien issued under this section as soon as practicable after receipt of payment in full of the amount due on the warrant secured by the notice of lien, including interest accrued as provided in RCW 82.32.210(1) and all recording fees claimed by the recording officer for the recording of the notice of lien and the release of the lien.

(8) The department must release a notice of lien issued under this section within fourteen days if the notice of lien was issued in error. [2011 c 131 § 2.]

**Effective date—2011 c 131:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2012." [2011 c 131 § 3.]

**82.32.215 Revocation of certificate of registration.** If any warrant issued under this chapter is not paid within thirty days after it has been filed with the clerk of the superior court, or if any taxpayer is delinquent, for three consecutive reporting periods, in the transmission to the department of revenue of retail sales tax collected by the taxpayer, the department of revenue may, by order, revoke the certificate of registration of the taxpayer against whom the warrant was issued, and, if the order is entered, a copy thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the main entrance to the taxpayer's place of business and shall remain posted until such time as the warrant has been paid. Any certificate so revoked shall not be reinstated, nor shall a new certificate of registration be issued to the taxpayer, until the amount due on the warrant has been paid, or provisions for payment satisfactory to the department of revenue have been entered, and until the taxpayer has deposited with the department of revenue such security for payment of any taxes, increases, and penalties, due or which may become due in an amount and under such terms and conditions as the department of revenue may require, but the amount of the security shall not be greater than one-half the estimated average annual liability of the taxpayer. [1998 c 311 § 9; 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.220 Execution of warrant—Levy upon property—Satisfaction.** The department of revenue may issue an order of execution, pursuant to a filed warrant, directed to the sheriff of the county in which the warrant has been filed, commanding the sheriff to levy upon and sell the real and/or personal property of the taxpayer found within the sheriff's county, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the payment of the amount of the warrant, plus the cost of executing the warrant, and return the warrant to the department of revenue and pay to it the money collected by virtue thereof within sixty days after the receipt of the warrant. The sheriff shall

thereupon proceed upon the same in all respects and with like effect as prescribed by law with respect to execution or other process issued against rights or property upon judgments of the superior court.

The sheriff shall be entitled to fees as provided by law for the sheriff's services in levying execution on a superior court judgment and the clerk shall be entitled to a filing fee as provided by law, which shall be added to the amount of the warrant.

The proceeds received from any sale shall be credited upon the amount due under the warrant and when the final amount due is received, together with interest, penalties, and costs, the judgment docket shall show the claim for taxes to be satisfied and the clerk of the court shall so note upon the docket. Any surplus received from any sale of property shall be paid to the taxpayer or to any lien holder entitled thereto. If the return on the warrant shows that the same has not been satisfied in full, the amount of the deficiency shall remain the same as a judgment against the taxpayer which may be collected in the same manner as the original amount of the warrant. [1998 c 311 § 10; 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 10; 1961 c 304 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.220. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 39; prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 9 § 14; 1949 c 228 § 25, part; 1937 c 227 § 20, part; 1935 c 180 § 202, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-202, part.]

*Fee for filing tax warrant by county clerk: RCW 36.18.020.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.230 Agent of the department of revenue may execute.** In the discretion of the department of revenue, an order of execution of like terms, force, and effect may be issued and directed to any agent of the department authorized to collect taxes, and in the execution thereof such agent shall have all the powers conferred by law upon sheriffs, but shall not be entitled to any fee or compensation in excess of the actual expenses paid in the performance of such duty, which shall be added to the amount of the warrant. [1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 11; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 84; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.230. Prior: 1949 c 228 § 25, part; 1937 c 227 § 20, part; 1935 c 180 § 202, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-202, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.235 Notice and order to withhold and deliver property due or owned by taxpayer—Bond—Judgment by default.** (1) In addition to the remedies provided in this chapter the department is authorized to issue to any person, a notice and order to withhold and deliver property of any kind whatsoever when there is reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, property which is or will become due, owing, or belonging to any taxpayer against whom a warrant has been filed.

(2) The sheriff of the county where the service is made, or his or her deputy, or any duly authorized representative of the department may personally serve the notice and order to withhold and deliver upon the person to whom it is directed or may do so by certified mail, with return receipt requested.

(3)(a) The department is authorized to issue a notice and order to withhold and deliver to any financial institution in the form of a listing of all or a portion of the unsatisfied tax warrants filed under this chapter with the clerk of the superior court of a county of the state, except tax warrants subject to a

payment agreement, which is not in default, between the department and the taxpayer.

(b) As an alternative to the methods of service in subsection (2) of this section, the department may serve the notice and order to withhold and deliver authorized under this subsection electronically. The remedy in this subsection (3) is in addition to any other remedies authorized by law.

(c) No more than one notice and order to withhold and deliver under this subsection (3) may be served on the same financial institution in a calendar month.

(d) Notice and order to withhold and deliver under this subsection (3) must include the federal taxpayer identification number of each taxpayer.

(e) For purposes of this subsection, "financial institution" means a bank, trust company, mutual savings bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized to do business and accept deposits in this state under state or federal law.

(f) The department may provide a financial institution relief from a notice and order to withhold and deliver in the form provided under this subsection (3) upon the request of the financial institution. The department must consider the size, customer base, and geographic location of the financial institution when considering whether to provide relief. The department must serve any financial institution so relieved under subsection (1) of this section.

(4) Any person who has been served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver under subsection (1) of this section must answer the notice within twenty days, exclusive of the day of service. Any person who has been served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver under subsection (3) of this section must answer the notice within thirty days, exclusive of the day of service. The answer must be in writing, under oath if required by the department, and include true answers to the matters inquired of in the notice. Any person served under subsection (3) of this section may answer in aggregate within thirty days, but must answer separately as to each taxpayer listed and specify any property by taxpayer which is delivered. The department must allow any person served electronically under subsection (3) of this section to answer the notice and order to withhold and deliver electronically in a format provided or approved by the department.

(5) In the event there is in the possession of any person served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver, any property which may be subject to the claim of the department, such property must be delivered immediately to the department of revenue or its duly authorized representative upon demand. The department must hold the property in trust for application on the indebtedness involved or for return, without interest, in accordance with final determination of liability or nonliability. Instead of delivering the property to the department or the department's duly authorized representative, the person may furnish a bond satisfactory to the department conditioned upon final determination of liability.

(6) Should any person, having been served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver, fail to answer the notice and order to withhold and deliver within the time prescribed in this section or otherwise fail to comply with the duties imposed in this section, the department may bring a proceeding, in the superior court of Thurston county or of the county

in which service of the notice was made, to enforce the notice and order to withhold and deliver. The court may render judgment by default against such person for the full amount claimed by the department in the notice and order to withhold and deliver or may grant such other relief as the court deems just, together with costs.

(7) For purposes of this section, "person" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.030 and also includes any agency, department, or institution of the state. [2009 c 562 § 1; 1987 c 208 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 85; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 22; 1963 ex.s. c 28 § 11.]

**Finding—2009 c 562:** "(1) The legislature finds that the state's vital interest in collecting lawfully due taxes must be balanced against the burden of complying with section 1(3) of this act, particularly for small financial institutions.

(2)(a) Therefore, the legislature directs the department of revenue to work with interested financial institutions to develop policies regarding the frequency of service under section 1(3) of this act and under what circumstances a notice and order to withhold and deliver will contain only a partial list of unsatisfied tax warrants eligible to be included in the notice. The policies should take into account the size of a financial institution, location of a financial institution, number of business accounts that a financial institution has, and any other factors the department may choose to consider.

(b) The department is also directed to develop a policy regarding the information to be contained in a notice and order to withhold and deliver to ensure that financial institutions can accurately match their records with the names of tax debtors.

(3) The department must report to the fiscal committees of the legislature on the implementation of section 1(3) of this act by January 1, 2012. The report should describe the policies developed by the department as directed in subsection (2) of this section. The report should also describe any difficulties the department encountered in implementing section 1(3) of this act and any suggestions the department may have to improve the effectiveness of section 1(3) of this act, reduce the burden on financial institutions in complying with section 1(3) of this act, or both." [2009 c 562 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.237 Notice and order to withhold and deliver—Continuing lien—Effective date.** Upon service, the notice and order to withhold and deliver shall constitute a continuing lien on property of the taxpayer and upon wages due, owing, or belonging to the taxpayer. The department shall include in the caption of the notice and order to withhold and deliver "continuing lien." The effective date of a notice and order to withhold and deliver served under RCW 82.32.235 shall be the date of service thereof. [1987 c 208 § 2.]

**82.32.240 Tax constitutes debt to the state—Priority of lien.** Any tax due and unpaid and all increases and penalties thereon, shall constitute a debt to the state and may be collected by court proceedings in the same manner as any other debt in like amount, which remedy shall be in addition to any and all other existing remedies.

In all cases of probate, insolvency, assignment for the benefit of creditors, or bankruptcy, involving any taxpayer who is, or decedent who was, engaging in business, the claim of the state for said taxes and all increases and penalties thereon shall be a lien upon all real and personal property of the taxpayer, and the mere existence of such cases or conditions shall be sufficient to create such lien without any prior or subsequent action by the state, and in all such cases it shall be the duty of all administrators, executors, guardians, receivers, trustees in bankruptcy or assignees for the benefit of creditors, to notify the department of revenue of such admin-

istration, receivership or assignment within sixty days from the date of their appointment and qualification.

The lien provided for by this section shall attach as of the date of the assignment for the benefit of creditors or of the initiation of the probate, insolvency, or bankruptcy proceedings: PROVIDED, That this sentence shall not be construed as affecting the validity or priority of any earlier lien that may have attached previously in favor of the state under any other section of this title.

Any administrator, executor, guardian, receiver or assignee for the benefit of creditors not giving the notification as provided for above shall become personally liable for payment of the taxes and all increases and penalties thereon to the extent of the value of the property subject to administration that otherwise would have been available for the payment of such taxes, increases, and penalties by the administrator, executor, guardian, receiver, or assignee.

As used in this section, "probate" includes the nonprobate claim settlement procedure under chapter 11.42 RCW, and "executor" and "administrator" includes any notice agent acting under chapter 11.42 RCW. [1994 c 221 § 69; 1988 c 64 § 21; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 86; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.240. Prior: 1949 c 228 § 26; 1935 c 180 § 203; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8370-203.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.245 Search for and seizure of property—Warrant—Procedure.** (1) When there is probable cause to believe that there is property within this state, not otherwise exempt from process or execution, in the possession or control of any taxpayer against whom a tax warrant has been filed which remains unsatisfied, any judge of the superior court or district court in the county in which such property is located may, upon the request of the sheriff or agent of the department authorized to collect taxes, issue a warrant directed to such officers commanding the search for and seizure of the property described in the request for warrant.

(2) Application for, issuance, and execution and return of the warrant authorized by this section and for return of any property seized shall be in accordance with the criminal rules of the superior court and the justice court.

(3) The sheriff or agent of the department shall levy execution upon property seized pursuant to this section as provided in RCW 82.32.220 and 82.32.230.

(4) Nothing in this section shall require the application for and issuance of any warrant not otherwise required by law. [1985 c 414 § 3.]

**82.32.260 Payment condition to dissolution or withdrawal of corporation.** In the case of any corporation organized under the laws of this state, the courts shall not enter or sign any decree of dissolution, nor shall the secretary of state file in his office any certificate of dissolution, and in the case of any corporation organized under the laws of another jurisdiction and admitted to do business in this state, the secretary of state shall withhold the issuance of any certificate of withdrawal, until proof, in the form of a certificate from the department of revenue, has been furnished by the applicant for such dissolution or withdrawal, that every license fee, tax, increase, or penalty has been paid or provided for. [1975 1st

ex.s. c 278 § 87; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.260. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 204; RRS § 8370-204.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.265 Use of collection agencies to collect taxes outside the state.** (1) The department may retain, by written contract, collection agencies licensed under chapter 19.16 RCW or licensed under the laws of another state or the District of Columbia for the purpose of collecting from sources outside the state of Washington taxes including interest and penalties thereon imposed under this title and RCW 84.33.041.

(2) Only accounts represented by tax warrants filed in the superior court of a county in the state as provided by RCW 82.32.210 may be assigned to a collection agency, and no such assignment may be made unless the department has previously notified or has attempted to notify the taxpayer of his or her right to petition for correction of assessment within the time provided and in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 82.32 RCW.

(3) Collection agencies assigned accounts for collection under this section shall have only those remedies and powers that would be available to them as assignees of private creditors. However, nothing in this section limits the right to enforce the liability for taxes lawfully imposed under the laws of this state in the courts of another state or the District of Columbia as provided by the laws of such jurisdictions and RCW 4.24.140 and 4.24.150.

(4) The account of the taxpayer shall be credited with the amounts collected by a collection agency before reduction for reasonable collection costs, including attorneys fees, that the department is authorized to negotiate on a contingent fee or other basis. [1987 c 80 § 5; 1985 c 414 § 4.]

**82.32.270 Accounting period prescribed.** The taxes imposed hereunder, and the returns required therefor, shall be upon a calendar year basis; but, if any taxpayer in transacting his business, keeps books reflecting the same on a basis other than the calendar year, he may, with consent of the department of revenue, make his returns, and pay taxes upon the basis of his accounting period as shown by the method of keeping the books of his business. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 88; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.270. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 205; RRS § 8370-205.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.280 Tax declared additional.** Taxes imposed hereunder shall be in addition to any and all other licenses, taxes, and excises levied or imposed by the state or any municipal subdivision thereof. [1961 c 15 § 82.32.280. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 206; RRS § 8370-206.]

**82.32.290 Unlawful acts—Penalties.** (1)(a) It shall be unlawful:

(i) For any person to engage in business without having obtained a certificate of registration as provided in this chapter;

(ii) For the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, or other officer of any company to cause or permit the company to engage in business without having obtained a certificate of registration as provided in this chapter;

(iii) For any person to tear down or remove any order or notice posted by the department;

(iv) For any person to aid or abet another in any attempt to evade the payment of any tax or any part thereof;

(v) For any purchaser to fraudulently sign or furnish to a seller documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 without intent to resell the property purchased or with intent to otherwise use the property in a manner inconsistent with the claimed wholesale purchase; or

(vi) For any person to fail or refuse to permit the examination of any book, paper, account, record, or other data by the department or its duly authorized agent; or to fail or refuse to permit the inspection or appraisal of any property by the department or its duly authorized agent; or to refuse to offer testimony or produce any record as required.

(b) Any person violating any of the provisions of this subsection (1) shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor in accordance with chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(2)(a) It shall be unlawful:

(i) For any person to engage in business after revocation of a certificate of registration;

(ii) For the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, or other officer of any company to cause or permit the company to engage in business after revocation of a certificate of registration; or

(iii) For any person to make any false or fraudulent return or false statement in any return, with intent to defraud the state or evade the payment of any tax or part thereof.

(b) Any person violating any of the provisions of this subsection (2) shall be guilty of a class C felony in accordance with chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(3) In addition to the foregoing penalties, any person who knowingly swears to or verifies any false or fraudulent return, or any return containing any false or fraudulent statement with the intent aforesaid, shall be guilty of the offense of perjury in the second degree; and any company for which a false return, or a return containing a false statement, as aforesaid, is made, shall be punished, upon conviction thereof, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars. All penalties or punishments provided in this section shall be in addition to all other penalties provided by law. [2010 c 112 § 11; 2009 c 563 § 211; 1985 c 414 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 89; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.290. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 207; RRS § 8370-207.]

**Effective date—2010 c 112 §§ 2, 3, 11, 12, and 15:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.291 Reseller permit—Unlawful use—Penalty—Rules.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if any buyer improperly uses a reseller permit number, reseller permit, or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 to purchase items or services at retail without payment of sales tax that was legally due on the purchase, the department must assess against that buyer a penalty of fifty percent of the tax due, in addition to all other taxes, pen-

alties, and interest due, on the improperly purchased item or service.

(2) The department must waive the penalty imposed under subsection (1) of this section if it finds that the use of the reseller permit number, reseller permit, or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 was due to circumstances beyond the taxpayer's control or if the reseller permit number, reseller permit, or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 was properly used for purchases for dual purposes. The department must define by rule what circumstances are considered to be beyond the taxpayer's control.

(3) A buyer that purchases items or services at retail without payment of sales tax legally due on the purchase is deemed to have improperly used a reseller permit number, reseller permit, or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 to purchase the items or services without payment of sales tax and is subject to the penalty in subsection (1) of this section if the buyer:

(a) Furnished to the seller a reseller permit number, a reseller permit or copy of a reseller permit, or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 to avoid payment of sales tax legally due on the purchase; or

(b) Made the purchase from a seller that had previously used electronic means to verify the validity of the buyer's reseller permit with the department and, as a result, did not require the buyer to provide a copy of its reseller permit or furnish other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 to document the wholesale nature of the purchase. In such cases, the buyer bears the burden of proving that it did not improperly use its reseller permit to make the purchase without payment of sales tax. [2010 c 112 § 12. Prior: 2009 c 563 § 212; 2009 c 289 § 4; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 703.]

**Effective date—2010 c 112 §§ 2, 3, 11, 12, and 15:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

*Seller's permit and uniform exemption certificate: RCW 82.04.470 and 82.08.130.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.300 Department of revenue to administer—Chapters enforced by liquor control board.** The administration of this and chapters 82.04 through 82.27 RCW of this title is vested in the department of revenue which shall prescribe forms and rules of procedure for the determination of the taxable status of any person, for the making of returns and for the ascertainment, assessment and collection of taxes and penalties imposed thereunder.

The department of revenue shall make and publish rules and regulations, not inconsistent therewith, necessary to enforce provisions of this chapter and chapters 82.02 through 82.23B and 82.27 RCW, and the liquor control board shall make and publish rules necessary to enforce chapters 82.24 and 82.26 RCW, which shall have the same force and effect as if specifically included therein, unless declared invalid by the judgment of a court of record not appealed from.

The department may employ such clerks, specialists, and other assistants as are necessary. Salaries and compensation

(2012 Ed.)

of such employees shall be fixed by the department and shall be charged to the proper appropriation for the department.

The department shall exercise general supervision of the collection of taxes and, in the discharge of such duty, may institute and prosecute such suits or proceedings in the courts as may be necessary and proper. [1997 c 420 § 9; 1983 c 3 § 222; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 90; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.300. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 208, part; RRS § 8370-208, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.310 Immunity of officers, agents, etc., of the department of revenue acting in good faith.** When recovery is had in any suit or proceeding against an officer, agent, or employee of the department of revenue for any act done by him or for the recovery of any money exacted by or paid to him and by him paid over to the department, in the performance of his official duty, and the court certifies that there was probable cause for the act done by such officer, agent, or employee, or that he acted under the direction of the department or an officer thereof, no execution shall issue against such officer, agent, or employee, but the amount so recovered shall, upon final judgment, be paid by the department as an expense of operation. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 91; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.310. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 208, part; RRS § 8370-208, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.320 Revenue to state treasurer—Allocation for return or payment for less than the full amount due.** The department of revenue, on the next business day following the receipt of any payments hereunder, shall transmit them to the state treasurer, taking his or her receipt therefor. If a return or payment is submitted with less than the full amount of all taxes, interest, and penalties due, the department may allocate payments among applicable funds so as to minimize administrative costs to the extent practicable. [1995 c 318 § 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 92; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.320. Prior: 1935 c 180 § 209; RRS § 8370-209.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.330 Disclosure of return or tax information.**

(1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Disclose" means to make known to any person in any manner whatever a return or tax information;

(b) "Return" means a tax or information return or claim for refund required by, or provided for or permitted under, the laws of this state which is filed with the department of revenue by, on behalf of, or with respect to a person, and any amendment or supplement thereto, including supporting schedules, attachments, or lists that are supplemental to, or part of, the return so filed;

(c) "Tax information" means (i) a taxpayer's identity, (ii) the nature, source, or amount of the taxpayer's income, payments, receipts, deductions, exemptions, credits, assets, liabilities, net worth, tax liability deficiencies, overassessments, or tax payments, whether taken from the taxpayer's books and records or any other source, (iii) whether the taxpayer's return was, is being, or will be examined or subject to other investigation or processing, (iv) a part of a written determination that is not designated as a precedent and disclosed pursuant to RCW 82.32.410, or a background file document relat-

ing to a written determination, and (v) other data received by, recorded by, prepared by, furnished to, or collected by the department of revenue with respect to the determination of the existence, or possible existence, of liability, or the amount thereof, of a person under the laws of this state for a tax, penalty, interest, fine, forfeiture, or other imposition, or offense. However, data, material, or documents that do not disclose information related to a specific or identifiable taxpayer do not constitute tax information under this section. Except as provided by RCW 82.32.410, nothing in this chapter requires any person possessing data, material, or documents made confidential and privileged by this section to delete information from such data, material, or documents so as to permit its disclosure;

(d) "State agency" means every Washington state office, department, division, bureau, board, commission, or other state agency;

(e) "Taxpayer identity" means the taxpayer's name, address, telephone number, registration number, or any combination thereof, or any other information disclosing the identity of the taxpayer; and

(f) "Department" means the department of revenue or its officer, agent, employee, or representative.

(2) Returns and tax information are confidential and privileged, and except as authorized by this section, neither the department of revenue nor any other person may disclose any return or tax information.

(3) This section does not prohibit the department of revenue from:

(a) Disclosing such return or tax information in a civil or criminal judicial proceeding or an administrative proceeding:

(i) In respect of any tax imposed under the laws of this state if the taxpayer or its officer or other person liable under this title or chapter 83.100 RCW is a party in the proceeding;

(ii) In which the taxpayer about whom such return or tax information is sought and another state agency are adverse parties in the proceeding; or

(iii) Brought by the department under RCW 18.27.040 or 19.28.071;

(b) Disclosing, subject to such requirements and conditions as the director prescribes by rules adopted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, such return or tax information regarding a taxpayer to such taxpayer or to such person or persons as that taxpayer may designate in a request for, or consent to, such disclosure, or to any other person, at the taxpayer's request, to the extent necessary to comply with a request for information or assistance made by the taxpayer to such other person. However, tax information not received from the taxpayer must not be so disclosed if the director determines that such disclosure would compromise any investigation or litigation by any federal, state, or local government agency in connection with the civil or criminal liability of the taxpayer or another person, or that such disclosure would identify a confidential informant, or that such disclosure is contrary to any agreement entered into by the department that provides for the reciprocal exchange of information with other government agencies which agreement requires confidentiality with respect to such information unless such information is required to be disclosed to the taxpayer by the order of any court;

(c) Disclosing the name of a taxpayer against whom a warrant under RCW 82.32.210 has been either issued or filed and remains outstanding for a period of at least ten working days. The department is not required to disclose any information under this subsection if a taxpayer has entered a deferred payment arrangement with the department for the payment of a warrant that has not been filed and is making payments upon such deficiency that will fully satisfy the indebtedness within twelve months;

(d) Publishing statistics so classified as to prevent the identification of particular returns or reports or items thereof;

(e) Disclosing such return or tax information, for official purposes only, to the governor or attorney general, or to any state agency, or to any committee or subcommittee of the legislature dealing with matters of taxation, revenue, trade, commerce, the control of industry or the professions;

(f) Permitting the department of revenue's records to be audited and examined by the proper state officer, his or her agents and employees;

(g) Disclosing any such return or tax information to a peace officer as defined in RCW 9A.04.110 or county prosecuting attorney, for official purposes. The disclosure may be made only in response to a search warrant, subpoena, or other court order, unless the disclosure is for the purpose of criminal tax enforcement. A peace officer or county prosecuting attorney who receives the return or tax information may disclose that return or tax information only for use in the investigation and a related court proceeding, or in the court proceeding for which the return or tax information originally was sought;

(h) Disclosing any such return or tax information to the proper officer of the internal revenue service of the United States, the Canadian government or provincial governments of Canada, or to the proper officer of the tax department of any state or city or town or county, for official purposes, but only if the statutes of the United States, Canada or its provincial governments, or of such other state or city or town or county, as the case may be, grants substantially similar privileges to the proper officers of this state;

(i) Disclosing any such return or tax information to the United States department of justice, including the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms and explosives, the department of defense, the immigration and customs enforcement and the customs and border protection agencies of the United States department of homeland security, the United States coast guard, the alcohol and tobacco tax and trade bureau of the United States department of treasury, and the United States department of transportation, or any authorized representative of these federal agencies, for official purposes;

(j) Publishing or otherwise disclosing the text of a written determination designated by the director as a precedent pursuant to RCW 82.32.410;

(k) Disclosing, in a manner that is not associated with other tax information, the taxpayer name, entity type, business address, mailing address, revenue tax registration numbers, reseller permit numbers and the expiration date and status of such permits, North American industry classification system or standard industrial classification code of a taxpayer, and the dates of opening and closing of business. This subsection may not be construed as giving authority to the

department to give, sell, or provide access to any list of taxpayers for any commercial purpose;

(l) Disclosing such return or tax information that is also maintained by another Washington state or local governmental agency as a public record available for inspection and copying under the provisions of chapter 42.56 RCW or is a document maintained by a court of record and is not otherwise prohibited from disclosure;

(m) Disclosing such return or tax information to the United States department of agriculture for the limited purpose of investigating food stamp fraud by retailers;

(n) Disclosing to a financial institution, escrow company, or title company, in connection with specific real property that is the subject of a real estate transaction, current amounts due the department for a filed tax warrant, judgment, or lien against the real property;

(o) Disclosing to a person against whom the department has asserted liability as a successor under RCW 82.32.140 return or tax information pertaining to the specific business of the taxpayer to which the person has succeeded;

(p) Disclosing real estate excise tax affidavit forms filed under RCW 82.45.150 in the possession of the department, including real estate excise tax affidavit forms for transactions exempt or otherwise not subject to tax;

(q) Disclosing to local taxing jurisdictions the identity of sellers granted relief under RCW 82.32.430(5)(b)(i) and the period for which relief is granted;

(r) Disclosing such return or tax information to the court in respect to the department's application for a subpoena under RCW 82.32.117;

(s) Disclosing to a person against whom the department has asserted liability under RCW 83.100.120 return or tax information pertaining to that person's liability for tax under chapter 83.100 RCW;

(t) Disclosing such return or tax information to the streamlined sales tax governing board, member states of the streamlined sales tax governing board, or authorized representatives of such board or states, for the limited purposes of:

(i) Conducting on behalf of member states sales and use tax audits of taxpayers; or

(ii) Auditing certified service providers or certified automated systems providers; or

(u) Disclosing any such return or tax information when the disclosure is specifically authorized under any other section of the Revised Code of Washington.

(4)(a) The department may disclose return or taxpayer information to a person under investigation or during any court or administrative proceeding against a person under investigation as provided in this subsection (4). The disclosure must be in connection with the department's official duties relating to an audit, collection activity, or a civil or criminal investigation. The disclosure may occur only when the person under investigation and the person in possession of data, materials, or documents are parties to the return or tax information to be disclosed. The department may disclose return or tax information such as invoices, contracts, bills, statements, resale or exemption certificates, or checks. However, the department may not disclose general ledgers, sales or cash receipt journals, check registers, accounts receivable/payable ledgers, general journals, financial statements, expert's workpapers, income tax returns, state tax

returns, tax return workpapers, or other similar data, materials, or documents.

(b) Before disclosure of any tax return or tax information under this subsection (4), the department must, through written correspondence, inform the person in possession of the data, materials, or documents to be disclosed. The correspondence must clearly identify the data, materials, or documents to be disclosed. The department may not disclose any tax return or tax information under this subsection (4) until the time period allowed in (c) of this subsection has expired or until the court has ruled on any challenge brought under (c) of this subsection.

(c) The person in possession of the data, materials, or documents to be disclosed by the department has twenty days from the receipt of the written request required under (b) of this subsection to petition the superior court of the county in which the petitioner resides for injunctive relief. The court must limit or deny the request of the department if the court determines that:

(i) The data, materials, or documents sought for disclosure are cumulative or duplicative, or are obtainable from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive;

(ii) The production of the data, materials, or documents sought would be unduly burdensome or expensive, taking into account the needs of the department, the amount in controversy, limitations on the petitioner's resources, and the importance of the issues at stake; or

(iii) The data, materials, or documents sought for disclosure contain trade secret information that, if disclosed, could harm the petitioner.

(d) The department must reimburse reasonable expenses for the production of data, materials, or documents incurred by the person in possession of the data, materials, or documents to be disclosed.

(e) Requesting information under (b) of this subsection that may indicate that a taxpayer is under investigation does not constitute a disclosure of tax return or tax information under this section.

(5) Service of a subpoena issued under RCW 82.32.117 does not constitute a disclosure of return or tax information under this section. Notwithstanding anything else to the contrary in this section, a person served with a subpoena under RCW 82.32.117 may disclose the existence or content of the subpoena to that person's legal counsel.

(6) Any person acquiring knowledge of any return or tax information in the course of his or her employment with the department of revenue and any person acquiring knowledge of any return or tax information as provided under subsection (3) (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), or (m) of this section, who discloses any such return or tax information to another person not entitled to knowledge of such return or tax information under the provisions of this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor. If the person guilty of such violation is an officer or employee of the state, such person must forfeit such office or employment and is incapable of holding any public office or employment in this state for a period of two years thereafter. [2011 c 174 § 404. Prior: 2010 c 112 § 13; 2010 c 106 § 104; prior: 2009 c 563 § 213; 2009 c 309 § 2; 2008 c 81 § 11; 2007 c 6 § 1502; 2006 c 177 § 7; prior: 2005 c 326 § 1; 2005 c 274 § 361; prior: 2000 c 173 § 1; 2000 c 106 § 1; 1998 c 234 § 1; 1996

c 184 § 5; 1995 c 197 § 1; 1991 c 330 § 1; 1990 c 67 § 1; 1985 c 414 § 9; 1984 c 138 § 12; 1969 ex.s. c 104 § 1; 1963 ex.s. c 28 § 10; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.330; prior: 1943 c 156 § 12; 1935 c 180 § 210; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8370-210.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Application—2010 c 106 §§ 104 and 111:** "Sections 104(3) (a)(i) and (s) and 111 of this act apply to return or tax information in respect to the tax imposed under chapter 83.100 RCW in the possession of the department of revenue on or after July 1, 2010." [2010 c 106 § 403.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective date—2006 c 177 §§ 1-9:** See note following RCW 82.04.250.

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.340 Chargeoff of uncollectible taxes—Destruction of files and records.** (1) Any tax or penalty which the department of revenue deems to be uncollectible may be transferred from accounts receivable to a suspense account and cease to be accounted an asset. Any item transferred shall continue to be a debt due the state from the taxpayer and may at any time within twelve years from the filing of a warrant covering such amount with the clerk of the superior court be transferred back to accounts receivable for the purpose of collection. The department of revenue may charge off as finally uncollectible any tax or penalty which it deems uncollectible at any time after twelve years from the date that the last tax return for the delinquent taxpayer was or should have been filed if the department of revenue is satisfied that there are no cost-effective means of collecting the tax or penalty.

After any tax or penalty has been charged off as finally uncollectible under the provisions of this section, the department of revenue may destroy any or all files and records pertaining to the liability of any taxpayer for such tax or penalty.

The department of revenue, subject to the approval of the state records committee, may at the expiration of five years after the close of any taxable year, destroy any or all files and records pertaining to the tax liability of any taxpayer for such taxable year, who has fully paid all taxes, penalties and interest for such taxable year, or any preceding taxable year for which such taxes, penalties and interest have been fully paid. In the event that such files and records are reproduced on film pursuant to RCW 40.20.020 for use in accordance with RCW 40.20.030, the original files and records may be destroyed immediately after reproduction and such reproductions may be destroyed at the expiration of the above five-year period, subject to the approval of the state records committee.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the department may charge off any tax within its jurisdiction to collect that is owed by a taxpayer, including any penalty or interest thereon, if the department ascertains that the cost of collecting that tax would be greater than the total amount which is owed or likely in the near future to be owed by, and

collectible from, the taxpayer. [1989 c 78 § 3; 1985 c 414 § 1; 1979 1st ex.s. c 95 § 3; 1979 c 151 § 184; 1967 ex.s. c 89 § 4; 1965 ex.s. c 141 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.340. Prior: 1955 c 389 § 40; 1939 c 225 § 30; 1937 c 227 § 21; 1935 c 180 § 210(a); RRS § 8370-210a.]

**82.32.350 Closing agreements authorized.** The department may enter into an agreement in writing with any person relating to the liability of such person in respect of any tax imposed by any of the preceding chapters of this title for any taxable period or periods. [1971 ex.s. c 299 § 23; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.350. Prior: 1945 c 251 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-225.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.360 Conclusive effect of agreements.** Upon approval of such agreement, evidenced by execution thereof by the department of revenue and the person so agreeing, the agreement shall be final and conclusive as to tax liability or tax immunity covered thereby, and, except upon a showing of fraud or malfeasance, or of misrepresentation of a material fact:

(1) The case shall not be reopened as to the matters agreed upon, or the agreement modified, by any officer, employee, or agent of the state, or the taxpayer, and

(2) In any suit, action or proceeding, such agreement, or any determination, assessment, collection, payment, abatement, refund, or credit made in accordance therewith, shall not be annulled, modified, set aside, or disregarded. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 93; 1961 c 15 § 82.32.360. Prior: 1945 c 251 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-226.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.380 Revenues to be deposited in general fund.** The state treasurer, upon receipt of any payments of tax, penalty, interest, or fees collected hereunder shall deposit them to the credit of the state general fund or such other fund as may be provided by law. [1961 c 15 § 82.32.380. Prior: 1945 c 249 § 10; 1943 c 156 § 12A, 1941 c 178 § 19(a); 1939 c 225 § 31; 1937 c 227 § 32; 1935 c 180 § 211; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8370-211.]

**82.32.393 Thermal electric generation facilities with tax exemptions for air pollution control equipment—Payments upon cessation of operation. (Expires December 31, 2015.)** If a business is allowed an exemption under RCW 82.08.810, 82.12.810, 82.08.811, 82.12.811, or 84.36.487, and the business ceases operation of the facility for which the exemption is allowed, the business shall deposit into the general fund an amount equal to the fair market value of one-quarter of the total sulfur dioxide allowances authorized by federal law available to the facility at the time of cessation of operation of the generation facility as if the allowances were sold for a period of ten years following the time of cessation of operation of the generation facility. This section expires December 31, 2015. [2012 c 198 § 6; 1997 c 368 § 12.]

**Effective date—2012 c 198:** See note following RCW 70.94.6532.

**Findings—Intent—Rules adoption—Severability—Effective date—1997 c 368:** See notes following RCW 82.08.810.

**82.32.394 Revenues from sale or use of leaded racing fuel to be deposited into the advanced environmental mitigation revolving account.** The department of revenue shall deposit into the advanced environmental mitigation revolving account, created in RCW 47.12.340, all moneys received from the imposition on consumers of the taxes under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW on the sales or use of leaded racing fuel which is exempted from the motor vehicle fuel tax under \*RCW 82.38.081. [1998 c 115 § 7.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.38.081 was repealed by 2007 c 515 § 34.

**Intent—1998 c 115 §§ 6 and 7:** "It is the intent of the legislature that leaded racing fuel be exempted from payment of the motor vehicle fuel tax, as provided in RCW 82.38.081, since it is illegal for use on the public highways of the state under federal law. The legislature further intends that leaded racing fuel be subject to the retail sales and use taxes under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW and that the revenue collected will be earmarked as provided in RCW 82.32.394." [1998 c 115 § 5.]

**82.32.410 Written determinations as precedents.** (1) The director may designate certain written determinations as precedents.

(a) By rule adopted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, the director shall adopt criteria which he or she shall use to decide whether a determination is precedential. These criteria shall include, but not be limited to, whether the determination clarifies an unsettled interpretation of Title 82 RCW or where the determination modifies or clarifies an earlier interpretation.

(b) Written determinations designated as precedents by the director shall be made available for public inspection and shall be published by the department.

(c) The department shall disclose any written determination upon which it relies to support any assessment of tax, interest, or penalty against such taxpayer, after making the deletions provided by subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Before making a written determination available for public inspection under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall delete:

(a) The names, addresses, and other identifying details of the person to whom the written determination pertains and of another person identified in the written determination; and

(b) Information the disclosure of which is specifically prohibited by any statute applicable to the department of revenue, and the department may also delete other information exempted from disclosure by chapter 42.56 RCW or any other statute applicable to the department of revenue. [2005 c 274 § 362; 2001 c 320 § 10; 1997 c 409 § 211; 1991 c 330 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.430 Liability for tax rate calculation errors—Geographic information system.** (1) A person who collects and remits sales or use tax to the department and who calculates the tax using geographic information system technology developed and provided by the department shall be held harmless and is not liable for the difference in amount due nor subject to penalties or interest in regards to rate calculation errors resulting from the proper use of such technology.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the department shall notify sellers who collect and remit sales

or use tax to the department of changes in boundaries and rates to taxes imposed under the authority of chapter 82.14 RCW no later than sixty days before the effective date of the change.

(3) The department shall notify sellers who collect and remit sales or use tax to the department and make sales from printed catalogs of changes, as to such sales, of boundaries and rates to taxes imposed under the authority of chapter 82.14 RCW no later than one hundred twenty days before the effective date of the change.

(4) Sellers who have not received timely notice of rate and boundary changes under subsections (2) and (3) of this section due to actions or omissions of the department are not liable for the difference in the amount due until they have received the appropriate period of notice. Purchasers are liable for any uncollected amounts of tax.

(5)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, sellers registered with the department under RCW 82.32.030(3) and certified service providers must use the address-based geographic information technology system developed and provided by the department to calculate the tax to be collected and remitted to the department and to determine the appropriate local jurisdictions entitled to the tax.

(b)(i) Upon a showing that using the address-based geographic information technology system would cause undue hardship, a seller may be temporarily held harmless and not liable for the difference in amount due nor subject to penalties or interest in regards to rate calculation errors resulting from the proper use of zip code-based technology provided by the department for the period in which relief is granted. The department shall notify local taxing jurisdictions of the identity of sellers granted relief under this section and the period for which relief is granted.

(ii) The department shall reimburse local taxing jurisdictions for differences in amount due on account of such rate calculation errors occurring during the period in which relief is granted. Purchasers are liable for any uncollected amounts of tax. The department shall retain amounts collected from purchasers that have been reimbursed to local taxing jurisdictions under this subsection (5)(b)(ii). [2007 c 6 § 1501; 2003 c 168 § 207; 2001 c 320 § 11; 2000 c 104 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—2000 c 104:** See notes following RCW 82.14.055.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.440 Project on sales and use tax exemption requirements.** (1) The department is authorized to enter into agreements with sellers who meet the criteria in this section for a project on sales and use tax exemption requirements. This project will allow the use of electronic data collection in lieu of paper certificates otherwise required by law, including the use of electronic signatures.

(2) The object of the project is to determine whether using an electronic system and reviewing the data regarding the exempt transactions provides the same level of reliability as the current system while lessening the burden on the seller.

(3) A business making both sales taxable and exempt under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW, that has electronic data-collecting capabilities, and that wishes to participate in the project may make application to the department in such form and manner as the department may require. To be eligible for such participation, a seller must demonstrate its capability to take part in the project and to provide data to the department in a form in which the data can be used by the department. The department is not required to accept all applicants in this project and is not required to provide any reason for not selecting a participant. A seller selected as a participant may be relieved of other sales and use tax exemption documentation requirements provided by law as covered by the project. [2010 c 106 § 227; 2001 c 116 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Findings—2001 c 116:** "The legislature finds that current sales and use tax exemption documentation requirements are often confusing and burdensome for retailers, taxpayers, and the state. Additionally, the legislature notes the national efforts under way to simplify and streamline the sales and use tax, and that those efforts include a new system for retailers to use in processing sales and use tax exemptions. The legislature further finds that it would be beneficial to the state and its residents to allow for the simplification of sales and use tax exemption requirements." [2001 c 116 § 1.]

**82.32.450 Natural or manufactured gas, electricity—Maximum combined credits and deferrals allowed—Availability of credits and deferrals.** (1) The total combined credits and deferrals that may be taken under RCW 82.04.447, 82.12.024, and 82.16.0495 shall not exceed two million five hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year. Each person is limited to no more than a total of one million five hundred thousand dollars in tax deferred and credit allowed in any fiscal year in which more than one person takes tax credits and claims tax deferral. The department may require reporting of the credits taken and amounts deferred in a manner and form as is necessary to keep a running total of the amounts.

(2) Credits and deferred tax are available on a first come basis. Priority for tax credits and deferrals among approved applicants shall be designated based on the first actual consumption of gas under RCW 82.04.447 or 82.12.024, or on the first actual use of electricity under RCW 82.16.0495, by each approved applicant. The department shall disallow any credits or deferred tax, or portion thereof, that would cause the total amount of credits taken and deferred taxes claimed to exceed the fiscal year cap or to exceed the per person fiscal year cap. If the fiscal cap is reached or exceeded[, ] the department shall notify those persons who have approved applications under RCW 82.04.447, 82.12.024, and 82.16.0495 that no more credits may be taken or tax deferred during the remainder of the fiscal year. In addition, the department shall provide written notice to any person who has taken any tax credits or claimed any deferred tax in excess of the fiscal year cap. The notice shall indicate the amount of tax due and shall provide that the tax be paid within thirty days from the date of such notice.

(3) No portion of an application for credit or deferral disallowed under this section may be carried back or carried forward nor may taxes ineligible for credit or deferral due to the fiscal cap having been reached or exceeded be carried forward or carried backward. [2001 c 214 § 12.]

**Findings—2001 c 214:** See note following RCW 39.35.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.32.470 Transfer of sales and use tax on toll projects.** (1) The tax imposed and collected under chapters 82.08 and 82.12 RCW, less any credits allowed under chapter 82.14 RCW, on initial construction for a transportation project to be constructed under chapter 36.120 RCW, must be transferred to the transportation project to defray costs or pay debt service on that transportation project. In the case of a toll project, this transfer or credit must be used to lower the overall cost of the project and thereby the corresponding tolls.

(2) This transaction is exempt from the requirements in \*RCW 43.135.035(4).

(3) Government entities constructing transportation projects under chapter 36.120 RCW shall report to the department the amount of state sales or use tax covered under this section. [2002 c 56 § 407.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 43.135.035 was repealed by 2011 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 1053) without cognizance of its amendment by 2010 c 4 § 2. See the reviser's note following RCW 43.135.035.

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**82.32.480 Washington forest products commission—Disclosure of taxpayer information.** The forest products commission, created pursuant to chapter 15.100 RCW, constitutes a state agency for purposes of applying the exemption contained in RCW 82.32.330(3)(e) for the disclosure of taxpayer information by the department. Disclosure of return or tax information may be made only to employees of the commission and not to commission members. Employees are authorized to use this information in accordance with RCW 15.100.100(4). Employees are subject to all civil and criminal penalties provided under RCW 82.32.330 for disclosures made to another person not entitled under the provisions of this section or RCW 15.100.100 to knowledge of such information. [2010 c 106 § 105; 2001 c 314 § 20.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Findings—Construction—Severability—2001 c 314:** See RCW 15.100.010, 15.100.900, and 15.100.901.

**82.32.490 Electronic database for use by mobile telecommunications service provider.** (1)(a) The department may provide an electronic database as described in this section to a mobile telecommunications service provider, or if the department does not provide an electronic database to mobile telecommunications service providers, then the designated database provider may provide an electronic database to a mobile telecommunications service provider.

(b)(i) An electronic database, whether provided by the department or the designated database provider, shall be provided in a format approved by the American national standards institute's accredited standards committee X12, that after allowing for de minimis deviations, designates for each street address in the state, including to the extent practicable, any multiple postal street addresses applicable to one street location, the appropriate taxing jurisdictions, and the appropriate code for each taxing jurisdiction, for each level of taxing jurisdiction, identified by one nationwide standard numeric code.

(ii) An electronic database shall also provide the appropriate code for each street address with respect to political

subdivisions that are not taxing jurisdictions when reasonably needed to determine the proper taxing jurisdiction.

(iii) The nationwide standard numeric codes shall contain the same number of numeric digits with each digit or combination of digits referring to the same level of taxing jurisdiction throughout the United States using a format similar to FIPS 55-3 or other appropriate standard approved by the federation of tax administrators and the multistate tax commission, or their successors. Each address shall be provided in standard postal format.

(2) The department or designated database provider, as applicable, that provides or maintains an electronic database described in subsection (1) of this section shall provide notice of the availability of the then-current electronic database, and any subsequent revisions, by publication in the manner normally employed for the publication of informational tax, charge, or fee notices to taxpayers in the state.

(3) A mobile telecommunications service provider using the data contained in an electronic database described in subsection (1) of this section shall be held harmless from any tax, charge, or fee liability that otherwise would be due solely as a result of any error or omission in the database provided by the department or designated database provider. The mobile telecommunications service provider shall reflect changes made to the database during a calendar quarter not later than thirty days after the end of the calendar quarter if the department or designated database provider, as applicable, has issued notice of the availability of an electronic database reflecting the changes under subsection (2) of this section. [2002 c 67 § 11.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**82.32.495 Liability of mobile telecommunications service provider if no database provided.** (1) If neither the department nor the designated database provider provides an electronic database under RCW 82.32.490, a mobile telecommunications service provider shall be held harmless from any tax, charge, or fee liability in any taxing jurisdiction in this state that otherwise would be due solely as a result of an assignment of a street address to an incorrect taxing jurisdiction if, subject to RCW 82.32.500, the home service provider employs an enhanced zip code to assign each street address to a specific taxing jurisdiction for each level of taxing jurisdiction and exercises due diligence at each level of taxing jurisdiction to ensure that each street address is assigned to the correct taxing jurisdiction. If an enhanced zip code overlaps boundaries of taxing jurisdictions of the same level, the home service provider must designate one specific jurisdiction within the enhanced zip code for use in taxing the activity for such enhanced zip code for each level of taxing jurisdiction. Any enhanced zip code assignment changed in accordance with RCW 82.32.500 is deemed to be in compliance with this section. For purposes of this section, there is a rebuttable presumption that a home service provider has exercised due diligence if the home service provider demonstrates that it has:

(a) Expended reasonable resources to implement and maintain an appropriately detailed electronic database of street address assignments to taxing jurisdictions;

(2012 Ed.)

(b) Implemented and maintained reasonable internal controls to correct misassignments of street addresses to taxing jurisdictions promptly; and

(c) Used all reasonably obtainable and usable data pertaining to municipal annexations, incorporations, reorganizations, and any other changes in jurisdictional boundaries that materially affect the accuracy of the database.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section applies to a mobile telecommunications service provider that is in compliance with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, if in this state an electronic database has not been provided under RCW 82.32.490, until the later of:

(a) Eighteen months after the nationwide standard numeric code described in RCW 82.32.490(1) has been approved by the federation of tax administrators and the multistate tax commission; or

(b) Six months after the department or a designated database provider in this state provides the database as prescribed in RCW 82.32.490(1). [2002 c 67 § 12.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**82.32.500 Determination of taxing jurisdiction for telecommunications services.** A taxing jurisdiction, or the department on behalf of any taxing jurisdiction or taxing jurisdictions within this state, may:

(1) Determine that the address used for purposes of determining the taxing jurisdictions to which taxes, charges, or fees for mobile telecommunications services are remitted does not meet the definition of place of primary use in RCW 82.04.065 and give binding notice to the home service provider to change the place of primary use on a prospective basis from the date of notice of determination. If the authority making the determination is not the department, the taxing jurisdiction must obtain the consent of all affected taxing jurisdictions within the state before giving the notice of determination. Before the taxing jurisdiction gives the notice of determination, the customer must be given an opportunity to demonstrate, in accordance with applicable state or local tax, charge, or fee administrative procedures, that the address is the customer's place of primary use; and

(2) Determine that the assignment of a taxing jurisdiction by a home service provider under RCW 82.32.495 does not reflect the correct taxing jurisdiction and give binding notice to the home service provider to change the assignment on a prospective basis from the date of notice of determination. If the authority making the determination is not the department, the taxing jurisdiction must obtain the consent of all affected taxing jurisdictions within the state before giving the notice of determination. The home service provider must be given an opportunity to demonstrate, in accordance with applicable state or local tax, charge, or fee administrative procedures, that the assignment reflects the correct taxing jurisdiction. [2002 c 67 § 13.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**82.32.505 Telecommunications services—Place of primary use.** (1) A home service provider is responsible for obtaining and maintaining information regarding the customer's place of primary use as defined in RCW 82.04.065.

[Title 82 RCW—page 265]

Subject to RCW 82.32.500, and if the home service provider's reliance on information provided by its customer is in good faith, a taxing jurisdiction shall:

(a) Allow a home service provider to rely on the applicable residential or business street address supplied by the home service provider's customer; and

(b) Not hold a mobile telecommunications service provider liable for any additional taxes, charges, or fees based on a different determination of the place of primary use.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 82.32.500, a taxing jurisdiction shall allow a home service provider to treat the address used by the home service provider for tax purposes for any customer under a service contract or agreement in effect on August 1, 2002, as that customer's place of primary use for the remaining term of the service contract or agreement, excluding any extension or renewal of the service contract or agreement, for purposes of determining the taxing jurisdictions to which taxes, charges, or fees on charges for mobile telecommunications services are remitted. [2002 c 67 § 14.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**82.32.510 Scope of mobile telecommunications act—Identification of taxable and nontaxable charges.** (1) Chapter 67, Laws of 2002 does not modify, impair, supersede, or authorize the modification, impairment, or supersession of any law allowing a taxing jurisdiction to collect a tax, charge, or fee from a customer that has failed to provide its place of primary use.

(2) If a taxing jurisdiction does not otherwise subject charges for mobile telecommunications services to taxation and if these charges are aggregated with and not separately stated from charges that are subject to taxation, then the charges for nontaxable mobile telecommunications services may be subject to taxation unless the mobile telecommunications service provider can reasonably identify charges not subject to the tax, charge, or fee from its books and records that are kept in the regular course of business.

(3) If a taxing jurisdiction does not subject charges for mobile telecommunications services to taxation, a customer may not rely upon the nontaxability of charges for mobile telecommunications services unless the customer's home service provider separately states the charges for nontaxable mobile telecommunications services from taxable charges or the home service provider elects, after receiving a written request from the customer in the form required by the provider, to provide verifiable data based upon the home service provider's books and records that are kept in the regular course of business that reasonably identifies the nontaxable charges. [2002 c 67 § 15.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**82.32.515 Applicability of telephone and telecommunications definitions.** The definitions in RCW 82.04.065 apply to RCW 82.32.490 through 82.32.510 and 35.21.873. [2002 c 67 § 17.]

**Finding—Effective date—2002 c 67:** See notes following RCW 82.04.530.

**82.32.520 Sourcing of calls.** (1) Except for the defined telecommunications services listed in subsection (3) of this section, the sale of telecommunications service as defined in RCW 82.04.065 sold on a call-by-call basis is sourced to (a) each level of taxing jurisdiction where the call originates and terminates in that jurisdiction or (b) each level of taxing jurisdiction where the call either originates or terminates and in which the service address is also located.

(2) Except for the defined telecommunications services listed in subsection (3) of this section, a sale of telecommunications service as defined in RCW 82.04.065 sold on a basis other than a call-by-call basis, is sourced to the customer's place of primary use.

(3) The sales of telecommunications service as defined in RCW 82.04.065 that are listed in subsection (3) of this section is sourced to each level of taxing jurisdiction as follows:

(a) A sale of mobile telecommunications services, other than air-ground radiotelephone service and prepaid calling service, is sourced to the customer's place of primary use as required by RCW 82.08.066.

(b) A sale of postpaid calling service is sourced to the origination point of the telecommunications signal as first identified by either (i) the seller's telecommunications system, or (ii) information received by the seller from its service provider, where the system used to transport such signals is not that of the seller.

(c) A sale of prepaid calling service or a sale of a prepaid wireless calling service is sourced as follows:

(i) When a prepaid calling service or a prepaid wireless calling service is received by the purchaser at a business location of the seller, the sale is sourced to that business location;

(ii) When a prepaid calling service or a prepaid wireless calling service is not received by the purchaser at a business location of the seller, the sale is sourced to the location where receipt by the purchaser or the purchaser's donee, designated as such by the purchaser, occurs, including the location indicated by instructions for delivery to the purchaser or donee, known to the seller;

(iii) When (c)(i) and (ii) of this subsection do not apply, the sale is sourced to the location indicated by an address for the purchaser that is available from the business records of the seller that are maintained in the ordinary course of the seller's business when use of this address does not constitute bad faith;

(iv) When (c)(i), (ii), and (iii) of this subsection do not apply, the sale is sourced to the location indicated by an address for the purchaser obtained during the consummation of the sale, including the address of a purchaser's payment instrument, if no other address is available, when use of this address does not constitute bad faith;

(v) When (c)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) of this subsection do not apply, including the circumstance where the seller is without sufficient information to apply those provisions, the sale is sourced as provided in RCW 82.32.730(1)(e);

(vi) In the case of a sale of prepaid wireless calling service, (c)(v) of this subsection includes as an option the location associated with the mobile telephone number.

(d) A sale of a private communication service is sourced as follows:

(i) Service for a separate charge related to a customer channel termination point is sourced to each level of jurisdiction

tion in which such customer channel termination point is located.

(ii) Service where all customer termination points are located entirely within one jurisdiction or levels of jurisdiction is sourced in such jurisdiction in which the customer channel termination points are located.

(iii) Service for segments of a channel between two customer channel termination points located in different jurisdictions and which segment of channel are separately charged is sourced fifty percent in each level of jurisdiction in which the customer channel termination points are located.

(iv) Service for segments of a channel located in more than one jurisdiction or levels of jurisdiction and which segments are not separately billed is sourced in each jurisdiction based on the percentage determined by dividing the number of customer channel termination points in the jurisdiction by the total number of customer channel termination points.

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this chapter.

(a) "Air-ground radiotelephone service" means air-ground radio service, as defined in 47 C.F.R. Sec. 22.99, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2003, in which common carriers are authorized to offer and provide radio telecommunications service for hire to subscribers in aircraft.

(b) "Call-by-call basis" means any method of charging for telecommunications services where the price is measured by individual calls.

(c) "Communications channel" means a physical or virtual path of communications over which signals are transmitted between or among customer channel termination points.

(d) "Customer" means the person or entity that contracts with the seller of telecommunications services. If the end user of telecommunications services is not the contracting party, the end user of the telecommunications service is the customer of the telecommunications service. "Customer" does not include a reseller of telecommunications service or for mobile telecommunications service of a serving carrier under an agreement to serve the customer outside the home service provider's licensed service area.

(e) "Customer channel termination point" means the location where the customer either inputs or receives the communications.

(f) "End user" means the person who uses the telecommunications service. In the case of an entity, the term end user means the individual who uses the service on behalf of the entity.

(g) "Home service provider" means the same as that term is defined in RCW 82.04.065.

(h) "Mobile telecommunications service" means the same as that term is defined in RCW 82.04.065.

(i) "Place of primary use" means the street address representative of where the customer's use of the telecommunications service primarily occurs, which must be the residential street address or the primary business street address of the customer. In the case of mobile telecommunications services, "place of primary use" must be within the licensed service area of the home service provider.

(j) "Postpaid calling service" means the telecommunications service obtained by making a payment on a call-by-call basis either through the use of a credit card or payment mechanism such as a bank card, travel card, credit card, or debit

card, or by charge made to a telephone number that is not associated with the origination or termination of the telecommunications service. A postpaid calling service includes a telecommunications service, except a prepaid wireless calling service, that would be a prepaid calling service except it is not exclusively a telecommunications service.

(k) "Prepaid calling service" means the right to access exclusively telecommunications services, which must be paid for in advance and which enables the origination of calls using an access number and/or authorization code, whether manually or electronically dialed, and that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(l) "Prepaid wireless calling service" means a telecommunications service that provides the right to use mobile wireless service as well as other nontelecommunications services, including the download of digital products delivered electronically, content, and ancillary services, which must be paid for in advance that is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(m) "Private communication service" means a telecommunications service that entitles the customer to exclusive or priority use of a communications channel or group of channels between or among termination points, regardless of the manner in which such channel or channels are connected, and includes switching capacity, extension lines, stations, and any other associated services that are provided in connection with the use of such channel or channels.

(n) "Service address" means:

(i) The location of the telecommunications equipment to which a customer's call is charged and from which the call originates or terminates, regardless of where the call is billed or paid;

(ii) If the location in (n)(i) of this subsection is not known, the origination point of the signal of the telecommunications services first identified by either the seller's telecommunications system or in information received by the seller from its service provider, where the system used to transport such signals is not that of the seller;

(iii) If the locations in (n)(i) and (ii) of this subsection are not known, the location of the customer's place of primary use. [2010 c 106 § 228. Prior: 2007 c 54 § 18; 2007 c 6 § 1001; 2004 c 153 § 403; 2003 c 168 § 501.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.32.525 Purchaser's cause of action for over-collected sales or use tax.** (1) A purchaser's cause of action against the seller for over-collected sales or use tax does not accrue until the purchaser has provided written notice to the seller and the seller has sixty days to respond. The notice to the seller must contain the information necessary to determine the validity of the request.

(2) In connection with a purchaser's request from a seller for over-collected sales or use taxes, a seller shall be presumed to have a reasonable business practice, if in the collection of such sales or use taxes, the seller:

(a) Uses either a provider or a system, including a proprietary system, that is certified by the state; and

(b) Has remitted to the state all taxes collected less any deductions, credits, or collection allowances. [2004 c 153 § 408; 2003 c 168 § 211.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.32.530 Seller nexus.** The department may not use registration under the streamlined sales and use tax agreement and collection of sales and use taxes in member states as a factor in determining whether the seller has nexus with Washington for any tax at any time. [2004 c 153 § 404; 2003 c 168 § 213.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**Effective dates—Part headings not law—2003 c 168:** See notes following RCW 82.08.010.

**82.32.532 Digital products—Nexus.** (1) For purposes of the taxes imposed in this title, the department of revenue may not consider a person's ownership of, or rights in, computer software as defined in RCW 82.04.215, including computer software used in providing a digital automated service; master copies of software; digital goods or digital codes residing on servers located in this state in determining whether the person has substantial nexus with this state.

(2) For purposes of this section, "substantial nexus" means the requisite connection that a person has with a state to allow the state to subject the person to the state's taxing authority, consistent with the commerce clause of the United States Constitution. [2010 c 111 § 701; 2009 c 535 § 901.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.32.533 Digital products—Amnesty.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no person may be held liable for the failure to collect or pay state and local sales and use taxes accrued before July 26, 2009, on the sale or use of digital goods or of services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(2)(a) and rendered in respect to digital goods.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not relieve any person from liability for state and local sales taxes that the person collected from buyers but did not remit to the department of revenue.

(3) Nothing in this section may be construed as authorizing the refund of state and local sales and use taxes properly paid on the sale or use, before July 26, 2009, of digital goods or of services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(2)(a) and rendered in respect to digital goods.

(4) A person is not entitled to a credit or refund of any business and occupation tax paid in excess of that properly due as a result of the person paying tax on its income earned from the sale of eligible digital products and services at the

tax rate provided in RCW 82.04.290(2)(a) rather than the tax rate provided in RCW 82.04.250(1), unless the person requesting the credit or refund has paid the proper amount of state and local sales taxes due on the sales of the eligible digital products and services that generated the income in respect to which the business and occupation tax credit or refund is sought. For purposes of this subsection, "eligible digital products and services" means: (a) Digital goods; and (b) services defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(2)(a) and rendered in respect to digital goods.

(5) For purposes of this section, "digital goods" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.192. [2010 c 111 § 801; 2009 c 535 § 1001.]

**Purpose—Retroactive application—Effective date—2010 c 111:** See notes following RCW 82.04.050.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**82.32.534 Annual report requirement for tax preferences.** (1)(a) Every person claiming a tax preference that requires a report under this section must file a complete annual report with the department. The report is due by April 30th of the year following any calendar year in which a person becomes eligible to claim the tax preference that requires a report under this section. The department may extend the due date for timely filing of annual reports under this section as provided in RCW 82.32.590.

(b) The report must include information detailing employment, wages, and employer-provided health and retirement benefits for employment positions in Washington for the year that the tax preference was claimed. However, persons engaged in manufacturing commercial airplanes or components of such airplanes may report employment, wage, and benefit information per job at the manufacturing site for the year that the tax preference was claimed. The report must not include names of employees. The report must also detail employment by the total number of full-time, part-time, and temporary positions for the year that the tax preference was claimed.

(c) Persons receiving the benefit of the tax preference provided by RCW 82.16.0421 or claiming any of the tax preferences provided by RCW 82.04.2909, 82.04.4481, 82.08.805, 82.12.805, or 82.12.022(5) must indicate on the annual report the quantity of product produced in this state during the time period covered by the report.

(d) If a person filing a report under this section did not file a report with the department in the previous calendar year, the report filed under this section must also include employment, wage, and benefit information for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which a tax preference was claimed.

(2) As part of the annual report, the department may request additional information necessary to measure the results of, or determine eligibility for, the tax preference.

(3) Other than information requested under subsection (2) of this section, the information contained in an annual report filed under this section is not subject to the confidentiality provisions of RCW 82.32.330 and may be disclosed to the public upon request.

(4) Except as otherwise provided by law, if a person claims a tax preference that requires an annual report under

this section but fails to submit a complete report by the due date or any extension under RCW 82.32.590, the department must declare the amount of the tax preference claimed for the previous calendar year to be immediately due and payable. The department must assess interest, but not penalties, on the amounts due under this subsection. The interest must be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent taxes under this chapter, retroactively to the date the tax preference was claimed, and accrues until the taxes for which the tax preference was claimed are repaid. Amounts due under this subsection are not subject to the confidentiality provisions of RCW 82.32.330 and may be disclosed to the public upon request.

(5) The department must use the information from this section to prepare summary descriptive statistics by category. No fewer than three taxpayers may be included in any category. The department must report these statistics to the legislature each year by October 1st.

(6) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Person" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.030 and also includes the state and its departments and institutions.

(b) "Tax preference" has the meaning provided in RCW 43.136.021 and includes only the tax preferences requiring a survey under this section. [2010 c 114 § 103.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**82.32.550 "Commercial airplane," "component," and "superefficient airplane"—Definitions.** (1) "Commercial airplane" has its ordinary meaning, which is an airplane certified by the federal aviation administration for transporting persons or property, and any military derivative of such an airplane.

(2) "Component" means a part or system certified by the federal aviation administration for installation or assembly into a commercial airplane.

(3) "Superefficient airplane" means a twin aisle airplane that carries between two hundred and three hundred fifty passengers, with a range of more than seven thousand two hundred nautical miles, a cruising speed of approximately mach .85, and that uses fifteen to twenty percent less fuel than other similar airplanes on the market. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 517; 2008 c 81 § 12; 2007 c 54 § 20; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 17.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**82.32.555 Telecommunications and ancillary services taxes—Identification of taxable and nontaxable charges.** If a taxing jurisdiction does not subject some charges for ancillary services or telecommunications service, as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065, to taxation, but these charges are aggregated with and not separately stated from charges that are subject to taxation, then the charges for nontaxable ancillary services or telecommunications service,

as those terms are defined in RCW 82.04.065, may be subject to taxation unless the telecommunications service provider or ancillary services provider can reasonably identify charges not subject to the tax, charge, or fee from its books and records that are kept in the regular course of business and for purposes other than merely allocating the sales price of an aggregated charge to the individually aggregated items. [2007 c 54 § 21; 2007 c 6 § 1011; 2004 c 76 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2007 c 6 § 1011 and by 2007 c 54 § 21, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.580 Sales and use tax deferral—Historic automobile museum.** (1) The governing board of a nonprofit organization, corporation, or association may apply for deferral of taxes on an eligible project. Application shall be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application shall contain information regarding the location of the project, estimated or actual costs of the project, time schedules for completion and operation of the project, and other information required by the department. The department shall rule on the application within sixty days. All applications for the tax deferral under this section must be received no later than December 31, 2008.

(2) The department shall issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW on each eligible project.

(3) The nonprofit organization, corporation, or association shall begin paying the deferred taxes in the fifth year after the date certified by the department as the date on which the eligible project is operationally complete. The first payment is due on December 31st of the fifth calendar year after such certified date, with subsequent annual payments due on December 31st of the following nine years. Each payment shall equal ten percent of the deferred tax.

(4) The department may authorize an accelerated repayment schedule upon request of the nonprofit organization, corporation, or association.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, interest shall not be charged on any taxes deferred under this section for the period of deferral. The debt for deferred taxes is not extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the nonprofit organization, corporation, or association.

(6) If the project is not operationally complete within five calendar years from issuance of the tax deferral or if at any time the department finds that the project is not eligible for tax deferral under this section, the amount of deferred taxes outstanding for the project shall be immediately due and payable. If deferred taxes must be repaid under this subsection, the department shall assess interest, but not penalties, on amounts due under this subsection. Interest shall be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent taxes under this chapter, retroactively to the date of deferral, and shall accrue until the deferred taxes due are repaid.

(7) Applications and any other information received by the department of revenue under this section are not confidential under RCW 82.32.330. This chapter applies to the administration of this section.

(8) This section applies to taxable eligible project activity that occurs on or after July 1, 2007.

(9) The following definitions apply to this section:

(a) "Eligible project" means a project that is used primarily for a historic automobile museum.

(b) "Historic automobile museum" means a facility owned and operated by a nonprofit organization, corporation, or association that is used to maintain and exhibit to the public a collection of at least five hundred motor vehicles.

(c) "Nonprofit organization, corporation, or association" means an organization, corporation, or association exempt from tax under section 501(c) (3), (4), or (10) of the federal internal revenue code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c) (3), (4), or (10)).

(d) "Project" means the construction of new structures, the acquisition and installation of fixtures that are permanently affixed to and become a physical part of those structures, and site preparation. For purposes of this subsection, structures do not include parking facilities used for motor vehicles that are not on display or part of the museum collection.

(e) "Site preparation" includes soil testing, site clearing and grading, demolition, or any other related activities that are initiated before construction. Site preparation does not include landscaping services or landscaping materials. [2005 c 514 § 701.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514 § 701:** "Section 701 of this act takes effect July 1, 2007." [2005 c 514 § 1306.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.32.585 Annual survey requirement for tax preferences.** (1)(a) Every person claiming a tax preference that requires a survey under this section must file a complete annual survey with the department.

(i) Except as provided in (a)(ii) of this subsection, the survey is due by April 30th of the year following any calendar year in which a person becomes eligible to claim the tax preference that requires a survey under this section.

(ii) If the tax preference is a deferral of tax, the first survey must be filed by April 30th of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the investment project is certified by the department as operationally complete, and a survey must be filed by April 30th of each of the seven succeeding calendar years.

(b) The department may extend the due date for timely filing of annual surveys under this section as provided in RCW 82.32.590.

(2)(a) The survey must include the amount of the tax preference claimed for the calendar year covered by the survey. For a person that claimed an exemption provided in RCW 82.08.025651 or 82.12.025651, the survey must include the amount of tax exempted under those sections in the prior calendar year for each general area or category of research and development for which exempt machinery and equipment and labor and services were acquired in the prior calendar year.

(b) The survey must also include the following information for employment positions in Washington, not to include names of employees, for the year that the tax preference was claimed:

(i) The number of total employment positions;

(ii) Full-time, part-time, and temporary employment positions as a percent of total employment;

(iii) The number of employment positions according to the following wage bands: Less than thirty thousand dollars; thirty thousand dollars or greater, but less than sixty thousand dollars; and sixty thousand dollars or greater. A wage band containing fewer than three individuals may be combined with another wage band; and

(iv) The number of employment positions that have employer-provided medical, dental, and retirement benefits, by each of the wage bands.

(c) For persons claiming the tax preference provided under chapter 82.60 or 82.63 RCW, the survey must also include the number of new products or research projects by general classification, and the number of trademarks, patents, and copyrights associated with activities at the investment project.

(d) For persons claiming the credit provided under RCW 82.04.4452, the survey must also include the qualified research and development expenditures during the calendar year for which the credit was claimed, the taxable amount during the calendar year for which the credit was claimed, the number of new products or research projects by general classification, the number of trademarks, patents, and copyrights associated with the research and development activities for which the credit was claimed, and whether the tax preference has been assigned, and who assigned the credit. The definitions in RCW 82.04.4452 apply to this subsection (2)(d).

(e) For persons claiming the tax exemption in RCW 82.08.025651 or 82.12.025651, the survey must also include the general areas or categories of research and development for which machinery and equipment and labor and services were acquired, exempt from tax under RCW 82.08.025651 or 82.12.025651, in the prior calendar year.

(f) If the person filing a survey under this section did not file a survey with the department in the previous calendar year, the survey filed under this section must also include the employment, wage, and benefit information required under (b)(i) through (iv) of this subsection for the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which a tax preference was claimed.

(3) As part of the annual survey, the department may request additional information necessary to measure the results of, or determine eligibility for, the tax preference.

(4) All information collected under this section, except the information required in subsection (2)(a) of this section, is deemed taxpayer information under RCW 82.32.330. Information required in subsection (2)(a) of this section is not subject to the confidentiality provisions of RCW 82.32.330 and may be disclosed to the public upon request, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section. If the amount of the tax preference claimed as reported on the survey is different than the amount actually claimed or otherwise allowed by the department based on the taxpayer's excise tax returns or other information known to the department, the amount actually claimed or allowed may be disclosed.

(5) Persons for whom the actual amount of the tax reduced or saved is less than ten thousand dollars during the period covered by the survey may request the department to treat the amount of the tax reduction or savings as confidential under RCW 82.32.330.

(6)(a) Except as otherwise provided by law, if a person claims a tax preference that requires an annual survey under this section but fails to submit a complete annual survey by the due date of the survey or any extension under RCW 82.32.590, the department must declare the amount of the tax preference claimed for the previous calendar year to be immediately due. If the tax preference is a deferral of tax, twelve and one-half percent of the deferred tax is immediately due. If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee, the lessee is responsible for payment to the extent the lessee has received the economic benefit.

(b) The department must assess interest, but not penalties, on the amounts due under this subsection. The interest must be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent taxes under this chapter, retroactively to the date the tax preference was claimed, and accrues until the taxes for which the tax preference was claimed are repaid. Amounts due under this subsection are not subject to the confidentiality provisions of RCW 82.32.330 and may be disclosed to the public upon request.

(7) The department must use the information from this section to prepare summary descriptive statistics by category. No fewer than three taxpayers may be included in any category. The department must report these statistics to the legislature each year by October 1st.

(8) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Person" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.030 and also includes the state and its departments and institutions.

(b) "Tax preference" has the meaning provided in RCW 43.136.021 and includes only the tax preferences requiring a survey under this section. [2011 c 23 § 6; 2010 c 114 § 102.]

**Findings—2011 c 23:** See note following RCW 82.08.02565.

**Effective date—Construction—2011 c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.08.025651.

**Application—2010 c 114:** "Those provisions of sections 101 through 103, 105 through 109, 111 through 116, 118 through 122, 124, 126 through 128, 130, 132 through 149, and 151 through 153 of this act that relate to annual surveys and annual reports apply beginning with annual surveys and annual reports due in 2011 and thereafter." [2010 c 114 § 203.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** "(1) The legislature finds that accountability and effectiveness are important aspects of setting tax policy. In order to make policy choices regarding the best use of limited state resources, the legislature needs information on how a tax preference is used. In recent years, the legislature has enacted or extended numerous tax preferences that require the reporting of information to the department of revenue. Although there are many similarities in the requirements, and only two distinct accountability documents, there is a lack of uniformity in the information reported, penalties for failure to file, due dates, filing extensions, and filing requirements. Greater uniformity in the data reported is necessary to adequately compare tax preference programs. The legislature intends to create two sets of uniform reporting requirements that apply to the existing tax preferences and can be used in future legislation granting additional tax preferences.

(2) The legislative fiscal committees or the department of revenue are required to study many of the existing tax preferences and report to the legislature at least once. Because chapter 43.136 RCW now requires the joint legislative audit and review committee, with support from the department of revenue, to comprehensively review most tax preferences every ten years and provide a report to the legislature, a number of redundant studies by the

(2012 Ed.)

legislative fiscal committees and the department of revenue have been eliminated. However, the department of revenue will continue to prepare summary descriptive statistics by category and report the statistics to the legislature each year." [2010 c 114 § 101.]

**82.32.590 Annual surveys or reports for tax incentives—Failure to file.** (1) If the department finds that the failure of a taxpayer to file an annual survey under RCW 82.32.585 or annual report under RCW 82.32.534 by the due date was the result of circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer, the department must extend the time for filing the survey or report. The extension is for a period of thirty days from the date the department issues its written notification to the taxpayer that it qualifies for an extension under this section. The department may grant additional extensions as it deems proper.

(2) In making a determination whether the failure of a taxpayer to file an annual survey or annual report by the due date was the result of circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer, the department must be guided by rules adopted by the department for the waiver or cancellation of penalties when the underpayment or untimely payment of any tax was due to circumstances beyond the control of the taxpayer.

(3)(a) Subject to the conditions in this subsection (3), a taxpayer who fails to file an annual report or annual survey required under subsection (1) of this section by the due date of the report or survey is entitled to an extension of the due date. A request for an extension under this subsection (3) must be made in writing to the department.

(b) To qualify for an extension under this subsection (3), a taxpayer must have filed all annual reports and surveys, if any, due in prior years under subsection (1) of this section by their respective due dates, beginning with annual reports and surveys due in calendar year 2010.

(c) An extension under this subsection (3) is for ninety days from the original due date of the annual report or survey.

(d) No taxpayer may be granted more than one ninety-day extension under this subsection (3). [2011 c 174 § 306. Prior: 2010 c 137 § 1; 2010 c 114 § 135; 2009 c 461 § 7; prior: 2008 c 81 § 13; 2008 c 15 § 7; prior: 2006 c 354 § 17; 2006 c 300 § 10; 2006 c 177 § 8; 2006 c 112 § 7; 2006 c 84 § 7; 2005 c 514 § 1001.]

**Application—2010 c 137:** "Section 1 of this act applies to annual surveys and reports due under any of the statutes listed in RCW 82.32.590(1) in calendar year 2011 and thereafter." [2010 c 137 § 2.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—Contingent effective date—2009 c 461:** See note following RCW 82.04.280.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Effective date—2008 c 15:** See note following RCW 82.82.010.

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

**Effective date—2006 c 177 §§ 1-9:** See note following RCW 82.04.250.

**Severability—2006 c 112:** See RCW 28B.67.901.

**Effective date—2006 c 84 §§ 2-8:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 84:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**Retroactive application—2005 c 514 § 1001:** "Section 1001 of this act applies retroactively to annual surveys required under RCW 82.04.4452 that are due after December 31, 2004." [2005 c 514 § 1312.]

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4272.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.32.600 Annual surveys or reports for tax incentives—Electronic filing.** (1) Persons required to file annual surveys or annual reports under RCW 82.32.534 or 82.32.585 must electronically file with the department all surveys, reports, returns, and any other forms or information the department requires in an electronic format as provided or approved by the department. As used in this section, "returns" has the same meaning as "return" in RCW 82.32.050.

(2) Any survey, report, return, or any other form or information required to be filed in an electronic format under subsection (1) of this section is not filed until received by the department in an electronic format.

(3) The department may waive the electronic filing requirement in subsection (1) of this section for good cause shown. [2010 c 114 § 136; 2009 c 461 § 8. Prior: 2008 c 81 § 14; 2008 c 15 § 8; prior: 2007 c 54 § 23; 2007 c 54 § 22; prior: 2006 c 354 § 16; 2006 c 300 § 11; 2006 c 178 § 9; 2006 c 177 § 9; 2006 c 84 § 8; 2005 c 514 § 1002.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—Contingent effective date—2009 c 461:** See note following RCW 82.04.280.

**Findings—Savings—Effective date—2008 c 81:** See notes following RCW 82.08.975.

**Effective date—2008 c 15:** See note following RCW 82.82.010.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—Contingent effective date—2006 c 300:** See note following RCW 82.04.261.

**Effective date—Severability—2006 c 178:** See notes following RCW 82.75.010.

**Effective date—2006 c 177 §§ 1-9:** See note following RCW 82.04.250.

**Effective date—2006 c 84 §§ 2-8:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 84:** See note following RCW 82.04.2404.

**Effective date—2005 c 514 §§ 501 and 1002:** See note following RCW 82.04.4463.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.32.655 Tax avoidance.** (1) It is the legislature's intent to require all taxpayers to pay their fair share of taxes. To accomplish this purpose, it is the legislature's intent to stop transactions or arrangements that are designed to unfairly avoid taxes.

(2) The department must disregard, for tax purposes, the tax avoidance transactions or arrangements that are described in subsection (3) of this section. The department must deny the tax benefit that would otherwise result from the tax avoidance transaction or arrangement. In determining whether the department must disregard a transaction or arrangement described under subsection (3) of this section, the department may consider:

(a) Whether an arrangement or transaction changes in a meaningful way, apart from its tax effects, the economic positions of the participants in the arrangement when considered as a whole;

(b) Whether substantial nontax reasons exist for entering into an arrangement or transaction;

(c) Whether an arrangement or transaction is a reasonable means of accomplishing a substantial nontax purpose;

(d) An entities' relative contributions to the work that generates income;

(e) The location where work is performed; and

(f) Other relevant factors.

(3) This section applies only to the following transactions or arrangements:

(a) Arrangements that are, in form, a joint venture or similar arrangement between a construction contractor and the owner or developer of a construction project but that are, in substance, substantially guaranteed payments for the purchase of construction services characterized by a failure of the parties' agreement to provide for the contractor to share substantial profits and bear significant risk of loss in the venture;

(b) Arrangements through which a taxpayer attempts to avoid tax under chapter 82.04 RCW by disguising income received, or otherwise avoiding tax on income, from a person that is not affiliated with the taxpayer from business activities that would be taxable in Washington by moving that income to another entity that would not be taxable in Washington; and

(c) Arrangements through which a taxpayer attempts to avoid tax under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW by engaging in a transaction to disguise its purchase or use of tangible personal property by vesting legal title or other ownership interest in another entity over which the taxpayer exercises control in such a manner as to effectively retain control of the tangible personal property.

(4) In determining whether a transaction or arrangement comes within the scope of subsection (3) of this section, the department is not required to prove a taxpayer's subjective intent in engaging in the transaction or arrangement.

(5) The department must adopt rules to assist in determining whether a transaction or arrangement is within the scope of subsection (3) of this section. The adoption of a rule as required under this subsection is not a condition precedent for the department's exercise of the authority provided in this section. Any rules adopted under this section must include examples of transactions that the department will disregard for tax purposes.

(6) This section does not affect the department's authority to apply any other remedies available under statutory or common law.

(7) For purposes of this section, "affiliated" means under common control. "Control" means the possession, directly or indirectly, of more than fifty percent of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract, or otherwise. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 201.]

**Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 201 and 202:** "Except as provided in section 202 of this act, section 201 of this act applies to tax periods beginning January 1, 2006." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1703.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** "Except as otherwise provided in this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect May 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 1708.]

**Findings--Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

### **82.32.660 Tax avoidance—Statutory application.**

(1)(a) The department may not use RCW 82.32.655 to disregard any transaction or arrangement initiated before May 1, 2010, if, in respect to such transaction or arrangement, the taxpayer had reported its tax liability in conformance with either specific written instructions provided by the department to the taxpayer, a determination published under the authority of RCW 82.32.410, or other document made available by the department to the general public.

(b) This section does not apply if the transaction or arrangement engaged in by the taxpayer differs materially from the transaction or arrangement that was addressed in the specific written instructions, published determination, or other document made available by the department to the general public.

(2) RCW 82.32.655 does not apply to any tax periods ending before May 1, 2010, that were included in a completed field audit conducted by the department.

(3) For purposes of this section, "specific written instructions" means tax reporting instructions provided to a taxpayer and which specifically identify the taxpayer to whom the instructions apply. Specific written instructions may be provided as part of an audit, tax assessment, determination, closing agreement, or in response to a binding ruling request. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 202.]

**Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 23 §§ 201 and 202:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

### **82.32.700 Administration of the sales and use tax for hospital benefit zones.**

(1) As a condition to imposing a sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.465, a city, town, or county must apply to the department at least seventy-five days before the effective date of any such tax. The application shall be in a form and manner prescribed by the department and shall include but is not limited to information establishing that the applicant is eligible to impose such a tax, the anticipated effective date for imposing the tax, the estimated number of years that the tax will be imposed, and the estimated amount of tax revenue to be received in each fiscal year that the tax will be imposed. For purposes of this section, "fiscal year" means the year beginning July 1st and ending the following June 30th. The department shall make available forms to be used for this purpose. As part of the application, a city, town, or county must provide to the department a copy of the ordinance creating the benefit zone as required in RCW 39.100.040. The department shall rule on completed applications within sixty days of receipt. The department may begin accepting and approving applications August 1, 2006. No new applications shall be considered by the department after the thirtieth day of September of the

(2012 Ed.)

third year following the year in which the first application was received by the department.

(2) The authority to impose the local option sales and use taxes under RCW 82.14.465 is on a first-come basis. Priority for collecting the taxes authorized under RCW 82.14.465 among approved applicants shall be based on the date that the approved application was received by the department. As a part of the approval of applications under this section, the department shall approve the amount of tax under RCW 82.14.465 that an applicant may impose. The amount of tax approved by the department shall not exceed the lesser of two million dollars or the average amount of tax revenue that the applicant estimates that it will receive in all fiscal years through the imposition of a sales and use tax under RCW 82.14.465. A city, town, or county shall not receive, in any fiscal year, more revenues from taxes imposed under RCW 82.14.465 than the amount approved by the department. The department shall not approve the receipt of more credit against the state sales and use tax than is authorized under subsection (3) of this section.

(3) No more than two million dollars of credit against the state sales and use tax provided for under RCW 82.14.465(2), may be received in any fiscal year by all cities, towns, and counties imposing a tax under RCW 82.14.465.

(4)(a) The credit against the state sales and use tax shall be available to any city, town, or county imposing a tax under RCW 82.14.465 only as long as the city, town, or county has outstanding indebtedness under chapter 39.100 RCW or the tax allocation revenues are used for public improvement costs, but in no case shall the credit be available for more than thirty years after the tax is first imposed by the city, town, or county.

(b) Local governments may pledge any receipts from taxes levied and collected under chapter 39.100 RCW and RCW 82.14.465 to the repayment of its bonds or bond anticipation notes. A local government shall notify the department when all outstanding indebtedness secured in whole or in part from receipts is no longer outstanding or tax allocation revenues are no longer used for public improvement costs, and the credit provided for under RCW 82.14.465 shall be terminated.

(5) The department may adopt any rules under chapter 34.05 RCW it considers necessary for the administration of chapter 39.100 RCW. [2007 c 266 § 9; 2006 c 111 § 9.]

**Finding—Application—Effective date—2007 c 266:** See notes following RCW 39.100.010.

**Effective date—2006 c 111:** See RCW 39.100.900.

### **82.32.710 Professional employer organizations—Eligibility for tax incentives—Responsibility for reports/surveys.**

(1) A client under the terms of a professional employer agreement is deemed to be the sole employer of a covered employee for purposes of eligibility for any tax credit, exemption, or other tax incentive, arising as the result of the employment of covered employees, provided in RCW 82.04.4333, 82.04.44525, 82.04.448, 82.04.4483, 82.08.965, 82.12.965, 82.16.0495, or 82.60.049 or chapter 82.62 or 82.70 RCW, or any other provision in this title. A client, and not the professional employer organization, is entitled to the benefit of any tax credit, exemption, or other tax incentive

arising as the result of the employment of covered employees of that client.

(2) A client under the terms of a professional employer agreement is deemed to be the sole employer of a covered employee for purposes of reports or surveys that require the reporting of employment information relating to covered employees of the client, as provided in RCW 82.32.534 or 82.32.585. A client, and not the professional employer organization, is required to complete any survey or report that requires the reporting of employment information relating to covered employees of that client.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "client," "covered employee," "professional employer agreement," and "professional employer organization" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.04.540. [2010 c 114 § 137; 2006 c 301 § 4.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2006 c 301:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 301 § 10.]

**Act does not affect application of Title 50 or 51 RCW—2006 c 301:** "The provisions of this act do not affect the application of Title 50 or 51 RCW to the reporting requirement or tax liabilities of professional employer organizations or their clients." [2006 c 301 § 9.]

**82.32.715 Monetary allowances—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) The department shall adopt by rule monetary allowances for certified service providers, model 2 sellers, and model 3 sellers and all other sellers that are not model 1 or model 2 sellers. The department may be guided by the provisions for monetary allowances adopted by the governing board of the agreement to determine the amount of the allowances and the conditions under which they are allowed. The monetary allowances must be reasonable and provide adequate incentive for certified service providers and sellers to collect and remit sales and use taxes under the agreement. Monetary allowances will be funded solely from state sales and use taxes.

(2) For certified service providers, the monetary allowance may include a base rate that applies to taxable transactions processed by the certified service provider. Additionally, for a period not to exceed twenty-four months following a seller's registration under RCW 82.32.030(3), the monetary allowance may include a percentage of tax revenue generated by the seller.

(3) For model 2 sellers, the monetary allowance may include a base rate and a percentage of revenue generated by a seller registering under RCW 82.32.030(3), but shall not exceed a period of twenty-four months.

(4) For model 3 sellers and all other sellers that are not model 1 sellers or model 2 sellers, the monetary allowance may include a percentage of tax revenue generated by a seller registering under RCW 82.32.030(3), but shall not exceed a period of twenty-four months. [2007 c 6 § 301.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.720 Vendor compensation—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement. (Contingent effective date.)** (1) The department may adopt by rule vendor compensation for sellers collecting and remitting sales and use taxes. The vendor compensation may include a base rate or a percentage of

tax revenue collected by the seller, and may vary by type of seller. The department may be guided by the findings of the cost of collection study performed under the agreement, by cost of collection studies performed by the department, and by vendor compensation provided by other states, to determine reasonable vendor compensation for sellers for the costs to collect and remit sales and use taxes. Vendor compensation will be funded solely from state sales and use taxes.

(2) A seller is not entitled to vendor compensation while the seller or its certified service provider receives a monetary allowance under RCW 82.32.715. [2007 c 6 § 302.]

**Contingent effective date—2007 c 6 § 302:** "(1) Section 302 of this act takes effect when:

(a) The United States congress grants individual states the authority to impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers; or

(b) It is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, in a judgment not subject to review, that a state can impose sales and use tax collection duties on remote sellers.

(2) The department of revenue shall provide notice to affected taxpayers, the legislature, and others as deemed appropriate by the department, if either of the contingencies in this section occurs." [2007 c 6 § 1705.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.725 Amnesty—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) No assessment for taxes imposed or authorized under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW, or related penalties or interest, may be made by the department against a seller who:

(a) Within twelve months of the effective date of this state becoming a member state of the agreement, registers under RCW 82.32.030(3) to collect and remit to the department the applicable taxes imposed or authorized under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW on sales made to buyers in this state in accordance with the terms of the agreement, if the seller was not otherwise registered in this state in the twelve-month period preceding the effective date of this state becoming a member state of the agreement; and

(b) Continues to be registered and continues to collect and remit to the department the applicable taxes imposed or authorized under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW for a period of at least thirty-six months, absent the seller's fraud or intentional misrepresentation of a material fact.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section preclude an assessment for taxes imposed or authorized under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW for sales made to buyers during the period the seller was not registered in this state.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply to any seller with respect to:

(a) Any matter or matters for which the seller, before registering to collect and remit the applicable taxes imposed or authorized under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW, received notice from the department of the commencement of an audit and which audit is not yet finally resolved including any related administrative and judicial processes;

(b) Taxes imposed or authorized under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW and collected or remitted to the department by the seller; or

(c) That seller's liability for taxes imposed or authorized under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW in that seller's capacity as a buyer.

(4) The limitation periods for making an assessment or correction of an assessment prescribed in RCW \*82.32.050(3) and 82.32.100(3) do not run during the thirty-six month period in subsection (1)(b) of this section. [2007 c 6 § 401.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.32.050 was amended by 2008 c 181 § 501, changing subsection (3) to subsection (4).

Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6: See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

Findings—Intent—2007 c 6: See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.730 Sourcing—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (5) through (8) of this section, for purposes of collecting or paying sales or use taxes to the appropriate jurisdictions, all sales at retail shall be sourced in accordance with this subsection and subsections (2) through (4) of this section.

(a) When tangible personal property, an extended warranty, a digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or other service defined as a retail sale under RCW 82.04.050 is received by the purchaser at a business location of the seller, the sale is sourced to that business location.

(b) When the tangible personal property, extended warranty, digital good, digital code, digital automated service, or other service defined as a retail sale under RCW 82.04.050 is not received by the purchaser at a business location of the seller, the sale is sourced to the location where receipt by the purchaser or the purchaser's donee, designated as such by the purchaser, occurs, including the location indicated by instructions for delivery to the purchaser or donee, known to the seller.

(c) When (a) and (b) of this subsection do not apply, the sale is sourced to the location indicated by an address for the purchaser that is available from the business records of the seller that are maintained in the ordinary course of the seller's business when use of this address does not constitute bad faith.

(d) When (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection do not apply, the sale is sourced to the location indicated by an address for the purchaser obtained during the consummation of the sale, including the address of a purchaser's payment instrument, if no other address is available, when use of this address does not constitute bad faith.

(e) When (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this subsection do not apply, including the circumstance where the seller is without sufficient information to apply those provisions, then the location shall be determined by the address from which tangible personal property was shipped, from which the digital good or digital code or the computer software delivered electronically was first available for transmission by the seller, or from which the extended warranty or digital automated service or other service defined as a retail sale under RCW 82.04.050 was provided, disregarding for these purposes any location that merely provided the digital transfer of the product sold.

(2) The lease or rental of tangible personal property, other than property identified in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, shall be sourced as provided in this subsection.

(a) For a lease or rental that requires recurring periodic payments, the first periodic payment is sourced the same as a retail sale in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.

Periodic payments made subsequent to the first payment are sourced to the primary property location for each period covered by the payment. The primary property location shall be as indicated by an address for the property provided by the lessee that is available to the lessor from its records maintained in the ordinary course of business, when use of this address does not constitute bad faith. The property location is not altered by intermittent use at different locations, such as use of business property that accompanies employees on business trips and service calls.

(b) For a lease or rental that does not require recurring periodic payments, the payment is sourced the same as a retail sale in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.

(c) This subsection (2) does not affect the imposition or computation of sales or use tax on leases or rentals based on a lump sum or accelerated basis, or on the acquisition of property for lease.

(3) The lease or rental of motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, or aircraft that do not qualify as transportation equipment shall be sourced as provided in this subsection.

(a) For a lease or rental that requires recurring periodic payments, each periodic payment is sourced to the primary property location. The primary property location is as indicated by an address for the property provided by the lessee that is available to the lessor from its records maintained in the ordinary course of business, when use of this address does not constitute bad faith. This location is not altered by intermittent use at different locations.

(b) For a lease or rental that does not require recurring periodic payments, the payment is sourced the same as a retail sale in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.

(c) This subsection does not affect the imposition or computation of sales or use tax on leases or rentals based on a lump sum or accelerated basis, or on the acquisition of property for lease.

(4) The retail sale, including lease or rental, of transportation equipment shall be sourced the same as a retail sale in accordance with subsection (1) of this section.

(5) This subsection applies to direct mail transactions not governed by subsection (6) of this section.

(a) This subsection (5)(a) applies to sales of advertising and promotional direct mail.

(i) A purchaser of advertising and promotional direct mail may provide the seller with either:

(A) A direct pay permit;

(B) A streamlined sales and use tax agreement certificate of exemption claiming direct mail (or other written statement approved, authorized, or accepted by the department); or

(C) Information showing the jurisdictions to which the advertising and promotional direct mail is to be delivered to recipients.

(ii) If the purchaser provides the permit, certificate, or statement referred to in (a)(i)(A) or (B) of this subsection (5), the seller, in the absence of bad faith, is relieved of all obligations to collect, pay, or remit any tax on any transaction involving advertising and promotional direct mail to which the permit, certificate, or statement applies. The purchaser must source the sale to the jurisdictions to which the advertising and promotional direct mail is to be delivered to the recipients and must report and pay any applicable tax due.

(iii) If the purchaser provides the seller information showing the jurisdictions to which the advertising and promotional direct mail is to be delivered to recipients, the seller must source the sale to the jurisdictions to which the advertising and promotional direct mail is to be delivered and must collect and remit the applicable tax. In the absence of bad faith, the seller is relieved of any further obligation to collect any additional tax on the sale of advertising and promotional direct mail where the seller has sourced the sale according to the delivery information provided by the purchaser.

(iv) If the purchaser does not provide the seller with any of the items listed in (a)(i)(A), (B), or (C) of this subsection (5), the sale must be sourced according to subsection (1)(e) of this section.

(b) This subsection (5)(b) applies to sales of other direct mail.

(i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (5)(b), sales of other direct mail are sourced in accordance with subsection (1)(c) of this section.

(ii) A purchaser of other direct mail may provide the seller with either:

(A) A direct pay permit; or

(B) A streamlined sales and use tax agreement certificate of exemption claiming direct mail (or other written statement approved, authorized, or accepted by the department).

(iii) If the purchaser provides the permit, certificate, or statement referred to in (b)(ii)(A) or (B) of this subsection (5), the seller, in the absence of bad faith, is relieved of all obligations to collect, pay, or remit any tax on any transaction involving other direct mail to which the permit, certificate, or statement applies. Notwithstanding (b)(i) of this subsection (5), the sale must be sourced to the jurisdictions to which the other direct mail is to be delivered to the recipients, and the purchaser must report and pay any applicable tax due.

(6)(a) This subsection applies only with respect to transactions in which direct mail is delivered or distributed from a location within this state to a location within this state.

(b) If the purchaser of direct mail provides the seller with a direct pay permit or a streamlined sales and use tax agreement certificate of exemption claiming direct mail (or other written statement approved, authorized, or accepted by the department), the seller, in the absence of bad faith, is relieved of all obligations to collect, pay, or remit the applicable tax on any transaction involving direct mail to which the permit, certificate, or statement applies. The purchaser must report and pay any applicable tax due. A streamlined sales and use tax agreement certificate of exemption claiming direct mail will remain in effect for all future sales of direct mail by the seller to the purchaser until it is revoked in writing.

(c)(i) Except as provided in (b), (c)(ii), and (c)(iii) of this subsection (6), the seller must collect the tax according to subsection (1)(e) of this section.

(ii) To the extent the seller knows that a portion of the sale of direct mail will be delivered or distributed to locations in another state, the seller must collect the tax on that portion according to subsection (5) of this section.

(iii) Notwithstanding (c)(i) and (ii) of this subsection (6), a seller may elect to use the provisions of subsection (5) of this section to source all sales of advertising and promotional direct mail.

(7) The following are sourced to the location at or from which delivery is made to the consumer:

(a) A retail sale of watercraft;

(b) A retail sale of a modular home, manufactured home, or mobile home;

(c) A retail sale, excluding the lease and rental, of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, or aircraft, that do not qualify as transportation equipment; and

(d) Florist sales. In the case of a sale in which one florist takes an order from a customer and then communicates that order to another florist who delivers the items purchased to the place designated by the customer, the location at or from which the delivery is made to the consumer is deemed to be the location of the florist originally taking the order.

(8)(a) A retail sale of the providing of telecommunications services, as that term is defined in RCW 82.04.065, is sourced in accordance with RCW 82.32.520.

(b) A retail sale of the providing of ancillary services, as that term is defined in RCW 82.04.065, is sourced to the customer's place of primary use of the telecommunications services in respect to which the ancillary services are associated with or incidental to. The definitions of "customer" and "place of primary use" in RCW 82.32.520 apply to this subsection (8)(b).

(9) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

(a) "Advertising and promotional direct mail" means printed material that meets the definition of direct mail, the primary purpose of which is to attract public attention to a product, person, business, or organization, or to attempt to sell, popularize, or secure financial support for a product, person, business, or organization. As used in this subsection (9)(a), the word "product" means tangible personal property, a product transferred electronically, or a service.

(b) "Delivered electronically" means delivered to the purchaser by means other than tangible storage media.

(c) "Direct mail" means printed material delivered or distributed by United States mail or other delivery service to a mass audience or to addressees on a mailing list provided by the purchaser or at the direction of the purchaser when the cost of the items are not billed directly to the recipients. "Direct mail" includes tangible personal property supplied directly or indirectly by the purchaser to the direct mail seller for inclusion in the package containing the printed material. "Direct mail" does not include multiple items of printed material delivered to a single address.

(d)(i) "Other direct mail" means any direct mail that is not advertising and promotional direct mail, regardless of whether advertising and promotional direct mail is included in the same mailing. The term includes, but is not limited to:

(A) Transactional direct mail that contains personal information specific to the addressee including, but not limited to, invoices, bills, statements of account, and payroll advices;

(B) Any legally required mailings including, but not limited to, privacy notices, tax reports, and stockholder reports; and

(C) Other nonpromotional direct mail delivered to existing or former shareholders, customers, employees, or agents including, but not limited to, newsletters and informational pieces.

(ii) Other direct mail does not include the development of billing information or the provision of any data processing service that is more than incidental.

(e) "Florist sales" means the retail sale of tangible personal property by a florist. For purposes of this subsection (9)(e), "florist" means a person whose primary business activity is the retail sale of fresh cut flowers, potted ornamental plants, floral arrangements, floral bouquets, wreaths, or any similar products, used for decorative and not landscaping purposes.

(f) "Receive" and "receipt" mean taking possession of tangible personal property, making first use of digital automated services or other services, or taking possession or making first use of digital goods or digital codes, whichever comes first. "Receive" and "receipt" do not include possession by a shipping company on behalf of the purchaser.

(g) "Transportation equipment" means:

(i) Locomotives and railcars that are used for the carriage of persons or property in interstate commerce;

(ii) Trucks and truck tractors with a gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand one pounds or greater, trailers, semi-trailers, or passenger buses that are:

(A) Registered through the international registration plan; and

(B) Operated under authority of a carrier authorized and certificated by the United States department of transportation or another federal authority to engage in the carriage of persons or property in interstate commerce;

(iii) Aircraft that are operated by air carriers authorized and certificated by the United States department of transportation or another federal or foreign authority to engage in the carriage of persons or property in interstate or foreign commerce; or

(iv) Containers designed for use on and component parts attached or secured on the items described in (g)(i) through (iii) of this subsection.

(10) In those instances where there is no obligation on the part of a seller to collect or remit this state's sales or use tax, the use of tangible personal property, digital good, digital code, or of a digital automated service or other service, subject to use tax, is sourced to the place of first use in this state. The definition of use in RCW 82.12.010 applies to this subsection. [2010 c 106 § 229. Prior: 2009 c 535 § 704; 2009 c 289 § 1; 2008 c 324 § 1; 2007 c 6 § 501.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Construction—2009 c 535:** See notes following RCW 82.04.192.

**Effective date—2008 c 324:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 324 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.735 Confidentiality and privacy—Certified service providers—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) A fundamental precept of allowing the use of a certified service provider is to preserve the privacy of consumers by protecting their anonymity. With very limited exceptions, a certified service provider shall perform its tax calculation, remittance, and reporting functions without

(2012 Ed.)

retaining the personally identifiable information of consumers.

(2) The department shall provide public notification to consumers, including purchasers claiming exemption from tax, of its practices relating to the collection, use, and retention of personally identifiable information.

(3) When personally identifiable information that has been collected and retained is no longer required to ensure the validity of exemptions from taxation by reason of the consumer's status or the intended use of the goods or services purchased, the information shall no longer be retained by the state of Washington.

(4) When personally identifiable information regarding an individual is retained by or on behalf of the state of Washington, this state shall provide reasonable access for the individual to his or her own information and a right to correct any inaccurately recorded information.

(5) If anyone other than a member state of the agreement, or other than a person authorized by Washington law or the agreement, seeks to discover personally identifiable information, the state of Washington shall make a reasonable and timely effort to notify the individual of the request.

(6) The provisions of this section may be enforced by petitioning the superior court of Thurston county for injunctive relief. [2007 c 6 § 601.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.740 Taxability matrix—Liability—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) The department shall complete a taxability matrix maintained by the member states of the agreement in downloadable format. The matrix contains terms defined in the agreement. The department shall provide notice of changes in the taxability of products or services listed in the matrix.

(2) Sellers and certified service providers are relieved from liability to the state and to local jurisdictions for having charged or collected the incorrect amount of sales or use tax if the error resulted from reliance on erroneous information provided by the department in the taxability matrix. [2007 c 6 § 701.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.745 Software certification by department—Classifications—Liability—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) The department shall review software submitted to the governing board of the agreement for certification as a certified automated system under the terms of the agreement. The review shall include a determination of whether the software adequately classifies this state's product-based sales tax exemptions. Upon completing the review, the department shall certify to the governing board its acceptance or rejection of the classifications made by the system.

(2) Certified service providers and model 2 sellers shall be held harmless and are not liable for sales or use taxes, nor interest or penalties on those taxes, not collected due to reli-

ance on the certification of the department under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The relief from liability provided to certified service providers and model 2 sellers under subsection (2) of this section does not apply with respect to the incorrect classification of an item or transaction into a product-based exemption certified by the department unless that item or transaction is contained in a listing of items or transactions within a product definition approved by the governing board or the department.

(4) If the department determines that an item or transaction is incorrectly classified as to its taxability, it shall notify the certified service provider or model 2 seller of the incorrect classification. The certified service provider or model 2 seller has ten days to revise the classification after receipt of notice from the department. Upon the expiration of the ten days, the certified service provider or model 2 seller is liable for the failure to collect the correct amount of sales or use taxes. [2007 c 6 § 702.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.750 Purchaser liability—Penalty—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) Purchasers are relieved from liability for tax, interest, and penalty for having failed to pay the correct amount of sales or use tax in any of the following circumstances:

(a) A purchaser's seller or certified service provider relied on erroneous data provided by the department on tax rates, boundaries, taxing jurisdiction assignments, or in the taxability matrix completed by the department pursuant to RCW 82.32.740;

(b) A purchaser holding a direct pay permit relied on erroneous data provided by the department on tax rates, boundaries, taxing jurisdiction assignments, or in the taxability matrix completed by the department pursuant to RCW 82.32.740;

(c) A purchaser relied on erroneous data provided by the department in the taxability matrix completed by the department pursuant to RCW 82.32.740; or

(d) A purchaser relied on erroneous data provided by the department on tax rates, boundaries, or taxing jurisdiction assignments.

(2) For purposes of this section, "penalty" means an amount imposed for noncompliance that is not fraudulent, willful, or intentional that is in addition to the correct amount of sales or use tax and interest. [2007 c 6 § 703.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.755 Sourcing compliance—Taxpayer relief—Interest and penalties—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, no interest or penalties may be imposed on any taxpayer because of errors in collecting or remitting the correct amount of local sales tax arising out of changes in local sales and use tax sourcing rules implemented under RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020 if the taxpayer establishes that:

(a) Immediately before July 1, 2008, the taxpayer was registered with the department and engaged in making sales of tangible personal property that the taxpayer delivered to locations away from its place of business; and

(b) During the calendar year for which the error was made the taxpayer:

(i) Has gross income of the business less than five hundred thousand dollars;

(ii) Has at least five percent of its gross income from sales subject to sales tax derived from sales of tangible personal property delivered to physical locations away from its place of business; and

(iii) Has at least one percent of its gross income from sales subject to sales tax derived from deliveries of tangible personal property to destinations in local jurisdictions imposing sales tax other than the one to which the taxpayer reported the most local sales tax.

(2) The relief from penalty and interest provided by subsection (1) of this section does not apply with respect to transactions occurring more than four years after the close of the calendar year in which \*RCW 82.14.490 becomes effective. [2007 c 6 § 1601.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.14.490 takes effect July 1, 2008.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**82.32.760 Sourcing compliance—Taxpayer relief—Credits—Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** (1) Eligible taxpayers may either:

(a) Use the services of a certified service provider at no cost to themselves for tax reporting periods up to two years after July 1, 2008; or

(b) Claim a credit against the tax imposed under RCW 82.08.020(1) collected and otherwise required to be remitted by the taxpayer as a seller and the tax imposed under RCW 82.04.220. The amount of the credit is equal to the amount of costs incurred within one year of July 1, 2008, in order to comply with changes in local sales and use tax sourcing rules implemented under RCW 82.14.490 and the chapter 6, Laws of 2007 amendments to RCW 82.14.020.

(i) The total amount of credit claimed under this subsection (1)(b) may not exceed one thousand dollars.

(ii) The credit may be claimed until it is used. No refunds may be granted for the credit. The costs that may be used in the calculation of the credit include goods and services purchased, and labor costs incurred, for the purpose of complying with the local sales tax sourcing rules.

(2) The use of a certified service provider under subsection (1)(a) of this section must begin within one year after July 1, 2008, but not before July 1, 2008.

(3) The credit under subsection (1)(b) of this section must first be claimed within one year after July 1, 2008, but not before July 1, 2008. This subsection does not affect the ability of a taxpayer to claim unused credit until it is used.

(4) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, an "eligible taxpayer" means a taxpayer that:

(a) Immediately before July 1, 2008, was registered with the department and engaged in making sales of tangible personal property that the taxpayer delivered to physical locations away from its place of business; and

(b) During the calendar year in which \*RCW 82.14.490 becomes effective:

- (i) Has a physical presence in Washington;
- (ii) Has gross income of the business less than five hundred thousand dollars;
- (iii) Has at least five percent of its gross income from sales subject to sales tax derived from sales of tangible personal property delivered to physical locations away from its place of business; and
- (iv) Has at least one percent of its gross income from sales subject to sales tax derived from deliveries of tangible personal property to destinations in local jurisdictions imposing sales tax other than the one to which the taxpayer reported the most local sales tax.

(5) Certified service providers agreeing to provide services to eligible taxpayers under subsection (1)(a) of this section shall be compensated for those services by retaining as a fee an amount adopted by rule by the department. The department may be guided by the provisions for monetary allowances adopted by the governing board of the agreement to determine the amount of the fee. The fee must be reasonable and provide adequate incentive for certified service providers to provide services to eligible taxpayers. The fee will be funded solely from state sales taxes.

(6) Taxpayers that use certified service provider services under subsection (1)(a) of this section but are not eligible taxpayers are immediately liable to the department for the amount retained by the certified service provider as a fee for providing those services to the taxpayer. All administrative provisions of this chapter applicable to the collection of taxes apply to amounts due under this subsection. If any amounts due under this subsection are not paid by the due date of any notice informing the taxpayer of such liability, the department shall apply interest, but not penalties, to amounts remaining due. Interest assessed under this subsection shall be at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under this chapter from the day after the due date until the amount due under this subsection is paid in full.

(7) Taxpayers that claim a credit under subsection (1)(b) of this section but are not eligible taxpayers are immediately liable to the department for the amount of credit claimed. If any amounts due under this subsection are not paid by the due date of any notice informing the taxpayer of such liability, the department shall apply interest, but not penalties, to amounts remaining due. Interest assessed under this subsection shall be at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes under this chapter from the day after the due date until the amount due under this subsection is paid in full.

(8) No application is necessary for either the use of certified service providers under subsection (1)(a) of this section or the tax credit under subsection (1)(b) of this section. The taxpayer must keep records necessary for the department to determine eligibility under this section. The department may prescribe rules and procedures regarding the administration of this section. [2007 c 6 § 1602.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.14.490 takes effect July 1, 2008.

**Part headings not law—Savings—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.32.765 Local revitalization financing—Reporting requirements.** (1) A sponsoring local government receiving a project award under RCW 39.104.100 must provide a report to the department by March 1st of each year beginning March 1st after the project award has been approved. The report must contain the following information:

(a) The amounts of local property tax allocation revenues received in the preceding calendar year broken down by sponsoring local government and participating taxing district;

(b) The amount of state property tax allocation revenues estimated to have been received by the state in the preceding calendar year;

(c) The amount of local sales and use tax and other revenue from local public sources dedicated by any participating local government used for the payment of bonds under RCW 39.104.110 and public improvement costs within the revitalization area on a pay-as-you-go basis in the preceding calendar year;

(d) The amount of local sales and use tax dedicated by the sponsoring local government, as it relates to the sponsoring local government's local sales and use tax increment, used for the payment of bonds under RCW 39.104.110 and public improvement costs within the revitalization area on a pay-as-you-go basis;

(e) The amounts, other than those listed in (a) through (d) of this subsection, from local public sources, broken down by type or source, used for payment of bonds under RCW 39.104.110 or public improvement costs within the revitalization area on a pay-as-you-go basis in the preceding calendar year;

(f) The anticipated date when bonds under RCW 39.104.110 are expected to be retired;

(g) The names of any businesses locating within the revitalization area as a result of the public improvements undertaken by the sponsoring local government and financed in whole or in part with local revitalization financing;

(h) An estimate of the cumulative number of permanent jobs created in the revitalization area as a result of the public improvements undertaken by the sponsoring local government and financed in whole or in part with local revitalization financing;

(i) An estimate of the average wages and benefits received by all employees of businesses locating within the revitalization area as a result of the public improvements undertaken by the sponsoring local government and financed in whole or in part with local revitalization financing;

(j) A list of public improvements financed by bonds issued under RCW 39.104.110 and the date on which the bonds are anticipated to be retired;

(k) That the sponsoring local government is in compliance with RCW 39.104.030;

(l) At least once every three years, updated estimates of the amounts of state and local sales and use tax increments estimated to have been received since the approval by the department of the project award under RCW 39.104.100;

(m) The amount of revenues from local public sources that (i) were expended in prior years for the payment of bonds under RCW 39.104.110 and public improvement costs within the revitalization area on a pay-as-you-go basis in prior calendar years that were in excess of the project award amount for

[Title 82 RCW—page 279]

that year and are carried forward for dedication in future years, (ii) are deemed dedicated to payment of bonds or public improvement costs in the calendar year for which the report is prepared, and (iii) remain available for dedication in future years; and

(n) Any other information required by the department to enable the department to fulfill its duties under this chapter and RCW 82.14.510.

(2) The department must make a report available to the public and the legislature by June 1st of each year. The report must include a summary of the information provided to the department by sponsoring local governments under subsection (1) of this section. [2010 c 164 § 10; 2009 c 270 § 501.]

**82.32.770 Sourcing compliance—Tax payer relief—Collection and remittance errors.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, no interest or penalties may be imposed on any taxpayer because of errors in collecting or remitting the correct amount of local sales or use tax arising out of changes in local sales and use tax sourcing rules implemented under RCW 82.14.490 and section 502, chapter 6, Laws of 2007 if the taxpayer demonstrates that it made a good faith effort to comply with the sourcing rules.

(2) The relief from penalty and interest provided by subsection (1) of this section only applies to taxpayers with a gross income of the business of less than five hundred thousand dollars in the prior calendar year.

(3) The relief from penalty and interest provided by subsection (1) of this section does not apply with respect to sales occurring after December 31, 2012. [2009 c 289 § 5.]

**82.32.780 Reseller's permit—Taxpayer application.** (1)(a) Taxpayers seeking to obtain a new reseller permit or to renew or reinstate a reseller permit, other than taxpayers subject to the provisions of RCW 82.32.783, must apply to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The department must use its best efforts to rule on applications within sixty days of receiving a complete application. If the department fails to rule on an application within sixty days of receiving a complete application, the taxpayer may either request a review as provided in subsection (6) of this section or resubmit the application. Nothing in this subsection may be construed as preventing the department from ruling on an application more than sixty days after the department received the application.

(b) An application must be denied if:

(i) The department determines that, based on the nature of the applicant's business, the applicant is not entitled to make purchases at wholesale or is otherwise prohibited from using a reseller permit;

(ii) The application contains any material misstatement; or

(iii) The application is incomplete.

(c) The department may also deny an application if it determines that denial would be in the best interest of collecting taxes due under this title.

(d) The department's decision to approve or deny an application may be based on tax returns previously filed with the department by the applicant, a current or previous examination of the applicant's books and records by the department, information provided by the applicant in the master

application and the reseller permit application, and other information available to the department.

(e) The department must refuse to accept an application to renew a reseller permit that is received more than ninety days before the expiration of the reseller permit.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the department may issue or renew a reseller permit for a taxpayer that has not applied for the permit or renewal of the permit if it appears to the department's satisfaction, based on the nature of the taxpayer's business activities and any other information available to the department, that the taxpayer is entitled to make purchases at wholesale.

(3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, reseller permits issued, renewed, or reinstated under this section will be valid for a period of forty-eight months from the date of issuance, renewal, or reinstatement.

(b)(i) A reseller permit is valid for a period of twenty-four months and may be renewed for the period prescribed in (a) of this subsection (3) if the permit is issued to a taxpayer who:

(A) Is not registered with the department under RCW 82.32.030;

(B) Has been registered with the department under RCW 82.32.030 for a continuous period of less than one year as of the date that the department received the taxpayer's application for a reseller permit;

(C) Was on nonreporting status as authorized under RCW 82.32.045(4) at the time that the department received the taxpayer's application for a reseller permit or to renew or reinstate a reseller permit;

(D) Has filed tax returns reporting no business activity for purposes of sales and business and occupation taxes for the twelve-month period immediately preceding the date that the department received the taxpayer's application for a reseller permit or to renew or reinstate a reseller permit; or

(E) Has failed to file tax returns covering any part of the twelve-month period immediately preceding the department's receipt of the taxpayer's application for a reseller permit or to renew or reinstate a reseller permit.

(ii) The provisions of this subsection (3)(b) do not apply to reseller permits issued to any business owned by a federally recognized Indian tribe or by an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, if the business does not engage in any business activity that subjects the business to any tax imposed by the state under chapter 82.04 RCW. Permits issued to such businesses are valid for the period provided in (a) of this subsection (3).

(iii) Nothing in this subsection (3)(b) may be construed as affecting the department's right to deny a taxpayer's application for a reseller permit or to renew or reinstate a reseller permit as provided in subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this section.

(c) A reseller permit is no longer valid if the permit holder's certificate of registration is revoked, the permit holder's tax reporting account is closed by the department, or the permit holder otherwise ceases to engage in business.

(d) The department may provide by rule for a uniform expiration date for reseller permits issued, renewed, or reinstated under this section, if the department determines that a uniform expiration date for reseller permits will improve administrative efficiency for the department. If the department adopts a uniform expiration date by rule, the department

may extend or shorten the twenty-four or forty-eight month period provided in (a) and (b) of this subsection for a period not to exceed six months as necessary to conform the reseller permit to the uniform expiration date.

(4)(a) The department may revoke a taxpayer's reseller permit for any of the following reasons:

(i) The taxpayer used or allowed or caused its reseller permit to be used to purchase any item or service without payment of sales tax, but the taxpayer or other purchaser was not entitled to use the reseller permit for the purchase;

(ii) The department issued the reseller permit to the taxpayer in error;

(iii) The department determines that the taxpayer is no longer entitled to make purchases at wholesale; or

(iv) The department determines that revocation of the reseller permit would be in the best interest of collecting taxes due under this title.

(b) The notice of revocation must be in writing and is effective on the date specified in the revocation notice. The notice must also advise the taxpayer of its right to a review by the department.

(c) The department may refuse to reinstate a reseller permit revoked under (a)(i) of this subsection until all taxes, penalties, and interest due on any improperly purchased item or service have been paid in full. In the event a taxpayer whose reseller permit has been revoked under this subsection reorganizes, the new business resulting from the reorganization is not entitled to a reseller permit until all taxes, penalties, and interest due on any improperly purchased item or service have been paid in full.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, "reorganize" or "reorganization" means: (i) The transfer, however effected, of a majority of the assets of one business to another business where any of the persons having an interest in the ownership or management in the former business maintain an ownership or management interest in the new business, either directly or indirectly; (ii) a mere change in identity or form of ownership, however effected; or (iii) the new business is a mere continuation of the former business based on significant shared features such as owners, personnel, assets, or general business activity.

(5) The department may provide the public with access to reseller permit numbers on its web site, including the name of the permit holder, the status of the reseller permit, the expiration date of the permit, and any other information that is disclosable under \*RCW 82.32.330(3)(1).

(6) The department must provide by rule for the review of the department's decision to deny, revoke, or refuse to reinstate a reseller permit or the department's failure to rule on an application within the time prescribed in subsection (1)(a) of this section. Such review must be consistent with the requirements of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(7) As part of its continuing efforts to educate taxpayers on their sales and use tax responsibilities, the department will educate taxpayers on the appropriate use of a reseller permit or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 and the consequences of misusing such permits or other documentation. [2010 c 112 § 2; 2009 c 563 § 201.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.32.330 was amended by 2010 c 106 § 104, changing subsection (3)(l) to subsection (3)(k).

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—2010 c 112 §§ 2, 3, 11, 12, and 15:** "Sections 2, 3, 11, 12, and 15 of this act take effect July 1, 2010." [2010 c 112 § 18.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** "(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, this act applies retroactively to January 1, 2010, as well as prospectively.

(2) Sections 2, 3, 11, 12, and 15 of this act apply prospectively only." [2010 c 112 § 17.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 112; 2009 c 563:** "The legislature finds that the department of revenue's 2008 compliance study estimates that sales tax noncompliance exceeds well over one hundred million dollars annually in unpaid state and local sales and use taxes.

The legislature intends to address this significant problem by eliminating the use of resale certificates to document wholesale purchases. Resale certificates will be replaced with reseller permits, which will be issued by the department of revenue only to those businesses that make wholesale purchases, such as retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, and qualified contractors. Businesses that do not make wholesale purchases, such as most service businesses, will not be entitled to a reseller permit." [2010 c 112 § 1; 2009 c 563 § 101.]

**Construction—2009 c 563:** "This act must be liberally construed in order to carry out its purposes." [2009 c 563 § 402.]

**Effective date—2009 c 563:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2010." [2009 c 563 § 403.]

**Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** "By December 1, 2009, the finance committee of the house of representatives and the joint legislative task force on the underground economy in the Washington state construction industry, shall each prepare a report that reviews the issues and concerns that need to be addressed by the legislature as a result of the changes made in this act. The reports shall include any recommendations on potential modifications to the provisions of this act. The department of revenue shall provide necessary support and information." [2009 c 563 § 405.]

**Construction—2009 c 563:** "The effective date in section 403 of this act may not be construed as preventing the department of revenue from accepting applications for, or issuing, seller's permits before January 1, 2010, adopting rules, or taking any other action before January 1, 2010, necessary to ensure the effective implementation of this act." [2009 c 563 § 404.]

**82.32.783 Reseller's permit—Contractor application.** (1)(a) Contractors seeking a new reseller permit or to renew or reinstate a reseller permit must apply to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department.

(b) As part of the application, the contractor must report the total combined dollar amount of all purchases of materials and labor during the preceding twenty-four months for retail construction activity, wholesale construction activity, speculative building, public road construction, and government contracting. If the contractor was not engaged in business as a contractor during the preceding twenty-four months, the contractor may provide an estimate of the dollar amount of purchases of materials and labor for retail construction activity, wholesale construction activity, speculative building, public road construction, and government contracting during the twelve-month or twenty-four month period for which the reseller permit will be valid. The contractor must also report the percentage of its total dollar amount of actual or, if applicable, estimated material and labor purchases that was for retail and wholesale construction activity performed by the applicant.

(c) The department must use its best efforts to rule on applications within sixty days of receiving a complete application. If the department fails to rule on an application within sixty days of receiving a complete application, the taxpayer may either request a review as provided in subsection (6) of this section or resubmit the application. Nothing in this subsection may be construed as preventing the department from

ruling on an application more than sixty days after the department received the application.

(d)(i) An application must be denied if:

(A) The department determines that the applicant is not entitled to make purchases at wholesale or is otherwise prohibited from using a reseller permit;

(B) The application contains any material misstatement;

(C) The application is incomplete; or

(D) Less than twenty-five percent of the taxpayer's total dollar amount of actual or, if applicable, estimated material and labor purchases as reported on the application is for retail and wholesale construction activity performed by the applicant. However, the department may approve an application not meeting the criteria in this subsection (1)(d)(i)(D) if the department is satisfied that approval is unlikely to jeopardize collection of the taxes due under this title.

(ii) The department may also deny an application if the department determines that denial would be in the best interest of collecting taxes due under this title.

(iii) The department's decision to approve or deny an application may be based on tax returns previously filed with the department by the applicant, a current or previous examination of the applicant's books and records by the department, information provided by the applicant in the master application and the reseller permit application, and other information available to the department.

(e) The department must refuse to accept an application to renew a reseller permit that is received more than ninety days before the expiration of the reseller permit.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the department may issue or renew a reseller permit for a contractor that has not applied for the permit or renewal of the permit if the department is satisfied that the contractor is entitled to make purchases at wholesale and that issuing or renewing the reseller permit is unlikely to jeopardize collection of sales taxes due under this title based on criteria established by the department by rule. Such criteria may include but is not limited to whether the taxpayer has a previous history of misusing resale certificates or reseller permits or there is any other indication that issuing or renewing the reseller permit would jeopardize collection of sales taxes due from the contractor.

(3)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection:

(i) Except as provided in (a)(ii) of this subsection, until June 30, 2013, reseller permits issued, renewed, or reinstated under this section will be valid for a period of twelve months from the date of issuance, renewal, or reinstatement; and

(ii) Beginning July 1, 2013, reseller permits issued, renewed, or reinstated under this section will be valid for a period of twenty-four months from the date of issuance, renewal, or reinstatement. However, the department may issue, renew, or reinstate permits for a period of twenty-four months beginning July 1, 2011, if the department is satisfied in the same manner as set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

(b)(i) A reseller permit is no longer valid if the permit holder's certificate of registration is revoked, the permit holder's tax reporting account is closed by the department, or the permit holder otherwise ceases to engage in business.

(ii) The department may provide by rule for a uniform expiration date for reseller permits issued, renewed, or reinstated under this section, if the department determines that a uniform expiration date for reseller permits will improve administrative efficiency for the department. If the department adopts a uniform expiration date by rule, the department may extend or shorten the twelve or twenty-four month period provided in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection for a period not to exceed six months as necessary to conform the reseller permit to the uniform expiration date.

(4)(a) The department may revoke a contractor's reseller permit for any of the following reasons:

(i) The contractor used or allowed or caused its reseller permit to be used to purchase any item or service without payment of sales tax, but the contractor or other purchaser was not entitled to use the reseller permit for the purchase;

(ii) The department issued the reseller permit to the contractor in error;

(iii) The department determines that the contractor is no longer entitled to make purchases at wholesale; or

(iv) The department determines that revocation of the reseller permit would be in the best interest of collecting taxes due under this title.

(b) The notice of revocation must be in writing and is effective on the date specified in the revocation notice. The notice must also advise the contractor of its right to a review by the department.

(c) The department may refuse to reinstate a reseller permit revoked under (a)(i) of this subsection until all taxes, penalties, and interest due on any improperly purchased item or service have been paid in full. In the event a contractor whose reseller permit has been revoked under this subsection reorganizes, the new business resulting from the reorganization is not entitled to a reseller permit until all taxes, penalties, and interest due on any improperly purchased item or service have been paid in full.

(d) For purposes of this subsection, "reorganize" or "reorganization" means: (i) The transfer, however effected, of a majority of the assets of one business to another business where any of the persons having an interest in the ownership or management in the former business maintain an ownership or management interest in the new business, either directly or indirectly; (ii) a mere change in identity or form of ownership, however effected; or (iii) the new business is a mere continuation of the former business based on significant shared features such as owners, personnel, assets, or general business activity.

(5) The department may provide the public with access to reseller permit numbers on its web site, including the name of the permit holder, the status of the reseller permit, the expiration date of the permit, and any other information that is disclosable under \*RCW 82.32.330(3)(1).

(6) The department must provide by rule for the review of the department's decision to deny, revoke, or refuse to reinstate a reseller permit or the department's failure to rule on an application within the time prescribed in subsection (1)(a) of this section. Such review must be consistent with the requirements of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(7) As part of its continuing efforts to educate taxpayers on their sales and use tax responsibilities, the department will educate taxpayers on the appropriate use of a reseller permit

or other documentation authorized under RCW 82.04.470 and the consequences of misusing such permits or other documentation.

(8) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Contractor" means a person whose primary business activity is as a contractor as defined in RCW 18.27.010 or an electrical contractor as defined in RCW 19.28.006.

(b) "Government contracting" means the activity described in RCW 82.04.190(6).

(c) "Public road construction" means the activity described in RCW 82.04.190(3).

(d) "Retail construction activity" means any activity defined as a retail sale in RCW 82.04.050(2) (b) or (c).

(e) "Speculative building" means the activities of a speculative builder as the term "speculative builder" is defined by rule of the department.

(f) "Wholesale construction activity" means labor and services rendered for persons who are not consumers in respect to real property, if such labor and services are expressly defined as a retail sale by RCW 82.04.050 when rendered to or for consumers. For purposes of this subsection (8)(f), "consumer" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.190. [2010 c 112 § 3; 2009 c 563 § 202.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.32.330 was amended by 2010 c 106 § 104, changing subsection (3)(l) to subsection (3)(k).

**Effective date—2010 c 112 §§ 2, 3, 11, 12, and 15:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

#### **82.32.784 Reseller's permit—Information required.**

(1) Reseller permits issued by the department, as provided under RCW 82.32.780 and 82.32.783, will be in a form prescribed by the department, which may include an electronic form. Reseller permits must contain the following information:

(a) A unique identifying number assigned by the department;

(b) The name and address of the permit holder;

(c) The type of business engaged in;

(d) The date the permit was issued, renewed, or reinstated by the department; and

(e) The expiration date of the permit.

(2) Reseller permits may also contain such other information as required by the department, including, but not limited to:

(a) The categories of items or services to be purchased for resale or that are otherwise to be purchased at wholesale;

(b) The date that the permit was provided to the seller;

(c) A statement that the items or services purchased either: (i) Are purchased for resale in the regular course of business; or (ii) are otherwise purchased at wholesale;

(d) A statement that the permit holder acknowledges that misuse of [a] reseller permit or reseller permit number subjects the permit holder to revocation of the reseller permit, penalties as provided in RCW 82.32.290 and 82.32.291, in addition to the tax, interest, and any other penalties imposed by law;

(2012 Ed.)

(e) Instructions for renewing the permit;

(f) A statement that the department is authorized to obtain information concerning the permit holder's purchase of items or services under the permit from the seller to verify whether the permit holder was authorized to purchase such items or services without payment of retail sales tax; and

(g) The signature of the permit holder, unless a copy of the permit is provided to the seller in a format other than paper. [2010 c 112 § 4.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**82.32.785 Reseller's permit—Voluntary electronic verification.** The department of revenue must, by January 1, 2011, develop a system, as resources permit, allowing sellers to voluntarily verify through electronic means whether their customers' reseller permits are valid. [2010 c 112 § 5; 2009 c 563 § 203.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**82.32.787 Reseller's permit—Request for copies.** A person must, upon request of the department, provide the department with paper or electronic copies of all reseller permits, or other documentation as authorized in RCW 82.04.470, accepted by that person during the period specified by the department to substantiate wholesale sales. If, instead of the documentation specified in this subsection, the seller has retained the relevant data elements from such permits or other documentation authorized in RCW 82.04.470, as allowed under the streamlined sales and use tax agreement, the seller must provide such data elements to the department. [2010 c 112 § 6; 2009 c 563 § 204.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 112:** See note following RCW 82.32.780.

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

#### **82.32.790 Tax incentives contingent upon semiconductor microchip fabrication facility siting and operation.**

(1)(a) Section 206, chapter 106, Laws of 2010, sections 104, 110, 117, 123, 125, 129, 131, and 150, chapter 114, Laws of 2010, section 3, chapter 461, Laws of 2009, section 7, chapter 300, Laws of 2006, and section 4, chapter 149, Laws of 2003 are contingent upon the siting and commercial operation of a significant semiconductor microchip fabrication facility in the state of Washington.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(i) "Commercial operation" means the same as "commencement of commercial production" as used in RCW 82.08.965.

(ii) "Semiconductor microchip fabrication" means "manufacturing semiconductor microchips" as defined in RCW 82.04.426.

(iii) "Significant" means the combined investment of new buildings and new machinery and equipment in the buildings, at the commencement of commercial production, will be at least one billion dollars.

(2) Chapter 149, Laws of 2003 takes effect the first day of the month in which a contract for the construction of a significant semiconductor fabrication facility is signed, as determined by the director of the department of revenue.

(3)(a) The department of revenue must provide notice of the effective date of sections 104, 110, 117, 123, 125, 129, 131, and 150, chapter 114, Laws of 2010[,], section 3, chapter 461, Laws of 2009, section 7, chapter 300, Laws of 2006, and section 4, chapter 149, Laws of 2003 to affected taxpayers, the legislature, and others as deemed appropriate by the department.

(b) If, after making a determination that a contract has been signed and chapter 149, Laws of 2003 is effective, the department discovers that commencement of commercial production did not take place within three years of the date the contract was signed, the department must make a determination that chapter 149, Laws of 2003 is no longer effective, and all taxes that would have been otherwise due are deemed deferred taxes and are immediately assessed and payable from any person reporting tax under RCW 82.04.240(2) or claiming an exemption or credit under section 2 or 5 through 10, chapter 149, Laws of 2003. The department is not authorized to make a second determination regarding the effective date of chapter 149, Laws of 2003. [2010 c 114 § 201; 2010 c 106 § 401; 2009 c 461 § 9; 2006 c 300 § 12; 2003 c 149 § 12.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2010 c 106 § 401 and by 2010 c 114 § 201, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

**82.32.795 Candy list—Compilation.** (1) The department must compile a list of products meeting the definition of candy in \*RCW 82.08.0293 and products that are similar to candy but do not meet that definition. The list must identify each item as either subject to sales or use tax or not subject to sales or use tax. The list will be made in a form and manner prescribed by the department and must be made available on the department's internet web site. The list must also provide information about how to request a binding ruling from the department on the taxability of products not on the list.

(2) In compiling the list described in subsection (1) of this section, the department may:

(a) Evaluate the experiences of other member states of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement that impose retail sales tax on candy;

(b) Accept technical assistance from persons that sell, market, or distribute candy; and

(c) Consider any other resource the department finds useful in compiling the list.

(3) The creation of a list under subsection (1) of this section and any modifications to the list are not subject to the rule-making provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(4) For products that are not identified on the list created by the department under subsection (1) of this section, taxpayers may request a binding written ruling from the department on the taxability of the product. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 910.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.08.0293 was amended by 2011 c 2 § 301 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), removing the definition of "candy."

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.32.800 Contributions of high technology research and development tax credit—Opportunity expansion account.** A person eligible for the high technology research and development tax credit under RCW 82.04.4452 may contribute all or any portion of the credit to the opportunity expansion account hereby created in the state treasury. The department must create the forms and processes to allow a person to make such an election easily and quickly by means of checking a box. By May 1, 2012, and by May 1st of every year thereafter, the department must report the amount so contributed and certify the amount to the state treasurer. By July 1, 2012, and by July 1st of every year thereafter, the state treasurer must transfer the amount into the opportunity expansion account. Money in the account may only be appropriated for the purposes specified in RCW 28B.145.060. [2011 1st sp.s. c 13 § 10.]

**Finding—Intent—Short title—Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 13:** See RCW 28B.145.005, 28B.145.900, and 28B.145.901.

## Chapter 82.32A RCW

### TAXPAYER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Sections

- 82.32A.002 Short title.
- 82.32A.005 Finding.
- 82.32A.010 Administration of chapter.
- 82.32A.020 Rights.
- 82.32A.030 Responsibilities.
- 82.32A.040 Taxpayer rights advocate.
- 82.32A.050 Taxpayer services program.
- 82.32A.900 Severability—1991 c 142.

*Refunds of erroneous or excessive payments: RCW 43.88.170.*

**82.32A.002 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and cited as "Washington taxpayers' rights and responsibilities." [1991 c 142 § 1.]

**82.32A.005 Finding.** (1) The legislature finds that taxes are one of the most sensitive points of contact between citizens and their government, and that there is a delicate balance between revenue collection and taxpayers' rights and responsibilities. The rights, privacy, and property of Washington taxpayers should be protected adequately during the process of the assessment and collection of taxes.

(2) The legislature further finds that the Washington tax system is based largely on voluntary compliance and that taxpayers have a responsibility to inform themselves about applicable tax laws. The legislature also finds that the rights of the taxpayers and their attendant responsibilities are best implemented where the department of revenue provides accurate tax information, instructions, forms, administrative policies, and procedures to assist taxpayers to voluntarily comply with the provisions of the revenue act, Title 82 RCW, and where taxpayers cooperate in the administration of these provisions. [1991 c 142 § 2.]

**82.32A.010 Administration of chapter.** The department of revenue shall administer this chapter. The department

ment of revenue shall adopt or amend rules as may be necessary to fully implement this chapter and the rights established under this chapter. [1991 c 142 § 3.]

**82.32A.020 Rights.** The taxpayers of the state of Washington have:

(1) The right to a written explanation of the basis for any tax deficiency assessment, interest, and penalties at the time the assessments are issued;

(2) The right to rely on specific, official written advice and written tax reporting instructions from the department of revenue to that taxpayer, and to have interest, penalties, and in some instances, tax deficiency assessments waived where the taxpayer has so relied to their proven detriment;

(3) The right to redress and relief where tax laws or rules are found to be unconstitutional by the final decision of a court of record and the right to prompt administrative remedies in such cases;

(4) The right to confidentiality and protection from public inquiry regarding financial and business information in the possession of the department of revenue in accordance with the requirements of RCW 82.32.330;

(5) The right to receive, upon request, clear and current tax instructions, rules, procedures, forms, and other tax information; and

(6) The right to a prompt and independent administrative review by the department of revenue of a decision to revoke a tax registration, and to a written determination that either sustains the revocation or reinstates the registration. [1991 c 142 § 4.]

**82.32A.030 Responsibilities.** To ensure consistent application of the revenue laws, taxpayers have certain responsibilities under chapter 82.32 RCW, including, but not limited to, the responsibility to:

(1) Register with the department of revenue;

(2) Know their tax reporting obligations, and when they are uncertain about their obligations, seek instructions from the department of revenue;

(3) Keep accurate and complete business records;

(4) File accurate returns and pay taxes in a timely manner;

(5) Ensure the accuracy of the information entered on their tax returns;

(6) Substantiate claims for refund;

(7) Timely pay all taxes after closing a business and request cancellation of registration number; and

(8) Timely respond to communications from the department of revenue. [1991 c 142 § 5.]

**82.32A.040 Taxpayer rights advocate.** The director of revenue shall appoint a taxpayer rights advocate. The advocate shall be responsible for directly assisting taxpayers and their representatives to assure their understanding and utilization of the policies, processes, and procedures available to them in the resolution of problems. [1991 c 142 § 6.]

**82.32A.050 Taxpayer services program.** The department of revenue shall maintain a taxpayer services program consisting of, but not limited to:

(1) Providing taxpayer assistance in the form of information, education, and instruction in person, by telephone, or by correspondence;

(2) Conducting tax workshops at locations most conveniently accessible to the majority of taxpayers affected; and

(3) Publishing written bulletins, instructions, current revenue laws, rules, court decisions, and interpretive rulings of the department of revenue. [1991 c 142 § 7.]

**82.32A.900 Severability—1991 c 142.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1991 c 142 § 12.]

## Chapter 82.33 RCW

### ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECASTS

#### Sections

82.33.010	Economic and revenue forecast council—Oversight and approval of economic and revenue forecasts.
82.33.020	Economic and revenue forecast supervisor—Economic and revenue forecasts—Submittal of forecasts—Estimated tuition fees revenue.
82.33.030	Alternative economic and revenue forecasts to be provided at the request of the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee.
82.33.040	Economic and revenue forecast work group—Availability of information to group—Provision of technical support to economic and revenue forecast council—Meetings.
82.33.050	Employment growth forecast and general state revenue estimates.
82.33.060	State budget outlook—Requirements.
82.33.070	State budget outlook—Work group.

**82.33.010 Economic and revenue forecast council—Oversight and approval of economic and revenue forecasts.** (1) The economic and revenue forecast council is hereby created. The council shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor, the state treasurer, and four individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other officers as the members deem necessary.

(2) The council shall employ an economic and revenue forecast supervisor to supervise the preparation of all economic and revenue forecasts and the presentation of state budget outlooks. As used in this chapter, "supervisor" means the economic and revenue forecast supervisor. Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(3) The economic and revenue forecast council shall oversee the preparation of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least five members, the official, optimistic, and pessimistic state economic and revenue forecasts prepared under RCW 82.33.020. If the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in RCW 82.33.020, the supervisor

shall submit the forecast without approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved by the council.

(4) The economic and revenue forecast council shall oversee the preparation of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least five members, the state budget outlook prepared under RCW 43.88.060. If the council is unable to approve a state budget outlook before a date required in RCW 43.88.060, the supervisor shall submit the outlook prepared under RCW 43.88.060 without approval and the outlook shall have the same effect as if approved by the council.

(5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for approval of the official economic and revenue forecast or the state budget outlook may request, and the supervisor shall provide, an alternative economic and revenue forecast or state budget outlook based on assumptions specified by the member including, for purposes of the state budget outlook, revenues to and expenditures from additional funds.

(6) Members of the economic and revenue forecast council shall serve without additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council or on official business authorized by the council. Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 2; 1990 c 229 § 1; 1984 c 138 § 4. Formerly RCW 82.01.130.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.33.020 Economic and revenue forecast supervisor—Economic and revenue forecasts—Submittal of forecasts—Estimated tuition fees revenue. (Effective until October 1, 2012.)** (1) Four times each year the supervisor shall prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council under RCW 82.33.010:

- (a) An official state economic and revenue forecast;
- (b) An unofficial state economic and revenue forecast based on optimistic economic and revenue projections; and
- (c) An unofficial state economic and revenue forecast based on pessimistic economic and revenue projections.

(2) The supervisor shall submit forecasts prepared under this section, along with any unofficial forecasts provided under RCW 82.33.010, to the governor and the members of the committees on ways and means and the chairs of the committees on transportation of the senate and house of representatives, including one copy to the staff of each of the committees, on or before November 20th, February 20th in the even-numbered years, March 20th in the odd-numbered years, June 20th, and September 20th. All forecasts shall include both estimated receipts and estimated revenues in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles as provided by RCW 43.88.037. In odd-numbered years, the period covered by forecasts for the state general fund and related funds must cover the current fiscal biennium and the next ensuing fiscal biennium. In even-numbered years, the period covered by the forecasts for the state general fund and related funds shall be current fiscal and the next two ensuing fiscal biennia.

(3) All agencies of state government shall provide to the supervisor immediate access to all information relating to economic and revenue forecasts. Revenue collection infor-

mation shall be available to the supervisor the first business day following the conclusion of each collection period.

(4) The economic and revenue forecast supervisor and staff shall co-locate and share information, data, and files with the tax research section of the department of revenue but shall not duplicate the duties and functions of one another.

(5) As part of its forecasts under subsection (1) of this section, the supervisor shall provide estimated revenue from tuition fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020.

(6) The economic and revenue forecast council must, in consultation with the economic and revenue forecast work group created in RCW 82.33.040, review the existing economic and revenue forecast council revenue model, data, and methodologies and in light of recent economic changes, engage outside experts if necessary, and recommend changes to the economic and revenue forecast council revenue forecasting process to increase confidence and promote accuracy in the revenue forecast. The recommendations are due by September 30, 2012, and every five years thereafter. [2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 3; 2005 c 319 § 137; 1992 c 231 § 34; 1990 c 229 § 2. Prior: 1987 c 505 § 79; 1987 c 502 § 10; 1986 c 112 § 2; 1984 c 138 § 1. Formerly RCW 82.01.120.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings—Effective dates—2005 c 319:** See notes following RCW 43.17.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.33.020 Economic and revenue forecast supervisor—Economic and revenue forecasts—Submittal of forecasts—Estimated tuition fees revenue. (Effective October 1, 2012.)** (1) Four times each year the supervisor must prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council under RCW 82.33.010:

- (a) An official state economic and revenue forecast;
- (b) An unofficial state economic and revenue forecast based on optimistic economic and revenue projections; and
- (c) An unofficial state economic and revenue forecast based on pessimistic economic and revenue projections.

(2) The supervisor must submit forecasts prepared under this section, along with any unofficial forecasts provided under RCW 82.33.010, to the governor and the members of the committees on ways and means and the chairs of the committees on transportation of the senate and house of representatives, including one copy to the staff of each of the committees, on or before November 20th, February 20th in the even-numbered years, March 20th in the odd-numbered years, June 27th, and September 27th. All forecasts must include both estimated receipts and estimated revenues in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles as provided by RCW 43.88.037. In odd-numbered years, the period covered by forecasts for the state general fund and related funds must cover the current fiscal biennium and the next ensuing fiscal biennium. In even-numbered years, the period covered by the forecasts for the state general fund and related funds shall be current fiscal and the next two ensuing fiscal biennia.

(3) All agencies of state government must provide to the supervisor immediate access to all information relating to economic and revenue forecasts. Revenue collection information must be available to the supervisor the first business day following the conclusion of each collection period.

(4) The economic and revenue forecast supervisor and staff must co-locate and share information, data, and files with the tax research section of the department of revenue but may not duplicate the duties and functions of one another.

(5) As part of its forecasts under subsection (1) of this section, the supervisor must provide estimated revenue from tuition fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020.

(6) The economic and revenue forecast council must, in consultation with the economic and revenue forecast work group created in RCW 82.33.040, review the existing economic and revenue forecast council revenue model, data, and methodologies and in light of recent economic changes, engage outside experts if necessary, and recommend changes to the economic and revenue forecast council revenue forecasting process to increase confidence and promote accuracy in the revenue forecast. The recommendations are due by September 30, 2012, and every five years thereafter. [2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 3; 2012 c 182 § 1; 2005 c 319 § 137; 1992 c 231 § 34; 1990 c 229 § 2. Prior: 1987 c 505 § 79; 1987 c 502 § 10; 1986 c 112 § 2; 1984 c 138 § 1. Formerly RCW 82.01.120.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2012 c 182 § 1 and by 2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—2012 c 182:** "This act takes effect October 1, 2012." [2012 c 182 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings—Effective dates—2005 c 319:** See notes following RCW 43.17.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.33.030 Alternative economic and revenue forecasts to be provided at the request of the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee.** The administrator of the legislative evaluation and accountability program committee may request, and the supervisor shall provide, alternative economic and revenue forecasts based on assumptions specified by the administrator. [1984 c 138 § 3. Formerly RCW 82.01.125.]

*Legislative evaluation and accountability program committee: Chapter 44.48 RCW.*

**82.33.040 Economic and revenue forecast work group—Availability of information to group—Provision of technical support to economic and revenue forecast council—Meetings.** (1) To promote the free flow of information and to promote legislative input in the preparation of forecasts, immediate access to all information relating to economic and revenue forecasts shall be available to the economic and revenue forecast work group, hereby created. Revenue collection information shall be available to the economic and revenue forecast work group the first business day following the conclusion of each collection period. The economic and revenue forecast work group shall consist of one staff member selected by the executive head or chairperson of each of the following agencies or committees:

- (a) Department of revenue;
- (b) Office of financial management;
- (c) Legislative evaluation and accountability program committee;
- (d) Ways and means committee of the senate; and

(2012 Ed.)

(e) Ways and means committee of the house of representatives.

(2) The economic and revenue forecast work group shall provide technical support to the economic and revenue forecast council. Meetings of the economic and revenue forecast work group may be called by any member of the group for the purpose of assisting the economic and revenue forecast council, reviewing the state economic and revenue forecasts, or reviewing monthly revenue collection data or for any other purpose which may assist the economic and revenue forecast council. [1986 c 158 § 23; 1984 c 138 § 5. Formerly RCW 82.01.135.]

**82.33.050 Employment growth forecast and general state revenue estimates.** The state economic and revenue forecast council shall perform the state employment growth forecast and general state revenue estimates required by Article VII, section 12. [2007 c 484 § 3.]

**Contingent effective date—2007 c 484 §§ 2-8:** See note following RCW 43.79.495.

**82.33.060 State budget outlook—Requirements.** (1) To facilitate compliance with, and subject to the terms of, RCW 43.88.055, the state budget outlook work group shall prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council under RCW 82.33.010, an official state budget outlook for state revenues and expenditures for the general fund and related funds. In odd-numbered years, the period covered by the November state budget outlook shall be the current fiscal biennium and the next ensuing fiscal biennium. In even-numbered years, the period covered by the November state budget outlook shall be the next two ensuing fiscal biennia. The revenue and caseload projections used in the outlook must reflect the most recent official forecasts adopted by the economic and revenue forecast council and the caseload forecast council for the years for which those forecasts are available.

(2) The outlook must:

(a) Estimate revenues to and expenditures from the state general fund and related funds. The estimate of ensuing biennium expenditures must include maintenance items including, but not limited to, continuation of current programs, forecasted growth of current entitlement programs, and actions required by law, including legislation with a future implementation date. Estimates of ensuing biennium expenditures must exclude policy items including, but not limited to, legislation not yet enacted by the legislature, collective bargaining agreements not yet approved by the legislature, and changes to levels of funding for employee salaries and benefits unless those changes are required by statute. Estimated maintenance level expenditures must also exclude costs of court rulings issued during or within fewer than ninety days before the beginning of the current legislative session;

(b) Address major budget and revenue drivers, including trends and variability in these drivers;

(c) Clearly state the assumptions used in the estimates of baseline and projected expenditures and any adjustments made to those estimates;

(d) Clearly state the assumptions used in the baseline revenue estimates and any adjustments to those estimates; and

(e) Include the impact of previously enacted legislation with a future implementation date.

(3) The outlook must also separately include projections based on the revenues and expenditures proposed in the governor's budget documents submitted to the legislature under RCW 43.88.030.

(4) The economic and revenue forecast council shall submit state budget outlooks prepared under this section to the governor and the members of the committees on ways and means of the senate and house of representatives, including one copy to the staff of each of the committees, as required by this section.

(5) Each January, the state budget outlook work group shall also prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council, a state budget outlook for state revenues and expenditures that reflects the governor's proposed budget document submitted to the legislature under chapter 43.88 RCW. Within thirty days following enactment of an operating budget by the legislature, the work group shall prepare, subject to the approval of the economic and revenue forecast council, a state budget outlook for state revenues and expenditures that reflects the enacted budget.

(6) All agencies of state government shall provide to the supervisor immediate access to all information relating to state budget outlooks.

(7) The state budget outlook work group must publish its proposed methodology on the economic and revenue forecast council web site. The state budget outlook work group, in consultation with the economic and revenue forecast work group and outside experts if necessary, must analyze the extent to which the proposed methodology for projecting expenditures for the ensuing fiscal biennia may be reliably used to determine the future impact of appropriations and make recommendations to change the outlook process to increase reliability and accuracy. The recommendations are due by December 1, 2013, and every five years thereafter. [2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 4.]

**82.33.070 State budget outlook--Work group.** (1) To promote the free flow of information and to promote legislative input in the preparation of the state budget outlook, immediate access to all information relating to the state budget outlook shall be available to the state budget outlook work group, hereby created. The state budget outlook work group shall consist of one staff member selected by the executive head or chairperson of each of the following agencies or committees:

- (a) Office of financial management;
- (b) Legislative evaluation and accountability program committee;
- (c) Office of the state treasurer;
- (d) Economic and revenue forecast council;
- (e) Caseload forecast council;
- (f) Ways and means committee of the senate; and
- (g) Ways and means committee of the house of representatives.

(2) The state budget outlook work group shall provide technical support to the economic and revenue forecast council.

Meetings of the state budget outlook work group may be called by any member of the group for the purpose of assisting the economic and revenue forecast council, reviewing the state budget outlook, or for any other purpose which may assist the economic and revenue forecast council. [2012 1st sp.s. c 8 § 5.]

## Chapter 82.33A RCW ECONOMIC CLIMATE COUNCIL

### Sections

- 82.33A.005 Intent.
- 82.33A.010 Council—Created—Selection of benchmarks—Access to agency information.
- 82.33A.020 Consulting with Washington economic development commission.

**82.33A.005 Intent.** The citizens of Washington should enjoy a high quality of life, which requires a healthy state economy. To achieve this goal, the legislature recognizes that the state must be able to compete economically at a national and international level. It is critical to the economic well-being of the citizens of this state that the legislature strive to continually improve the state's economic climate. Therefore, the legislature intends to provide a mechanism whereby the information necessary to achieve this goal is available on a timely and reliable basis. [1996 c 152 § 1.]

**82.33A.010 Council—Created—Selection of benchmarks—Access to agency information.** (1) The economic climate council is hereby created.

(2) The council shall, in consultation with the Washington economic development commission, select a series of benchmarks that characterize the competitive environment of the state. The benchmarks should be indicators of the cost of doing business; the education and skills of the workforce; a sound infrastructure; and the quality of life. In selecting the appropriate benchmarks, the council shall use the following criteria:

(a) The availability of comparative information for other states and countries;

(b) The timeliness with which benchmark information can be obtained; and

(c) The accuracy and validity of the benchmarks in measuring the economic climate indicators named in this section.

(3) Each year the council shall prepare an official state economic climate report on the present status of benchmarks, changes in the benchmarks since the previous report, and the reasons for the changes. The reports shall include current benchmark comparisons with other states and countries, and an analysis of factors related to the benchmarks that may affect the ability of the state to compete economically at the national and international level.

(4) All agencies of state government shall provide to the council immediate access to all information relating to economic climate reports. [2007 c 232 § 8; 1998 c 245 § 168; 1996 c 152 § 2.]

**82.33A.020 Consulting with Washington economic development commission.** The economic climate council shall consult with the Washington economic development commission in selecting benchmarks and developing eco-

conomic climate reports and benchmarks. The commission shall provide for a process to ensure public participation in the selection of the benchmarks. [2007 c 232 § 9; 1996 c 152 § 4.]

### Chapter 82.34 RCW

## POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES— TAX EXEMPTIONS AND CREDITS

#### Sections

82.34.010	Definitions.
82.34.015	Limitations on the issuance of certificates under RCW 82.34.010(5) (b) and (c).
82.34.020	Application for certificate—Filing—Form—Contents.
82.34.030	Approval of application by control agency—Notice to department—Hearing—Appeal to state air pollution control board.
82.34.040	Rules.
82.34.050	Original acquisition of facility exempt from sales and use taxes—Election to take tax credit in lieu of exemption.
82.34.060	Application for final cost determination as to existing or new facility—Filing—Form—Contents—Approval—Determination of costs—Credits against taxes imposed by chapters 82.04, 82.12, 82.16 RCW—Limitations.
82.34.090	Certified mail—Use of in sending certificates or notice of refusal to issue certificates.
82.34.100	Revision of prior findings of appropriate control agency—Grounds for modification or revocation of certificate or supplement—Exemptions from revocation.
82.34.110	Administrative and judicial review.
82.34.900	Severability—1967 ex.s. c 139.
82.34.901	Severability—1981 2nd ex.s. c 9.

**82.34.010 Definitions.** Unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, the following words as hereinafter used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Facility" shall mean an "air pollution control facility" or a "water pollution control facility" as herein defined: (a) "Air pollution control facility" includes any treatment works, control devices and disposal systems, machinery, equipment, structures, property or any part or accessories thereof, installed or acquired for the primary purpose of reducing, controlling or disposing of industrial waste which if released to the outdoor atmosphere could cause air pollution. "Air pollution control facility" shall not mean any motor vehicle air pollution control devices used to control the emission of air contaminants from any motor vehicle. (b) "Water pollution control facility" includes any treatment works, control device or disposal system, machinery, equipment, structures, property or any accessories thereof installed or acquired for the primary purpose of reducing, controlling or disposing of sewage and industrial waste which if released to a water course could cause water pollution: PROVIDED, That the word "facility" shall not be construed to include any control device, machinery, equipment, structure, disposal system or other property installed or constructed: For a municipal corporation other than for coal-fired, steam electric generating plants constructed and operated pursuant to chapter 54.44 RCW for which an application for a certificate was made no later than December 31, 1969, together with any air or water pollution control facility improvement which may be made hereafter to such plants; or for the primary purpose of connecting any commercial establishment with the waste collecting facilities of public or privately owned utilities: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the word "facility" shall not include any control device, machinery, equipment, struc-

ture, disposal system, or other property installed or constructed with the proceeds derived from the sale of industrial revenue bonds issued under chapter 39.84 RCW.

(2) "Industrial waste" shall mean any liquid, gaseous, radioactive or solid waste substance or combinations thereof resulting from any process of industry, manufacture, trade or business, or from the development or recovery of any natural resources.

(3) "Treatment works" or "control device" shall mean any machinery, equipment, structure or property which is installed, constructed or acquired for the primary purpose of controlling air or water pollution and shall include, but shall not be limited to such devices as precipitators, scrubbers, towers, filters, baghouses, incinerators, evaporators, reservoirs, aerators used for the purpose of treating, stabilizing, incinerating, holding, removing or isolating sewage and industrial wastes.

(4) "Disposal system" shall mean any system containing treatment works or control devices and includes but is not limited to pipelines, outfalls, conduits, pumping stations, force mains, solids handling equipment, instrumentation and monitoring equipment, ducts, fans, vents, hoods and conveyors and all other construction, devices, appurtenances and facilities used for collecting or conducting, sewage and industrial waste to a point of disposal, treatment or isolation except that which is necessary to manufacture of products.

(5) "Certificate" shall mean a pollution control tax exemption and credit certificate for which application has been made not later than December 31, 1969, except as follows:

(a) With respect to a facility required to be installed, such application will be deemed timely made if made not later than November 30, 1981, and within one year after the effective date of specific requirements for such facility promulgated by the appropriate control agency.

(b) With respect to a water pollution control facility for which an application was made in anticipation of specific requirements for such facility being promulgated by the appropriate control agency, an application will be deemed timely made if made during November, 1981, and subsequently denied, and if an appeal of the agency's denial of the application was filed in a timely manner.

(c) With respect to a facility for which plans and specifications were approved by the appropriate control agency, an application will be deemed timely made if made during November, 1981, and subsequently denied, and if an appeal of the agency's denial of the application was filed in a timely manner.

(d) For the purposes of (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection, "facility" means a facility installed in an industrial, manufacturing, waste disposal, utility, or other commercial establishment which is in operation or under construction as of July 30, 1967.

(6) "Appropriate control agency" shall mean the department of ecology; or the operating local or regional air pollution control agency within whose jurisdiction a facility is or will be located, or the department of ecology, where the facility is not or will not be located within the area of an operating local or regional air pollution control agency, or where the department of ecology has assumed jurisdiction.

(7) "Department" shall mean the department of revenue. [1988 c 127 § 36; 1984 c 42 § 1; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 1; 1980 c 175 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 139 § 1.]

**82.34.015 Limitations on the issuance of certificates under RCW 82.34.010(5) (b) and (c).** The department shall not issue a certificate under RCW 82.34.010(5)(b) before July 1, 1985, or before the promulgation of specific requirements for such facility by the appropriate control agency, whichever is later. The department shall not issue a certificate under RCW 82.34.010(5)(c) before July 1, 1985. [1984 c 42 § 2.]

**82.34.020 Application for certificate—Filing—Form—Contents.** An application for a certificate shall be filed with the department not later than November 30, 1981, and in such manner and in such form as may be prescribed by the department. The application shall contain estimated or actual costs, plans and specifications of the facility including all materials incorporated or to be incorporated therein and a list describing, and showing the cost, of all equipment acquired or to be acquired by the applicant for the purpose of pollution control, together with the operating procedure for the facility, or a time schedule for the acquisition and installation or attachment of the facility and the proposed operating procedure for such facility. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 139 § 2.]

**82.34.030 Approval of application by control agency—Notice to department—Hearing—Appeal to state air pollution control board.** A certificate shall be issued by the department within thirty days after approval of the application by the appropriate control agency. Such approval shall be given when it is determined that the facility is designed and is operated or is intended to be operated primarily for the control, capture and removal of pollutants from the air or for the control and reduction of water pollution and that the facility is suitable, reasonably adequate, and meets the intent and purposes of chapter 70.94 RCW or chapter 90.48 RCW, as the case may be, and it shall notify the department of its findings within thirty days of the date on which the application was submitted to it for approval. In making such determination, the appropriate control agency shall afford to the applicant an opportunity for a hearing: PROVIDED, That if the local or regional air pollution control agency fails to act or if the applicant feels aggrieved by the action of the local or regional air pollution control agency, such applicant may appeal to the state air pollution control board pursuant to rules and regulations established by that board. [1967 ex.s. c 139 § 3.]

**82.34.040 Rules.** The department may adopt such rules as it deems necessary for the administration of this chapter subject to the provisions of RCW 34.05.310 through 34.05.395. Such rules shall not abridge the authority of the appropriate control agency as provided in this chapter or any other law. [1989 c 175 § 177; 1967 ex.s. c 139 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.34.050 Original acquisition of facility exempt from sales and use taxes—Election to take tax credit in**

[Title 82 RCW—page 290]

**lieu of exemption.** (1) The original acquisition of a facility by the holder of a certificate shall be exempt from sales tax imposed by chapter 82.08 RCW and use tax imposed by chapter 82.12 RCW when the due date for payment of such taxes is subsequent to the effective date of the certificate: PROVIDED, That the exemption of this section shall not apply to servicing, maintenance, repairs, and replacement of parts after a facility is complete and placed in operation. Sales and use taxes paid by a holder of a certificate with respect to expenditures incurred for acquisition of a facility prior to the issuance of a certificate covering such facility may be claimed as a tax credit as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Subsequent to July 30, 1967 the holder of the certificate may, in lieu of accepting the tax exemption provided for in this section, elect to take a tax credit in the total amount of the exemption for the facility covered by such certificate against any future taxes to be paid pursuant to chapters 82.04, 82.12 and 82.16 RCW. [2000 c 103 § 12; 1975 1st ex.s. c 158 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 139 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.34.060 Application for final cost determination as to existing or new facility—Filing—Form—Contents—Approval—Determination of costs—Credits against taxes imposed by chapters 82.04, 82.12, 82.16 RCW—Limitations.** (1) On and after July 30, 1967, an application for a determination of the cost of an existing or newly completed pollution control facility may be filed with the department in such manner and in such form as may be prescribed by the department. The application shall contain the final cost figures for the installation of the facility and reasonable supporting documents and other proof as required by the department. In the event such facility is not already covered by a certificate issued for the purpose of authorizing the tax exemption or credit provided for in this chapter, the department shall seek the approval of the facility from the appropriate control agency. For any application for a certificate or supplement which was filed with the department not later than November 30, 1981, the department shall determine the final cost of the pollution control facility and issue a supplement to the existing certificate or an original certificate stating the cost of the pollution control facility: PROVIDED, That the cost of an existing pollution control facility shall be the depreciated value thereof at the time of application filed pursuant to this section.

(2) When the operation of a facility has commenced and a certificate pertaining thereto has been issued, a credit may be claimed against taxes imposed pursuant to chapters 82.04, 82.12 and 82.16 RCW. The amount of such credit shall be two percent of the cost of a facility covered by the certificate for each year the certificate remains in force. Such credits shall be cumulative and shall be subject only to the following limitations:

(a) No credit exceeding fifty percent of the taxes payable under chapters 82.04, 82.12 and 82.16 RCW shall be allowed in any reporting period;

(b) The net commercial value of any materials captured or recovered through use of a facility shall, first, reduce the credit allowable in the current reporting period and thereafter be applied to reduce any credit balance allowed and not yet

utilized: PROVIDED, That for the purposes of this chapter the determination of "net commercial value" shall not include a deduction for the cost or depreciation of the facility.

(c) The total cumulative amount of such credits allowed for any facility covered by a certificate shall not exceed fifty percent of the cost of such facility.

(d) The total cumulative amount of credits against state taxes authorized by this chapter shall be reduced by the total amount of any federal investment credit or other federal tax credit actually received by the certificate holder applicable to the facility. This reduction shall be made as an offset against the credit claimed in the first reporting period following the allowance of such investment credit, and thereafter as an offset against any credit balance as it shall become available to the certificate holder.

(3) Applicants and certificate holders shall provide the department with information showing the net commercial value of materials captured or recovered by a facility and shall make all pertinent books and records available for examination by the department for the purposes of determining the credit provided by this chapter. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 139 § 6.]

**82.34.090 Certified mail—Use of in sending certificates or notice of refusal to issue certificates.** The department shall send a certificate or supplement when issued, by certified mail to the applicant. Notice of the department's refusal to issue a certificate or supplement shall likewise be sent to the applicant by certified mail. [1967 ex.s. c 139 § 9.]

**82.34.100 Revision of prior findings of appropriate control agency—Grounds for modification or revocation of certificate or supplement—Exemptions from revocation.** (1) The department of ecology, after notice to the department and the applicant and after affording the applicant an opportunity for a hearing, shall, on its own initiative or on complaint of the local or regional air pollution control agency in which an air pollution control facility is located, or is expected to be located, revise the prior findings of the appropriate control agency whenever any of the following appears:

(a) The certificate or supplement thereto was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation, or the holder of the certificate has failed substantially without good cause to proceed with the construction, reconstruction, installation or acquisition of a facility or without good cause has failed substantially to operate the facility for the purpose specified by the appropriate control agency in which case the department shall modify or revoke the certificate. If the certificate and/or supplement are revoked, all applicable taxes from which an exemption has been secured under this chapter or against which the credit provided for by this chapter has been claimed shall be immediately due and payable with the maximum interest and penalties prescribed by applicable law. No statute of limitations shall operate in the event of fraud or misrepresentation.

(b) The facility covered by the certificate or supplement thereto is no longer operated primarily for the purpose of the control or reduction of water pollution or the control, capture, and removal of pollutants from the air, as the case may be, or is no longer suitable or reasonably adequate to meet the intent and purposes of chapter 70.94 RCW or chapter 90.48 RCW, in which case the certificate shall be modified or revoked.

(2) A certificate, or supplement thereto, issued pursuant to RCW 82.34.030 may not be revoked if:

(a) The facility is modified, but is still operated primarily for the purpose of the control or reduction of water pollution or the control, capture, and removal of pollutants from the air and is reasonably adequate to meet the intent and purposes of chapter 70.94 or 90.48 RCW;

(b) The facility is replaced by a new or different facility that is still operated primarily for the purpose of the control or reduction of water pollution or the control, capture, and removal of pollutants from the air and is reasonably adequate to meet the intent and purposes of chapter 70.94 or 90.48 RCW;

(c) The facility is modified or removed as a result of an alteration of the production process and the alteration results in reasonably adequate compliance with the intent and purposes of chapter 70.94 or 90.48 RCW;

(d) The industrial, manufacturing, waste disposal, utility, or other commercial establishment in which the facility was installed ceases operations and the cessation of operation results in reasonably adequate compliance with the intent and purposes of chapter 70.94 or 90.48 RCW;

(e) Part of an industrial, manufacturing, waste disposal, utility, or other commercial establishment in which the facility was installed ceases operations and the cessation of operation results in reasonably adequate compliance with the intent and purposes of chapter 70.94 or 90.48 RCW; or

(f) The industrial, manufacturing, waste disposal, utility, or other commercial establishment in which the facility was installed is altered and the alteration results in reasonably adequate compliance with the intent and purposes of chapter 70.94 or 90.48 RCW.

(3) Upon the date of mailing by certified mail to the certificate holder of notice of the action of the department modifying or revoking a certificate or supplement, the certificate or supplement shall cease to be in force or shall remain in force only as modified. [1998 c 9 § 1; 1988 c 127 § 37; 1967 ex.s. c 139 § 10.]

**82.34.110 Administrative and judicial review.** Administrative and judicial review of a decision of the control agency or the department shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of chapters 34.05, 43.21B, 82.03, and 82.32 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. [1975 1st ex.s. c 158 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 139 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.34.900 Severability—1967 ex.s. c 139.** If any phrase, clause, subsection or section of this act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be conclusively presumed that the legislature would have enacted this act without the phrase, clause, subsection or section so held unconstitutional or invalid and the remainder of the act shall not be affected as a result of said part being held unconstitutional or invalid. [1967 ex.s. c 139 § 12.]

**82.34.901 Severability—1981 2nd ex.s. c 9.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the applica-

tion of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 5.]

### Chapter 82.36 RCW MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAX

#### Sections

82.36.010	Definitions.
82.36.020	Tax levied and imposed—Rate to be computed—Incidence—Distribution.
82.36.022	Tax imposed—Intent.
82.36.025	Motor vehicle fuel tax rate—Expiration of subsection.
82.36.026	Tax liability—General.
82.36.027	Tax liability of terminal operator.
82.36.028	Tax liability—Reciprocity agreements.
82.36.029	Deductions—Handling losses—Reports.
82.36.031	Periodic tax reports—Forms—Filing—Time extensions during state of emergency.
82.36.032	Penalty for filing fraudulent tax report.
82.36.035	Computation and payment of tax—Remittance—Electronic funds transfer.
82.36.040	Payment of tax—Penalty for delinquency.
82.36.044	Credit for worthless accounts receivable—Report—Adjustment.
82.36.045	Licenses, persons acting as licensees—Tax reports—Deficiencies, failure to file, fraudulent filings, misappropriation, or conversion—Penalties, liability—Mitigation—Reassessment petition, hearing—Notice.
82.36.047	Assessments—Warrant—Lien—Filing fee—Writs of execution and garnishment.
82.36.050	Date of mailing deemed date of filing or receipt—Timely mailing bars penalties and tolls statutory time limitations.
82.36.060	Application for license—Federal certificate of registry—Investigation—Fee—Penalty for false statement—Bond or security—Cancellation.
82.36.070	Issuance of license—Display—Refusal of issuance—Inspection of records.
82.36.075	Reports by persons other than licensees—Department requirements—Forms.
82.36.080	Penalty for acting without license—Separate licenses for separate activities—Default assessment.
82.36.090	Discontinuance, sale, or transfer of business—Notice—Payment of taxes, interest, penalties—Overpayment refunds. Bankruptcy proceedings—Notice.
82.36.095	Tax required of persons not classed as licensees—Duties—Procedure—Distribution of proceeds—Penalties—Enforcement.
82.36.110	Delinquency—Lien of tax—Notice.
82.36.120	Delinquency—Notice to debtors—Transfer or disposition of property, credits, or debts prohibited—Lien—Answer.
82.36.130	Delinquency—Tax warrant.
82.36.140	State may pursue remedy against licensee or bond.
82.36.150	Records to be kept by licensees—Inventory—Statement.
82.36.160	Records to be preserved by licensees.
82.36.170	Additional reports—Filing.
82.36.180	Examinations and investigations.
82.36.190	Suspension, revocation, cancellation of licenses—Notice.
82.36.200	Carriers of motor vehicle fuel—Examination of records, stocks, etc.
82.36.210	Carriers of motor vehicle fuel—Invoice, bill of sale, etc., required—Inspections.
82.36.230	Exemptions—Imports, exports, federal sales—Invoice—Certificate—Reporting.
82.36.240	Sales to state or political subdivisions not exempt.
82.36.245	Exemption—Sales to foreign diplomatic and consular missions.
82.36.247	Exemption—Racing fuel.
82.36.250	Nongovernmental use of fuels, etc., acquired from United States government—Tax—Unlawful to procure or use.
82.36.260	Extension of time for filing exportation certificates or claiming exemptions.
82.36.270	Refund permit.
82.36.275	Refunds for urban transportation systems.
82.36.280	Refunds for nonhighway use of fuel.
82.36.285	Refunds for transit services to persons with special transportation needs by nonprofit transportation providers.
82.36.290	Refunds for use in manufacturing, cleaning, dyeing.
82.36.300	Refunds on exported fuel.
82.36.310	Claim of refund.
82.36.320	Information may be required.
82.36.330	Payment of refunds—Interest—Penalty.

82.36.335	Credits on tax in lieu of collection and refund.
82.36.340	Examination of books and records.
82.36.350	Fraudulent invoices—Penalty.
82.36.370	Refunds for fuel lost or destroyed through fire, flood, leakage, etc.
82.36.375	Time limitation on erroneous payment credits or refunds and notices of additional tax.
82.36.380	Violations—Penalties.
82.36.390	Diversion of export fuel—Penalty.
82.36.400	Other offenses—Penalties.
82.36.410	Revenue to motor vehicle fund.
82.36.415	Refund to aeronautics account.
82.36.420	Disposition of fees, fines, penalties.
82.36.430	Enforcement.
82.36.435	Enforcement and administration—Rule-making authority.
82.36.440	State preempts tax field.
82.36.450	Agreement with tribe for fuel taxes.
82.36.460	Motor vehicle fuel tax cooperative agreement.
82.36.470	Fuel tax evasion—Seizure and forfeiture.
82.36.475	Fuel tax evasion—Forfeiture procedure.
82.36.480	Fuel tax evasion—Forfeited property.
82.36.485	Fuel tax evasion—Return of seized property.
82.36.490	Fuel tax evasion—Search and seizure.
82.36.495	Fuel tax evasion—Rules.
82.36.800	Rules—1998 c 176.
82.36.900	Findings—1998 c 176.
82.36.901	Effective date—1998 c 176.

*Constitutional limitations on certain taxes, highway funds: State Constitution Art. 2 § 40.*

*Refunds of tax on marine fuel, disposition under marine recreation land act: Chapter 79A.25 RCW.*

**82.36.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Blended fuel" means a mixture of motor vehicle fuel and another liquid, other than a de minimis amount of the liquid, that can be used as a fuel to propel a motor vehicle.

(2) "Bond" means a bond duly executed with a corporate surety qualified under chapter 48.28 RCW, which bond is payable to the state of Washington conditioned upon faithful performance of all requirements of this chapter, including the payment of all taxes, penalties, and other obligations arising out of this chapter.

(3) "Bulk transfer" means a transfer of motor vehicle fuel by pipeline or vessel.

(4) "Bulk transfer-terminal system" means the motor vehicle fuel distribution system consisting of refineries, pipelines, vessels, and terminals. Motor vehicle fuel in a refinery, pipeline, vessel, or terminal is in the bulk transfer-terminal system. Motor vehicle fuel in the fuel tank of an engine, motor vehicle, or in a railcar, trailer, truck, or other equipment suitable for ground transportation is not in the bulk transfer-terminal system.

(5) "Department" means the department of licensing.

(6) "Director" means the director of licensing.

(7) "Evasion" or "evade" means to diminish or avoid the computation, assessment, or payment of authorized taxes or fees through:

(a) A knowing: False statement; misrepresentation of fact; or other act of deception; or

(b) An intentional: Omission; failure to file a return or report; or other act of deception.

(8) "Export" means to obtain motor vehicle fuel in this state for sales or distribution outside the state.

(9) "Highway" means every way or place open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for the purpose of vehicular travel.

(10) "Import" means to bring motor vehicle fuel into this state by a means of conveyance other than the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(11) "International fuel tax agreement licensee" means a motor vehicle fuel user operating qualified motor vehicles in interstate commerce and licensed by the department under the international fuel tax agreement.

(12) "Licensee" means a person holding a motor vehicle fuel supplier, motor vehicle fuel importer, motor vehicle fuel exporter, motor vehicle fuel blender, motor vehicle distributor, or international fuel tax agreement license issued under this chapter.

(13) "Motor vehicle fuel blender" means a person who produces blended motor fuel outside the bulk transfer-terminal system.

(14) "Motor vehicle fuel distributor" means a person who acquires motor vehicle fuel from a supplier, distributor, or licensee for subsequent sale and distribution.

(15) "Motor vehicle fuel exporter" means a person who purchases motor vehicle fuel in this state and directly exports the fuel by a means other than the bulk transfer-terminal system to a destination outside of the state. If the exporter of record is acting as an agent, the person for whom the agent is acting is the exporter. If there is no exporter of record, the owner of the motor fuel at the time of exportation is the exporter.

(16) "Motor vehicle fuel importer" means a person who imports motor vehicle fuel into the state by a means other than the bulk transfer-terminal system. If the importer of record is acting as an agent, the person for whom the agent is acting is the importer. If there is no importer of record, the owner of the motor vehicle fuel at the time of importation is the importer.

(17) "Motor vehicle fuel supplier" means a person who holds a federal certificate of registry that is issued under the internal revenue code and authorizes the person to enter into federal tax-free transactions on motor vehicle fuel in the bulk transfer-terminal system.

(18) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle designed for operation upon land utilizing motor vehicle fuel as the means of propulsion.

(19) "Motor vehicle fuel" means gasoline and any other inflammable gas or liquid, by whatsoever name the gasoline, gas, or liquid may be known or sold, the chief use of which is as fuel for the propulsion of motor vehicles or motorboats.

(20) "Person" means a natural person, fiduciary, association, or corporation. The term "person" as applied to an association means and includes the partners or members thereof, and as applied to corporations, the officers thereof.

(21) "Position holder" means a person who holds the inventory position in motor vehicle fuel, as reflected by the records of the terminal operator. A person holds the inventory position in motor vehicle fuel if the person has a contractual agreement with the terminal for the use of storage facilities and terminating services at a terminal with respect to motor vehicle fuel. "Position holder" includes a terminal operator that owns motor vehicle fuel in their terminal.

(22) "Rack" means a mechanism for delivering motor vehicle fuel from a refinery or terminal into a truck, trailer, railcar, or other means of nonbulk transfer.

(23) "Refiner" means a person who owns, operates, or otherwise controls a refinery.

(24) "Removal" means a physical transfer of motor vehicle fuel other than by evaporation, loss, or destruction.

(25) "Terminal" means a motor vehicle fuel storage and distribution facility that has been assigned a terminal control number by the internal revenue service, is supplied by pipeline or vessel, and from which reportable motor vehicle fuel is removed at a rack.

(26) "Terminal operator" means a person who owns, operates, or otherwise controls a terminal.

(27) "Two-party exchange" or "buy-sell agreement" means a transaction in which taxable motor vehicle fuel is transferred from one licensed supplier to another licensed supplier under an exchange or buy-sell agreement whereby the supplier that is the position holder agrees to deliver taxable motor vehicle fuel to the other supplier or the other supplier's customer at the rack of the terminal at which the delivering supplier is the position holder. [2007 c 515 § 1; 2001 c 270 § 1; 1998 c 176 § 6. Prior: 1995 c 287 § 1; 1995 c 274 § 20; 1993 c 54 § 1; 1991 c 339 § 13; 1990 c 250 § 79; 1987 c 174 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 25; 1981 c 342 § 1; 1979 c 158 § 223; 1977 ex.s. c 317 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 156 § 1; 1967 c 153 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.010; prior: 1939 c 177 § 1; 1933 c 58 § 1; RRS § 8327-1; prior: 1921 c 173 § 1.]

**Severability—2007 c 515:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2007 c 515 § 35.]

**Effective date—2007 c 515:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 15, 2007]." [2007 c 515 § 36.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.020 Tax levied and imposed—Rate to be computed—Incidence—Distribution.** (1) There is hereby levied and imposed upon motor vehicle fuel licensees, other than motor vehicle fuel distributors, a tax at the rate computed in the manner provided in RCW 82.36.025 on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel.

(2) The tax imposed by subsection (1) of this section is imposed when any of the following occurs:

(a) Motor vehicle fuel is removed in this state from a terminal if the motor vehicle fuel is removed at the rack unless the removal is to a licensed exporter for direct delivery to a destination outside of the state;

(b) Motor vehicle fuel is removed in this state from a refinery if either of the following applies:

(i) The removal is by bulk transfer and the refiner or the owner of the motor vehicle fuel immediately before the removal is not a licensee; or

(ii) The removal is at the refinery rack unless the removal is to a licensed exporter for direct delivery to a destination outside of the state;

(c) Motor vehicle fuel enters into this state if either of the following applies:

(i) The entry is by bulk transfer and the importer is not a licensee; or

(ii) The entry is not by bulk transfer;

(d) Motor vehicle fuel is sold or removed in this state to an unlicensed entity unless there was a prior taxable removal, entry, or sale of the motor vehicle fuel;

(e) Blended motor vehicle fuel is removed or sold in this state by the blender of the fuel. The number of gallons of blended motor vehicle fuel subject to the tax is the difference between the total number of gallons of blended motor vehicle fuel removed or sold and the number of gallons of previously taxed motor vehicle fuel used to produce the blended motor vehicle fuel;

(f) Motor vehicle fuel is sold by a licensed motor vehicle fuel supplier to a motor vehicle fuel distributor, motor vehicle fuel importer, motor vehicle fuel blender, or international fuel tax agreement licensee and the motor vehicle fuel is not removed from the bulk transfer-terminal system.

(3) The proceeds of the motor vehicle fuel excise tax shall be distributed as provided in RCW 46.68.090. [2007 c 515 § 2; 2001 c 270 § 2; 2000 c 103 § 13; 1998 c 176 § 7; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 26; 1982 1st ex.s. c 6 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 317 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 28 § 1. Prior: 1973 1st ex.s. c 160 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 124 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 24 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 85 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 145 § 75; 1967 ex.s. c 83 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 2; 1963 c 113 § 1; 1961 ex.s. c 7 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.020; prior: 1957 c 247 § 1; 1955 c 207 § 1; 1951 c 269 § 43; 1949 c 220 § 7; 1939 c 177 § 2; 1933 c 58 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8327-5; prior: 1931 c 140 § 2; 1923 c 81 § 1; 1921 c 173 § 2.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.022 Tax imposed—Intent.** It is the intent and purpose of this chapter that the tax shall be imposed at the time and place of the first taxable event and upon the first taxable person within this state. Any person whose activities would otherwise require payment of the tax imposed by RCW 82.36.020 but who is exempt from the tax nevertheless has a precollection obligation for the tax that must be imposed on the first taxable event within this state. Failure to pay the tax with respect to a taxable event shall not prevent tax liability from arising by reason of a subsequent taxable event. [2007 c 515 § 20.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.025 Motor vehicle fuel tax rate—Expiration of subsection.** (1) A motor vehicle fuel tax rate of twenty-three cents per gallon on motor vehicle fuel shall be imposed on motor vehicle fuel licensees, other than motor vehicle fuel distributors.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2003, an additional and cumulative motor vehicle fuel tax rate of five cents per gallon on motor vehicle fuel shall be imposed on motor vehicle fuel licensees, other than motor vehicle fuel distributors. This subsection (2) expires when the bonds issued for transportation 2003 projects are retired.

(3) Beginning July 1, 2005, an additional and cumulative motor vehicle fuel tax rate of three cents per gallon on motor vehicle fuel shall be imposed on motor vehicle fuel licensees, other than motor vehicle fuel distributors.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2006, an additional and cumulative motor vehicle fuel tax rate of three cents per gallon on motor

vehicle fuel shall be imposed on motor vehicle fuel licensees, other than motor vehicle fuel distributors.

(5) Beginning July 1, 2007, an additional and cumulative motor vehicle fuel tax rate of two cents per gallon on motor vehicle fuel shall be imposed on motor vehicle fuel licensees, other than motor vehicle fuel distributors.

(6) Beginning July 1, 2008, an additional and cumulative motor vehicle fuel tax rate of one and one-half cents per gallon on motor vehicle fuel shall be imposed on motor vehicle fuel licensees, other than motor vehicle fuel distributors. [2007 c 515 § 3; 2005 c 314 § 101; 2003 c 361 § 401. Prior: 1999 c 269 § 16; 1999 c 94 § 29; 1994 c 179 § 30; 1991 c 342 § 57; 1990 c 42 § 101; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 27; 1981 c 342 § 2; 1979 c 158 § 224; 1977 ex.s. c 317 § 6.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**Effective date—2005 c 314 §§ 101-107, 109, 303-309, and 401:** See note following RCW 46.68.290.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 314:** See note following RCW 46.68.035.

**Findings—2003 c 361:** "The legislature finds that the state's transportation system is in critical need of repair, restoration, and enhancement. The state's economy, the ability to move goods to market, and the overall mobility and safety of the citizens of the state rely on the state's transportation system. The revenues generated by this act are dedicated to funds, accounts, and activities that are necessary to improve the delivery of state transportation projects and services." [2003 c 361 § 101.]

**Part headings not law—2003 c 361:** "Part headings used in this act are not any part of the law." [2003 c 361 § 701.]

**Severability—2003 c 361:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2003 c 361 § 702.]

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

**Legislative finding—Effective dates—1999 c 94:** See notes following RCW 43.84.092.

**Purpose of state and local transportation funding program—1990 c 42:** "(1) The legislature finds that a new comprehensive funding program is required to maintain the state's commitment to the growing mobility needs of its citizens and commerce. The transportation funding program is intended to satisfy the following state policies and objectives:

(a) Statewide system: Provide for preservation of the existing statewide system and improvements for current and expected capacity needs in rural, established urban, and growing suburban areas throughout the state;

(b) Local flexibility: Provide for necessary state highway improvements, as well as providing local governments with the option to use new funding sources for projects meeting local and regional needs;

(c) Multimodal: Provide a source of funds that may be used for multi-modal transportation purposes;

(d) Program compatibility: Implement transportation facilities and services that are consistent with adopted land use and transportation plans and coordinated with recently authorized programs such as the act authorizing creation of transportation benefit districts and the local transportation act of 1988;

(e) Interjurisdictional cooperation: Encourage transportation planning and projects that are multijurisdictional in their conception, development, and benefit, recognizing that mobility problems do not respect jurisdictional boundaries;

(f) Public and private sector: Use a state, local, and private sector partnership that equitably shares the burden of meeting transportation needs.

(2) The legislature further recognizes that the revenues currently available to the state and to counties, cities, and transit authorities for highway, road, and street construction and preservation fall far short of the identified need. The 1988 Washington road jurisdiction study identified a statewide funding shortfall of between \$14.6 and \$19.9 billion to bring existing roads to acceptable standards. The gap between identified transportation needs and available revenues continues to increase. A comprehensive transportation funding program is required to meet the current and anticipated future needs of this state.

(3) The legislature further recognizes the desirability of making certain changes in the collection and distribution of motor vehicle excise taxes with the following objectives: Simplifying administration and collection of the taxes including adoption of a predictable depreciation schedule for vehicles; simplifying the allocation of the taxes among various recipients; and the dedication of a portion of motor vehicle excise taxes for transportation purposes.

(4) The legislature, therefore, declares a need for the three-part funding program embodied in this act: (a) Statewide funding for highways, roads, and streets in urban and rural areas; (b) local option funding authority, available immediately, for the construction and preservation of roads, streets, and transit improvements and facilities; and (c) the creation of a multimodal transportation fund that is funded through dedication of a portion of motor vehicle excise tax. This funding program is intended, by targeting certain new revenues, to produce a significant increase in the overall capacity of the state, county, and city transportation systems to satisfy and efficiently accommodate the movement of people and goods." [1990 c 42 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: The bonds were fully defeased on June 1, 1990.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.026 Tax liability—General.** (1) A licensed supplier shall be liable for and pay tax to the department as provided in RCW 82.36.020. On a two-party exchange, or buy-sell agreement between two licensed suppliers, the receiving exchange partner or buyer shall be liable for and pay the tax.

(2) A refiner shall be liable for and pay tax to the department on motor vehicle fuel removed from a refinery as provided in RCW 82.36.020(2)(b).

(3) A licensed importer shall be liable for and pay tax to the department on motor vehicle fuel imported into this state as provided in RCW 82.36.020(2)(c).

(4) A licensed blender shall be liable for and pay tax to the department on the removal or sale of blended motor vehicle fuel as provided in RCW 82.36.020(2)(e).

(5) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the licensee liable for payment of the tax under this chapter from including as a part of the selling price an amount equal to the tax. [2007 c 515 § 4; 2001 c 270 § 3; 1998 c 176 § 8.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.027 Tax liability of terminal operator.** A terminal operator is jointly and severally liable for payment of the tax imposed under RCW 82.36.020(1) if, at the time of removal:

(1) The position holder with respect to the motor vehicle fuel is a person other than the terminal operator and is not a licensee;

(2) The terminal operator is not a licensee;

(3) The position holder has an expired internal revenue service notification certificate issued under 26 C.F.R. Part 48; or

(4) The terminal operator had reason to believe that information on the notification certificate was false. [2007 c 515 § 6; 1998 c 176 § 9.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.028 Tax liability—Reciprocity agreements.** International fuel tax agreement licensees, or persons operating motor vehicles under other reciprocity agreements entered into with the state of Washington, are liable for and must pay the tax under RCW 82.36.020 to the department on motor vehicle fuel used to operate motor vehicles on the highways of this state. This provision does not apply if the

(2012 Ed.)

tax under RCW 82.36.020 has previously been imposed and paid by the international fuel tax agreement licensee or if the use of such fuel is exempt from the tax under this chapter. [2007 c 515 § 5.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.029 Deductions—Handling losses—Reports.** Upon the taxable removal of motor vehicle fuel, the licensee who acquired or removed the motor vehicle fuel, other than a motor vehicle fuel exporter, shall be entitled to a deduction from the tax liability on the gallonage of taxable motor vehicle fuel removed in order to account for handling losses, as follows: For a motor vehicle fuel supplier acting as a distributor, one-quarter of one percent; and for all other licensees, thirty one-hundredths of one percent. For those licensees required to file tax reports, the handling loss deduction shall be reported on tax reports filed with the department. For motor vehicle fuel distributors, the handling loss deduction shall be shown on the invoice provided to the motor vehicle fuel distributor by the seller. [1998 c 176 § 10.]

**82.36.031 Periodic tax reports—Forms--Filing—Time extensions during state of emergency.** (1) For the purpose of determining the amount of liability for the tax imposed under this chapter, and to periodically update license information, each licensee, other than a motor vehicle fuel distributor or an international fuel tax agreement licensee, shall file monthly tax reports with the department, on a form prescribed by the department. An international fuel tax licensee shall file quarterly tax reports with the department, on a form prescribed by the department.

(2) A report shall be filed with the department even though no motor vehicle fuel tax is due for the reporting period. Each tax report shall contain a declaration by the person making the same, to the effect that the statements contained therein are true and made under penalties of perjury, which declaration has the same force and effect as a verification of the report and is in lieu of the verification. The report shall show information as the department may require for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter. Tax reports shall be filed on or before the twenty-fifth day of the next succeeding calendar month following the period to which the reports relate. If the final filing date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday the next secular or business day shall be the final filing date.

(3) The department, if it deems it necessary in order to ensure payment of the tax imposed under this chapter, or to facilitate the administration of this chapter, may require the filing of reports and tax remittances at shorter intervals than one month.

(4) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the department, on its own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may extend the time for filing any report or the due date for tax remittances as the department deems proper. [2008 c 181 § 505; 2007 c 515 § 8; 1998 c 176 § 11.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.032 Penalty for filing fraudulent tax report.** If any licensee files a fraudulent tax report with intent to evade the tax imposed by this chapter, there shall be added to the amount of deficiency determined by the department a penalty equal to twenty-five percent of the deficiency, in addition to all other penalties prescribed by law. [1998 c 176 § 13; 1987 c 174 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.035 Computation and payment of tax—Remittance—Electronic funds transfer.** (1) The tax imposed by this chapter shall be computed by multiplying the tax rate per gallon provided in this chapter by the number of gallons of motor vehicle fuel subject to the motor vehicle fuel tax.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, tax reports shall be accompanied by a remittance payable to the state treasurer covering the tax amount determined to be due for the reporting period.

(3) If the tax is paid by electronic funds transfer, the tax shall be paid on or before the twenty-sixth calendar day of the month immediately following the reporting period. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday the next business day will be the payment date.

(4) The tax shall be paid by electronic funds transfer whenever the amount due is fifty thousand dollars or more.

(5) A motor vehicle fuel distributor shall remit tax on motor vehicle fuel purchased from a motor vehicle fuel supplier, and due to the state for that reporting period, to the motor vehicle fuel supplier.

(6) At the election of the distributor, the payment of the motor vehicle fuel tax owed on motor vehicle fuel purchased from a supplier shall be remitted to the supplier on terms agreed upon between the distributor and supplier or no later than seven business days before the twenty-sixth day of the following month. This election shall be subject to a condition that the distributor's remittances of all amounts of motor vehicle fuel tax due to the supplier shall be paid by electronic funds transfer. The distributor's election may be terminated by the supplier if the distributor does not make timely payments to the supplier as required by this section. This section shall not apply if the distributor is required by the supplier to pay cash or cash equivalent for motor vehicle fuel purchases. [2005 c 260 § 1; 1998 c 176 § 12.]

**Effective date—2005 c 260:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2005." [2005 c 260 § 4.]

**82.36.040 Payment of tax—Penalty for delinquency.** If payment of any tax due is not received by the due date, there shall be assessed a penalty of two percent of the amount of the tax. [1991 c 339 § 2; 1989 c 378 § 24; 1987 c 174 § 4; 1977 c 28 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.040. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 3; 1955 c 207 § 3; prior: 1953 c 151 § 1; 1943 c 84 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8327-8, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 3, part; 1921 c 173 § 5, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.044 Credit for worthless accounts receivable—Report—Adjustment.** A motor vehicle fuel supplier is entitled to a credit of the tax paid over to the department on those sales of motor vehicle fuel for which the supplier has

received no consideration from or on behalf of the purchaser. The amount of the tax credit shall not exceed the amount of tax imposed by this chapter on such sales. Such credit may be taken on a tax return subsequent to the tax return on which the tax was paid over to the department. If a credit has been granted under this section, any amounts collected for application against accounts on which such a credit is based shall be reported on a subsequent tax return filed after such collection, and the amount of credit received by the supplier based upon the collected amount shall be returned to the department. In the event the credit has not been paid, the amount of the credit requested by the supplier shall be adjusted by the department to reflect the decrease in the amount on which the claim is based. [1998 c 176 § 15.]

**82.36.045 Licensees, persons acting as licensees—Tax reports—Deficiencies, failure to file, fraudulent filings, misappropriation, or conversion—Penalties, liability—Mitigation—Reassessment petition, hearing—Notice.** (1) If the department determines that the tax reported by a licensee is deficient, the department shall assess the deficiency on the basis of information available to it, and shall add a penalty of two percent of the amount of the deficiency.

(2) If a licensee, or person acting as such, fails, neglects, or refuses to file a motor vehicle fuel tax report the department shall, on the basis of information available to it, determine the tax liability of the licensee or person for the period during which no report was filed. The department shall add the penalty provided in subsection (1) of this section to the tax. An assessment made by the department under this subsection or subsection (1) of this section is presumed to be correct. In any case, where the validity of the assessment is questioned, the burden is on the person who challenges the assessment to establish by a fair preponderance of evidence that it is erroneous or excessive, as the case may be.

(3) If a licensee or person acting as such files a false or fraudulent report with intent to evade the tax imposed by this chapter, the department shall add to the amount of deficiency a penalty equal to twenty-five percent of the deficiency, in addition to the penalty provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section and all other penalties prescribed by law.

(4) Motor vehicle fuel tax, penalties, and interest payable under this chapter bears interest at the rate of one percent per month, or fraction thereof, from the first day of the calendar month after the amount or any portion of it should have been paid until the date of payment. If a licensee or person acting as such establishes by a fair preponderance of evidence that the failure to pay the amount of tax due was attributable to reasonable cause and was not intentional or willful, the department may waive the penalty. The department may waive the interest when it determines the cost of processing or collection of the interest exceeds the amount of interest due.

(5) Except in the case of a fraudulent report, neglect or refusal to make a report, or failure to pay or to pay the proper amount, the department shall assess the deficiency under subsection (1) or (2) of this section within five years from the last day of the succeeding calendar month after the reporting period for which the amount is proposed to be determined or within five years after the return is filed, whichever period expires later.

(6) Except in the case of violations of filing a false or fraudulent report, if the department deems mitigation of penalties and interest to be reasonable and in the best interest of carrying out the purpose of this chapter, it may mitigate such assessments upon whatever terms the department deems proper, giving consideration to the degree and extent of the lack of records and reporting errors. The department may ascertain the facts regarding recordkeeping and payment penalties in lieu of more elaborate proceedings under this chapter.

(7) A licensee or person acting as such against whom an assessment is made under subsection (1) or (2) of this section may petition for a reassessment within thirty days after service upon the licensee of notice of the assessment. If the petition is not filed within the thirty-day period, the amount of the assessment becomes final at the expiration of that period.

If a petition for reassessment is filed within the thirty-day period, the department shall reconsider the assessment and, if the petitioner has so requested in its petition, shall grant the petitioner an oral hearing and give the petitioner twenty days' notice of the time and place of the hearing. The department may continue the hearing from time to time. The decision of the department upon a petition for reassessment becomes final thirty days after service of notice upon the petitioner.

An assessment made by the department becomes due and payable when it becomes final. If it is not paid to the department when due and payable, the department shall add a penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax.

(8) In a suit brought to enforce the rights of the state under this chapter, the assessment showing the amount of taxes, penalties, interest, and cost unpaid to the state is prima facie evidence of the facts as shown.

(9) A notice of assessment required by this section must be served personally or by certified or registered mail. If it is served by mail, service shall be made by deposit of the notice in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the respondent at the most current address furnished to the department. [2007 c 515 § 9; 1998 c 176 § 16; 1996 c 104 § 2; 1991 c 339 § 1.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.047 Assessments—Warrant—Lien—Filing fee—Writs of execution and garnishment.** When an assessment becomes final in accordance with this chapter, the department may file with the clerk of any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the assessment of taxes, penalties, interest, and a filing fee under RCW 36.18.012(10). The clerk of the county in which the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for the warrant, and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant the name of the licensee or person mentioned in the warrant, the amount of the tax, penalties, interest, and filing fee, and the date when the warrant was filed. The aggregate amount of the warrant as docketed becomes a lien upon the title to and interest in all real and personal property of the named person against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case duly docketed in the office of the clerk. The warrant so docketed is sufficient to support

the issuance of writs of execution and writs of garnishment in favor of the state in the manner provided by law in the case of a civil judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court is entitled to a filing fee under RCW 36.18.012(10). [2001 c 146 § 13; 1998 c 176 § 17; 1991 c 339 § 4.]

**82.36.050 Date of mailing deemed date of filing or receipt—Timely mailing bars penalties and tolls statutory time limitations.** When any application, report, notice, payment, or claim for credit or refund to be filed with or made to any officer, agent, or employee of the state under the provisions of this chapter has been deposited in the United States mail addressed to such officer, agent or employee, it shall be deemed filed or received on the date shown by the post office cancellation mark on the envelope containing it or on the date it was mailed if proof satisfactory to said officer, agent, or employee of the state establishes that the actual mailing occurred on an earlier date: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no penalty for delinquency shall attach, nor will the statutory period be deemed to have elapsed in the case of credit or refund claims, if it is established by competent evidence that such application, report, notice, payment, or claim for credit or refund was timely deposited in the United States mail properly addressed to said officer, agent, or employee of the state, even though never received if a duplicate of such document or payment is filed. [1961 c 15 § 82.36.050. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 4; 1947 c 135 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 8327-8a.]

**82.36.060 Application for license—Federal certificate of registry—Investigation—Fee—Penalty for false statement—Bond or security—Cancellation.** (1) An application for a license issued under this chapter shall be made to the department on forms to be furnished by the department and shall contain such information as the department deems necessary.

(2) Every application for a license must contain the following information to the extent it applies to the applicant:

(a) Proof as the department may require concerning the applicant's identity, including but not limited to his or her fingerprints or those of the officers of a corporation making the application;

(b) The applicant's form and place of organization including proof that the individual, partnership, or corporation is licensed to do business in this state;

(c) The qualification and business history of the applicant and any partner, officer, or director;

(d) The applicant's financial condition or history including a bank reference and whether the applicant or any partner, officer, or director has ever been adjudged bankrupt or has an unsatisfied judgment in a federal or state court;

(e) Whether the applicant has been adjudged guilty of a crime that directly relates to the business for which the license is sought and the time elapsed since the conviction is less than ten years, or has suffered a judgment within the preceding five years in a civil action involving fraud, misrepresentation, or conversion and in the case of a corporation or partnership, all directors, officers, or partners.

(3) An applicant for a license as a motor vehicle fuel importer must list on the application each state, province, or country from which the applicant intends to import motor vehicle fuel and, if required by the state, province, or country

listed, must be licensed or registered for motor vehicle fuel tax purposes in that state, province, or country.

(4) An applicant for a license as a motor vehicle fuel exporter must list on the application each state, province, or country to which the exporter intends to export motor vehicle fuel received in this state by means of a transfer outside of the bulk transfer-terminal system and, if required by the state, province, or country listed, must be licensed or registered for motor vehicle fuel tax purposes in that state, province, or country.

(5) An applicant for a license as a motor vehicle fuel supplier must have a federal certificate of registry that is issued under the internal revenue code and authorizes the applicant to enter into federal tax-free transactions on motor vehicle fuel in the terminal transfer system.

(6) After receipt of an application for a license, the director may conduct an investigation to determine whether the facts set forth are true. The director shall require a fingerprint record check of the applicant through the Washington state patrol criminal identification system and the federal bureau of investigation before issuance of a license. The results of the background investigation including criminal history information may be released to authorized department personnel as the director deems necessary. The department shall charge a license holder or license applicant a fee of fifty dollars for each background investigation conducted.

An applicant who makes a false statement of a material fact on the application may be prosecuted for false swearing as defined by RCW 9A.72.040.

(7) Except as provided by subsection (8) of this section, before granting any license issued under this chapter, the department shall require applicant to file with the department, in such form as shall be prescribed by the department, a corporate surety bond duly executed by the applicant as principal, payable to the state and conditioned for faithful performance of all the requirements of this chapter, including the payment of all taxes, penalties, and other obligations arising out of this chapter. The total amount of the bond or bonds shall be fixed by the department and may be increased or reduced by the department at any time subject to the limitations herein provided. In fixing the total amount of the bond or bonds, the department shall require a bond or bonds equivalent in total amount to twice the estimated monthly excise tax determined in such manner as the department may deem proper. If at any time the estimated excise tax to become due during the succeeding month amounts to more than fifty percent of the established bond, the department shall require additional bonds or securities to maintain the marginal ratio herein specified or shall demand excise tax payments to be made weekly or semimonthly to meet the requirements hereof.

The total amount of the bond or bonds required of any licensee shall never be less than five thousand dollars nor more than one hundred thousand dollars.

No recoveries on any bond or the execution of any new bond shall invalidate any bond and no revocation of any license shall effect the validity of any bond but the total recoveries under any one bond shall not exceed the amount of the bond.

In lieu of any such bond or bonds in total amount as herein fixed, a licensee may deposit with the state treasurer,

under such terms and conditions as the department may prescribe, a like amount of lawful money of the United States or bonds or other obligations of the United States, the state, or any county of the state, of an actual market value not less than the amount so fixed by the department.

Any surety on a bond furnished by a licensee as provided herein shall be released and discharged from any and all liability to the state accruing on such bond after the expiration of thirty days from the date upon which such surety has lodged with the department a written request to be released and discharged, but this provision shall not operate to relieve, release, or discharge the surety from any liability already accrued or which shall accrue before the expiration of the thirty day period. The department shall promptly, upon receiving any such request, notify the licensee who furnished the bond; and unless the licensee, on or before the expiration of the thirty day period, files a new bond, or makes a deposit in accordance with the requirements of this section, the department shall forthwith cancel the license. Whenever a new bond is furnished by a licensee, the department shall cancel the old bond as soon as the department and the attorney general are satisfied that all liability under the old bond has been fully discharged.

The department may require a licensee to give a new or additional surety bond or to deposit additional securities of the character specified in this section if, in its opinion, the security of the surety bond theretofore filed by such licensee, or the market value of the properties deposited as security by the licensee, shall become impaired or inadequate; and upon the failure of the licensee to give such new or additional surety bond or to deposit additional securities within thirty days after being requested so to do by the department, the department shall forthwith cancel his or her license.

(8) The department may waive the requirements of subsection (7) of this section for licensed distributors if, upon determination by the department, the licensed distributor has sufficient resources, assets, other financial instruments, or other means, to adequately make payments on the estimated monthly motor vehicle fuel tax payments, penalties, and interest arising out of this chapter. The department shall adopt rules to administer this subsection. An application for an international fuel tax agreement license must be made to the department. The application must be filed upon a form prescribed by the department and contain such information as the department may require. The department shall charge a fee of ten dollars per set of international fuel tax agreement decals issued to each applicant or licensee. The department shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer for deposit in the motor vehicle fund. [2007 c 515 § 10; 2001 c 270 § 5; 1998 c 176 § 18; 1996 c 104 § 3; 1994 c 262 § 19; 1973 c 96 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.060. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 2; RRS § 8327-2.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.070 Issuance of license—Display—Refusal of issuance—Inspection of records.** The application in proper form having been accepted for filing, the filing fee paid, and the bond or other security having been accepted and approved, the department shall issue to the applicant the appropriate license, and such license shall be valid until canceled or revoked.

The license so issued by the department shall not be assignable, and shall be valid only for the person in whose name issued.

Each licensee shall be assigned a license number, and the department shall issue to each licensee a license certificate which shall be displayed conspicuously at his or her principal place of business. The department may refuse to issue or may revoke a motor vehicle fuel license, to a person:

(1) Who formerly held a motor vehicle fuel license that, before the time of filing for application, has been revoked or canceled for cause;

(2) Who is a subterfuge for the real party in interest whose license has been revoked or canceled for cause;

(3) Who, as an individual licensee or officer, director, owner, or managing employee of a nonindividual licensee, has had a motor vehicle fuel license revoked or canceled for cause;

(4) Who has an unsatisfied debt to the state assessed under either chapter 82.36, 82.38, 82.42, or 46.87 RCW;

(5) Who formerly held as an individual, officer, director, owner, managing employee of a nonindividual licensee, or subterfuge for a real party in interest, a license issued by the federal government or a state that allowed a person to buy or sell untaxed motor vehicle or special fuel, which license, before the time of filing for application, has been revoked for cause;

(6) Who pled guilty to or was convicted as an individual, corporate officer, director, owner, or managing employee in this or any other state or in any federal jurisdiction of a gross misdemeanor or felony crime directly related to the business or has been subject to a civil judgment involving fraud, misrepresentation, conversion, or dishonesty, notwithstanding chapter 9.96A RCW;

(7) Who misrepresented or concealed a material fact in obtaining a license or in reinstatement thereof;

(8) Who violated a statute or administrative rule regulating fuel taxation or distribution;

(9) Who failed to cooperate with the department's investigations by:

(a) Not furnishing papers or documents;

(b) Not furnishing in writing a full and complete explanation regarding a matter under investigation by the department; or

(c) Not responding to subpoenas issued by the department, whether or not the recipient of the subpoena is the subject of the proceeding;

(10) Who failed to comply with an order issued by the director; or

(11) Upon other sufficient cause being shown.

Before such a refusal or revocation, the department shall grant the applicant a hearing and shall give the applicant at least twenty days' written notice of the time and place of the hearing.

For the purpose of considering an application for a license issued under this chapter, the department may inspect, cause an inspection, investigate, or cause an investigation of the records of this or any other state or of the federal government to ascertain the veracity of the information on the application form and the applicant's criminal and licensing history.

(2012 Ed.)

The department may, in the exercise of reasonable discretion, suspend a motor vehicle fuel license at any time before and pending such a hearing for unpaid taxes or reasonable cause. [1998 c 176 § 19; 1998 c 115 § 2; 1996 c 104 § 4; 1994 c 262 § 20; 1973 c 96 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.070. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 5; 1955 c 207 § 4; prior: 1933 c 58 § 3, part; RRS § 8327-3, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1998 c 115 § 2 and by 1998 c 176 § 19, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**82.36.075 Reports by persons other than licensees—Department requirements—Forms.** The department may require a person other than a licensee engaged in the business of selling, purchasing, distributing, storing, transporting, or delivering motor vehicle fuel to submit periodic reports to the department regarding the disposition of the fuel. The reports must be on forms prescribed by the department and must contain such information as the department may require. [1998 c 176 § 29.]

**82.36.080 Penalty for acting without license—Separate licenses for separate activities—Default assessment.**

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in business in this state as any of the following unless the person is the holder of an uncanceled license issued by the department authorizing the person to engage in that business:

(a) Motor vehicle fuel supplier;

(b) Motor vehicle fuel distributor;

(c) Motor vehicle fuel exporter;

(d) Motor vehicle fuel importer;

(e) Motor vehicle fuel blender; or

(f) International fuel tax assessment licensee.

(2) A person engaged in more than one activity for which a license is required must have a separate license classification for each activity, but a motor vehicle fuel supplier is not required to obtain a separate license classification for any other activity for which a license is required.

(3) If any person acts as a licensee without first securing the license required herein the excise tax shall be immediately due and payable on account of all motor vehicle fuel distributed or used by the person. The director shall proceed forthwith to determine from the best available sources, the amount of the tax, and the director shall immediately assess the tax in the amount found due, together with a penalty of one hundred percent of the tax, and shall make a certificate of such assessment and penalty. In any suit or proceeding to collect the tax or penalty, or both, such certificate shall be prima facie evidence that the person therein named is indebted to the state in the amount of the tax and penalty therein stated. Any tax or penalty so assessed may be collected in the manner prescribed in this chapter with reference to delinquency in payment of the tax or by an action at law, which the attorney general shall commence and prosecute to final determination at the request of the director. The foregoing remedies of the state shall be cumulative and no action taken pursuant to this section shall relieve any person from the penal provisions of this chapter. [2007 c 515 § 11; 1998 c 176 § 20; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.080. Prior: 1955 c 207 § 5; prior: (i) 1933 c 58 § 3, part; RRS § 8327-3, part. (ii) 1943 c

84 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8327-8, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 3, part; 1921 c 173 § 5, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.090 Discontinuance, sale, or transfer of business—Notice—Payment of taxes, interest, penalties—Overpayment refunds.** A licensee who ceases to engage in business within the state by reason of the discontinuance, sale, or transfer of the business shall notify the director in writing at the time the discontinuance, sale, or transfer takes effect. Such notice shall give the date of discontinuance, and, in the event of a sale or transfer of the business, the date thereof and the name and address of the purchaser or transferee thereof. All taxes, penalties, and interest under this chapter, not yet due and payable, shall become due and payable concurrently with such discontinuance, sale, or transfer, and any such licensee shall make a report and pay all such taxes, interest, and penalties, and surrender to the director the license certificate theretofore issued to him or her.

If an overpayment of tax was made by the licensee, prior to the discontinuance or transfer of his or her business, such overpayment may be refunded to such licensee. [1998 c 176 § 21; 1967 c 153 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.090. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 4; RRS § 8327-4.]

**82.36.095 Bankruptcy proceedings—Notice.** A motor vehicle fuel licensee, who files or against whom is filed a petition in bankruptcy, shall, within ten days of the filing, notify the department of the proceedings in bankruptcy, including the identity and location of the court in which the proceedings are pending. [1997 c 183 § 7.]

**82.36.100 Tax required of persons not classed as licensees—Duties—Procedure—Distribution of proceeds—Penalties—Enforcement.** Every person other than a licensee who acquires any motor vehicle fuel within this state upon which payment of tax is required under the provisions of this chapter, or imports such motor vehicle fuel into this state and sells, distributes, or in any manner uses it in this state shall, if the tax has not been paid, apply for a license to carry on such activities, comply with all the provisions of this chapter, and pay an excise tax at the rate computed in the manner provided in RCW 82.36.025 for each gallon thereof so sold, distributed, or used during the fiscal year for which such rate is applicable. The proceeds of the tax imposed by this section shall be distributed in the manner provided for the distribution of the motor vehicle fuel excise tax in RCW 82.36.020. For failure to comply with this chapter such person is subject to the same penalties imposed upon licensees. The director shall pursue against such persons the same procedure and remedies for audits, adjustments, collection, and enforcement of this chapter as is provided with respect to licensees. Nothing in this section may be construed as classifying such persons as licensees. [1998 c 176 § 22; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 28; 1977 ex.s. c 317 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 83 § 3; 1961 ex.s. c 7 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.100. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 6; 1951 c 267 § 1; 1939 c 177 § 5; RRS § 8327-5a.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.110 Delinquency—Lien of tax—Notice.** If any person liable for the tax imposed by this chapter fails to pay the same, the amount thereof, including any interest, penalty, or addition to such tax, together with any costs that may accrue in addition thereto, shall be a lien in favor of the state upon all franchises, property, and rights to property, whether real or personal, then belonging to or thereafter acquired by such person, whether such property is employed by such person in the prosecution of business or is in the hands of a trustee, or receiver, or assignee for the benefit of creditors, from the date the taxes were due and payable, until the amount of the lien is paid or the property sold in payment thereof.

The lien shall have priority over any lien or encumbrance whatsoever, except the lien of other state taxes having priority by law, and except that such lien shall not be valid as against any bona fide mortgagee, pledgee, judgment creditor, or purchaser whose rights have attached prior to the time the department has filed notice of such lien in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the principal place of business of the taxpayer is located.

The auditor, upon presentation of a notice of lien, and without requiring the payment of any fee, shall file and index it in the manner now provided for deeds and other conveyances except that he shall not be required to include, in the index, any description of the property affected by the lien. The lien shall continue until the amount of the tax, together with any penalties and interest subsequently accruing thereon, is paid. The department may issue a certificate of release of lien when the amount of the tax, together with any penalties and interest subsequently accruing thereon, has been satisfied, and such release may be recorded with the auditor of the county in which the notice of lien has been filed.

The department shall furnish to any person applying therefor a certificate showing the amount of all liens for motor vehicle fuel tax, penalties and interest that may be of record in the files of the department against any person under the provisions of this chapter. [1993 c 54 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.110. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 9, part; RRS § 8327-9, part.]

**82.36.120 Delinquency—Notice to debtors—Transfer or disposition of property, credits, or debts prohibited—Lien—Answer.** If a licensee is delinquent in the payment of an obligation imposed under this chapter, the department may give notice of the amount of the delinquency by registered or certified mail to all persons having in their possession or under their control any credits or other personal property belonging to such licensee, or owing any debts to such licensee at the time of receipt by them of such notice. Upon service, the notice and order to withhold and deliver constitutes a continuing lien on property of the taxpayer. The department shall include in the caption of the notice to withhold and deliver "continuing lien." The effective date of a notice to withhold and deliver served under this section is the date of service of the notice. A person so notified shall neither transfer nor make any other disposition of such credits, personal property, or debts until the department consents to a transfer or other disposition. All persons so notified must, within twenty days after receipt of the notice, advise the department of any and all such credits, personal property, or

debts in their possession, under their control or owing by them, as the case may be, and shall deliver upon demand the credits, personal property, or debts to the department or its duly authorized representative to be applied to the indebtedness involved.

If a person fails to answer the notice within the time prescribed by this section, it is lawful for the court, upon application of the department and after the time to answer the notice has expired, to render judgment by default against the person for the full amount claimed by the department in the notice to withhold and deliver, together with costs. [1998 c 176 § 23; 1994 c 262 § 21; 1991 c 339 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.120. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 9, part; RRS § 8327-9, part.]

**82.36.130 Delinquency—Tax warrant.** If any licensee is in default for more than ten days in the payment of any excise taxes or penalties thereon, the director shall issue a warrant directed to the sheriff of any county of the state commanding the sheriff to levy upon and sell the goods and chattels of the licensee, without exemption, found within the sheriff's jurisdiction, for the payment of the amount of such delinquency, with the added penalties and interest and the cost of executing the warrant, and to return such warrant to the director and to pay the director the money collected by virtue thereof within the time to be therein specified, which shall not be less than twenty nor more than sixty days from the date of the warrant. The sheriff to whom the warrant is directed shall proceed upon it in all respects and with like effect and in the same manner as prescribed by law in respect to executions issued against goods and chattels upon judgment by a court of record and shall be entitled to the same fees for the sheriff's services to be collected in the same manner. [2000 c 103 § 14. Prior: 1998 c 311 § 11; 1998 c 176 § 24; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.130; prior: 1933 c 58 § 9, part; RRS § 8327-9, part.]

**82.36.140 State may pursue remedy against licensee or bond.** In a suit or action by the state on any bond filed with the director recovery thereon may be had without first having sought or exhausted its remedy against the licensee; nor shall the fact that the state has pursued, or is in the course of pursuing, any remedy against the licensee waive its right to collect the taxes, penalties, and interest by proceeding against such bond or against any deposit of money or securities made by the licensee. [1998 c 176 § 25; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.140. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 9, part; RRS § 8327-9, part.]

**82.36.150 Records to be kept by licensees—Inventory—Statement.** Every licensee shall keep a true and accurate record on such form as the director may prescribe of all stock of petroleum products on hand, of all raw gasoline, gasoline stock, diesel oil, kerosene, kerosene distillates, casing-head gasoline and other petroleum products needed in, or which may be used in, compounding, blending, or manufacturing motor vehicle fuel; of the amount of crude oil refined, the gravity thereof and the yield therefrom, as well as of such other matters relating to transactions in petroleum products as the director may require. Every licensee shall take a physical inventory of the petroleum products at least once during each calendar month and have the record of such inventory and of the other matters mentioned in this section available at all

times for the inspection of the director. Upon demand of the director every licensee shall furnish a statement under oath as to the contents of any records to be kept hereunder. [1998 c 176 § 26; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.150. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 10; RRS § 8327-10; prior: 1921 c 173 § 6, part.]

**82.36.160 Records to be preserved by licensees.** Every licensee shall maintain in the office of his or her principal place of business in this state, for a period of five years, records of motor vehicle fuel received, sold, distributed, or used by the licensee, in such form as the director may prescribe, together with invoices, bills of lading, and other pertinent papers as may be required under the provisions of this chapter. [2007 c 515 § 12; 1998 c 176 § 27; 1996 c 104 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.160. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 7; 1933 c 58 § 11; RRS § 8327-11; prior: 1921 c 173 § 6, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.170 Additional reports—Filing.** The director may, from time to time, require additional reports from any licensee with reference to any of the matters herein concerned. Such reports shall be made and filed on forms prepared by the director. [1998 c 176 § 28; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.170. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 12; RRS § 8327-12; prior: 1921 c 173 § 9.]

**82.36.180 Examinations and investigations.** The director, or duly authorized agents, may make such examinations of the records, stocks, facilities, and equipment of any licensee, and make such other investigations as deemed necessary in carrying out the provisions of this chapter. If such examinations or investigations disclose that any reports of licensees theretofore filed with the director pursuant to the requirements of this chapter have shown incorrectly the gallonage of motor vehicle fuel distributed or the tax liability thereon, the director may make such changes in subsequent reports and payments of such licensees as deemed necessary to correct the errors disclosed.

Every such licensee or such other person not maintaining records in this state so that an audit of such records may be made by the director or a duly authorized representative shall be required to make the necessary records available to the director upon request and at a designated office within this state; or, in lieu thereof, the director or a duly authorized representative shall proceed to any out-of-state office at which the records are prepared and maintained to make such examination. [2007 c 515 § 13; 1998 c 176 § 30; 1967 ex.s. c 89 § 6; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.180. Prior: 1939 c 177 § 3; 1933 c 58 § 13; RRS § 8327-13; prior: 1921 c 173 § 6, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.190 Suspension, revocation, cancellation of licenses—Notice.** The department shall suspend or revoke the license of any licensee refusing or neglecting to comply with any provision of this chapter. The department shall mail by registered mail addressed to such licensee at the last known address a notice of intention to cancel, which notice shall give the reason for cancellation. The cancellation shall

become effective without further notice if within ten days from the mailing of the notice the licensee has not made good his or her default or delinquency.

The department may cancel any license issued to any licensee, such cancellation to become effective sixty days from the date of receipt of the written request of such licensee for cancellation thereof, and the department may cancel the license of any licensee upon investigation and sixty days notice mailed to the last known address of such licensee if the department ascertains and finds that the person to whom the license was issued is no longer engaged in business, and has not been so engaged for the period of six months prior to such cancellation. No license shall be canceled upon the request of any licensee unless the licensee, prior to the date of such cancellation, pays to the state all taxes imposed by the provisions of this chapter, together with all penalties accruing by reason of any failure on the part of the licensee to make accurate reports or pay said taxes and penalties.

In the event the license of any licensee is canceled, and in the further event that the licensee pays to the state all excise taxes due and payable by him or her upon the receipt, sale, or use of motor vehicle fuel, together with any and all penalties accruing by reason of any failure on the part of the licensee to make accurate reports or pay said taxes and penalties, the department shall cancel the bond filed by the licensee. [1998 c 176 § 31; 1990 c 250 § 80; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.190. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 14; RRS § 8327-14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.200 Carriers of motor vehicle fuel—Examination of records, stocks, etc.** The director or authorized agents may at any time during normal business hours examine the records, stocks, facilities and equipment of any person engaged in the transportation of motor vehicle fuel within the state of Washington for the purpose of checking shipments or use of motor vehicle fuel, detecting diversions thereof or evasion of taxes on same in enforcing the provisions of this chapter. [1998 c 176 § 32; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.200. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 1; 1953 c 157 § 1; 1943 c 84 § 3; 1933 c 58 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8327-15.]

**82.36.210 Carriers of motor vehicle fuel—Invoice, bill of sale, etc., required—Inspections.** Every person operating any conveyance for the purpose of hauling, transporting or delivering motor vehicle fuel in bulk, shall have and possess during the entire time they are hauling motor vehicle fuel, an invoice, bill of sale, or other statement showing the name, address, and license number of the seller or consignor, the destination, name, and address of the purchaser or consignee, license number, if applicable, and the number of gallons. The person hauling such motor vehicle fuel shall at the request of any law enforcement officer, or authorized representative of the department, or other person authorized by law to inquire into, or investigate said matters, produce for inspection such invoice, bill of sale, or other statement and shall permit such official to inspect and gauge the contents of the vehicle. [1998 c 176 § 33; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 8; 1961 ex.s. c 21 § 30; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.210. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 16; RRS § 8327-16.]

**82.36.230 Exemptions—Imports, exports, federal sales—Invoice—Certificate—Reporting.** The provisions of this chapter requiring the payment of taxes do not apply to motor vehicle fuel imported into the state in interstate or foreign commerce and intended to be sold while in interstate or foreign commerce, nor to motor vehicle fuel exported from this state by a licensee nor to any motor vehicle fuel sold by a licensee to the armed forces of the United States or to the national guard for use exclusively in ships or for export from this state. The licensee shall report such imports, exports and sales to the department at such times, on such forms, and in such detail as the department may require, otherwise the exemption granted in this section is null and void, and all fuel shall be considered distributed in this state fully subject to the provisions of this chapter. Each invoice covering exempt sales shall have the statement "Ex Washington Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax" clearly marked thereon.

To claim any exemption from taxes under this section on account of sales by a licensee of motor vehicle fuel for export, the purchaser shall obtain from the selling licensee, and such selling licensee must furnish the purchaser, an invoice giving such details of the sale for export as the department may require, copies of which shall be furnished the department and the entity of the state or foreign jurisdiction of destination which is charged by the laws of that state or foreign jurisdiction with the control or monitoring, or both, of the sales or movement of motor vehicle fuel in that state or foreign jurisdiction. For the purposes of this section, motor vehicle fuel distributed to a federally recognized Indian tribal reservation located within the state of Washington is not considered exported outside this state.

To claim any refund of taxes previously paid on account of sales of motor vehicle fuel to the armed forces of the United States or to the national guard, the licensee shall be required to execute an exemption certificate in such form as shall be furnished by the department, containing a certified statement by an authorized officer of the armed forces having actual knowledge of the purpose for which the exemption is claimed. The provisions of this section exempting motor vehicle fuel sold to the armed forces of the United States or to the national guard from the tax imposed hereunder do not apply to any motor vehicle fuel sold to contractors purchasing such fuel either for their own account or as the agents of the United States or the national guard for use in the performance of contracts with the armed forces of the United States or the national guard.

The department may at any time require of any licensee any information the department deems necessary to determine the validity of the claimed exemption, and failure to supply such data will constitute a waiver of all right to the exemption claimed. The department is hereby empowered with full authority to promulgate rules and regulations and to prescribe forms to be used by licensees in reporting to the department so as to prevent evasion of the tax imposed by this chapter.

Upon request from the officials to whom are entrusted the enforcement of the motor vehicle fuel tax law of any other state, the District of Columbia, the United States, its territories and possessions, the provinces, or the Dominion of Canada, the department may forward to such officials any information which the department may have relative to the import

or export of any motor vehicle fuel by any licensee: PROVIDED, That such governmental unit furnish like information to this state. [1998 c 176 § 34; 1993 c 54 § 4; 1989 c 193 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 156 § 2; 1967 c 153 § 3; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.230. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 10; prior: 1953 c 150 § 1; 1949 c 220 § 13, part; 1943 c 84 § 4, part; 1939 c 177 § 4, part; 1933 c 58 § 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8327-17, part.]

**82.36.240 Sales to state or political subdivisions not exempt.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to exempt from the payment of the tax any motor vehicle fuel sold and delivered to or used by the state or any political subdivision thereof, or any inflammable petroleum products other than motor vehicle fuel, used by the state, or any political subdivision thereof, in the propulsion of motor vehicles as herein defined. [1961 c 15 § 82.36.240. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 11; prior: 1949 c 220 § 13, part; 1943 c 84 § 4, part; 1939 c 177 § 4, part; 1933 c 58 § 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8327-17, part.]

**82.36.245 Exemption—Sales to foreign diplomatic and consular missions.** Sales of motor vehicle fuel to qualified foreign diplomatic and consular missions and their qualified personnel, made under rules prescribed by the director, are exempt from the tax imposed under this chapter if the foreign government represented grants an equivalent exemption to missions and personnel of the United States performing similar services in the foreign country. Only those foreign diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel which are determined by the United States department of state as eligible for the tax exemption, may claim this exemption under rules prescribed by the director. [1989 c 193 § 2.]

**82.36.247 Exemption—Racing fuel.** Motor vehicle fuel that is used exclusively for racing and is illegal for use on the public highways of this state under state or federal law is exempt from the tax imposed under this chapter. [2007 c 515 § 14.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.250 Nongovernmental use of fuels, etc., acquired from United States government—Tax—Unlawful to procure or use.** Any person who purchases or otherwise acquires motor vehicle fuel upon which the tax has not been paid, from the United States government, or any of its agents or officers, for use not specifically associated with any governmental function or operation or so acquires inflammable petroleum products other than motor vehicle fuel and uses the same in the propulsion of motor vehicles as herein defined, for a use not associated with any governmental function or operation, shall pay to the state the tax herein provided upon the motor vehicle fuel, or other inflammable petroleum products so acquired. It shall be unlawful for any person to use or to conspire with any governmental official, agent, or employee for the use of any requisition, purchase order, or any card or any authority to which he is not specifically entitled by government regulations, for the purpose of obtaining any motor vehicle fuel or other inflammable petroleum products upon which the state tax has not been paid. [1961 c 15 §

82.36.250. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 12; prior: 1949 c 220 § 13, part; 1943 c 84 § 4, part; 1939 c 177 § 4, part; 1933 c 58 § 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8327-17, part.]

**82.36.260 Extension of time for filing exportation certificates or claiming exemptions.** The director shall have authority to extend the time prescribed under this chapter for filing exportation certificates or claiming exemption for sales to the armed forces: PROVIDED, That written request is filed with the director showing cause for failure to do so within or prior to the prescribed period. [1965 ex.s. c 79 § 11; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.260. Prior: 1957 c 247 § 13; prior: 1949 c 220 § 13, part; 1943 c 84 § 4, part; 1939 c 177 § 4, part; 1933 c 58 § 17, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8327-17, part.]

**82.36.270 Refund permit.** Any person desiring to claim a refund shall obtain a permit from the department by application therefor on such form as the department shall prescribe, which application shall contain, among other things, the name and address of the applicant, the nature of the business and a sufficient description for identification of the machines or equipment in which the motor vehicle fuel is to be used, for which refund may be claimed under the permit. The permit shall bear a permit number and all applications for refund shall bear the number of the permit under which it is claimed. The department shall keep a record of all permits issued and a cumulative record of the amount of refund claimed and paid thereunder. Such permit shall be obtained before or at the time that the first application for refund is made under the provisions of this chapter. [1977 c 28 § 2; 1973 c 96 § 3; 1967 c 153 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.270. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 3; prior: 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**82.36.275 Refunds for urban transportation systems.** Notwithstanding RCW 82.36.240, every urban passenger transportation system shall receive a refund of the amount of the motor vehicle fuel tax paid on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel used, whether such vehicle fuel tax has been paid either directly to the vendor from whom the motor vehicle fuel was purchased or indirectly by adding the amount of such tax to the price of such fuel.

For the purposes of this section "urban passenger transportation system" means every transportation system, publicly or privately owned, having as its principal source of revenue the income from transporting persons for compensation by means of motor vehicles and/or trackless trolleys, each having a seating capacity for over fifteen persons, over prescribed routes in such a manner that the routes of such motor vehicles and/or trackless trolleys (either alone or in conjunction with routes of other such motor vehicles and/or trackless trolleys subject to routing by the same transportation system) do not extend for a distance exceeding fifteen road miles beyond the corporate limits of the city in which the original starting points of such motor vehicles are located: PROVIDED, That no refunds authorized by this section shall be granted on fuel used by any urban transportation vehicle on any trip where any portion of said trip is more than fifteen road miles beyond the corporate limits of the city in which

said trip originated. [1969 ex.s. c 281 § 27; 1967 c 86 § 1; 1965 c 135 § 1; 1963 c 187 § 1; 1961 c 117 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.275. Prior: 1959 c 298 § 1; 1957 c 292 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.280 Refunds for nonhighway use of fuel.** Any person who uses any motor vehicle fuel for the purpose of operating any internal combustion engine not used on or in conjunction with any motor vehicle registered to be operated on any of the public highways, and as the motive power thereof, upon which motor vehicle fuel excise tax has been paid, shall be entitled to and shall receive a refund of the amount of the motor vehicle fuel excise tax paid on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel so used, whether such motor vehicle excise tax has been paid either directly to the vendor from whom the motor vehicle fuel was purchased or indirectly by adding the amount of such excise tax to the price of such fuel. No refund shall be made for motor vehicle fuel consumed by any motor vehicle as herein defined that is required to be registered as provided in \*chapter 46.16 RCW; and is operated on any public highway except that a refund shall be allowed for motor vehicle fuel consumed:

(1) In a motor vehicle owned by the United States that is operated off the public highways for official use; and

(2) By auxiliary equipment not used for motive power, provided such consumption is accurately measured by a metering device that has been specifically approved by the department or is established by either of the following formulae:

(a) For fuel used in pumping fuel or heating oils by a power take-off unit on a delivery truck, refund shall be allowed claimant for tax paid on fuel purchased at the rate of three-fourths of one gallon for each one thousand gallons of fuel delivered: PROVIDED, That claimant when presenting his or her claim to the department in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, shall provide to said claim, invoices of fuel oil delivered, or such other appropriate information as may be required by the department to substantiate his or her claim; or

(b) For fuel used in operating a power take-off unit on a cement mixer truck or load compactor on a garbage truck, claimant shall be allowed a refund of twenty-five percent of the tax paid on all fuel used in such a truck; and

(c) The department is authorized to establish by rule additional formulae for determining fuel usage when operating other types of equipment by means of power take-off units when direct measurement of the fuel used is not feasible. The department is also authorized to adopt rules regarding the usage of on board computers for the production of records required by this chapter. [2010 c 161 § 906; 1998 c 176 § 36; 1993 c 141 § 1; 1985 c 371 § 5; 1980 c 131 § 5; 1972 ex.s. c 138 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 36 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 281 § 23; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.280. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 4; prior: 1951 c 263 § 1; 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Although directed to be recodified within chapter 46.16 RCW pursuant to chapter 161, Laws of 2010, a majority of chapter 46.16 RCW was recodified under chapter 46.16A RCW pursuant to RCW 1.08.015 (2)(k) and (3).

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.285 Refunds for transit services to persons with special transportation needs by nonprofit transportation providers.** A private, nonprofit transportation provider regulated under chapter 81.66 RCW shall receive a refund of the amount of the motor vehicle fuel tax paid on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel used to provide transportation services for persons with special transportation needs, whether the vehicle fuel tax has been paid either directly to the vendor from whom the motor vehicle fuel was purchased or indirectly by adding the amount of the tax to the price of the fuel. [1996 c 244 § 5; 1983 c 108 § 3.]

**82.36.290 Refunds for use in manufacturing, cleaning, dyeing.** Every person who purchases and uses any motor vehicle fuel as an ingredient for manufacturing or for cleaning or dyeing or for some other similar purpose and upon which the motor vehicle fuel excise tax has been paid shall be entitled to and shall receive a refund of the amount of the motor vehicle fuel excise tax paid on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel so used, whether such motor vehicle excise tax has been paid either directly to the vendor from whom the motor vehicle fuel was purchased or indirectly by adding the amount of such excise tax to the price of such fuel. [1961 c 15 § 82.36.290. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 5; prior: 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**82.36.300 Refunds on exported fuel.** Every person who shall export any motor vehicle fuel for use outside of this state and who has paid the motor vehicle fuel excise tax upon such motor vehicle fuel shall be entitled to and shall receive a refund of the amount of the motor vehicle fuel excise tax paid on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel so exported. For the purposes of this section, motor vehicle fuel distributed to a federally recognized Indian tribal reservation located within the state of Washington is not considered exported outside this state. [1998 c 176 § 37; 1963 ex.s. c 22 § 21; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.300. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 6; prior: 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**82.36.310 Claim of refund.** Any person claiming a refund for motor vehicle fuel used or exported as in this chapter provided shall not be entitled to receive such refund until he presents to the director a claim upon forms to be provided by the director with such information as the director shall require, which claim to be valid shall in all cases be accompanied by invoices issued to the claimant at the time of the purchases of the motor vehicle fuel, approved as to invoice form by the director. The requirement to provide invoices may be waived for small refund amounts, as determined by the department. Claims for refund of motor vehicle fuel tax must be at least twenty dollars.

Any person claiming refund by reason of exportation of motor vehicle fuel shall in addition to the invoices required furnish to the director the export certificate therefor, and the signature on the exportation certificate shall be certified by a notary public. In all cases the claim shall be signed by the person claiming the refund, if it is a corporation, by some proper officer of the corporation, or if it is a limited liability company, by some proper manager or member of the limited liability company. [1998 c 176 § 38; 1998 c 115 § 3; 1995 c 318 § 3; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 13; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.310. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 7; prior: 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1998 c 115 § 3 and by 1998 c 176 § 38, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.320 Information may be required.** Any person claiming refund on motor vehicle fuel used other than in motor vehicles as herein provided may be required by the director to also furnish information regarding the amount of motor vehicle fuel purchased from other sources or for other purposes during the period reported for which no refund is claimed. [2007 c 515 § 15; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.320. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 8; prior: 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.330 Payment of refunds—Interest—Penalty.**

(1) Upon the approval of the director of the claim for refund, the state treasurer shall draw a warrant upon the state treasury for the amount of the claim in favor of the person making such claim and the warrant shall be paid from the excise tax collected on motor vehicle fuel: PROVIDED, That the state treasurer shall deduct from each marine use refund claim an amount equivalent to one cent per gallon and shall deposit the same in the coastal protection fund created by RCW 90.48.390.

(2) Applications for refunds of excise tax shall be filed in the office of the director not later than the close of the last business day of a period thirteen months from the date of purchase of such motor fuel, and if not filed within this period the right to refund shall be forever barred, except that such limitation shall not apply to claims for loss or destruction of motor vehicle fuel as provided by the provisions of RCW 82.36.370.

(3) The department shall pay interest of one percent on any refund payable under this chapter that is issued more than thirty state business days after the receipt of a claim properly filed and completed in accordance with this section. After the end of the thirty business-day period, additional interest shall accrue at the rate of one percent on the amount payable for each thirty calendar-day period, until the refund is issued.

(4) Any person or the member of any firm or the officer or agent of any corporation who makes any false statement in

any claim required for the refund of excise tax, as provided in this chapter, or who collects or causes to be repaid to him or her or to any other person any such refund without being entitled to the same under the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 401; 1998 c 176 § 39; 1971 ex.s. c 180 § 9; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 14; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.330. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 9; prior: 1955 c 90 § 1; 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

*Coastal protection fund:* RCW 90.48.390 and 90.48.400.

*Definitions:* RCW 90.56.010.

*Rules and regulations:* RCW 90.56.050 and 90.56.900.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.335 Credits on tax in lieu of collection and refund.** In lieu of the collection and refund of the tax on motor vehicle fuel used by a licensee in such a manner as would entitle a purchaser to claim refund under this chapter, credit may be given the licensee upon the licensee's tax return in the determination of the amount of the licensee's tax. Payment credits shall not be carried forward and applied to subsequent tax returns. [1998 c 176 § 40; 1997 c 183 § 8; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.335. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 14.]

**82.36.340 Examination of books and records.** The director may in order to establish the validity of any claim for refund require the claimant to furnish such additional proof of the validity of the claim as the director may determine, and may examine the books and records of the claimant or said person to whom the fuel was sold for such purpose. The records shall be sufficient to substantiate the accuracy of the claim and shall be in such form and contain such information as the director may require. The failure to maintain such records or to accede to a demand for an examination of such records may be deemed by the director as sufficient cause for denial of all right to the refund claimed on account of the transaction in question. [2007 c 515 § 16; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.340. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 10; prior: 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.350 Fraudulent invoices—Penalty.** If upon investigation the director determines that any claim has been supported by an invoice or invoices fraudulently made or altered in any manner to support the claim, the director may suspend the pending and all further refunds to any such person making the claim for a period not to exceed one year. [1998 c 176 § 41; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.350. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 11; prior: 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**82.36.370 Refunds for fuel lost or destroyed through fire, flood, leakage, etc.** (1) A refund shall be made in the manner provided in this chapter or a credit given to a licensee

allowing for the excise tax paid or accrued on all motor vehicle fuel which is lost or destroyed, while the licensee was the owner, through fire, lightning, flood, wind storm, or explosion.

(2) A refund shall be made in the manner provided in this chapter or a credit given allowing for the excise tax paid or accrued on all motor vehicle fuel of five hundred gallons or more which is lost or destroyed, while the licensee was the owner thereof, through leakage or other casualty except evaporation, shrinkage or unknown causes: PROVIDED, That the director shall be notified in writing as to the full circumstances surrounding such loss or destruction and the amount of the loss or destruction within thirty days from the day of discovery of such loss or destruction.

(3) Recovery for such loss or destruction under either subsection (1) or (2) must be susceptible to positive proof thereby enabling the director to conduct such investigation and require such information as the director may deem necessary.

In the event that the director is not satisfied that the fuel was lost or destroyed as claimed, wherefore required information or proof as required hereunder is not sufficient to substantiate the accuracy of the claim, the director may deem as sufficient cause the denial of all right relating to the refund or credit for the excise tax on motor vehicle fuel alleged to be lost or destroyed. [2007 c 515 § 17; 1998 c 176 § 42; 1967 c 153 § 5; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 15; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.370. Prior: 1957 c 218 § 13; prior: 1945 c 38 § 1, part; 1943 c 84 § 5, part; 1937 c 219 § 2, part; 1935 c 109 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 18, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 8327-18, part; prior: 1923 c 81 § 4, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.36.375 Time limitation on erroneous payment credits or refunds and notices of additional tax.** Unless otherwise provided, any credit for erroneous overpayment of tax made by a licensee to be taken on a subsequent return or any claim of refund for tax erroneously overpaid by a licensee, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 82.36.090, must be so taken within five years after the date on which the overpayment was made to the state. Failure to take such credit or claim such refund within the time prescribed in this section shall constitute waiver of any and all demands against this state on account of overpayment hereunder.

Except in the case of a fraudulent report or neglect or refusal to make a report every notice of additional tax, penalty or interest assessed hereunder shall be served on the licensee within five years from the date upon which such additional taxes became due. [1998 c 176 § 44; 1965 ex.s. c 79 § 16.]

**82.36.380 Violations—Penalties.** (1) It is unlawful for a person or corporation to:

- (a) Evade a tax or fee imposed under this chapter;
- (b) File a false statement of a material fact on a motor fuel license application or motor fuel refund application;
- (c) Act as a motor fuel importer, motor fuel blender, or motor fuel supplier unless the person holds an uncanceled motor fuel license issued by the department authorizing the person to engage in that business;

(d) Knowingly assist another person to evade a tax or fee imposed by this chapter;

(e) Knowingly operate a conveyance for the purpose of hauling, transporting, or delivering motor vehicle fuel in bulk and not possess an invoice, bill of sale, or other statement showing the name, address, and tax license number of the seller or consignor, the destination, the name, address, and tax license number of the purchaser or consignee, and the number of gallons.

(2) A violation of subsection (1) of this section is a class C felony under chapter 9A.20 RCW. In addition to other penalties and remedies provided by law, the court shall order a person or corporation found guilty of violating subsection (1) of this section to:

(a) Pay the tax or fee evaded plus interest, commencing at the date the tax or fee was first due, at the rate of twelve percent per year, compounded monthly; and

(b) Pay a penalty of one hundred percent of the tax evaded, to the multimodal transportation account of the state.

(3) The tax imposed by this chapter is held in trust by the licensee until paid to the department, and a licensee who appropriates the tax to his or her own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax on the due date as prescribed in this chapter is guilty of a felony or gross misdemeanor in accordance with the theft and anticipatory provisions of Title 9A RCW. A person, partnership, corporation, or corporate officer who fails to pay to the department the tax imposed by this chapter is personally liable to the state for the amount of the tax. [2007 c 515 § 18; 2003 c 358 § 13; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 9; 1995 c 287 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.380. Prior: 1949 c 234 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 19, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8327-19, part; prior: 1921 c 173 § 12, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.390 Diversion of export fuel—Penalty.** Any person who obtains motor vehicle fuel for export and fails to export the same or any portion thereof, or causes such motor vehicle fuel or any thereof not to be exported, or who diverts said motor vehicle fuel or any thereof or who causes it to be diverted from interstate or foreign transit begun in this state, or who unlawfully returns such fuel or any thereof to this state and sells or uses it or any thereof in this state or causes it or any thereof to be used or sold in this state and fails to notify the licensee from whom such motor vehicle fuel was originally purchased, and any licensee or person who conspires with any person to withhold from export, or divert from interstate or foreign transit begun in this state, or to return motor vehicle fuel to this state for sale or use with intent to avoid any of the taxes imposed by this chapter, is guilty of a felony, or gross misdemeanor in accordance with the theft and anticipatory provisions of Title 9A RCW. Each shipment illegally diverted or illegally returned shall be a separate offense, and the unit of each shipment shall be the cargo of one vessel, or one railroad carload, or one automobile truck load, or such truck and trailer load, or one drum, or one barrel, or one case or one can. [1998 c 176 § 45; 1996 c 104 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.390. Prior: 1949 c 234 § 2, part;

1933 c 58 § 19, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8327-19, part; prior: 1921 c 173 § 12, part.]

**82.36.400 Other offenses—Penalties.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to commit any of the following acts:

(a) To display, or cause to permit to be displayed, or to have in possession, any motor vehicle fuel license knowing the same to be fictitious or to have been suspended, canceled, revoked or altered;

(b) To lend to, or knowingly permit the use of, by one not entitled thereto, any motor vehicle fuel license issued to the person lending it or permitting it to be used;

(c) To display or to represent as one's own any motor vehicle fuel license not issued to the person displaying the same;

(d) To use a false or fictitious name or give a false or fictitious address in any application or form required under the provisions of this chapter, or otherwise commit a fraud in any application, record, or report;

(e) To refuse to permit the director, or any agent appointed by him or her in writing, to examine his or her books, records, papers, storage tanks, or other equipment pertaining to the use or sale and delivery of motor vehicle fuels within the state.

(2) Except as otherwise provided, any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars and costs of prosecution, or imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or both. [2011 c 96 § 57; 2003 c 53 § 402; 1998 c 176 § 46; 1971 ex.s. c 156 § 3; 1967 c 153 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.400. Prior: 1949 c 234 § 2, part; 1933 c 58 § 19, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8327-19, part; prior: 1921 c 173 § 12, part.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 96:** See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**82.36.410 Revenue to motor vehicle fund.** All moneys collected by the director shall be transmitted forthwith to the state treasurer, together with a statement showing whence the moneys were derived, and shall be by him credited to the motor vehicle fund. [1973 c 95 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.410. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 20; RRS § 8327-20.]

**82.36.415 Refund to aeronautics account.** At least once each fiscal year, the director shall request the state treasurer to refund from the motor vehicle fund, to the aeronautics account created under RCW 82.42.090, an amount equal to 0.028 percent of the gross motor vehicle fuel tax less an amount equal to aircraft fuel taxes transferred to that account as a result of nonhighway refunds claimed by motor fuel purchasers. The refund shall be considered compensation for unclaimed motor vehicle fuel that is used in aircraft for purposes taxable under RCW 82.42.020. The director shall also remit from the motor vehicle fund the taxes required by \*RCW 82.12.0256(3)(c) for the unclaimed refunds, provided that the sum of the amount refunded and the amount remitted in accordance with \*RCW 82.12.0256(3)(c) shall not exceed the unclaimed refunds. [1987 c 220 § 4.]

(2012 Ed.)

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.12.0256 was amended by 2005 c 443 § 6, changing subsection (3)(c) to subsection (2)(c). RCW 82.12.0256 was subsequently amended by 2007 c 223 § 10, changing subsection (2)(c) to subsection (2)(d).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.420 Disposition of fees, fines, penalties.** Fifty percent of all fines and forfeitures imposed in any criminal proceeding by any court of this state for violations of the penal provisions of this chapter shall be paid to the current expense fund of the county wherein collected and the remaining fifty percent shall be paid into the motor vehicle fund of the state: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended. All fees and penalties collected by the director under the penalty provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the motor vehicle fund. [1987 c 202 § 245; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 40; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.420. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 21; RRS § 8327-21.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**82.36.430 Enforcement.** The director is charged with the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter. State patrolmen shall aid the director in the enforcement of this chapter and, for this purpose, are declared to be peace officers, and given police power and authority throughout the state to arrest on view, without writ, rule, order, or process, any person known to have violated any of the provisions of this chapter. [1961 c 15 § 82.36.430. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 22; RRS § 8327-22.]

**82.36.435 Enforcement and administration—Rule-making authority.** The department shall enforce the provisions of this chapter and may adopt and enforce reasonable rules relating to the administration and enforcement thereof. [1981 c 342 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.440 State preempts tax field.** (1) The tax levied in this chapter is in lieu of any excise, privilege, or occupational tax upon the business of manufacturing, selling, or distributing motor vehicle fuel, and no city, town, county, township or other subdivision or municipal corporation of the state may levy or collect any excise tax upon or measured by the sale, receipt, distribution, or use of motor vehicle fuel, except as provided in chapter 82.80 RCW and RCW 82.47.020.

(2) This section does not apply to any tax imposed by the state. [2010 c 106 § 230; 2003 c 350 § 5; 1991 c 173 § 4; 1990 c 42 § 204; 1979 ex.s. c 181 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.36.440. Prior: 1933 c 58 § 23; RRS § 8327-23.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.450 Agreement with tribe for fuel taxes.** (1) The governor may enter into an agreement with any federally recognized Indian tribe located on a reservation within this state regarding motor vehicle fuel taxes included in the price of fuel delivered to a retail station wholly owned and operated by a tribe, tribal enterprise, or tribal member licensed by

the tribe to operate a retail station located on reservation or trust property. The agreement may provide mutually agreeable means to address any tribal immunities or any preemption of the state motor vehicle fuel tax.

(2) The provisions of this section do not repeal existing state/tribal fuel tax agreements or consent decrees in existence on May 15, 2007. The state and the tribe may agree to substitute an agreement negotiated under this section for an existing agreement or consent decree, or to enter into an agreement using a methodology similar to the state/tribal fuel tax agreements in effect on May 15, 2007.

(3) If a new agreement is negotiated, the agreement must:

(a) Require that the tribe or the tribal retailer acquire all motor vehicle fuel only from persons or companies operating lawfully in accordance with this chapter as a motor vehicle fuel distributor, supplier, importer, or blender, or from a tribal distributor, supplier, importer, or blender lawfully doing business according to all applicable laws;

(b) Provide that the tribe will expend fuel tax proceeds or equivalent amounts on: Planning, construction, and maintenance of roads, bridges, and boat ramps; transit services and facilities; transportation planning; police services; and other highway-related purposes;

(c) Include provisions for audits or other means of ensuring compliance to certify the number of gallons of motor vehicle fuel purchased by the tribe for resale at tribal retail stations, and the use of fuel tax proceeds or their equivalent for the purposes identified in (b) of this subsection. Compliance reports must be delivered to the director of the department of licensing.

(4) Information from the tribe or tribal retailers received by the state or open to state review under the terms of an agreement shall be deemed to be personal information under \*RCW 42.56.230(3)(b) and exempt from public inspection and copying.

(5) The governor may delegate the power to negotiate fuel tax agreements to the department of licensing.

(6) The department of licensing shall prepare and submit an annual report to the legislature on the status of existing agreements and any ongoing negotiations with tribes. [2007 c 515 § 19; 1995 c 320 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 42.56.230 was amended by 2011 c 173 § 1, changing subsection (3)(b) to subsection (4)(b).

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.36.460 Motor vehicle fuel tax cooperative agreement.** The department of licensing may enter into a motor vehicle fuel tax cooperative agreement with another state or Canadian province for the administration, collection, and enforcement of each state's or Canadian province's motor vehicle fuel taxes. [1998 c 176 § 49.]

**82.36.470 Fuel tax evasion—Seizure and forfeiture.**

(1) The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture:

(a) Motor vehicle fuel imported into this state by a person not licensed in this state in accordance with this chapter to import fuel;

(b) Motor vehicle fuel that is blended or manufactured by a person not licensed in this state in accordance with this chapter to blend or manufacture fuel;

(c) All conveyances that are used, or intended for use, to transport, or in any manner to facilitate the transportation, for the purpose of sale or receipt of property described in (a) and (b) of this subsection, except where the owner of the conveyance neither had knowledge of nor consented to the transportation of the fuel by an unlicensed importer, blender, or manufacturer of fuel.

(2) Before seizing a common carrier conveyance, contract carrier conveyance, or a conveyance secured by a bona fide security interest where the secured party neither had knowledge of or consented to the unlawful act or omission, the state patrol or the department of licensing shall give the common carrier, contract carrier, or secured party, or their representatives within twenty-four hours, a notice in writing served by mail or other means to cease transporting fuel for any person not licensed to import, blend, or manufacture fuel in this state.

(3) Property subject to forfeiture under this chapter may be seized by the state patrol upon process issued by a superior court or district court having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process may be made if:

(a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search warrant; or

(b) The state patrol has probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of this chapter and exigent circumstances exist making procurement of a search warrant impracticable. [2003 c 358 § 1.]

**Captions not law—2003 c 358:** "Captions used in this act are not part of the law." [2003 c 358 § 16.]

**Severability—2003 c 358:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2003 c 358 § 17.]

**82.36.475 Fuel tax evasion—Forfeiture procedure.**

In all cases of seizure of property made subject to forfeiture under this chapter, the state patrol shall proceed as follows:

(1) Forfeiture is deemed to have commenced by the seizure.

(2) The state patrol shall list and particularly describe in duplicate the conveyance seized. After the appropriate appeal period has expired, a seized conveyance must be sold at a public auction in accordance with chapter 43.19 RCW.

(3) The state patrol shall list and particularly describe in duplicate the fuel seized. The selling price of the fuel seized will be the average terminal rack price for similar fuel, at the closest terminal rack on the day of sale, unless circumstance warrants that a different selling price is appropriate. The method used to value the fuel must be documented. The fuel will be sold at the earliest point in time, and the total price must include all appropriate state and federal taxes. The state patrol or the department may enter into contracts for the transportation, handling, storage, and sale of fuel subject to forfeiture. The money received must be deposited in the motor vehicle account, after deduction for expenses provided for in this section.

(4) The state patrol shall, within five days after the seizure of a conveyance or fuel, cause notice to be served on the

owner of the property seized, if known, on the person in charge of the property, and on any other person having any known right or interest in the property, of the seizure and intended forfeiture. The notice may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule including but not limited to service by mail. If service is by mail it must be by both certified mail with return receipt requested and regular mail. Service by mail is deemed complete upon mailing within the five-day period after the date of seizure.

(5) If no person notifies the state patrol in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the items seized within fifteen days of the date of the notice of seizure, the items seized are considered forfeited.

(6) If any person notifies the state patrol, in writing, of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the items seized within fifteen days of the date of the notice of seizure, the person or persons must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right. The hearing must be before the director of licensing, or the director's designee. A hearing and any appeals must be in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. The burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence is upon the person claiming to be the lawful owner or the person claiming to have the lawful right to possession of the items seized. The state patrol and the department shall promptly return the conveyance seized, and money from the sale of fuel seized, to the claimant upon a determination that the claimant is the present lawful owner and is lawfully entitled to possession of the items seized. [2003 c 358 § 2.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

#### **82.36.480 Fuel tax evasion—Forfeited property.**

When property is forfeited under this chapter, the state patrol or the department may use the proceeds of the sale and all moneys forfeited for the payment of all proper expenses of any investigation leading to the seizure and of the proceedings for forfeiture and sale, including expenses of seizure, maintenance of custody, advertising, and court costs. Proper expenses of investigation include costs incurred by a law enforcement agency or a federal, state, or local agency. The balance of the proceeds must be deposited in the motor vehicle account. [2003 c 358 § 3.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.36.485 Fuel tax evasion—Return of seized property.** (1) The state patrol and the department may return property seized and proceeds from the sale of fuel under this chapter when it is shown that there was no intention to violate this chapter.

(2) When property is returned under this section, the state patrol and the department may return the goods to the parties from whom they were seized if and when the parties pay all applicable taxes and interest. [2003 c 358 § 4.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.36.490 Fuel tax evasion—Search and seizure.** When the state patrol has good reason to believe that motor vehicle fuel is being unlawfully imported, kept, sold, offered

for sale, blended, or manufactured in violation of this chapter or rules adopted under it, the state patrol may make an affidavit of that fact, describing the place or thing to be searched, before a judge of any court in this state, and the judge shall issue a search warrant directed to the state patrol commanding the officer diligently to search any place or vehicle designated in the affidavit and search warrant, and to seize the fuel and conveyance so possessed and to hold them until disposed of by law, and to arrest the person in possession or control of them. [2003 c 358 § 5.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.36.495 Fuel tax evasion—Rules.** The department and the state patrol shall adopt rules necessary to implement RCW 82.36.470 through 82.36.490. [2003 c 358 § 6.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.36.800 Rules—1998 c 176.** The department of licensing shall adopt rules necessary to implement chapter 176, Laws of 1998 and shall seek the assistance of the fuel tax advisory committee in developing and adopting the rules. [1998 c 176 § 87.]

**82.36.900 Findings—1998 c 176.** The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of Washington are dependent on the state's ability to properly collect the taxes enacted by the legislature;

(2) The current system for collecting special fuel taxes and motor vehicle fuel tax has allowed many parties to fraudulently evade paying the special fuel taxes and motor vehicle fuel tax due the state; and

(3) By changing the point of collection of the special fuel taxes and motor vehicle fuel tax from distributors to suppliers, the department of licensing will have fewer parties to collect tax from and enforcement will be enhanced, thus leading to greater revenues for the state. [1998 c 176 § 1.]

**82.36.901 Effective date—1998 c 176.** This act takes effect January 1, 1999. [1998 c 176 § 91.]

## **Chapter 82.38 RCW SPECIAL FUEL TAX ACT**

### Sections

82.38.010	Statement of purpose.
82.38.020	Definitions.
82.38.030	Tax imposed—Rate—Incidence—Allocation of proceeds—Expiration of subsection.
82.38.031	Tax imposed—Intent.
82.38.032	Payment of tax by international fuel tax agreement licensees or persons operating under other reciprocity agreements.
82.38.035	Tax liability.
82.38.045	Liability of terminal operator for remittance.
82.38.047	Liability of terminal operator for taxes when documentation incorrectly indicates internal revenue service compliance.
82.38.050	Tax liability on leased motor vehicles.
82.38.060	Tax computation on mileage basis.
82.38.065	Dyed special fuel use—Authorization, license required—Imposition of tax.
82.38.066	Dyed special fuel—Requirements—Marking—Notice.
82.38.075	Natural gas, propane—Annual license fee in lieu of special fuel tax for use in motor vehicles—Schedule—Decal or other identifying device.

82.38.080	Exemptions.
82.38.090	Penalty for acting without license—Separate licenses for separate activities—Interstate commerce—Exception.
82.38.100	Special fuel trip permits—Penalty—Fees.
82.38.110	Application for license—Federal certificate of registry—Investigation—Fee—Penalty for false statement—Bond or security.
82.38.120	Issuance of license—Refusal—Inspection of records—Posting—Display—Duration—Transferability.
82.38.130	Revocation, suspension, cancellation, and surrender of license—Notice—Bond release, discharge—New or additional bond or surety.
82.38.140	Special fuel records—Reports—Inspection.
82.38.150	Periodic tax reports—Forms—Filing—Time extensions during state of emergency.
82.38.160	Computation and payment of tax—Remittance—Electronic funds transfer.
82.38.170	Civil and statutory penalties and interest—Deficiency assessments.
82.38.180	Refunds and credits.
82.38.190	Claim of refund or credit.
82.38.200	Suits for recovery of taxes illegally or erroneously collected.
82.38.210	Tax lien—Filing.
82.38.220	Delinquency—Notice to debtors—Transfer or disposition of property, credits, or debts prohibited—Lien—Answer.
82.38.230	Delinquency—Seizure and sale of property—Notice—Distribution of excess.
82.38.235	Assessments—Warrant—Lien—Filing fee—Writs of execution and garnishment.
82.38.240	Delinquency—Collection by civil action—Certificate.
82.38.245	Bankruptcy proceedings—Notice.
82.38.250	Remedies cumulative.
82.38.260	Administration and enforcement.
82.38.265	Administration, collection, and enforcement of taxes pursuant to chapter 82.41 RCW.
82.38.270	Violations—Penalties.
82.38.275	Investigatory power.
82.38.280	State preempts tax field.
82.38.290	Disposition of funds.
82.38.300	Judicial review and appeals.
82.38.310	Agreement with tribe for fuel taxes.
82.38.320	Bulk storage of special fuel by international fuel tax agreement licensee—Authorization to pay tax at time of filing tax return—Schedule—Report—Exemptions.
82.38.350	Fuel tax cooperative agreement.
82.38.360	Fuel tax evasion—Seizure and forfeiture.
82.38.365	Fuel tax evasion—Forfeiture procedure.
82.38.370	Fuel tax evasion—Forfeited property.
82.38.375	Fuel tax evasion—Return of seized property.
82.38.380	Fuel tax evasion—Search and seizure.
82.38.385	Rules.
82.38.800	Rules—1998 c 176.
82.38.900	Section captions.
82.38.910	Short title.
82.38.920	Severability—1971 ex.s. c 175.
82.38.930	Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 175.
82.38.940	Findings—1998 c 176.
82.38.941	Effective date—1998 c 176.

**82.38.010 Statement of purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to supplement the Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Act, chapter 82.36 RCW, by imposing a tax upon all fuels not taxed under said Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Act used for the propulsion of motor vehicles upon the highways of this state. [1979 c 40 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 2.]

**82.38.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Blended special fuel" means a mixture of undyed diesel fuel and another liquid, other than a de minimis amount of the liquid, that can be used as a fuel to propel a motor vehicle.

(2) "Blender" means a person who produces blended special fuel outside the bulk transfer-terminal system.

(3) "Bond" means a bond duly executed with a corporate surety qualified under chapter 48.28 RCW, which bond is

payable to the state of Washington conditioned upon faithful performance of all requirements of this chapter, including the payment of all taxes, penalties, and other obligations arising out of this chapter.

(4) "Bulk transfer-terminal system" means the special fuel distribution system consisting of refineries, pipelines, vessels, and terminals. Special fuel in a refinery, pipeline, vessel, or terminal is in the bulk transfer-terminal system. Special fuel in the fuel tank of an engine, motor vehicle, or in a railcar, trailer, truck, or other equipment suitable for ground transportation is not in the bulk transfer-terminal system.

(5) "Bulk transfer" means a transfer of special fuel by pipeline or vessel.

(6) "Bulk storage" means the placing of special fuel into a receptacle other than the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(7) "Department" means the department of licensing.

(8) "Dyed special fuel user" means a person authorized by the internal revenue code to operate a motor vehicle on the highway using dyed special fuel, in which the use is not exempt from the special fuel tax.

(9) "Evasion" or "evade" means to diminish or avoid the computation, assessment, or payment of authorized taxes or fees through:

(a) A knowing: False statement; omission; misrepresentation of fact; or other act of deception;

(b) An intentional: Failure to file a return or report; or other act of deception; or

(c) The unlawful use of dyed special fuel.

(10) "Export" means to obtain special fuel in this state for sales or distribution outside the state.

(11) "Highway" means every way or place open to the use of the public, as a matter of right, for the purpose of vehicular travel.

(12) "Import" means to bring special fuel into this state by a means of conveyance other than the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle.

(13) "International fuel tax agreement licensee" means a special fuel user operating qualified motor vehicles in interstate commerce and licensed by the department under the international fuel tax agreement.

(14) "Lessor" means a person: (a) Whose principal business is the bona fide leasing or renting of motor vehicles without drivers for compensation to the general public; and (b) who maintains established places of business and whose lease or rental contracts require the motor vehicles to be returned to the established places of business.

(15) "Licensee" means a person holding a license issued under this chapter.

(16) "Motor vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle designed for operation upon land utilizing special fuel as the means of propulsion.

(17) "Natural gas" means naturally occurring mixtures of hydrocarbon gases and vapors consisting principally of methane, whether in gaseous or liquid form.

(18) "Person" means a natural person, fiduciary, association, or corporation. The term "person" as applied to an association means and includes the partners or members thereof, and as applied to corporations, the officers thereof.

(19) "Position holder" means a person who holds the inventory position in special fuel, as reflected by the records

of the terminal operator. A person holds the inventory position in special fuel if the person has a contractual agreement with the terminal for the use of storage facilities and terminating services at a terminal with respect to special fuel. "Position holder" includes a terminal operator that owns special fuel in their terminal.

(20) "Rack" means a mechanism for delivering special fuel from a refinery or terminal into a truck, trailer, railcar, or other means of nonbulk transfer.

(21) "Refiner" means a person who owns, operates, or otherwise controls a refinery.

(22) "Removal" means a physical transfer of special fuel other than by evaporation, loss, or destruction.

(23) "Special fuel" means and includes all combustible gases and liquids suitable for the generation of power for propulsion of motor vehicles, except that it does not include motor vehicle fuel as defined in chapter 82.36 RCW, nor does it include dyed special fuel as defined by federal regulations, unless the use is in violation of this chapter. If a person holds for sale, sells, purchases, or uses any dyed special fuel in violation of this chapter, all dyed special fuel held for sale, sold, purchased, stored, or used by that person is considered special fuel, and the person is subject to all presumptions, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements and other obligations which apply to special fuel, along with payment of any applicable taxes, penalties, or interest for illegal use.

(24) "Special fuel distributor" means a person who acquires special fuel from a supplier, distributor, or licensee for subsequent sale and distribution.

(25) "Special fuel exporter" means a person who purchases special fuel in this state and directly exports the fuel by a means other than the bulk transfer-terminal system to a destination outside of the state.

(26) "Special fuel importer" means a person who imports special fuel into the state by a means other than the bulk transfer-terminal system. If the importer of record is acting as an agent, the person for whom the agent is acting is the importer. If there is no importer of record, the owner of the special fuel at the time of importation is the importer.

(27) "Special fuel supplier" means a person who holds a federal certificate issued under the internal revenue code and authorizes the person to tax-free transactions on special fuel in the bulk transfer-terminal system.

(28) "Special fuel user" means a person engaged in uses of special fuel that are not specifically exempted from the special fuel tax imposed under this chapter.

(29) "Terminal" means a special fuel storage and distribution facility that has been assigned a terminal control number by the internal revenue service, is supplied by pipeline or vessel, and from which reportable special fuel is removed at a rack.

(30) "Terminal operator" means a person who owns, operates, or otherwise controls a terminal.

(31) "Two-party exchange" or "buy-sell agreement" means a transaction in which taxable special fuel is transferred from one licensed supplier to another licensed supplier under an exchange or buy-sell agreement whereby the supplier that is the position holder agrees to deliver taxable special fuel to the other supplier or the other supplier's customer at the rack of the terminal at which the delivering supplier is the position holder. [2002 c 183 § 1; 2001 c 270 § 4; 1998 c

176 § 50; 1995 c 287 § 3; 1994 c 262 § 22; 1988 c 122 § 1; 1979 c 40 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 3.]

**82.38.030 Tax imposed—Rate—Incidence—Allocation of proceeds—Expiration of subsection.** (1) There is hereby levied and imposed upon special fuel licensees, other than special fuel distributors, a tax at the rate of twenty-three cents per gallon of special fuel, or each one hundred cubic feet of compressed natural gas, measured at standard pressure and temperature.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2003, an additional and cumulative tax rate of five cents per gallon of special fuel, or each one hundred cubic feet of compressed natural gas, measured at standard pressure and temperature shall be imposed on special fuel licensees, other than special fuel distributors. This subsection (2) expires when the bonds issued for transportation 2003 projects are retired.

(3) Beginning July 1, 2005, an additional and cumulative tax rate of three cents per gallon of special fuel, or each one hundred cubic feet of compressed natural gas, measured at standard pressure and temperature shall be imposed on special fuel licensees, other than special fuel distributors.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2006, an additional and cumulative tax rate of three cents per gallon of special fuel, or each one hundred cubic feet of compressed natural gas, measured at standard pressure and temperature shall be imposed on special fuel licensees, other than special fuel distributors.

(5) Beginning July 1, 2007, an additional and cumulative tax rate of two cents per gallon of special fuel, or each one hundred cubic feet of compressed natural gas, measured at standard pressure and temperature shall be imposed on special fuel licensees, other than special fuel distributors.

(6) Beginning July 1, 2008, an additional and cumulative tax rate of one and one-half cents per gallon of special fuel, or each one hundred cubic feet of compressed natural gas, measured at standard pressure and temperature shall be imposed on special fuel licensees, other than special fuel distributors.

(7) Taxes are imposed when:

(a) Special fuel is removed in this state from a terminal if the special fuel is removed at the rack unless the removal is to a licensed exporter for direct delivery to a destination outside of the state, or the removal is by a special fuel supplier for direct delivery to an international fuel tax agreement licensee under RCW 82.38.320;

(b) Special fuel is removed in this state from a refinery if either of the following applies:

(i) The removal is by bulk transfer and the refiner or the owner of the special fuel immediately before the removal is not a licensee; or

(ii) The removal is at the refinery rack unless the removal is to a licensed exporter for direct delivery to a destination outside of the state, or the removal is to a special fuel supplier for direct delivery to an international fuel tax agreement licensee under RCW 82.38.320;

(c) Special fuel enters into this state for sale, consumption, use, or storage, unless the fuel enters this state for direct delivery to an international fuel tax agreement licensee under RCW 82.38.320, if either of the following applies:

(i) The entry is by bulk transfer and the importer is not a licensee; or

(ii) The entry is not by bulk transfer;

(d) Special fuel is sold or removed in this state to an unlicensed entity unless there was a prior taxable removal, entry, or sale of the special fuel;

(e) Blended special fuel is removed or sold in this state by the blender of the fuel. The number of gallons of blended special fuel subject to tax is the difference between the total number of gallons of blended special fuel removed or sold and the number of gallons of previously taxed special fuel used to produce the blended special fuel;

(f) Dyed special fuel is used on a highway, as authorized by the internal revenue code, unless the use is exempt from the special fuel tax;

(g) Dyed special fuel is held for sale, sold, used, or is intended to be used in violation of this chapter;

(h) Special fuel purchased by an international fuel tax agreement licensee under RCW 82.38.320 is used on a highway; and

(i) Special fuel is sold by a licensed special fuel supplier to a special fuel distributor, special fuel importer, or special fuel blender and the special fuel is not removed from the bulk transfer-terminal system. [2007 c 515 § 21; 2005 c 314 § 102; 2003 c 361 § 402; 2002 c 183 § 2; 2001 c 270 § 6; 1998 c 176 § 51; 1996 c 104 § 7; 1989 c 193 § 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 49 § 30; 1979 c 40 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 317 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 62 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 156 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 135 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 4.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**Effective date—2005 c 314 §§ 101-107, 109, 303-309, and 401:** See note following RCW 46.68.290.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 314:** See note following RCW 46.68.035.

**Findings—Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 361:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.031 Tax imposed—Intent.** It is the intent and purpose of this chapter that the tax shall be imposed at the time and place of the first taxable event and upon the first taxable person within this state. Any person whose activities would otherwise require payment of the tax imposed by RCW 82.38.030 but who is exempt from the tax nevertheless has a precollection obligation for the tax that must be imposed on the first taxable event within this state. Failure to pay the tax with respect to a taxable event shall not prevent tax liability from arising by reason of a subsequent taxable event. [2007 c 515 § 33.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.38.032 Payment of tax by international fuel tax agreement licensees or persons operating under other reciprocity agreements.** International fuel tax agreement licensees, or persons operating motor vehicles under other reciprocity agreements entered into with the state of Washington, are liable for and must pay the tax under RCW 82.38.030 to the department on special fuel used to operate

motor vehicles on the highways of this state. This provision does not apply if the tax under RCW 82.38.030 has previously been imposed and paid by the international fuel tax agreement licensee or if the use of such fuel is exempt from the tax under this chapter. [2007 c 515 § 22; 1998 c 176 § 52.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.38.035 Tax liability.** (1) A licensed supplier shall be liable for and pay tax on special fuel to the department as provided in RCW 82.38.030(7)(a). On a two-party exchange, or buy-sell agreement between two licensed suppliers, the receiving exchange partner or buyer shall be liable for and pay the tax.

(2) A refiner shall be liable for and pay tax to the department on special fuel removed from a refinery as provided in RCW 82.38.030(7)(b).

(3) A licensed importer shall be liable for and pay tax to the department on special fuel imported into this state as provided in RCW 82.38.030(7)(c).

(4) A licensed blender shall be liable for and pay tax to the department on the removal or sale of blended special fuel as provided in RCW 82.38.030(7)(e).

(5) A licensed dyed special fuel user shall be liable for and pay tax to the department on the use of dyed special fuel as provided in RCW 82.38.030(7)(f).

(6) Nothing in this chapter prohibits the licensee liable for payment of the tax under this chapter from including as a part of the selling price an amount equal to such tax. [2007 c 515 § 23; 2005 c 314 § 107; 2003 c 361 § 405; 2001 c 270 § 7; 1998 c 176 § 53.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**Effective date—2005 c 314 §§ 101-107, 109, 303-309, and 401:** See note following RCW 46.68.290.

**Part headings not law—2005 c 314:** See note following RCW 46.68.035.

**Findings—Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 361:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

**82.38.045 Liability of terminal operator for remittance.** A terminal operator is jointly and severally liable for remitting the tax imposed under RCW 82.38.030 if, at the time of removal:

(1) The position holder with respect to the special fuel is a person other than the terminal operator and is not a licensee;

(2) The terminal operator is not a licensee;

(3) The position holder has an expired internal revenue service notification certificate issued under chapter 26, C.F.R. Part 48; or

(4) The terminal operator had reason to believe that information on the notification certificate was false. [2005 c 314 § 108; 1998 c 176 § 54.]

**Part headings not law—2005 c 314:** See note following RCW 46.68.035.

**82.38.047 Liability of terminal operator for taxes when documentation incorrectly indicates internal revenue service compliance.** A terminal operator is jointly and severally liable for remitting the tax imposed under RCW

82.38.030 if, in connection with the removal of special fuel that is not dyed or marked in accordance with internal revenue service requirements, the terminal operator provides a person with a bill of lading, shipping paper, or similar document indicating that the special fuel is dyed or marked in accordance with internal revenue service requirements. [2003 c 361 § 406; 1998 c 176 § 55.]

**Findings—Part headings not law—Severability—2003 c 361:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**Effective dates—2003 c 361:** See note following RCW 82.08.020.

**82.38.050 Tax liability on leased motor vehicles.** A lessor who is engaged regularly in the business of leasing or renting for compensation motor vehicles and equipment he owns without drivers to carriers or other lessees for interstate operation, may be deemed to be the special fuel user when he supplies or pays for the special fuel consumed in such vehicles, and such lessor may be issued an international fuel tax agreement license when application and bond have been properly filed with and approved by the department for such license. Any lessee may exclude motor vehicles of which he or she is the lessee from reports and liabilities pursuant to this chapter, but only if the motor vehicles in question have been leased from a lessor holding a valid international fuel tax agreement license.

When the license has been secured, such lessor shall make and assign to each motor vehicle leased for interstate operation a photocopy of such license to be carried in the cab compartment of the motor vehicle and on which shall be typed or printed on the back the unit or motor number of the motor vehicle to which it is assigned and the name of the lessee. Such lessor shall be responsible for the proper use of such photocopy of the license issued and its return to the lessor with the motor vehicle to which it is assigned.

The lessor shall be responsible for fuel tax licensing and reporting, as required by this chapter, on the operation of all motor vehicles leased to others for less than thirty days. [2007 c 515 § 24; 1990 c 250 § 82; 1983 c 242 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 6.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.060 Tax computation on mileage basis.** In the event the tax on special fuel imported into this state in the fuel supply tanks of motor vehicles for taxable use on Washington highways can be more accurately determined on a mileage basis the department is authorized to approve and adopt such basis. When a special fuel user imports special fuel into or exports special fuel from the state of Washington in the fuel supply tanks of motor vehicles, the amount of special fuel consumed in such vehicles on Washington highways shall be deemed to be such proportion of the total amount of such special fuel consumed in his entire operations within and without this state as the total number of miles traveled on the public highways within this state bears to the total number of miles traveled within and without the state. The department may also adopt such mileage basis for determining the taxable use of special fuel used in motor vehicles which travel regularly over prescribed courses on and off the highways within the state of Washington. In the absence of records showing the

number of miles actually operated per gallon of special fuel consumed, fuel consumption shall be calculated at the rate of one gallon for every: (1) Four miles traveled by vehicles over forty thousand pounds gross vehicle weight; (2) seven miles traveled by vehicles twelve thousand one to forty thousand pounds gross vehicle weight; (3) ten miles traveled by vehicles six thousand one to twelve thousand pounds gross vehicle weight; and (4) sixteen miles traveled by vehicles six thousand pounds or less gross vehicle weight. [1996 c 90 § 1; 1989 c 142 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 7.]

**82.38.065 Dyed special fuel use—Authorization, license required—Imposition of tax.** A person may operate or maintain a licensed or required to be licensed motor vehicle with dyed special fuel in the fuel supply tank only if the use is authorized by the internal revenue code and the person is either the holder of an uncanceled dyed special fuel user license or the use is exempt from the special fuel tax. A person may maintain dyed special fuel for a taxable use in bulk storage if the person is the holder of an uncanceled dyed special fuel user license issued under this chapter. The special fuel tax set forth in RCW 82.38.030 is imposed on users of dyed special fuel authorized by the internal revenue code to operate on-highway motor vehicles using dyed special fuel, unless the use is exempt from the special fuel tax. It is unlawful for any person to sell, use, hold for sale, or hold for intended use dyed special fuel in a manner in violation of this chapter. [2002 c 183 § 3; 1998 c 176 § 56.]

**82.38.066 Dyed special fuel—Requirements—Marking—Notice.** (1) Special fuel that is dyed satisfies the dyeing requirements of this chapter if it meets the dyeing requirements of the internal revenue service, including, but not limited to, requirements respecting type, dosage, and timing.

(2) Marking must meet the marking requirements of the internal revenue service.

(3) As required by the internal revenue service, notice is required with respect to dyed special fuel. A notice stating "DYED DIESEL FUEL, NONTAXABLE USE ONLY, PENALTY FOR TAXABLE USE" must be:

(a) Provided by the terminal operator to a person who receives dyed special fuel at a terminal rack of that terminal operator;

(b) Provided by a seller of dyed special fuel to its buyer if the special fuel is located outside the bulk transfer-terminal system and is not sold from a retail pump posted in accordance with the requirements of this subsection; or

(c) Posted by a seller on a retail pump where it sells dyed special fuel for use by its buyer. [1998 c 176 § 57.]

**82.38.075 Natural gas, propane—Annual license fee in lieu of special fuel tax for use in motor vehicles—Schedule—Decal or other identifying device.** In order to encourage the use of nonpolluting fuels, an annual license fee in lieu of the tax imposed by RCW 82.38.030 shall be imposed upon the use of natural gas as defined in this chapter or on liquified petroleum gas, commonly called propane, which is used in any motor vehicle, as defined in RCW 46.04.320, which shall be based upon the following schedule as adjusted by the formula set out below:

VEHICLE TONNAGE (GVW)	FEE
0 - 6,000	\$ 45
6,001 - 10,000	\$ 45
10,001 - 18,000	\$ 80
18,001 - 28,000	\$110
28,001 - 36,000	\$150
36,001 and above	\$250

To determine the actual annual license fee imposed by this section for a registration year, the appropriate dollar amount set out in the above schedule shall be multiplied by the motor vehicle fuel tax rate in cents per gallon as established by RCW 82.36.025 effective on July 1st of the preceding calendar year and the product thereof shall be divided by 12 cents.

The department of licensing, in addition to the foregoing fee, shall charge a further fee of five dollars as a handling charge for each license issued.

The director of licensing shall be authorized to prorate the vehicle tonnage fee so that the annual license required by this section will correspond with the staggered vehicle licensing system.

A decal or other identifying device issued upon payment of these annual fees shall be displayed as prescribed by the department as authority to purchase this fuel.

Persons selling or dispensing natural gas or propane may not sell or dispense this fuel for their own use or the use of others into tanks of vehicles powered by this fuel which do not display a valid decal or other identifying device as provided in this section.

Vehicles registered in jurisdictions outside the state of Washington are exempt from this section.

Any person selling or dispensing natural gas or propane into the tank of a motor vehicle powered by this fuel, except as prescribed in this chapter, is subject to the penalty provisions of this chapter. [1983 c 212 § 1; 1981 c 129 § 1; 1979 c 48 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 335 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.080 Exemptions.** (1) There is exempted from the tax imposed by this chapter, the use of fuel for:

(a) Street and highway construction and maintenance purposes in motor vehicles owned and operated by the state of Washington, or any county or municipality;

(b) Publicly owned firefighting equipment;

(c) Special mobile equipment as defined in RCW 46.04.552;

(d) Power pumping units or other power take-off equipment of any motor vehicle which is accurately measured by metering devices that have been specifically approved by the department or which is established by any of the following formulae:

(i) Pumping propane, or fuel or heating oils or milk picked up from a farm or dairy farm storage tank by a power take-off unit on a delivery truck, at a rate determined by the department: PROVIDED, That claimant when presenting his or her claim to the department in accordance with this chapter, shall provide to the claim, invoices of propane, or fuel or heating oil delivered, or such other appropriate information

as may be required by the department to substantiate his or her claim;

(ii) Operating a power take-off unit on a cement mixer truck or a load compactor on a garbage truck at the rate of twenty-five percent of the total gallons of fuel used in such a truck; or

(iii) The department is authorized to establish by rule additional formulae for determining fuel usage when operating other types of equipment by means of power take-off units when direct measurement of the fuel used is not feasible. The department is also authorized to adopt rules regarding the usage of on board computers for the production of records required by this chapter;

(e) Motor vehicles owned and operated by the United States government;

(f) Heating purposes;

(g) Moving a motor vehicle on a public highway between two pieces of private property when said moving is incidental to the primary use of the motor vehicle;

(h) Transportation services for persons with special transportation needs by a private, nonprofit transportation provider regulated under chapter 81.66 RCW;

(i) Vehicle refrigeration units, mixing units, or other equipment powered by separate motors from separate fuel tanks;

(j) The operation of a motor vehicle as a part of or incidental to logging operations upon a highway under federal jurisdiction within the boundaries of a federal area if the federal government requires a fee for the privilege of operating the motor vehicle upon the highway, the proceeds of which are reserved for constructing or maintaining roads in the federal area, or requires maintenance or construction work to be performed on the highway for the privilege of operating the motor vehicle on the highway; and

(k) Waste vegetable oil as defined under RCW 82.08.0205 if the oil is used to manufacture biodiesel.

(2) There is exempted from the tax imposed by this chapter the removal or entry of special fuel under the following circumstances and conditions:

(a) If it is the removal from a terminal or refinery of, or the entry or sale of, a special fuel if all of the following apply:

(i) The person otherwise liable for the tax is a licensee other than a dyed special fuel user or international fuel tax agreement licensee;

(ii) For a removal from a terminal, the terminal is a licensed terminal; and

(iii) The special fuel satisfies the dyeing and marking requirements of this chapter;

(b) If it is an entry or removal from a terminal or refinery of taxable special fuel transferred to a refinery or terminal and the persons involved, including the terminal operator, are licensed; and

(c)(i) If it is a special fuel that, under contract of sale, is shipped to a point outside this state by a supplier by means of any of the following:

(A) Facilities operated by the supplier;

(B) Delivery by the supplier to a carrier, customs broker, or forwarding agent, whether hired by the purchaser or not, for shipment to the out-of-state point;

(C) Delivery by the supplier to a vessel clearing from port of this state for a port outside this state and actually exported from this state in the vessel.

(ii) For purposes of this subsection (2)(c):

(A) "Carrier" means a person or firm engaged in the business of transporting for compensation property owned by other persons, and includes both common and contract carriers; and

(B) "Forwarding agent" means a person or firm engaged in the business of preparing property for shipment or arranging for its shipment.

(3)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, every privately owned urban passenger transportation system and carriers as defined by chapters 81.68 and 81.70 RCW shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter requiring the payment of special fuel taxes. For the purposes of this section "privately owned urban passenger transportation system" means every privately owned transportation system having as its principal source of revenue the income from transporting persons for compensation by means of motor vehicles or trackless trolleys, each having a seating capacity for over fifteen persons over prescribed routes in such a manner that the routes of such motor vehicles or trackless trolleys, either alone or in conjunction with routes of other such motor vehicles or trackless trolleys subject to routing by the same transportation system, shall not extend for a distance exceeding twenty-five road miles beyond the corporate limits of the county in which the original starting points of such motor vehicles are located: PROVIDED, That no refunds or credits shall be granted on special fuel used by any privately owned urban transportation vehicle, or vehicle operated pursuant to chapters 81.68 and 81.70 RCW, on any trip where any portion of the trip is more than twenty-five road miles beyond the corporate limits of the county in which the trip originated.

(b) Every publicly owned and operated urban passenger transportation system is exempt from the provisions of this chapter that require the payment of special fuel taxes. For the purposes of this subsection, "publicly owned and operated urban passenger transportation systems" include public transportation benefit areas under chapter 36.57A RCW, metropolitan municipal corporations under chapter 36.56 RCW, city-owned transit systems under chapter 35.58 RCW, county public transportation authorities under chapter 36.57 RCW, unincorporated transportation benefit areas under chapter 36.57 RCW, and regional transit authorities under chapter 81.112 RCW. [2009 c 352 § 1; 2008 c 237 § 1; 1998 c 176 § 60; 1996 c 244 § 6; 1993 c 141 § 2; 1990 c 185 § 1; 1983 c 108 § 4; 1979 c 40 § 4; 1973 c 42 § 1. Prior: 1972 ex.s. c 138 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 49 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 9.]

**Effective date—2008 c 237:** See note following RCW 82.08.0205.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.090 Penalty for acting without license—Separate licenses for separate activities—Interstate commerce—Exception.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in business in this state as any of the following unless the person is the holder of an uncanceled license issued to him or her by the department authorizing the person to engage in that business:

(a) Special fuel supplier;

(b) Special fuel distributor;

(c) Special fuel exporter;

(d) Special fuel importer;

(e) Special fuel blender;

(f) Dyed special fuel user; or

(g) International fuel tax agreement licensee.

(2) A person engaged in more than one activity for which a license is required must have a separate license classification for each activity, but a special fuel supplier is not required to obtain a separate license classification for any other activity for which a license is required.

(3) Special fuel users operating motor vehicles in interstate commerce having two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight not exceeding twenty-six thousand pounds are not required to be licensed. Special fuel users operating motor vehicles in interstate commerce having two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight exceeding twenty-six thousand pounds, or having three or more axles regardless of weight, or a combination of vehicles, when the combination exceeds twenty-six thousand pounds gross vehicle weight, must comply with the licensing and reporting requirements of this chapter. A copy of the license must be carried in each motor vehicle entering this state from another state or province. [1998 c 176 § 61; 1995 c 20 § 13; 1994 c 262 § 23; 1993 c 54 § 6; 1991 c 339 § 6; 1990 c 250 § 84; 1986 c 29 § 2; 1979 c 40 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.100 Special fuel trip permits—Penalty—Fees.**

(1) Any special fuel user operating a motor vehicle in this state for commercial purposes may apply for a special fuel trip permit. The permit:

(a) Is good for a period of three consecutive days beginning and ending on the dates shown on the face of the permit issued;

(b) Is valid only for the vehicle for which it is issued;

(c) Must identify, as the department may require, the vehicle for which it is issued; and

(d) Must be completed in its entirety, signed, and dated by the operator before operation of the vehicle on the public highways of this state.

(2) Correction of data on the permit such as dates, vehicle license number, or vehicle identification number invalidates the permit. A violation of, or a failure to comply with, this subsection is a gross misdemeanor.

(3) Blank special fuel trip permits may be obtained from field offices of the department of transportation, department of licensing, county auditors or other agents, or subagents appointed by the department for the fee provided in \*RCW 46.17.400 (1)(f) and (4). The fee is in lieu of the special fuel tax otherwise assessable against the permit holder for importing and using special fuel in a motor vehicle on the public highways of this state. A report of mileage may not be required with respect to the motor vehicle. Special fuel trip permits may not be issued if the applicant has outstanding fuel taxes, penalties, or interest owing to the state or has had a special fuel license revoked for cause and the cause has not been removed.

(4) Special fuel trip permits are not subject to exchange, refund, or credit. [2010 c 161 § 907. Prior: 2007 c 515 § 25;

2007 c 419 § 17; 1999 c 270 § 2; 1998 c 176 § 62; 1983 c 78 § 1; 1979 c 40 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 156 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 11.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 46.17.400 was amended by 2011 c 171 § 62, deleting subsection (4).

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**Findings—Short title—2007 c 419:** See notes following RCW 46.16A.010.

**82.38.110 Application for license—Federal certificate of registry—Investigation—Fee—Penalty for false statement—Bond or security.** (1) Application for a license issued under this chapter shall be made to the department. The application shall be filed upon a form prepared and furnished by the department and shall contain such information as the department deems necessary.

(2) Every application for a special fuel license, other than an application for a dyed special fuel user or international fuel tax agreement license, must contain the following information to the extent it applies to the applicant:

(a) Proof as the department shall require concerning the applicant's identity, including but not limited to his or her fingerprints or those of the officers of a corporation making the application;

(b) The applicant's form and place of organization including proof that the individual, partnership, or corporation is licensed to do business in this state;

(c) The qualification and business history of the applicant and any partner, officer, or director;

(d) The applicant's financial condition or history including a bank reference and whether the applicant or any partner, officer, or director has ever been adjudged bankrupt or has an unsatisfied judgment in a federal or state court;

(e) Whether the applicant has been adjudged guilty of a crime that directly relates to the business for which the license is sought and the time elapsed since the conviction is less than ten years, or has suffered a judgment within the preceding five years in a civil action involving fraud, misrepresentation, or conversion and in the case of a corporation or partnership, all directors, officers, or partners.

(3) An applicant for a license as a special fuel importer must list on the application each state, province, or country from which the applicant intends to import fuel and, if required by the state, province, or country listed, must be licensed or registered for special fuel tax purposes in that state, province, or country.

(4) An applicant for a license as a special fuel exporter must list on the application each state, province, or country to which the exporter intends to export special fuel received in this state by means of a transfer outside the bulk transfer-terminal system and, if required by the state, province, or country listed, must be licensed or registered for special fuel tax purposes in that state, province, or country.

(5) An applicant for a license as a special fuel supplier must have a federal certificate of registry that is issued under the internal revenue code and authorizes the applicant to enter

into federal tax-free transactions on special fuel in the terminal transfer system.

(6) After receipt of an application for a license, the director shall conduct an investigation to determine whether the facts set forth are true. The director shall require a fingerprint record check of the applicant through the Washington state patrol criminal identification system and the federal bureau of investigation before issuance of a license. The results of the background investigation including criminal history information may be released to authorized department personnel as the director deems necessary. The department shall charge a license holder or license applicant a fee of fifty dollars for each background investigation conducted.

(7) An applicant who makes a false statement of a material fact on the application may be prosecuted for false swearing as defined by RCW 9A.72.040.

(8) A special fuel license may not be issued to any person or continued in force unless such person has furnished bond, as defined in RCW 82.38.020, in such form as the department may require, to secure his or her compliance with this chapter, and the payment of any and all taxes, interest, and penalties due and to become due hereunder. The requirement of furnishing a bond may be waived: (a) For special fuel distributors who only deliver special fuel into the fuel tanks of marine vessels; (b) for dyed special fuel users; (c) for persons issued licenses under the international fuel tax agreement; or (d) for licensed special fuel distributors who, upon determination by the department, have sufficient resources, assets, other financial instruments, or other means to adequately make payments on the estimated monthly motor vehicle fuel tax payments, penalties, and interest arising out of this chapter. The department shall adopt rules to administer this section.

(9) The department may require a licensee to post a bond if the licensee, after having been licensed, has failed to file timely reports or has failed to remit taxes due, or when an investigation or audit indicates problems severe enough that the department, in its discretion, determines that a bond is required to protect the interests of the state. The department may also adopt rules prescribing conditions that, in the department's discretion, require a bond to protect the interests of the state.

(10) The total amount of the bond or bonds required of any licensee shall be equivalent to three times the estimated monthly fuel tax, determined in such manner as the department may deem proper: PROVIDED, That those licensees having held a special fuel license for five or more years without having said license suspended or revoked by the department shall be permitted to reduce the amount of their bond to twice the estimated monthly tax liability: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the total amount of the bond or bonds shall never be less than five hundred dollars nor more than one hundred thousand dollars.

(11) An application for a dyed special fuel user license must be made to the department. The application must be filed upon a form prescribed by the department and contain such information as the department deems necessary.

(12) An application for an international fuel tax agreement license must be made to the department. The application must be filed upon a form prescribed by the department and contain such information as the department may require.

The department shall charge a fee of ten dollars per set of International Fuel Tax Agreement decals issued to each applicant or licensee. The department shall transmit the fee to the state treasurer for deposit in the motor vehicle fund. [2002 c 352 § 26; 2001 c 270 § 8; 1998 c 176 § 63; 1996 c 104 § 8; 1988 c 122 § 2; 1983 c 242 § 2; 1979 c 40 § 7; 1977 c 26 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 156 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 12.]

**Effective dates—2002 c 352:** See note following RCW 46.09.410.

**82.38.120 Issuance of license—Refusal—Inspection of records—Posting—Display—Duration—Transferability.** Upon receipt and approval of an application and bond, if required, the department shall issue a license to the applicant. However, the department may refuse to issue a license to any person:

(1) Who formerly held a license issued under chapter 82.36 or 82.42 RCW or this chapter which, prior to the time of filing for application, has been revoked for cause;

(2) Who is a subterfuge for the real party in interest whose license prior to the time of filing for application, has been revoked for cause;

(3) Who, as an individual licensee, or officer, director, owner, or managing employee of a nonindividual licensee, has had a special fuel license revoked for cause;

(4) Who has an unsatisfied debt to the state assessed under either chapter 82.36, 82.38, 82.42, 46.87, or 82.42 RCW;

(5) Who formerly held as an individual, officer, director, owner, managing employee of a nonindividual licensee, or subterfuge for a real party in interest, a license issued by the federal government or a state that allowed a person to buy or sell untaxed motor vehicle or special fuel, which license, before the time of filing for application, has been revoked for cause;

(6) Who pled guilty to or was convicted as an individual, officer, director, owner, or managing employee of a nonindividual licensee in this or any other state or in any federal jurisdiction of a gross misdemeanor or felony crime directly related to the business or has been subject to a civil judgment involving fraud, misrepresentation, conversion, or dishonesty, notwithstanding chapter 9.96A RCW;

(7) Who misrepresented or concealed a material fact in obtaining a license or in reinstatement thereof;

(8) Who violated a statute or administrative rule regulating fuel taxation or distribution;

(9) Who failed to cooperate with the department's investigations by:

(a) Not furnishing papers or documents;

(b) Not furnishing in writing a full and complete explanation regarding a matter under investigation by the department; or

(c) Not responding to subpoenas issued by the department, whether or not the recipient of the subpoena is the subject of the proceeding;

(10) Who failed to comply with an order issued by the director; or

(11) Upon other sufficient cause being shown.

Before such refusal, the department shall grant the applicant a hearing and shall grant the applicant at least twenty days written notice of the time and place thereof.

(2012 Ed.)

The department shall determine from the information shown in the application or other investigation the kind and class of license to be issued. For the purpose of considering any application for a special fuel license, the department may inspect, cause an inspection, investigate, or cause an investigation of the records of this or any other state or of the federal government to ascertain the veracity of the information on the application form and the applicant's criminal and licensing history.

All licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place or kept available for inspection at the principal place of business of the owner thereof. License holders shall reproduce the license by photostat or other method and keep a copy on display for ready inspection at each additional place of business or other place of storage from which special fuel is sold, delivered or used and in each motor vehicle used by the license holder to transport special fuel purchased by him or her for resale, delivery or use.

Each special fuel license shall be valid until the expiration date if shown on the license, or until suspended or revoked for cause or otherwise canceled.

No special fuel license shall be transferable. [1998 c 176 § 64; 1998 c 115 § 4; 1996 c 104 § 9; 1995 c 274 § 21; 1990 c 250 § 85; 1979 c 40 § 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 156 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 13.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1998 c 115 § 4 and by 1998 c 176 § 64, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.130 Revocation, suspension, cancellation, and surrender of license—Notice—Bond release, discharge—New or additional bond or surety.** The department may revoke the license of any licensee for any of the grounds constituting cause for denial of a license set forth in RCW 82.38.120 or for other reasonable cause. Before revoking such license the department shall notify the licensee to show cause within twenty days of the date of the notice why the license should not be revoked: PROVIDED, That at any time prior to and pending such hearing the department may, in the exercise of reasonable discretion, suspend such license.

The department shall cancel any special fuel license immediately upon surrender thereof by the holder.

Any surety on a bond furnished by a licensee as provided in this chapter shall be released and discharged from any and all liability to the state accruing on such bond after the expiration of forty-five days from the date which such surety shall have lodged with the department a written request to be released and discharged, but this provision shall not operate to relieve, release, or discharge the surety from any liability already accrued or which shall accrue before the expiration of the forty-five day period. The department shall promptly, upon receiving any such request, notify the licensee who furnished the bond, and unless the licensee, on or before the expiration of the forty-five day period, files a new bond, in accordance with this section, the department shall cancel the license.

The department may require a new or additional surety bond of the character specified in RCW 82.38.020(3) if, in its opinion, the security of the surety bond therefor filed by such

licensee, shall become impaired or inadequate. Upon failure of the licensee to give such new or additional surety bond within forty-five days after being requested to do so by the department, or after he or she shall fail or refuse to file reports and remit or pay taxes at the intervals fixed by the department, the department forthwith shall cancel his or her license. [2007 c 515 § 26; 1998 c 176 § 65; 1994 c 262 § 24; 1979 c 40 § 9; 1977 c 26 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 14.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.38.140 Special fuel records—Reports—Inspection.** (1) Every licensee and every person importing, manufacturing, refining, transporting, blending, or storing special fuel in this state shall keep for a period of not less than five years open to inspection at all times during the business hours of the day to the department or its authorized representatives, a complete record of all special fuel purchased or received and all of such products sold, delivered, or used by them. Such records shall show:

- (a) The date of each receipt;
- (b) The name and address of the person from whom purchased or received;
- (c) The number of gallons received at each place of business or place of storage in the state of Washington;
- (d) The date of each sale or delivery;
- (e) The number of gallons sold, delivered, or used for taxable purposes;
- (f) The number of gallons sold, delivered, or used for any purpose not subject to the tax imposed in this chapter;
- (g) The name, address, and special fuel license number of the purchaser if the special fuel tax is not collected on the sale or delivery;
- (h) The inventories of special fuel on hand at each place of business at the end of each month.

(2)(a) All international fuel tax agreement licensees and dyed special fuel users authorized to use dyed special fuel on highway in vehicles licensed for highway operation shall maintain detailed mileage records on an individual vehicle basis.

(b) Such operating records shall show both on-highway and off-highway usage of special fuel on a daily basis for each vehicle.

(c) In the absence of operating records that show both on-highway and off-highway usage of special fuel on a daily basis for each vehicle, fuel consumption must be computed under RCW 82.38.060.

(3) The department may require a person other than a licensee engaged in the business of selling, purchasing, distributing, storing, transporting, or delivering special fuel to submit periodic reports to the department regarding the disposition of the fuel. The reports must be on forms prescribed by the department and must contain such information as the department may require.

(4) Every person operating any conveyance for the purpose of hauling, transporting, or delivering special fuel in bulk shall have and possess during the entire time the person is hauling special fuel, an invoice, bill of sale, or other statement showing the name, address, and license number of the seller or consigner, the destination, name, and address of the purchaser or consignee, license number, if applicable, and the

number of gallons. The person hauling such special fuel shall at the request of any law enforcement officer or authorized representative of the department, or other person authorized by law to inquire into, or investigate those types of matters, produce for inspection such invoice, bill of sale, or other statement and shall permit such official to inspect and gauge the contents of the vehicle. [2007 c 515 § 27; 1998 c 176 § 66. Prior: 1996 c 104 § 10; 1996 c 90 § 2; 1995 c 274 § 22; 1988 c 51 § 1; 1979 c 40 § 10; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 15.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.38.150 Periodic tax reports—Forms—Filing—Time extensions during state of emergency.** (1) For the purpose of determining the amount of liability for the tax herein imposed, and to periodically update license information, each licensee, other than a special fuel distributor, an international fuel tax agreement licensee, or a dyed special fuel user, shall file monthly tax reports with the department, on forms prescribed by the department.

(2) Dyed special fuel users whose estimated yearly tax liability is two hundred fifty dollars or less, shall file a report yearly, and dyed special fuel users whose estimated yearly tax liability is more than two hundred fifty dollars, shall file reports quarterly. Special fuel users licensed under the international fuel tax agreement shall file reports quarterly. Heating oil dealers subject to the pollution liability insurance agency fee and reporting requirements shall remit pollution liability insurance agency returns and any associated payment due to the department annually.

(3) The department shall establish the reporting frequency for each applicant at the time the special fuel license is issued. If it becomes apparent that any licensee is not reporting in accordance with the above schedule, the department shall change the licensee's reporting frequency by giving thirty days' notice to the licensee by mail to the licensee's address of record. A report shall be filed with the department even though no special fuel was used, or tax is due, for the reporting period. Each tax report shall contain a declaration by the person making the same, to the effect that the statements contained therein are true and are made under penalties of perjury, which declaration shall have the same force and effect as a verification of the report and is in lieu of such verification. The report shall show such information as the department may reasonably require for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter. A licensee shall file a tax report on or before the twenty-fifth day of the next succeeding calendar month following the period to which it relates.

(4) Subject to the written approval of the department, tax reports may cover a period ending on a day other than the last day of the calendar month. Taxpayers granted approval to file reports in this manner will file such reports on or before the twenty-fifth day following the end of the reporting period. No change to this reporting period will be made without the written authorization of the department.

(5) If the final filing date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday the next secular or business day shall be the final filing date. Such reports shall be considered filed or received on the date shown by the post office cancellation mark stamped upon an envelope containing such report prop-

erly addressed to the department, or on the date it was mailed if proof satisfactory to the department is available to establish the date it was mailed.

(6) The department, if it deems it necessary in order to insure payment of the tax imposed by this chapter, or to facilitate the administration of this chapter, has the authority to require the filing of reports and tax remittances at shorter intervals than one month if, in its opinion, an existing bond has become insufficient.

(7) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the department, on its own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may extend the time for filing any report or the due date for tax remittances as the department deems proper. [2008 c 181 § 506; 2007 c 515 § 28; 1998 c 176 § 67; 1996 c 104 § 11; 1995 c 274 § 23; 1991 c 339 § 15; 1990 c 42 § 203; 1988 c 23 § 1; 1983 c 242 § 3; 1979 c 40 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 156 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 16.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.160 Computation and payment of tax—Remittance—Electronic funds transfer.** (1) The tax imposed by this chapter shall be computed by multiplying the tax rate per gallon provided in this chapter by the number of gallons of special fuel subject to the special fuel tax.

(2) A special fuel distributor shall remit tax on special fuel purchased from a special fuel supplier, and due to the state for that reporting period, to the special fuel supplier.

(3) At the election of the distributor, the payment of the special fuel tax owed on special fuel purchased from a supplier shall be remitted to the supplier on terms agreed upon between the distributor and the supplier or no later than seven business days before the twenty-sixth day of the following month. This election shall be subject to a condition that the distributor's remittances of all amounts of special fuel tax due to the supplier shall be paid by electronic funds transfer. The distributor's election may be terminated by the supplier if the distributor does not make timely payments to the supplier as required by this section. This section shall not apply if the distributor is required by the supplier to pay cash or cash equivalent for special fuel purchases.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, the tax return shall be accompanied by a remittance payable to the state treasurer covering the tax amount determined to be due for the reporting period.

(5) If the tax is paid by electronic funds transfer, the tax shall be paid on or before the twenty-sixth calendar day of the month immediately following the reporting period. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday the next business day will be the payment date. If the tax is paid by electronic funds transfer and the reporting period ends on a day other than the last day of a calendar month as provided in RCW 82.38.150, the tax shall be paid on or before the last state business day of the thirty-day period following the end of the reporting period.

(6) The tax shall be paid by electronic funds transfer whenever the amount due is fifty thousand dollars or more. [2005 c 260 § 2; 1998 c 176 § 68; 1987 c 174 § 5; 1979 c 40 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 17.]

**Effective date—2005 c 260:** See note following RCW 82.36.035.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.170 Civil and statutory penalties and interest—Deficiency assessments.** (1) If any licensee fails to pay any taxes collected or due the state of Washington within the time prescribed by RCW 82.38.150 and 82.38.160, the licensee shall pay in addition to such tax a penalty of ten percent of the amount thereof.

(2) If it be determined by the department that the tax reported by any licensee is deficient it may proceed to assess the deficiency on the basis of information available to it and there shall be added to this deficiency a penalty of ten percent of the amount of the deficiency.

(3) If any licensee, whether or not he or she is licensed as such, fails, neglects, or refuses to file a special fuel tax report required under this chapter, the department may, on the basis of information available to it, determine the tax liability of the licensee for the period during which no report was filed, and to the tax as thus determined, the department shall add the penalty and interest provided in subsection (2) of this section. An assessment made by the department pursuant to this subsection or to subsection (2) of this section shall be presumed to be correct, and in any case where the validity of the assessment is drawn in question, the burden shall be on the person who challenges the assessment to establish by a fair preponderance of the evidence that it is erroneous or excessive as the case may be.

(4) If any licensee establishes by a fair preponderance of evidence that his or her failure to file a report or pay the proper amount of tax within the time prescribed was due to reasonable cause and was not intentional or willful, the department may waive the penalty prescribed in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

(5) If any licensee files a false or fraudulent report with intent to evade the tax imposed by this chapter, there shall be added to the amount of deficiency determined by the department a penalty equal to twenty-five percent of the deficiency, in addition to the penalty provided in subsection (2) of this section and all other penalties prescribed by law.

(6) Any special fuel tax, penalties, and interest payable under this chapter shall bear interest at the rate of one percent per month, or fraction thereof, from the first day of the calendar month after the amount or any portion thereof should have been paid until the date of payment: PROVIDED, That the department may waive the interest when it determines that the cost of processing the collection of the interest exceeds the amount of interest due.

(7) Except in the case of violations of filing a false or fraudulent report, if the department deems mitigation of penalties and interest to be reasonable and in the best interests of carrying out the purpose of this chapter, it may mitigate such assessments upon whatever terms the department deems proper, giving consideration to the degree and extent of the lack of records and reporting errors. The department may ascertain the facts regarding recordkeeping and payment pen-

alties in lieu of more elaborate proceedings under this chapter.

(8) Except in the case of a fraudulent report or of neglect or refusal to make a report, every deficiency shall be assessed under subsection (2) of this section within five years from the twenty-fifth day of the next succeeding calendar month following the reporting period for which the amount is proposed to be determined or within five years after the return is filed, whichever period expires the later.

(9) Any licensee against whom an assessment is made under the provisions of subsection (2) or (3) of this section may petition for a reassessment thereof within thirty days after service upon the licensee of notice thereof. If such petition is not filed within such thirty day period, the amount of the assessment becomes final at the expiration thereof.

If a petition for reassessment is filed within the thirty day period, the department shall reconsider the assessment and, if the licensee has so requested in his or her petition, shall grant such licensee an oral hearing and give the licensee ten days' notice of the time and place thereof. The department may continue the hearing from time to time. The decision of the department upon a petition for reassessment shall become final thirty days after service upon the licensee of notice thereof.

Every assessment made by the department shall become due and payable at the time it becomes final and if not paid to the department when due and payable, there shall be added thereto a penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax.

(10) Any notice of assessment required by this section shall be served personally or by certified or registered mail; if by mail, service shall be made by depositing such notice in the United States mail, postage prepaid addressed to the licensee at his or her address as the same appears in the records of the department.

(11) Any licensee who has had the licensee's special fuel license revoked shall pay a one hundred dollar penalty prior to the issuance of a new license.

(12) Any person who, upon audit or investigation by the department, is found to have not paid special fuel taxes as required by this chapter shall be subject to cancellation of all vehicle registrations for vehicles utilizing special fuel as a means of propulsion. Any unexpired Washington tonnage on the vehicles in question may be transferred to a purchaser of the vehicles upon application to the department who shall hold such tonnage in its custody until a sale of the vehicle is made or the tonnage has expired.

(13) Unless the use is exempt from the special fuel tax, or expressly authorized by the internal revenue code and this chapter, a person having dyed special fuel in the fuel supply tank of a motor vehicle that is licensed or required to be licensed is subject to a civil penalty of ten dollars for each gallon of dyed special fuel placed into the supply tank of the motor vehicle, or one thousand dollars, whichever is greater. The civil penalty collected as a result of this subsection must be deposited in the motor vehicle fund. The penalties must be collected and administered under this chapter.

(14) A person who maintains dyed special fuel in bulk storage for an intended sale or use in violation of this chapter is subject to a civil penalty of ten dollars for each gallon of dyed special fuel, or one thousand dollars, whichever is greater, currently or previously maintained in bulk storage by

the person. The civil penalty collected as a result of this subsection must be deposited in the motor vehicle fund. The penalties must be collected and administered under this chapter.

(15) For the purposes of enforcement of this section, the Washington state patrol or other commercial vehicle safety alliance-certified officers may inspect, collect, and secure samples of special fuel used in the propulsion of a vehicle operated upon the highways of this state to detect the presence of dye or other chemical compounds.

(16) The Washington state patrol shall, by January 1, 1999, develop and implement procedures for collection, analysis, and storage of fuel samples collected under this chapter.

(17) RCW 43.05.110 does not apply to the civil penalties imposed under subsection (13) of this section. [2002 c 183 § 4; 1998 c 176 § 70; 1996 c 104 § 12; 1995 c 274 § 24; 1994 c 262 § 25; 1991 c 339 § 7; 1987 c 174 § 6; 1983 c 242 § 4; 1979 c 40 § 13; 1977 c 26 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 156 § 7; 1972 ex.s. c 138 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.180 Refunds and credits.** Any person who has purchased special fuel on which tax has been paid may file a claim with the department for a refund of the tax for:

(1) Taxes previously paid on special fuel used for purposes other than for the propulsion of motor vehicles upon the public highways in this state.

(2) Taxes previously paid on special fuel exported for use outside of this state. Special fuel carried from this state in the fuel tank of a motor vehicle is deemed to be exported from this state. Special fuel distributed to a federally recognized Indian tribal reservation located within the state of Washington is not considered exported outside this state.

(3) Tax, penalty, or interest erroneously or illegally collected or paid.

(4) Taxes previously paid on all special fuel which is lost or destroyed, while the licensee shall be the owner thereof, through fire, lightning, flood, wind storm, or explosion.

(5) Taxes previously paid on all special fuel of five hundred gallons or more which is lost or destroyed while the licensee shall be the owner thereof, through leakage or other casualty except evaporation, shrinkage, or unknown causes.

(6) Taxes previously paid on special fuel that is inadvertently mixed with dyed special fuel.

Recovery for such loss or destruction under either subsection (4), (5), or (6) of this section must be susceptible to positive proof thereby enabling the department to conduct such investigation and require such information as it may deem necessary. In the event that the department is not satisfied that the fuel was lost, destroyed, or contaminated as claimed because information or proof as required hereunder is not sufficient to substantiate the accuracy of the claim, it may deem such as sufficient cause to deny all right relating to the refund or credit for the excise tax paid on special fuel alleged to be lost or destroyed.

No refund or claim for credit shall be approved by the department unless the gallons of special fuel claimed as nontaxable satisfy the conditions specifically set forth in this section and the nontaxable event or use occurred during the period covered by the refund claim. Refunds or claims for credit shall not be allowed for anticipated nontaxable use or

events. [2007 c 515 § 29; 1998 c 176 § 71; 1972 ex.s. c 138 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 19.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.190 Claim of refund or credit.** (1) Claims under RCW 82.38.180 shall be filed with the department on forms prescribed by the department and shall show the date of filing and the period covered in the claim, the number of gallons of special fuel used for purposes subject to tax refund, and such other facts and information as may be required. Every such claim shall be supported by an invoice or invoices issued to or by the claimant, as may be prescribed by the department, and such other information as the department may require. The requirement to provide invoices may be waived for small refund amounts, as determined by the department. Claims for refund of special fuel tax must be for at least twenty dollars.

(2) Any amount determined to be refundable by the department under RCW 82.38.180 shall first be credited on any amounts then due and payable from a person to whom the refund is due, and the department shall then certify the balance thereof to the state treasurer, who shall thereupon draw his or her warrant for the certified amount to the person.

(3) No refund or credit shall be approved by the department unless a written claim for refund or credit stating the specific grounds upon which the claim is founded is filed with the department:

(a) Within thirteen months from the date of purchase or from the last day of the month following the close of the reporting period for which the refundable amount or credit is due with respect to refunds or credits allowable under RCW 82.38.180 (1), (2), (4), and (5), and if not filed within this period the right to refund shall be forever barred.

(b) Within five years from the last day of the month following the close of the reporting period for which the overpayment is due with respect to the refunds or credits allowable under RCW 82.38.180(3). The department shall refund any amount paid that has been verified by the department to be more than ten dollars over the amount actually due for the reporting period. Payment credits shall not be carried forward and applied to subsequent tax returns for a person licensed under this chapter.

(4) Within thirty days after disallowing any claim in whole or in part, the department shall serve written notice of its action on the claimant.

(5) Interest shall be paid upon any refundable amount or credit due under RCW 82.38.180(3) at the rate of one percent per month from the last day of the calendar month following the reporting period for which the refundable amount or credit is due.

The interest shall be paid:

(a) In the case of a refund, to the last day of the calendar month following the date upon which the person making the overpayment, if he or she has not already filed a claim, is notified by the department that a claim may be filed or the date upon which the claim is approved by the department, whichever date is earlier.

(b) In the case of a credit, to the same date as that to which interest is computed on the tax or amount against which the credit is applied.

(2012 Ed.)

If the department determines that any overpayment has been made intentionally or by reason of carelessness, it shall not allow any interest thereon.

(6) The department shall pay interest of one percent on any refund payable under RCW 82.38.180 (1), (2), or (6) that is issued more than thirty state business days after the receipt of a claim properly filed and completed in accordance with this section. After the end of the thirty business-day period, additional interest shall accrue at the rate of one percent on the amount payable for each thirty calendar-day period, until the refund is issued.

(7) No injunction or writ of mandate or other legal or equitable process shall issue in any suit, action or proceeding in any court against this state or against any officer of the state to prevent or enjoin the collection under this chapter of any tax or any amount of tax required to be collected. [1998 c 176 § 74; 1997 c 183 § 10; 1996 c 91 § 4; 1979 c 40 § 14; 1973 1st ex.s. c 156 § 8; 1972 ex.s. c 138 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.200 Suits for recovery of taxes illegally or erroneously collected.** (1) No suit or proceeding shall be maintained in any court for the recovery of any amount alleged to have been overpaid under RCW 82.38.180 unless a claim for refund or credit has been duly filed pursuant to RCW 82.38.190.

(2) Within ninety days after the mailing of the notice of the department's action upon a claim filed pursuant to RCW 82.38.190, the claimant may bring an action against the department on the grounds set forth in the claim in a court of competent jurisdiction in Thurston county for the recovery of the whole or any part of the amount with respect to which the claim has been disallowed. Failure to bring action within the time specified constitutes a waiver of any demand against the state on account of the alleged overpayments.

(3) If the department fails to mail notice of action on a claim within six months after the claim is filed, the claimant may, prior to the mailing of notice by the department of its intention on the claim, consider the claim disallowed and bring an action against the department, on the grounds set forth in the claim for the recovery of the whole or any part of the amount claimed as an overpayment.

(4) If judgment is rendered for the plaintiff, the amount of the judgment shall first be credited on any special fuel tax due and payable from the plaintiff. The balance of the judgment shall be refunded to the plaintiff.

(5) In any judgment, interest shall be allowed at the rate of twelve percent per annum upon the amount found to have been illegally collected from the date of payment of the amount to the date of allowance of credit on account of the judgment or to a date preceding the date of the refund warrant, but not more than thirty days, the date to be determined by the department. [1971 ex.s. c 175 § 21.]

**82.38.210 Tax lien—Filing.** If any licensee liable for the remittance of tax imposed by this chapter fails to pay the same, the amount thereof, including any interest, penalty, or addition to such tax, together with any costs that may accrue in addition thereto, shall be a lien in favor of the state upon all franchises, property, and rights to property, whether real or

personal, then belonging to or thereafter acquired by such person, whether such property is employed by such person for personal or business use or is in the hands of a trustee, or receiver, or assignee for the benefit of creditors, from the date the taxes were due and payable, until the amount of the lien is paid or the property sold in payment thereof. The lien shall have priority over any lien or encumbrance whatsoever, except the lien of other state taxes having priority by law, and except that such lien shall not be valid as against any bona fide mortgagee, pledgee, judgment creditor, or purchaser whose rights have attached prior to the time the department has filed and recorded notice of such lien as hereinafter provided.

In order to avail itself of the lien hereby created, the department shall file with any county auditor a statement of claim and lien specifying the amount of delinquent taxes, penalties and interest claimed by the department. From the time of filing for record, the amount required to be paid shall constitute a lien upon all franchises, property and rights to property, whether real or personal, then belonging to or thereafter acquired by such person in the county. Any lien as provided in this section may also be filed in the office of the secretary of state. Filing in the office of the secretary of state shall be of no effect, however, until the lien or copy thereof shall have been filed with the county auditor in the county where the property is located. When a lien is filed in compliance herewith and with the secretary of state, such filing shall have the same effect as if the lien had been duly filed for record in the office of the auditor in each county of this state. [1998 c 176 § 75; 1979 c 40 § 15; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 22.]

**82.38.220 Delinquency—Notice to debtors—Transfer or disposition of property, credits, or debts prohibited—Lien—Answer.** In the event any licensee is delinquent in the payment of any obligation imposed under this chapter, the department may give notice of the amount of such delinquency by registered or certified mail to all persons having in their possession or under their control any credits or other personal property belonging to the licensee or owing any debts to the licensee, at the time of the receipt by them of such notice. Any person so notified shall neither transfer nor make other disposition of such credits, personal property, or debts until the department consents to a transfer or other disposition. All persons so notified must, within twenty days after receipt of the notice, advise the department of any and all such credits, personal property, or debts in their possession, under their control or owing by them, as the case may be, and shall immediately deliver such credits, personal property, or debts to the department or its duly authorized representative to be applied to the indebtedness involved.

Upon service, the notice and order to withhold and deliver constitutes a continuing lien on property of the taxpayer. The department shall include in the caption of the notice to withhold and deliver "continuing lien." The effective date of a notice to withhold and deliver served under this section is the date of service of the notice.

If a person fails to answer the notice within the time prescribed by this section, it is lawful for the court, upon application of the department and after the time to answer the notice has expired, to render judgment by default against the party named in the notice to withhold and deliver for the full

amount claimed by the department in the notice to withhold and deliver, together with costs. [1998 c 176 § 76; 1994 c 262 § 26; 1983 c 242 § 5; 1979 c 40 § 16; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 23.]

**82.38.230 Delinquency—Seizure and sale of property—Notice—Distribution of excess.** Whenever any licensee is delinquent in the payment of any obligation imposed hereunder, and such delinquency continues after notice and demand for payment by the department, the department shall proceed to collect the amount due from the licensee in the following manner: The department shall seize any property subject to the lien of said excise tax, penalty, and interest and thereafter sell it at public auction to pay said obligation and any and all costs that may have been incurred on account of the seizure and sale. Notice of such intended sale and the time and place thereof shall be given to such delinquent licensee and to all persons appearing of record to have an interest in such property. The notice shall be given in writing at least ten days before the date set for the sale by enclosing it in an envelope addressed to the licensee at the licensee's address as the same appears in the records of the department and, in the case of any person appearing of record to have an interest in such property, addressed to such person at his or her last known residence or place of business, and depositing such envelope in the United States mail, postage prepaid. In addition, the notice shall be published for at least ten days before the date set for the sale in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which the property seized is to be sold. If there is no newspaper of general circulation in such county, the notice shall be posted in three public places in the county for a period of ten days. The notice shall contain a description of the property to be sold, together with a statement of the amount due under this chapter, the name of the licensee and the further statement that unless such amount is paid on or before the time fixed in the notice the property will be sold in accordance with law.

The department shall then proceed to sell the property in accordance with the law and the notice, and shall deliver to the purchaser a bill of sale or deed which shall vest title in the purchaser. If upon any such sale the moneys received exceed the amount due to the state under this chapter from the delinquent licensee, the excess shall be returned to the licensee and the licensee's receipt obtained for the excess. If any person having an interest in or lien upon the property has filed with the department prior to such sale, notice of such interest or lien, the department shall withhold payment of any such excess to the licensee pending a determination of the rights of the respective parties thereto by a court of competent jurisdiction. If for any reason the receipt of the licensee is not available, the department shall deposit such excess with the state treasurer as trustee for the licensee or the licensee's heirs, successors, or assigns: PROVIDED, That prior to making any seizure of property as provided for in this section, the department may first serve upon the licensee's bondsperson a notice of the delinquency, with a demand for the payment of the amount due. [2007 c 218 § 78; 1998 c 176 § 77; 1979 c 40 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 24.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 1.08.130.

**82.38.235 Assessments—Warrant—Lien—Filing fee—Writs of execution and garnishment.** Whenever any assessment shall have become final in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the department may file with the clerk of any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the assessment of taxes, penalties plus interest and a filing fee under RCW 36.18.012(10). The clerk of the county wherein the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for such warrant, and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of the licensee mentioned in the warrant, the amount of the tax, penalties, interest and filing fee and the date when such warrant was filed. The aggregate amount of such warrant as docketed shall become a lien upon the title to, and interest in all real and personal property of named person against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case duly docketed in the office of such clerk. Such warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of writs of execution and writs of garnishment in favor of the state in the manner provided by law in the case of civil judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court shall be entitled to a filing fee under RCW 36.18.012(10), which shall be added to the amount of the warrant. [2001 c 146 § 14; 1998 c 176 § 78; 1979 c 40 § 22.]

**82.38.240 Delinquency—Collection by civil action—Certificate.** Whenever any licensee is delinquent in the payment of any obligation hereunder the department may transmit notice of such delinquency to the attorney general who shall at once proceed to collect by appropriate legal action the amount due the state from the licensee. In any suit brought to enforce the rights of the state hereunder, a certificate by the department showing the delinquency shall be prima facie evidence of the amount of the obligation, of the delinquency thereof and of compliance by the department with all provisions of this chapter relating to such obligation. [1998 c 176 § 79; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 25.]

**82.38.245 Bankruptcy proceedings—Notice.** A special fuel licensee, who files or against whom is filed a petition in bankruptcy, shall, within ten days of the filing, notify the department of the proceedings in bankruptcy, including the identity and location of the court in which the proceedings are pending. [1997 c 183 § 9.]

**82.38.250 Remedies cumulative.** The foregoing remedies of the state in this chapter shall be cumulative and no action taken by the department shall be construed to be an election on the part of the state or any of its officers to pursue any remedy hereunder to the exclusion of any other remedy for which provision is made in this chapter. [1971 ex.s. c 175 § 26.]

**82.38.260 Administration and enforcement.** The department shall enforce the provisions of this chapter, and may prescribe, adopt, and enforce reasonable rules and regulations relating to the administration and enforcement thereof. The Washington state patrol and its officers shall aid the department in the enforcement of this chapter, and, for this purpose, are declared to be peace officers, and given

police power and authority throughout the state to arrest on sight any person known to have committed a violation of the provisions of this chapter.

The department or its authorized representative is hereby empowered to examine the books, papers, records and equipment of any licensee or any person dealing in, transporting, or storing special fuel as defined in this chapter and to investigate the character of the disposition which any person makes of such special fuel in order to ascertain and determine whether all taxes due hereunder are being properly reported and paid. The fact that such books, papers, records and equipment are not maintained in this state at the time of demand shall not cause the department to lose any right of such examination under this chapter when and where such records become available.

The department or its authorized representative is further empowered to investigate the disposition of special fuel by any person where the department has reason to believe that untaxed special fuel has been diverted to a use subject to the taxes imposed by this chapter without said taxes being paid in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this chapter it shall be presumed that all special fuel delivered to service stations as well as all special fuel otherwise received into storage and dispensing equipment designed to fuel motor vehicles is delivered into the fuel supply tanks of motor vehicles and consumed in the propulsion of motor vehicles on the highways of this state, unless the contrary is established by satisfactory evidence.

The department shall, upon request from the officials to whom are entrusted the enforcement of the special fuel tax law of any other state, the District of Columbia, the United States, its territories and possessions, the provinces or the Dominion of Canada, forward to such officials any information which he or she may have relative to the receipt, storage, delivery, sale, use, or other disposition of special fuel by any licensee if the other state or states furnish like information to this state.

Returns required by this chapter, exclusive of schedules, itemized statements and other supporting evidence annexed thereto, shall at all reasonable times be open to the public. [1998 c 176 § 80; 1995 c 274 § 25; 1979 c 40 § 18; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 27.]

**82.38.265 Administration, collection, and enforcement of taxes pursuant to chapter 82.41 RCW.** For the purposes of administration, collection, and enforcement of taxes imposed under this chapter, pursuant to an agreement under chapter 82.41 RCW, chapter 82.41 RCW shall control to the extent of any conflict. [1982 c 161 § 14.]

**82.38.270 Violations—Penalties.** (1) It is unlawful for a person or corporation to:

(a) Have dyed diesel in the fuel supply tank of a vehicle that is licensed or required to be licensed for highway use or maintain dyed diesel in bulk storage for highway use, unless the person or corporation maintains an uncanceled dyed diesel user license or is otherwise exempted by this chapter;

(b) Evade a tax or fee imposed under this chapter;

(c) File a false statement of a material fact on a special fuel license application or special fuel refund application;

(d) Act as a special fuel importer, special fuel blender, or special fuel supplier unless the person holds an uncanceled special fuel license issued by the department authorizing the person to engage in that business;

(e) Knowingly assist another person to evade a tax or fee imposed by this chapter;

(f) Knowingly operate a conveyance for the purpose of hauling, transporting, or delivering special fuel in bulk and not possess an invoice, bill of sale, or other statement showing the name, address, and tax license number of the seller or consignor, the destination, the name, address, and tax license number of the purchaser or consignee, and the number of gallons.

(2)(a) A single violation of subsection (1)(a) of this section is a gross misdemeanor under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(b) Multiple violations of subsection (1)(a) of this section and violations of subsection (1)(b) through (f) of this section are a class C felony under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(3) In addition to other penalties and remedies provided by law, the court shall order a person or corporation found guilty of violating subsection (1)(b) through (f) of this section to:

(a) Pay the tax or fee evaded plus interest, commencing at the date the tax or fee was first due, at the rate of twelve percent per year, compounded monthly; and

(b) Pay a penalty of one hundred percent of the tax evaded, to the multimodal transportation account of the state.

(4) The tax imposed by this chapter is held in trust by the licensee until paid to the department, and a licensee who appropriates the tax to his or her own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax on the due date as prescribed in this chapter is guilty of a felony or gross misdemeanor in accordance with the theft and anticipatory provisions of Title 9A RCW. A person, partnership, corporation, or corporate officer who fails to pay to the department the tax imposed by this chapter is personally liable to the state for the amount of the tax. [2007 c 515 § 30; 2003 c 358 § 14; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 10; 1995 c 287 § 4; 1979 c 40 § 19; 1977 c 26 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 28.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.275 Investigatory power.** The department may initiate and conduct investigations as may be reasonably necessary to establish the existence of any alleged violations of or noncompliance with the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulations issued hereunder.

For the purpose of any investigation or proceeding under this chapter, the director or any officer designated by him may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements, or other documents or records which the director deems relevant or material to the inquiry.

In case of contumacy by or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to, any person, any court of competent jurisdiction upon application by the director, may issue to that person an order requiring him to appear before the director, or the

officer designated by him to produce testimony or other evidence touching the matter under investigation or in question. The failure to obey an order of the court may be punishable by contempt. [1979 c 40 § 20.]

**82.38.280 State preempts tax field.** (1) The tax levied in this chapter is in lieu of any excise, privilege, or occupational tax upon the business of manufacturing, selling, or distributing special fuel, and no city, town, county, township or other subdivision or municipal corporation of the state may levy or collect any excise tax upon or measured by the sale, receipt, distribution, or use of special fuel, except as provided in chapter 82.80 RCW and RCW 82.47.020.

(2) This section does not apply to any tax imposed by the state. [2010 c 106 § 231; 2003 c 350 § 6; 1991 c 173 § 5; 1990 c 42 § 205; 1979 ex.s. c 181 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 175 § 29.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.290 Disposition of funds.** All taxes, interest and penalties collected under this chapter shall be credited and deposited in the same manner as are motor vehicle fuel taxes collected under RCW 82.36.410. [1971 ex.s. c 175 § 30.]

**82.38.300 Judicial review and appeals.** Judicial review and appeals shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. [1971 ex.s. c 175 § 31.]

**82.38.310 Agreement with tribe for fuel taxes.** (1) The governor may enter into an agreement with any federally recognized Indian tribe located on a reservation within this state regarding special fuel taxes included in the price of fuel delivered to a retail station wholly owned and operated by a tribe, tribal enterprise, or tribal member licensed by the tribe to operate a retail station located on reservation or trust property. The agreement may provide mutually agreeable means to address any tribal immunities or any preemption of the state special fuel tax.

(2) The provisions of this section do not repeal existing state/tribal fuel tax agreements or consent decrees in existence on May 15, 2007. The state and the tribe may agree to substitute an agreement negotiated under this section for an existing agreement or consent decree, or to enter into an agreement using a methodology similar to the state/tribal fuel tax agreements in effect on May 15, 2007.

(3) If a new agreement is negotiated, the agreement must:

(a) Require that the tribe or the tribal retailer acquire all special fuel only from persons or companies operating lawfully in accordance with this chapter as a special fuel distributor, supplier, importer, or blender, or from a tribal distributor, supplier, importer, or blender lawfully doing business according to all applicable laws;

(b) Provide that the tribe will expend fuel tax proceeds or equivalent amounts on: Planning, construction, and maintenance of roads, bridges, and boat ramps; transit services and facilities; transportation planning; police services; and other highway-related purposes;

(c) Include provisions for audits or other means of ensuring compliance to certify the number of gallons of special fuel purchased by the tribe for resale at tribal retail stations, and the use of fuel tax proceeds or their equivalent for the purposes identified in (b) of this subsection. Compliance reports must be delivered to the director of the department of licensing.

(4) Information from the tribe or tribal retailers received by the state or open to state review under the terms of an agreement shall be deemed personal information under \*RCW 42.56.230(3)(b) and exempt from public inspection and copying.

(5) The governor may delegate the power to negotiate fuel tax agreements to the department of licensing.

(6) The department of licensing shall prepare and submit an annual report to the legislature on the status of existing agreements and any ongoing negotiations with tribes. [2007 c 515 § 31; 1995 c 320 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 42.56.230 was amended by 2011 c 173 § 1, changing subsection (3)(b) to subsection (4)(b).

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.38.320 Bulk storage of special fuel by international fuel tax agreement licensee—Authorization to pay tax at time of filing tax return—Schedule—Report—Exemptions.** (1) An international fuel tax agreement licensee who meets the qualifications in subsection (2) of this section may be given special authorization by the department to purchase special fuel delivered into bulk storage without payment of the special fuel tax at the time the fuel is purchased. The special authorization applies only to full truck-trailer loads filled at a terminal rack and delivered directly to the bulk storage facilities of the special authorization holder. The licensee shall pay special fuel tax on the fuel at the time the licensee files their international fuel tax agreement tax return and accompanying schedule with the department. The accompanying schedule shall be provided in a form and manner determined by the department and shall contain information on purchases and usage of all nondyed special fuel purchased during the reporting period. In addition, by the fifteenth day of the month following the month in which fuel under the special authorization was purchased, the licensee must report to the department, the name of the seller and the number of gallons purchased for each purchase of such fuel, and any other information as the department may require.

(2) To receive or maintain special authorization under subsection (1) of this section, the following conditions regarding the international fuel tax agreement licensee must apply:

(a) During the period encompassing the four consecutive calendar quarters immediately preceding the fourth calendar quarter of the previous year, the number of gallons consumed outside the state of Washington as reported on the licensee's international fuel tax agreement tax returns must have been equal to at least twenty percent of the nondyed special fuel gallons, including fuel used on-road and off-road, purchased by the licensee in the state of Washington, as reported on the accompanying schedules required under subsection (1) of this section;

(2012 Ed.)

(b) The licensee must have been licensed under the provisions of the international fuel tax agreement during each of the four consecutive calendar quarters immediately preceding the fourth calendar quarter of the previous year; and

(c) The licensee has not violated the reporting requirements of this section.

(3) Only a licensed special fuel supplier or special fuel importer may sell special fuel to a special authorization holder in the manner prescribed by this section.

(4) A special fuel supplier or importer who sells special fuel under the special authorization provisions of this section is not liable for the special fuel tax on the fuel. The special fuel supplier or importer will report such sales, in a manner prescribed by the department, at the time the special fuel supplier or importer submits the monthly tax report. [2007 c 515 § 32; 1998 c 176 § 83.]

**Severability—Effective date—2007 c 515:** See notes following RCW 82.36.010.

**82.38.350 Fuel tax cooperative agreement.** The department of licensing may enter into a fuel tax cooperative agreement with another state or Canadian province for the administration, collection, and enforcement of each state's or Canadian province's fuel taxes. [1998 c 176 § 88.]

**82.38.360 Fuel tax evasion—Seizure and forfeiture.** (1) The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture:

(a) Special fuel imported into this state by a person not licensed in this state in accordance with this chapter to import fuel;

(b) Special fuel that is blended or manufactured by a person not licensed in this state in accordance with this chapter to blend or manufacture fuel;

(c) All conveyances that are used, or intended for use, to transport, or in any manner to facilitate the transportation, for the purpose of sale or receipt of property described in (a) and (b) of this subsection, except where the owner of the conveyance neither had knowledge of nor consented to the transportation of the special fuel by an unlicensed importer, blender, or manufacturer of fuel.

(2) Before seizing a common carrier conveyance, contract carrier conveyance, or a conveyance secured by a bona fide security interest where the secured party neither had knowledge of or consented to the unlawful act or omission, the state patrol or the department of licensing shall give the common carrier, contract carrier, or secured party, or their representatives within twenty-four hours, a notice in writing served by mail or other means to cease transporting fuel for any person not licensed to import, blend, or manufacture fuel in this state.

(3) Property subject to forfeiture under this chapter may be seized by the state patrol upon process issued by a superior court or district court having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process may be made if:

(a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a search warrant or an administrative inspection; or

(b) The state patrol has probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of this chapter and exigent circumstances exist making procurement of a search warrant impracticable. [2003 c 358 § 7.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.38.365 Fuel tax evasion—Forfeiture procedure.**

In all cases of seizure of property made subject to forfeiture under this chapter, the state patrol shall proceed as follows:

(1) Forfeiture is deemed to have commenced by the seizure.

(2) The state patrol shall list and particularly describe in duplicate the conveyance seized. After the appropriate appeal period has expired, a seized conveyance must be sold at a public auction in accordance with chapter 43.19 RCW.

(3) The state patrol shall list and particularly describe in duplicate the special fuel seized. The selling price of the fuel seized will be the average terminal rack price for similar fuel, at the closest terminal rack on the day of sale, unless circumstance warrants that a different selling price is appropriate. The method used to value the fuel must be documented. The fuel will be sold at the earliest point in time, and the total price must include all appropriate state and federal taxes. The state patrol or the department may enter into contracts for the transportation, handling, storage, and sale of fuel subject to forfeiture. The money received must be deposited in the motor vehicle account, after deduction for expenses provided for in this section.

(4) The state patrol shall, within five days after the seizure of a conveyance or fuel, cause notice to be served on the owner of the property seized, if known, on the person in charge of the property, and on any other person having any known right or interest in the property, of the seizure and intended forfeiture. The notice may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule including but not limited to service by mail. If service is by mail it must be by both certified mail with return receipt requested and regular mail. Service by mail is deemed complete upon mailing within the five-day period after the date of seizure.

(5) If no person notifies the state patrol in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the items seized within fifteen days of the date of the notice of seizure, the items seized are considered forfeited.

(6) If any person notifies the state patrol, in writing, of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the items seized within fifteen days of the date of the notice of seizure, the person or persons must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right. The hearing must be before the director of licensing, or the director's designee. A hearing and any appeals must be in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. The burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence is upon the person claiming to be the lawful owner or the person claiming to have the lawful right to possession of the items seized. The state patrol and the department shall promptly return the conveyance seized, and money from the sale of fuel seized, to the claimant upon a determination that the claimant is the present lawful owner and is lawfully entitled to possession of the items seized. [2003 c 358 § 8.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.38.370 Fuel tax evasion—Forfeited property.**

When property is forfeited under this chapter, the state patrol

or the department may use the proceeds of the sale and all moneys forfeited for the payment of all proper expenses of any investigation leading to the seizure and of the proceedings for forfeiture and sale, including expenses of seizure, maintenance of custody, advertising, and court costs. Proper expenses of investigation include costs incurred by a law enforcement agency or a federal, state, or local agency. The balance of the proceeds must be deposited in the motor vehicle fund. [2003 c 358 § 9.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.38.375 Fuel tax evasion—Return of seized property.**

(1) The state patrol and the department may return property seized and proceeds from the sale of fuel under this chapter when it is shown that there was no intention to violate this chapter.

(2) When property is returned under this section, the state patrol and the department may return the goods to the parties from whom they were seized if and when the parties pay all applicable taxes and interest. [2003 c 358 § 10.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.38.380 Fuel tax evasion—Search and seizure.**

When the state patrol has good reason to believe that special fuel is being unlawfully imported, kept, sold, offered for sale, blended, or manufactured in violation of this chapter or rules adopted under it, the state patrol may make an affidavit of that fact, describing the place or thing to be searched, before a judge of any court in this state, and the judge shall issue a search warrant directed to the state patrol commanding the officer diligently to search any place or vehicle designated in the affidavit and search warrant, and to seize the fuel and conveyance so possessed and to hold them until disposed of by law, and to arrest the person in possession or control of them. [2003 c 358 § 11.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.38.385 Rules.** The department and the state patrol shall adopt rules necessary to implement RCW 82.38.360 through 82.38.380. [2003 c 358 § 12.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2003 c 358:** See notes following RCW 82.36.470.

**82.38.800 Rules—1998 c 176.** See RCW 82.36.800.

**82.38.900 Section captions.** All section captions used in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law. [1971 ex.s. c 175 § 32.]

**82.38.910 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the "Special Fuel Tax Act". [1971 ex.s. c 175 § 1.]

**82.38.920 Severability—1971 ex.s. c 175.** If any provision of this 1971 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1971 ex.s. c 175 § 34.]

**82.38.930 Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 175.** The effective date of this Special Fuel Tax Act is January 1, 1972. [1971 ex.s. c 175 § 36.]

**82.38.940 Findings—1998 c 176.** See RCW 82.36.900.

**82.38.941 Effective date—1998 c 176.** See RCW 82.36.901.

**Chapter 82.41 RCW**

**MULTISTATE MOTOR FUEL TAX AGREEMENT**

Sections

82.41.010	Purpose.
82.41.020	Definitions.
82.41.030	Motor fuel tax cooperative agreement authorized—Prohibition.
82.41.040	Amount of tax collected for this state.
82.41.050	Provisions of agreement.
82.41.060	Credits—Refunds.
82.41.070	Audits.
82.41.080	Investigatory power.
82.41.090	Appeal procedures.
82.41.100	Exchange of information.
82.41.110	Construction and application.
82.41.120	Implementing rules required.

**82.41.010 Purpose.** It is the purpose of this chapter to simplify the confusing, unnecessarily duplicative, and burdensome motor fuel use tax licensing, reporting, and remittance requirements imposed on motor carriers involved in interstate commerce by authorizing the state of Washington to participate in a multistate motor fuel tax agreement for the administration, collection, and enforcement of those states' motor fuel use taxes. [1982 c 161 § 1.]

**82.41.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (1) "Department" means the department of licensing;
- (2) "Motor fuel" means all combustible gases and liquids used for the generation of power for propulsion of motor vehicles;
- (3) "Motor carrier" means an individual, partnership, firm, association, or private or public corporation engaged in interstate commercial operation of motor vehicles, any part of which is within this state or any other state which is party to an agreement under this chapter;
- (4) "State" means a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, a foreign country, or a state or province of a foreign country;
- (5) "Base state" means the state in which the motor carrier is legally domiciled, or in the case of a motor carrier who has no legal domicile, the state from or in which the motor carrier's vehicles are most frequently dispatched, garaged, serviced, maintained, operated, or otherwise controlled;
- (6) "Agreement" means a motor fuel tax agreement under this chapter;
- (7) "Licensee" means a motor carrier who has been issued a fuel tax license under a motor fuel tax agreement. [1982 c 161 § 2.]

**82.41.030 Motor fuel tax cooperative agreement authorized—Prohibition.** The department may enter into a

motor fuel tax cooperative agreement with another state or states which provides for the administration, collection, and enforcement of each state's motor fuel taxes on motor fuel used by motor carriers. The agreement shall not contain any provision which exempts any motor vehicle, owner, or operator from complying with the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to vehicle licensing, size, weight, load, or operation of motor vehicles upon the public highways of this state. [1982 c 161 § 3.]

**82.41.040 Amount of tax collected for this state.** The amount of the tax imposed and collected on behalf of this state under an agreement entered into under this chapter shall be determined as provided in chapter 82.38 RCW. [1995 c 274 § 26; 1982 c 161 § 4.]

**82.41.050 Provisions of agreement.** An agreement entered into under this chapter may provide for:

- (1) Defining the classes of motor vehicles upon which taxes are to be collected under the agreement;
- (2) Establishing methods for base state fuel tax licensing, license revocation, and tax collection from motor carriers on behalf of the states which are parties to the agreement;
- (3) Establishing procedures for the granting of credits or refunds on the purchase of excess tax-paid fuel;
- (4) Defining conditions and criteria relative to bonding requirements, including criteria for exemption from bonding;
- (5) Establishing tax reporting periods not to exceed one calendar quarter, and tax report due dates not to exceed one calendar month after the close of the reporting period;
- (6) Penalties and interest for filing of tax reports after the due dates prescribed by the agreement;
- (7) Establishing procedures for forwarding of fuel taxes, penalties, and interest collected on behalf of another state to that state;
- (8) Recordkeeping requirements for licensees; and
- (9) Any additional provisions which will facilitate the administration of the agreement. [1982 c 161 § 5.]

**82.41.060 Credits—Refunds.** Any licensee purchasing more tax-paid motor fuel in this state than the licensee uses in this state during the course of a reporting period shall be permitted a credit against future tax liability for the excess tax-paid fuel purchased. Upon request, this credit may be refunded to the licensee by the department in accordance with the agreement. [1982 c 161 § 6.]

**82.41.070 Audits.** The agreement may require the department to perform audits of licensees, or persons required to be licensed, based in this state to determine whether motor fuel taxes to be collected under the agreement have been properly reported and paid to each state party to the agreement. The agreement may authorize other states to perform audits on licensees, or persons required to be licensed, based in their states on behalf of the state of Washington and forward the audit findings to the department. Such findings may be served upon the licensee or such other person in the same manner as audits performed by the department.

The agreement shall not preclude the department from auditing the records of any person who has used motor fuels

in this state. Any licensee or person required to be licensed from whom the department has requested records shall make the records available at the location designated by the department or may request the department to audit such records at that licensee's or person's place of business. If the place of business is located outside this state, the department may require the licensee or such other person to reimburse the department for authorized per diem and travel expenses. [1982 c 161 § 7.]

**82.41.080 Investigatory power.** The department may initiate and conduct investigations as may be reasonably necessary to establish the existence of any alleged violations of or noncompliance with this chapter or any rules issued hereunder.

For the purpose of any investigation or proceeding under this chapter, the director or any officer designated by the director may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements, or other documents or records which the director deems relevant or material to the inquiry.

In case of contumacy by or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, any court of competent jurisdiction, upon application by the director, may issue to that person an order requiring him to appear before the director, or the officer designated by the director, to produce testimony or other evidence touching the matter under investigation or in question. The failure to obey an order of the court may be punishable by contempt. [1982 c 161 § 8.]

**82.41.090 Appeal procedures.** The agreement shall specify procedures by which a licensee may appeal a license revocation or audit assessment by the department. Such appeal procedures shall be in accordance with chapters 34.05 and 82.38 RCW. [1982 c 161 § 9.]

**82.41.100 Exchange of information.** The agreement may require each state to forward to other states any information available which relates to the acquisition, sale, use, or movement of motor fuels by any licensee or person required to be licensed. The department may further disclose to other states information which relates to the persons, offices, motor vehicles and other real and personal property of persons licensed or required to be licensed under the agreement. [1982 c 161 § 10.]

**82.41.110 Construction and application.** This chapter shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this chapter among states enacting it for the purpose of participating in a multistate motor fuel tax agreement. [1982 c 161 § 11.]

**82.41.120 Implementing rules required.** The department shall adopt such rules as are necessary to implement this chapter and any agreement entered into under this chapter. [1982 c 161 § 12.]

## Chapter 82.42 RCW AIRCRAFT FUEL TAX

### Sections

82.42.010	Definitions.
82.42.020	Aircraft fuel tax imposed—Exception—Rate to be computed—Misappropriation or conversion—Penalties, liability.
82.42.030	Exemptions.
82.42.040	Collection of tax—Procedure—Licensing—Surety bond or other security—Records, reports, statements—Extensions during state of emergency—Application—Investigation—Fee—Penalty for false statement.
82.42.050	Failure of distributor to file report or statement—Determination by director of amount sold, delivered or used—Basis for tax assessment—Penalty—Records public.
82.42.060	Payment of tax—Penalty for delinquency—Enforcement of collection—Provisions of RCW 82.36.040, 82.36.070, 82.36.110 through 82.36.140 made applicable.
82.42.070	Imports, exports, sales to United States government exempted—Procedure—Sales to state or political subdivisions not exempt—Refund procedures.
82.42.080	Violations—Penalty.
82.42.090	Tax proceeds—Disposition—Aeronautics account.
82.42.100	Enforcement.
82.42.110	Tax upon persons other than distributors—Imposition—Collection—Distribution—Enforcement.
82.42.120	Mitigation of assessments.
82.42.125	Bankruptcy proceedings—Notice.
82.42.900	Severability—1967 ex.s. c 10.

**82.42.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter:

- (1) "Department" means the department of licensing;
- (2) "Director" means the director of licensing;
- (3) "Person" means every natural person, firm, partnership, association, or private or public corporation;
- (4) "Aircraft" means every contrivance now known or hereafter invented, used or designed for navigation of or flight in the air, operated or propelled by the use of aircraft fuel;
- (5) "Aircraft fuel" means gasoline and any other inflammable liquid, by whatever name such liquid is known or sold, the chief use of which is as fuel for the propulsion of aircraft, except gas or liquid, the chief use of which as determined by the director, is for purposes other than the propulsion of aircraft;
- (6) "Dealer" means any person engaged in the retail sale of aircraft fuel;
- (7) "Distributor" means any person engaged in the sale of aircraft fuel to any dealer and shall include any dealer from whom the tax hereinafter imposed has not been collected;
- (8) "Weighted average retail sales price of aircraft fuel" means the average retail sales price, excluding any federal excise tax, of the several grades of aircraft fuel sold by dealers throughout the state (less any state excise taxes on the sale, distribution, or use thereof) upon which fuel the tax levied by this chapter has been collected, weighted to reflect the quantities sold at each price;
- (9) "Fiscal half-year" means a six-month period ending June 30th or December 31st;
- (10) "Local service commuter" means an air taxi operator who operates at least five round-trips per week between two or more points; publishes flight schedules which specify the times, days of the week, and points between which it operates; and whose aircraft has a maximum capacity of sixty passengers or eighteen thousand pounds of useful load. [1983 c 49 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 25 § 1; 1979 c 158 § 229; 1969 ex.s. c 254 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.42.020 Aircraft fuel tax imposed—Exception—Rate to be computed—Misappropriation or conversion—Penalties, liability.** There is hereby levied, and there shall be collected by every distributor of aircraft fuel, an excise tax at the rate of eleven cents on each gallon of aircraft fuel sold, delivered, or used in this state: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That such aircraft fuel excise tax shall not apply to fuel for aircraft that both operate from a private, non-state-funded airfield during at least ninety-five percent of the aircraft's normal use and are used principally for the application of pesticides, herbicides, or other agricultural chemicals and shall not apply to fuel for emergency medical air transport entities: PROVIDED FURTHER, That there shall be collected from every consumer or user of aircraft fuel either the use tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020, as amended, or the retail sales tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020, as amended, collection procedure to be as prescribed by law and/or rule or regulation of the department of revenue. The taxes imposed by this chapter shall be collected and paid to the state but once in respect to any aircraft fuel.

The tax required by this chapter, to be collected by the seller, is held in trust by the seller until paid to the department, and a seller who appropriates or converts the tax collected to his or her own use or to any use other than the payment of the tax to the extent that the money required to be collected is not available for payment on the due date as prescribed in this chapter is guilty of a felony, or gross misdemeanor in accordance with the theft and anticipatory provisions of Title 9A RCW. A person, partnership, corporation, or corporate officer who fails to collect the tax imposed by this section, or who has collected the tax and fails to pay it to the department in the manner prescribed by this chapter, is personally liable to the state for the amount of the tax. [2005 c 341 § 3; 2003 c 375 § 5; 1996 c 104 § 13; 1982 1st ex.s. c 25 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 254 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 2.]

**Effective date—2005 c 341:** See note following RCW 47.68.230.

**Effective date—2003 c 375:** See note following RCW 47.68.240.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.42.030 Exemptions.** (1) The provision of RCW 82.42.020 imposing the payment of an excise tax on each gallon of aircraft fuel sold, delivered or used in this state shall not apply to aircraft fuel sold for export, nor to aircraft fuel used for the following purposes: (a) The operation of aircraft when such use is by any air carrier or supplemental air carrier operating under a certificate of public convenience and necessity under the provisions of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, Public Law 85-726, as amended; (b) the operation of aircraft for testing or experimental purposes; (c) the operation of aircraft when such operation is for the training of crews in Washington state for purchasers of aircraft who are certified air carriers; and (d) the operation of aircraft in the operations of a local service commuter: PROVIDED, That the director's determination as to a particular activity for which aircraft fuel is used as being an exemption under this section, or otherwise, shall be final.

(2) To claim an exemption on account of sales by a licensed distributor of aircraft fuel for export, the purchaser shall obtain from the selling distributor, and such selling dis-

tributor must furnish the purchaser, an invoice giving such details of the sale for export as the director may require, copies of which shall be furnished the department and the entity of the state or foreign jurisdiction of destination which is charged by the laws of that state or foreign jurisdiction with the control or monitoring or both, of the sales or movement of aircraft fuel in that state or foreign jurisdiction.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "air carrier" means an airline, air cargo carrier, air taxi, air commuter, or air charter operator, that provides routine air service to the general public for compensation or hire, and operates at least fifteen round-trips per week between two or more points and publishes flight schedules which specify the times, days of the week, and points between which it operates. Where it is doubtful that an operation is for "compensation or hire," the test applied is whether the air service is merely incidental to the person's other business or is, in itself, a major enterprise for profit. [2005 c 341 § 4; 1989 c 193 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 25 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 3.]

**Effective date—2005 c 341:** See note following RCW 47.68.230.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.42.040 Collection of tax—Procedure—Licensing—Surety bond or other security—Records, reports, statements—Extensions during state of emergency—Application—Investigation—Fee—Penalty for false statement.** The director shall by rule and regulation adopted as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW (Administrative Procedure Act) set up the necessary administrative procedure for collection by the department of the aircraft fuel excise tax as provided for in RCW 82.42.020, placing the responsibility of collection of said tax upon every distributor of aircraft fuel within the state; he may require the licensing of every distributor of aircraft fuel and shall require such a corporate surety bond or security of any distributor or person not otherwise bonded under provisions of chapter 82.36 RCW as is provided for distributors of motor vehicle fuel under RCW 82.36.060; he shall provide such forms and may require such reports or statements as in his determination shall be necessary for the proper administration of this chapter. The director may require such records to be kept, and for such periods of time, as deemed necessary for the administration of this chapter, which records shall be available at all times for the director or his representative who may require a statement under oath as to the contents thereof. During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the director, on his or her own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may extend the time for filing any report or the due date for tax remittances as the director deems proper.

Every application for a distributor's license must contain the following information to the extent it applies to the applicant:

(1) Proof as the department may require concerning the applicant's identity, including but not limited to his or her fingerprints or those of the officers of a corporation making the application;

(2) The applicant's form and place of organization including proof that the individual, partnership, or corporation is licensed to do business in this state;

(3) The qualification and business history of the applicant and any partner, officer, or director;

(4) The applicant's financial condition or history including a bank reference and whether the applicant or any partner, officer, or director has ever been adjudged bankrupt or has an unsatisfied judgment in a federal or state court;

(5) Whether the applicant has been adjudged guilty of a crime that directly relates to the business for which the license is sought and the time elapsed since the conviction is less than ten years, or has suffered a judgment within the preceding five years in a civil action involving fraud, misrepresentation, or conversion and in the case of a corporation or partnership, all directors, officers, or partners.

After receipt of an application for a license, the director may conduct an investigation to determine whether the facts set forth are true. The director may require a fingerprint record check of the applicant through the Washington state patrol criminal identification system and the federal bureau of investigation before issuance of a license. The results of the background investigation including criminal history information may be released to authorized department personnel as the director deems necessary. The department shall charge a license holder or license applicant a fee of fifty dollars for each background investigation conducted.

An applicant who makes a false statement of a material fact on the application may be prosecuted for false swearing as defined by RCW 9A.72.040. [2008 c 181 § 507; 1996 c 104 § 14; 1982 1st ex.s. c 25 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 254 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.42.050 Failure of distributor to file report or statement—Determination by director of amount sold, delivered or used—Basis for tax assessment—Penalty—Records public.** Should any distributor fail to file any report or statement, as shall be required by rule and regulation of the director, showing the total number of gallons of aircraft fuel sold, delivered or used by a distributor within the state during the preceding calendar month, the director shall proceed forthwith to determine from the best available sources such amount and said determination shall be presumed to be correct for that period, until proved by competent evidence to be otherwise. The director shall immediately assess the excise tax in the amount so determined, adding thereto a penalty of ten percent for failure to report. Such penalty shall be cumulative of other penalties herein provided. All statements or reports required to be filed with the director as required in this section shall be public records. [1969 ex.s. c 254 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 5.]

**82.42.060 Payment of tax—Penalty for delinquency—Enforcement of collection—Provisions of RCW 82.36.040, 82.36.070, 82.36.110 through 82.36.140 made applicable.** The amount of aircraft fuel excise tax imposed under RCW 82.42.020 for each month shall be paid to the director on or before the twenty-fifth day of the month thereafter, and if not paid prior thereto, shall become delinquent at the close of business on that day, and a penalty of ten percent of such excise tax must be added thereto for delinquency.

[Title 82 RCW—page 330]

Any aircraft fuel tax, penalties, and interest payable under the provisions of this chapter shall bear interest at the rate of one percent per month, or fraction thereof, from the first day of the calendar month after the close of the monthly period for which the amount or any portion thereof should have been paid until the date of payment. RCW 82.36.070 applies to the issuance, refusal, or revocation of a license issued under this chapter. The provisions of RCW 82.36.110 relating to a lien for taxes, interests or penalties due, shall be applicable to the collection of the aircraft fuel excise tax provided in RCW 82.42.020, and the provisions of RCW 82.36.120, 82.36.130 and 82.36.140 shall apply to any distributor of aircraft fuel with respect to the aircraft fuel excise tax imposed under RCW 82.42.020. Payment credits shall not be carried forward and applied to subsequent tax returns. [1997 c 183 § 12; 1996 c 104 § 15; 1969 ex.s. c 254 § 5; 1969 c 139 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 6.]

**82.42.070 Imports, exports, sales to United States government exempted—Procedure—Sales to state or political subdivisions not exempt—Refund procedures.**

The provisions of RCW 82.42.020 requiring the payment of an aircraft fuel excise tax on aircraft fuel shall not apply to aircraft fuel imported into the state in interstate or foreign commerce and intended to be sold while in interstate or foreign commerce, nor to aircraft fuel exported from this state, nor to aircraft fuel sold to the United States government or any agency thereof: PROVIDED, That exemptions granted under this section shall be null and void unless full conformance is made with the requisite administrative procedure set forth for procuring such exemptions under rules and regulations of the director promulgated under the provisions of this chapter. Except as provided in RCW 82.42.030, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to exempt the state or any political subdivision thereof from the payment of the aircraft excise fuel tax provided in RCW 82.42.020. When setting up rules and regulations as provided for in RCW 82.42.040, the director shall provide for such refund procedure as deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and full compliance with such provisions shall be essential before receipt of any refund thereunder. [1982 1st ex.s. c 25 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 156 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.42.080 Violations—Penalty.** Any person violating any provision of this chapter or any rule or regulation of the director promulgated hereunder, or making any false statement, or concealing any material fact in any report, statement, record or claim, or who commits any act with intent to avoid payment of the aircraft fuel excise tax imposed by this chapter, or who conspires with another person with intent to interfere with the orderly collection of such tax due and owing under this chapter, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1996 c 104 § 16; 1982 1st ex.s. c 25 § 7; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.42.090 Tax proceeds—Disposition—Aeronautics account.** All moneys collected by the director from the aircraft fuel excise tax as provided in RCW 82.42.020 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and shall be credited to the aeronautics account hereby created in the transportation fund

(2012 Ed.)

of the state treasury. Moneys collected from the consumer or user of aircraft fuel from either the use tax imposed by RCW 82.12.020 or the retail sales tax imposed by RCW 82.08.020 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and credited to the state general fund. [1995 c 170 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 37; 1985 c 57 § 86; 1982 1st ex.s. c 25 § 8; 1967 ex.s. c 10 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.42.100 Enforcement.** The director is charged with the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and rules and regulations promulgated hereunder. The director may, in his discretion, call on the state patrol or any peace officer in the state, who shall then aid in the enforcement of this chapter or any rules or regulations promulgated hereunder. [1967 ex.s. c 10 § 10.]

**82.42.110 Tax upon persons other than distributors—Imposition—Collection—Distribution—Enforcement.** Every person other than a distributor who acquires any aircraft fuel within this state upon which payment of tax is required under the provisions of this chapter, or imports such aircraft fuel into this state and sells, delivers, or in any manner uses it in this state shall, if the tax has not been paid, be subject to the provisions of RCW 82.42.040 provided for distributors and shall pay a tax at the rate computed under \*RCW 82.42.025 for each gallon thereof so sold, delivered, or used in the manner provided for distributors. The proceeds of the tax imposed by this section shall be distributed in the manner provided for the distribution of the aircraft fuel tax in RCW 82.42.090. For failure to comply with the terms of this chapter, such person shall be subject to the same penalties imposed upon distributors. The director shall pursue against such persons the same procedure and remedies for audits, adjustments, collection, and enforcement of this chapter as is provided with respect to distributors. Nothing herein shall be construed as classifying such persons as distributors. [1982 1st ex.s. c 25 § 9; 1971 ex.s. c 156 § 5.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.42.025 was repealed by 2003 c 375 § 6, effective July 1, 2003.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.42.120 Mitigation of assessments.** Except in the case of violations of filing a false or fraudulent report, if the department deems mitigation of penalties and interest to be reasonable and in the best interests of carrying out the purpose of this chapter, it may mitigate such assessments upon whatever terms the department deems proper, giving consideration to the degree and extent of the lack of records and reporting errors. The department may ascertain the facts regarding recordkeeping and payment penalties in lieu of more elaborate proceedings under this chapter. [1991 c 339 § 8.]

**82.42.125 Bankruptcy proceedings—Notice.** An aircraft fuel licensee, who files or against whom is filed a petition in bankruptcy, shall, within ten days of the filing, notify the department of the proceedings in bankruptcy, including the identity and location of the court in which the proceedings are pending. [1997 c 183 § 11.]

(2012 Ed.)

**82.42.900 Severability—1967 ex.s. c 10.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1967 ex.s. c 10 § 11.]

## Chapter 82.44 RCW

### MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX

#### Sections

82.44.010	Definitions.
82.44.015	Ride-sharing passenger motor vehicles excluded—Exemption requirements—Notice—Liability for tax.
82.44.035	Valuation of vehicles.
82.44.060	Tax requirements—Payment of tax based on registration year—Transfer of ownership.
82.44.065	Appeal of valuation.
82.44.090	Penalty for issuing a dealer's license, plates, or a registration without collecting tax.
82.44.100	Tax receipt.
82.44.120	Claims for refunds.
82.44.125	Vehicles subject to tax—Exemptions.
82.44.135	Local government must contract with department of licensing.
82.44.140	Director of licensing may act.
82.44.180	Transportation fund—Deposits and distributions.
82.44.190	Transportation infrastructure account—Deposits and distributions—Subaccounts.
82.44.195	Transportation infrastructure account—Highway infrastructure account—Finding—Intent—Purpose—1996 c 262.
82.44.900	Severability—Construction—1961 c 15.

*Boat trailer fee:* RCW 46.17.305.

*Constitutional limitations on certain taxes, highway funds:* State Constitution Art. 2 § 40.

*Highway user tax structure:* Chapter 46.85 RCW.

*Nonresident members of armed forces, exemption from motor vehicle excise tax:* RCW 46.16A.340(2).

*Reciprocal or proportional registration of vehicles:* Chapter 46.85 RCW.

*"Registration year," defined:* RCW 46.16A.010.

**82.44.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Department" means the department of licensing.

(2) "Motor vehicle" means all motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers used, or of the type designed primarily to be used, upon the public streets and highways, for the convenience or pleasure of the owner, or for the conveyance, for hire or otherwise, of persons or property, including fixed loads and facilities for human habitation; but shall not include (a) vehicles carrying exempt licenses, (b) dock and warehouse tractors and their cars or trailers, lumber carriers of the type known as spiders, and all other automotive equipment not designed primarily for use upon public streets, or highways, (c) motor vehicles or their trailers used entirely upon private property, (d) mobile homes and travel trailers as defined in RCW 82.50.010, or (e) motor vehicles owned by nonresident military personnel of the armed forces of the United States stationed in the state of Washington provided personnel were also nonresident at the time of their entry into military service.

(3) "Truck-type power or trailing unit" means any vehicle that is subject to the fees under RCW 46.17.355, except vehicles with an unladen weight of six thousand pounds or less, RCW 46.16A.425, 46.17.335, or 46.17.350(1)(c). [2010 c 161 § 1166; 1990 c 42 § 301; 1979 c 107 § 10; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 54; 1967 c 121 § 4; 1963 c 199 § 1; 1961 c 15 §

82.44.010. Prior: 1957 c 269 § 18; 1955 c 264 § 1; 1945 c 152 § 1; 1943 c 144 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 6312-115.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.44.015 Ride-sharing passenger motor vehicles excluded—Exemption requirements—Notice—Liability for tax.** (1) Passenger motor vehicles used primarily for commuter ride sharing and ride sharing for persons with special transportation needs, as defined in RCW 46.74.010, are not subject to the motor vehicle excise tax authorized under this chapter.

(2) To qualify for the motor vehicle excise tax exemption, passenger motor vehicles must:

(a) Have a seating capacity of five or six passengers, including the driver;

(b) Be used for commuter ride-sharing;

(c) Be operated either within:

(i) The state's eight largest counties that are required to develop commute trip reduction plans as directed by chapter 70.94 RCW; or

(ii) In other counties, or cities and towns within those counties, that elect to adopt and implement a commute trip reduction plan; and

(d) Meet at least one of the following conditions:

(i) The vehicle must be operated by a public transportation agency for the general public;

(ii) The vehicle must be used by a major employer, as defined in RCW 70.94.524 as an element of its commute trip reduction program for their employees; or

(iii) The vehicle must be owned and operated by individual employees and must be registered either with the employer as part of its commute trip reduction program or with a public transportation agency serving the area where the employees live or work. Individual employee owned and operated motor vehicles will require certification that the vehicle is registered with a major employer or a public transportation agency. Major employers who own and operate motor vehicles for their employees must certify that the commuter ride-sharing arrangement conforms to a carpool/van-pool element contained within their commute trip reduction program.

(3) The registered owner of a passenger motor vehicle described in subsection (2) of this section:

(a) Shall notify the department upon the termination of the primary use of the vehicle in commuter ride sharing or ride sharing for persons with special transportation needs; and

(b) Is liable for the motor vehicle excise tax imposed under this chapter, prorated on the remaining months for which the vehicle is registered. [2010 c 161 § 909; 1996 c 244 § 7; 1993 c 488 § 3; 1982 c 142 § 1; 1980 c 166 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.44.010.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Finding—Annual recertification rule—Report—1993 c 488:** See notes following RCW 82.08.0287.

[Title 82 RCW—page 332]

*Ride-sharing vehicles—Special plates: RCW 46.18.285.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.44.035 Valuation of vehicles.** (1) For the purpose of determining any locally imposed motor vehicle excise tax, the value of a truck or trailer shall be the latest purchase price of the vehicle, excluding applicable federal excise taxes, state and local sales or use taxes, transportation or shipping costs, or preparatory or delivery costs, multiplied by the following percentage based on year of service of the vehicle since last sale. The latest purchase year shall be considered the first year of service.

YEAR OF SERVICE	PERCENTAGE
1	100
2	81
3	67
4	55
5	45
6	37
7	30
8	25
9	20
10	16
11	13
12	11
13	9
14	7
15	3
16 or older	0

(2) The reissuance of a certificate of title and registration certificate for a truck or trailer because of the installation of body or special equipment shall be treated as a sale, and the value of the truck or trailer at that time, as determined by the department from such information as may be available, shall be considered the latest purchase price.

(3) For the purpose of determining any locally imposed motor vehicle excise tax, the value of a vehicle other than a truck or trailer shall be eighty-five percent of the manufacturer's base suggested retail price of the vehicle when first offered for sale as a new vehicle, excluding any optional equipment, applicable federal excise taxes, state and local sales or use taxes, transportation or shipping costs, or preparatory or delivery costs, multiplied by the applicable percentage listed in this subsection (3) based on year of service of the vehicle.

If the manufacturer's base suggested retail price is unavailable or otherwise unascertainable at the time of initial registration in this state, the department shall determine a value equivalent to a manufacturer's base suggested retail price as follows:

(a) The department shall determine a value using any information that may be available, including any guidebook, report, or compendium of recognized standing in the automotive industry or the selling price and year of sale of the vehicle. The department may use an appraisal by the county

(2012 Ed.)

assessor. In valuing a vehicle for which the current value or selling price is not indicative of the value of similar vehicles of the same year and model, the department shall establish a value that more closely represents the average value of similar vehicles of the same year and model. The value determined in this subsection (3)(a) shall be divided by the applicable percentage listed in (b) of this subsection (3) to establish a value equivalent to a manufacturer's base suggested retail price and this value shall be multiplied by eighty-five percent.

(b) The year the vehicle is offered for sale as a new vehicle shall be considered the first year of service.

YEAR OF SERVICE	PERCENTAGE
1	100
2	81
3	72
4	63
5	55
6	47
7	41
8	36
9	32
10	27
11	26
12	24
13	23
14	21
15	16
16 or older	10

(4) For purposes of this chapter, value shall exclude value attributable to modifications of a vehicle and equipment that are designed to facilitate the use or operation of the vehicle by a person with a disability. [2010 c 161 § 910; 2006 c 318 § 1.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**82.44.060 Tax requirements—Payment of tax based on registration year—Transfer of ownership.** (1) Any locally imposed excise tax:

- (a) Is due at the time of registration of a vehicle;
- (b) Must be paid in full before any registration certificate or license tab may be issued;
- (c) Is in addition to any other vehicle license fees required by law;
- (d) Must be collected by the department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director of licensing before issuing the registration certificate;
- (e) Must be collected for each registration year; and
- (f) Must be levied for one full registration year beginning on the date of the calendar year designated by the department and ending on the same date of the next succeeding calendar year. For vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW, proportional registration, and for vehicle dealer plates issued under chapter 46.70 RCW, the registration year is the period

provided in those chapters. However, the tax shall in no case be less than two dollars except for proportionally registered vehicles.

(2) A vehicle is deemed registered for the first time in this state when the vehicle was not previously registered by this state for the registration year immediately preceding the registration year in which the application for registration is made or when the vehicle has been registered in another jurisdiction subsequent to any prior registration in this state.

(3) An additional tax may not be imposed under this chapter on any vehicle when the certificate of title is being transferred if the tax has already been paid for the registration year or fraction of a registration year in which transfer of ownership occurs. [2010 c 161 § 911; 2006 c 318 § 3; 1990 c 42 § 304; 1981 c 222 § 12; 1979 c 158 § 233; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 54 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 118 § 14; 1963 c 199 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.44.060. Prior: 1957 c 269 § 15; 1955 c 139 § 25; 1943 c 144 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6312-120; prior: 1937 c 228 § 5.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.44.010.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.44.065 Appeal of valuation.** If the department determines a value for a vehicle equivalent to a manufacturer's base suggested retail price or the value of a truck or trailer under RCW 82.44.035, any person who pays a locally imposed tax for that vehicle may appeal the valuation to the department under chapter 34.05 RCW. If the taxpayer is successful on appeal, the department shall refund the excess tax in the manner provided in RCW 82.44.120. [2010 c 161 § 912; 2006 c 318 § 5; 1990 c 42 § 305.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.44.010.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**82.44.090 Penalty for issuing a dealer's license, plates, or a registration without collecting tax.** It is unlawful for the county auditor or any other person to issue a dealer's license or dealer's license plates or a registration or identification plates with respect to any motor vehicle without collecting, with the required vehicle license fee, the amount of any locally imposed motor vehicle excise tax due. Any violation of this section shall constitute a gross misdemeanor. [2010 c 161 § 913; 2006 c 318 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.44.090. Prior: 1943 c 144 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6312-122; prior: 1937 c 228 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.44.010.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**82.44.100 Tax receipt.** The department, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director of licensing shall give to each person paying a locally imposed

motor vehicle excise tax a receipt identifying the vehicle for which the tax is paid. The receipt may be incorporated in the receipt given for the vehicle license fee or dealer's license fee paid. [2010 c 161 § 914; 2006 c 318 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 82.44.100. Prior: 1943 c 144 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6312-123; prior: 1937 c 228 § 8.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.44.010.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**82.44.120 Claims for refunds.** (1) Refunds of locally imposed motor vehicle excise taxes must be handled in the same manner and under the same terms and conditions as provided in RCW 46.68.010.

(2) A claim for a refund may be made by a person who:

(a) Is not seeking a full refund; and

(b) Believes the amount of the locally imposed motor vehicle excise tax paid was incorrect or too much.

(3) When a claim for a refund is made as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the department shall:

(a) Determine the amount of the locally imposed motor vehicle excise tax that had been greater than the amount actually due, if any; and

(b) Certify to the state treasurer the amount of the partial refund due.

(4) Before a local government subject to this chapter may impose a motor vehicle excise tax, the local government shall contract with the department for reimbursement for any refunds paid to a person by the treasurer. [2010 c 161 § 915; 2006 c 318 § 8; 2003 c 53 § 403; 1993 c 307 § 3; 1990 c 42 § 307; 1989 c 68 § 2; 1983 c 26 § 3; 1979 c 120 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 95; 1974 ex.s. c 54 § 4; 1967 c 121 § 2; 1963 c 199 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.44.120. Prior: 1949 c 196 § 18; 1945 c 152 § 3; 1943 c 144 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 6312-125.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.44.010.

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.44.125 Vehicles subject to tax—Exemptions.** (1) The motor vehicle excise tax authorized under this chapter applies to the following vehicles:

(a) Commercial trailers, as defined in RCW 46.04.136;

(b) Farm trucks registered under RCW 46.16A.425;

(c) Fixed load vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.04.186;

(d) Motor homes, as defined in RCW 46.04.305;

(e) Motor trucks, as defined in RCW 46.04.310, with a scale weight greater than six thousand pounds;

(f) Motor vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.04.320; and

(g) Trailers, as defined in RCW 46.04.620.

(2) The motor vehicle excise tax authorized under this chapter does not apply to the following vehicles:

(a) Campers, as defined in RCW 46.04.085;

(b) Dock and warehouse tractors and their cars or trailers;

(c) Equipment not designed primarily for use on public highways;

(d) Exempt registered vehicles;

(e) Lumber carriers of the type known as spiders;

(f) Mobile homes, as defined in RCW 46.04.302;

(g) Passenger motor vehicles, as described in RCW 82.44.015;

(h) Travel trailers, as defined in RCW 46.04.623;

(i) Vehicles not used on the public highways; and

(j) Vehicles owned by nonresident military personnel of the armed forces of the United States stationed in the state of Washington if the nonresident military member was a nonresident of this state when enlisted into military service. [2010 c 161 § 908.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**82.44.135 Local government must contract with department of licensing.** Before a local government subject to this chapter may impose a motor vehicle excise tax, the local government must contract with the department for the collection of the tax. The department may charge a reasonable amount, not to exceed one percent of tax collections, for the administration and collection of the tax. [2006 c 318 § 9.]

**82.44.140 Director of licensing may act.** Any duties required by this chapter to be performed by the county auditor may be performed by any other person designated by the director of licensing and authorized by him to receive motor vehicle license fees and issue receipt therefor. [1979 c 158 § 237; 1967 c 121 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 82.44.140. Prior: 1943 c 144 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6312-127.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.44.010.

**82.44.180 Transportation fund—Deposits and distributions.** (1) The transportation fund is created in the state treasury. Revenues under RCW \*82.44.110 and 82.50.510 shall be deposited into the fund as provided in those sections.

Moneys in the fund may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the fund may be used only for transportation purposes and activities and operations of the Washington state patrol not directly related to the policing of public highways and that are not authorized under Article II, section 40 of the state Constitution.

(2) There is hereby created the public transportation systems account within the transportation fund. Moneys deposited into the account under \*RCW 82.44.150(2) (b) and (c) shall be appropriated to the transportation improvement board and allocated by the transportation improvement board to public transportation projects submitted by the public transportation systems as defined by chapters 36.56, 36.57, and 36.57A RCW and RCW 35.84.060 and 81.112.030, and the Washington state ferry system, solely for:

(a) Planning;

(b) Development of capital projects;

(c) Development of high capacity transportation systems as defined in RCW 81.104.015;

(d) Development of high occupancy vehicle lanes and related facilities as defined in RCW 81.100.020;

(e) Other public transportation system-related roadway projects on state highways, county roads, or city streets;

(f) Public transportation system contributions required to fund projects under federal programs and those approved by the transportation improvement board from other fund sources; and

(g) Reimbursement to the general fund of tax credits authorized under \*\*RCW 82.04.4453 and 82.16.048, subject to appropriation. [1999 c 402 § 5; 1999 c 94 § 31; 1998 c 321 § 41 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1995 c 269 § 2601. Prior: 1993 sp.s. c 23 § 64; 1993 c 393 § 1; 1991 c 199 § 224; 1990 c 42 § 312.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) See note following RCW 82.44.010.

\*(2) RCW 82.44.110 and 82.44.150 were repealed by 2003 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).

\*\*\*(3) RCW 82.04.4453 and 82.16.048 were repealed by 2002 c 203 § 9, effective January 1, 2003. RCW 82.04.4453 and 82.16.048 were subsequently repealed by 2003 c 364 § 10, effective July 1, 2003.

(4) This section was amended by 1999 c 94 § 31 and by 1999 c 402 § 5, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Legislative finding—Effective dates—1999 c 94:** See notes following RCW 43.84.092.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.44.190 Transportation infrastructure account—Deposits and distributions—Subaccounts.** The transportation infrastructure account is hereby created in the transportation fund. Public and private entities may deposit moneys in the transportation infrastructure account from federal, state, local, or private sources. Proceeds from bonds or other financial instruments sold to finance surface transportation projects from the transportation infrastructure account shall be deposited into the account. Principal and interest payments made on loans from the transportation infrastructure account shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account shall be available for purposes specified in RCW 82.44.195. Expenditures from the transportation infrastructure account shall be subject to appropriation by the legislature. To the extent required by federal law or regulations promulgated by the United States secretary of transportation, the state treasurer is authorized to create separate subaccounts within the transportation infrastructure account. [1996 c 262 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.44.195 Transportation infrastructure account—Highway infrastructure account—Finding—Intent—Purpose—1996 c 262.** The legislature finds that new financing mechanisms are necessary to provide greater flexibility and additional funds for needed transportation infrastructure projects in the state. The creation of a financing mechanism, like the one contained in section 350 of the national highway system designation act of 1995, P.L. 104-59, relating to a state infrastructure bank program, will enable the state and local jurisdictions to use federal, state, local, or private funds to construct surface transportation projects for various modes of transportation. It is the intent of the legislature that

accounts be created in the state treasury and dedicated funding sources be established to generate revenue to support transportation projects financed with the proceeds of bonds or other financial instruments issued against this dedicated revenue and other revenues which may be available to these accounts. P.L. 104-59 allows the deposit of certain federal highway and transit funds into these accounts to leverage other forms of investment in transportation infrastructure by expanding the eligible uses of the federal funds. Other public and private entities may also deposit funds into these accounts to leverage transportation investments. The purpose of chapter 262, Laws of 1996 is to provide, from these accounts, authorization for loans, grants, or other means of assistance, in amounts equal to all or part of the cost, to public or private entities building surface transportation facilities in this state. It is the further intent of the legislature that projects representing critical mobility or economic development needs and involving various transportation modes and jurisdictions receive top priority in the use of these funds. Funds from the accounts created in chapter 262, Laws of 1996 may be used to support the issuance of public or private debt, to provide credit enhancement for such debt, for direct loans to public or private entities, or for other purposes necessary to facilitate investment in surface transportation facilities in this state. [1996 c 262 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.44.900 Severability—Construction—1961 c 15.** If any provision of this chapter relating either to the apportionment or allocation of the revenue derived from the excise tax thereby imposed, or to any appropriation made by this chapter, be adjudged unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not be held to render unconstitutional or ineffectual the remaining portions of said chapter or any part thereof: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That except as otherwise hereinabove provided by this section, if any section or part of a section of this chapter be adjudged unconstitutional, this entire chapter shall thereupon be and become inoperative and of no force or effect whatsoever. [1961 c 15 § 82.44.900. Prior: 1943 c 144 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 6312-131.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.44.010.

## Chapter 82.45 RCW EXCISE TAX ON REAL ESTATE SALES

### Sections

82.45.010	"Sale" defined.
82.45.020	"Seller" defined.
82.45.030	"Selling price," "total consideration paid or contracted to be paid," defined.
82.45.032	Additional definitions.
82.45.033	"Controlling interest" defined.
82.45.035	Determining selling price of leases with option to purchase—Mining property—Payment, security when selling price not separately stated.
82.45.060	Tax on sale of property.
82.45.070	Tax is lien on property—Enforcement.
82.45.080	Tax is seller's obligation—Choice of remedies.
82.45.090	Payment of tax and fee—Evidence of payment—Recording—Sale of beneficial interest.
82.45.100	Tax payable at time of sale—Interest, penalties on unpaid or delinquent taxes—Notice—Prohibition on certain assessments or refunds—Deposit of penalties.
82.45.105	Single-family residential property, tax credit when subsequent transfer of within nine months for like property.

- 82.45.150 Applicability of general administrative provisions—Departmental rules, scope—Real estate excise tax affidavit form—Departmental audit.
- 82.45.180 Disposition of proceeds.
- 82.45.190 Exemptions—State route No. 16 corridor transportation systems and facilities.
- 82.45.195 Exemptions—Standing timber sales.
- 82.45.197 Exemptions—Inheritance—Documents required.
- 82.45.210 State assistance for county electronic processing and reporting of taxes—Grant program.
- 82.45.220 Failure to report transfer of controlling interest.
- 82.45.900 Chapter 82.46 RCW ordinances in effect on July 1, 1993—Application under chapter 82.45 RCW.

**Purpose—1980 c 154:** "It is the intent of this 1980 act to simplify the bookkeeping procedures for the state treasurer's office and for the school districts but not to impact the amount of revenues covered by this 1980 act to the various counties and other taxing districts." [1980 c 154 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.010 "Sale" defined.** (1) As used in this chapter, the term "sale" has its ordinary meaning and includes any conveyance, grant, assignment, quitclaim, or transfer of the ownership of or title to real property, including standing timber, or any estate or interest therein for a valuable consideration, and any contract for such conveyance, grant, assignment, quitclaim, or transfer, and any lease with an option to purchase real property, including standing timber, or any estate or interest therein or other contract under which possession of the property is given to the purchaser, or any other person at the purchaser's direction, and title to the property is retained by the vendor as security for the payment of the purchase price. The term also includes the grant, assignment, quitclaim, sale, or transfer of improvements constructed upon leased land.

(2)(a) The term "sale" also includes the transfer or acquisition within any twelve-month period of a controlling interest in any entity with an interest in real property located in this state for a valuable consideration.

(b) For the sole purpose of determining whether, pursuant to the exercise of an option, a controlling interest was transferred or acquired within a twelve-month period, the date that the option agreement was executed is the date on which the transfer or acquisition of the controlling interest is deemed to occur. For all other purposes under this chapter, the date upon which the option is exercised is the date of the transfer or acquisition of the controlling interest.

(c) For purposes of this subsection, all acquisitions of persons acting in concert must be aggregated for purposes of determining whether a transfer or acquisition of a controlling interest has taken place. The department must adopt standards by rule to determine when persons are acting in concert. In adopting a rule for this purpose, the department must consider the following:

(i) Persons must be treated as acting in concert when they have a relationship with each other such that one person influences or controls the actions of another through common ownership; and

(ii) When persons are not commonly owned or controlled, they must be treated as acting in concert only when the unity with which the purchasers have negotiated and will consummate the transfer of ownership interests supports a finding that they are acting as a single entity. If the acquisitions are completely independent, with each purchaser buying without regard to the identity of the other purchasers, then the acquisitions are considered separate acquisitions.

(3) The term "sale" does not include:

(a) A transfer by gift, devise, or inheritance.

(b) A transfer of any leasehold interest other than of the type mentioned above.

(c) A cancellation or forfeiture of a vendee's interest in a contract for the sale of real property, whether or not such contract contains a forfeiture clause, or deed in lieu of foreclosure of a mortgage.

(d) The partition of property by tenants in common by agreement or as the result of a court decree.

(e) The assignment of property or interest in property from one spouse or one domestic partner to the other spouse or other domestic partner in accordance with the terms of a decree of dissolution of marriage or state registered domestic partnership or in fulfillment of a property settlement agreement.

(f) The assignment or other transfer of a vendor's interest in a contract for the sale of real property, even though accompanied by a conveyance of the vendor's interest in the real property involved.

(g) Transfers by appropriation or decree in condemnation proceedings brought by the United States, the state or any political subdivision thereof, or a municipal corporation.

(h) A mortgage or other transfer of an interest in real property merely to secure a debt, or the assignment thereof.

(i) Any transfer or conveyance made pursuant to a deed of trust or an order of sale by the court in any mortgage, deed of trust, or lien foreclosure proceeding or upon execution of a judgment, or deed in lieu of foreclosure to satisfy a mortgage or deed of trust.

(j) A conveyance to the federal housing administration or veterans administration by an authorized mortgagee made pursuant to a contract of insurance or guaranty with the federal housing administration or veterans administration.

(k) A transfer in compliance with the terms of any lease or contract upon which the tax as imposed by this chapter has been paid or where the lease or contract was entered into prior to the date this tax was first imposed.

(l) The sale of any grave or lot in an established cemetery.

(m) A sale by the United States, this state or any political subdivision thereof, or a municipal corporation of this state.

(n) A sale to a regional transit authority or public corporation under RCW 81.112.320 under a sale/leaseback agreement under RCW 81.112.300.

(o) A transfer of real property, however effected, if it consists of a mere change in identity or form of ownership of an entity where there is no change in the beneficial ownership. These include transfers to a corporation or partnership which is wholly owned by the transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner or children of the transferor or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner. However, if thereafter such transferee corporation or partnership voluntarily transfers such real property, or such transferor, spouse or domestic partner, or children of the transferor or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner voluntarily transfer stock in the transferee corporation or interest in the transferee partnership capital, as the case may be, to other than (i) the transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner or children of the transferor or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner, (ii) a trust having the transferor and/or the transf-

eror's spouse or domestic partner or children of the transferor or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner as the only beneficiaries at the time of the transfer to the trust, or (iii) a corporation or partnership wholly owned by the original transferor and/or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner or children of the transferor or the transferor's spouse or domestic partner, within three years of the original transfer to which this exemption applies, and the tax on the subsequent transfer has not been paid within sixty days of becoming due, excise taxes become due and payable on the original transfer as otherwise provided by law.

(p)(i) A transfer that for federal income tax purposes does not involve the recognition of gain or loss for entity formation, liquidation or dissolution, and reorganization, including but not limited to nonrecognition of gain or loss because of application of 26 U.S.C. Sec. 332, 337, 351, 368(a)(1), 721, or 731 of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended.

(ii) However, the transfer described in (p)(i) of this subsection cannot be preceded or followed within a twelve-month period by another transfer or series of transfers, that, when combined with the otherwise exempt transfer or transfers described in (p)(i) of this subsection, results in the transfer of a controlling interest in the entity for valuable consideration, and in which one or more persons previously holding a controlling interest in the entity receive cash or property in exchange for any interest the person or persons acting in concert hold in the entity. This subsection (3)(p)(ii) does not apply to that part of the transfer involving property received that is the real property interest that the person or persons originally contributed to the entity or when one or more persons who did not contribute real property or belong to the entity at a time when real property was purchased receive cash or personal property in exchange for that person or persons' interest in the entity. The real estate excise tax under this subsection (3)(p)(ii) is imposed upon the person or persons who previously held a controlling interest in the entity.

(q) A qualified sale of a manufactured/mobile home community, as defined in RCW 59.20.030, that takes place on or after June 12, 2008, but before December 31, 2018. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 207. Prior: 2008 c 116 § 3; 2008 c 6 § 701; 2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 26; 1999 c 209 § 2; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 502; 1981 c 93 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 65 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.010; prior: 1955 c 132 § 1; 1953 c 94 § 1; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 19 § 1; 1951 1st ex.s. c 11 § 7. Formerly RCW 28A.45.010, 28.45.010.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Findings—Intent—Severability—2008 c 116:** See notes following RCW 59.20.300.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**Intent—1999 c 209:** "In chapter 25, Laws of 1993 sp. sess., the legislature found that transfer of ownership of entities can be equivalent to the sale of real property held by the entity. The legislature further found that all transfers of possession or use of real property should be subject to the same excise tax burdens.

The legislature intended to apply the real estate excise tax of chapter 82.45 RCW to transfers of entity ownership when the transfer of entity ownership is comparable to the sale of real property. The legislature intends to

(2012 Ed.)

equate the excise tax burdens on all sales of real property and transfers of entity ownership essentially equivalent to a sale of real property under chapter 82.45 RCW." [1999 c 209 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 sp.s. c 25:** "(1) The legislature finds that transfers of ownership of entities may be essentially equivalent to the sale of real property held by the entity. The legislature further finds that all transfers of possession or use of real property should be subject to the same excise tax burdens.

(2) The legislature intends to apply the real estate excise tax of chapter 82.45 RCW to transfers of entity ownership when the transfer of entity ownership is comparable to the sale of real property. The legislature intends to equate the excise tax burdens on all sales of real property and transfers of entity ownership essentially equivalent to a sale of real property under chapter 82.45 RCW." [1993 sp.s. c 25 § 501.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.020 "Seller" defined.** As used in this chapter the term "seller," unless otherwise indicated by the context, shall mean any individual, receiver, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm, copartnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust, municipal corporation, quasi municipal corporation, corporation, association, society, or any group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative, fraternal, nonprofit or otherwise; but it shall not include the United States or the state of Washington. [1980 c 154 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.020. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 11 § 6. Formerly RCW 28A.45.020, 28.45.020.]

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter digest.

**82.45.030 "Selling price," "total consideration paid or contracted to be paid," defined.** (1) As used in this chapter, the term "selling price" means the true and fair value of the property conveyed. If property has been conveyed in an arm's length transaction between unrelated persons for a valuable consideration, a rebuttable presumption exists that the selling price is equal to the total consideration paid or contracted to be paid to the transferor, or to another for the transferor's benefit.

(2) If the sale is a transfer of a controlling interest in an entity with an interest in real property located in this state, the selling price shall be the true and fair value of the real property owned by the entity and located in this state. If the true and fair value of the real property located in this state cannot reasonably be determined, the selling price shall be determined according to subsection (4) of this section.

(3) As used in this section, "total consideration paid or contracted to be paid" includes money or anything of value, paid or delivered or contracted to be paid or delivered in return for the sale, and shall include the amount of any lien, mortgage, contract indebtedness, or other incumbrance, either given to secure the purchase price, or any part thereof, or remaining unpaid on such property at the time of sale.

Total consideration shall not include the amount of any outstanding lien or incumbrance in favor of the United States, the state, or a municipal corporation for taxes, special benefits, or improvements.

When a transfer or conveyance is made by deed in lieu of foreclosure to satisfy a deed of trust, total consideration shall not include the amount of any relocation assistance provided to the transferor.

(4) If the total consideration for the sale cannot be ascertained or the true and fair value of the property to be valued at the time of the sale cannot reasonably be determined, the market value assessment for the property maintained on the county property tax rolls at the time of the sale shall be used as the selling price. [2011 c 58 § 15; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 503; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.030. Prior: 1951 2nd ex.s. c 19 § 2; 1951 1st ex.s. c 11 § 8. Formerly RCW 28A.45.030, 28.45.030.]

**Findings—Intent—Short title—2011 c 58:** See notes following RCW 61.24.005.

**Findings—Intent—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.45.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.032 Additional definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Real estate" or "real property" means any interest, estate, or beneficial interest in land or anything affixed to land, including the ownership interest or beneficial interest in any entity which itself owns land or anything affixed to land. The term includes used mobile homes, used park model trailers, used floating homes, and improvements constructed upon leased land.

(2) "Used mobile home" means a mobile home which has been previously sold at retail and has been subjected to tax under chapter 82.08 RCW, or which has been previously used and has been subjected to tax under chapter 82.12 RCW, and which has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit at the time of sale by virtue of its being fixed in location upon land owned or leased by the owner of the mobile home and placed on a foundation (posts or blocks) with fixed pipe connections with sewer, water, and other utilities.

(3) "Mobile home" means a mobile home as defined by RCW 46.04.302, as now or hereafter amended.

(4) "Park model trailer" means a park model trailer as defined in RCW 46.04.622.

(5) "Used floating home" means a floating home in respect to which tax has been paid under chapter 82.08 or 82.12 RCW.

(6) "Used park model trailer" means a park model trailer that has been previously sold at retail and has been subjected to tax under chapter 82.08 RCW, or that has been previously used and has been subjected to tax under chapter 82.12 RCW, and that has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by virtue of its being permanently sited in location and placed on a foundation of either posts or blocks with connections with sewer, water, or other utilities for the operation of installed fixtures and appliances.

(7) "Floating home" means a building on a float used in whole or in part for human habitation as a single-family dwelling, which is not designed for self propulsion by mechanical means or for propulsion by means of wind, and which is on the property tax rolls of the county in which it is located. [2001 c 282 § 2; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 504; 1986 c 211 § 1; 1984 c 192 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 266 § 1. Formerly RCW 28A.45.032.]

**Intent—Effective date—2001 c 282:** See notes following RCW 82.08.032.

[Title 82 RCW—page 338]

**Findings—Intent—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.45.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.033 "Controlling interest" defined.** (1) As used in this chapter, the term "controlling interest" has the following meaning:

(a) In the case of a corporation, either fifty percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the corporation entitled to vote, or fifty percent of the capital, profits, or beneficial interest in the voting stock of the corporation; and

(b) In the case of a partnership, association, trust, or other entity, fifty percent or more of the capital, profits, or beneficial interest in such partnership, association, trust, or other entity.

(2) The department may, at the department's option, enforce the obligation of the seller under this chapter as provided in this subsection (2):

(a) In the transfer or acquisition of a controlling interest as defined in subsection (1)(a) of this section, either against the corporation in which a controlling interest is transferred or acquired, against the person or persons who acquired the controlling interest in the corporation or, when the corporation is not a publicly traded company, against the person or persons who transferred the controlling interest in the corporation; and

(b) In the transfer or acquisition of a controlling interest as defined in subsection (1)(b) of this section, either against the entity in which a controlling interest is transferred or acquired or against the person or persons who transferred or acquired the controlling interest in the entity. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 208; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 505.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Findings—Intent—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.45.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.035 Determining selling price of leases with option to purchase—Mining property—Payment, security when selling price not separately stated.** The state department of revenue shall provide by rule for the determination of the selling price in the case of leases with option to purchase, and shall further provide that the tax shall not be payable, where inequity will otherwise result, until and unless the option is exercised and accepted. A conditional sale of mining property in which the buyer has the right to terminate the contract at any time, and a lease and option to buy mining property in which the lessee-buyer has the right to terminate the lease and option at any time, shall be taxable at the time of execution only on the consideration received by the seller or lessor for execution of such contract, but the rule shall further provide that the tax due on any additional consideration paid by the buyer and received by the seller shall be paid to the county treasurer (1) at the time of termination, or (2) at the time that all of the consideration due to the seller has been paid and the transaction is completed except for the delivery of the deed to the buyer, or (3) at the time when the

(2012 Ed.)

buyer unequivocally exercises an option to purchase the property, whichever of the three events occurs first.

The term "mining property" means property containing or believed to contain metallic minerals and sold or leased under terms which require the purchaser or lessor to conduct exploration or mining work thereon and for no other use. The term "metallic minerals" does not include clays, coal, sand and gravel, peat, gypsite, or stone, including limestone.

The state department of revenue shall further provide by rule for cases where the selling price is not separately stated or is not ascertainable at the time of sale, for the payment of the tax at a time when the selling price is ascertained, in which case suitable security may be required for payment of the tax, and may further provide for the determination of the selling price by an appraisal by the county assessor, based on the full and true market value, which appraisal shall be prima facie evidence of the selling price of the real property. [1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.035. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 1; 1959 c 208 § 1; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 19 § 3. Formerly RCW 28A.45.035, 28.45.035.]

**82.45.060 Tax on sale of property.** There is imposed an excise tax upon each sale of real property at the rate of one and twenty-eight one-hundredths percent of the selling price. An amount equal to six and one-tenth percent of the proceeds of this tax to the state treasurer must be deposited in the public works assistance account created in RCW 43.155.050: PROVIDED, That during the fiscal year 2011, six and one-tenth percent of the proceeds of this tax must be deposited in the general fund for general purpose expenditures. Except as otherwise provided in this section, an amount equal to one and six-tenths percent of the proceeds of this tax to the state treasurer must be deposited in the city-county assistance account created in RCW 43.08.290. During the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium, 1.546 percent of the proceeds of this tax to the state treasurer must be deposited in the city-county assistance account. [2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 975; 2011 1st sp.s. c 48 § 7035; 2005 c 450 § 1; 2000 c 103 § 15; 1987 c 472 § 14; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 20; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 14; 1980 c 154 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.060. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 11 § 5. Formerly RCW 28A.45.060, 28.45.060.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2011 1st sp.s. c 48 § 7035 and by 2011 1st sp.s. c 50 § 975, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective dates—2011 1st sp.s. c 50:** See note following RCW 15.76.115.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 48:** See note following RCW 39.35B.050.

**Effective date—2005 c 450:** "This act takes effect August 1, 2005." [2005 c 450 § 4.]

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter digest.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.070 Tax is lien on property—Enforcement.** The tax provided for in this chapter and any interest or penalties thereon is a specific lien upon each parcel of real property located in this state that is either sold or that is owned by an entity in which a controlling interest has been transferred or acquired. The lien attaches from the time of sale until the tax is paid, which lien may be enforced in the manner prescribed

(2012 Ed.)

for the foreclosure of mortgages. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 209; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.070. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 11 § 9. Formerly RCW 28A.45.070, 28.45.070.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.45.080 Tax is seller's obligation—Choice of remedies.** (1) The tax levied under this chapter is the obligation of the seller and the department may, at the department's option, enforce the obligation through an action of debt against the seller or the department may proceed in the manner prescribed for the foreclosure of mortgages. The department's use of one course of enforcement is not an election not to pursue the other.

(2) For purposes of this section and notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the seller is the parent corporation of a wholly owned subsidiary, when such subsidiary is the transferor to a third-party transferee and the subsidiary is dissolved before paying the tax imposed under this chapter. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 210; 1980 c 154 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.080. Prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 11 § 10. Formerly RCW 28A.45.080, 28.45.080.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter digest.

**82.45.090 Payment of tax and fee—Evidence of payment—Recording—Sale of beneficial interest.** (1) Except for a sale of a beneficial interest in real property where no instrument evidencing the sale is recorded in the official real property records of the county in which the property is located, the tax imposed by this chapter shall be paid to and collected by the treasurer of the county within which is located the real property which was sold. In collecting the tax the treasurer shall act as agent for the state. The county treasurer shall cause a verification of payment evidencing satisfaction of the lien to be affixed to the instrument of sale or conveyance prior to its recording or to the real estate excise tax affidavit in the case of used mobile home sales and used floating home sales. A receipt issued by the county treasurer for the payment of the tax imposed under this chapter shall be evidence of the satisfaction of the lien imposed hereunder and may be recorded in the manner prescribed for recording satisfactions of mortgages. No instrument of sale or conveyance evidencing a sale subject to the tax shall be accepted by the county auditor for filing or recording until the tax shall have been paid and the verification of payment affixed thereto; in case the tax is not due on the transfer, the instrument shall not be so accepted until suitable notation of such fact has been made on the instrument by the treasurer. Any time there is a sale of a used mobile home, used manufactured home, used park model, or used floating home that has not been title eliminated, property taxes must be current in order to complete the processing of the real estate excise tax affidavit or other documents transferring title. Verification that the property taxes are current must be noted on the mobile home

[Title 82 RCW—page 339]

real estate excise tax affidavit or on a form approved by the county treasurer. For the purposes of this subsection, "mobile home," "manufactured home," and "park model" have the same meaning as provided in RCW 59.20.030.

(2) For a sale of a beneficial interest in real property where a tax is due under this chapter and where no instrument is recorded in the official real property records of the county in which the property is located, the sale shall be reported to the department of revenue within five days from the date of the sale on such returns or forms and according to such procedures as the department may prescribe. Such forms or returns shall be signed by both the transferor and the transferee and shall be accompanied by payment of the tax due.

(3) Any person who intentionally makes a false statement on any return or form required to be filed with the department under this chapter is guilty of perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW. [2009 c 350 § 8; 2003 c 53 § 404; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 506; 1991 c 327 § 6; 1990 c 171 § 7; 1984 c 192 § 2; 1980 c 154 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 266 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.090. Prior: 1951 2nd ex.s. c 19 § 4; 1951 1st ex.s. c 11 § 11. Formerly RCW 28A.45.090, 28.45.090.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Findings—Intent—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.45.010.

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter digest.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.100 Tax payable at time of sale—Interest, penalties on unpaid or delinquent taxes—Notice—Prohibition on certain assessments or refunds—Deposit of penalties.** (1) Payment of the tax imposed under this chapter is due and payable immediately at the time of sale, and if not paid within one month thereafter will bear interest from the time of sale until the date of payment.

(a) Interest imposed before January 1, 1999, is computed at the rate of one percent per month.

(b) Interest imposed after December 31, 1998, is computed on a monthly basis at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed must be adjusted on the first day of January of each year for use in computing interest for that calendar year. The department must provide written notification to the county treasurers of the variable rate on or before December 1st of the year preceding the calendar year in which the rate applies.

(2) In addition to the interest described in subsection (1) of this section, if the payment of any tax is not received by the county treasurer or the department of revenue, as the case may be, within one month of the date due, there is assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax; if the tax is not received within two months of the date due, there will be assessed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received within three months of the date due, there will be assessed a total penalty of twenty percent of the amount of the tax. The payment of the penalty described in this subsection is collectible from the seller only, and RCW 82.45.070 does not apply to the penalties described in this subsection.

(3) If the tax imposed under this chapter is not received by the due date, the transferee is personally liable for the tax,

along with any interest as provided in subsection (1) of this section, unless an instrument evidencing the sale is recorded in the official real property records of the county in which the property conveyed is located.

(4) If upon examination of any affidavits or from other information obtained by the department or its agents it appears that all or a portion of the tax is unpaid, the department must assess against the taxpayer the additional amount found to be due plus interest and penalties as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The department must notify the taxpayer by mail, or electronically as provided in RCW 82.32.135, of the additional amount and the same becomes due and must be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.

(5) No assessment or refund may be made by the department more than four years after the date of sale except upon a showing of:

(a) Fraud or misrepresentation of a material fact by the taxpayer;

(b) A failure by the taxpayer to record documentation of a sale or otherwise report the sale to the county treasurer; or

(c) A failure of the transferor or transferee to report the sale under RCW 82.45.090(2).

(6) Penalties collected on taxes due under this chapter under subsection (2) of this section and RCW 82.32.090 (2) through (8) must be deposited in the housing trust fund as described in chapter 43.185 RCW. [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 211; 2007 c 111 § 112; 1997 c 157 § 4; 1996 c 149 § 5; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 507; 1988 c 286 § 5; 1982 c 176 § 1; 1981 c 167 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

**Findings—Intent—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.45.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.105 Single-family residential property, tax credit when subsequent transfer of within nine months for like property.** Where single-family residential property is being transferred as the entire or part consideration for the purchase of other single-family residential property and a licensed real estate broker or one of the parties to the transaction accepts transfer of said property, a credit for the amount of the tax paid at the time of the transfer to the broker or party shall be allowed toward the amount of the tax due upon a subsequent transfer of the property by the broker or party if said transfer is made within nine months of the transfer to the broker or party: PROVIDED, That if the tax which would be due on the subsequent transfer from the broker or party is greater than the tax paid for the prior transfer to said broker or party the difference shall be paid, but if the tax initially paid is greater than the amount of the tax which would be due on the subsequent transfer no refund shall be allowed. [1969 ex.s. c 223 § 28A.45.105. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 61. Formerly RCW 28A.45.105, 28.45.105.]

**82.45.150 Applicability of general administrative provisions—Departmental rules, scope—Real estate excise tax affidavit form—Departmental audit.** All of chapter 82.32 RCW, except RCW 82.32.030, 82.32.050, 82.32.140, 82.32.270, and \*82.32.090 (1) and (8), applies to the tax imposed by this chapter, in addition to any other provisions of law for the payment and enforcement of the tax imposed by this chapter. The department of revenue shall by rule provide for the effective administration of this chapter. The rules shall prescribe and furnish a real estate excise tax affidavit form verified by both the seller and the buyer, or agents of each, to be used by each county, or the department, as the case may be, in the collection of the tax imposed by this chapter, except that an affidavit given in connection with grant of an easement or right-of-way to a gas, electrical, or telecommunications company, as defined in RCW 80.04.010, or to a public utility district or cooperative that distributes electricity, need be verified only on behalf of the company, district, or cooperative. The department of revenue shall annually conduct audits of transactions and affidavits filed under this chapter. [1996 c 149 § 6; 1994 c 137 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 509; 1981 c 167 § 1; 1980 c 154 § 5.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 82.32.090 was amended by 2003 1st sp.s. c 13 § 13, changing subsection (8) to subsection (9). RCW 82.32.090 was subsequently amended by 2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 203, changing subsection (9) to subsection (10).

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

**Findings—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.45.010.

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter digest.

*Audits, assessments, and refunds:* See note following chapter digest.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.180 Disposition of proceeds.** (1)(a) For taxes collected by the county under this chapter, the county treasurer shall collect a five dollar fee on all transactions required by this chapter where the transaction does not require the payment of tax. A total of five dollars shall be collected in the form of a tax and fee, where the calculated tax payment is less than five dollars. Through June 30, 2006, the county treasurer shall place one percent of the taxes collected by the county under this chapter and the treasurer's fee in the county current expense fund to defray costs of collection. After June 30, 2006, the county treasurer shall place one and three-tenths percent of the taxes collected by the county under this chapter and the treasurer's fee in the county current expense fund to defray costs of collection. For taxes collected by the county under this chapter before July 1, 2006, the county treasurer shall pay over to the state treasurer and account to the department of revenue for the proceeds at the same time the county treasurer remits funds to the state under RCW 84.56.280. For taxes collected by the county under this chapter after June 30, 2006, on a monthly basis the county treasurer shall pay over to the state treasurer the month's transmittal. The month's transmittal must be received by the state treasurer by 12:00 p.m. on the last working day of each month. The county treasurer shall account to the department for the month's transmittal by the twentieth day of the month following the month in which the month's transmittal was paid over to the state treasurer. The state treasurer shall deposit the proceeds in the general fund.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, the definitions in this subsection apply.

(i) "Close of business" means the time when the county treasurer makes his or her daily deposit of proceeds.

(ii) "Month's transmittal" means all proceeds deposited by the county through the close of business of the day that is two working days before the last working day of the month. This definition of "month's transmittal" shall not be construed as requiring any change in a county's practices regarding the timing of its daily deposits of proceeds.

(iii) "Proceeds" means moneys collected and received by the county from the taxes imposed by this chapter, less the county's share of the proceeds used to defray the county's costs of collection allowable in (a) of this subsection.

(iv) "Working day" means a calendar day, except Saturdays, Sundays, and all legal holidays as provided in RCW 1.16.050.

(2) For taxes collected by the department of revenue under this chapter, the department shall remit the tax to the state treasurer who shall deposit the proceeds of any state tax in the general fund. The state treasurer shall deposit the proceeds of any local taxes imposed under chapter 82.46 RCW in the local real estate excise tax account hereby created in the state treasury. Moneys in the local real estate excise tax account may be spent only for distribution to counties, cities, and towns imposing a tax under chapter 82.46 RCW. Except as provided in RCW 43.08.190, all earnings of investments of balances in the local real estate excise tax account shall be credited to the local real estate excise tax account and distributed to the counties, cities, and towns monthly. Monthly the state treasurer shall make distribution from the local real estate excise tax account to the counties, cities, and towns the amount of tax collected on behalf of each taxing authority. The state treasurer shall make the distribution under this subsection without appropriation.

(3)(a) The real estate excise tax electronic technology account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. An appropriation is not required for expenditures and the account is not subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW.

(b) Through June 30, 2010, the county treasurer shall collect an additional five dollar fee on all transactions required by this chapter, regardless of whether the transaction requires the payment of tax. The county treasurer shall remit this fee to the state treasurer at the same time the county treasurer remits funds to the state under subsection (1) of this section. The state treasurer shall place money from this fee in the real estate excise tax electronic technology account. By the twentieth day of the subsequent month, the state treasurer shall distribute to each county treasurer according to the following formula: Three-quarters of the funds available shall be equally distributed among the thirty-nine counties; and the balance shall be ratably distributed among the counties in direct proportion to their population as it relates to the total state's population based on most recent statistics by the office of financial management.

(c) When received by the county treasurer, the funds shall be placed in a special real estate excise tax electronic technology fund held by the county treasurer to be used exclusively for the development, implementation, and maintenance of an electronic processing and reporting system for

real estate excise tax affidavits. Funds may be expended to make the system compatible with the automated real estate excise tax system developed by the department and compatible with the processes used in the offices of the county assessor and county auditor. Any funds held in the account that are not expended by the earlier of: July 1, 2015, or at such time that the county treasurer is utilizing an electronic processing and reporting system for real estate excise tax affidavits compatible with the department and compatible with the processes used in the offices of the county assessor and county auditor, revert to the special real estate and property tax administration assistance account in accordance with subsection (5)(c) of this section.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2010, through December 31, 2013, the county treasurer shall continue to collect the additional five dollar fee in subsection (3) of this section on all transactions required by this chapter, regardless of whether the transaction requires the payment of tax. During this period, the county treasurer shall remit this fee to the state treasurer at the same time the county treasurer remits funds to the state under subsection (1) of this section. The state treasurer shall place money from this fee in the annual property revaluation grant account created in RCW 84.41.170.

(5)(a) The real estate and property tax administration assistance account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. An appropriation is not required for expenditures and the account is not subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2014, the county treasurer must continue to collect the additional five dollar fee in subsection (3) of this section on all transactions required by this chapter, regardless of whether the transaction requires the payment of tax. The county treasurer shall deposit one-half of this fee in the special real estate and property tax administration assistance account in accordance with (c) of this subsection and remit the balance to the state treasurer at the same time the county treasurer remits funds to the state under subsection (1) of this section. The state treasurer must place money from this fee in the real estate and property tax administration assistance account. By the twentieth day of the subsequent month, the state treasurer must distribute the funds to each county treasurer according to the following formula: One-half of the funds available must be equally distributed among the thirty-nine counties; and the balance must be ratably distributed among the counties in direct proportion to their population as it relates to the total state's population based on most recent statistics by the office of financial management.

(c) When received by the county treasurer, the funds must be placed in a special real estate and property tax administration assistance account held by the county treasurer to be used for:

(i) Maintenance and operation of an annual revaluation system for property tax valuation; and

(ii) Maintenance and operation of an electronic processing and reporting system for real estate excise tax affidavits. [2010 1st sp.s. c 26 § 9; 2009 c 308 § 5; 2006 c 312 § 1. Prior: 2005 c 486 § 2; 2005 c 480 § 2; 1998 c 106 § 11; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 510; 1991 c 245 § 15; 1982 c 176 § 2; 1981 c 167 § 3; 1980 c 154 § 6.]

**Effective date—Severability—2006 c 312:** See notes following RCW 82.45.210.

**Purpose—2005 c 486:** "Over the past decade, traditional school construction funding sources, such as timber revenues, have been declining, while the demand for school facility construction and improvements have been increasing. Washington's youth deserve safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments to help meet their educational needs. To increase state assistance for local school construction projects, the legislature expects to rely more on state bonding authority. The purpose of this act is to expand the constitutional definition of general state revenues by removing the dedication of a portion of the real estate excise tax for common schools. Nothing in this act is intended to affect the state's current efforts to support common schools in the state's omnibus appropriations act." [2005 c 486 § 1.]

**Intent—Findings—Effective date—2005 c 480:** See notes following RCW 82.45.210.

**Findings—Intent—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.45.010.

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter digest.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.45.190 Exemptions—State route No. 16 corridor transportation systems and facilities.** Sales of the state route number 16 corridor transportation systems and facilities constructed under chapter 47.46 RCW are exempt from tax under this chapter. [1998 c 179 § 7.]

**Finding—1998 c 179:** See note following RCW 35.21.718.

**82.45.195 Exemptions—Standing timber sales.** A sale of standing timber is exempt from tax under this chapter if the gross income from such sale is taxable under \*RCW 82.04.260(11)(d). [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 518; 2007 c 48 § 7.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 82.04.260 was amended by 2011 c 2 § 203 (Initiative Measure No. 1107), changing subsection (11) to subsection (12).

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.04.4292.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**Effective date—2007 c 48:** See note following RCW 82.04.260.

**82.45.197 Exemptions—Inheritance—Documents required.** In order to receive an exemption from the tax in this chapter on real property transferred as a result of inheritance under RCW 82.45.010(3)(a), the following documentation must be provided:

(1) If the property is being transferred under the terms of a community property agreement, a copy of the recorded agreement and a certified copy of the death certificate;

(2) If the property is being transferred under the terms of a trust instrument, a certified copy of the death certificate and a copy of the trust instrument showing the authority of the grantor;

(3) If the property is being transferred under the terms of a probated will, a certified copy of the letters testamentary or in the case of intestate administration, a certified copy of the letters of administration showing that the grantor is the court-appointed executor, executrix, or administrator, and a certified copy of the death certificate;

(4) In the case of joint tenants with right of survivorship and remainder interests, a certified copy of the death certificate is recorded to perfect title;

(5) If the property is being transferred pursuant to a court order, a certified copy of the court order requiring the transfer, and confirming that the grantor is required to do so under the terms of the order; or

(6) If the community property interest of the decedent is being transferred to a surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner absent the documentation set forth in subsections (1) through (5) of this section, a certified copy of the death certificate and a signed affidavit from the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner affirming that he or she is the sole and rightful heir to the property. [2008 c 269 § 1.]

**82.45.210 State assistance for county electronic processing and reporting of taxes—Grant program.** (1) To the extent that funds are appropriated, the department shall administer a grant program for counties to assist in the development, implementation, and maintenance of an electronic processing and reporting system for real estate excise tax affidavits that is compatible with the automated real estate excise tax system developed by the department, and to assist in complying with the requirements of RCW 82.45.180(1).

(2) Subject to the limits in subsection (3) of this section, the amount of the grant shall be equal to the amount paid by a county to:

(a) Purchase computer hardware or software, or to repair or upgrade existing computer hardware or software, used for the electronic processing and reporting of real estate excise tax affidavits and that is compatible with the automated real estate excise tax system developed by the department; and

(b) Make changes to existing software that are necessary to comply with the requirements of RCW 82.45.180(1).

(3)(a) No county is eligible for grants under this section totaling more than one hundred thousand dollars.

(b) Grant funds shall not be awarded for expenditures made by a county with funds distributed to the county by the state treasurer under RCW 82.45.180(3)(b).

(4) No more than three million nine hundred thousand dollars in grants may be awarded under this section. [2012 c 198 § 7; 2006 c 312 § 2; 2005 c 480 § 4.]

**Effective date—2012 c 198:** See note following RCW 70.94.6532.

**Effective date—2006 c 312:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 29, 2006]." [2006 c 312 § 4.]

**Severability—2006 c 312:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2006 c 312 § 3.]

**Intent—Findings—2005 c 480:** "(1) It is the legislature's intent to provide funding for the development and implementation of an automated system for the electronic processing of the real estate excise tax. The legislature finds that due to the numerous users of the real estate excise tax information, and the many entities involved in its work flow, county systems must be compatible with the automated system developed by the state department of revenue.

(2) The legislature finds that under current law an electronic real estate excise tax affidavit that is signed with a digital signature under chapter 19.34 RCW is a legally valid document and, pursuant to RCW 5.46.010, electronic facsimiles, scanned signatures, and digital and other electronic conversions of written signatures satisfy the signature component of the affidavit requirement under this act." [2005 c 480 § 1.]

**Effective date—2005 c 480:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2005." [2005 c 480 § 6.]

**82.45.220 Failure to report transfer of controlling interest.** (1) An organization that fails to report a transfer of the controlling interest in the organization under RCW

(2012 Ed.)

43.07.390 to the secretary of state and is later determined to be subject to real estate excise taxes due to the transfer, is subject to the provisions of RCW 82.45.100 as well as the evasion penalty in RCW 82.32.090(7).

(2) Subsection (1) of this section also applies to the failure to report to the secretary of state the granting of an option to acquire an interest in the organization if the exercise of the option would result in a sale as defined in RCW 82.45.010(2). [2010 1st sp.s. c 23 § 212; 2005 c 326 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See note following RCW 82.32.655.

**Findings—Intent—2010 1st sp.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 82.04.220.

**82.45.900 Chapter 82.46 RCW ordinances in effect on July 1, 1993—Application under chapter 82.45 RCW.** See RCW 82.46.900.

### Chapter 82.46 RCW

### COUNTIES AND CITIES—EXCISE TAX ON REAL ESTATE SALES

#### Sections

82.46.010	Tax on sale of real property authorized—Proceeds dedicated to local capital projects—Additional tax authorized—Maximum rates.
82.46.021	Referendum procedure to repeal or alter tax.
82.46.030	Distribution of proceeds.
82.46.035	Additional tax—Certain counties and cities—Ballot proposition—Use limited to capital projects—Temporary rescindment for noncompliance.
82.46.040	Tax is lien on property—Enforcement.
82.46.050	Tax is seller's obligation—Choice of remedies.
82.46.060	Payment of tax—Evidence of payment—Recording.
82.46.070	Additional excise tax—Acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas.
82.46.075	Additional excise tax—Affordable housing.
82.46.080	Notice to county treasurer.
82.46.900	Chapter 82.46 RCW ordinances in effect on July 1, 1993—Application under chapter 82.45 RCW.

**82.46.010 Tax on sale of real property authorized—Proceeds dedicated to local capital projects—Additional tax authorized—Maximum rates.** (1) The legislative authority of any county or city must identify in the adopted budget the capital projects funded in whole or in part from the proceeds of the tax authorized in this section, and must indicate that such tax is intended to be in addition to other funds that may be reasonably available for such capital projects.

(2)(a) The legislative authority of any county or any city may impose an excise tax on each sale of real property in the unincorporated areas of the county for the county tax and in the corporate limits of the city for the city tax at a rate not exceeding one-quarter of one percent of the selling price. The revenues from this tax must be used by any city or county with a population of five thousand or less and any city or county that does not plan under RCW 36.70A.040 for any capital purpose identified in a capital improvements plan and local capital improvements, including those listed in RCW 35.43.040.

(b) After April 30, 1992, revenues generated from the tax imposed under this subsection (2) in counties over five thousand population and cities over five thousand population that are required or choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 must be used solely for financing capital projects specified in a

capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan and housing relocation assistance under RCW 59.18.440 and 59.18.450. However, revenues (i) pledged by such counties and cities to debt retirement prior to April 30, 1992, may continue to be used for that purpose until the original debt for which the revenues were pledged is retired, or (ii) committed prior to April 30, 1992, by such counties or cities to a project may continue to be used for that purpose until the project is completed.

(3) In lieu of imposing the tax authorized in RCW 82.14.030(2), the legislative authority of any county or any city may impose an additional excise tax on each sale of real property in the unincorporated areas of the county for the county tax and in the corporate limits of the city for the city tax at a rate not exceeding one-half of one percent of the selling price.

(4) Taxes imposed under this section must be collected from persons who are taxable by the state under chapter 82.45 RCW upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the unincorporated areas of the county or within the corporate limits of the city, as the case may be.

(5) Taxes imposed under this section must comply with all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and court decisions regarding real estate excise taxes as imposed by the state under chapter 82.45 RCW.

(6) As used in this section, "city" means any city or town and "capital project" means those public works projects of a local government for planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of streets; roads; highways; sidewalks; street and road lighting systems; traffic signals; bridges; domestic water systems; storm and sanitary sewer systems; parks; recreational facilities; law enforcement facilities; fire protection facilities; trails; libraries; administrative and/or judicial facilities; river and/or waterway flood control projects by those jurisdictions that, prior to June 11, 1992, have expended funds derived from the tax authorized by this section for such purposes; and, until December 31, 1995, housing projects for those jurisdictions that, prior to June 11, 1992, have expended or committed to expend funds derived from the tax authorized by this section or the tax authorized by RCW 82.46.035 for such purposes.

(7) From July 22, 2011, until December 31, 2016, a city or county may use the greater of one hundred thousand dollars or thirty-five percent of available funds under this section, but not to exceed one million dollars per year, for the operations and maintenance of existing capital projects as defined in subsection (6) of this section. [2011 c 354 § 1; 1994 c 272 § 1; 1992 c 221 § 1; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 36; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 § 11.]

**Expenditures prior to June 11, 1992:** "All expenditures of revenues collected under RCW 82.46.010 made prior to June 11, 1992, are deemed to be in compliance with RCW 82.46.010." [1992 c 221 § 4.]

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.46.021 Referendum procedure to repeal or alter tax.** Any referendum petition to repeal a county or city ordinance imposing a tax or altering the rate of the tax authorized under RCW 82.46.010(3) shall be filed with a filing officer,

as identified in the ordinance, within seven days of passage of the ordinance. Within ten days, the filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning form and style of the petition, issue an identification number for the petition, and write a ballot title for the measure. The ballot title shall be posed as a question so that an affirmative answer to the question and an affirmative vote on the measure results in the tax or tax rate increase being imposed and a negative answer to the question and a negative vote on the measure results in the tax or tax rate increase not being imposed. The petitioner shall be notified of the identification number and ballot title within this ten-day period.

After this notification, the petitioner shall have thirty days in which to secure on petition forms the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the county for county measures, or not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the city for city measures, and to file the signed petitions with the filing officer. Each petition form shall contain the ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petitions. If sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, the filing officer shall submit the referendum measure to the county or city voters at a general or special election held on one of the dates provided in \*RCW 29.13.010 as determined by the county legislative authority or city council, which election shall not take place later than one hundred twenty days after the signed petition has been filed with the filing officer.

After April 22, 1983, the referendum procedure provided for in this section shall be the exclusive method for subjecting any county or city ordinance imposing a tax or increasing the rate under RCW 82.46.010(3) to a referendum vote.

Any county or city tax authorized under RCW 82.46.010(3) that has been imposed prior to April 22, 1983, is not subject to the referendum procedure provided for in this section. [2000 c 103 § 16; 1983 c 99 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 29.13.010 was recodified as RCW 29A.04.320 pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004. RCW 29A.04.320 was subsequently repealed by 2004 c 271 § 193. Later enactment of RCW 29A.04.320, see RCW 29A.04.321.

**82.46.030 Distribution of proceeds.** (1) The county treasurer shall place one percent of the proceeds of the taxes imposed under this chapter in the county current expense fund to defray costs of collection.

(2) The remaining proceeds from the county tax under RCW 82.46.010(2) shall be placed in a county capital improvements fund. The remaining proceeds from city or town taxes under RCW 82.46.010(2) shall be distributed to the respective cities and towns monthly and placed by the city treasurer in a municipal capital improvements fund.

(3) This section does not limit the existing authority of any city, town, or county to impose special assessments on property specially benefited thereby in the manner prescribed by law. [2000 c 103 § 17; 1992 c 221 § 2; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 37; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 § 13.]

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.46.035 Additional tax—Certain counties and cities—Ballot proposition—Use limited to capital projects—Temporary rescindment for noncompliance.** (1) The legislative authority of any county or city must identify in the adopted budget the capital projects funded in whole or in part from the proceeds of the tax authorized in this section, and must indicate that such tax is intended to be in addition to other funds that may be reasonably available for such capital projects.

(2) The legislative authority of any county or any city that plans under RCW 36.70A.040(1) may impose an additional excise tax on each sale of real property in the unincorporated areas of the county for the county tax and in the corporate limits of the city for the city tax at a rate not exceeding one-quarter of one percent of the selling price. Any county choosing to plan under RCW 36.70A.040(2) and any city within such a county may only adopt an ordinance imposing the excise tax authorized by this section if the ordinance is first authorized by a proposition approved by a majority of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition at a general election held within the district or at a special election within the taxing district called by the district for the purpose of submitting such proposition to the voters.

(3) Revenues generated from the tax imposed under subsection (2) of this section must be used by such counties and cities solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan. However, revenues (a) pledged by such counties and cities to debt retirement prior to March 1, 1992, may continue to be used for that purpose until the original debt for which the revenues were pledged is retired, or (b) committed prior to March 1, 1992, by such counties or cities to a project may continue to be used for that purpose until the project is completed.

(4) Revenues generated by the tax imposed by this section must be deposited in a separate account.

(5) As used in this section, "city" means any city or town and "capital project" means those public works projects of a local government for planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of streets, roads, highways, sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals, bridges, domestic water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, and planning, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, or improvement of parks.

(6) When the governor files a notice of noncompliance under RCW 36.70A.340 with the secretary of state and the appropriate county or city, the county or city's authority to impose the additional excise tax under this section is temporarily rescinded until the governor files a subsequent notice rescinding the notice of noncompliance.

(7) From June 30, 2012, until December 31, 2016, a city or county may use the greater of one hundred thousand dollars or thirty-five percent of available funds under this section, but not to exceed one million dollars per year, for operations and maintenance of existing capital projects as defined in subsection (5) of this section, and counties may use available funds under this section for the payment of existing debt service incurred for capital projects as defined in RCW 82.46.010. If a county uses available funds for payment of existing debt service under RCW 82.46.010, the total amount used for payment of debt service and any amounts used for

(2012 Ed.)

operations and maintenance is subject to the limits in this subsection. [2011 c 354 § 3; (2011 c 354 § 2 expired June 30, 2012); (2009 c 211 § 1 expired June 30, 2012). Prior: 1992 c 221 § 3; 1991 sp.s. c 32 § 33; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 38.]

**Effective date—2011 c 354 § 3:** "Section 3 of this act takes effect June 30, 2012." [2011 c 354 § 5.]

**Expiration date—2011 c 354 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act expires June 30, 2012." [2011 c 354 § 4.]

**Expiration date—2009 c 211:** "This act expires June 30, 2012." [2009 c 211 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **82.46.040 Tax is lien on property—Enforcement.**

Any tax imposed under this chapter or RCW 82.46.070 and any interest or penalties thereon is a specific lien upon each piece of real property sold from the time of sale until the tax is paid, which lien may be enforced in the manner prescribed for the foreclosure of mortgages. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 39; 1990 1st ex.s. c 5 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 § 14.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1990 1st ex.s. c 5 § 4 and by 1990 c 17 § 39, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Purpose—1990 1st ex.s. c 5:** See note following RCW 36.32.570.

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.46.050 Tax is seller's obligation—Choice of remedies.** The taxes levied under this chapter are the obligation of the seller and may be enforced through an action of debt against the seller or in the manner prescribed for the foreclosure of mortgages. Resort to one course of enforcement is not an election not to pursue the other. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 40; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 § 15.]

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.46.060 Payment of tax—Evidence of payment—Recording.** Any taxes imposed under this chapter or RCW 82.46.070 shall be paid to and collected by the treasurer of the county within which is located the real property which was sold. The treasurer shall act as agent for any city within the county imposing the tax. The county treasurer shall cause a stamp evidencing satisfaction of the lien to be affixed to the instrument of sale or conveyance prior to its recording or to the real estate excise tax affidavit in the case of used mobile home sales. A receipt issued by the county treasurer for the payment of the tax imposed under this chapter or RCW 82.46.070 shall be evidence of the satisfaction of the lien imposed in RCW 82.46.040 and may be recorded in the manner prescribed for recording satisfactions of mortgages. No instrument of sale or conveyance evidencing a sale subject to the tax may be accepted by the county auditor for filing or recording until the tax is paid and the stamp affixed thereto; in case the tax is not due on the transfer, the instrument shall not be accepted until suitable notation of this fact is made on the instrument by the treasurer. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 41; 1990 1st ex.s. c 5 § 5; 1982 1st ex.s. c 49 § 16.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1990 1st ex.s. c 5 § 5 and by 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 41, each without reference to the other. Both amend-

ments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Purpose—1990 1st ex.s. c 5:** See note following RCW 36.32.570.

**Intent—Construction—Effective date—Fire district funding—1982 1st ex.s. c 49:** See notes following RCW 35.21.710.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.46.070 Additional excise tax—Acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas.** (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, the legislative authority of any county may impose an additional excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at a rate not to exceed one percent of the selling price. The proceeds of the tax shall be used exclusively for the acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas.

The taxes imposed under this subsection shall be imposed in the same manner and on the same occurrences, and are subject to the same conditions, as the taxes under chapter 82.45 RCW, except:

- (a) The tax shall be the obligation of the purchaser; and
- (b) The tax does not apply to the acquisition of conservation areas by the county.

The county may enforce the obligation through an action of debt against the purchaser or may foreclose the lien on the property in the same manner prescribed for the foreclosure of mortgages.

The tax shall take effect thirty days after the election at which the taxes are authorized.

(2) No tax may be imposed under subsection (1) of this section unless approved by a majority of the voters of the county voting thereon for a specified period and maximum rate after:

- (a) The adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county proposing this action; or
- (b) The filing of a petition proposing this action with the county auditor, which petition is signed by county voters at least equal in number to ten percent of the total number of voters in the county who voted at the last preceding general election.

The ballot proposition shall be submitted to the voters of the county at the next general election occurring at least sixty days after a petition is filed, or at any special election prior to this general election that has been called for such purpose by the county legislative authority.

(3) A plan for the expenditure of the excise tax proceeds shall be prepared by the county legislative authority at least sixty days before the election if the proposal is initiated by resolution of the county legislative authority, or within six months after the tax has been authorized by the voters if the proposal is initiated by petition. Prior to the adoption of this plan, the elected officials of cities located within the county shall be consulted and a public hearing shall be held to obtain public input. The proceeds of this excise tax must be expended in conformance with this plan.

(4) As used in this section, "conservation area" has the meaning given under RCW 36.32.570. [1990 1st ex.s. c 5 § 3.]

**Purpose—1990 1st ex.s. c 5:** See note following RCW 36.32.570.

**82.46.075 Additional excise tax—Affordable housing.** (1) Subject to subsections (4) and (5) of this section, the

legislative authority of any county may impose an additional excise tax on the purchase and sale of real property in the county at the rate of one-half of one percent of the selling price. The proceeds of the tax shall be used exclusively for the development of affordable housing including acquisition, building, rehabilitation, and maintenance and operation of housing for very low, low, and moderate-income persons and those with special needs.

(2) Revenues generated from the tax imposed under this section shall be placed in an affordable housing account administered by the county. Disbursements from the account shall be made following a competitive grant and loan process. The county legislative authority shall determine a mechanism for receiving grant and loan applications, and criteria by which the applications shall be approved and funded. Eligible recipients of grants and loans from the account shall be private nonprofit, affordable housing providers, the housing authority for the county, or other housing programs conducted or funded by a public agency, or by a public agency in partnership with a private nonprofit entity.

(3) The taxes imposed under this section shall be imposed in the same manner and on the same occurrences, and are subject to the same conditions, as the taxes under chapter 82.45 RCW, except that the tax shall be the obligation of both the purchaser and the seller, as determined by the county legislative authority, with at least one-half of the obligation being that of the purchaser. The county may enforce the obligation through an action of debt against the purchaser or seller or may foreclose the lien on the property in the same manner prescribed for the foreclosure of mortgages. The imposition of the tax is effective thirty days after the election at which the tax is authorized.

(4)(a) No tax may be imposed under this section unless approved by a majority of the voters of the county voting, for a specified period and for a specified maximum rate. This vote must follow either:

- (i) The adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority proposing this action; or
- (ii) The filing of a petition proposing this action with the county auditor, signed by county voters at least equal in number to ten percent of the total number of voters in the county who voted in the preceding general election.

(b) The ballot proposition shall be submitted to the voters of the county at the next general election occurring at least sixty days after a petition is filed, or at any special election prior to this general election called for this purpose by the county legislative authority.

(5) No tax may be imposed under this section unless the county imposes a tax under RCW 82.46.070 at the maximum rate and the tax was imposed by January 1, 2003.

(6) A plan for the expenditure of the proceeds of the tax imposed by this section shall be prepared by the county legislative authority at least sixty days before the election if the proposal is initiated by resolution of the county legislative authority, or within six months after the tax has been authorized by the voters if the proposal is initiated by petition. Prior to the adoption of this plan, the elected officials of cities located within the county shall be consulted and at least one public hearing shall be held to obtain public comment. The proceeds of the tax shall be expended in conformance with this plan. [2002 c 343 § 1.]

**82.46.080 Notice to county treasurer.** A county, city, or town that imposes an excise tax under this chapter must provide the county treasurer with a copy of the ordinance or other action initially authorizing the tax or altering the rate of the tax that is imposed at least sixty days before change becomes effective. [1998 c 106 § 10.]

**82.46.900 Chapter 82.46 RCW ordinances in effect on July 1, 1993—Application under chapter 82.45 RCW.** Any ordinance imposing a tax under chapter 82.46 RCW which is in effect on July 1, 1993, shall apply to all sales taxable under chapter 82.45 RCW on July 1, 1993, at the rate specified in the ordinance, until such time as the ordinance is otherwise amended or repealed. [1993 sp.s. c 25 § 508.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See note following RCW 82.45.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**Chapter 82.47 RCW  
BORDER AREA MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL AND  
SPECIAL FUEL TAX**

Sections

- 82.47.010 Definitions.
- 82.47.020 Tax authority.
- 82.47.030 Proceeds.

**82.47.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section shall apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Motor vehicle fuel" has the meaning given in RCW 82.36.010.

(2) "Special fuel" has the meaning given in RCW 82.38.020.

(3) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning given in RCW 82.36.010. [1998 c 176 § 85; 1991 c 173 § 2.]

**Rules—Findings—Effective date—1998 c 176:** See RCW 82.36.800, 82.36.900, and 82.36.901.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.47.020 Tax authority.** The legislative authority of a border area jurisdiction may, by resolution for the purposes authorized in this chapter and by approval of a majority of the registered voters of the jurisdiction voting on the proposition at a general or special election, fix and impose an excise tax on the retail sale of motor vehicle fuel and special fuel within the jurisdiction. An election held under this section must be held not more than twelve months before the date on which the proposed tax is to be levied. The ballot setting forth the proposition shall state the tax rate that is proposed. The rate of such tax shall be in increments of one-tenth of a cent per gallon and shall not exceed one cent per gallon.

The tax imposed in this section shall be collected and paid to the jurisdiction but once in respect to any motor vehicle fuel or special fuel. This tax shall be in addition to any other tax authorized or imposed by law.

For purposes of this chapter, the term "border area jurisdictions" means all cities and towns within ten miles of an international border crossing and any transportation benefit district established under RCW 36.73.020 which has within its boundaries an international border crossing. [1991 c 173 § 1.]

(2012 Ed.)

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.47.030 Proceeds.** The entire proceeds of the tax imposed under this chapter, less refunds authorized by the resolution imposing such tax and less amounts deducted by the border area jurisdiction for administration and collection expenses, shall be used solely for the purposes of border area jurisdiction street maintenance and construction. [1991 c 173 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**Chapter 82.48 RCW  
AIRCRAFT EXCISE TAX**

Sections

- 82.48.010 Definitions.
- 82.48.020 Excise tax imposed on aircraft—Out-of-state registration to avoid tax, liability—Penalties.
- 82.48.030 Amount of tax.
- 82.48.060 Is in addition to other taxes.
- 82.48.070 Tax receipt.
- 82.48.080 Payment and distribution of taxes.
- 82.48.090 Refund of excessive tax payment and interest.
- 82.48.100 Exempt aircraft.
- 82.48.110 Aircraft not to be subject to ad valorem tax—Exceptions.

**82.48.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context:

(1) "Aircraft" means any weight-carrying device or structure for navigation of the air which is designed to be supported by the air;

(2) "Secretary" means the secretary of transportation;

(3) "Person" includes a firm, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation;

(4) "Small multi-engine fixed wing" means any piston-driven multi-engine fixed wing aircraft with a maximum gross weight as listed by the manufacturer of less than seventy-five hundred pounds; and

(5) "Large multi-engine fixed wing" means any piston-driven multi-engine fixed wing aircraft with a maximum gross weight as listed by the manufacturer of seventy-five hundred pounds or more. [1995 c 318 § 4; 1987 c 220 § 5; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 21; 1979 c 158 § 239; 1967 ex.s. c 9 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.010. Prior: 1949 c 49 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-33.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.48.020 Excise tax imposed on aircraft—Out-of-state registration to avoid tax, liability—Penalties.** (1) An annual excise tax is hereby imposed for the privilege of using any aircraft in the state. A current certificate of air worthiness with a current inspection date from the appropriate federal agency and/or the purchase of aviation fuel shall constitute the necessary evidence of aircraft use or intended use. The tax shall be collected annually or under a staggered collection schedule as required by the secretary by rule. No additional tax shall be imposed under this chapter upon any aircraft upon the transfer of ownership thereof, if the tax imposed by this chapter with respect to such aircraft has already been paid for the year in which transfer of ownership occurs. A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor punishable as provided under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(2) Persons who are required to register aircraft under chapter 47.68 RCW and who register aircraft in another state or foreign country and avoid the Washington aircraft excise tax are liable for such unpaid excise tax. A violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor.

The department of revenue may assess and collect the unpaid excise tax under chapter 82.32 RCW, including the penalties and interest provided in chapter 82.32 RCW.

(3) Except as provided under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, a violation of this chapter is a misdemeanor punishable as provided in chapter 9A.20 RCW. [2000 c 229 § 4; 1999 c 277 § 7; 1993 c 238 § 5; 1992 c 154 § 1; 1987 c 220 § 6; 1983 c 7 § 27; 1979 c 158 § 240; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 27; 1967 ex.s. c 9 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.020. Prior: 1949 c 49 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-34.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.48.030 Amount of tax.** (1) The amount of the tax imposed by this chapter for each calendar year shall be as follows:

Type of aircraft	Registration fee
Single engine fixed wing	\$ 50
Small multi-engine fixed wing	65
Large multi-engine fixed wing	80
Turboprop multi-engine fixed wing	100
Turbojet multi-engine fixed wing	125
Helicopter	75
Sailplane	20
Lighter than air	20
Home built	20

(2) The amount of tax imposed under subsection (1) of this section for each calendar year shall be divided into twelve parts corresponding to the months of the calendar year and the excise tax upon an aircraft registered for the first time in this state after the last day of any month shall only be levied for the remaining months of the calendar year including the month in which the aircraft is being registered: PROVIDED, That the minimum amount payable shall be three dollars.

An aircraft shall be deemed registered for the first time in this state when such aircraft was not previously registered by this state for the year immediately preceding the year in which application for registration is made. [1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 22; 1967 ex.s. c 9 § 3; 1963 c 199 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.030. Prior: 1949 c 49 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-35.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.48.060 Is in addition to other taxes.** Except as provided in RCW 82.48.110, the tax imposed by this chapter is in addition to all other licenses and taxes otherwise imposed. [1961 c 15 § 82.48.060. Prior: 1949 c 49 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-38.]

**82.48.070 Tax receipt.** The secretary shall give a receipt to each person paying the excise tax. [1987 c 220 § 7; 1967 ex.s. c 9 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.070. Prior: 1949 c 49 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-39.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.48.080 Payment and distribution of taxes.** The secretary shall regularly pay to the state treasurer the excise taxes collected under this chapter, which shall be credited by the state treasurer as follows: Ninety percent to the general fund and ten percent to the aeronautics account in the transportation fund for administrative expenses. [1995 c 170 § 2; 1987 c 220 § 8; 1974 ex.s. c 54 § 8; 1967 ex.s. c 9 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.080. Prior: 1949 c 49 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-40.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.48.090 Refund of excessive tax payment and interest.** In case a claim is made by any person that the person has paid an erroneously excessive amount of excise tax under this chapter, the person may apply to the department of transportation for a refund of the claimed excessive amount together with interest at the rate specified in RCW 82.32.060. The department of transportation shall review such application, and if it determines that an excess amount of tax has actually been paid by the taxpayer, such excess amount and interest at the rate specified in RCW 82.32.060 shall be refunded to the taxpayer by means of a voucher approved by the department of transportation and by the issuance of a state warrant drawn upon and payable from such funds as the legislature may provide for that purpose. No refund shall be allowed, however, unless application for the refund is filed with the department of transportation within ninety days after the claimed excessive excise tax was paid and the amount of the overpayment exceeds five dollars. [1992 c 154 § 2; 1989 c 378 § 25; 1987 c 220 § 9; 1985 c 414 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 96; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.090. Prior: 1949 c 49 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-41.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.48.100 Exempt aircraft. (Effective until January 1, 2020.)** This chapter does not apply to:

(1) Aircraft owned by and used exclusively in the service of any government or any political subdivision thereof, including the government of the United States, any state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, which are not engaged in carrying persons or property for commercial purposes;

(2) Aircraft registered under the laws of a foreign country;

(3) Aircraft which are owned by a nonresident and registered in another state. However, if any such aircraft remains in and/or is based in this state for a period of ninety days or longer it is not exempt under this section;

(4) Aircraft engaged principally in commercial flying which constitutes interstate or foreign commerce; and aircraft owned by the manufacturer thereof while being operated for test or experimental purposes, or for the purpose of training crews for purchasers of the aircraft;

(5) Aircraft being held for sale, exchange, delivery, test, or demonstration purposes solely as stock in trade of an aircraft dealer licensed under Title 14 RCW;

(6) Aircraft owned by a nonresident of this state if the aircraft is kept at an airport in this state and that airport is jointly owned or operated by a municipal corporation or other governmental entity of this state and a municipal corporation or other governmental entity of another state, and the owner

or operator of the aircraft provides the department with proof that the owner or operator has paid all taxes, license fees, and registration fees required by the state in which the owner or operator resides; and

(7) Aircraft that are: (a) Owned by a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3); and (b) exclusively used to provide emergency medical transportation services. [2010 1st sp.s. c 12 § 2; 1999 c 302 § 3; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 28; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.100. Prior: 1955 c 150 § 12; 1949 c 49 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-42.]

**Application—Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 12:** See notes following RCW 84.36.575.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.48.100 Exempt aircraft.** (*Effective January 1, 2020.*) This chapter shall not apply to:

Aircraft owned by and used exclusively in the service of any government or any political subdivision thereof, including the government of the United States, any state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, which are not engaged in carrying persons or property for commercial purposes;

Aircraft registered under the laws of a foreign country;

Aircraft which are owned by a nonresident and registered in another state: PROVIDED, That if any such aircraft shall remain in and/or be based in this state for a period of ninety days or longer it shall not be exempt under this section;

Aircraft engaged principally in commercial flying which constitutes interstate or foreign commerce; and aircraft owned by the manufacturer thereof while being operated for test or experimental purposes, or for the purpose of training crews for purchasers of the aircraft;

Aircraft being held for sale, exchange, delivery, test, or demonstration purposes solely as stock in trade of an aircraft dealer licensed under Title 14 RCW;

Aircraft owned by a nonresident of this state if the aircraft is kept at an airport in this state and that airport is jointly owned or operated by a municipal corporation or other governmental entity of this state and a municipal corporation or other governmental entity of another state, and the owner or operator of the aircraft provides the department with proof that the owner or operator has paid all taxes, license fees, and registration fees required by the state in which the owner or operator resides. [1999 c 302 § 3; 1965 ex.s. c 173 § 28; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.100. Prior: 1955 c 150 § 12; 1949 c 49 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-42.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.48.110 Aircraft not to be subject to ad valorem tax—Exceptions.** The first tax to be collected under this chapter shall be for the calendar year 1968. No aircraft with respect to which the excise tax imposed by this chapter is payable shall be listed and assessed for ad valorem taxation so long as this chapter remains in effect, and any such assessment heretofore made except under authority of section 13, chapter 49, Laws of 1949 and section 82.48.110, chapter 15, Laws of 1961 is hereby directed to be canceled: PROVIDED, That any aircraft, whether or not subject to the provisions of this chapter, with respect to which the excise tax

(2012 Ed.)

imposed by this chapter will not be paid or has not been paid for any year shall be listed and assessed for ad valorem taxation in that year, and the ad valorem tax liability resulting from such listing and assessment shall be collected in the same manner as though this chapter had not been passed: PROVIDED FURTHER, That this chapter shall not be construed to affect any ad valorem tax based upon assessed valuations made in 1948 and/or any preceding year for taxes payable in 1949 or any preceding year, which ad valorem tax liability tax for any such years shall remain payable and collectible in the same manner as though this chapter had not been passed. [1967 ex.s. c 9 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 82.48.110. Prior: 1949 c 49 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11219-43.]

## Chapter 82.49 RCW

### WATERCRAFT EXCISE TAX

#### Sections

82.49.010	Excise tax imposed—Out-of-state registration to avoid tax, liability—Penalties.
82.49.020	Exemptions.
82.49.030	Payment of tax—Deposit in general fund.
82.49.040	Depreciation schedule for use in determining fair market value.
82.49.050	Appraisal of vessel by department of revenue.
82.49.060	Disputes as to appraised value or status as taxable—Petition for conference or reduction of tax—Appeal to board of tax appeals—Independent appraisal.
82.49.065	Refunds—When, to whom—Amounts.
82.49.900	Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 c 7.

*Boat trailer fee:* RCW 46.17.305.

*Exemption of ships and vessels from ad valorem taxes:* RCW 84.36.079, 84.36.080, and 84.36.090.

**82.49.010 Excise tax imposed—Out-of-state registration to avoid tax, liability—Penalties.** (1) An excise tax is imposed for the privilege of using a vessel upon the waters of this state, except vessels exempt under RCW 82.49.020. The annual amount of the excise tax is one-half of one percent of fair market value, as determined under this chapter, or five dollars, whichever is greater. Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(2) Persons who are required under chapter 88.02 RCW to register a vessel in this state and who register the vessel in another state or foreign country and avoid the Washington watercraft excise tax are guilty of a gross misdemeanor and are liable for such unpaid excise tax. The department of revenue may assess and collect the unpaid excise tax under chapter 82.32 RCW, including the penalties and interest provided in chapter 82.32 RCW.

(3) The excise tax upon a vessel registered for the first time in this state shall be imposed for a twelve-month period, including the month in which the vessel is registered, unless the director of licensing extends or diminishes vessel registration periods for the purpose of staggered renewal periods under RCW 88.02.560. A vessel is registered for the first time in this state when the vessel was not registered in this state for the immediately preceding registration year, or when the vessel was registered in another jurisdiction for the immediately preceding year. [2010 c 161 § 1044; 2000 c 229 § 5; 1999 c 277 § 8; 1993 c 238 § 6; 1992 c 154 § 3; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 42; 1983 c 7 § 9.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.49.020 Exemptions.** The following are exempt from the tax imposed under this chapter:

- (1) Vessels exempt from the registration requirements of chapter 88.02 RCW;
- (2) Vessels used exclusively for commercial fishing purposes;
- (3) Vessels under sixteen feet in overall length;
- (4) Vessels owned and operated by the United States, a state of the United States, or any municipality or political subdivision thereof;
- (5) Vessels owned by a nonprofit organization or association engaged in character building of boys and girls under eighteen years of age and solely used for such purposes, as determined by the department for the purposes of RCW 84.36.030; and
- (6) Vessels owned and held for sale by a dealer, but not rented on a regular commercial basis. [1984 c 250 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 43.]

*Partial exemption from ad valorem taxes of ships and vessels exempt from excise tax under RCW 82.49.020(2): RCW 84.36.080.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.49.030 Payment of tax—Deposit in general fund.**

(1) The excise tax imposed under this chapter is due and payable to the department of licensing, county auditor or other agent, or subagent appointed by the director of the department of licensing at the time of registration of a vessel. The department of licensing shall not issue or renew a registration for a vessel until the tax is paid in full.

(2) The excise tax collected under this chapter must be deposited in the general fund. [2010 c 161 § 1045; 2000 c 103 § 18; 1991 sp.s. c 16 § 925; 1989 c 393 § 10; 1983 c 7 § 10.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.49.040 Depreciation schedule for use in determining fair market value.** The department of revenue shall prepare at least once each year a depreciation schedule for use in the determination of fair market value for the purposes of this chapter. The schedule shall be based upon information available to the department of revenue pertaining to the current fair market value of vessels. The fair market value of a vessel for the purposes of this chapter shall be based on the most recent purchase price depreciated according to the year of the most recent purchase of the vessel. The most recent purchase price is the consideration, whether money, credit, rights, or other property expressed in terms of money, paid or given or contracted to be paid or given by the purchaser to the seller for the vessel. [1983 c 7 § 11.]

**82.49.050 Appraisal of vessel by department of revenue.** (1) If a vessel has been acquired by lease or gift, or the most recent purchase price of a vessel is not known to the

owner, the department of revenue shall appraise the vessel before registration.

(2) If after registration the department of revenue determines that the purchase price stated by the owner is not a reasonable representation of the true fair market value of a vessel at the time of purchase, the department of revenue shall appraise the vessel.

(3) If a vessel is homemade, the owner shall make a notarized declaration of fair market value. The fair market value of the vessel for the purposes of this chapter shall be the declared value, unless after registration the department of revenue determines that the declared value is not a reasonable representation of the true fair market value of the vessel in which case the department of revenue shall appraise the vessel.

(4) If the department of revenue appraises a vessel, the fair market value of the vessel for the purposes of this chapter shall be the appraised value. If the vessel has been registered before appraisal, the department of revenue shall refund any overpayment of tax to the owner or notify the owner of any additional tax due. The owner shall pay any additional tax due within thirty days after notification by the department. [1983 c 7 § 12.]

**82.49.060 Disputes as to appraised value or status as taxable—Petition for conference or reduction of tax—Appeal to board of tax appeals—Independent appraisal.**

(1) Any vessel owner disputing an appraised value under RCW 82.49.050 or disputing whether the vessel is taxable, may petition for a conference with the department as provided under RCW 82.32.160, or for reduction of the tax due as provided under RCW 82.32.170.

(2) Any vessel owner having received a notice of denial of a petition or a notice of determination made for the owner's vessel under RCW 82.32.160 or 82.32.170 may appeal to the board of tax appeals as provided under RCW 82.03.190. In deciding a case appealed under this section, the board of tax appeals may require an independent appraisal of the vessel. The cost of the independent appraisal shall be apportioned between the department and the vessel owner as provided by the board. [1993 c 33 § 1; 1983 c 7 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.49.065 Refunds—When, to whom—Amounts.** (1) Refunds of the excise tax imposed under this chapter must be handled in the same manner and under the same terms and conditions as provided in RCW 88.02.350.

(2) The excise tax imposed under this chapter may be refunded to the person who paid the excise tax at the same time the registration fee under chapter 88.02 RCW was paid. The amount of the excise tax that may be refunded includes:

- (a) The entire amount of the excise tax, if the entire amount of the registration fee is also refunded; or
  - (b) Any amount that was greater than the amount due.
- (3) Excise tax refunds include interest at the rate specified in RCW 82.32.060. [2010 c 161 § 1046; 2003 c 53 § 405; 1992 c 154 § 4; 1989 c 68 § 3.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.49.900 Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 c 7.** See notes following RCW 82.08.020.

### Chapter 82.50 RCW

#### TRAVEL TRAILERS AND CAMPERS EXCISE TAX

##### Sections

82.50.010	Definitions.
82.50.060	Tax additional.
82.50.075	Extensions during state of emergency.
82.50.090	Unlawful issuance of tax receipt—Penalty.
82.50.170	Refund, collection of erroneous amounts—Penalty for false statement.
82.50.250	Term "house trailer" construed.

##### TAXATION OF TRAVEL TRAILERS AND CAMPERS

82.50.425	Valuation of travel trailers and campers.
82.50.435	Appeal of valuation.
82.50.440	Tax receipt—Records.
82.50.460	Notice of amount of tax payable—Contents.
82.50.510	Remittance of tax to state—Distribution to cities, towns, counties, and schools.
82.50.520	Exemptions.
82.50.530	Ad valorem taxes prohibited as to mobile homes, travel trailers or campers—Loss of identity, subject to property tax.
82.50.540	Taxed and licensed travel trailers or campers entitled to use of streets and highways.

##### CONSTRUCTION OF 1971 ACT

82.50.901	Effective dates—Operative dates—Expiration dates—1971 ex.s. c 299 §§ 35-76.
-----------	---

*Boat trailer fee:* RCW 46.17.305.

*"Registration year," defined—"Last day of the month," defined:* RCW 46.16A.020.

**82.50.010 Definitions.** (1) "Mobile home" means a mobile home as defined by RCW 46.04.302.

(2) "Park trailer" means a park trailer as defined by RCW 46.04.622.

(3) "Travel trailer" means a travel trailer as defined by RCW 46.04.623.

(4) "Modular home" means a modular home as defined by RCW 46.04.303.

(5) "Camper" means a camper as defined by RCW 46.04.085.

(6) "Motor home" means a motor home as defined by RCW 46.04.305.

(7) "Director" means the director of licensing of the state. [1989 c 337 § 20; 1979 c 107 § 11; 1977 ex.s. c 22 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 35; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 44; 1961 c 15 § 82.50.010. Prior: 1957 c 269 § 1; 1955 c 139 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** Restored to the RCW November 1, 2000, under the Washington Supreme Court decision in *Amalgamated Transit Union Local 587 et al v. The State of Washington*, 142 Wash.2d 183 (2000), which declared Initiative Measure No. 695 (2000 c 1) unconstitutional in its entirety.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.50.060 Tax additional.** Except as provided herein, the tax imposed by this chapter is in addition to all other licenses and taxes otherwise imposed. [1961 c 15 § 82.50.060. Prior: 1955 c 139 § 6.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

**82.50.075 Extensions during state of emergency.** During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the director, on his or her own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may grant extensions of the due date of any taxes payable under this chapter as the director deems proper. [2008 c 181 § 508.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**82.50.090 Unlawful issuance of tax receipt—Penalty.** It shall be unlawful for the county auditor or any person to issue a receipt hereunder to any person without collecting the amount of the excise tax due thereon under the provisions of this chapter and any violation of this section shall constitute a gross misdemeanor. [1961 c 15 § 82.50.090. Prior: 1957 c 269 § 11; 1955 c 139 § 9.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

**82.50.170 Refund, collection of erroneous amounts—Penalty for false statement.** (1) In case a claim is made by any person that the person has erroneously paid the tax or a part thereof or any charge hereunder, the person may apply in writing to the department of licensing for a refund of the amount of the claimed erroneous payment within thirteen months of the time of payment of the tax on such a form as is prescribed by the department of licensing. The department of licensing shall review such application for refund, and, if it determines that an erroneous payment has been made by the taxpayer, it shall certify the amount to be refunded to the state treasurer that such person is entitled to a refund in such amount together with interest at the rate specified in RCW 82.32.060, and the treasurer shall make such approved refund together with interest at the rate specified in RCW 82.32.060 herein provided for from the general fund and shall mail or deliver the same to the person entitled thereto.

(2) If due to error a person has been required to pay an excise tax under this chapter and a vehicle license fee under Title 46 RCW which amounts to an overpayment of ten dollars or more, such person shall be entitled to a refund of the entire amount of such overpayment, together with interest at the rate specified in RCW 82.32.060, regardless of whether a refund of the overpayment has been requested. If due to error the department or its agents has failed to collect the full amount of the license fee and excise tax due, which underpayment is in the amount of ten dollars or more, the department shall charge and collect such additional amount as will constitute full payment of the tax and any penalties or interest at the rate specified in RCW 82.32.050.

(3) Any person making any false statement in the claim herein mentioned, under which the person obtains any amount of refund to which the person is not entitled under the provisions of this section, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 406; 1992 c 154 § 6. Prior: 1989 c 378 § 26; 1989 c 68 § 4; 1981 c 260 § 16; prior: 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 97; 1975 1st ex.s. c 9 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 54 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 82.50.170; prior: 1955 c 139 § 17.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**82.50.250 Term "house trailer" construed.** Whenever this chapter refers to chapter 46.12, 46.16A, or 82.44 RCW, with references to "house trailers", the term "house trailer" as used in those chapters shall be construed to include and embrace "mobile home and travel trailer" as used in chapter 149, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. [2011 c 171 § 124; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 59.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

TAXATION OF TRAVEL TRAILERS AND CAMPERS

**82.50.425 Valuation of travel trailers and campers.** For the purpose of determining the tax under this chapter, the value of a travel trailer or camper is the manufacturer's base suggested retail price of the travel trailer or camper when first offered for sale as new, excluding any optional equipment, applicable federal excise taxes, state and local sales or use taxes, transportation or shipping costs, or preparatory or delivery costs, multiplied by the applicable percentage listed in this section based on the year of service.

If the manufacturer's base suggested retail price is unavailable or otherwise unascertainable at the time of initial registration in this state, the department shall determine a value equivalent to a manufacturer's base suggested retail price as follows:

(1) The department shall determine a value using any information that may be available, including any guidebook, report, or compendium of recognized standing in the automotive industry or the selling price and year of sale of the travel trailer or camper. The department may use an appraisal by the county assessor. In valuing a travel trailer or camper for which the current value or selling price is not indicative of the value of similar travel trailers or campers of the same year and model, the department shall establish a value that more closely represents the average value of similar travel trailers or campers of the same year and model. If the travel trailer or camper is home-built, the value shall not be less than the cost of construction.

(2) The value determined in subsection (1) of this section shall be divided by the applicable percentage listed in this section to establish a value equivalent to a manufacturer's base suggested retail price. The applicable percentage shall be based on the year of service of the travel trailer or camper for which the value is determined.

YEAR OF SERVICE	PERCENTAGE
1	100
2	90
3	84
4	79
5	73
6	65
7	60
8	55
9	50
10	45
11	41
12	37

13	33
14	28
15	24
16 or older	20

[1990 c 42 § 323.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**82.50.435 Appeal of valuation.** If the department determines a value for a travel trailer or camper under RCW 82.50.425 equivalent to a manufacturer's base suggested retail price, any person who pays the tax for that travel trailer or camper may appeal the valuation to the department under chapter 34.05 RCW. If the taxpayer is successful on appeal, the department shall refund the excess tax in the manner provided in RCW 82.50.170. [1990 c 42 § 324.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

**82.50.440 Tax receipt—Records.** The county auditor or the department of licensing upon payment of the tax hereunder shall issue a receipt which shall include such information as may be required by the director, including the name of the taxpayer and a description of the travel trailer or camper, which receipt shall be printed by the department of licensing in such form as it deems proper and furnished by the department to the various county auditors of the state. The county auditor shall keep a record of the excise taxes paid hereunder during the calendar year. [1979 c 158 § 242; 1975 1st ex.s. c 9 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 59.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

**82.50.460 Notice of amount of tax payable—Contents.** Prior to the end of any registration year of a vehicle, the director shall cause to be mailed to the owners of travel trailers or campers, of record, notice of the amount of tax payable during the succeeding registration year. The notice shall contain a legal description of the travel trailer or camper, prominent notice of due dates, and such other information as may be required by the director. [1979 c 123 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 118 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 61.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**82.50.510 Remittance of tax to state—Distribution to cities, towns, counties, and schools.** The county auditor shall regularly, when remitting motor vehicle excise taxes, pay to the state treasurer the excise taxes imposed by \*RCW 82.50.400. The treasurer shall then distribute such funds quarterly on the first day of the month of January, April, July and October of each year in the following amount:

- (1) 13.64 percent to cities and towns for the use thereof apportioned ratably among such cities and towns on the basis of population;
- (2) 13.64 percent to counties for the use thereof to be apportioned ratably among such counties on the basis of

moneys collected in such counties from the excise taxes imposed under this chapter;

(3) 63.64 percent for schools to be deposited in the state general fund; and

(4) 9.08 percent to the transportation fund created in RCW 82.44.180. [1998 c 321 § 24 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1991 c 199 § 227; 1990 c 42 § 322; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 75 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 66.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) See note following RCW 82.50.010.

\*(2) RCW 82.50.400 was repealed by 2000 1st sp.s. c 1 § 2.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

**Finding—1991 c 199:** See note following RCW 70.94.011.

**Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42:** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.50.520 Exemptions.** The following travel trailers or campers are specifically exempted from the operation of this chapter:

(1) Any unoccupied travel trailer or camper when it is part of an inventory of travel trailers or campers held for sale by a manufacturer or dealer in the course of his business.

(2) A travel trailer or camper owned by any government or political subdivision thereof.

(3) A travel trailer or camper owned by a nonresident and currently licensed in another state, unless such travel trailer or camper is required by law to be licensed in this state.

For the purposes of this subsection only, a camper owned by a nonresident shall be considered licensed in another state if the vehicle to which such camper is attached is currently licensed in another state.

(4) Travel trailers eligible to be used under a dealer's license plate, and taxed under \*RCW 82.44.030 while so eligible. [1983 c 26 § 4; 1979 c 123 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 67.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) See note following RCW 82.50.010.

\*(2) RCW 82.44.030 was repealed by 2000 1st sp.s. c 1 § 2.

**82.50.530 Ad valorem taxes prohibited as to mobile homes, travel trailers or campers—Loss of identity, subject to property tax.** No mobile home, travel trailer, or camper which is a part of the inventory of mobile homes, travel trailers, or campers held for sale by a dealer in the course of his or her business and no travel trailer or camper as defined in RCW 82.50.010 shall be listed and assessed for ad valorem taxation. However, if a park trailer as defined in RCW 46.04.622 has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by virtue of its being permanently sited in location and placed on a foundation of either posts or blocks with connections with sewer, water, or other utilities for the operation of installed fixtures and appliances, it will be considered real property and will be subject to ad valorem property taxation imposed in accordance with the provisions of Title 84 RCW, including the provisions with respect to omitted property, except that a park trailer located on land not owned by the owner of the park trailer shall be subject to the personal property provisions of chapter 84.56 RCW and RCW 84.60.040. [1999 c 92 § 1; 1993 c 32 § 1; 1981 c 304 § 32; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 68.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

*Real property defined: RCW 84.04.090.*

(2012 Ed.)

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.50.540 Taxed and licensed travel trailers or campers entitled to use of streets and highways.** Travel trailers or campers taxed and licensed under the provisions of this chapter shall be entitled to the use of the public streets and highways subject to the provisions of the motor vehicle laws of this state except as herein otherwise provided. [1971 ex.s. c 299 § 69.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

## CONSTRUCTION OF 1971 ACT

**82.50.901 Effective dates—Operative dates—Expiration dates—1971 ex.s. c 299 §§ 35-76.** (1) Sections 35 through 52 and section 54 of this 1971 amendatory act shall take effect on July 1, 1971, except that the provisions of chapter 82.50 RCW imposing a tax on campers shall not take effect until January 1, 1972.

(2) Sections 36 through 50 of this 1971 amendatory act shall be operative and in effect only until and including December 31, 1972, at which time, they, in their entirety, shall expire without any further action of the legislature. The expiration of such sections shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under the expired statutes, nor as affecting any proceeding instituted thereunder, nor any rule, regulation, or order promulgated thereunder, nor any administrative action taken thereunder.

(3) Sections 55 through 76 of this 1971 amendatory act shall take effect on January 1, 1973 without any further action of the legislature. [1971 ex.s. c 299 § 53.]

**Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.50.010.

## Chapter 82.52 RCW

### EXTENSION OF EXCISES TO FEDERAL AREAS

#### Sections

82.52.010 State accepts provisions of federal (Buck) act.

82.52.020 State's tax laws made applicable to federal areas—Exception.

*Federal areas and jurisdiction: Title 37 RCW.*

*Taxation of federal agencies and instrumentalities: State Constitution Art. 7 §§ 1, 3.*

**82.52.010 State accepts provisions of federal (Buck) act.** The state hereby accepts jurisdiction over all federal areas located within its exterior boundaries to the extent that the power and authority to levy and collect taxes therein is granted by that certain act of the 76th congress of the United States, approved by the president on October 9, 1940, and entitled: "An Act to permit the states to extend their sales, use, and income taxes to persons residing or carrying on business, or to transactions occurring, in federal areas, and for other purposes." [1961 c 15 § 82.52.010. Prior: 1941 c 175 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11337-10.]

**82.52.020 State's tax laws made applicable to federal areas—Exception.** From and after January 1, 1941, all laws of this state relating to revenue and taxation which, except for this chapter and the act of congress described herein, would not be operative within federal areas, are hereby extended to, and shall be construed as being operative in and upon all

[Title 82 RCW—page 353]

lands or premises held or acquired by or for the use of the United States or any department, establishment, or agency of the United States located within the exterior boundaries of the state, to the same extent and with the same effect as though such area was not a federal area: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall be construed as extending the provisions of this title to the gross income received from, or to sales made for use in performing within a federal military or naval reservation, any contract entered into with the United States of America, or any department or agency thereof or any subcontract made pursuant thereto for which a bid covering such contract or subcontract was submitted prior to October 9, 1940. [1961 c 15 § 82.52.020. Prior: 1941 c 175 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11337-11.]

### Chapter 82.56 RCW MULTISTATE TAX COMPACT

#### Sections

82.56.010	Compact.
82.56.020	Director of revenue to represent state.
82.56.030	Director may be represented by alternate.
82.56.040	Political subdivisions—Appointment of persons to represent—Consultations with.
82.56.050	Interstate audits article of compact declared to be in force in this state.

**82.56.010 Compact.** The following multistate tax compact, and each and every part thereof, is hereby approved, ratified, adopted, entered into and enacted into law by the state of Washington.

#### MULTISTATE TAX COMPACT

##### Article I. Purposes.

The purposes of this compact are to:

1. Facilitate proper determination of state and local tax liability of multistate taxpayers, including the equitable apportionment of tax bases and settlement of apportionment disputes.
2. Promote uniformity or compatibility in significant components of tax systems.
3. Facilitate taxpayer convenience and compliance in the filing of tax returns and in other phases of tax administration.
4. Avoid duplicative taxation.

##### Article II. Definitions.

As used in this compact:

1. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or possession of the United States.
2. "Subdivision" means any governmental unit or special district of a state.
3. "Taxpayer" means any corporation, partnership, firm, association, governmental unit or agency or person acting as a business entity in more than one state.
4. "Income tax" means a tax imposed on or measured by net income including any tax imposed on or measured by an amount arrived at by deducting expenses from gross income, one or more forms of which expenses are not specifically and directly related to particular transactions.

5. "Capital stock tax" means a tax measured in any way by the capital of a corporation considered in its entirety.

6. "Gross receipts tax" means a tax, other than a sales tax, which is imposed on or measured by the gross volume of business, in terms of gross receipts or in other terms, and in the determination of which no deduction is allowed which would constitute the tax an income tax.

7. "Sales tax" means a tax imposed with respect to the transfer for a consideration of ownership, possession or custody of tangible personal property or the rendering of services measured by the price of the tangible personal property transferred or services rendered and which is required by state or local law to be separately stated from the sales price by the seller, or which is customarily separately stated from the sales price, but does not include a tax imposed exclusively on the sale of a specifically identified commodity or article or class of commodities or articles.

8. "Use tax" means a nonrecurring tax, other than a sales tax, which (a) is imposed on or with respect to the exercise or enjoyment of any right or power over tangible personal property incident to the ownership, possession or custody of that property or the leasing of that property from another including any consumption, keeping, retention, or other use of tangible personal property and (b) is complementary to a sales tax.

9. "Tax" means an income tax, capital stock tax, gross receipts tax, sales tax, use tax, and any other tax which has a multistate impact, except that the provisions of Articles III, IV and V of this compact shall apply only to the taxes specifically designated therein and the provisions of Article IX of this compact shall apply only in respect to determinations pursuant to Article IV.

##### Article III. Elements of Income Tax Laws.

###### Taxpayer Option, State and Local Taxes.

1. Any taxpayer subject to an income tax whose income is subject to apportionment and allocation for tax purposes pursuant to the laws of a party state or pursuant to the laws of subdivisions in two or more party states may elect to apportion and allocate his income in the manner provided by the laws of such state or by the laws of such states and subdivisions without reference to this compact, or may elect to apportion and allocate in accordance with Article IV. This election for any tax year may be made in all party states or subdivisions thereof or in any one or more of the party states or subdivisions thereof without reference to the election made in the others. For the purposes of this paragraph, taxes imposed by subdivisions shall be considered separately from state taxes and the apportionment and allocation also may be applied to the entire tax base. In no instance wherein Article IV is employed for all subdivisions of a state may the sum of all apportionments and allocations to subdivisions within a state be greater than the apportionment and allocation that would be assignable to that state if the apportionment or allocation were being made with respect to a state income tax.

###### Taxpayer Option, Short Form.

2. Each party state or any subdivision thereof which imposes an income tax shall provide by law that any taxpayer required to file a return, whose only activities within the tax-

ing jurisdiction consist of sales and do not include owning or renting real estate or tangible personal property, and whose dollar volume of gross sales made during the tax year within the state or subdivision, as the case may be, is not in excess of \$100,000 may elect to report and pay any tax due on the basis of a percentage of such volume, and shall adopt rates which shall produce a tax which reasonably approximates the tax otherwise due. The multistate tax commission, not more than once in five years, may adjust the \$100,000 figure in order to reflect such changes as may occur in the real value of the dollar, and such adjusted figure, upon adoption by the commission, shall replace the \$100,000 figure specifically provided herein. Each party state and subdivision thereof may make the same election available to taxpayers additional to those specified in this paragraph.

#### Coverage.

3. Nothing in this article relates to the reporting or payment of any tax other than an income tax.

#### Article IV. Division of Income.

1. As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Business income" means income arising from transactions and activity in the regular course of the taxpayer's trade or business and includes income from tangible and intangible property if the acquisition, management, and disposition of the property constitute integral parts of the taxpayer's regular trade or business operations.

(b) "Commercial domicile" means the principal place from which the trade or business of the taxpayer is directed or managed.

(c) "Compensation" means wages, salaries, commissions and any other form of remuneration paid to employees for personal services.

(d) "Financial organization" means any bank, trust company, savings bank, industrial bank, land bank, safe deposit company, private banker, savings and loan association, credit union, cooperative bank, small loan company, sales finance company, investment company, or any type of insurance company.

(e) "Nonbusiness income" means all income other than business income.

(f) "Public utility" means any business entity (1) which owns or operates any plant, equipment, property, franchise, or license for the transmission of communications, transportation of goods or persons, except by pipe line, or the production, transmission, sale, delivery, or furnishing of electricity, water or steam; and (2) whose rates of charges for goods or services have been established or approved by a federal, state or local government or governmental agency.

(g) "Sales" means all gross receipts of the taxpayer not allocated under paragraphs of this article.

(h) "State" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, and any foreign country or political subdivision thereof.

(i) "This state" means the state in which the relevant tax return is filed or, in the case of application of this article to the apportionment and allocation of income for local tax pur-

poses, the subdivision or local taxing district in which the relevant tax return is filed.

2. Any taxpayer having income from business activity which is taxable both within and without this state, other than activity as a financial organization or public utility or the rendering of purely personal services by an individual, shall allocate and apportion his net income as provided in this article. If a taxpayer has income from business activity as a public utility but derives the greater percentage of his income from activities subject to this article, the taxpayer may elect to allocate and apportion his entire net income as provided in this article.

3. For purposes of allocation and apportionment of income under this article, a taxpayer is taxable in another state if (1) in that state he is subject to a net income tax, a franchise tax measured by net income, a franchise tax for the privilege of doing business, or a corporate stock tax, or (2) that state has jurisdiction to subject the taxpayer to a net income tax regardless of whether, in fact, the state does or does not.

4. Rents and royalties from real or tangible personal property, capital gains, interest, dividends or patent or copyright royalties, to the extent that they constitute nonbusiness income, shall be allocated as provided in paragraphs 5 through 8 of this article.

5.(a) Net rents and royalties from real property located in this state are allocable to this state.

(b) Net rents and royalties from tangible personal property are allocable to this state: (1) If and to the extent that the property is utilized in this state, or (2) in their entirety if the taxpayer's commercial domicile is in this state and the taxpayer is not organized under the laws of or taxable in the state in which the property is utilized.

(c) The extent of utilization of tangible personal property in a state is determined by multiplying the rents and royalties by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days of physical location of the property in the state during the rental or royalty period in the taxable year and the denominator of which is the number of days of physical location of the property everywhere during all rental or royalty periods in the taxable year. If the physical location of the property during the rental or royalty period is unknown or unascertainable by the taxpayer, tangible personal property is utilized in the state in which the property was located at the time the rental or royalty payer obtained possession.

6.(a) Capital gains and losses from sales of real property located in this state are allocable to this state.

(b) Capital gains and losses from sales of tangible personal property are allocable to this state if (1) the property had a situs in this state at the time of the sale, or (2) the taxpayer's commercial domicile is in this state and the taxpayer is not taxable in the state in which the property had a situs.

(c) Capital gains and losses from sales of intangible personal property are allocable to this state if the taxpayer's commercial domicile is in this state.

7. Interest and dividends are allocable to this state if the taxpayer's commercial domicile is in this state.

8.(a) Patent and copyright royalties are allocable to this state: (1) If and to the extent that the patent or copyright is utilized by the payer in this state, or (2) if and to the extent that the patent copyright is utilized by the payer in a state in

which the taxpayer is not taxable and the taxpayer's commercial domicile is in this state.

(b) A patent is utilized in a state to the extent that it is employed in production, fabrication, manufacturing, or other processing in the state or to the extent that a patented product is produced in the state. If the basis of receipts from patent royalties does not permit allocation to states or if the accounting procedures do not reflect states of utilization, the patent is utilized in the state in which the taxpayer's commercial domicile is located.

(c) A copyright is utilized in a state to the extent that printing or other publication originates in the state. If the basis of receipts from copyright royalties does not permit allocation to states or if the accounting procedures do not reflect states of utilization, the copyright is utilized in the state in which the taxpayer's commercial domicile is located.

9. All business income shall be apportioned to this state by multiplying the income by a fraction, the numerator of which is the property factor plus the payroll factor plus the sales factor, and the denominator of which is three.

10. The property factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the average value of the taxpayer's real and tangible personal property owned or rented and used in this state during the tax period and the denominator of which is the average value of all the taxpayer's real and tangible personal property owned or rented and used during the tax period.

11. Property owned by the taxpayer is valued at its original cost. Property rented by the taxpayer is valued at eight times the net annual rental rate. Net annual rental rate is the annual rental rate paid by the taxpayer less any annual rental rate received by the taxpayer from subrentals.

12. The average value of property shall be determined by averaging the values at the beginning and ending of the tax period but the tax administrator may require the averaging of monthly values during the tax period if reasonably required to reflect properly the average value of the taxpayer's property.

13. The payroll factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total amount paid in this state during the tax period by the taxpayer for compensation and the denominator of which is the total compensation paid everywhere during the tax period.

14. Compensation is paid in this state if:

(a) The individual's service is performed entirely within the state;

(b) The individual's service is performed both within and without the state, but the service performed without the state is incidental to the individual's service within the state; or

(c) Some of the service is performed in the state and (1) the base of operations or, if there is no base of operations, the place from which the service is directed or controlled is in the state, or (2) the base of operations or the place from which the service is directed or controlled is not in any state in which some part of the service is performed, but the individual's residence is in this state.

15. The sales factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total sales of the taxpayer in this state during the tax period, and the denominator of which is the total sales of the taxpayer everywhere during the tax period.

16. Sales of tangible personal property are in this state if:

(a) The property is delivered or shipped to a purchaser, other than the United States government, within this state regardless of the f.o.b. point or other conditions of the sale; or

(b) The property is shipped from an office, store, warehouse, factory, or other place of storage in this state and (1) the purchaser is the United States government or (2) the taxpayer is not taxable in the state of the purchaser.

17. Sales, other than sales of tangible personal property, are in this state if:

(a) The income-producing activity is performed in this state; or

(b) The income-producing activity is performed both in and outside this state and a greater proportion of the income-producing activity is performed in this state than in any other state, based on costs of performance.

18. If the allocation and apportionment provisions of this article do not fairly represent the extent of the taxpayer's business activity in this state, the taxpayer may petition for or the tax administrator may require, in respect to all or any part of the taxpayer's business activity, if reasonable:

(a) Separate accounting;

(b) The exclusion of any one or more of the factors;

(c) The inclusion of one or more additional factors which will fairly represent the taxpayer's business activity in this state; or

(d) The employment of any other method to effectuate an equitable allocation and apportionment of the taxpayer's income.

#### Article V. Elements of Sales and Use Tax Laws.

##### Tax Credit.

1. Each purchaser liable for a use tax on tangible personal property shall be entitled to full credit for the combined amount or amounts of legally imposed sales or use taxes paid by him with respect to the same property to another state and any subdivision thereof. The credit shall be applied first against the amount of any use tax due the state, and any unused portion of the credit shall then be applied against the amount of any use tax due a subdivision.

##### Exemption Certificates, Vendors May Rely.

2. Whenever a vendor receives and accepts in good faith from a purchaser a resale or other exemption certificate or other written evidence of exemption authorized by the appropriate state or subdivision taxing authority, the vendor shall be relieved of liability for a sales or use tax with respect to the transaction.

#### Article VI. The Commission.

##### Organization and Management.

1.(a) The multistate tax commission is hereby established. It shall be composed of one "member" from each party state who shall be the head of the state agency charged with the administration of the types of taxes to which this compact applies. If there is more than one such agency the state shall provide by law for the selection of the commission member from the heads of the relevant agencies. State law may provide that a member of the commission be represented by an

alternate but only if there is on file with the commission written notification of the designation and identity of the alternate. The attorney general of each party state or his designee, or other counsel if the laws of the party state specifically provide, shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the commission, but shall not vote. Such attorneys general, designees, or other counsel shall receive all notices of meetings required under paragraph 1(e) of this article.

(b) Each party state shall provide by law for the selection of representatives from its subdivisions affected by this compact to consult with the commission member from that state.

(c) Each member shall be entitled to one vote. The commission shall not act unless a majority of the members are present, and no action shall be binding unless approved by a majority of the total number of members.

(d) The commission shall adopt an official seal to be used as it may provide.

(e) The commission shall hold an annual meeting and such other regular meetings as its bylaws may provide and such special meetings as its executive committee may determine. The commission bylaws shall specify the dates of the annual and any other regular meetings, and shall provide for the giving of notice of annual, regular and special meetings. Notices of special meetings shall include the reasons therefor and an agenda of the items to be considered.

(f) The commission shall elect annually, from among its members, a chairman, a vice chairman and a treasurer. The commission shall appoint an executive director who shall serve at its pleasure, and it shall fix his duties and compensation. The executive director shall be secretary of the commission. The commission shall make provision for the bonding of such of its officers and employees as it may deem appropriate.

(g) Irrespective of the civil service, personnel or other merit system laws of any party state, the executive director shall appoint or discharge such personnel as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of the commission and shall fix their duties and compensation. The commission bylaws shall provide for personnel policies and programs.

(h) The commission may borrow, accept or contract for the services of personnel from any state, the United States, or any other governmental entity.

(i) The commission may accept for any of its purposes and functions any and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials and services, conditional or otherwise, from any governmental entity, and may utilize and dispose of the same.

(j) The commission may establish one or more offices for the transacting of its business.

(k) The commission shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of its business. The commission shall publish its bylaws in convenient form, and shall file a copy of the bylaws and any amendments thereto with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the party states.

(l) The commission annually shall make to the governor and legislature of each party state a report covering its activities for the preceding year. Any donation or grant accepted by the commission or services borrowed shall be reported in the annual report of the commission, and shall include the nature, amount and conditions, if any, of the donation, gift, grant or services borrowed and the identity of the donor or

lender. The commission may make additional reports as it may deem desirable.

#### Committees.

2.(a) To assist in the conduct of its business when the full commission is not meeting, the commission shall have an executive committee of seven members, including the chairman, vice chairman, treasurer and four other members elected annually by the commission. The executive committee, subject to the provisions of this compact and consistent with the policies of the commission, shall function as provided in the bylaws of the commission.

(b) The commission may establish advisory and technical committees, membership on which may include private persons and public officials, in furthering any of its activities. Such committees may consider any matter of concern to the commission, including problems of special interest to any party state and problems dealing with particular types of taxes.

(c) The commission may establish such additional committees as its bylaws may provide.

#### Powers.

3. In addition to powers conferred elsewhere in this compact, the commission shall have power to:

(a) Study state and local tax systems and particular types of state and local taxes.

(b) Develop and recommend proposals for an increase in uniformity or compatibility of state and local tax laws with a view toward encouraging the simplification and improvement of state and local tax law and administration.

(c) Compile and publish information as in its judgment would assist the party states in implementation of the compact and taxpayers in complying with state and local tax laws.

(d) Do all things necessary and incidental to the administration of its functions pursuant to this compact.

#### Finance.

4.(a) The commission shall submit to the governor or designated officer or officers of each party state a budget of its estimated expenditures for such period as may be required by the laws of that state for presentation to the legislature thereof.

(b) Each of the commission's budgets of estimated expenditures shall contain specific recommendations of the amounts to be appropriated by each of the party states. The total amount of appropriations requested under any such budget shall be apportioned among the party states as follows: one-tenth in equal shares; and the remainder in proportion to the amount of revenue collected by each party state and its subdivisions from income taxes, capital stock taxes, gross receipts taxes, sales and use taxes. In determining such amounts, the commission shall employ such available public sources of information as, in its judgment, present the most equitable and accurate comparisons among the party states. Each of the commission's budgets of estimated expenditures and requests for appropriations shall indicate the sources used in obtaining information employed in applying the formula contained in this paragraph.

(c) The commission shall not pledge the credit of any party state. The commission may meet any of its obligations in whole or in part with funds available to it under paragraph (1)(i) of this article: PROVIDED, That the commission takes specific action setting aside such funds prior to incurring any obligation to be met in whole or in part in such manner. Except where the commission makes use of funds available to it under paragraph 1(i), the commission shall not incur any obligation prior to the allotment of funds by the party states adequate to meet the same.

(d) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. All receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

(e) The accounts of the commission shall be open at any reasonable time for inspection by duly constituted officers of the party states and by any persons authorized by the commission.

(f) Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to prevent commission compliance with laws relating to audit or inspection of accounts by or on behalf of any government contributing to the support of the commission.

#### Article VII. Uniform Regulations and Forms.

1. Whenever any two or more party states, or subdivisions of party states, have uniform or similar provisions of law relating to an income tax, capital stock tax, gross receipts tax, sales or use tax, the commission may adopt uniform regulations for any phase of the administration of such law, including assertion of jurisdiction to tax, or prescribing uniform tax forms. The commission may also act with respect to the provisions of Article IV of this compact.

2. Prior to the adoption of any regulation, the commission shall:

(a) As provided in its bylaws, hold at least one public hearing on due notice to all affected party states and subdivisions thereof and to all taxpayers and other persons who have made timely request of the commission for advance notice of its regulation-making proceedings.

(b) Afford all affected party states and subdivisions and interested persons an opportunity to submit relevant written data and views, which shall be considered fully by the commission.

3. The commission shall submit any regulations adopted by it to the appropriate officials of all party states and subdivisions to which they might apply. Each such state and subdivision shall consider any such regulation for adoption in accordance with its own laws and procedures.

#### Article VIII. Interstate Audits.

1. This article shall be in force only in those party states that specifically provide therefor by statute.

2. Any party state or subdivision thereof desiring to make or participate in an audit of any accounts, books, papers, records or other documents may request the commission to perform the audit on its behalf. In responding to the request, the commission shall have access to and may exam-

ine, at any reasonable time, such accounts, books, papers, records, and other documents and any relevant property or stock of merchandise. The commission may enter into agreements with party states or their subdivisions for assistance in performance of the audit. The commission shall make charges, to be paid by the state or local government or governments for which it performs the service, for any audits performed by it in order to reimburse itself for the actual costs incurred in making the audit.

3. The commission may require the attendance of any person within the state where it is conducting an audit or part thereof at a time and place fixed by it within such state for the purpose of giving testimony with respect to any account, book, paper, document, other record, property or stock of merchandise being examined in connection with the audit. If the person is not within the jurisdiction, he may be required to attend for such purpose at any time and place fixed by the commission within the state of which he is a resident: PROVIDED, That such state has adopted this article.

4. The commission may apply to any court having power to issue compulsory process for orders in aid of its powers and responsibilities pursuant to this article and any and all such courts shall have jurisdiction to issue such orders. Failure of any person to obey any such order shall be punishable as contempt of the issuing court. If the party or subject matter on account of which the commission seeks an order is within the jurisdiction of the court to which application is made, such application may be to a court in the state or subdivision on behalf of which the audit is being made or a court in the state in which the object of the order being sought is situated. The provisions of this paragraph apply only to courts in a state that has adopted this article.

5. The commission may decline to perform any audit requested if it finds that its available personnel or other resources are insufficient for the purpose or that, in the terms requested, the audit is impracticable of satisfactory performance. If the commission, on the basis of its experience, has reason to believe that an audit of a particular taxpayer, either at a particular time or on a particular schedule, would be of interest to a number of party states or their subdivisions, it may offer to make the audit or audits, the offer to be contingent on sufficient participation therein as determined by the commission.

6. Information obtained by any audit pursuant to this article shall be confidential and available only for tax purposes to party states, their subdivisions or the United States. Availability of information shall be in accordance with the laws of the states or subdivisions on whose account the commission performs the audit, and only through the appropriate agencies or officers of such states or subdivisions. Nothing in this article shall be construed to require any taxpayer to keep records for any period not otherwise required by law.

7. Other arrangements made or authorized pursuant to law for cooperative audit by or on behalf of the party states or any of their subdivisions are not superseded or invalidated by this article.

8. In no event shall the commission make any charge against a taxpayer for an audit.

9. As used in this article, "tax," in addition to the meaning ascribed to it in Article II, means any tax or license fee imposed in whole or in part for revenue purposes.

## Article IX. Arbitration.

1. Whenever the commission finds a need for settling disputes concerning apportionments and allocations by arbitration, it may adopt a regulation placing this article in effect, notwithstanding the provisions of Article VII.

2. The commission shall select and maintain an arbitration panel composed of officers and employees of state and local governments and private persons who shall be knowledgeable and experienced in matters of tax law and administration.

3. Whenever a taxpayer who has elected to employ Article IV, or whenever the laws of the party state or subdivision thereof are substantially identical with the relevant provisions of Article IV, the taxpayer, by written notice to the commission and to each party state or subdivision thereof that would be affected, may secure arbitration of an apportionment or allocation, if he is dissatisfied with the final administrative determination of the tax agency of the state or subdivision with respect thereto on the ground that it would subject him to double or multiple taxation by two or more party states or subdivisions thereof. Each party state and subdivision thereof hereby consents to the arbitration as provided herein, and agrees to be bound thereby.

4. The arbitration board shall be composed of one person selected by the taxpayer, one by the agency or agencies involved, and one member of the commission's arbitration panel. If the agencies involved are unable to agree on the person to be selected by them, such person shall be selected by lot from the total membership of the arbitration panel. The two persons selected for the board in the manner provided by the foregoing provisions of this paragraph shall jointly select the third member of the board. If they are unable to agree on the selection, the third member shall be selected by lot from among the total membership of the arbitration panel. No member of a board selected by lot shall be qualified to serve if he is an officer or employee or is otherwise affiliated with any party to the arbitration proceeding. Residence within the jurisdiction of a party to the arbitration proceeding shall not constitute affiliation within the meaning of this paragraph.

5. The board may sit in any state or subdivision party to the proceeding, in the state of the taxpayer's incorporation, residence or domicile, in any state where the taxpayer does business, or in any place that it finds most appropriate for gaining access to evidence relevant to the matter before it.

6. The board shall give due notice of the times and places of its hearings. The parties shall be entitled to be heard, to present evidence, and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. The board shall act by majority vote.

7. The board shall have power to administer oaths, take testimony, subpoena and require the attendance of witnesses and the production of accounts, books, papers, records, and other documents, and issue commissions to take testimony. Subpoenas may be signed by any member of the board. In case of failure to obey a subpoena, and upon application by the board, any judge of a court of competent jurisdiction of the state in which the board is sitting or in which the person to whom the subpoena is directed may be found may make an order requiring compliance with the subpoena, and the court may punish failure to obey the order as a contempt. The pro-

visions of this paragraph apply only in states that have adopted this article.

8. Unless the parties otherwise agree the expenses and other costs of the arbitration shall be assessed and allocated among the parties by the board in such manner as it may determine. The commission shall fix a schedule of compensation for members of arbitration boards and of other allowable expenses and costs. No officer or employee of a state or local government who serves as a member of a board shall be entitled to compensation therefor unless he is required on account of his service to forego the regular compensation attaching to his public employment, but any such board member shall be entitled to expenses.

9. The board shall determine the disputed apportionment or allocation and any matters necessary thereto. The determinations of the board shall be final for purposes of making the apportionment or allocation, but for no other purpose.

10. The board shall file with the commission and with each tax agency represented in the proceeding: the determination of the board; the board's written statement of its reasons therefor; the record of the board's proceedings; and any other documents required by the arbitration rules of the commission to be filed.

11. The commission shall publish the determinations of boards together with the statements of the reasons therefor.

12. The commission shall adopt and publish rules of procedure and practice and shall file a copy of such rules and of any amendment thereto with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the party states.

13. Nothing contained herein shall prevent at any time a written compromise of any matter or matters in dispute, if otherwise lawful, by the parties to the arbitration proceeding.

Article X. Entry into Force  
and Withdrawal.

1. This compact shall enter into force when enacted into law by any seven states. Thereafter, this compact shall become effective as to any other state upon its enactment thereof. The commission shall arrange for notification of all party states whenever there is a new enactment of the compact.

2. Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same. No withdrawal shall affect any liability already incurred by or chargeable to a party state prior to the time of such withdrawal.

3. No proceeding commenced before an arbitration board prior to the withdrawal of a state and to which the withdrawing state or any subdivision thereof is a party shall be discontinued or terminated by the withdrawal, nor shall the board thereby lose jurisdiction over any of the parties to the proceeding necessary to make a binding determination therein.

Article XI. Effect on Other Laws  
and Jurisdiction.

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to:

(a) Affect the power of any state or subdivision thereof to fix rates of taxation, except that a party state shall be obligated to implement Article III 2 of this compact.

(b) Apply to any tax or fixed fee imposed for the registration of a motor vehicle or any tax on motor fuel, other than

a sales tax: PROVIDED, That the definition of "tax" in Article VIII 9 may apply for the purposes of that article and the commission's powers of study and recommendation pursuant to Article VI 3 may apply.

(c) Withdraw or limit the jurisdiction of any state or local court or administrative officer or body with respect to any person, corporation or other entity or subject matter, except to the extent that such jurisdiction is expressly conferred by or pursuant to this compact upon another agency or body.

(d) Supersede or limit the jurisdiction of any court of the United States.

#### Article XII. Construction and Severability.

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the Constitution of any state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the Constitution of any state participating therein, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters. [1967 c 125 § 1.]

**82.56.020 Director of revenue to represent state.** The director of revenue shall represent this state on the multistate tax commission. [1979 c 107 § 12; 1967 c 125 § 2.]

**82.56.030 Director may be represented by alternate.** The member representing this state on the multistate tax commission may be represented thereon by an alternate designated by him. Any such alternate shall be a principal deputy or assistant of the member of the commission in the agency which the member heads. [1967 c 125 § 3.]

**82.56.040 Political subdivisions—Appointment of persons to represent—Consultations with.** The governor, after consultation with representatives of local governments, shall appoint three persons who are representative of subdivisions affected or likely to be affected by the multistate tax compact. The member of the commission representing this state, and any alternate designated by him, shall consult regularly with these appointees, in accordance with Article VI 1(b) of the compact. [1967 c 125 § 4.]

**82.56.050 Interstate audits article of compact declared to be in force in this state.** Article VIII of the multistate tax compact relating to interaudits shall be in force in and with respect to this state. [1967 c 125 § 5.]

### Chapter 82.58 RCW SIMPLIFIED SALES AND USE TAX ADMINISTRATION ACT

#### Sections

82.58.005 Findings.  
82.58.010 Definitions.

82.58.020 Multistate discussions.  
82.58.030 Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.  
82.58.040 State adoption of agreement—Existing laws unaffected.  
82.58.050 Requirements for agreement.  
82.58.060 General purpose of agreement.  
82.58.070 Agreement for benefit of member states only—No legal action.  
82.58.080 Certified service provider—Certified automated system.  
82.58.090 Legislation to conform state law.  
82.58.900 Short title.  
82.58.901 Effective date—2002 c 267 §§ 1-9.  
82.58.902 Contingent effective date—2002 c 267 §§ 10 and 11.

**82.58.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that a simplified sales and use tax system will reduce and over time eliminate the burden and cost for all vendors to collect this state's sales and use tax. The legislature further finds that this state should participate in multistate discussions to review or amend the terms of the agreement to simplify and modernize sales and use tax administration in order to substantially reduce the burden of tax compliance for all sellers and for all types of commerce. [2002 c 267 § 3.]

**82.58.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Agreement" means the streamlined sales and use tax agreement as adopted.

(2) "Certified automated system" means software certified jointly by the states that are signatories to the agreement to calculate the tax imposed by each jurisdiction on a transaction, determine the amount of tax to remit to the appropriate state, and maintain a record of the transaction.

(3) "Certified service provider" means an agent certified jointly by the states that are signatories to the agreement to perform all of the seller's sales tax functions.

(4) "Person" means an individual, trust, estate, fiduciary, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, corporation, or any other legal entity.

(5) "Sales tax" means the tax levied under chapter 82.08 RCW.

(6) "Seller" means any person making sales, leases, or rentals of personal property or services.

(7) "State" means any state of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(8) "Use tax" means the tax levied under chapter 82.12 RCW. [2002 c 267 § 2.]

**82.58.020 Multistate discussions.** For the purposes of reviewing or amending the agreement embodying the simplification requirements in RCW 82.58.050, the state shall enter into multistate discussions. For purposes of these discussions, the state shall be represented by the department. [2010 1st sp.s. c 7 § 17; 2002 c 267 § 4.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**82.58.030 Streamlined sales and use tax agreement.** The department shall enter into the streamlined sales and use tax agreement with one or more states to simplify and modernize sales and use tax administration in order to substantially reduce the burden of tax compliance for all sellers and for all types of commerce. In furtherance of the agreement, the department may act jointly with other states that are mem-

bers of the agreement to establish standards for certification of a certified service provider and certified automated system and establish performance standards for multistate sellers. The department is further authorized to take other actions reasonably required to implement this chapter. Other actions authorized by this section include, but are not limited to, the adoption of rules and the joint procurement, with other member states, of goods and services in furtherance of the cooperative agreement. The department, or the department's designee, may represent this state before the other states that are signatories to the agreement. [2002 c 267 § 5.]

**82.58.040 State adoption of agreement—Existing laws unaffected.** No provision of the agreement authorized by this chapter in whole or part invalidates or amends any provision of the law of this state. Adoption of the agreement by this state does not amend or modify any law of this state. Implementation of any condition of the agreement in this state, whether adopted before, at, or after membership of this state in the agreement, must be by the action of this state. [2002 c 267 § 6.]

**82.58.050 Requirements for agreement.** The department shall not enter into the streamlined sales and use tax agreement unless the agreement requires each state to abide by the requirements in this section.

(1) The agreement must set restrictions to limit over time the number of state rates.

(2) The agreement must establish uniform standards for:

- (a) The sourcing of transactions to taxing jurisdictions;
- (b) The administration of exempt sales; and
- (c) Sales and use tax returns and remittances.

(3) The agreement must provide a central, electronic registration system that allows a seller to register to collect and remit sales and use taxes for all signatory states.

(4) The agreement must provide that registration with the central registration system and the collection of sales and use taxes in the signatory states will not be used as a factor in determining whether the seller has nexus with a state for any tax.

(5) The agreement must provide for reduction of the burdens of complying with local sales and use taxes by:

(a) Restricting variances between the state and local tax bases;

(b) Requiring states to administer any sales and use taxes levied by local jurisdictions within the state so that sellers collecting and remitting these taxes will not have to register or file returns with, remit funds to, or be subject to independent audits from local taxing jurisdictions;

(c) Restricting the frequency of changes in the local sales and use tax rates and setting effective dates for the application of local jurisdictional boundary changes to local sales and use taxes; and

(d) Providing notice of changes in local sales and use tax rates and of changes in the boundaries of local taxing jurisdictions.

(6) The agreement must outline any monetary allowances that are to be provided by the states to sellers or certified service providers. The agreement must allow for a joint public and private sector study of the compliance cost on sellers and certified service providers to collect sales and use

taxes for state and local governments under various levels of complexity.

(7) The agreement must require each state to certify compliance with the terms of the agreement before joining and to maintain compliance, under the laws of the member state, with all provisions of the agreement while a member.

(8) The agreement must require each state to adopt a uniform policy for certified service providers that protects the privacy of consumers and maintains the confidentiality of tax information.

(9) The agreement must provide for the appointment of an advisory council of private sector representatives and an advisory council of nonmember state representatives to consult with in the administration of the agreement. [2004 c 153 § 401; 2002 c 267 § 7.]

**Retroactive effective date—Effective date—2004 c 153:** See note following RCW 82.08.0293.

**82.58.060 General purpose of agreement.** The agreement authorized by this chapter is an accord among individual cooperating sovereigns in furtherance of their governmental functions. The agreement provides a mechanism among the member states to establish and maintain a cooperative, simplified system for the application and administration of sales and use taxes under the duly adopted law of each member state. [2002 c 267 § 8.]

**82.58.070 Agreement for benefit of member states only—No legal action.** (1) The agreement authorized by this chapter binds and inures only to the benefit of this state and the other member states. No person, other than a member state, is an intended beneficiary of the agreement. Any benefit to a person other than a state is established by the law of this state and the other member states and not by the terms of the agreement.

(2) Consistent with subsection (1) of this section, no person has any cause of action or defense under the agreement or by virtue of this state's approval of the agreement. No person may challenge, in any action brought under any provision of law, any action or inaction by any department, agency, other instrumentality of this state, or any political subdivision of this state on the ground that the action or inaction is inconsistent with the agreement.

(3) No law of this state, or the application thereof, may be declared invalid as to any person or circumstance on the ground that the provision or application is inconsistent with the agreement. [2002 c 267 § 9.]

**82.58.080 Certified service provider—Certified automated system. (Contingent effective date.)** (1) A certified service provider is the agent of a seller, with whom the certified service provider has contracted, for the collection and remittance of sales and use taxes. As the seller's agent, the certified service provider is liable for sales and use tax due each member state on all sales transactions it processes for the seller except as set out in this section. A seller that contracts with a certified service provider is not liable to the state for sales or use tax due on transactions processed by the certified service provider unless the seller misrepresented the type of items it sells or committed fraud. In the absence of probable cause to believe that the seller has committed fraud

or made a material misrepresentation, the seller is not subject to audit on the transactions processed by the certified service provider. A seller is subject to audit for transactions not processed by the certified service provider. The member states acting jointly may perform a system check of the seller and review the seller's procedures to determine if the certified service provider's system is functioning properly and the extent to which the seller's transactions are being processed by the certified service provider.

(2) A person that provides a certified automated system is responsible for the proper functioning of that system and is liable to the state for underpayments of tax attributable to errors in the functioning of the certified automated system. A seller that uses a certified automated system remains responsible and is liable to the state for reporting and remitting tax.

(3) A seller that has a proprietary system for determining the amount of tax due on transactions and has signed an agreement establishing a performance standard for that system is liable for the failure of the system to meet the performance standard. [2002 c 267 § 10.]

**82.58.090 Legislation to conform state law. (Continued effective date.)** Upon becoming a member of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement, the department shall prepare legislation conforming state law as necessary and shall provide such legislation to the fiscal committees of the legislature. [2002 c 267 § 11.]

**82.58.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and cited as the "simplified sales and use tax administration act." [2002 c 267 § 1.]

**82.58.901 Effective date—2002 c 267 §§ 1-9.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act take effect July 1, 2002. [2002 c 267 § 12.]

**82.58.902 Contingent effective date—2002 c 267 §§ 10 and 11.** Sections 10 and 11 of this act become effective when the state becomes a member of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement. [2002 c 267 § 13.]

### Chapter 82.60 RCW

#### TAX DEFERRALS FOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN RURAL COUNTIES

(Formerly: Tax deferrals for investment projects in distressed areas)

##### Sections

82.60.010	Legislative findings and declaration.
82.60.020	Definitions.
82.60.025	Deferral eligibility requirements.
82.60.030	Application for deferral—Contents.
82.60.040	Issuance of tax deferral certificate.
82.60.049	Additional eligible projects.
82.60.060	Repayment schedule.
82.60.063	Repayment of deferred taxes—Relief.
82.60.065	Tax deferral on construction labor and investment projects—Repayment forgiven.
82.60.070	Annual survey by recipients—Assessment of taxes, interest.
82.60.080	Employment and wage determinations.
82.60.090	Applicability of general administrative provisions.
82.60.100	Applications, reports, and information subject to disclosure.
82.60.120	Qualifying county list—2010 1st sp.s. c 16.

**82.60.010 Legislative findings and declaration.** The legislature finds that there are several areas in the state that

are characterized by very high levels of unemployment and poverty. The legislature further finds that economic stagnation is the primary cause of this high unemployment rate and poverty; that new state policies are necessary in order to promote economic stimulation and new employment opportunities in these distressed areas; and that policies providing incentives for economic growth in these distressed areas are essential. For these reasons, the legislature reestablishes a tax deferral program to be effective solely in distressed counties. The legislature declares that this limited program serves the vital public purpose of creating employment opportunities and reducing poverty in the distressed counties of the state. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 1; 1985 c 232 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** "Except for section 3 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2010." [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 14.]

**82.60.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax deferral under this chapter.

(2) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(3) "Eligible area" means:

(a) Through June 30, 2010, a rural county as defined in RCW 82.14.370; and

(b) Beginning July 1, 2010, a qualifying county.

(4)(a) "Eligible investment project" means an investment project that is located, as of the date the application required by RCW 82.60.030 is received by the department, in an eligible area as defined in subsection (3) of this section.

(b) "Eligible investment project" does not include any portion of an investment project undertaken by a light and power business as defined in RCW 82.16.010(4), other than that portion of a cogeneration project that is used to generate power for consumption within the manufacturing site of which the cogeneration project is an integral part, or investment projects that have already received deferrals under this chapter.

(5) "Initiation of construction" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.63.010.

(6) "Investment project" means an investment in qualified buildings or qualified machinery and equipment, including labor and services rendered in the planning, installation, and construction of the project.

(7) "Manufacturing" means the same as defined in RCW 82.04.120. "Manufacturing" also includes:

(a) Before July 1, 2010: (i) Computer programming, the production of computer software, and other computer-related services, but only when the computer programming, production of computer software, or other computer-related services are performed by a manufacturer as defined in RCW 82.04.110 and contribute to the production of a new, different, or useful substance or article of tangible personal property for sale; (ii) the activities performed by research and development laboratories and commercial testing laboratories; and (iii) the conditioning of vegetable seeds; and

(b) Beginning July 1, 2010: (i) The activities performed by research and development laboratories and commercial testing laboratories; and (ii) the conditioning of vegetable seeds.

(8) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030.

(9) "Qualified buildings" means construction of new structures, and expansion or renovation of existing structures for the purpose of increasing floor space or production capacity used for manufacturing or research and development activities, including plant offices and warehouses or other facilities for the storage of raw material or finished goods if such facilities are an essential or an integral part of a factory, mill, plant, or laboratory used for manufacturing or research and development. If a building is used partly for manufacturing or research and development and partly for other purposes, the applicable tax deferral must be determined by apportionment of the costs of construction under rules adopted by the department.

(10) "Qualified employment position" means a permanent full-time employee employed in the eligible investment project during the entire tax year. The term "entire tax year" means a full-time position that is filled for a period of twelve consecutive months. The term "full-time" means at least thirty-five hours a week, four hundred fifty-five hours a quarter, or one thousand eight hundred twenty hours a year.

(11) "Qualified machinery and equipment" means all new industrial and research fixtures, equipment, and support facilities that are an integral and necessary part of a manufacturing or research and development operation. "Qualified machinery and equipment" includes: Computers; software; data processing equipment; laboratory equipment; manufacturing components such as belts, pulleys, shafts, and moving parts; molds, tools, and dies; operating structures; and all equipment used to control or operate the machinery.

(12) "Qualifying county" means a county that has an unemployment rate, as determined by the employment security department, which is at least twenty percent above the state average for the three calendar years immediately preceding the year in which the list of qualifying counties is established or updated, as the case may be, as provided in RCW 82.60.120.

(13) "Recipient" means a person receiving a tax deferral under this chapter.

(14) "Research and development" means the development, refinement, testing, marketing, and commercialization of a product, service, or process before commercial sales have begun, but only when such activities are intended to ultimately result in the production of a new, different, or useful substance or article of tangible personal property for sale. As used in this subsection, "commercial sales" excludes sales of prototypes or sales for market testing if the total gross receipts from such sales of the product, service, or process do not exceed one million dollars. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 2; 2010 c 114 § 138; 2006 c 142 § 1; 2004 c 25 § 3; 1999 sp.s. c 9 § 2; 1999 c 164 § 301; 1996 c 290 § 4; 1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 5. Prior: 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 704; 1994 sp.s. c 1 § 1; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 403; 1988 c 42 § 16; 1986 c 116 § 12; 1985 c 232 § 2.]

**Retroactive application—2010 1st sp.s. c 16 §§ 2 and 11:** "The amendments to the definitions of "manufacturing" and "research and development" in sections 2 and 11 of this act apply retroactively as well as prospectively." [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 15.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2006 c 142:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 142 § 2.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—2004 c 25:** See note following RCW 82.04.4483.

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1999 sp.s. c 9:** See notes following RCW 82.04.120.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Effective date—Severability—1999 c 164:** See notes following RCW 43.160.010.

**Findings—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.60.025 Deferral eligibility requirements.** The lessor or owner of a qualified building is not eligible for a deferral unless:

(1) The underlying ownership of the buildings, machinery, and equipment vests exclusively in the same person; or

(2)(a) The lessor by written contract agrees to pass the economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee;

(b) The lessee that receives the economic benefit of the deferral agrees in writing with the department to complete the annual survey required under RCW 82.60.070; and

(c) The economic benefit of the deferral passed to the lessee is no less than the amount of tax deferred by the lessor and is evidenced by written documentation of any type of payment, credit, or other financial arrangement between the lessor or owner of the qualified building and the lessee. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 4.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

**82.60.030 Application for deferral—Contents. (Expires July 1, 2020.)** (1) Application for deferral of taxes under this chapter must be made before initiation of the construction of the investment project or acquisition of equipment or machinery. The application must be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application must contain information regarding the location of the investment project, the applicant's average employment in the state for the prior year, estimated or actual new employment related to the project, estimated or actual wages of employees related to the project, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department. The department must rule on the application within sixty days.

(2) This section expires July 1, 2020. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 5; 1994 sp.s. c 1 § 2; 1985 c 232 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

**82.60.040 Issuance of tax deferral certificate. (Expires July 1, 2020.)** (1) The department must issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW on each eligible investment project.

(2) The department must keep a running total of all deferrals granted under this chapter during each fiscal biennium.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2020. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 6; 2004 c 25 § 4; 1999 c 164 § 302; 1997 c 156 § 5; 1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 6; 1994 sp.s. c 1 § 3; 1986 c 116 § 13; 1985 c 232 § 4.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

**Effective date—2004 c 25:** See note following RCW 82.04.4483.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Effective date—Severability—1999 c 164:** See notes following RCW 43.160.010.

**Findings—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.60.049 Additional eligible projects.** (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Eligible area" also means a designated community empowerment zone approved under RCW 43.31C.020.

(b) "Eligible investment project" also means an investment project in an eligible area as defined in this section.

(2) In addition to the provisions of RCW 82.60.040, the department shall issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW, on each eligible investment project that is located in an eligible area, if the applicant establishes that at the time the project is operationally complete:

(a) The applicant will hire at least one qualified employment position for each seven hundred fifty thousand dollars of investment for which a deferral is requested; and

(b) The positions will be filled by persons who at the time of hire are residents of the community empowerment zone. As used in this subsection, "resident" means the person makes his or her home in the community empowerment zone or the county in which the zone is located. A mailing address alone is insufficient to establish that a person is a resident for the purposes of this section. The persons must be hired after the date the application is filed with the department.

(3) All other provisions and eligibility requirements of this chapter apply to applicants eligible under this section.

(4) The qualified employment position must be filled by the end of the calendar year following the year in which the project is certified as operationally complete. If a person does not meet the requirements for qualified employment positions by the end of the second calendar year following the year in which the project is certified as operationally complete, all deferred taxes are immediately due. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 7; 2004 c 25 § 5; 2000 c 106 § 8; 1999 c 164 § 304.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

**Effective date—2004 c 25:** See note following RCW 82.04.4483.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Effective date—Severability—1999 c 164:** See notes following RCW 43.160.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.60.060 Repayment schedule.** (1) The recipient must begin paying the deferred taxes in the third year after the date certified by the department as the date on which the investment project has been operationally completed. The first payment will be due on December 31st of the third calendar year after such certified date, with subsequent annual payments due on December 31st of the following four years with amounts of payment scheduled as follows:

Repayment Year	% of Deferred Tax Repaid
1	10%
2	15%
3	20%
4	25%
5	30%

(2) The department may authorize an accelerated repayment schedule upon request of the recipient.

(3) Interest may not be charged on any taxes deferred under this chapter for the period of deferral, although all other penalties and interest applicable to delinquent excise taxes may be assessed and imposed for delinquent payments under this chapter. The debt for deferred taxes will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the recipient. Transfer of ownership does not terminate the deferral. The deferral is transferred, subject to the successor meeting the eligibility requirements of this chapter, for the remaining periods of the deferral. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 8; 2000 c 106 § 5; 1985 c 232 § 5.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.60.063 Repayment of deferred taxes—Relief.** (1) Subject to the conditions in this section, a person is not liable for the amount of deferred taxes outstanding for an investment project when the person temporarily ceases to use its qualified buildings and qualified machinery and equipment for manufacturing or research and development activities in a county with a population of less than twenty thousand persons for a period not to exceed twenty-four months from the date that the department sent its assessment for the amount of outstanding deferred taxes to the taxpayer.

(2) The relief from repayment of deferred taxes under this section does not apply unless the number of qualified employment positions maintained at the investment project after manufacturing or research and development activities are temporarily ceased is at least ten percent of the number of qualified employment positions employed at the investment project at the time the deferral was approved by the department. If a person has been approved for more than one deferral under this chapter, relief from repayment of deferred taxes under this section does not apply unless the number of qualified employment positions maintained at the investment project after manufacturing or research and development activities are temporarily ceased is at least ten percent of the highest number of qualified employment positions at the investment project at the time any of the deferrals were approved by the department. If, at any time during the twenty-four month period after the department has sent the taxpayer an assessment for outstanding deferred taxes resulting from the person temporarily ceasing to use its qualified buildings and qualified machinery and equipment for manufacturing or research and development activities, the number of qualified employment positions falls below the ten percent threshold in this subsection, the amount of deferred taxes outstanding for the project is immediately due.

(3) The lessor of an investment project for which a deferral has been granted under this chapter who has passed the economic benefits of the deferral to the lessee is not eligible

for relief from the payment of deferred taxes under this section.

(4) A person seeking relief from the payment of deferred taxes under this section must apply to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application required under this subsection must be received by the department within thirty days of the date that the department sent its assessment for outstanding deferred taxes resulting from the person temporarily ceasing to use its qualified buildings and qualified machinery and equipment for manufacturing or research and development activities. The department must approve applications that meet the requirements in this section for relief from the payment of deferred taxes.

(5) A person is entitled to relief under this section only once.

(6) A person whose application for relief from the payment of deferred taxes has been approved under this section must continue to file an annual survey as required under RCW 82.60.070(1) or any successor statute. In addition, the person must file, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, a report on the status of the business and the outlook for commencing manufacturing or research and development activities. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 10.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

**82.60.065 Tax deferral on construction labor and investment projects—Repayment forgiven.** Except as provided in RCW 82.60.070:

(1) Taxes deferred under this chapter on the sale or use of labor that is directly used in the construction of an investment project for which a deferral has been granted under this chapter after June 11, 1986, and prior to July 1, 1994, need not be repaid.

(2) Taxes deferred under this chapter on an investment project for which a deferral has been granted under this chapter after June 30, 1994, need not be repaid.

(3) Taxes deferred under this chapter need not be repaid on machinery and equipment for lumber and wood products industries, and sales of or charges made for labor and services, of the type which qualifies for exemption under RCW 82.08.02565 or 82.12.02565 to the extent the taxes have not been repaid before July 1, 1995. [1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 8; 1994 sp.s. c 1 § 6; 1986 c 116 § 14.]

**Findings—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.60.070 Annual survey by recipients—Assessment of taxes, interest.** (1)(a) Each recipient of a deferral of taxes granted under this chapter must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585. If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.60.025, the lessee must file a complete annual survey, and the applicant is not required to file a complete annual survey.

(b) The department must use the information reported on the annual survey required by this section to study the tax deferral program authorized under this chapter. The department must report to the legislature by December 1, 2019. The report must measure the effect of the program on job cre-

(2012 Ed.)

ation, the number of jobs created for residents of eligible areas, company growth, the introduction of new products, the diversification of the state's economy, growth in research and development investment, the movement of firms or the consolidation of firms' operations into the state, and such other factors as the department selects.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 82.60.063, if, on the basis of a survey under RCW 82.32.585 or other information, the department finds that an investment project is not eligible for tax deferral under this chapter, the amount of deferred taxes outstanding for the project, according to the repayment schedule in RCW 82.60.060, is immediately due. For purposes of this subsection (2), the repayment schedule in RCW 82.60.060 is tolled during the period of time that a taxpayer is receiving relief from repayment of deferred taxes under RCW 82.60.063.

(3) A recipient who must repay deferred taxes under subsection (2) of this section because the department has found that an investment project is not eligible for tax deferral under this chapter is no longer required to file annual surveys under RCW 82.32.585 beginning on the date an investment project is used for nonqualifying purposes.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or RCW 82.32.585, deferred taxes on the following need not be repaid:

(a) Machinery and equipment, and sales of or charges made for labor and services, which at the time of purchase would have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.08.02565; and

(b) Machinery and equipment which at the time of first use would have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.12.02565. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 9; 2010 c 114 § 139; 2004 c 25 § 7; 1999 c 164 § 303; 1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 9; 1994 sp.s. c 1 § 5; 1985 c 232 § 6.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2004 c 25:** See note following RCW 82.04.4483.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Effective date—Severability—1999 c 164:** See notes following RCW 43.160.010.

**Findings—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.60.080 Employment and wage determinations.** The employment security department shall make, and certify to the department of revenue, all determinations of employment and wages as requested by the department under this chapter. [2000 c 106 § 6; 1985 c 232 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.60.090 Applicability of general administrative provisions.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter. [1985 c 232 § 8.]

**82.60.100 Applications, reports, and information subject to disclosure.** Applications, reports, and any other information received by the department under this chapter, except applications not approved by the department, are not

confidential and are subject to disclosure. [2010 c 106 § 106; 1987 c 49 § 1.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

### 82.60.120 Qualifying county list—2010 1st sp.s. c 16.

The department, with the assistance of the employment security department, must establish a list of qualifying counties effective July 1, 2010. The list of qualifying counties is effective for a twenty-four month period and must be updated by July 1st of the year that is two calendar years after the list was established or last updated, as the case may be. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 3.]

## Chapter 82.62 RCW

### TAX CREDITS FOR ELIGIBLE BUSINESS PROJECTS IN RURAL COUNTIES

#### Sections

82.62.010	Definitions.
82.62.020	Application for tax credits—Contents.
82.62.030	Allowance of tax credits—Limitations.
82.62.045	Tax credits for eligible business projects in designated community empowerment zones.
82.62.050	Tax credit recipients to report to department—Payment of taxes and interest by ineligible recipients.
82.62.060	Employment and wage determinations.
82.62.070	Applicability of general administrative provisions.
82.62.080	Applications, reports, and other information subject to disclosure.
82.62.900	Severability—1986 c 116.
82.62.901	Effective date—1986 c 116 §§ 15-20.

**82.62.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax credit under this chapter.

(2) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(3) "Eligible area" means a "rural county" as defined in RCW 82.14.370.

(4)(a) "Eligible business project" means manufacturing or research and development activities which are conducted by an applicant in an eligible area at a specific facility, provided the applicant's average qualified employment positions at the specific facility will be at least fifteen percent greater in the four consecutive full calendar quarters after the calendar quarter during which the first qualified employment position is filled than the applicant's average qualified employment positions at the same facility in the four consecutive full calendar quarters immediately preceding the calendar quarter during which the first qualified employment position is filled.

(b) "Eligible business project" does not include any portion of a business project undertaken by a light and power business as defined in RCW 82.16.010 or that portion of a business project creating qualified full-time employment positions outside an eligible area.

(5) "First qualified employment position" means the first qualified employment position filled for which a credit under this chapter is sought.

(6) "Manufacturing" means the same as defined in RCW 82.04.120. "Manufacturing" also includes:

(a) Before July 1, 2010: (i) Computer programming, the production of computer software, and other computer-related services, but only when the computer programming, produc-

tion of computer software, or other computer-related services are performed by a manufacturer as defined in RCW 82.04.110 and contribute to the production of a new, different, or useful substance or article of tangible personal property for sale; and (ii) the activities performed by research and development laboratories and commercial testing laboratories; and

(b) Beginning July 1, 2010, the activities performed by research and development laboratories and commercial testing laboratories.

(7) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030.

(8)(a)(i) "Qualified employment position" means a permanent full-time employee employed in the eligible business project during four consecutive full calendar quarters.

(ii) For seasonal employers, "qualified employment position" also includes the equivalent of a full-time employee in work hours for four consecutive full calendar quarters.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, "full time" means a normal work week of at least thirty-five hours.

(c) Once a permanent, full-time employee has been employed, a position does not cease to be a qualified employment position solely due to periods in which the position goes vacant, as long as:

(i) The cumulative period of any vacancies in that position is not more than one hundred twenty days in the four-quarter period; and

(ii) During a vacancy, the employer is training or actively recruiting a replacement permanent, full-time employee for the position.

(9) "Recipient" means a person receiving tax credits under this chapter.

(10) "Research and development" means the development, refinement, testing, marketing, and commercialization of a product, service, or process before commercial sales have begun, but only when such activities are intended to ultimately result in the production of a new, different, or useful substance or article of tangible personal property for sale. As used in this subsection, "commercial sales" excludes sales of prototypes or sales for market testing if the total gross receipts from such sales of the product, service, or process do not exceed one million dollars.

(11) "Seasonal employee" means an employee of a seasonal employer who works on a seasonal basis. For the purposes of this subsection and subsection (12) of this section, "seasonal basis" means a continuous employment period of less than twelve consecutive months.

(12) "Seasonal employer" means a person who regularly hires more than fifty percent of its employees to work on a seasonal basis. [2010 1st sp.s. c 16 § 11; 2010 c 106 § 232; 2007 c 485 § 1; 2001 c 320 § 12; 1999 sp.s. c 9 § 3; 1999 c 164 § 305; 1996 c 290 § 5; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 705; 1993 sp.s. c 25 § 410; 1988 c 42 § 17; 1986 c 116 § 15.]

**Retroactive application—2010 1st sp.s. c 16 §§ 2 and 11:** See note following RCW 82.60.020.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 16:** See note following RCW 82.60.010.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Application—2007 c 485:** "Sections 1 through 3 and 5 of this act apply with respect to applications for credit under chapter 82.62 RCW received by the department of revenue on or after January 1, 2008." [2007 c 485 § 7.]

**Application—Effective date—2007 c 485:** See notes following RCW 82.62.020.

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1999 sp.s. c 9:** See notes following RCW 82.04.120.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Effective date—Severability—1999 c 164:** See notes following RCW 43.160.010.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### 82.62.020 Application for tax credits—Contents.

Application for tax credits under this chapter must be made within ninety consecutive days after the first qualified employment position is filled. The application shall be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application shall contain information regarding the location of the business project, the applicant's average employment, if any, at the facility for the four consecutive full calendar quarters immediately preceding the earlier of the calendar quarter during which the application required by this section is submitted to the department or the first qualified employment position is filled, estimated or actual new employment related to the project, estimated or actual wages of employees related to the project, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department. The department shall prescribe a method for calculating a seasonal employer's average employment levels. The department shall rule on the application within sixty days. [2007 c 485 § 2; 1986 c 116 § 16.]

**Application—2007 c 485:** "This act applies prospectively only, except that section 4 of this act applies both prospectively and retroactively." [2007 c 485 § 6.]

**Effective date—2007 c 485:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2008." [2007 c 485 § 8.]

**Application—2007 c 485:** See note following RCW 82.62.010.

### 82.62.030 Allowance of tax credits—Limitations.

(1)(a) A person shall be allowed a credit against the tax due under chapter 82.04 RCW as provided in this section. The credit shall equal: (i) Four thousand dollars for each qualified employment position with wages and benefits greater than forty thousand dollars annually that is directly created in an eligible business project and (ii) two thousand dollars for each qualified employment position with wages and benefits less than or equal to forty thousand dollars annually that is directly created in an eligible business project.

(b) For purposes of calculating the amount of credit under (a) of this subsection with respect to qualified employment positions as defined in RCW 82.62.010(8)(a)(ii):

(i) In determining the number of qualified employment positions, a fractional amount is rounded down to the nearest whole number; and

(ii) Wages and benefits for each qualified employment position shall be equal to the quotient derived by dividing: (A) The sum of the wages and benefits earned for the four consecutive full calendar quarter period for which a credit under this chapter is earned by all of the person's new seasonal employees hired during that period; by (B) the number of qualified employment positions plus any fractional amount subject to rounding as provided under (b)(i) of this subsection.

(2012 Ed.)

tion. For purposes of this chapter, a credit is earned for the four consecutive full calendar quarters after the calendar quarter during which the first qualified employment position is filled.

(2) The department shall keep a running total of all credits allowed under this chapter during each fiscal year. The department shall not allow any credits which would cause the total to exceed seven million five hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year. If all or part of an application for credit is disallowed under this subsection, the disallowed portion shall be carried over to the next fiscal year. However, the carryover into the next fiscal year is only permitted to the extent that the cap for the next fiscal year is not exceeded.

(3) No recipient may use the tax credits to decertify a union or to displace existing jobs in any community in the state.

(4) The credit may be used against any tax due under chapter 82.04 RCW, and may be carried over until used. No refunds may be granted for credits under this section. [2007 c 485 § 3; 2001 c 320 § 13; 1999 c 164 § 306; 1997 c 366 § 5; 1996 c 1 § 3; 1986 c 116 § 17.]

**Application—2007 c 485:** See note following RCW 82.62.010.

**Application—Effective date—2007 c 485:** See notes following RCW 82.62.020.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Effective date—Severability—1999 c 164:** See notes following RCW 43.160.010.

**Intent—Goals—Severability—Captions and part headings not law—1997 c 366:** See notes following RCW 82.14.370.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.62.045 Tax credits for eligible business projects in designated community empowerment zones.** (1) For the purposes of this section "eligible area" also means a designated community empowerment zone approved under RCW 43.31C.020.

(2) An eligible business project located within an eligible area as defined in this section qualifies for a credit under this chapter for those employees who at the time of hire are residents of the community empowerment zone in which the project is located, if the fifteen percent threshold is met. As used in this subsection, "resident" means the person makes his or her home in the community empowerment zone. A mailing address alone is insufficient to establish that a person is a resident for the purposes of this section.

(3) All other provisions and eligibility requirements of this chapter apply to applicants eligible under this section. [2007 c 485 § 4; 1999 c 164 § 307.]

**Application—Effective date—2007 c 485:** See notes following RCW 82.62.020.

**Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Effective date—Severability—1999 c 164:** See notes following RCW 43.160.010.

**82.62.050 Tax credit recipients to report to department—Payment of taxes and interest by ineligible recipients.** (1) Each recipient shall submit a report to the department by the last day of the month immediately following the end of the four consecutive full calendar quarter period for which a credit under this chapter is earned. The report shall contain information, as required by the department, from which the department may determine whether the recipient is

meeting the requirements of this chapter. If the recipient fails to submit a report or submits an inadequate report, the department may declare the amount of taxes for which a credit has been used to be immediately assessed and payable. The recipient must keep records, such as payroll records showing the date of hire and employment security reports, to verify eligibility under this section.

(2) If, on the basis of a report under this section or other information, the department finds that a business project is not eligible for tax credit under this chapter for reasons other than failure to create the required number of qualified employment positions, the amount of taxes for which a credit has been used for the project shall be immediately due.

(3) If, on the basis of a report under this section or other information, the department finds that a business project has failed to create the specified number of qualified employment positions, the department shall assess interest, but not penalties, on the credited taxes for which a credit has been used for the project. The interest shall be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent excise taxes, shall be assessed retroactively to the date of the tax credit, and shall accrue until the taxes for which a credit has been used are repaid. [2007 c 485 § 5; 2001 c 320 § 14; 1986 c 116 § 18.]

**Application—2007 c 485:** See note following RCW 82.62.010.

**Application—Effective date—2007 c 485:** See notes following RCW 82.62.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### 82.62.060 Employment and wage determinations.

The employment security department shall make, and certify to the department of revenue, all determinations of employment and wages requested by the department under this chapter. [2000 c 106 § 7; 1986 c 116 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.62.070 Applicability of general administrative provisions.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter. [1986 c 116 § 20.]

**82.62.080 Applications, reports, and other information subject to disclosure.** Applications, reports, and any other information received by the department under this chapter, except applications not approved by the department, are not confidential and are subject to disclosure. [2010 c 106 § 107; 1987 c 49 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**82.62.900 Severability—1986 c 116.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1986 c 116 § 23.]

**82.62.901 Effective date—1986 c 116 §§ 15-20.** Sections 15 through 20 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect April 1, 1986. [1986 c 116 § 24.]

[Title 82 RCW—page 368]

## Chapter 82.63 RCW TAX DEFERRALS FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY BUSINESSES

### Sections

82.63.005	Findings—Intent to create a contract.
82.63.010	Definitions.
82.63.020	Application—Annual survey—Reports.
82.63.030	Sales and use tax deferral certificate—Eligible investment projects and pilot scale manufacturing.
82.63.045	Repayment not required—Repayment schedule for unqualified investment project—Exceptions.
82.63.060	Administration.
82.63.065	Administration—Department may adopt rules.
82.63.070	Public disclosure.
82.63.090	Multiple qualified buildings.
82.63.900	Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 5.

**82.63.005 Findings—Intent to create a contract.** The legislature finds that high-wage, high-skilled jobs are vital to the economic health of the state's citizens, and that targeted tax incentives will encourage the formation of high-wage, high-skilled jobs. The legislature also finds that tax incentives should be subject to the same rigorous requirements for efficiency and accountability as are other expenditure programs, and that tax incentives should therefore be focused to provide the greatest possible return on the state's investment.

The legislature also finds that high-technology businesses are a vital and growing source of high-wage, high-skilled jobs in this state, and that the high-technology sector is a key component of the state's effort to encourage economic diversification. However, the legislature finds that many high-technology businesses incur significant costs associated with research and development and pilot scale manufacturing many years before a marketable product can be produced, and that current state tax policy discourages the growth of these companies by taxing them long before they become profitable.

The legislature further finds that stimulating growth of high-technology businesses early in their development cycle, when they are turning ideas into marketable products, will build upon the state's established high-technology base, creating additional research and development jobs and subsequent manufacturing facilities.

For these reasons, the legislature hereby establishes a program of business and occupation tax credits for qualified research and development expenditures. The legislature also hereby establishes a tax deferral program for high-technology research and development and pilot scale manufacturing facilities. The legislature declares that these limited programs serve the vital public purposes of incenting expenditures in research and development, supporting, and sustaining as they develop new technologies and products, and creating quality employment opportunities in this state. The legislature further declares its intent to create a contract within the meaning of Article I, section 23 of the state Constitution as to those businesses that make capital investments in consideration of the tax deferral program established in this chapter. [2004 c 2 § 1; 1994 sp.s. c 5 § 1.]

**82.63.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Advanced computing" means technologies used in the designing and developing of computing hardware and

(2012 Ed.)

software, including innovations in designing the full spectrum of hardware from hand-held calculators to super computers, and peripheral equipment.

(2) "Advanced materials" means materials with engineered properties created through the development of specialized processing and synthesis technology, including ceramics, high value-added metals, electronic materials, composites, polymers, and biomaterials.

(3) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax deferral under this chapter.

(4) "Biotechnology" means the application of technologies, such as recombinant DNA techniques, biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology, genetics and genetic engineering, cell fusion techniques, and new bioprocesses, using living organisms, or parts of organisms, to produce or modify products, to improve plants or animals, to develop microorganisms for specific uses, to identify targets for small molecule pharmaceutical development, or to transform biological systems into useful processes and products or to develop microorganisms for specific uses.

(5) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(6) "Electronic device technology" means technologies involving microelectronics; semiconductors; electronic equipment and instrumentation; radio frequency, microwave, and millimeter electronics; optical and optic-electrical devices; and data and digital communications and imaging devices.

(7) "Eligible investment project" means an investment project which either initiates a new operation, or expands or diversifies a current operation by expanding, renovating, or equipping an existing facility. The lessor or owner of the qualified building is not eligible for a deferral unless:

(a) The underlying ownership of the buildings, machinery, and equipment vests exclusively in the same person; or

(b)(i) The lessor by written contract agrees to pass the economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee;

(ii) The lessee that receives the economic benefit of the deferral agrees in writing with the department to complete the annual survey required under RCW 82.63.020(2); and

(iii) The economic benefit of the deferral passed to the lessee is no less than the amount of tax deferred by the lessor and is evidenced by written documentation of any type of payment, credit, or other financial arrangement between the lessor or owner of the qualified building and the lessee.

(8) "Environmental technology" means assessment and prevention of threats or damage to human health or the environment, environmental cleanup, and the development of alternative energy sources.

(9)(a) "Initiation of construction" means the date that a building permit is issued under the building code adopted under RCW 19.27.031 for:

(i) Construction of the qualified building, if the underlying ownership of the building vests exclusively with the person receiving the economic benefit of the deferral;

(ii) Construction of the qualified building, if the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in subsection (7) of this section; or

(iii) Tenant improvements for a qualified building, if the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in subsection (7) of this section.

(b) "Initiation of construction" does not include soil testing, site clearing and grading, site preparation, or any other related activities that are initiated before the issuance of a building permit for the construction of the foundation of the building.

(c) If the investment project is a phased project, "initiation of construction" shall apply separately to each phase.

(10) "Investment project" means an investment in qualified buildings or qualified machinery and equipment, including labor and services rendered in the planning, installation, and construction or improvement of the project.

(11) "Multiple qualified buildings" means qualified buildings leased to the same person when such structures: (a) Are located within a five-mile radius; and (b) the initiation of construction of each building begins within a sixty-month period.

(12) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030 and includes state universities as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

(13) "Pilot scale manufacturing" means design, construction, and testing of preproduction prototypes and models in the fields of biotechnology, advanced computing, electronic device technology, advanced materials, and environmental technology other than for commercial sale. As used in this subsection, "commercial sale" excludes sales of prototypes or sales for market testing if the total gross receipts from such sales of the product, service, or process do not exceed one million dollars.

(14) "Qualified buildings" means construction of new structures, and expansion or renovation of existing structures for the purpose of increasing floor space or production capacity used for pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and development, including plant offices and other facilities that are an essential or an integral part of a structure used for pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and development. If a building or buildings are used partly for pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and development, and partly for other purposes, the applicable tax deferral shall be determined by apportionment of the costs of construction under rules adopted by the department. Such rules may include provisions for determining the amount of the deferral based on apportionment of costs of construction of an investment project consisting of a building or multiple buildings, where qualified research and development or pilot scale manufacturing activities are shifted within a building or from one building to another building.

(15) "Qualified machinery and equipment" means fixtures, equipment, and support facilities that are an integral and necessary part of a pilot scale manufacturing or qualified research and development operation. "Qualified machinery and equipment" includes: Computers; software; data processing equipment; laboratory equipment, instrumentation, and other devices used in a process of experimentation to develop a new or improved pilot model, plant process, product, formula, invention, or similar property; manufacturing components such as belts, pulleys, shafts, and moving parts; molds, tools, and dies; vats, tanks, and fermenters; operating structures; and all other equipment used to control, monitor, or operate the machinery. For purposes of this chapter, qualified machinery and equipment must be either new to the taxing jurisdiction of the state or new to the certificate holder,

except that used machinery and equipment may be treated as qualified machinery and equipment if the certificate holder either brings the machinery and equipment into Washington or makes a retail purchase of the machinery and equipment in Washington or elsewhere.

(16) "Qualified research and development" means research and development performed within this state in the fields of advanced computing, advanced materials, biotechnology, electronic device technology, and environmental technology.

(17) "Recipient" means a person receiving a tax deferral under this chapter.

(18) "Research and development" means activities performed to discover technological information, and technical and nonroutine activities concerned with translating technological information into new or improved products, processes, techniques, formulas, inventions, or software. The term includes exploration of a new use for an existing drug, device, or biological product if the new use requires separate licensing by the federal food and drug administration under chapter 21, C.F.R., as amended. The term does not include adaptation or duplication of existing products where the products are not substantially improved by application of the technology, nor does the term include surveys and studies, social science and humanities research, market research or testing, quality control, sale promotion and service, computer software developed for internal use, and research in areas such as improved style, taste, and seasonal design. [2009 c 268 § 2; 2004 c 2 § 3; 1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 12; 1994 sp.s. c 5 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Policy—Application—2009 c 268:** See notes following RCW 82.63.090.

**Findings—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

### **82.63.020 Application—Annual survey—Reports.**

(1) Application for deferral of taxes under this chapter must be made before initiation of construction of, or acquisition of equipment or machinery for the investment project. In the case of an investment project involving multiple qualified buildings, applications must be made for, and before the initiation of construction of, each qualified building. The application must be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application must contain information regarding the location of the investment project, the applicant's average employment in the state for the prior year, estimated or actual new employment related to the project, estimated or actual wages of employees related to the project, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department. The department must rule on the application within sixty days.

(2) Each recipient of a deferral of taxes under this chapter must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585. If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.63.010(7), the lessee must file a complete annual survey, and the applicant is not required to file the annual survey.

(3) The department must use the information reported on the annual survey required by this section to study the tax deferral program authorized under this chapter. The department must report to the legislature by December 1, 2009, and December 1, 2013. The reports must measure the effect of the program on job creation, the number of jobs created for Washington residents, company growth, the introduction of new products, the diversification of the state's economy, growth in research and development investment, the movement of firms or the consolidation of firms' operations into the state, and such other factors as the department selects.

(4) A recipient who must repay deferred taxes under RCW 82.63.045 because the department has found that an investment project is used for purposes other than research and development performed within this state in the fields of advanced computing, advanced materials, biotechnology, electronic device technology, and environmental technology is no longer required to file annual surveys under RCW 82.32.585 beginning on the date an investment project is used for nonqualifying purposes. [2010 c 114 § 140; 2009 c 268 § 3; 2004 c 2 § 4; 1994 sp.s. c 5 § 4.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Policy—Application—2009 c 268:** See notes following RCW 82.63.090.

**82.63.030 Sales and use tax deferral certificate—Eligible investment projects and pilot scale manufacturing. (Expires January 1, 2015.)** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the department shall issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW on each eligible investment project.

(2) No certificate may be issued for an investment project that has already received a deferral under chapter 82.60 RCW or this chapter, except that an investment project for qualified research and development that has already received a deferral may also receive an additional deferral certificate for adapting the investment project for use in pilot scale manufacturing.

(3) This section shall expire January 1, 2015. [2008 c 15 § 4; 2004 c 2 § 5; 1994 sp.s. c 5 § 5.]

**Effective date—2008 c 15:** See note following RCW 82.82.010.

### **82.63.045 Repayment not required—Repayment schedule for unqualified investment project—Exceptions.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section and RCW 82.32.585, taxes deferred under this chapter need not be repaid.

(2)(a) If, on the basis of the survey under RCW 82.32.585 or other information, the department finds that an investment project is used for purposes other than qualified research and development or pilot scale manufacturing at any time during the calendar year in which the investment project is certified by the department as having been operationally completed, or at any time during any of the seven succeeding calendar years, a portion of deferred taxes is immediately due according to the following schedule:

Year in which use occurs	% of deferred taxes due
1	100%
2	87.5%
3	75%
4	62.5%
5	50%
6	37.5%
7	25%
8	12.5%

(b) If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.63.010(7), the lessee is responsible for payment to the extent the lessee has received the economic benefit.

(3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, in the case of an investment project consisting of multiple qualified buildings, the lessee is solely liable for payment of any deferred tax determined by the department to be due and payable under this section beginning on the date the department certifies that the project is operationally complete.

(b) This subsection does not relieve the lessors of its obligation to the lessee under RCW 82.63.010(7) to pass the economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee.

(4) The department must assess interest at the rate provided for delinquent taxes, but not penalties, retroactively to the date of deferral. The debt for deferred taxes will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the recipient. Transfer of ownership does not terminate the deferral. The deferral is transferred, subject to the successor meeting the eligibility requirements of this chapter, for the remaining periods of the deferral.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section or RCW 82.32.585, deferred taxes on the following need not be repaid:

(a) Machinery and equipment, and sales of or charges made for labor and services, which at the time of purchase would have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.08.02565; and

(b) Machinery and equipment which at the time of first use would have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.12.02565. [2010 c 114 § 141; 2009 c 268 § 5; 2004 c 2 § 6; 2000 c 106 § 10; 1995 1st sp.s. c 3 § 13.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Policy—Application—2009 c 268:** See notes following RCW 82.63.090.

**Findings—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.08.02565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.63.060 Administration.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter. [1994 sp.s. c 5 § 8.]

**82.63.065 Administration—Department may adopt rules.** The department may adopt rules as may be necessary to administer this chapter. [2009 c 268 § 6.]

**Policy—Application—2009 c 268:** See notes following RCW 82.63.090.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.63.070 Public disclosure.** Applications approved by the department under this chapter are not confidential and are subject to disclosure. [2010 c 106 § 108; 2004 c 2 § 7; 1994 sp.s. c 5 § 9.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**82.63.090 Multiple qualified buildings.** (1) In the case of multiple qualified buildings, if the lessee who will conduct the qualified research and development or pilot scale manufacturing within the multiple qualified buildings desires to treat the multiple qualified buildings as a single investment project, the lessee must make a preliminary election to treat the multiple qualified buildings as a single investment project. The lessee must make the preliminary election before a temporary certificate of occupancy, or its equivalent, is issued for any of the multiple qualified buildings.

(2)(a) A final election whether or not to treat the multiple qualified buildings as a single investment project must be made by the date that is the earlier of:

(i) Sixty months following the date that the lessee made the preliminary election under subsection (1) of this section; or

(ii) Thirty days after the issuance of the temporary certificate of occupancy, or its equivalent, for the last qualified building to be completed and that will be included in the final election.

(b) All buildings included in a final election to treat multiple qualified buildings as a single investment project must have been issued a temporary certificate of occupancy or its equivalent.

(c) Before the final election is made, the lessee may remove one or more of the qualified buildings included in the preliminary election from the investment project.

(d) When a qualified building for which a preliminary election has been made under subsection (1) of this section is, for any reason, not included in a final election to treat the multiple qualified buildings as a single investment project, the qualified building will be treated as an individual investment project under the original application for that building.

(e) If a final election is made not to treat the multiple qualified buildings as a single investment project or a final election is not made by the deadline in (a) of this subsection, the qualified buildings will each be treated as individual investment projects under the original applications for those buildings.

(3) When a final election is made to treat multiple qualified buildings as a single investment project, the department must review the investment project to determine whether to certify the investment project as being operationally complete. If the department certifies that an investment project is operationally complete, the certification is deemed to have occurred in the calendar year in which the final election is made.

(4) The department may not certify as operationally complete an investment project consisting of multiple qualifying buildings unless the lessee furnishes the department with a bond, letter of credit, or other security acceptable to the department in an amount equal to the repayment obligation as determined by the department. The department may decrease the secured amount each year as the repayment obligation decreases under the provisions of RCW 82.63.045. If

the lessee does not furnish the department with a bond, letter of credit, or other security acceptable to the department equal to the amount of deferred tax, the qualified buildings will each be treated as individual investment projects under the original applications for those buildings.

(5) The preliminary election and final election must be made in a form and manner prescribed by the department. [2009 c 268 § 4.]

**Policy—2009 c 268:** "The legislature has long recognized that high-wage, high-skilled jobs are vital to the economic health of the state and its citizens. The legislature also recognizes that targeted tax incentives encourage the formation of high-wage, high-skilled jobs. For that and related reasons, the legislature established the tax deferral program in chapter 82.63 RCW for high-technology research and development and pilot scale manufacturing. In doing so, the legislature ensured that the deferral applies to the construction or renovation of one or more buildings by an owner who engages in qualifying research and development or pilot scale manufacturing. The legislature also ensured that the deferral applies to owners who lease newly constructed or renovated buildings to one or more lessees that conduct qualifying research and development or pilot scale manufacturing, if the owner passes on the economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee or lessees. However, current language could be interpreted to deny the deferral to multiple lessors of separate buildings leasing to a single qualifying lessee under the umbrella of one project and a single deferral application, unless the lessors form a joint venture or similar entity. Because the legislature did not intend to deny the deferral for such projects, the legislature by this act, amends chapter 82.63 RCW to clarify that the deferral applies to an otherwise qualifying project involving a single deferral application covering multiple lessors leasing separate buildings to a single qualifying lessee." [2009 c 268 § 1.]

**Application—2009 c 268:** "This act applies to deferral applications received by the department of revenue after June 30, 2007." [2009 c 268 § 7.]

**82.63.900 Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 5.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1995. [1994 sp.s. c 5 § 12.]

### Chapter 82.64 RCW SYRUP TAX

(Formerly: Carbonated beverage tax)

#### Sections

82.64.010	Definitions.
82.64.020	Tax imposed—Wholesale, retail—Revenue deposited in the general fund.
82.64.030	Exemptions.
82.64.040	Credit against tax.
82.64.050	Wholesaler to collect tax from buyer.
82.64.901	Effective dates—1989 c 271.
82.64.902	Severability—1989 c 271.

**82.64.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Carbonated beverage" has its ordinary meaning and includes any nonalcoholic liquid intended for human consumption which contains carbon dioxide, whether carbonation is obtained by natural or artificial means.

(2) "Previously taxed syrup" means syrup in respect to which a tax has been paid under this chapter.

(3) "Syrup" means a concentrated liquid which is added to carbonated water to produce a carbonated beverage.

(4) Except for terms defined in this section, the definitions in chapters 82.04, 82.08, and 82.12 RCW apply to this chapter. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 905 (Referendum Bill No. 43, approved November 8, 1994); 1991 c 80 § 1; 1989 c 271 § 505.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective dates—Contingent expiration date—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.64.020 Tax imposed—Wholesale, retail—Revenue deposited in the general fund.** (1) A tax is imposed on each sale at wholesale of syrup in this state. The rate of the tax shall be equal to one dollar per gallon. Fractional amounts shall be taxed proportionally.

(2) A tax is imposed on each sale at retail of syrup in this state. The rate of the tax shall be equal to the rate imposed under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Moneys collected under this chapter shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(4) Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the taxes imposed in this chapter. The tax due dates, reporting periods, and return requirements applicable to chapter 82.04 RCW apply equally to the taxes imposed in this chapter. [2009 c 479 § 72; 1994 sp.s. c 7 § 906 (Referendum Bill No. 43, approved November 8, 1994); 1991 c 80 § 2; 1989 c 271 § 506.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective dates—Contingent expiration date—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.64.030 Exemptions.** The following are exempt from the taxes imposed in this chapter:

(1) Any successive sale of a previously taxed syrup.

(2) Any syrup that is transferred to a point outside the state for use outside the state. The department shall provide by rule appropriate procedures and exemption certificates for the administration of this exemption.

(3) Any sale at wholesale of a trademarked syrup by any person to a person commonly known as a bottler who is appointed by the owner of the trademark to manufacture, distribute, and sell such trademarked syrup within a specified geographic territory.

(4) Any sale of syrup in respect to which a tax on the privilege of possession was paid under this chapter before June 1, 1991. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 907 (Referendum Bill No. 43, approved November 8, 1994); 1991 c 80 § 3; 1989 c 271 § 507.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective dates—Contingent expiration date—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.64.040 Credit against tax.** (1) Credit shall be allowed, in accordance with rules of the department, against the taxes imposed in this chapter for any syrup tax paid to another state with respect to the same syrup. The amount of the credit shall not exceed the tax liability arising under this chapter with respect to that syrup.

(2) For the purpose of this section:

(a) "Syrup tax" means a tax:

(i) That is imposed on the sale at wholesale of syrup and that is not generally imposed on other activities or privileges; and

(ii) That is measured by the volume of the syrup.

(b) "State" means (i) a state of the United States other than Washington, or any political subdivision of such other state, (ii) the District of Columbia, and (iii) any foreign coun-

try or political subdivision thereof. [1994 sp.s. c 7 § 908 (Referendum Bill No. 43, approved November 8, 1994); 1991 c 80 § 7; 1989 c 271 § 508.]

**Finding—Intent—Severability—Effective dates—Contingent expiration date—1994 sp.s. c 7:** See notes following RCW 43.70.540.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **82.64.050 Wholesaler to collect tax from buyer.** (1)

The tax imposed in RCW 82.64.020(1) shall be paid by the buyer to the wholesaler and each wholesaler shall collect from the buyer the full amount of the tax payable in respect to each taxable sale, unless the wholesaler is prohibited from collecting the tax from the buyer under the Constitution of this state or the Constitution or laws of the United States. Regardless of the obligation to collect the tax from the buyer, the wholesaler is liable to the state for the amount of the tax. The tax imposed in RCW 82.64.020(2) shall be paid by the retailer. The buyer is not obligated to pay or report to the department the taxes imposed in RCW 82.64.020.

(2) The tax required to be collected by the wholesaler shall be stated separately from the selling price in any sales invoice or other instrument of sale.

(3) Any wholesaler who fails or refuses to collect tax under this section, with intent to violate the provisions of this chapter or to gain some advantage or benefit, either direct or indirect, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(4) The amount of tax required to be collected under this section shall constitute a debt from the buyer to the wholesaler until paid by the buyer to the wholesaler. [1991 c 80 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.64.901 Effective dates—1989 c 271.** See note following RCW 66.28.200.

**82.64.902 Severability—1989 c 271.** See note following RCW 9.94A.510.

### **Chapter 82.65A RCW**

#### **INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

(Formerly: Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded)

##### Sections

- 82.65A.010 Expiration date defined.
- 82.65A.020 Definitions.
- 82.65A.030 Tax imposed.
- 82.65A.040 Administration.
- 82.65A.900 Expiration date—Savings—Application—1992 c 80.
- 82.65A.901 Effective date—1992 c 80.

**82.65A.010 Expiration date defined.** As used in this chapter, "expiration date" means the earliest of:

(1) The effective date that federal medicaid matching funds for the purposes specified in \*section 7 of this act become unavailable or are substantially reduced, as such date is certified by the secretary of social and health services;

(2) The effective date that federal medicaid matching funds for the purposes specified in \*section 7 of this act become unavailable or are substantially reduced, as determined by a permanent injunction, court order, or final court decision; or

(2012 Ed.)

(3) The effective date of a permanent injunction, court order, or final court decision that prohibits in whole or in part the collection of taxes under RCW 82.65A.030. [1992 c 80 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "Section 7 of this act" was originally an appropriation section, however a senate amendment removed the appropriation section, and the corresponding internal and substantive references were not corrected.

#### **82.65A.020 Definitions.** (*Contingent expiration date.*)

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Gross income" means all income from whatever source derived, including but not limited to gross income of the business as defined in RCW 82.04.080 and moneys received from state appropriations.

(2) "Intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities" means an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, as described by federal law, that is certified by the department of social and health services and the federal department of health and human services to provide residential care under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396d(d). [2010 c 94 § 30; 1992 c 80 § 2.]

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

#### **82.65A.030 Tax imposed.** (*Contingent expiration date.*)

In addition to any other tax, a tax is imposed on every intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities for the act or privilege of engaging in business within this state. The tax is equal to the gross income attributable to services for the persons with developmental disabilities, multiplied by the rate of six percent. [2010 c 94 § 31; 1993 c 276 § 1; 1992 c 80 § 3.]

**Purpose—2010 c 94:** See note following RCW 44.04.280.

**\*Reviser's note:** 1993 c 276 took effect in 1993. See RCW 82.65A.900 for the contingent expiration of this section.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **82.65A.040 Administration.** (*Contingent expiration date.*)

Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the tax imposed in this chapter. The tax due dates, reporting periods, and return requirements applicable to chapter 82.04 RCW apply equally to the tax imposed in this chapter, except the department may not permit returns for taxes under this chapter to cover periods longer than one month. The appropriations in \*section 7 of this act shall not be construed as modifying in any manner the obligation of the taxpayer to pay taxes on an accrual basis as ordinarily required under chapter 82.04 RCW. [1992 c 80 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** See note following RCW 82.65A.010.

**82.65A.900 Expiration date—Savings—Application—1992 c 80.** (1) RCW 82.65A.020 through 82.65A.040 shall expire on the expiration date determined under RCW 82.65A.010.

(2) The expiration of RCW 82.65A.020 through 82.65A.040 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under those sections or under any rule or order adopted under those sections, nor as affecting any proceeding instituted under those sections.

(3) Taxes that have been paid under RCW 82.65A.020 through 82.65A.040, but are properly attributable to taxable events occurring after the expiration of those sections, shall be credited or refunded as provided in RCW 82.32.060. [1992 c 80 § 6.]

**82.65A.901 Effective date—1992 c 80.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect April 1, 1992. [1992 c 80 § 7.]

## Chapter 82.66 RCW TAX DEFERRALS FOR NEW THOROUGHBRED RACE TRACKS

### Sections

82.66.010	Definitions.
82.66.020	Application for deferral—Contents—Ruling.
82.66.040	Repayment schedule—Interest, penalties.
82.66.050	Applications not confidential.
82.66.060	Administration.
82.66.900	Severability—1995 c 352.
82.66.901	Effective date—1995 c 352.

**82.66.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax deferral under this chapter.

(2) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030.

(3) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(4) "Investment project" means construction of buildings, site preparation, and the acquisition of related machinery and equipment when the buildings, machinery, and equipment are to be used in the operation of a new thoroughbred race track.

(5) "New thoroughbred race track" means a site for thoroughbred horse racing located west of the Cascade mountains on which construction is commenced prior to July 1, 1998.

(6) "Buildings" means only those new structures such as ticket offices, concession areas, grandstands, stables, and other structures that are an essential or an integral part of a thoroughbred race track. If a building is used partly for use as an essential or integral part of a thoroughbred race track and partly for other purposes, the applicable tax deferral shall be determined by apportionment of the costs of construction under rules adopted by the department.

(7) "Machinery and equipment" means all fixtures, equipment, and support facilities that are an integral and necessary part of a thoroughbred race track.

(8) "Recipient" means a person receiving a tax deferral under this chapter.

(9) "Certificate holder" means an applicant to whom a tax deferral certificate has been issued.

(10) "Operationally complete" means constructed or improved to the point of being functionally useable for thoroughbred horse racing.

(11) "Initiation of construction" means that date upon which on-site construction commences. [1995 c 352 § 1.]

**82.66.020 Application for deferral—Contents—Ruling.** Application for deferral of taxes under this chapter shall be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application shall contain information regarding the location of the investment project, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department. The department shall rule on the application within sixty days. [1995 c 352 § 2.]

**82.66.040 Repayment schedule—Interest, penalties.** (1) The recipient shall begin paying the deferred taxes in the tenth year after the date certified by the department as the date on which the investment project is operationally complete. The first payment is due on December 31st of the tenth calendar year after such certified date, with subsequent annual payments due on December 31st of the following nine years with amounts of payment scheduled as follows:

Repayment Year	% of Deferred Tax Repaid
1	10%
2	10%
3	10%
4	10%
5	10%
6	10%
7	10%
8	10%
9	10%
10	10%

(2) The department may authorize an accelerated repayment schedule upon request of the recipient.

(3) Interest shall not be charged on any taxes deferred under this chapter for the period of deferral, although all other penalties and interest applicable to delinquent excise taxes may be assessed and imposed for delinquent payments under this chapter. The debt for deferred taxes is not extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the recipient. [1998 c 339 § 1; 1995 c 352 § 4.]

**82.66.050 Applications not confidential.** Applications and any other information received by the department under this chapter is not confidential and is subject to disclosure. [1995 c 352 § 6.]

**82.66.060 Administration.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter. [1995 c 352 § 5.]

**82.66.900 Severability—1995 c 352.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1995 c 352 § 7.]

**82.66.901 Effective date—1995 c 352.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 16, 1995]. [1995 c 352 § 9.]

**Chapter 82.70 RCW**  
**COMMUTE TRIP REDUCTION INCENTIVES**

## Sections

82.70.010	Definitions.
82.70.020	Tax credit authorized.
82.70.025	Application for tax credit.
82.70.030	False statement in application—Penalty.
82.70.040	Tax credit limitations.
82.70.050	Fund transfer.
82.70.060	Commute trip reduction task force report.
82.70.070	Administration.
82.70.900	Expiration of chapter.

**82.70.010 Definitions. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter and RCW 70.94.996 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Public agency" means any county, city, or other local government agency or any state government agency, board, or commission.

(2) "Public transportation" means the same as "public transportation service" as defined in RCW 36.57A.010 and includes passenger services of the Washington state ferries.

(3) "Nonmotorized commuting" means commuting to and from the workplace by an employee by walking or running or by riding a bicycle or other device not powered by a motor.

(4) "Ride sharing" means the same as "flexible commuter ride sharing" as defined in RCW 46.74.010, including ride sharing on Washington state ferries.

(5) "Car sharing" means a membership program intended to offer an alternative to car ownership under which persons or entities that become members are permitted to use vehicles from a fleet on an hourly basis.

(6) "Telework" means a program where work functions that are normally performed at a traditional workplace are instead performed by an employee at his or her home at least one day a week for the purpose of reducing the number of trips to the employee's workplace.

(7) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax credit under this chapter. [2005 c 297 § 1; 2003 c 364 § 1.]

**Effective date—2005 c 297:** See note following RCW 82.70.025.

**Effective date—Contingency—Captions not law—2003 c 364:** See notes following RCW 82.70.020.

**82.70.020 Tax credit authorized. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) Employers in this state who are taxable under chapter 82.04 or 82.16 RCW and provide financial incentives to their own or other employees for ride sharing, for using public transportation, for using car sharing, or for using nonmotorized commuting before July 1, 2013, are allowed a credit against taxes payable under chapters 82.04 and 82.16 RCW for amounts paid to or on behalf of employees for ride sharing in vehicles carrying two or more persons, for using public transportation, for using car sharing, or for using nonmotorized commuting, not to exceed sixty dollars per employee per fiscal year.

(2) Property managers who are taxable under chapter 82.04 or 82.16 RCW and provide financial incentives to persons employed at a worksite in this state managed by the property manager for ride sharing, for using public transportation, for using car sharing, or for using nonmotorized commuting before July 1, 2013, are allowed a credit against taxes

payable under chapters 82.04 and 82.16 RCW for amounts paid to or on behalf of these persons for ride sharing in vehicles carrying two or more persons, for using public transportation, for using car sharing, or for using nonmotorized commuting, not to exceed sixty dollars per person per fiscal year.

(3) The credit under this section is equal to the amount paid to or on behalf of each employee multiplied by fifty percent, but may not exceed sixty dollars per employee per fiscal year. No refunds may be granted for credits under this section.

(4) A person may not receive credit under this section for amounts paid to or on behalf of the same employee under both chapters 82.04 and 82.16 RCW.

(5) A person may not take a credit under this section for amounts claimed for credit by other persons. [2005 c 297 § 3; 2003 c 364 § 2.]

**Effective date—2005 c 297:** See note following RCW 82.70.025.

**Effective date—Contingency—2003 c 364:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect on July 1, 2003, but only if Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2231 becomes law by July 1, 2003. If Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2231 does not become law by July 1, 2003, this act is null and void." [2003 c 364 § 13.] Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2231 was signed into law by the governor on May 19, 2003.

**Captions not law—2003 c 364:** "Captions used in this act are not part of the law." [2003 c 364 § 14.]

**82.70.025 Application for tax credit. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1) Application for tax credits under this chapter must be received by the department between the first day of January and the 31st day of January, following the calendar year in which the applicant made payments to or on behalf of employees for ride sharing in vehicles carrying two or more persons, for using public transportation, for using car sharing, or for using nonmotorized commuting. The application shall be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application shall contain information regarding the number of employees for which incentives are paid during the calendar year, the amounts paid to or on behalf of employees for ride sharing in vehicles carrying two or more persons, for using public transportation, for using car sharing, or for using nonmotorized commuting, the amount of credit deferred under RCW 82.70.040(2)(b)(i) to be used, and other information required by the department. For applications due by January 31, 2006, the application shall not include amounts paid from January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2005, to or on behalf of employees for ride sharing in vehicles carrying two or more persons, for using public transportation, for using car sharing, or for using nonmotorized commuting.

(2) The department shall rule on the application within sixty days of the deadline provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The department shall disapprove any application not received by the deadline provided in subsection (1) of this section regardless of the reason that the application was received after the deadline.

(4) After an application is approved and tax credit granted, no increase in the credit shall be allowed. [2005 c 297 § 2.]

**Effective date—2005 c 297:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2005." [2005 c 297 § 6.]

**82.70.030 False statement in application—Penalty. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** Any person who knowingly makes a false statement of a material fact in the application required under RCW 82.70.025 for a credit under RCW 82.70.020 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [2005 c 297 § 4; 2003 c 364 § 3.]

**Effective date—2005 c 297:** See note following RCW 82.70.025.

**Effective date—Contingency—Captions not law—2003 c 364:** See notes following RCW 82.70.020.

**82.70.040 Tax credit limitations. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** (1)(a) The department shall keep a running total of all credits allowed under RCW 82.70.020 during each fiscal year. The department shall not allow any credits that would cause the total amount allowed to exceed two million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars in any fiscal year. This limitation includes any deferred credits carried forward under subsection (2)(b)(i) of this section from prior years.

(b) If the total amount of credit applied for by all applicants in any year exceeds the limit in this subsection, the department shall ratably reduce the amount of credit allowed for all applicants so that the limit in this subsection is not exceeded. If a credit is reduced under this subsection, the amount of the reduction may not be carried forward and claimed in subsequent fiscal years.

(2)(a) Tax credits under RCW 82.70.020 may not be claimed in excess of the amount of tax otherwise due under chapter 82.04 or 82.16 RCW.

(b)(i) Through June 30, 2005, a person with taxes equal to or in excess of the credit under RCW 82.70.020, and therefore not subject to the limitation in (a) of this subsection, may elect to defer tax credits for a period of not more than three years after the year in which the credits accrue. No credits deferred under this subsection (2)(b)(i) may be used after June 30, 2008. A person deferring tax credits under this subsection (2)(b)(i) must submit an application as provided in RCW 82.70.025 in the year in which the deferred tax credits will be used. This application is subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section for the year in which the tax credits will be applied. If a deferred credit is reduced under subsection (1)(b) of this section, the amount of deferred credit disallowed because of the reduction may be carried forward as long as the period of deferral does not exceed three years after the year in which the credit was earned.

(ii) For credits approved by the department after June 30, 2005, the approved credit may be carried forward to subsequent years until used. Credits carried forward as authorized by this subsection are subject to the limitation in subsection (1)(a) of this section for the fiscal year for which the credits were originally approved.

(3) No person shall be approved for tax credits under RCW 82.70.020 in excess of two hundred thousand dollars in any fiscal year. This limitation does not apply to credits carried forward from prior years under subsection (2)(b) of this section.

(4) No person may claim tax credits after June 30, 2013.

(5) Credits may not be carried forward other than as authorized in subsection (2)(b) of this section.

(6) No person is eligible for tax credits under RCW 82.70.020 if the additional revenues for the multimodal transportation account created by Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2231 are terminated. [2005 c 297 § 5; 2003 c 364 § 4.]

**Effective date—2005 c 297:** See note following RCW 82.70.025.

**Effective date—Contingency—Captions not law—2003 c 364:** See notes following RCW 82.70.020.

**82.70.050 Fund transfer. (Expires January 1, 2014.)**

(1) The director shall on the 25th of February, May, August, and November of each year advise the state treasurer of the amount of credit taken under RCW 82.70.020 during the preceding calendar quarter ending on the last day of December, March, June, and September, respectively.

(2) On the last day of March, June, September, and December of each year, the state treasurer, based upon information provided by the department, shall deposit to the general fund a sum equal to the dollar amount of the credit provided under RCW 82.70.020 from the multimodal transportation account. [2003 c 364 § 5.]

**Effective date—Contingency—Captions not law—2003 c 364:** See notes following RCW 82.70.020.

**82.70.060 \*Commuter trip reduction task force report. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** The \*commuter trip reduction task force shall determine the effectiveness of the tax credit under RCW 82.70.020, the grant program in RCW 70.94.996, and the relative effectiveness of the tax credit and the grant program as part of its ongoing evaluation of the commuter trip reduction law and report to the senate and house transportation committees and to the fiscal committees of the house of representatives and the senate. The report must include information on the amount of tax credits claimed to date and recommendations on future funding between the tax credit program and the grant program. The report must be incorporated into the recommendations required in \*\*RCW 70.94.537(5). [2005 c 319 § 138; 2003 c 364 § 6.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The "commuter trip reduction task force" was renamed the "commuter trip reduction board" by 2006 c 329 § 7.

\*\* (2) RCW 70.94.537 was amended by 2006 c 329 § 7, changing subsection (5) to subsection (6).

**Expiration date—2005 c 319 § 138:** "Section 138 of this act expires July 1, 2013." [2005 c 319 § 146.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings—Effective dates—2005 c 319:** See notes following RCW 43.17.020.

**Effective date—Contingency—Captions not law—2003 c 364:** See notes following RCW 82.70.020.

**82.70.070 Administration. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter. [2003 c 364 § 7.]

**Effective date—Contingency—Captions not law—2003 c 364:** See notes following RCW 82.70.020.

**82.70.900 Expiration of chapter. (Expires July 1, 2013.)** This chapter expires July 1, 2013, except for RCW 82.70.050, which expires January 1, 2014. [2003 c 364 § 8.]

**Effective date—Contingency—Captions not law—2003 c 364:** See notes following RCW 82.70.020.

**Chapter 82.72 RCW**  
**TELEPHONE PROGRAM**  
**EXCISE TAX ADMINISTRATION**

## Sections

82.72.010	Definitions.
82.72.020	Authorization to administer telephone program excise taxes.
82.72.030	Collection of tax by local exchange company.
82.72.040	Tax payment and collection requirements.
82.72.050	Administration of telephone program excise taxes.
82.72.060	Tax returns.
82.72.070	Liability for payment of taxes.
82.72.080	Liability for payment of taxes upon termination, dissolution, or abandonment of business.
82.72.090	Applicability of chapter 82.32 RCW.

**82.72.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Switched access line" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.14B.020.

(2) "Local exchange company" has the meaning provided in RCW 80.04.010.

(3) "Subscriber" means the retail purchaser of telephone service as telephone service is defined in RCW 82.16.010.

(4) "Telephone program excise taxes" means the taxes on switched access lines imposed by RCW 43.20A.725 and 80.36.430. [2007 c 6 § 1010; 2004 c 254 § 3.]

**Part headings not law—Savings—Effective date—Severability—2007 c 6:** See notes following RCW 82.32.020.

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 6:** See note following RCW 82.14.495.

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2004." [2004 c 254 § 14.]

**82.72.020 Authorization to administer telephone program excise taxes.** The department shall collect the telephone program excise taxes on behalf of the department of social and health services at no cost to the department of social and health services. The telephone program excise taxes shall be remitted to the department by local exchange companies on a tax return provided by the department. All telephone program excise taxes shall be deposited by the treasurer into the account described in RCW 43.20A.725 and the account described in RCW 80.36.430. [2004 c 254 § 4.]

**Responsibility for collection of tax—Implementation—2004 c 254:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.725.

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

**82.72.030 Collection of tax by local exchange company.** Telephone program excise taxes shall be collected from the subscriber by the local exchange company providing the switched access line. [2004 c 254 § 5.]

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

**82.72.040 Tax payment and collection requirements.** (1) Telephone program excise taxes must be paid by the subscriber to the local exchange company providing the switched access line, and each local exchange company shall collect from the subscriber the full amount of the taxes payable. Telephone program excise taxes to be collected by the local exchange company are deemed to be held in trust by the local exchange company until paid to the department. Any local exchange company that appropriates or converts the tax collected to its own use or to any use other than the payment

of the tax to the extent that the money collected is not available for payment on the due date as prescribed in this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) If any local exchange company fails to collect telephone program excise taxes or, after collecting the tax, fails to pay it to the department in the manner prescribed by this chapter, whether such failure is the result of its own act or the result of acts or conditions beyond its control, the local exchange company is personally liable to the state for the amount of the tax, unless the local exchange company has taken from the buyer in good faith documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or is otherwise not liable for telephone program excise taxes.

(3) The amount of tax, until paid by the subscriber to the local exchange company or to the department, constitutes a debt from the subscriber to the local exchange company. Any local exchange company that fails or refuses to collect telephone program excise taxes as required with intent to violate the provisions of this chapter or to gain some advantage or benefit, either direct or indirect, and any subscriber who refuses to pay any telephone excise tax is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(4) If a subscriber has failed to pay to the local exchange company the telephone program excise taxes and the local exchange company has not paid the amount of the tax to the department, the department may, in its discretion, proceed directly against the subscriber for collection of the tax, in which case a penalty of ten percent may be added to the amount of the tax for failure of the subscriber to pay the tax to the local exchange company, regardless of when the tax is collected by the department. Telephone program excise taxes are due as provided under RCW 82.72.050. [2009 c 563 § 214; 2004 c 254 § 6.]

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

**82.72.050 Administration of telephone program excise taxes.** (1) The department shall administer and shall adopt rules necessary to enforce and administer the collection of telephone program excise taxes. Chapter 82.32 RCW, with the exception of RCW 82.32.045, 82.32.145, and 82.32.380, applies to the administration, collection, and enforcement of telephone program excise taxes.

(2) Telephone program excise taxes, along with reports and returns on forms prescribed by the department, are due at the same time the taxpayer reports other taxes under RCW 82.32.045. If no other taxes are reported under RCW 82.32.045, the taxpayer shall remit telephone program excise taxes on an annual basis in accordance with RCW 82.32.045.

(3) The department may relieve any taxpayer or class of taxpayers from the obligation of remitting monthly and may require the return to cover other longer reporting periods, but in no event may returns be filed for a period greater than one year.

(4) Telephone program excise taxes are in addition to any taxes imposed upon the same persons under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14B RCW. [2004 c 254 § 7.]

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

**82.72.060 Tax returns.** (1) A local exchange company shall file tax returns on a cash receipts or accrual basis according to which method of accounting is regularly employed in keeping the books of the company. A local exchange company filing returns on a cash receipts basis is not required to pay telephone program excise taxes on debts that are deductible as worthless for federal income tax purposes.

(2) A local exchange company is entitled to a credit or refund for telephone program excise taxes previously paid on debts that are deductible as worthless for federal income tax purposes. [2004 c 254 § 8.]

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

**82.72.070 Liability for payment of taxes.** (1) Unless a local exchange company has taken from the buyer documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or is otherwise not liable for telephone program excise taxes, the burden of proving that a sale of the use of a switched access line was not a sale to a subscriber or was otherwise not subject to telephone program excise taxes is upon the person who made the sale.

(2) If a local exchange company does not receive documentation, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or is otherwise not liable for telephone program excise taxes at the time of the sale, have such documentation on file at the time of the sale, or obtain such documentation from the buyer within a reasonable time after the sale, the local exchange company remains liable for the telephone program excise taxes as provided in RCW 82.72.040, unless the local exchange company can demonstrate facts and circumstances according to rules adopted by the department that show the sale was properly made without payment of telephone program excise taxes.

(3) The penalty imposed by RCW 82.32.291 may not be assessed on telephone program excise taxes that are due but not paid as a result of the improper use of documentation stating that the buyer is not a subscriber or is otherwise not liable for telephone program excise taxes. This subsection does not prohibit or restrict the application of other penalties authorized by law. [2009 c 563 § 215; 2004 c 254 § 9.]

**Finding—Intent—Construction—Effective date—Reports and recommendations—2009 c 563:** See notes following RCW 82.32.780.

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

**82.72.080 Liability for payment of taxes upon termination, dissolution, or abandonment of business.** (1) Upon termination, dissolution, or abandonment of a corporate or limited liability company business, any officer, member, manager, or other person having control or supervision of tax funds collected and held in trust under RCW 82.72.040, or who is charged with the responsibility for the filing of returns or the payment of tax funds collected and held in trust under RCW 82.72.040, is personally liable for any unpaid taxes and interest and penalties on those taxes, if the officer or other person willfully fails to pay or to cause to be paid any taxes due from the corporation under this section. For the purposes of this section, any taxes that have been paid, but not collected, are deductible from the taxes collected but not paid. For purposes of this subsection "willfully fails to pay or to

cause to be paid" means that the failure was the result of an intentional, conscious, and voluntary course of action.

(2) The officer, member, manager, or other person is liable only for taxes collected that became due during the period he or she had the control, supervision, responsibility, or duty to act for the corporation described in subsection (1) of this section, plus interest and penalties on those taxes.

(3) Persons liable under subsection (1) of this section are exempt from liability if nonpayment of the tax funds held in trust is due to reasons beyond their control as determined by the department by rule.

(4) Any person having been issued a notice of assessment under this section is entitled to the appeal procedures under RCW 82.32.160 through 82.32.200.

(5) This section applies only if the department has determined that there is no reasonable means of collecting the tax funds held in trust directly from the corporation.

(6) This section does not relieve the corporation or limited liability company of other tax liabilities or otherwise impair other tax collection remedies afforded by law. [2004 c 254 § 10.]

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

**82.72.090 Applicability of chapter 82.32 RCW.** Unless otherwise stated in this chapter, the collection authority and procedures prescribed in chapter 82.32 RCW apply to collections under this section. [2004 c 254 § 11.]

**Effective date—2004 c 254:** See note following RCW 82.72.010.

## Chapter 82.73 RCW WASHINGTON MAIN STREET PROGRAM TAX INCENTIVES

### Sections

82.73.010	Definitions.
82.73.020	Application for credit.
82.73.030	Credit authorized—Limitations.
82.73.040	Filing requirements.
82.73.050	Administrative assistance by archaeology and historic preservation.
82.73.060	Application of chapter 82.32 RCW.

*Washington main street program: Chapter 43.360 RCW.*

**82.73.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax credit under this chapter.

(2) "Contribution" means cash contributions.

(3) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(4) "Main street trust fund" means the Washington main street trust fund account under RCW 43.360.050.

(5) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030.

(6) "Program" means a nonprofit organization under internal revenue code sections 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6), with the sole mission of revitalizing a downtown or neighborhood commercial district area, that is designated by the department of archaeology and historic preservation as described in RCW 43.360.010 through 43.360.050. [2010 c 30 § 4. Prior: 2009 c 565 § 55; 2005 c 514 § 902.]

**Finding—Effective date—2010 c 30:** See notes following RCW 43.360.010.

**Short title—2005 c 514 §§ 901-912:** See note following RCW 43.360.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.73.020 Application for credit.** (1) Application for tax credits under this chapter must be made to the department before making a contribution to a program or the main street trust fund. The application shall be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application shall contain information regarding the proposed amount of contribution to a program or the main street trust fund, and other information required by the department to determine eligibility under chapter 514, Laws of 2005. The department shall rule on the application within forty-five days. Applications shall be approved on a first-come basis.

(2) The person must make the contribution described in the approved application by the end of the calendar year in which the application is approved to claim a credit allowed under RCW 82.73.030.

(3) The department shall not accept any applications before January 1, 2006. [2005 c 514 § 903.]

**Short title—2005 c 514 §§ 901-912:** See note following RCW 43.360.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.73.030 Credit authorized—Limitations.** (1) Subject to the limitations in this chapter, a credit is allowed against the tax imposed by chapters 82.04 and 82.16 RCW for approved contributions that are made by a person to a program or the main street trust fund.

(2) The credit allowed under this section is limited to an amount equal to:

(a) Seventy-five percent of the approved contribution made by a person to a program; or

(b) Fifty percent of the approved contribution made by a person to the main street trust fund.

(3) The department may not approve credit with respect to a program in a city or town with a population of one hundred ninety thousand persons or more.

(4) The department shall keep a running total of all credits approved under this chapter for each calendar year. The department shall not approve any credits under this section that would cause the total amount of approved credits statewide to exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars in any calendar year.

(5) The total credits allowed under this chapter for contributions made to each program may not exceed one hundred thousand dollars in a calendar year. The total credits allowed under this chapter for a person may not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars in a calendar year.

(6) The credit may be claimed against any tax due under chapters 82.04 and 82.16 RCW only in the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the credit was approved by the department and the contribution was made to the program or the main street trust fund. Credits may not be carried over to subsequent years. No refunds may be granted for credits under this chapter.

(2012 Ed.)

(7) The total amount of the credit claimed in any calendar year by a person may not exceed the lesser amount of the approved credit, or seventy-five percent of the amount of the contribution that is made by the person to a program and fifty percent of the amount of the contribution that is made by the person to the main street trust fund, in the prior calendar year. [2005 c 514 § 904.]

**Short title—2005 c 514 §§ 901-912:** See note following RCW 43.360.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.73.040 Filing requirements.** To claim a credit under this chapter, a person must electronically file with the department all returns, forms, and other information the department requires in an electronic format as provided or approved by the department. Any return, form, or information required to be filed in an electronic format under this section is not filed until received by the department in an electronic format. As used in this section, "returns" has the same meaning as "return" in RCW 82.32.050. [2005 c 514 § 905.]

**Short title—2005 c 514 §§ 901-912:** See note following RCW 43.360.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.73.050 Administrative assistance by archaeology and historic preservation.** The department of archaeology and historic preservation shall provide information to the department to administer this chapter, including a list of designated programs that shall be updated as necessary. [2010 c 30 § 5; 2005 c 514 § 906.]

**Finding—Effective date—2010 c 30:** See notes following RCW 43.360.010.

**Short title—2005 c 514 §§ 901-912:** See note following RCW 43.360.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**82.73.060 Application of chapter 82.32 RCW.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter. [2005 c 514 § 907.]

**Short title—2005 c 514 §§ 901-912:** See note following RCW 43.360.005.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 83.100.230.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

## Chapter 82.74 RCW TAX DEFERRALS FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BUSINESSES

### Sections

82.74.010	Definitions.
82.74.020	Application for tax deferral.
82.74.040	Annual survey.
82.74.050	Repayment of deferred taxes.
82.74.060	Application of chapter 82.32 RCW.
82.74.070	Confidentiality of applications.

**82.74.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax deferral under this chapter.

(2) "Cold storage warehouse" means a storage warehouse owned or operated by a wholesaler or third-party warehouse as those terms are defined in RCW 82.08.820 to store fresh and/or frozen perishable fruits or vegetables, dairy products, seafood products, or any combination thereof, at a desired temperature to maintain the quality of the product for orderly marketing.

(3) "Dairy product" means dairy products that as of September 20, 2001, are identified in 21 C.F.R., chapter 1, parts 131, 133, and 135, including by-products from the manufacturing of the dairy products such as whey and casein.

(4) "Dairy product manufacturing" means manufacturing, as defined in RCW 82.04.120, of dairy products.

(5) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(6) "Eligible investment project" means an investment in qualified buildings or qualified machinery and equipment, including labor and services rendered in the planning, installation, and construction of the project. The lessor or owner of a qualified building is not eligible for a deferral unless (a) the underlying ownership of the buildings, machinery, and equipment vests exclusively in the same person; or (b)(i) the lessor by written contract agrees to pass the economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee in the form of reduced rent payments, and (ii) the lessee that receives the economic benefit of the deferral agrees in writing with the department to complete the annual survey under RCW 82.74.040. The economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee may be evidenced by any type of payment, credit, or any other financial arrangement between the lessor or owner of the qualified building and the lessee.

(7) "Fresh fruit and vegetable processing" means manufacturing as defined in RCW 82.04.120 which consists of the canning, preserving, freezing, processing, or dehydrating fresh fruits and/or vegetables.

(8)(a) "Initiation of construction" means the date that a building permit is issued under the building code adopted under RCW 19.27.031 for:

(i) Construction of the qualified building, if the underlying ownership of the building vests exclusively with the person receiving the economic benefit of the deferral;

(ii) Construction of the qualified building, if the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in subsection (6) of this section; or

(iii) Tenant improvements for a qualified building, if the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in subsection (6) of this section.

(b) "Initiation of construction" does not include soil testing, site clearing and grading, site preparation, or any other related activities that are initiated before the issuance of a building permit for the construction of the foundation of the building.

(c) If the investment project is a phased project, "initiation of construction" applies separately to each phase.

(9) "Person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030.

(10) "Qualified buildings" means construction of new structures, and expansion or renovation of existing structures

for the purpose of increasing floor space or production capacity used for fresh fruit and vegetable processing, dairy product manufacturing, seafood product manufacturing, cold storage warehousing, and research and development activities, including plant offices and warehouses or other facilities for the storage of raw material or finished goods if such facilities are an essential or an integral part of a factory, plant, or laboratory used for fresh fruit and vegetable processing, dairy product manufacturing, seafood product manufacturing, cold storage warehousing, or research and development. If a building is used partly for fresh fruit and vegetable processing, dairy product manufacturing, seafood product manufacturing, cold storage warehousing, or research and development and partly for other purposes, the applicable tax deferral shall be determined by apportionment of the costs of construction under rules adopted by the department.

(11) "Qualified machinery and equipment" means all industrial and research fixtures, equipment, and support facilities that are an integral and necessary part of a fresh fruit and vegetable processing, dairy product manufacturing, seafood product manufacturing, cold storage warehouse, or research and development operation. "Qualified machinery and equipment" includes: Computers; software; data processing equipment; laboratory equipment; manufacturing components such as belts, pulleys, shafts, and moving parts; molds, tools, and dies; operating structures; and all equipment used to control or operate the machinery.

(12) "Recipient" means a person receiving a tax deferral under this chapter.

(13) "Research and development" means the development, refinement, testing, marketing, and commercialization of a product, service, or process related to fresh fruit and vegetable processing, dairy product manufacturing, seafood product manufacturing, or cold storage warehousing before commercial sales have begun. As used in this subsection, "commercial sales" excludes sales of prototypes or sales for market testing if the total gross receipts from such sales of the product, service, or process do not exceed one million dollars.

(14) "Seafood product" means any edible marine fish and shellfish that remains in a raw, raw frozen, or raw salted state.

(15) "Seafood product manufacturing" means the manufacturing, as defined in RCW 82.04.120, of seafood products. [2006 c 354 § 6; 2005 c 513 § 4.]

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**82.74.020 Application for tax deferral.** (1) Application for deferral of taxes under this chapter must be made before initiation of the construction of the investment project or acquisition of equipment or machinery. The application shall be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application shall contain information regarding the location of the investment project, the applicant's average employment in the state for the prior year, estimated or actual new employment related to the project, estimated or actual wages of employees related to the project, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department.

(2) The department shall rule on the application within sixty days. The department shall keep a running total of all deferrals granted under this chapter during each fiscal biennium.

(3) No application may be made under this chapter for a project for which a refund is requested under RCW 82.08.820 or 82.12.820. [2005 c 513 § 5.]

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**82.74.040 Annual survey.** (1) Each recipient of a deferral of taxes granted under this chapter must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585. If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.74.010(6), the lessee must file a complete annual survey, and the applicant is not required to file the annual survey.

(2) A recipient who must repay deferred taxes under RCW 82.74.050(2) because the department has found that an investment project is used for purposes other than fresh fruit and vegetable processing, dairy product manufacturing, seafood product manufacturing, cold storage warehousing, or research and development is no longer required to file annual surveys under RCW 82.32.585 beginning on the date an investment project is used for nonqualifying purposes. [2010 c 114 § 142; 2006 c 354 § 8; 2005 c 513 § 7.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**82.74.050 Repayment of deferred taxes.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section and RCW 82.32.585, taxes deferred under this chapter need not be repaid.

(2)(a) If, on the basis of the survey under RCW 82.32.585 or other information, the department finds that an investment project is used for purposes other than fresh fruit and vegetable processing, dairy product manufacturing, seafood product manufacturing, cold storage warehousing, or research and development at any time during the calendar year in which the investment project is certified by the department as having been operationally completed, or at any time during any of the seven succeeding calendar years, a portion of deferred taxes is immediately due according to the following schedule:

Year in which nonqualifying use occurs	% of deferred taxes due
1	100%
2	87.5%
3	75%
4	62.5%
5	50%
6	37.5%
7	25%
8	12.5%

(b) If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.74.010(6), the lessee is (2012 Ed.)

responsible for payment to the extent the lessee has received the economic benefit.

(3) The department must assess interest, but not penalties, on the deferred taxes under subsection (2) of this section. The interest must be assessed at the rate provided for delinquent taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, retroactively to the date of deferral, and will accrue until the deferred taxes are repaid. The debt for deferred taxes will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the recipient. Transfer of ownership does not terminate the deferral. The deferral is transferred, subject to the successor meeting the eligibility requirements of this chapter, for the remaining periods of the deferral.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section or RCW 82.32.585, deferred taxes on the following need not be repaid:

(a) Machinery and equipment, and sales of or charges made for labor and services, which at the time of purchase would have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.08.02565; and

(b) Machinery and equipment which at the time of first use would have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.12.02565. [2010 c 114 § 143; 2006 c 354 § 9; 2005 c 513 § 8.]

**Application--Finding--Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective dates—2006 c 354:** See note following RCW 82.04.4268.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**82.74.060 Application of chapter 82.32 RCW.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter. [2005 c 513 § 9.]

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**82.74.070 Confidentiality of applications.** Applications approved by the department under this chapter are not confidential and are subject to disclosure. [2010 c 106 § 109; 2005 c 513 § 10.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Effective dates—2005 c 513:** See note following RCW 82.04.4266.

**Chapter 82.75 RCW  
TAX DEFERRALS FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY  
AND MEDICAL DEVICE  
MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES**

Sections

82.75.005	Findings—Intent.
82.75.010	Definitions.
82.75.020	Application for tax deferral.
82.75.030	Issuance of certificate.
82.75.040	Repayment of deferred taxes.
82.75.050	Application of chapter 82.32 RCW.
82.75.060	Confidentiality of applications.
82.75.070	Annual survey requirement.

**82.75.005 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that the state’s economy is increasingly dependent on the expansion of knowledge-based sectors, including the life sciences. The legislature also finds that commercial enterprises in the life sciences create high-wage, high-skilled jobs that are part of the state’s effort to encourage economic diversification and stability. However, the legislature also finds that com-

mercial life sciences businesses, particularly in biotechnology product and medical device manufacturing, incur significant costs associated with capital infrastructure and job training often years before a product is licensed for marketing or a facility is licensed for manufacturing by governmental agencies in the United States and abroad. The legislature also finds that current state tax policy discourages the growth of these companies in two ways: (1) Washington state's higher rate of taxation compared with other states and nations encourages the export of intellectual property and commercial operations out of Washington; and (2) taxing these businesses before facilities, or products produced therein, are licensed for marketing by regulatory agencies.

The legislature further finds that targeted tax incentives may encourage the formation, expansion, and retention of commercial operations within the life sciences sector. The legislature also finds that tax incentives should be subject to the same rigorous requirements for efficiency and accountability as are other expenditure programs, and that tax incentives should therefore be focused to provide the greatest possible return on the state's investment.

For these reasons, the legislature hereby establishes a tax deferral program for commercial manufacturing facilities in this sector. The legislature declares that these limited programs serve the vital public purposes of incenting expenditures in commercial life science operations and the development of employment opportunities in this state. The legislature further declares its intent to create a contract within the meaning of Article I, section 23 of the state Constitution as to those businesses that make capital investments in consideration of the tax deferral program established in this chapter. [2006 c 178 § 1.]

**Effective date—Severability—2006 c 178:** See notes following RCW 82.75.010.

**82.75.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax deferral under this chapter.

(2) "Biotechnology" means a technology based on the science of biology, microbiology, molecular biology, cellular biology, biochemistry, or biophysics, or any combination of these, and includes, but is not limited to, recombinant DNA techniques, genetics and genetic engineering, cell fusion techniques, and new bioprocesses, using living organisms, or parts of organisms.

(3) "Biotechnology product" means any virus, therapeutic serum, antibody, protein, toxin, antitoxin, vaccine, blood, blood component or derivative, allergenic product, or analogous product produced through the application of biotechnology that is used in the prevention, treatment, or cure of diseases or injuries to humans.

(4) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(5)(a) "Eligible investment project" means an investment in qualified buildings or qualified machinery and equipment, including labor and services rendered in the planning, installation, and construction of the project.

(b) The lessor or owner of a qualified building is not eligible for a deferral unless:

(i) The underlying ownership of the buildings, machinery, and equipment vests exclusively in the same person; or

(ii)(A) The lessor by written contract agrees to pass the economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee;

(B) The lessee that receives the economic benefit of the deferral agrees in writing with the department to complete the annual survey required under RCW 82.75.070; and

(C) The economic benefit of the deferral passed to the lessee is no less than the amount of tax deferred by the lessor and is evidenced by written documentation of any type of payment, credit, or other financial arrangement between the lessor or owner of the qualified building and the lessee.

(6)(a) "Initiation of construction" means the date that a building permit is issued under the building code adopted under RCW 19.27.031 for:

(i) Construction of the qualified building, if the underlying ownership of the building vests exclusively with the person receiving the economic benefit of the deferral;

(ii) Construction of the qualified building, if the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in subsection (5)(b)(ii)(A) of this section; or

(iii) Tenant improvements for a qualified building, if the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in subsection (5)(b)(ii)(A) of this section.

(b) "Initiation of construction" does not include soil testing, site clearing and grading, site preparation, or any other related activities that are initiated before the issuance of a building permit for the construction of the foundation of the building.

(c) If the investment project is a phased project, "initiation of construction" applies separately to each phase.

(7) "Manufacturing" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.120.

(8) "Medical device" means an instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent, or other similar or related article, including any component, part, or accessory, that is designed or developed and:

(a) Recognized in the national formulary, or the United States pharmacopeia, or any supplement to them;

(b) Intended for use in the diagnosis of disease, or in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or other conditions in human beings or other animals; or

(c) Intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of human beings or other animals, and which does not achieve any of its primary intended purposes through chemical action within or on the body of human beings or other animals and which is not dependent upon being metabolized for the achievement of any of its principal intended purposes.

(9) "Person" has the meaning provided in RCW 82.04.030.

(10) "Qualified buildings" means construction of new structures, and expansion or renovation of existing structures for the purpose of increasing floor space or production capacity used for biotechnology product manufacturing or medical device manufacturing activities, including plant offices, commercial laboratories for process development, quality assurance and quality control, and warehouses or other facilities for the storage of raw material or finished goods if the facilities are an essential or an integral part of a factory, plant, or laboratory used for biotechnology product manufacturing or medical device manufacturing. If a building is used partly for

biotechnology product manufacturing or medical device manufacturing and partly for other purposes, the applicable tax deferral must be determined by apportionment of the costs of construction under rules adopted by the department.

(11) "Qualified machinery and equipment" means all new industrial and research fixtures, equipment, and support facilities that are an integral and necessary part of a biotechnology product manufacturing or medical device manufacturing operation. "Qualified machinery and equipment" includes: Computers; software; data processing equipment; laboratory equipment; manufacturing components such as belts, pulleys, shafts, and moving parts; molds, tools, and dies; operating structures; and all equipment used to control or operate the machinery.

(12) "Recipient" means a person receiving a tax deferral under this chapter. [2010 c 114 § 145; 2009 c 549 § 1033; 2006 c 178 § 2.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2006 c 178:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2006." [2006 c 178 § 10.]

**Severability—2006 c 178:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2006 c 178 § 12.]

**82.75.020 Application for tax deferral.** Application for deferral of taxes under this chapter must be made before initiation of the construction of the investment project or acquisition of equipment or machinery. The application must be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application must contain information regarding the location of the investment project, the applicant's average employment in the state for the prior year, estimated or actual new employment related to the project, estimated or actual wages of employees related to the project, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department. The department must rule on the application within sixty days. [2010 c 114 § 146; 2006 c 178 § 3.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—Severability—2006 c 178:** See notes following RCW 82.75.010.

**82.75.030 Issuance of certificate. (Expires January 1, 2017.)** (1) The department shall issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW for each eligible investment project.

(2) No certificate may be issued for an investment project that has already received a deferral under chapter 82.60 or 82.63 RCW or this chapter.

(3) The department shall keep a running total of all deferrals granted under this chapter during each fiscal biennium.

(4) This section expires January 1, 2017. [2006 c 178 § 4.]

**Effective date—Severability—2006 c 178:** See notes following RCW 82.75.010.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.75.040 Repayment of deferred taxes.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section and RCW 82.32.585, taxes deferred under this chapter need not be repaid.

(2)(a) If, on the basis of the survey under RCW 82.32.585 or other information, the department finds that an investment project is used for purposes other than qualified biotechnology product manufacturing or medical device manufacturing activities at any time during the calendar year in which the eligible investment project is certified by the department as having been operationally completed, or at any time during any of the seven succeeding calendar years, a portion of deferred taxes is immediately due and payable according to the following schedule:

Year in which use occurs	% of deferred taxes due
1	100%
2	87.5%
3	75%
4	62.5%
5	50%
6	37.5%
7	25%
8	12.5%

(b) If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.75.010, the lessee is responsible for payment to the extent the lessee has received the economic benefit.

(3) For a violation of subsection (2)(a) of this section, the department must assess interest at the rate provided for delinquent taxes, but not penalties, retroactively to the date of deferral. The debt for deferred taxes will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the recipient. Transfer of ownership does not terminate the deferral. The deferral is transferred, subject to the successor meeting the eligibility requirements of this chapter, for the remaining periods of the deferral.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section or RCW 82.32.585, deferred taxes on the following need not be repaid:

(a) Machinery and equipment, and sales of or charges made for labor and services, which at the time of purchase would have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.08.02565; and

(b) Machinery and equipment which at the time of first use would have qualified for exemption under RCW 82.12.02565. [2010 c 114 § 147; 2006 c 178 § 5.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—Severability—2006 c 178:** See notes following RCW 82.75.010.

**82.75.050 Application of chapter 82.32 RCW.** Chapter 82.32 RCW applies to the administration of this chapter. [2006 c 178 § 6.]

**Effective date—Severability—2006 c 178:** See notes following RCW 82.75.010.

**82.75.060 Confidentiality of applications.** Applications approved by the department under this chapter are not confidential and are subject to disclosure. [2010 c 106 § 110; 2006 c 178 § 7.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Effective date—Severability—2006 c 178:** See notes following RCW 82.75.010.

**82.75.070 Annual survey requirement.** (1) Each recipient of a deferral of taxes granted under this chapter must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585. If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.75.010(5), the lessee must file a complete annual survey, and the applicant is not required to file the annual survey.

(2) A recipient who must repay deferred taxes under RCW 82.75.040(2) because the department has found that an investment project is used for purposes other than qualified biotechnology product manufacturing or medical device manufacturing activities is no longer required to file annual surveys under RCW 82.32.585 beginning on the date an investment project is used for nonqualifying purposes. [2010 c 114 § 144.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

## Chapter 82.80 RCW

### LOCAL OPTION TRANSPORTATION TAXES

#### Sections

82.80.005	"District" defined.
82.80.010	Motor vehicle and special fuel tax.
82.80.030	Commercial parking tax.
82.80.040	Street utility—Establishment.
82.80.050	Street utility—Charges, credits.
82.80.055	Congestion reduction charge.
82.80.060	Use of other proceeds by utility.
82.80.070	Use of revenues.
82.80.080	Distribution of taxes.
82.80.090	Referendum.
82.80.100	Regional transportation investment district—Local option vehicle license fee.
82.80.110	Motor vehicle and special fuel tax—Dedication by county to regional transportation investment district plan.
82.80.120	Motor vehicle and special fuel tax—Regional transportation investment district.
82.80.130	Passenger-only ferry service—Local option motor vehicle excise tax authorized.
82.80.140	Vehicle fee—Transportation benefit district—Exemptions.
82.80.900	Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42.

**82.80.005 "District" defined.** For the purposes of this chapter, "district" means a regional transportation investment district created under chapter 36.120 RCW. [2002 c 56 § 415.]

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**82.80.010 Motor vehicle and special fuel tax.** (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Distributor" means every person who imports, refines, manufactures, produces, or compounds motor vehicle fuel and special fuel as defined in RCW 82.36.010 and 82.38.020, respectively, and sells or distributes the fuel into a county;

(b) "Person" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.030.

(2) Subject to the conditions of this section, any county may levy, by approval of its legislative body and a majority of the registered voters of the county voting on the proposition at a general or special election, additional excise taxes equal to ten percent of the statewide motor vehicle fuel tax rate under RCW 82.36.025 on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel as defined in RCW 82.36.010 and on each gallon of special fuel as defined in RCW 82.38.020 sold within the boundaries of the county. Vehicles paying an annual license fee under RCW 82.38.075 are exempt from the county fuel excise tax. An election held under this section must be held not more than twelve months before the date on which the proposed tax is to be levied. The ballot setting forth the proposition shall state the tax rate that is proposed. The county's authority to levy additional excise taxes under this section includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. The additional excise taxes are subject to the same exceptions and rights of refund as applicable to other motor vehicle fuel and special fuel excise taxes levied under chapters 82.36 and 82.38 RCW. The proposed tax shall not be levied less than one month from the date the election results are certified by the county election officer. The commencement date for the levy of any tax under this section shall be the first day of January, April, July, or October.

(3) The local option motor vehicle fuel tax on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel and on each gallon of special fuel is imposed upon the distributor of the fuel.

(4) A taxable event for the purposes of this section occurs upon the first distribution of the fuel within the boundaries of a county to a retail outlet, bulk fuel user, or ultimate user of the fuel.

(5) All administrative provisions in chapters 82.01, 82.03, and 82.32 RCW, insofar as they are applicable, apply to local option fuel taxes imposed under this section.

(6) Before the effective date of the imposition of the fuel taxes under this section, a county shall contract with the department of revenue for the administration and collection of the taxes. The contract must provide that a percentage amount, not to exceed one percent of the taxes imposed under this section, will be deposited into the local tax administration account created in the custody of the state treasurer. The department of revenue may spend money from this account, upon appropriation, for the administration of the local taxes imposed under this section.

(7) The state treasurer shall distribute monthly to the levying county and cities contained therein the proceeds of the additional excise taxes collected under this section, after the deductions for payments and expenditures as provided in RCW 46.68.090(1) (a) and (b) and under the conditions and limitations provided in RCW 82.80.080.

(8) The proceeds of the additional excise taxes levied under this section shall be used strictly for transportation purposes in accordance with RCW 82.80.070.

(9) A county may not levy the tax under this section if they are levying the tax in RCW 82.80.110 or if they are a member of a regional transportation investment district levying the tax in RCW 82.80.120. [2003 c 350 § 1; 1998 c 176 § 86; 1991 c 339 § 12; 1990 c 42 § 201.]

**Rules—Findings—Effective date—1998 c 176:** See RCW 82.36.800, 82.36.900, and 82.36.901.

**82.80.030 Commercial parking tax.** (1) Subject to the conditions of this section, the legislative authority of a county, city, or district may fix and impose a parking tax on all persons engaged in a commercial parking business within its respective jurisdiction. A city or county may impose the tax only to the extent that it has not been imposed by the district, and a district may impose the tax only to the extent that it has not been imposed by a city or county. The jurisdiction of a county, for purposes of this section, includes only the unincorporated area of the county. The jurisdiction of a city or district includes only the area within its boundaries.

(2) In lieu of the tax in subsection (1) of this section, a city, a county in its unincorporated area, or a district may fix and impose a tax for the act or privilege of parking a motor vehicle in a facility operated by a commercial parking business.

The city, county, or district may provide that:

(a) The tax is paid by the operator or owner of the motor vehicle;

(b) The tax applies to all parking for which a fee is paid, whether paid or leased, including parking supplied with a lease of nonresidential space;

(c) The tax is collected by the operator of the facility and remitted to the city, county, or district;

(d) The tax is a fee per vehicle or is measured by the parking charge;

(e) The tax rate varies with zoning or location of the facility, the duration of the parking, the time of entry or exit, the type or use of the vehicle, or other reasonable factors; and

(f) Tax exempt carpools, vehicles with handicapped decals, or government vehicles are exempt from the tax.

(3) "Commercial parking business" as used in this section, means the ownership, lease, operation, or management of a commercial parking lot in which fees are charged. "Commercial parking lot" means a covered or uncovered area with stalls for the purpose of parking motor vehicles.

(4) The rate of the tax under subsection (1) of this section may be based either upon gross proceeds or the number of vehicle stalls available for commercial parking use. The rates charged must be uniform for the same class or type of commercial parking business.

(5) The county, city, or district levying the tax provided for in subsection (1) or (2) of this section may provide for its payment on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Each local government may develop by ordinance or resolution rules for administering the tax, including provisions for reporting by commercial parking businesses, collection, and enforcement.

(6) The proceeds of the commercial parking tax fixed and imposed by a city or county under subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be used for transportation purposes in accordance with RCW 82.80.070 or for transportation improvements in accordance with chapter 36.73 RCW. The proceeds of the parking tax imposed by a district must be used as provided in chapter 36.120 RCW. [2005 c 336 § 24; 2002 c 56 § 412; 1990 c 42 § 208.]

**Effective date—2005 c 336:** See note following RCW 36.73.015.

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

(2012 Ed.)

**82.80.040 Street utility—Establishment.** A city or town may elect by action of its legislative authority to own, construct, maintain, operate, and preserve all or any described portion of its streets as a separate enterprise and facility, known as a street utility, and from time to time add other existing or new streets to that street utility, with full power to own, construct, maintain, operate, and preserve such streets. The legislative authority of the city or town may include as a part of the street utility, street lighting, traffic control devices, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, parking facilities, and drainage facilities. The legislative authority of the city or town is the governing body of the street utility. [1991 c 141 § 1. Prior: 1990 c 42 § 209.]

**82.80.050 Street utility—Charges, credits.** (1) A city or town electing to own, construct, maintain, operate, and preserve its streets as a separate street utility may levy periodic charges for the use or availability of the streets in a total annual amount of up to fifty percent of the actual costs for maintenance, operation, and preservation of facilities under the jurisdiction of the street utility. The rates charged for the use must be uniform for the same class of service and all business and residential properties must be subject to the utility charge. Charges imposed on businesses shall be measured solely by the number of employees and shall not exceed the equivalent of two dollars per full-time equivalent employee per month. Charges imposed against owners or occupants of residential property shall not exceed two dollars per month per housing unit as defined in RCW 35.95.040. A client under the terms of a professional employer agreement is deemed to be the sole employer of a covered employee for purposes of this section. In such cases, a professional employer organization is not an employer and is not liable, primarily or secondarily, for remitting the charge authorized in this section with respect to covered employees. Charges authorized in this section shall not be imposed against owners of property: (a) Exempt under RCW 84.36.010; (b) exempt from the leasehold tax under chapter 82.29A RCW; or (c) used for nonprofit or sectarian purposes, which if said property were owned by such organization would qualify for exemption under chapter 84.36 RCW. The charges shall not be computed on the basis of an ad valorem charge on the underlying real property and improvements. This section shall not be used as a basis to directly or indirectly charge transportation impact fees or mitigation fees of any kind against new development. A city or town may contract with any other utility or local government to provide for billing and collection of the street utility charges.

(2) In classifying service furnished within the general categories of business and residential, the city or town legislative authority may in its discretion consider any or all of the following factors: The difference in cost of service to the various users or traffic generators; location of the various users or traffic generators within the city or town; the difference in cost of maintenance, operation, construction, repair, and replacement of the various parts of the enterprise and facility; the different character of the service furnished to various users or traffic generators within the city or town; the size and quality of the street service furnished; the time of use or traffic generation; capital contributions made to the facility including but not limited to special assessments; and any

[Title 82 RCW—page 385]

other matters that present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction, or the entire category of business or residential may be established as a single class. The city or town may reduce or exempt charges on residential properties to the extent of their occupancy by low-income senior citizens and other low-income citizens as provided in RCW 74.38.070, or to the extent of their occupancy by the needy or infirm.

(3) The charges shall be charges against the property and the use thereof and shall become liens and be enforced in the same manner as rates and charges for the use of systems of sewerage under chapter 35.67 RCW.

(4) Any city or town ordinance or resolution creating a street utility must contain a provision granting to any business a credit against any street utility charge the full amount of any commuter or employer tax paid for transportation purposes by that business. A client under the terms of a professional employer agreement is entitled to the credit provided by this subsection (4) for any commuter or employer tax paid by the client with respect to covered employees.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "client," "covered employee," "professional employer agreement," and "professional employer organization" have the same meanings as in RCW 82.04.540. [2006 c 301 § 5; 2000 c 103 § 21; 1991 c 141 § 2. Prior: 1990 c 42 § 210.]

**Effective date—Act does not affect application of Title 50 or 51 RCW—2006 c 301:** See notes following RCW 82.32.710.

**82.80.055 Congestion reduction charge. (Expires December 31, 2014.)** (1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the governing body of a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW and is operating a public transportation system may impose, if approved by a majority of the voters within that county or a two-thirds majority of the governing body, an annual congestion reduction charge of up to twenty dollars per vehicle registered in the boundaries of the county for each vehicle subject to vehicle license fees under RCW 46.17.350(1) (a), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (j), (n), (o), (p), or (q) and for each vehicle subject to gross weight license fees under RCW 46.17.355 with an unladen weight of six thousand pounds or less.

(b) Prior to the imposition of a congestion reduction charge authorized under (a) of this subsection, a governing body must complete a congestion reduction plan indicating the proposed expenditures of the proceeds of the congestion reduction charge.

(c) If a governing body that imposes a congestion reduction charge authorized under (a) of this subsection completed a regional transit task force evaluating system improvements and efficiencies within two years prior to the imposition of the charge, the proceeds from the charge must be expended in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the regional transit task force.

(d) A governing body that imposes a congestion reduction charge authorized under (a) of this subsection must complete a report by July 1, 2012, detailing the expenditures of the proceeds of the congestion reduction charge through June 1, 2012.

(e) A governing body that imposes a congestion reduction charge authorized under (a) of this subsection must com-

plete a report by June 1, 2014, detailing the expenditures of the proceeds of the congestion reduction charge.

(2) The governing body of a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW and is operating a public transportation system may not impose a congestion reduction charge authorized under subsection (1)(a) of this section for a passenger-only ferry transportation improvement, unless the charge is first approved by a majority of the voters within that county.

(3) The governing body of a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW and is operating a public transportation system shall contract with the department of licensing as provided under RCW 46.68.470 for the collection of the congestion reduction charge.

(4) A congestion reduction charge imposed under this section may not be assessed until six months after approval.

(5) A congestion reduction charge imposed under this section applies only for vehicle registration renewals and is effective upon the registration renewal date as provided by the department of licensing.

(6) The following vehicles are exempt from the congestion reduction charge imposed under this section:

(a) Farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180 and 46.04.181;

(b) Off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365;

(c) Nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310;

(d) Vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW and the international registration plan; and

(e) Snowmobiles as defined in RCW 46.04.546.

(7) The authority to impose a congestion reduction charge authorized in subsection (1)(a) of this section expires with vehicle registrations that expire two years after the imposition of the charge or no later than June 30, 2014, whichever comes first.

(8) A congestion reduction charge authorized under subsection (1)(a) of this section may only be imposed after June 30, 2014, if approved by a majority of the voters within a county that has assumed the rights, powers, functions, and obligations of a metropolitan municipal corporation under chapter 36.56 RCW and is operating a public transportation system.

(9) This section expires December 31, 2014. [2011 c 373 § 2.]

**Intent—2011 c 373:** "The legislature recognizes that public transportation provides many benefits to the citizens of the state and the environment, including through public transportation's ability to alleviate congestion and offset the burdens placed by general vehicular traffic on the state's transportation infrastructure. In these challenging economic times, many transit agencies find themselves struggling to continue to provide a level of service that reduces congestion.

The legislature further recognizes that King county conducted a regional transit task force in 2010 that considered a policy framework for the potential future growth and, if necessary, contraction of King county's transit system. The task force members were selected to represent a broad diversity of interests and perspectives. The task force recommendations, which were unanimously accepted, addressed key elements, such as the adoption of performance measures, controlling operating costs, developing policy guidance for making service reductions, and clear and transparent guidelines for service allocation. As a result of the work done by the task force and King county's commitment to comply with the recommendations, it is the intent of the legislature that King county be provided the opportunity to impose a temporary congestion reduction charge, which is separate and distinct from the

base motor vehicle license fee, that can help address its revenue shortfalls during this economic crisis and allow it to continue reducing congestion and the corresponding burdens placed on the highway system on some of the state's most crowded corridors.

The legislature recognizes that the title of Initiative Measure No. 1053 states that it applies only to tax and fee increases imposed by state government, and that the text of the initiative requires a two-thirds majority only for tax increases. The legislature further recognizes that Initiative Measure No. 1053 does not apply to local government. Despite these facts, this act requires a two-thirds majority of the metropolitan King county council in order to implement a local option fee, in the form of a congestion reduction charge, to help fund King county metro transit service. Faced with the potential loss of hundreds of thousands of hours of vital transit service, it is the intent of the legislature to provide King county with this temporary local option funding mechanism. It is further the intent of the legislature not to expand the parameters of Initiative Measure No. 1053 beyond what the voters intended and thus interfere with local control or limit the ability of local governments to provide services to the people of Washington." [2011 c 373 § 1.]

**82.80.060 Use of other proceeds by utility.** The city or town electing to own, construct, maintain, operate, and preserve its streets and related facilities as a utility under this chapter may finance the construction, operation, maintenance, and preservation through local improvement districts, utility local improvement districts, or with proceeds from general obligation bonds and revenue bonds payable from the charges issued in accordance with chapter 35.41, 35.92, or 39.46 RCW, or any combination thereof. The city or town may use, in addition to the charges authorized by RCW 82.80.050, funds from general taxation, money received from the federal, state, or other local governments, and other funds made available to it. The proceeds of the charges authorized by RCW 82.80.050 shall be used strictly for transportation purposes in accordance with this chapter and RCW 82.80.070. [1991 c 141 § 3. Prior: 1990 c 42 § 211.]

**82.80.070 Use of revenues.** (1) The proceeds collected pursuant to the exercise of the local option authority of RCW 82.80.010, 82.80.030, and 82.80.050 (hereafter called "local option transportation revenues") shall be used for transportation purposes only, including but not limited to the following: The operation and preservation of roads, streets, and other transportation improvements; new construction, reconstruction, and expansion of city streets, county roads, and state highways and other transportation improvements; development and implementation of public transportation and high capacity transit improvements and programs; and planning, design, and acquisition of right-of-way and sites for such transportation purposes. The proceeds collected from excise taxes on the sale, distribution, or use of motor vehicle fuel and special fuel under RCW 82.80.010 shall be used exclusively for "highway purposes" as that term is construed in Article II, section 40 of the state Constitution.

(2) The local option transportation revenues shall be expended for transportation uses consistent with the adopted transportation and land use plans of the jurisdiction expending the funds and consistent with any applicable and adopted regional transportation plan for metropolitan planning areas.

(3) Each local government with a population greater than eight thousand that levies or expends local option transportation funds, is also required to develop and adopt a specific transportation program that contains the following elements:

(a) The program shall identify the geographic boundaries of the entire area or areas within which local option transportation revenues will be levied and expended.

(b) The program shall be based on an adopted transportation plan for the geographic areas covered and shall identify the proposed operation and construction of transportation improvements and services in the designated plan area intended to be funded in whole or in part by local option transportation revenues and shall identify the annual costs applicable to the program.

(c) The program shall indicate how the local transportation plan is coordinated with applicable transportation plans for the region and for adjacent jurisdictions.

(d) The program shall include at least a six-year funding plan, updated annually, identifying the specific public and private sources and amounts of revenue necessary to fund the program. The program shall include a proposed schedule for construction of projects and expenditure of revenues. The funding plan shall consider the additional local tax revenue estimated to be generated by new development within the plan area if all or a portion of the additional revenue is proposed to be earmarked as future appropriations for transportation improvements in the program.

(4) Local governments with a population greater than eight thousand exercising the authority for local option transportation funds shall periodically review and update their transportation program to ensure that it is consistent with applicable local and regional transportation and land use plans and within the means of estimated public and private revenue available.

(5) In the case of expenditure for new or expanded transportation facilities, improvements, and services, priorities in the use of local option transportation revenues shall be identified in the transportation program and expenditures shall be made based upon the following criteria, which are stated in descending order of weight to be attributed:

(a) First, the project serves a multijurisdictional function;

(b) Second, it is necessitated by existing or reasonably foreseeable congestion;

(c) Third, it has the greatest person-carrying capacity;

(d) Fourth, it is partially funded by other government funds, such as from the state transportation improvement board, or by private sector contributions, such as those from the local transportation act, chapter 39.92 RCW; and

(e) Fifth, it meets such other criteria as the local government determines is appropriate.

(6) It is the intent of the legislature that as a condition of levying, receiving, and expending local option transportation revenues, no local government agency use the revenues to replace, divert, or loan any revenues currently being used for transportation purposes to nontransportation purposes.

(7) Local governments are encouraged to enter into inter-local agreements to jointly develop and adopt with other local governments the transportation programs required by this section for the purpose of accomplishing regional transportation planning and development.

(8) Local governments may use all or a part of the local option transportation revenues for the amortization of local government general obligation and revenue bonds issued for transportation purposes consistent with the requirements of this section.

(9) Subsections (1) through (8) of this section do not apply to a regional transportation investment district imposing a tax or fee under the local option authority of this chapter. Proceeds collected under the exercise of local option authority under this chapter by a district must be used in accordance with chapter 36.120 RCW. [2005 c 319 § 139; 2002 c 56 § 413; 1991 c 141 § 4. Prior: 1990 c 42 § 212.]

**Findings—Intent—Part headings—Effective dates—2005 c 319:** See notes following RCW 43.17.020.

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**82.80.080 Distribution of taxes.** (1) The state treasurer shall distribute revenues, less authorized deductions, generated by the local option taxes authorized in RCW 82.80.010 and \*82.80.020, levied by counties to the levying counties, and cities contained in those counties, based on the relative per capita population. County population for purposes of this section is equal to one and one-half of the unincorporated population of the county. In calculating the distributions, the state treasurer shall use the population estimates prepared by the state office of financial management and shall further calculate the distribution based on information supplied by the departments of licensing and revenue, as appropriate.

(2) The state treasurer shall distribute revenues, less authorized deductions, generated by the local option taxes authorized in RCW 82.80.010 and \*82.80.020 levied by qualifying cities and towns to the levying cities and towns.

(3) The state treasurer shall distribute to the district revenues, less authorized deductions, generated by the local option taxes under RCW 82.80.010 or fees under RCW 82.80.100 levied by a district. [2002 c 56 § 414; 1998 c 281 § 2; 1990 c 42 § 213.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 82.80.020 was repealed by 2003 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**82.80.090 Referendum.** A referendum petition to repeal a county or city ordinance imposing a tax or fee authorized under RCW \*82.80.020 and 82.80.030 must be filed with a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance, within seven days of passage of the ordinance. Within ten days, the filing officer shall confer with the petitioner concerning form and style of the petition, issue an identification number for the petition, and write a ballot title for the measure. The ballot title shall be posed as a question so that an affirmative answer to the question and an affirmative vote on the measure results in the tax or fee being imposed and a negative answer to the question and a negative vote on the measure results in the tax or fee not being imposed. The petitioner shall be notified of the identification number and ballot title within this ten-day period.

After this notification, the petitioner has thirty days in which to secure on petition forms the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the county for county measures, or not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the city for city measures, and to file the signed petitions with the filing officer. Each petition form must contain the ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer shall verify the sufficiency of

the signatures on the petitions. If sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, the filing officer shall submit the referendum measure to the county or city voters at a general or special election held on one of the dates provided in \*\*RCW 29.13.010 as determined by the county or city legislative authority, which election shall not take place later than one hundred twenty days after the signed petition has been filed with the filing officer.

The referendum procedure provided in this section is the exclusive method for subjecting any county or city ordinance imposing a tax or fee under RCW \*82.80.020 and 82.80.030 to a referendum vote. [1990 c 42 § 214.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 82.80.020 was repealed by 2003 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 776, approved November 5, 2002).

\*\* (2) RCW 29.13.010 was recodified as RCW 29A.04.320 pursuant to 2003 c 111 § 2401, effective July 1, 2004. RCW 29A.04.320 was subsequently repealed by 2004 c 271 § 193. Later enactment of RCW 29A.04.320, see RCW 29A.04.321.

**82.80.100 Regional transportation investment district—Local option vehicle license fee.** (1) Upon approval of a majority of the voters within its boundaries voting on the ballot proposition, a regional transportation investment district may set and impose an annual local option vehicle license fee, or a schedule of fees based upon the age of the vehicle, of up to one hundred dollars per motor vehicle registered within the boundaries of the region on every motor vehicle. As used in this section "motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in RCW 46.04.320, but does not include farm tractors or farm vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.180 and 46.04.181, off-road vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.365, nonhighway vehicles as defined in RCW 46.09.310, and snowmobiles as defined in RCW 46.04.546. Vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW and the international registration plan are exempt from the annual local option vehicle license fee set forth in this section. The department of licensing shall administer and collect this fee on behalf of regional transportation investment districts and remit this fee to the custody of the state treasurer for monthly distribution under RCW 82.80.080.

(2) The local option vehicle license fee applies only when renewing a vehicle registration, and is effective upon the registration renewal date as provided by the department of licensing.

(3) A regional transportation investment district imposing the local option vehicle license fee or initiating an exemption process shall enter into a contract with the department of licensing. The contract must contain provisions that fully recover the costs to the department of licensing for collection and administration of the fee.

(4) A regional transportation investment district imposing the local option fee shall delay the effective date of the local option vehicle license fee imposed by this section at least six months from the date of the final certification of the approval election to allow the department of licensing to implement the administration and collection of or exemption from the fee. [2011 c 171 § 125; 2002 c 56 § 408.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

**Captions and subheadings not law—Severability—2002 c 56:** See RCW 36.120.900 and 36.120.901.

**82.80.110 Motor vehicle and special fuel tax—Dedication by county to regional transportation investment district plan.** (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Distributor" means every person who imports, refines, manufactures, produces, or compounds motor vehicle fuel and special fuel as defined in RCW 82.36.010 and 82.38.020, respectively, and sells or distributes the fuel into a county;

(b) "Person" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.030.

(2) For purposes of dedication to a regional transportation investment district plan under chapter 36.120 RCW, subject to the conditions of this section, a county may levy additional excise taxes equal to ten percent of the statewide motor vehicle fuel tax rate under RCW 82.36.025 on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel as defined in RCW 82.36.010 and on each gallon of special fuel as defined in RCW 82.38.020 sold within the boundaries of the county. The additional excise tax is subject to the approval of the county's legislative body and a majority of the registered voters of the county voting on the proposition at a general or special election. An election held under this section must be held not more than twelve months before the date on which the proposed tax is to be levied. The ballot setting forth the proposition must state that the revenues from the tax will be used for a regional transportation investment district plan. The county's authority to levy additional excise taxes under this section includes the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. Vehicles paying an annual license fee under RCW 82.38.075 are exempt from the county fuel excise tax. The additional excise taxes are subject to the same exceptions and rights of refund as applicable to other motor vehicle fuel and special fuel excise taxes levied under chapters 82.36 and 82.38 RCW. The proposed tax may not be levied less than one month from the date the election results are certified by the county election officer. The commencement date for the levy of any tax under this section will be the first day of January, April, July, or October.

(3) The local option motor vehicle fuel tax on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel and on each gallon of special fuel is imposed upon the distributor of the fuel.

(4) A taxable event for the purposes of this section occurs upon the first distribution of the fuel within the boundaries of a county to a retail outlet, bulk fuel user, or ultimate user of the fuel.

(5) All administrative provisions in chapters 82.01, 82.03, and 82.32 RCW, insofar as they are applicable, apply to local option fuel taxes imposed under this section.

(6) Before the effective date of the imposition of the fuel taxes under this section, a county shall contract with the department of revenue for the administration and collection of the taxes. The contract must provide that a percentage amount, not to exceed one percent of the taxes imposed under this section, will be deposited into the local tax administration account created in the custody of the state treasurer. The department of revenue may spend money from this account, upon appropriation, for the administration of the local taxes imposed under this section.

(7) The state treasurer shall distribute monthly to the county levying the tax as part of a regional transportation

investment plan, after the deductions for payments and expenditures as provided in RCW 46.68.090(1) (a) and (b).

(8) The proceeds of the additional taxes levied by a county in this section, to be used as a part of a regional transportation investment plan, must be used in accordance with chapter 36.120 RCW, but only for those areas that are considered "highway purposes" as that term is construed in Article II, section 40 of the state Constitution.

(9) A county may not levy the tax under this section if they are a member of a regional transportation investment district that is levying the tax in RCW 82.80.120 or the county is levying the tax in RCW 82.80.010. [2003 c 350 § 2.]

**82.80.120 Motor vehicle and special fuel tax—Regional transportation investment district.** (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Distributor" means every person who imports, refines, manufactures, produces, or compounds motor vehicle fuel and special fuel as defined in RCW 82.36.010 and 82.38.020, respectively, and sells or distributes the fuel into a county;

(b) "Person" has the same meaning as in RCW 82.04.030;

(c) "District" means a regional transportation investment district under chapter 36.120 RCW.

(2) A regional transportation investment district under chapter 36.120 RCW, subject to the conditions of this section, may levy additional excise taxes equal to ten percent of the statewide motor vehicle fuel tax rate under RCW 82.36.025 on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel as defined in RCW 82.36.010 and on each gallon of special fuel as defined in RCW 82.38.020 sold within the boundaries of the district. The additional excise tax is subject to the approval of a majority of the voters within the district boundaries. Vehicles paying an annual license fee under RCW 82.38.075 are exempt from the district's fuel excise tax. The additional excise taxes are subject to the same exceptions and rights of refund as applicable to other motor vehicle fuel and special fuel excise taxes levied under chapters 82.36 and 82.38 RCW. The proposed tax may not be levied less than one month from the date the election results are certified. The commencement date for the levy of any tax under this section will be the first day of January, April, July, or October.

(3) The local option motor vehicle fuel tax on each gallon of motor vehicle fuel and on each gallon of special fuel is imposed upon the distributor of the fuel.

(4) A taxable event for the purposes of this section occurs upon the first distribution of the fuel within the boundaries of the district to a retail outlet, bulk fuel user, or ultimate user of the fuel.

(5) All administrative provisions in chapters 82.01, 82.03, and 82.32 RCW, insofar as they are applicable, apply to local option fuel taxes imposed under this section.

(6) Before the effective date of the imposition of the fuel taxes under this section, a district must contract with the department of revenue for the administration and collection of the taxes. The contract must provide that a percentage amount, not to exceed one percent of the taxes imposed under this section, will be deposited into the local tax administration account created in the custody of the state treasurer. The

department of revenue may spend money from this account, upon appropriation, for the administration of the local taxes imposed under this section.

(7) The state treasurer must distribute monthly to the district levying the tax as part of the regional transportation investment district plan, after the deductions for payments and expenditures as provided in RCW 46.68.090(1) (a) and (b).

(8) The proceeds of the additional taxes levied by a district in this section, to be used as a part of a regional transportation investment district plan, must be used in accordance with chapter 36.120 RCW, but only for those areas that are considered "highway purposes" as that term is construed in Article II, section 40 of the state Constitution.

(9) A district may only levy the tax under this section if the district is comprised of boundaries identical to the boundaries of a county or counties. A district may not levy the tax in this section if a member county is levying the tax in RCW 82.80.010 or 82.80.110. [2010 c 106 § 233; 2006 c 311 § 18; 2003 c 350 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Findings—2006 c 311:** See note following RCW 36.120.020.

**82.80.130 Passenger-only ferry service—Local option motor vehicle excise tax authorized.** (1) Public transportation benefit areas authorized to implement passenger-only ferry service under RCW 36.57A.200 whose boundaries (a) are on the Puget Sound, but (b) do not include an area where a regional transit authority has been formed, may submit an authorizing proposition to the voters and, if approved, may levy and collect an excise tax, at a rate approved by the voters, but not exceeding four-tenths of one percent on the value of every motor vehicle owned by a resident of the taxing district, solely for the purpose of providing passenger-only ferry service. The tax must be collected only at the time of vehicle registration renewal under \*chapter 46.16 RCW. The tax will be imposed on vehicles previously registered in another state or nation when they are initially registered in this state. The tax will not be imposed at the time of sale by a licensed vehicle dealer. In a county imposing a motor vehicle excise tax surcharge under RCW 81.100.060, the maximum tax rate under this section must be reduced to a rate equal to four-tenths of one percent on the value less the equivalent motor vehicle excise tax rate of the surcharge imposed under RCW 81.100.060. This rate does not apply to vehicles registered under RCW 46.16A.455 with a scale weight more than six thousand pounds, or to vehicles registered under RCW 46.16A.425, 46.17.335, or 46.17.350(1)(c).

(2) The department of licensing shall administer and collect the tax in accordance with chapter 82.44 RCW. The department shall deduct a percentage amount, as provided by contract, not to exceed one percent of the taxes collected, for administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The remaining proceeds must be remitted to the custody of the state treasurer for monthly distribution to the public transportation benefit area.

(3) The public transportation benefit area imposing this tax shall delay the effective date at least six months from the date the fee is approved by the qualified voters of the author-

ity area to allow the department of licensing to implement administration and collection of the tax.

(4) Before an authority may impose a tax authorized under this section, the authorization for imposition of the tax must be approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the authority area voting on that issue. [2010 c 161 § 916; 2006 c 318 § 4; 2003 c 83 § 206.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Although directed to be recodified within chapter 46.16 RCW pursuant to chapter 161, Laws of 2010, a majority of chapter 46.16 RCW was recodified under chapter 46.16A RCW pursuant to RCW 1.08.015 (2)(k) and (3).

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**82.80.140 Vehicle fee—Transportation benefit district—Exemptions.** (1) Subject to the provisions of RCW 36.73.065, a transportation benefit district under chapter 36.73 RCW may fix and impose an annual vehicle fee, not to exceed one hundred dollars per vehicle registered in the district, for each vehicle subject to vehicle license fees under RCW 46.17.350(1) (a), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (j), or (n) through (q) and for each vehicle subject to gross weight license fees under RCW 46.17.355 with a scale weight of six thousand pounds or less.

(2)(a) A district that includes all the territory within the boundaries of the jurisdiction, or jurisdictions, establishing the district may impose by a majority vote of the governing board of the district up to twenty dollars of the vehicle fee authorized in subsection (1) of this section. If the district is countywide, the revenues of the fee shall be distributed to each city within the county by interlocal agreement. The interlocal agreement is effective when approved by the county and sixty percent of the cities representing seventy-five percent of the population of the cities within the county in which the countywide fee is collected.

(b) A district may not impose a fee under this subsection (2):

(i) For a passenger-only ferry transportation improvement unless the vehicle fee is first approved by a majority of the voters within the jurisdiction of the district; or

(ii) That, if combined with the fees previously imposed by another district within its boundaries under RCW 36.73.065(4)(a)(i), exceeds twenty dollars.

If a district imposes or increases a fee under this subsection (2) that, if combined with the fees previously imposed by another district within its boundaries, exceeds twenty dollars, the district shall provide a credit for the previously imposed fees so that the combined vehicle fee does not exceed twenty dollars.

(3) The department of licensing shall administer and collect the fee. The department shall deduct a percentage amount, as provided by contract, not to exceed one percent of the fees collected, for administration and collection expenses incurred by it. The department shall remit remaining proceeds to the custody of the state treasurer. The state treasurer shall distribute the proceeds to the district on a monthly basis.

(4) No fee under this section may be collected until six months after approval under RCW 36.73.065.

(5) The vehicle fee under this section applies only when renewing a vehicle registration, and is effective upon the registration renewal date as provided by the department of licensing.

(6) The following vehicles are exempt from the fee under this section:

- (a) Campers, as defined in RCW 46.04.085;
- (b) Farm tractors or farm vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.04.180 and 46.04.181;
- (c) Mopeds, as defined in RCW 46.04.304;
- (d) Off-road and nonhighway vehicles, as defined in RCW 46.04.365;
- (e) Private use single-axle trailer, as defined in RCW 46.04.422;
- (f) Snowmobiles, as defined in RCW 46.04.546; and
- (g) Vehicles registered under chapter 46.87 RCW and the international registration plan. [2010 c 161 § 917; 2007 c 329 § 2; 2005 c 336 § 16.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Effective date—2005 c 336:** See note following RCW 36.73.015.

**82.80.900 Purpose—Headings—Severability—Effective dates—Application—Implementation—1990 c 42.** See notes following RCW 82.36.025.

### Chapter 82.82 RCW COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ZONES— TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM

#### Sections

82.82.010	Definitions.
82.82.020	Application for deferral—Annual survey.
82.82.030	Deferral certificate.
82.82.040	Repayment of deferred taxes.
82.82.050	Qualified employment positions—Requirements.

**82.82.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Applicant" means a person applying for a tax deferral under this chapter.

(2) "Corporate headquarters" means a facility or facilities where corporate staff employees are physically employed, and where the majority of the company's management services are handled either on a regional or a national basis. Company management services may include: Accounts receivable and payable, accounting, data processing, distribution management, employee benefit plan, financial and securities accounting, information technology, insurance, legal, merchandising, payroll, personnel, purchasing procurement, planning, reporting and compliance, research and development, tax, treasury, or other headquarters-related services. "Corporate headquarters" does not include a facility or facilities used for manufacturing, wholesaling, or warehousing.

(3) "Department" means the department of revenue.

(4) "Eligible area" means a designated community empowerment zone approved under RCW 43.31C.020.

(5)(a) "Eligible investment project" means an investment project in a qualified building or buildings in an eligible area,

(2012 Ed.)

as defined in subsection (4) of this section, which will have employment at the qualified building or buildings of at least three hundred employees in qualified employment positions, each of whom must earn for the year reported at least the average annual wage for the state for that year as determined by the employment security department.

(b) The lessor or owner of a qualified building or buildings is not eligible for a deferral unless:

(i) The underlying ownership of the building or buildings vests exclusively in the same person; or

(ii)(A) The lessor by written contract agrees to pass the economic benefit of the deferral to the lessee;

(B) The lessee that receives the economic benefit of the deferral agrees in writing with the department to complete the annual survey required under RCW 82.82.020; and

(C) The economic benefit of the deferral passed to the lessee is no less than the amount of tax deferred by the lessor and is evidenced by written documentation of any type of payment, credit, or other financial arrangement between the lessor or owner of the qualified building and the lessee.

(6) "Investment project" means a capital investment of at least thirty million dollars in a qualified building or buildings including tangible personal property and fixtures that will be incorporated as an ingredient or component of such buildings during the course of their construction, and including labor and services rendered in the planning, installation, and construction of the project.

(7) "Manufacture" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.120.

(8) "Operationally complete" means a date no later than one year from the date the project is issued an occupancy permit by the local permit issuing authority.

(9) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.030.

(10) "Qualified building or buildings" means construction of a new structure or structures or expansion of an existing structure or structures to be used for corporate headquarters. If a building is used partly for corporate headquarters and partly for other purposes, the applicable tax deferral is determined by apportionment of the costs of construction under rules adopted by the department.

(11) "Qualified employment position" means a permanent full-time employee employed in the eligible investment project during the entire tax year. The term "entire tax year" means a full-time position that is filled for a period of twelve consecutive months. The term "full-time" means at least thirty-five hours a week, four hundred fifty-five hours a quarter, or one thousand eight hundred twenty hours a year.

(12) "Recipient" means a person receiving a tax deferral under this chapter.

(13) "Warehouse" means a building or structure, or any part thereof, in which goods, wares, or merchandise are received for storage for compensation.

(14) "Wholesale sale" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.060. [2008 c 15 § 1.]

**Effective date—2008 c 15:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2009." [2008 c 15 § 10.]

#### **82.82.020 Application for deferral—Annual survey.**

(1) Application for deferral of taxes under this chapter can be made at any time prior to completion of construction of a

qualified building or buildings, but tax liability incurred prior to the department's receipt of an application may not be deferred. The application must be made to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The application must contain information regarding the location of the investment project, the applicant's average employment in the state for the prior year, estimated or actual new employment related to the project, estimated or actual wages of employees related to the project, estimated or actual costs, time schedules for completion and operation, and other information required by the department. The department must rule on the application within sixty days.

(2) Applications for deferral of taxes under this section may not be made after December 31, 2020.

(3) Each recipient of a deferral of taxes under this chapter must file a complete annual survey with the department under RCW 82.32.585. If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.82.010(5), the lessee must file a complete annual survey, and the applicant is not required to file the annual survey.

(4) A recipient who must repay deferred taxes under RCW 82.82.040 because the department has found that an investment project is no longer an eligible investment project is no longer required to file annual surveys under RCW 82.32.585 beginning on the date an investment project is used for nonqualifying purposes. [2010 c 114 § 148; 2008 c 15 § 2.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2008 c 15:** See note following RCW 82.82.010.

**82.82.030 Deferral certificate.** (1) The department must issue a sales and use tax deferral certificate for state and local sales and use taxes due under chapters 82.08, 82.12, and 82.14 RCW on each eligible investment project meeting the requirements of this chapter.

(2) No certificate may be issued for an investment project that has already received a deferral under chapter 82.60 or 82.63 RCW or this chapter, except that an investment project for qualified research and development that has already received a deferral may also receive an additional deferral certificate for adapting the investment project for use in pilot scale manufacturing.

(3) The department must keep a running total of all deferrals granted under this chapter during each fiscal biennium.

(4) The number of eligible investment projects for which the benefits of this chapter will be allowed is limited to two per biennium. The department must approve deferral certificates for completed applications on a first in-time basis. During any biennium, only one deferral certificate may be issued per community empowerment zone. [2008 c 15 § 3.]

**Effective date—2008 c 15:** See note following RCW 82.82.010.

**82.82.040 Repayment of deferred taxes.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section and RCW 82.32.585, taxes deferred under this chapter need not be repaid.

(2)(a) If, on the basis of the survey under RCW 82.32.585 or other information, the department finds that an investment project is no longer an "eligible investment

project" under RCW 82.82.010 at any time during the calendar year in which the investment project is certified by the department as having been operationally completed, or at any time during any of the seven succeeding calendar years, a portion of deferred taxes are immediately due according to the following schedule:

Year in which use occurs	% of deferred taxes due
1	100%
2	87.5%
3	75%
4	62.5%
5	50%
6	37.5%
7	25%
8	12.5%

(b) If the economic benefits of the deferral are passed to a lessee as provided in RCW 82.82.010(5), the lessee is responsible for payment to the extent the lessee has received the economic benefit.

(3) The department must assess interest at the rate provided for delinquent taxes under chapter 82.32 RCW, but not penalties, retroactively to the date of deferral. The debt for deferred taxes will not be extinguished by insolvency or other failure of the recipient. Transfer of ownership does not terminate the deferral. The deferral is transferred, subject to the successor meeting the eligibility requirements of this chapter, for the remaining periods of the deferral. [2010 c 114 § 149; 2008 c 15 § 5.]

**Application--Finding--Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Effective date—2008 c 15:** See note following RCW 82.82.010.

**82.82.050 Qualified employment positions—Requirements.** The qualified employment positions must be filled by the end of the calendar year following the year in which the project is certified as operationally complete. If a recipient does not meet the requirements for qualified employment positions by the end of the second calendar year following the year in which the project is certified as operationally complete, all deferred taxes are immediately due. [2008 c 15 § 6.]

**Effective date—2008 c 15:** See note following RCW 82.82.010.

## Chapter 82.98 RCW CONSTRUCTION

### Sections

82.98.010	Continuation of existing law.
82.98.020	Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.
82.98.030	Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.
82.98.035	Saving—1967 ex.s. c 149.
82.98.040	Repeals and saving.
82.98.050	Emergency—1961 c 15.

**82.98.010 Continuation of existing law.** The provisions of this title insofar as they are substantially the same as statutory provisions repealed by this chapter, and relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements

and continuations, and not as new enactments. [1961 c 15 § 82.98.010.]

**82.98.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.** Title headings, chapter headings, and section or subsection headings, as used in this title do not constitute any part of the law. [1961 c 15 § 82.98.020.]

**82.98.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.** If any chapter, section, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word of this title for any reason shall be adjudged invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this title but shall be confined in its operation to the chapter, section, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word of the title directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. If any tax imposed under this title shall be adjudged invalid as to any person, corporation, association or class of persons, corporations or associations included within the scope of the general language of this title such invalidity shall not affect the liability of any person, corporation, association or class of persons, corporations, or associations as to which such tax has not been adjudged invalid. It is hereby expressly declared that had any chapter, section, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or any person, corporation, association or class of persons, corporations or associations as to which this title is declared invalid been eliminated from the title at the time the same was considered the title would have nevertheless been enacted with such portions eliminated. This section shall not apply to chapter 82.44 RCW. [1961 c 15 § 82.98.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**82.98.035 Saving—1967 ex.s. c 149.** Nothing in chapter 149, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. shall be construed to affect any existing rights acquired or any existing liabilities incurred under the sections amended or repealed herein, nor as affecting any civil or criminal proceedings instituted thereunder, nor any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder, nor any administrative action taken thereunder. [1967 ex.s. c 149 § 63.]

**82.98.040 Repeals and saving.** See 1961 c 15 § 82.98.040.

**82.98.050 Emergency—1961 c 15.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. [1961 c 15 § 82.98.050.]



# Title 83

## ESTATE TAXATION

### Chapters

- 83.100** Estate and transfer tax act.  
**83.110A** Washington uniform estate tax apportionment act.

*Probate and trust law: Title 11 RCW.*

*Tax returns, remittances, etc., filing and receipt: RCW 1.12.070.*

### Chapter 83.100 RCW ESTATE AND TRANSFER TAX ACT

#### Sections

- 83.100.010 Short title.  
83.100.020 Definitions.  
83.100.040 Estate tax imposed—Amount of tax.  
83.100.046 Deduction—Property used for farming—Requirements, conditions.  
83.100.047 Marital deduction, qualified domestic trust—Election—Other deductions taken for income tax purposes disallowed.  
83.100.050 Tax returns—Filing dates—Extensions—Extensions during state of emergency.  
83.100.060 Date payment due—Extensions.  
83.100.070 Interest on amount due—Penalty for late filing—Exceptions—Rules.  
83.100.080 Department to issue release.  
83.100.090 Amended returns—Adjustments or final determinations.  
83.100.095 Examination by department of returns, other information—Assessment of additional tax, interest.  
83.100.110 Tax lien.  
83.100.120 Liability for failure to pay tax before distribution or delivery.  
83.100.130 Refund for overpayment—Requirements.  
83.100.140 Criminal acts relating to tax returns.  
83.100.150 Collection of tax—Findings filed in court.  
83.100.160 Clerk to give notice of filings.  
83.100.170 Court order.  
83.100.180 Objections.  
83.100.190 Hearing by court.  
83.100.200 Administration—Rules.  
83.100.210 Application of chapter 82.32 RCW—Closing agreements authorized.  
83.100.220 Deposit of funds into education legacy trust account.  
83.100.230 Education legacy trust account.  
83.100.900 Repeals and saving.  
83.100.901 Section captions not part of law.  
83.100.902 New chapter.  
83.100.903 Effective date—1981 2nd ex.s. c 7.  
83.100.904 Captions—1988 c 64.  
83.100.905 Severability—1988 c 64.  
83.100.906 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**83.100.010 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the "Estate and Transfer Tax Act." [2005 c 516 § 19; 1988 c 64 § 1; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.010 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

#### **83.100.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Decedent" means a deceased individual;
- (2) "Department" means the department of revenue, the director of that department, or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully delegated to him by the director;

(2012 Ed.)

(3) "Federal return" means any tax return required by chapter 11 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(4) "Federal tax" means a tax under chapter 11 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(5) "Gross estate" means "gross estate" as defined and used in section 2031 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(6) "Person" means any individual, estate, trust, receiver, cooperative association, club, corporation, company, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, or other entity and, to the extent permitted by law, any federal, state, or other governmental unit or subdivision or agency, department, or instrumentality thereof;

(7) "Person required to file the federal return" means any person required to file a return required by chapter 11 of the Internal Revenue Code, such as the personal representative of an estate;

(8) "Property" means property included in the gross estate;

(9) "Resident" means a decedent who was domiciled in Washington at time of death;

(10) "Taxpayer" means a person upon whom tax is imposed under this chapter, including an estate or a person liable for tax under RCW 83.100.120;

(11) "Transfer" means "transfer" as used in section 2001 of the Internal Revenue Code. However, "transfer" does not include a qualified heir disposing of an interest in property qualifying for a deduction under RCW 83.100.046 or ceasing to use the property for farming purposes;

(12) "Internal Revenue Code" means, for the purposes of this chapter and \*RCW 83.110.010, the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2005;

(13) "Washington taxable estate" means the federal taxable estate, less: (a) One million five hundred thousand dollars for decedents dying before January 1, 2006; and (b) two million dollars for decedents dying on or after January 1, 2006; and (c) the amount of any deduction allowed under RCW 83.100.046; and

(14) "Federal taxable estate" means the taxable estate as determined under chapter 11 of the Internal Revenue Code without regard to: (a) The termination of the federal estate tax under section 2210 of the Internal Revenue Code or any other provision of law, and (b) the deduction for state estate, inheritance, legacy, or succession taxes allowable under section 2058 of the Internal Revenue Code. [2005 c 516 § 2; 2001 c 320 § 15; 1999 c 358 § 19; 1998 c 292 § 401; 1994 c 221 § 70; 1993 c 73 § 9; 1990 c 224 § 1; 1988 c 64 § 2; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.020 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 83.110 RCW was repealed by 2005 c 332 § 15, effective January 1, 2006, and replaced with new chapter 83.110A RCW.

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

[Title 83 RCW—page 1]

**83.100.040 Estate tax imposed—Amount of tax.** (1) A tax in an amount computed as provided in this section is imposed on every transfer of property located in Washington. For the purposes of this section, any intangible property owned by a resident is located in Washington.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the amount of tax is the amount provided in the following table:

If Washington Taxable Estate is at least		The amount of Tax Equals		Of Washington Taxable Estate Value Greater than
	But Less Than	Initial Tax Amount	Plus Tax Rate %	
\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	10.00%	\$0
\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$100,000	14.00%	\$1,000,000
\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$240,000	15.00%	\$2,000,000
\$3,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$390,000	16.00%	\$3,000,000
\$4,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$550,000	17.00%	\$4,000,000
\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$890,000	18.00%	\$6,000,000
\$7,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$1,070,000	18.50%	\$7,000,000
\$9,000,000		\$1,440,000	19.00%	\$9,000,000

(b) If any property in the decedent's estate is located outside of Washington, the amount of tax is the amount determined in (a) of this subsection multiplied by a fraction. The numerator of the fraction is the value of the property located in Washington. The denominator of the fraction is the value of the decedent's gross estate. Property qualifying for a deduction under RCW 83.100.046 must be excluded from the numerator and denominator of the fraction.

(3) The tax imposed under this section is a stand-alone estate tax that incorporates only those provisions of the internal revenue code as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2005, that do not conflict with the provisions of this chapter. The tax imposed under this chapter is independent of any federal estate tax obligation and is not affected by termination of the federal estate tax. [2010 c 106 § 234; 2005 c 516 § 3; 1988 c 64 § 4; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.040 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 106 §§ 234 and 235:** "Sections 234 and 235 of this act apply both retroactively and prospectively to estates of decedents dying on or after May 17, 2005." [2010 c 106 § 404.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Finding—Intent—2005 c 516:** "The legislature recognizes that on February 3, 2005, the Washington state supreme court decided in *Estate of Hemphill v. Dep't of Rev.*, Docket No. 74974-4, that Washington's estate tax is tied to the current federal Internal Revenue Code. The legislature finds that the revenue loss resulting from the *Hemphill* decision will severely affect the legislature's ability to fund programs vital to the peace, health, safety, and support of the citizens of this state. The legislature intends to address the adverse fiscal impact of the *Hemphill* decision and provide funding for education by creating a stand-alone state estate tax." [2005 c 516 § 1.]

**Application—2005 c 516:** "This act applies prospectively only and not retroactively. Sections 2 through 17 of this act apply only to estates of decedents dying on or after May 17, 2005." [2005 c 516 § 20.]

**Severability—2005 c 516:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2005 c 516 § 21.]

**Effective date—2005 c 516:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 17, 2005]." [2005 c 516 § 22.]

**83.100.046 Deduction—Property used for farming—Requirements, conditions. (Effective until January 1, 2014.)** (1) For the purposes of determining the Washington taxable estate, a deduction is allowed from the federal taxable estate for:

(a) The value of qualified real property reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction in respect of the qualified real property and tangible personal property under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code, if the decedent was at the time of his or her death a citizen or resident of the United States.

(b) The value of any tangible personal property used by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family for a qualified use on the date of the decedent's death, reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction in respect of the tangible personal property under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code, if all of the requirements of subsection (10)(f)(i)(A) of this section are met and the decedent was at the time of his or her death a citizen or resident of the United States.

(c) The value of real property that is not deductible under (a) of this subsection solely by reason of subsection (10)(f)(i)(B) of this section, reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction in respect of the real property under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code, if the requirements of subsection (10)(f)(i)(C) of this section are met with respect to the property and the decedent was at the time of his or her death a citizen or resident of the United States.

(2) Property will be considered to have been acquired from or to have passed from the decedent if:

(a) The property is so considered under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1014(b) of the federal internal revenue code;

(b) The property is acquired by any person from the estate; or

(c) The property is acquired by any person from a trust, to the extent the property is includible in the gross estate of the decedent.

(3) If the decedent and the decedent's surviving spouse at any time held qualified real property as community prop-

erty, the interest of the surviving spouse in the property must be taken into account under this section to the extent necessary to provide a result under this section with respect to the property which is consistent with the result which would have been obtained under this section if the property had not been community property.

(4) In the case of any qualified woodland, the value of trees growing on the woodland may be deducted if otherwise qualified under this section.

(5) If property is qualified real property with respect to a decedent, hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the "first decedent," and the property was acquired from or passed from the first decedent to the surviving spouse of the first decedent, active management of the farm by the surviving spouse must be treated as material participation by the surviving spouse in the operation of the farm.

(6) Property owned indirectly by the decedent may qualify for a deduction under this section if owned through an interest in a corporation, partnership, or trust as the terms corporation, partnership, or trust are used in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2032A(g) of the federal internal revenue code. In order to qualify for a deduction under this subsection, the interest, in addition to meeting the other tests for qualification under this section, must qualify under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6166(b)(1) of the federal internal revenue code as an interest in a closely held business on the date of the decedent's death and for sufficient other time, combined with periods of direct ownership, to equal at least five years of the eight-year period preceding the death.

(7)(a) If, on the date of the decedent's death, the requirements of subsection (10)(f)(i)(C)(II) of this section with respect to the decedent for any property are not met, and the decedent (i) was receiving old age benefits under Title II of the social security act for a continuous period ending on such date, or (ii) was disabled for a continuous period ending on this date, then subsection (10)(f)(i)(C)(II) of this section must be applied with respect to the property by substituting "the date on which the longer of such continuous periods began" for "the date of the decedent's death" in subsection (10)(f)(i)(C) of this section.

(b) For the purposes of (a) of this subsection, an individual is disabled if the individual has a mental or physical impairment which renders that individual unable to materially participate in the operation of the farm.

(8) Property may be deducted under this section whether or not special valuation is elected under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2032A of the federal internal revenue code on the federal return. For the purposes of determining the deduction under this section, the value of property is its value as used to determine the value of the gross estate.

(9)(a) In the case of any qualified replacement property, any period during which there was ownership, qualified use, or material participation with respect to the replaced property by the decedent or any member of the decedent's family must be treated as a period during which there was ownership, use, or material participation, as the case may be, with respect to the qualified replacement property.

(b) Subsection (9)(a) of this section does not apply to the extent that the fair market value of the qualified replacement property, as of the date of its acquisition, exceeds the fair

market value of the replaced property, as of the date of its disposition.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (9), the following definitions apply:

(i)(A) "Qualified replacement property" means any real property:

(I) Which is acquired in an exchange which qualifies under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1031 of the federal internal revenue code; or

(II) The acquisition of which results in the nonrecognition of gain under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1033 of the federal internal revenue code.

(B) The term "qualified replacement property" only includes property which is used for the same qualified use as the replaced property was being used before the exchange.

(ii) "Replaced property" means the property was:

(A) Transferred in the exchange which qualifies under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1031 of the federal internal revenue code; or

(B) Compulsorily or involuntarily converted within the meaning of section 1033 of the internal revenue code.

(10) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Active management" means the making of the management decisions of a farm, other than the daily operating decisions.

(b) "Farm" includes stock, dairy, poultry, fruit, furbearing animal, and truck farms; plantations; ranches; nurseries; ranges; greenhouses or other similar structures used primarily for the raising of agricultural or horticultural commodities; and orchards and woodlands.

(c) "Farming purposes" means:

(i) Cultivating the soil or raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training, and management of animals on a farm;

(ii) Handling, drying, packing, grading, or storing on a farm any agricultural or horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured state, but only if the owner, tenant, or operator of the farm regularly produces more than one-half of the commodity so treated; and

(iii)(A) The planting, cultivating, caring for, or cutting of trees; or

(B) The preparation, other than milling, of trees for market.

(d)(i) "Member of the family" means, with respect to any individual, only:

(A) An ancestor of the individual;

(B) The spouse of the individual;

(C) A lineal descendant of the individual, of the individual's spouse, or of a parent of the individual; or

(D) The spouse of any lineal descendant described in (d)(i)(C) of this subsection.

(ii) For the purposes of this subsection (10)(d), a legally adopted child of an individual must be treated as the child of such individual by blood.

(e) "Qualified heir" means, with respect to any property, a member of the decedent's family who acquired property, or to whom property passed, from the decedent.

(f)(i) "Qualified real property" means real property which was acquired from or passed from the decedent to a qualified heir of the decedent and which, on the date of the

decedent's death, was being used for a qualified use by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family, but only if:

(A) Fifty percent or more of the adjusted value of the gross estate consists of the adjusted value of real or personal property which:

(I) On the date of the decedent's death, was being used for a qualified use by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family; and

(II) Was acquired from or passed from the decedent to a qualified heir of the decedent;

(B) Twenty-five percent or more of the adjusted value of the gross estate consists of the adjusted value of real property which meets the requirements of (f)(i)(A)(II) and (f)(i)(C) of this subsection; and

(C) During the eight-year period ending on the date of the decedent's death there have been periods aggregating five years or more during which:

(I) The real property was owned by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family and used for a qualified use by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family; and

(II) There was material participation by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family in the operation of the farm. For the purposes of this subsection (f)(i)(C)(II), material participation must be determined in a manner similar to the manner used for purposes of 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1402(a)(1) of the federal internal revenue code.

(ii) For the purposes of this subsection, the term "adjusted value" means:

(A) In the case of the gross estate, the value of the gross estate, determined without regard to any special valuation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2032A of the federal internal revenue code, reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code; or

(B) In the case of any real or personal property, the value of the property for purposes of chapter 11 of the federal internal revenue code, determined without regard to any special valuation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2032A of the federal internal revenue code, reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction in respect of such property under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code.

(g) "Qualified use" means the property is used as a farm for farming purposes. In the case of real property which meets the requirements of (f)(i)(C) of this subsection, residential buildings and related improvements on the real property occupied on a regular basis by the owner or lessee of the real property or by persons employed by the owner or lessee for the purpose of operating or maintaining the real property, and roads, buildings, and other structures and improvements functionally related to the qualified use must be treated as real property devoted to the qualified use. For tangible personal property eligible for a deduction under subsection (1)(b) of this section, "qualified use" means the property is used primarily for farming purposes on a farm.

(h) "Qualified woodland" means any real property which:

(i) Is used in timber operations; and

(ii) Is an identifiable area of land such as an acre or other area for which records are normally maintained in conducting timber operations.

(i) "Timber operations" means:

(i) The planting, cultivating, caring for, or cutting of trees; or

(ii) The preparation, other than milling, of trees for market. [2010 c 106 § 235; 2005 c 514 § 1201; 2005 c 516 § 4.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 106 § 235:** "Section 235 of this act expires January 1, 2014." [2010 c 106 § 411.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4272.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

### **83.100.046 Deduction—Property used for farming—Requirements, conditions. (Effective January 1, 2014.)**

(1) For the purposes of determining the Washington taxable estate, a deduction is allowed from the federal taxable estate for:

(a) The value of qualified real property reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction in respect of the qualified real property under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code, if the decedent was at the time of his or her death a citizen or resident of the United States.

(b) The value of any tangible personal property used by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family for a qualified use on the date of the decedent's death, reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction in respect of the tangible personal property under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code, if all of the requirements of subsection (10)(f)(i)(A) of this section are met and the decedent was at the time of his or her death a citizen or resident of the United States.

(c) The value of real property that is not deductible under (a) of this subsection solely by reason of subsection (10)(f)(i)(B) of this section, reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction in respect of the real property under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code, if the requirements of subsection (10)(f)(i)(C) of this section are met with respect to the property and the decedent was at the time of his or her death a citizen or resident of the United States.

(2) Property will be considered to have been acquired from or to have passed from the decedent if:

(a) The property is so considered under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1014(b) of the federal internal revenue code;

(b) The property is acquired by any person from the estate; or

(c) The property is acquired by any person from a trust, to the extent the property is includible in the gross estate of the decedent.

(3) If the decedent and the decedent's surviving spouse at any time held qualified real property as community property, the interest of the surviving spouse in the property must be taken into account under this section to the extent necessary to provide a result under this section with respect to the property which is consistent with the result which would have obtained under this section if the property had not been community property.

(4) In the case of any qualified woodland, the value of trees growing on the woodland may be deducted if otherwise qualified under this section.

(5) If property is qualified real property with respect to a decedent, hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the "first decedent," and the property was acquired from or passed from the first decedent to the surviving spouse of the first decedent, active management of the farm by the surviving spouse must be treated as material participation by the surviving spouse in the operation of the farm.

(6) Property owned indirectly by the decedent may qualify for a deduction under this section if owned through an interest in a corporation, partnership, or trust as the terms corporation, partnership, or trust are used in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2032A(g) of the federal internal revenue code. In order to qualify for a deduction under this subsection, the interest, in addition to meeting the other tests for qualification under this section, must qualify under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6166(b)(1) of the federal internal revenue code as an interest in a closely held business on the date of the decedent's death and for sufficient other time, combined with periods of direct ownership, to equal at least five years of the eight-year period preceding the death.

(7)(a) If, on the date of the decedent's death, the requirements of subsection (10)(f)(i)(C)(II) of this section with respect to the decedent for any property are not met, and the decedent (i) was receiving old age benefits under Title II of the social security act for a continuous period ending on such date, or (ii) was disabled for a continuous period ending on this date, then subsection (10)(f)(i)(C)(II) of this section must be applied with respect to the property by substituting "the date on which the longer of such continuous periods began" for "the date of the decedent's death" in subsection (10)(f)(i)(C) of this section.

(b) For the purposes of (a) of this subsection, an individual is disabled if the individual has a mental or physical impairment which renders that individual unable to materially participate in the operation of the farm.

(8) Property may be deducted under this section whether or not special valuation is elected under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2032A of the federal internal revenue code on the federal return. For the purposes of determining the deduction under this section, the value of property is its value as used to determine the value of the gross estate.

(9)(a) In the case of any qualified replacement property, any period during which there was ownership, qualified use, or material participation with respect to the replaced property by the decedent or any member of the decedent's family must be treated as a period during which there was ownership, use, or material participation, as the case may be, with respect to the qualified replacement property.

(b) Subsection (9)(a) of this section does not apply to the extent that the fair market value of the qualified replacement property, as of the date of its acquisition, exceeds the fair market value of the replaced property, as of the date of its disposition.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection (9), the following definitions apply:

(i)(A) "Qualified replacement property" means any real property:

(I) Which is acquired in an exchange which qualifies under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1031 of the federal internal revenue code; or

(2012 Ed.)

(II) The acquisition of which results in the nonrecognition of gain under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1033 of the federal internal revenue code.

(B) The term "qualified replacement property" only includes property which is used for the same qualified use as the replaced property was being used before the exchange.

(ii) "Replaced property" means the property was:

(A) Transferred in the exchange which qualifies under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1031 of the federal internal revenue code; or

(B) Compulsorily or involuntarily converted within the meaning of 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1033 of the federal internal revenue code.

(10) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Active management" means the making of the management decisions of a farm, other than the daily operating decisions.

(b) "Farm" includes stock, dairy, poultry, fruit, furbearing animal, and truck farms; plantations; ranches; nurseries; ranges; greenhouses or other similar structures used primarily for the raising of agricultural or horticultural commodities; and orchards and woodlands.

(c) "Farming purposes" means:

(i) Cultivating the soil or raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training, and management of animals on a farm;

(ii) Handling, drying, packing, grading, or storing on a farm any agricultural or horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured state, but only if the owner, tenant, or operator of the farm regularly produces more than one-half of the commodity so treated; and

(iii)(A) The planting, cultivating, caring for, or cutting of trees; or

(B) The preparation, other than milling, of trees for market.

(d)(i) "Member of the family" means, with respect to any individual, only:

(A) An ancestor of the individual;

(B) The spouse or state registered domestic partner of the individual;

(C) A lineal descendant of the individual, of the individual's spouse or state registered domestic partner, or of a parent of the individual; or

(D) The spouse or state registered domestic partner of any lineal descendant described in (d)(i)(C) of this subsection.

(ii) For the purposes of this subsection (10)(d), a legally adopted child of an individual must be treated as the child of such individual by blood.

(e) "Qualified heir" means, with respect to any property, a member of the decedent's family who acquired property, or to whom property passed, from the decedent.

(f)(i) "Qualified real property" means real property which was acquired from or passed from the decedent to a qualified heir of the decedent and which, on the date of the decedent's death, was being used for a qualified use by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family, but only if:

(A) Fifty percent or more of the adjusted value of the gross estate consists of the adjusted value of real or personal property which:

(I) On the date of the decedent's death, was being used for a qualified use by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family; and

(II) Was acquired from or passed from the decedent to a qualified heir of the decedent;

(B) Twenty-five percent or more of the adjusted value of the gross estate consists of the adjusted value of real property which meets the requirements of (f)(i)(A)(II) and (f)(i)(C) of this subsection; and

(C) During the eight-year period ending on the date of the decedent's death there have been periods aggregating five years or more during which:

(I) The real property was owned by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family and used for a qualified use by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family; and

(II) There was material participation by the decedent or a member of the decedent's family in the operation of the farm. For the purposes of this subsection (f)(i)(C)(II), material participation must be determined in a manner similar to the manner used for purposes of 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1402(a)(1) of the federal internal revenue code.

(ii) For the purposes of this subsection, the term "adjusted value" means:

(A) In the case of the gross estate, the value of the gross estate, determined without regard to any special valuation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2032A of the federal internal revenue code, reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code; or

(B) In the case of any real or personal property, the value of the property for purposes of chapter 11 of the federal internal revenue code, determined without regard to any special valuation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2032A of the federal internal revenue code, reduced by any amounts allowable as a deduction in respect of such property under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 2053(a)(4) of the federal internal revenue code.

(g) "Qualified use" means the property is used as a farm for farming purposes. In the case of real property which meets the requirements of (f)(i)(C) of this subsection, residential buildings and related improvements on the real property occupied on a regular basis by the owner or lessee of the real property or by persons employed by the owner or lessee for the purpose of operating or maintaining the real property, and roads, buildings, and other structures and improvements functionally related to the qualified use must be treated as real property devoted to the qualified use. For tangible personal property eligible for a deduction under subsection (1)(b) of this section, "qualified use" means the property is used primarily for farming purposes on a farm.

(h) "Qualified woodland" means any real property which:

(i) Is used in timber operations; and

(ii) Is an identifiable area of land such as an acre or other area for which records are normally maintained in conducting timber operations.

(i) "Timber operations" means:

(i) The planting, cultivating, caring for, or cutting of trees; or

(ii) The preparation, other than milling, of trees for market. [2010 c 106 § 236; 2009 c 521 § 191; 2005 c 514 § 1201; 2005 c 516 § 4.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106 § 236:** "Section 236 of this act takes effect January 1, 2014." [2010 c 106 § 412.]

**Effective dates—2009 c 521 §§ 5-8, 79, 87-103, 107, 151, 165, 166, 173-175, and 190-192:** See note following RCW 2.10.900.

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** See note following RCW 82.04.4272.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**83.100.047 Marital deduction, qualified domestic trust—Election—Other deductions taken for income tax purposes disallowed. (Effective until January 1, 2014.)** (1)

If the federal taxable estate on the federal return is determined by making an election under section 2056 or 2056A of the Internal Revenue Code, or if no federal return is required to be filed, the department may provide by rule for a separate election on the Washington return, consistent with section 2056 or 2056A of the Internal Revenue Code, for the purpose of determining the amount of tax due under this chapter. The election shall be binding on the estate and the beneficiaries, consistent with the Internal Revenue Code. All other elections or valuations on the Washington return shall be made in a manner consistent with the federal return, if a federal return is required, and such rules as the department may provide.

(2) Amounts deducted for federal income tax purposes under section 642(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, shall not be allowed as deductions in computing the amount of tax due under this chapter. [2005 c 516 § 13.]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.047 Marital deduction, qualified domestic trust—Election—State registered domestic partner entitled to deduction—Other deductions taken for income tax purposes disallowed. (Effective January 1, 2014.)** (1)(a)

If the federal taxable estate on the federal return is determined by making an election under section 2056 or 2056A of the Internal Revenue Code, or if no federal return is required to be filed, the department may provide by rule for a separate election on the Washington return, consistent with section 2056 or 2056A of the Internal Revenue Code and (b) of this subsection, for the purpose of determining the amount of tax due under this chapter. The election shall be binding on the estate and the beneficiaries, consistent with the Internal Revenue Code and (b) of this subsection. All other elections or valuations on the Washington return shall be made in a manner consistent with the federal return, if a federal return is required, and such rules as the department may provide.

(b) The department shall provide by rule that a state registered domestic partner is deemed to be a surviving spouse and entitled to a deduction from the Washington taxable estate for any interest passing from the decedent to his or her domestic partner, consistent with section 2056 or 2056A of the Internal Revenue Code but regardless of whether such interest would be deductible from the federal gross estate under section 2056 or 2056A of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) Amounts deducted for federal income tax purposes under section 642(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall not be allowed as deductions in computing the amount of tax due under this chapter. [2009 c 521 § 192; 2005 c 516 § 13.]

**Effective dates—2009 c 521 §§ 5-8, 79, 87-103, 107, 151, 165, 166, 173-175, and 190-192:** See note following RCW 2.10.900.

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.050 Tax returns—Filing dates—Extensions—Extensions during state of emergency.** (1) A Washington return must be filed if: (a) A federal return is required to be filed; or (b) for decedents dying prior to January 1, 2006, the gross estate exceeds one million five hundred thousand dollars; or (c) for decedents dying on or after January 1, 2006, the gross estate exceeds two million dollars.

(2)(a) A person required to file a federal return shall file with the department on or before the date the federal return is required to be filed, including any extension of time for filing under subsection (4) or (6) of this section, a Washington return for the tax due under this chapter.

(b) If no federal return is required to be filed, a taxpayer shall file with the department on or before the date a federal return would have been required to be filed, including any extension of time for filing under subsection (5) or (6) of this section, a Washington return for the tax due under this chapter.

(3) A Washington return delivered to the department by United States mail shall be considered to have been received by the department on the date of the United States postmark stamped on the cover in which the return is mailed, if the postmark date is within the time allowed for filing the Washington return, including extensions.

(4) In addition to the Washington return required to be filed in subsection (2) of this section, a person, if required to file a federal return, shall file with the department on or before the date the federal return is required to be filed a copy of the federal return along with all supporting documentation. If the person required to file the federal return has obtained an extension of time for filing the federal return, the person shall file the Washington return within the same time period and in the same manner as provided for the federal return. A copy of the federal extension shall be filed with the department on or before the date the Washington return is due, not including any extension of time for filing, or within thirty days of issuance, whichever is later.

(5) A person may obtain an extension of time for filing the Washington return as provided by rule of the department, if the person is required to file a Washington return under subsection (2) of this section, but is not required to file a federal return.

(6) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the department, on its own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may extend the time for filing a Washington return under this section as the department deems proper. [2008 c 181 § 504; 2005 c 516 § 5; 1988 c 64 § 6; 1986 c 44 § 1; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.050 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.060 Date payment due—Extensions.** (1) The taxes imposed by this chapter shall be paid by the person

(2012 Ed.)

required to file a Washington return on or before the date the Washington return is required to be filed under RCW 83.100.050, not including any extension of time for filing. Payment delivered to the department by United States mail shall be considered to have been received by the department on the date of the United States postmark stamped on the cover in which payment is mailed, if the postmark date is within the time allowed for making the payment, including any extensions.

(2) If the person has obtained an extension of time for payment of the federal tax or has elected to pay such tax in installments, the person may elect to pay the tax imposed by this chapter within the same time period and in the same manner as provided for payment of the federal tax. A copy of the federal extension shall be filed on or before the date the tax imposed by this chapter is due, not including any extension of time for payment, or within thirty days of issuance, whichever is later.

(3) A person who is required to file a Washington return under RCW 83.100.050, but is not required to file a federal return, may obtain an extension of time for payment of the Washington tax or elect to pay such tax in installments as provided by rule of the department.

(4) The periods of limitation in RCW 83.100.130 and 83.100.095 shall extend an additional three years beyond the due date of the last scheduled installment payment authorized under this section. [2005 c 516 § 6; 1988 c 64 § 7; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.060 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.070 Interest on amount due—Penalty for late filing—Exceptions—Rules.** (1) For periods before January 2, 1997, any tax due under this chapter which is not paid by the due date under RCW 83.100.060(1) shall bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum from the date the tax is due until the date of payment.

(2) Interest imposed under this section for periods after January 1, 1997, shall be computed at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year.

(3)(a) If the Washington return is not filed when due under RCW 83.100.050 and the person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050 voluntarily files the Washington return with the department before the department notifies the person in writing that the department has determined that the person has not filed a Washington return, no penalty is imposed on the person required to file the Washington return.

(b) If the Washington return is not filed when due under RCW 83.100.050 and the person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050 does not file a return with the department before the department notifies the person in writing that the department has determined that the person has not filed a Washington return, the person required to file the Washington return shall pay, in addition to interest, a penalty equal to five percent of the tax due for each month after the date the return is due until filed. However, in no instance may the penalty exceed the lesser of twenty-five percent of the tax due or one thousand five hundred dollars.

[Title 83 RCW—page 7]

(c) If the department finds that a return due under this chapter has not been filed by the due date, and the delinquency was the result of circumstances beyond the control of the responsible person, the department shall waive or cancel any penalties imposed under this chapter with respect to the filing of such a tax return. The department shall adopt rules for the waiver or cancellation of the penalties imposed by this section. [2005 c 516 § 7; 2000 c 105 § 1; 1997 c 136 § 1; 1996 c 149 § 13; 1988 c 64 § 8; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.070 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**83.100.080 Department to issue release.** The department shall issue a release when the tax due under this chapter has been paid. Upon issuance of a release, all property subject to the tax shall be free of any claim for the tax by the state. [1988 c 64 § 9; 1986 c 44 § 2; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.080 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**83.100.090 Amended returns—Adjustments or final determinations.** Notwithstanding the periods of limitation in RCW 83.100.095 and 83.100.130:

(1) If the person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050 files an amended federal return, that person shall immediately file with the department an amended Washington return with a copy of the amended federal return. If the amended Washington return requires payment of an additional tax under this chapter, the tax shall be paid in accordance with RCW 83.100.060 and interest shall be paid in accordance with RCW 83.100.070.

(2) Upon any adjustment in, or final determination of, the amount of federal tax due, the person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050 shall notify the department in writing within one hundred twenty days after the adjustment or final determination. If the adjustment or final determination requires payment of an additional tax under this chapter, the tax shall be paid in accordance with RCW 83.100.060 and interest shall be paid in accordance with RCW 83.100.070.

(3) If the department determines the amended Washington return, adjustment, or final determination requires payment of an additional tax under this chapter, the department may assess against the taxpayer an additional amount found to be due within one year of receipt of the amended Washington return or written notice as required by this section, or at any time if no amended Washington return is filed or notice is provided as required by this section. The execution of a written waiver at the request of the department by the person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050 may extend this limitation. Interest shall be added to the amount of tax assessed by the department in accordance with RCW 83.100.070. The department shall notify the taxpayer by mail of the additional amount, and the additional amount shall become due and shall be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.

(4) If the department determines the amended Washington return, adjustment, or final determination requires the refund of overpaid tax, penalties, or interest under this chapter, the department shall refund the amount of the overpayment with interest in accordance with RCW 83.100.130. The person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050 shall provide the department with any additional information or supporting documents necessary to determine if a refund is due. The execution of a written waiver to extend the period for assessment under subsection (3) of this section shall extend the time for making a refund, if prior to the expiration of the waiver period an application for refund of the taxes is made by the person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050, or the department discovers a refund is due. [2005 c 516 § 8; 1988 c 64 § 10; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.090 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.095 Examination by department of returns, other information—Assessment of additional tax, interest.**

(1) If upon examination of any returns or from other information obtained by the department it appears that a tax or penalty has been paid less than that properly due, the department shall assess against the taxpayer an additional amount found to be due and shall add interest as provided in RCW 83.100.070 on the tax only. The department shall notify the taxpayer by mail of the additional amount, and the additional amount shall become due and shall be paid within thirty days from the date of the notice, or within such further time as the department may provide.

(2) Interest shall be computed from the original due date of the Washington return until the due date of the notice. If payment in full is not made by the due date of the notice, additional interest shall be computed until the date of payment.

(3) No assessment or correction of an assessment for additional taxes, penalties, or interest due may be made by the department more than four years after the close of the calendar year in which a Washington return is due under this chapter, including any extension of time for filing, except upon a showing of fraud or of misrepresentation of a material fact by the taxpayer or as provided under subsection (4) or (5) of this section or as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(4) For persons liable for tax under RCW 83.100.120, the period for assessment or correction of an assessment shall extend an additional three years beyond the period described in subsection (3) of this section.

(5) A taxpayer may extend the periods of limitation under subsection (3) or (4) of this section by executing a written waiver. The execution of the waiver shall also extend the period for making a refund as provided in RCW 83.100.130. [2005 c 516 § 14.]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.110 Tax lien.** (1) Unless any tax due under this chapter is sooner paid in full, it shall be a lien upon the property subject to the tax for a period of ten years from the date of the transfer, except that any part of the property which is

used for the payment of claims against the property or expenses of its administration, allowed by any court having jurisdiction thereof, shall be divested of the lien. Liens created under this subsection shall be qualified as follows:

(a) Any part of the property subject to the tax which is sold to a bona fide purchaser shall be divested of the lien and the lien shall be transferred to the proceeds of the sale; and

(b) The lien shall be subordinate to any mortgage or deed of trust on the property pursuant to an order of court for payment of claims against the property or expenses of administration. The lien shall attach to any proceeds from the sale of the property in excess of the obligations secured by the mortgage or deed of trust and the expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee and by his or her attorney where the property has been sold by a nonjudicial trustee's sale pursuant to chapter 61.24 RCW, and including court costs and any attorneys' fees awarded by the superior court of the county in which the property is sold at sheriff's sale pursuant to a judicial foreclosure of the mortgage or deed of trust.

(2) If the person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050 has obtained an extension of time for payment of the tax or has elected to pay such tax in installments, the tax lien under this section shall be extended as necessary to prevent its expiration prior to twelve months following the expiration of any such extension or the installment.

(3) The tax lien shall be extended as necessary to prevent its expiration prior to twelve months following the conclusion of litigation of any question affecting the determination of the amount of tax due if a lis pendens has been filed with the auditor of the county in which the property is located. [2005 c 516 § 9; 1988 c 64 § 11; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.110 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.120 Liability for failure to pay tax before distribution or delivery.** (1) Any personal representative who distributes any property without first paying, securing another's payment of, or furnishing security for payment of the taxes due under this chapter is personally liable for the taxes due to the extent of the value of any property that may come or may have come into the possession of the personal representative. Security for payment of the taxes due under this chapter shall be in an amount equal to or greater than the value of all property that is or has come into the possession of the personal representative, as of the time the security is furnished.

(2) Any person who has the control, custody, or possession of any property and who delivers any of the property to the personal representative or legal representative of the decedent outside Washington without first paying, securing another's payment of, or furnishing security for payment of the taxes due under this chapter is liable for the taxes due under this chapter to the extent of the value of the property delivered. Security for payment of the taxes due under this chapter shall be in an amount equal to or greater than the value of all property delivered to the personal representative or legal representative of the decedent outside Washington by such a person.

(3) For the purposes of this section, persons who do not have possession of a decedent's property include anyone not responsible primarily for paying the tax due under this section or their transferees, which includes but is not limited to mortgagees or pledgees, stockbrokers or stock transfer agents, banks and other depositories of checking and savings accounts, safe-deposit companies, and life insurance companies.

(4) For the purposes of this section, any person who has the control, custody, or possession of any property and who delivers any of the property to the personal representative or legal representative of the decedent may rely upon the release certificate or the release of nonliability certificate, furnished by the department to the personal representative, as evidence of compliance with the requirements of this chapter, and make such deliveries and transfers as the personal representative may direct without being liable for any taxes due under this chapter. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.120 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**83.100.130 Refund for overpayment—Requirements.** (1) If, upon receipt of an application by a taxpayer for a refund, or upon examination of the returns or records of any taxpayer, the department determines that within the statutory period for assessment of taxes, penalties, or interest prescribed by RCW 83.100.095 a person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050 has overpaid the tax due under this chapter, the department shall refund the amount of the overpayment, together with interest as provided in subsection (2) of this section. If the application for refund, with supporting documents, is filed within one hundred twenty days after an adjustment or final determination of federal tax liability, the department shall pay interest until the date the refund is mailed. If the application for refund, with supporting documents, is filed after one hundred twenty days after the adjustment or final determination, the department shall pay interest only until the end of the one hundred twenty-day period.

(2) Interest refunded under this section for periods before January 2, 1997, shall be computed at the rate provided in RCW 83.100.070(1). Interest refunded under this section for periods after January 1, 1997, through December 31, 1998, shall be computed on a daily basis at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) less one percentage point. Interest allowed for periods after December 31, 1998, shall be computed at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2). Except as provided in subsection (1) of this section, interest shall be refunded from the date of overpayment until the date the refund is mailed. The rate so computed shall be adjusted on the first day of January of each year.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this section and RCW 83.100.090, no refund shall be made for taxes, penalties, or interest paid more than four years prior to the beginning of the calendar year in which the refund application is made or an examination of records is complete.

(4) The execution of a written waiver under RCW 83.100.095 shall extend the time for making a refund if, prior to the expiration of the waiver period, an application for refund is made by the taxpayer or the department discovers a refund is due.

(5) An application for refund shall be on a form prescribed by the department and shall contain any information and supporting documents the department requires. [2005 c 516 § 10; 1997 c 157 § 6; 1996 c 149 § 14; 1988 c 64 § 12; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.130 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

**83.100.140 Criminal acts relating to tax returns.** Any person required to file the Washington return who willfully fails to file a Washington return when required by this chapter or who willfully files a false return commits a gross misdemeanor as defined in Title 9A RCW and shall be punished as provided in Title 9A RCW for the perpetration of a gross misdemeanor. [2005 c 516 § 11; 1988 c 64 § 13; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.140 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.150 Collection of tax—Findings filed in court.** The department may collect the estate tax imposed under RCW 83.100.040, including interest and penalties, and shall represent this state in all matters pertaining to the same, either before courts or in any other manner. At any time after the Washington return is due, the department may file its findings regarding the amount of the tax computed as provided in RCW 83.100.040, the person required to file the Washington return under RCW 83.100.050, and all persons having an interest in property subject to the tax with the clerk of the superior court in the matter of the estate of the decedent or, if no probate or administration proceedings have been commenced in any court of this state, of the superior court for the county in which the decedent was a resident, if the resident was a domiciliary, or, if the decedent was a nondomiciliary, of any superior court which has jurisdiction over the property. Such a court first acquiring jurisdiction shall retain jurisdiction to the exclusion of every other court. [2005 c 516 § 12; 1988 c 64 § 14; 1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.150 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.160 Clerk to give notice of filings.** Upon filing findings under RCW 83.100.150, the clerk of the superior court shall give notice of the filing by causing notice thereof to be posted at the courthouse in the county in which the court is located. In addition, the department of revenue shall give notice of the filing to all persons interested in the proceeding by mailing a copy of the notice to all persons having an interest in property subject to the tax. The department of revenue is not required to conduct a search for persons interested in the proceedings or property. The department of revenue must mail a copy of the notice only to persons of whom the department has received actual notice as having an interest in the proceeding or property, and, if a probate or administrative proceeding has been commenced in this state, to persons who

are listed in the court file as having an interest in the proceedings or property. [1993 c 413 § 1; 1988 c 64 § 15.]

**83.100.170 Court order.** At any time after the expiration of sixty days from the mailing of the notice under RCW 83.100.160, if no objection to the findings is filed, the superior court or a judge thereof shall, without further notice, give and make its order confirming the findings and fixing the tax in accordance therewith. [1988 c 64 § 16.]

**83.100.180 Objections.** At any time prior to the making of an order under RCW 83.100.170, any person having an interest in property subject to the tax may file objections in writing with the clerk of the superior court and serve a copy thereof upon the department, and the same shall be noted for trial before the court and a hearing had thereon as provided for hearings in RCW 11.96A.080 through 11.96A.200. [1999 c 42 § 636; 1988 c 64 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**83.100.190 Hearing by court.** Upon the hearing of objections under RCW 83.100.180, the court shall make such order as it may deem proper. For the purposes of the hearing, the findings of the department shall be presumed to be correct and it shall be the duty of the objector or objectors to proceed in support of the objection or objections. [1988 c 64 § 18.]

**83.100.200 Administration—Rules.** The department shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this chapter, including rules relating to returns for taxes due under this chapter. The rules shall have the same force and effect as if specifically set forth in this chapter, unless declared invalid by a judgment of a court of record not appealed from. [1988 c 64 § 19.]

**83.100.210 Application of chapter 82.32 RCW—Closing agreements authorized.** (1) The following provisions of chapter 82.32 RCW have full force and application with respect to the taxes imposed under this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise: RCW 82.32.110, 82.32.120, 82.32.130, 82.32.320, 82.32.330, and 82.32.340. The definitions in this chapter have full force and application with respect to the application of chapter 82.32 RCW to this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(2) The department may enter into closing agreements as provided in RCW 82.32.350 and 82.32.360. [2010 c 106 § 111; 2005 c 516 § 15; 1996 c 149 § 18.]

**Application—2010 c 106 §§ 104 and 111:** See note following RCW 82.32.330.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

**83.100.220 Deposit of funds into education legacy trust account.** All receipts from taxes, penalties, interest, and fees collected under this chapter must be deposited into the education legacy trust account. [2005 c 516 § 16.]

**Finding—Intent—Application—Severability—Effective date—2005 c 516:** See notes following RCW 83.100.040.

**83.100.230 Education legacy trust account.** The education legacy trust account is created in the state treasury. Money in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for support of the common schools, and for expanding access to higher education through funding for new enrollments and financial aid, and other educational improvement efforts. [2012 1st sp.s. c 10 § 7; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 953; 2008 c 329 § 924; 2005 c 514 § 1101.]

**Purpose—Construction—2012 1st sp.s. c 10:** See note following RCW 84.52.0531.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Severability—Effective date—2008 c 329:** See notes following RCW 28B.105.110.

**Effective date—2005 c 514:** "Except for sections 110(5), 114 through 116, 401 through 403, 501, 701, 1001 through 1004, 1106, 1201, 1311, and 1312 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2005." [2005 c 514 § 1302.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2005 c 514:** See notes following RCW 82.12.808.

**83.100.900 Repeals and saving.** (1) The following chapters and their session law bases are each repealed: Chapters 83.01, 83.04, 83.05, 83.08, 83.12, 83.14, 83.16, 83.20, 83.24, 83.28, 83.32, 83.36, 83.40, 83.44, 83.48, 83.52, 83.58, 83.60, and 83.98 RCW.

(2) These repeals shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under the statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted pursuant thereto; nor as affecting any proceeding instituted thereunder. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.160 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**83.100.901 Section captions not part of law.** As used in this act, section captions constitute no part of the law. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.170 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**83.100.902 New chapter.** Sections 83.100.010 through 83.100.150 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 83 RCW to be designated chapter 83.100 RCW. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.180 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**83.100.903 Effective date—1981 2nd ex.s. c 7.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1982. [1981 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 83.100.190 (Initiative Measure No. 402, approved November 3, 1981).]

**83.100.904 Captions—1988 c 64.** As used in this act, captions constitute no part of the law. [1988 c 64 § 30.]

**83.100.905 Severability—1988 c 64.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1988 c 64 § 31.]

**83.100.906 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.**

(2012 Ed.)

*(Effective January 1, 2014.)* For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 190.]

**Effective dates—2009 c 521 §§ 5-8, 79, 87-103, 107, 151, 165, 166, 173-175, and 190-192:** See note following RCW 2.10.900.

## Chapter 83.110A RCW WASHINGTON UNIFORM ESTATE TAX APPORTIONMENT ACT

### Sections

83.110A.010	Definitions.
83.110A.020	Apportionment by will or other dispositive instrument.
83.110A.030	Statutory apportionment of estate taxes.
83.110A.040	Credits and deferrals.
83.110A.050	Insulated property—Advancement of tax.
83.110A.060	Apportionment and recapture of special elective benefits.
83.110A.070	Securing payment of estate tax from property in possession of fiduciary.
83.110A.080	Collection of estate tax by fiduciary.
83.110A.090	Right of reimbursement.
83.110A.100	Action to determine or enforce chapter—Application of chapter 11.96A RCW.
83.110A.110	Uniformity of application and construction.
83.110A.900	Short title.
83.110A.901	Captions not law.
83.110A.902	Effective date—2005 c 332.
83.110A.903	Severability—2005 c 332.
83.110A.904	Application—2005 c 332.
83.110A.905	Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**83.110A.010 Definitions.** The following definitions apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Apportionable estate" means the value of the gross estate as finally determined for purposes of the estate tax to be apportioned reduced by:

(a) Any claim or expense allowable as a deduction for purposes of the tax;

(b) The value of any interest in property that, for purposes of the tax, qualifies for a marital or charitable deduction or otherwise is deductible or is exempt; and

(c) Any amount added to the decedent's gross estate because of a gift tax on transfers made before death.

(2) "Estate tax" means a federal, state, or foreign tax imposed because of the death of an individual and interest and penalties associated with the tax. The term does not include an inheritance tax, income tax, or generation-skipping transfer tax other than a generation-skipping transfer tax incurred on a direct skip taking effect at death.

(3) "Gross estate" means, with respect to an estate tax, all interests in property subject to the tax.

(4) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(5) "Ratable" means apportioned or allocated pro rata according to the relative values of interests to which the term is to be applied. "Ratably" has a corresponding meaning.

(6) "Time-limited interest" means an interest in property which terminates on a lapse of time or on the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an event or which is subject to the exercise of discretion that could transfer a beneficial interest to another person. The term does not include a cotenancy unless the cotenancy itself is a time-limited interest.

(7) "Value" means, with respect to an interest in property, fair market value as finally determined for purposes of the estate tax that is to be apportioned, reduced by any outstanding debt secured by the interest without reduction for taxes paid or required to be paid or for any special valuation adjustment.

(8) "Internal Revenue Code" means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended or renumbered as of January 1, 2005. [2005 c 332 § 2.]

**83.110A.020 Apportionment by will or other dispositive instrument.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, the following rules apply:

(a) To the extent that a provision of a decedent's will provides for the apportionment of an estate tax, the tax must be apportioned accordingly.

(b) Any portion of an estate tax not apportioned pursuant to (a) of this subsection must be apportioned in accordance with any provision of a revocable trust of which the decedent was the settlor which provides for the apportionment of an estate tax. If conflicting apportionment provisions appear in two or more revocable trust instruments, the provision in the most recently dated instrument prevails. For purposes of this subsection (1)(b):

(i) A trust is revocable if it was revocable immediately after the trust instrument was executed, even if the trust subsequently becomes irrevocable; and

(ii) The date of an amendment to a revocable trust instrument is the date of the amended instrument only if the amendment contains an apportionment provision.

(c) If any portion of an estate tax is not apportioned pursuant to (a) or (b) of this subsection, and a provision in any other dispositive instrument provides that any interest in the property disposed of by the instrument is or is not to be applied to the payment of the estate tax attributable to the interest disposed of by the instrument, the provision controls the apportionment of the tax to that interest.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, and unless the decedent provides to the contrary, the following rules apply:

(a) If an apportionment provision provides that a person receiving an interest in property under an instrument is to be exonerated from the responsibility to pay an estate tax that would otherwise be apportioned to the interest:

(i) The tax attributable to the exonerated interest must be apportioned among the other persons receiving interests passing under the instrument; or

(ii) If the values of the other interests are less than the tax attributable to the exonerated interest, the deficiency must be apportioned ratably among the other persons receiving interests in the apportionable estate that are not exonerated from apportionment of the tax.

(b) If an apportionment provision provides that an estate tax is to be apportioned to an interest in property a portion of which qualifies for a marital or charitable deduction, the estate tax must first be apportioned ratably among the holders of the portion that does not qualify for a marital or charitable deduction and then apportioned ratably among the holders of the deductible portion to the extent that the value of the non-deductible portion is insufficient.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in (d) of this subsection, if an apportionment provision provides that an estate tax be apportioned to property in which one or more time-limited interests exist, other than interests in specified property under RCW 83.110A.060, the tax must be apportioned to the principal of that property, regardless of the deductibility of some of the interests in that property.

(d) If an apportionment provision provides that an estate tax is to be apportioned to the holders of interests in property in which one or more time-limited interests exist and a charity has an interest that otherwise qualifies for an estate tax charitable deduction, the tax must first be apportioned, to the extent feasible, to interests in property that have not been distributed to the persons entitled to receive the interests. No tax shall be paid from a charitable remainder annuity trust or a charitable remainder unitrust described in section 664 of the internal revenue code and created during the decedent's life.

(e) Persons receiving tangible personal property as defined in RCW 11.12.260 by specific gifts pursuant to the provisions of a will or revocable trust or by right of survivorship, are exonerated from apportionment of estate tax up to an aggregate value of property permitted to pass by affidavit for small estates pursuant to RCW 11.62.010(2)(c).

(f) Persons receiving specific pecuniary gifts pursuant to the provisions of a will or revocable trust are exonerated from apportionment of estate tax up to an aggregate amount of money equal to one-half of the value of property permitted to pass by affidavit for small estates pursuant to RCW 11.62.010(2)(c).

(g) If persons receive an aggregate value of tangible personal property or the amount of money in excess of the ceiling allowed to be exonerated for apportionment for estate taxes for that type of property, the portion of each gift to be exonerated is the maximum amount of money or value of tangible personal property that is allowed to be exonerated multiplied by the proportion of money received by each person over the amount of money received by all persons, or the value of tangible personal property received by each person over the value of all tangible personal property received by all persons.

(3) A provision that apportions an estate tax is ineffective to the extent that it increases the tax apportioned to a person having an interest in the gross estate over which the decedent had no power to transfer immediately before the decedent executed the instrument in which the apportionment direction was made. For purposes of this section, a testamentary power of appointment is a power to transfer the property that is subject to the power. [2012 c 97 § 1; 2005 c 332 § 3.]

**83.110A.030 Statutory apportionment of estate taxes.** To the extent that apportionment of an estate tax is not controlled by an instrument described in RCW 83.110A.020 and except as otherwise provided in RCW 83.110A.050 and 83.110A.060, the following rules apply:

(1) Subject to subsections (2), (3), and (4) of this section, the estate tax is apportioned ratably to each person that has an interest in the apportionable estate.

(2) A generation-skipping transfer tax incurred on a direct skip taking effect at death is charged to the person to which the interest in property is transferred.

(3) If property is included in the decedent's gross estate because of section 2044 of the Internal Revenue Code or any similar estate tax provision, the difference between the total estate tax for which the decedent's estate is liable and the amount of estate tax for which the decedent's estate would have been liable if the property had not been included in the decedent's gross estate is apportioned ratably among the holders of interests in the property. The balance of the tax, if any, is apportioned ratably to each other person having an interest in the apportionable estate.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 83.110A.020(2)(d) and except as to property to which RCW 83.110A.060 applies, an estate tax apportioned to persons holding interests in property subject to a time-limited interest must be apportioned, without further apportionment, to the principal of that property.

(5) If the court finds that it is inequitable to apportion interest and penalties in the manner provided in this chapter because of special circumstances, it may direct apportionment thereon in the manner it finds equitable. [2005 c 332 § 4.]

**83.110A.040 Credits and deferrals.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 83.110A.050 and 83.110A.060, the following rules apply to credits and deferrals of estate taxes:

(1) A credit resulting from the payment of gift taxes or from estate taxes paid on property previously taxed inures ratably to the benefit of all persons to which the estate tax is apportioned.

(2) A credit for state or foreign estate taxes inures ratably to the benefit of all persons to which the estate tax is apportioned, except that the amount of a credit for a state or foreign tax paid by a beneficiary of the property on which the state or foreign tax was imposed, directly or by a charge against the property, inures to the benefit of the beneficiary.

(3) If payment of a portion of an estate tax is deferred because of the inclusion in the gross estate of a particular interest in property, the benefit of the deferral inures ratably to the persons to which the estate tax attributable to the interest is apportioned. The burden of any interest charges incurred on a deferral of taxes and the benefit of any tax deduction associated with the accrual or payment of the interest charge is allocated ratably among the persons receiving an interest in the property. [2005 c 332 § 5.]

**83.110A.050 Insulated property—Advancement of tax.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Advanced fraction" means a fraction that has as its numerator the amount of the advanced tax and as its denomi-

nator the value of the interests in insulated property to which that tax is attributable.

(b) "Advanced tax" means the aggregate amount of estate tax attributable to interests in insulated property which is required to be advanced by uninsulated holders under subsection (3) of this section.

(c) "Insulated property" means property subject to a time-limited interest which is included in the apportionable estate and is unavailable for payment of an estate tax because of impossibility or impracticability. Insulated property does not include property from which the beneficial holder has the unilateral right to cause distribution to himself or herself.

(d) "Uninsulated holder" means a person who has an interest in uninsulated property.

(e) "Uninsulated property" means property included in the apportionable estate other than insulated property.

(2) If an estate tax is to be advanced pursuant to subsection (3) of this section by persons holding interests in uninsulated property subject to a time-limited interest other than property to which RCW 83.110A.060 applies, the tax must be advanced, without further apportionment, from the principal of the uninsulated property.

(3) Subject to RCW 83.110A.080 (2) and (4), an estate tax attributable to interests in insulated property must be advanced ratably by uninsulated holders.

(4) A court having jurisdiction to determine the apportionment of an estate tax may require a beneficiary of an interest in insulated property to pay all or part of the estate tax otherwise apportioned to the interest if the court finds that it would be substantially more equitable for that beneficiary to bear the tax liability personally than for that part of the tax to be advanced by uninsulated holders.

(5) Upon payment by an uninsulated holder of estate tax required to be advanced, a court may require the beneficiary of an interest in insulated property to provide a bond or other security, including a recordable lien on the property of the beneficiary, for repayment of the advanced tax.

(6) When a distribution of insulated property is made, each uninsulated holder may recover from the distributee a ratable portion of the advanced fraction of the property distributed. To the extent that undistributed insulated property ceases to be insulated, each uninsulated holder may recover from the property a ratable portion of the advanced fraction of the total undistributed property. [2005 c 332 § 6.]

**83.110A.060 Apportionment and recapture of special elective benefits.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Special elective benefit" means a reduction in an estate tax obtained by an election for:

(i) A reduced valuation of specified property that is included in the gross estate;

(ii) A deduction from the gross estate, other than a marital or charitable deduction, allowed for specified property; or

(iii) An exclusion from the gross estate of specified property.

(b) "Specified property" means property for which an election has been made for a special elective benefit.

(2) If an election is made for one or more special elective benefits, an initial apportionment of a hypothetical estate tax must be computed as if no election for any of those benefits had been made. The aggregate reduction in estate tax result-

ing from all elections made must be allocated among holders of interests in the specified property in the proportion that the amount of deduction, reduced valuation, or exclusion attributable to each holder's interest bears to the aggregate amount of deductions, reduced valuations, and exclusions obtained by the decedent's estate from the elections. If the estate tax initially apportioned to the holder of an interest in specified property is reduced to zero, any excess amount of reduction reduces ratably the estate tax apportioned to other persons that receive interests in the apportionable estate.

(3) An additional estate tax imposed to recapture all or part of a special elective benefit must be charged to the persons that are liable for the additional tax under the law providing for the recapture. [2005 c 332 § 7.]

**83.110A.070 Securing payment of estate tax from property in possession of fiduciary.** (1) A fiduciary may defer a distribution of property until the fiduciary is satisfied that adequate provision for payment of the estate tax has been made.

(2) A fiduciary may withhold from a distributee the estate tax apportioned to and the estate tax required to be advanced by the distributee.

(3) As a condition to a distribution, a fiduciary may require the distributee to provide a bond or other security for the estate tax apportioned to and the estate tax required to be advanced by the distributee. [2005 c 332 § 8.]

**83.110A.080 Collection of estate tax by fiduciary.** (1) A fiduciary responsible for payment of an estate tax may collect from any person the estate tax apportioned to and the estate tax required to be advanced by the person.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 83.110A.050, any estate tax due from a person that cannot be collected from the person may be collected by the fiduciary from other persons in the following order of priority:

(a) Any person having an interest in the apportionable estate which is not exonerated from the tax;

(b) Any other person having an interest in the apportionable estate;

(c) Any person having an interest in the gross estate.

(3) A domiciliary fiduciary may recover from an ancillary personal representative the estate tax apportioned to the property controlled by the ancillary personal representative.

(4) The total tax collected from a person pursuant to this chapter may not exceed the value of the person's interest. [2005 c 332 § 9.]

**83.110A.090 Right of reimbursement.** (1) A person required under RCW 83.110A.080 to pay an estate tax greater than the amount due from the person under RCW 83.110A.020 or 83.110A.030 has a right to reimbursement from another person to the extent that the other person has not paid the tax required by RCW 83.110A.020 or 83.110A.030 and a right to reimbursement ratably from other persons to the extent that each has not contributed a portion of the amount collected under RCW 83.110A.080(2).

(2) A fiduciary may enforce the right of reimbursement under subsection (1) of this section on behalf of the person that is entitled to the reimbursement and shall take reasonable steps to do so if requested by the person. [2005 c 332 § 10.]

**83.110A.100 Action to determine or enforce chapter—Application of chapter 11.96A RCW.** Chapter 11.96A RCW applies to issues, questions, or disputes that arise under or that relate to this chapter. Any and all such issues, questions, or disputes may be resolved judicially or nonjudicially under chapter 11.96A RCW. [2005 c 332 § 11.]

**83.110A.110 Uniformity of application and construction.** In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it. [2005 c 332 § 12.]

**83.110A.900 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the Washington Uniform Estate Tax Apportionment Act of 2005. [2005 c 332 § 1.]

**83.110A.901 Captions not law.** Captions used in this chapter are not part of the law. [2005 c 332 § 16.]

**83.110A.902 Effective date—2005 c 332.** This act takes effect January 1, 2006. [2005 c 332 § 17.]

**83.110A.903 Severability—2005 c 332.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2005 c 332 § 13.]

**83.110A.904 Application—2005 c 332.** (1) This act takes effect for estate tax due on account of decedents who die on or after January 1, 2006.

(2) Sections 2 through 7 of this act do not apply to a decedent who dies after December 31, 2005, if the decedent continuously lacked testamentary capacity from January 1, 2006, until the date of death. For such a decedent, estate tax must be apportioned pursuant to the law in effect immediately before January 1, 2006. [2005 c 332 § 14.]

**83.110A.905 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 193.]

# Title 84

## PROPERTY TAXES

### Chapters

- 84.04** Definitions.
- 84.08** General powers and duties of department of revenue.
- 84.09** General provisions.
- 84.12** Assessment and taxation of public utilities.
- 84.14** New and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers.
- 84.16** Assessment and taxation of private car companies.
- 84.20** Easements of public utilities.
- 84.26** Historic property.
- 84.33** Timber and forest lands.
- 84.34** Open space, agricultural, timber lands—Current use—Conservation futures.
- 84.36** Exemptions.
- 84.37** Property tax deferral program.
- 84.38** Deferral of special assessments and/or property taxes.
- 84.39** Property tax exemption—Widows or widowers of veterans.
- 84.40** Listing of property.
- 84.41** Revaluation of property.
- 84.44** Taxable situs.
- 84.48** Equalization of assessments.
- 84.52** Levy of taxes.
- 84.55** Limitations upon regular property taxes.
- 84.56** Collection of taxes.
- 84.60** Lien of taxes.
- 84.64** Lien foreclosure.
- 84.68** Recovery of taxes paid or property sold for taxes.
- 84.69** Refunds.
- 84.70** Destroyed property—Abatement or refund.
- 84.72** Federal payments in lieu of taxes.
- 84.98** Construction.

*Additional provisions relating to taxes, see titles pertaining to particular taxing authorities, i.e., cities, counties, school districts, etc.*

*Building permits, new construction: Chapter 36.21 RCW.*

*Burying place exempt from execution: RCW 68.24.220.*

*Cemetery associations, nonprofit: RCW 68.20.110, 68.20.120.*

*Cities, unfit buildings: Chapter 35.80 RCW.*

*Cities and towns, prepayment by taxpayer of taxes and assessments owed to: RCW 35.21.650.*

*Columbia Basin project: RCW 89.12.120.*

*Community renewal: Chapter 35.81 RCW.*

*Conservation districts: Chapter 89.08 RCW.*

*Constitutional limitations generally: State Constitution Art. 2 § 40, Art. 7, Art. 11, §§ 9, 12.*

*Counties, prepayment and deposit of taxes and assessments: RCW 36.32.120.*

*Federal agencies and instrumentalities, taxation: State Constitution Art. 7 §§ 1, 3; Title 37 RCW.*

*Flood control district property: RCW 86.09.520.*

*Irrigation district property: RCW 87.03.260.*

*Lease of tax acquired property for underground storage of natural gas: RCW 80.40.070.*

*Limitation on levies: State Constitution Art. 7 § 2.*

*Local improvement trust property: RCW 35.53.010.*

*Olympic National Park: RCW 37.08.210.*

*Personal exemption not applicable to tax levied on such property: RCW 6.15.010.*

*Privilege taxes: Chapter 54.28 RCW.*

*Public utility districts: RCW 54.16.080.*

*Qualifications for persons assessing real property—Examination: RCW 36.21.015.*

*Rainier National Park: RCW 37.08.200.*

*Real estate, excise tax on transfer: Chapters 82.45 and 82.46 RCW.*

*Savings and loan associations: RCW 33.28.040.*

*Tax returns, remittances, etc., filing and receipt: RCW 1.12.070.*

*Taxing districts, general indebtedness limitation: Chapter 39.36 RCW.*

*Termination of tax preferences: Chapter 43.136 RCW.*

*Washington Principal and Income Act of 2002: Chapter 11.104A RCW.*

### Chapter 84.04 RCW

#### DEFINITIONS

#### Sections

- 84.04.010 Introductory.
- 84.04.020 "Assessed valuation of taxable property," and similar terms.
- 84.04.030 "Assessed value of property."
- 84.04.040 "Assessment year," "fiscal year."
- 84.04.045 "County auditor."
- 84.04.047 "Department."
- 84.04.050 "Householder."
- 84.04.055 "Legal description."
- 84.04.060 "Money," "moneys."
- 84.04.065 Number and gender.
- 84.04.070 "Oath," "swear."
- 84.04.075 "Person."
- 84.04.080 "Personal property."
- 84.04.090 "Real property."
- 84.04.095 Classification of components of irrigation systems.
- 84.04.100 "Tax" and derivatives.
- 84.04.120 "Taxing district."
- 84.04.130 "Tract," "lot," etc.
- 84.04.140 "Regular property taxes," "regular property tax levies."
- 84.04.150 "Computer software" and related terms.
- 84.04.900 Construction—Title applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

**84.04.010 Introductory.** Unless otherwise expressly provided or unless the context indicates otherwise, terms used in this title shall have the meaning given to them in this chapter. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.010.]

**84.04.020 "Assessed valuation of taxable property," and similar terms.** The terms "assessed valuation of taxable property", "valuation of taxable property", "value of taxable property", "taxable value of property", "property assessed" and "value" whenever used in any statute, law, charter or ordinance with relation to the levy of taxes in any taxing district, shall be held and construed to mean "assessed value of property" as defined in RCW 84.04.030. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.020. Prior: 1919 c 142 § 2; RRS § 11227.]

**84.04.030 "Assessed value of property."** "Assessed value of property" shall be held and construed to mean the aggregate valuation of the property subject to taxation by any taxing district as placed on the last completed and balanced tax rolls of the county preceding the date of any tax levy. [2001 c 187 § 2; 1997 c 3 § 102 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1961 c 15 § 84.04.030. Prior: (i) 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 3; RRS § 11107. (ii) 1919 c 142 § 1, part; RRS § 11226, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.04.040 "Assessment year," "fiscal year."** The assessment year contemplated in this title and the fiscal year contemplated in this title shall commence on January 1st and end on December 31st in each year. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.040. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 39; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 81; 1897 c 71 § 66; 1893 c 124 § 67; 1890 p 560 § 82; RRS § 11242.]

**84.04.045 "County auditor."** "County auditor" shall be construed to mean registrar or recorder, whenever it shall be necessary to use the same to the proper construction of this title. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.045. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 6, part; 1897 c 71 § 4, part; 1893 c 124 § 4, part; 1890 p 531 § 4, part; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; RRS § 11110, part.]

**84.04.047 "Department."** "Department" means the department of revenue of the state of Washington. [1979 c 107 § 25.]

**84.04.050 "Householder."** "Householder" shall be taken to mean and include every person, married, in a state registered domestic partnership, or single, who resides within the state of Washington being the owner or holder of an estate or having a house or place of abode, either as owner or lessee. [2009 c 521 § 195; 1961 c 15 § 84.04.050. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 6, part; 1897 c 71 § 4, part; 1893 c 124 § 4, part; 1890 p 531 § 4, part; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; RRS § 11110, part.]

**84.04.055 "Legal description."** "Legal description" shall be given its commonly accepted meaning, but for property tax purposes, the parcel number is sufficient for the legal description. [1989 c 378 § 6.]

**84.04.060 "Money," "moneys."** "Money" or "moneys" shall be held to mean coin or paper money issued by the United States government. [1998 c 106 § 12; 1961 c 15 § 84.04.060. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 6, part; 1897 c 71 § 4, part; 1893 c 124 § 4, part; 1890 p 531 § 4, part; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; RRS § 11110, part.]

**84.04.065 Number and gender.** Every word importing the singular number only may be extended to or embrace the plural number, and every word importing the plural number may be applied and limited to the singular number, and every word importing the masculine gender only may be extended and applied to females as well as males. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.065. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 6, part; 1897 c 71 § 4, part; 1893 c 124 § 4, part; 1890 p 531 § 4, part; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; RRS § 11110, part.]

**84.04.070 "Oath," "swear."** "Oath" may be held to mean affirmation, and the word "swear" may be held to mean affirm. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.070. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 6, part; 1897 c 71 § 4, part; 1893 c 124 § 4, part; 1890 p 531 § 4, part; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; RRS § 11110, part.]

**84.04.075 "Person."** "Person" shall be construed to include firm, company, association or corporation. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.075. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 6, part; 1897 c 71 § 4, part; 1893 c 124 § 4, part; 1890 p 531 § 4, part; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; RRS § 11110, part.]

**84.04.080 "Personal property."** "Personal property" for the purposes of taxation, shall be held and construed to embrace and include, without especially defining and enumerating it, all goods, chattels, stocks, estates or moneys; all standing timber held or owned separately from the ownership of the land on which it may stand; all fish trap, pound net, reef net, set net and drag seine fishing locations; all leases of real property and leasehold interests therein for a term less than the life of the holder; all improvements upon lands the fee of which is still vested in the United States, or in the state of Washington; all gas and water mains and pipes laid in roads, streets or alleys; and all property of whatsoever kind, name, nature and description, which the law may define or the courts interpret, declare and hold to be personal property for the purpose of taxation and as being subject to the laws and under the jurisdiction of the courts of this state, whether the same be any marine craft, as ships and vessels, or other property holden under the laws and jurisdiction of the courts of this state, be the same at home or abroad: PROVIDED, That mortgages, notes, accounts, certificates of deposit, tax certificates, judgments, state, county, municipal and taxing district bonds and warrants shall not be considered as property for the purpose of this title, and no deduction shall hereafter be made or allowed on account of any indebtedness owed. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.080. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 5, part; 1907 c 108 §§ 1, 2; 1907 c 48 § 1, part; 1901 ex.s. c 2 § 1, part; 1897 c 71 § 3, part; 1895 c 176 § 1, part; 1893 c 124 § 3, part; 1891 c 140 § 3, part; 1890 p 530 § 3, part; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; 1871 p 37 § 1, part; 1869 p 176 § 3, part; 1854 p 332 § 4, part; RRS § 11109, part.]

*Fox, mink, marten declared personalty: RCW 16.72.030.*

**84.04.090 "Real property."** The term "real property" for the purposes of taxation shall be held and construed to mean and include the land itself, whether laid out in town lots or otherwise, and all buildings, structures or improvements or other fixtures of whatsoever kind thereon, except improvements upon lands the fee of which is still vested in the United States, or in the state of Washington, and all rights and privileges thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining, except leases of real property and leasehold interests therein for a term less than the life of the holder; and all substances in and under the same; all standing timber growing thereon, except standing timber owned separately from the ownership of the land upon which the same may stand or be growing; and all property which the law defines or the courts may interpret, declare and hold to be real property under the letter, spirit, intent and meaning of the law for the purposes of taxation.

The term real property shall also include a mobile home which has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by virtue of its being permanently fixed in location upon land owned or leased by the owner of the mobile home and placed on a permanent foundation (posts or blocks) with fixed pipe connections with sewer, water, or other utilities: PROVIDED, That a mobile home located on land leased by the owner of the mobile home shall be subject to the personal property provisions of chapter 84.56 RCW and RCW 84.60.040. [1987 c 155 § 1; 1985 c 395 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 70; 1961 c 15 § 84.04.090. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 4; 1897 c 71 § 2; 1893 c 124 § 2; 1891 c 140 § 2; 1890 p 530 § 2; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; 1871 p 37 § 2; 1869 p 176 § 2; RRS § 11108.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.04.095 Classification of components of irrigation systems.** Notwithstanding RCW 84.04.080 and 84.04.090, the department shall classify, by rule, the components of irrigation systems as real or personal property for purposes of taxation under this title. [1987 c 319 § 8.]

**84.04.100 "Tax" and derivatives.** The word "tax" and its derivatives, "taxes," "taxing," "taxed," "taxation" and so forth shall be held and construed to mean the imposing of burdens upon property in proportion to the value thereof, for the purpose of raising revenue for public purposes. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.100. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 1; 1897 c 71 § 1; 1893 c 124 § 1; RRS § 11105.]

**84.04.120 "Taxing district."** "Taxing district" shall be held and construed to mean and include the state and any county, city, town, port district, school district, road district, metropolitan park district, water-sewer district or other municipal corporation, now or hereafter existing, having the power or authorized by law to impose burdens upon property within the district in proportion to the value thereof, for the purpose of obtaining revenue for public purposes, as distinguished from municipal corporations authorized to impose burdens, or for which burdens may be imposed, for such purposes, upon property in proportion to the benefits accruing thereto. [1999 c 153 § 69; 1961 c 15 § 84.04.120. Prior: (i) 1919 c 142 § 1, part; RRS § 11226, part. (ii) 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 2; RRS § 11106.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.04.130 "Tract," "lot," etc.** "Tract" or "lot," and "piece or parcel of real property," and "piece or parcel of lands" shall each be held to mean any contiguous quantity of land in the possession of, owned by, or recorded as the property of the same claimant, person or company. [1961 c 15 § 84.04.130. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 6, part; 1897 c 71 § 4, part; 1893 c 124 § 4, part; 1890 p 531 § 4, part; 1886 p 48 § 2, part; Code 1881 § 2830, part; RRS § 11110, part.]

**84.04.140 "Regular property taxes," "regular property tax levies."** The term "regular property taxes" and the term "regular property tax levy" shall mean a property tax levy by or for a taxing district which levy is subject to the aggregate limitation set forth in RCW 84.52.043 and 84.52.050, as now or hereafter amended, or which is imposed

by or for a port district or a public utility district. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 88; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.04.150 "Computer software" and related terms.**

(1) "Computer software" is a set of directions or instructions that exist in the form of machine-readable or human-readable code, is recorded on physical or electronic medium, and directs the operation of a computer system or other machinery or equipment. "Computer software" includes the associated documentation that describes the code and its use, operation, and maintenance and typically is delivered with the code to the user. "Computer software" does not include databases.

A "database" is text, data, or other information that may be accessed or managed with the aid of computer software but that does not itself have the capacity to direct the operation of a computer system or other machinery or equipment.

(2) "Custom computer software" is computer software that is designed for a single person's or a small group of persons' specific needs. "Custom computer software" includes modifications to canned computer software and can be developed in-house by the user, by outside developers, or by both.

A group of four or more persons is presumed not to be a small group of persons for the purposes of this subsection unless each of the persons is affiliated through common control and ownership. The department may by rule provide a definition of small group and affiliates consistent with this subsection.

For purposes of this subsection, "person" has the meaning given in RCW 82.04.030.

(3) "Canned computer software," occasionally known as prewritten or standard software, is computer software that is designed for and distributed "as is" for multiple persons who can use it without modifying its code and that is not otherwise considered custom computer software.

(4) "Embedded software" is computer software that resides permanently on some internal memory device in a computer system or other machinery or equipment, that is not removable in the ordinary course of operation, and that is of a type necessary for the routine operation of the computer system or other machinery or equipment. "Embedded software" may be either canned or custom computer software.

(5) "Retained rights" are any and all rights, including intellectual property rights such as those rights arising from copyrights, patents, and trade secret laws, that are owned or are held under contract or license by a computer software developer, author, inventor, publisher, licensor, sublicensor, or distributor.

(6) A "golden" or "master" copy of computer software is a copy of computer software from which a computer software developer, author, inventor, publisher, licensor, sublicensor, or distributor makes copies for sale or license. [1991 sp.s. c 29 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—1991 sp.s. c 29:** "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Computer software is a class of personal property that is itself comprised of several different subclasses of personal property which can be distinguished by their use, development, distribution, and relationship to hardware, and includes custom software, canned software, and embedded software;

(b) Because different classes of software serve different needs, may be used by different taxpayers, and present different administrative burdens on

both the state and the citizens of the state of Washington, the different classes of software should be treated differently for tax purposes;

(c) Canned software should continue to be subject to property tax, but, because of its rapid obsolescence, should be subject to tax for only two years; and the taxable interest should reside with the end user;

(d) Canned software that has been modified should continue to be taxable on the canned portion of the software;

(e) Embedded software should continue to be taxed as part of the machinery or equipment of which it is a part;

(f) Custom software should be exempt from taxation, in part because of the difficulty in accurately and uniformly determining the value of such software;

(g) Retained rights in computer software should be exempt from the property tax in part because of the difficulty in accurately and uniformly determining the value of such software, the difficulty in determining the scope and situs of such rights, and the adverse economic consequences to the state of taxing such rights; and

(h) So-called "golden" or "master" copies of software should be exempt from property tax like business inventory.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that:

(a) The voluntary compliance nature of the personal property tax system should be preserved and nothing in this act shall be construed to reduce the taxpayer's obligation to fully and accurately list all taxable computer software;

(b) Computer software should be listed and assessed for property taxes payable in 1991 and 1992 in the same manner and to the same extent as computer software was listed and assessed for taxes due in 1989;

(c) The definition of custom software, golden or master copies, and retained rights shall be liberally construed in accordance with the purposes of this act;

(d) This act shall provide fairness, equity, and uniformity in the property tax treatment of each class of computer software in the state of Washington; and

(e) No inference should be taken from this act regarding the application of the property tax to databases." [1991 sp.s. c 29 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.04.900 Construction—Title applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this title, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 194.]

### Chapter 84.08 RCW

#### GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

##### Sections

84.08.005	Adoption of provisions of chapter 82.01 RCW.
84.08.010	Powers of department of revenue—General supervision—Rules and processes—Visitation of counties.
84.08.020	Additional powers—To advise county and local officers—Books and blanks—Reports.
84.08.030	Additional powers—To test work of assessors—Supplemental assessment lists—Audits.
84.08.040	Additional powers—To keep valuation records—Access to files of other public offices.
84.08.050	Additional powers—Access to books and records—Hearings—Investigation of complaints.

84.08.060	Additional powers—Power over county boards of equalization—Reconvening—Limitation on increase in property value in appeals to board of tax appeals from county board of equalization.
84.08.070	Rules and regulations authorized.
84.08.080	Department to decide questions of interpretation.
84.08.115	Department to prepare explanation of property tax system.
84.08.120	Duty to obey orders of department of revenue.
84.08.130	Appeals from county board of equalization to board of tax appeals—Notice.
84.08.140	Appeals from levy of taxing district to department of revenue.
84.08.190	Assessors to meet with department of revenue.
84.08.210	Confidentiality and privilege of tax information—Exceptions—Penalty.

*Constitutional limitations on taxation: State Constitution Art. 2 § 40, Art. 7, Art. 11, §§ 9, 12.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts—Fees: RCW 19.16.500.*

*Taxing districts, general limitation of indebtedness: Chapter 39.36 RCW.*

**84.08.005 Adoption of provisions of chapter 82.01 RCW.** The provisions of chapter 82.01 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, apply to Title 84 RCW as fully as though they were set forth herein. [1961 c 15 § 84.08.005.]

**84.08.010 Powers of department of revenue—General supervision—Rules and processes—Visitation of counties.** The department of revenue shall:

(1) Exercise general supervision and control over the administration of the assessment and tax laws of the state, over county assessors, and county boards of equalization, and over boards of county commissioners, county treasurers and county auditors and all other county officers, in the performance of their duties relating to taxation, and perform any act or give any order or direction to any county board of equalization or to any county assessor or to any other county officer as to the valuation of any property, or class or classes of property in any county, township, city or town, or as to any other matter relating to the administration of the assessment and taxation laws of the state, which, in the department's judgment may seem just and necessary, to the end that all taxable property in this state shall be listed upon the assessment rolls and valued and assessed according to the provisions of law, and equalized between persons, firms, companies and corporations, and between the different counties of this state, and between the different taxing units and townships, so that equality of taxation and uniformity of administration shall be secured and all taxes shall be collected according to the provisions of law.

(2) Formulate such rules and processes for the assessment of both real and personal property for purposes of taxation as are best calculated to secure uniform assessment of property of like kind and value in the various taxing units of the state, and relative uniformity between properties of different kinds and values in the same taxing unit. The department of revenue shall furnish to each county assessor a copy of the rules and processes so formulated. The department of revenue may, from time to time, make such changes in the rules and processes so formulated as it deems advisable to accomplish the purpose thereof, and it shall inform all county assessors of such changes.

(3) Visit the counties in the state, unless prevented by necessary official duties, for the investigation of the methods adopted by the county assessors and county boards of commissioners in the assessment and equalization of taxation of

real and personal property; carefully examine into all cases where evasion of property taxation is alleged, and ascertain where existing laws are defective, or improperly or negligently administered. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 147; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.010. Prior: 1939 c 206 §§ 4, part and 5, part; 1935 c 127 § 1, part; 1931 c 15 § 1, part; 1927 c 280 § 5, part; 1925 c 18 § 5, part; 1921 c 7 §§ 50, 53; 1907 c 220 § 1, part; 1905 c 115 § 2, part; RRS §§ 11091 (first), part and 11091 (second), part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.020 Additional powers—To advise county and local officers—Books and blanks—Reports.** The department of revenue shall:

(1) Confer with, advise and direct assessors, boards of equalization, county boards of commissioners, county treasurers, county auditors and all other county and township officers as to their duties under the law and statutes of the state, relating to taxation, and direct what proceedings, actions or prosecutions shall be instituted to support the law relating to the penalties, liabilities and punishment of public officers, persons, and officers or agents of corporations for failure or neglect to comply with the provisions of the statutes governing the return, assessment and taxation of property, and the collection of taxes, and cause complaint to be made against any of such public officers in the proper county for their removal from office for official misconduct or neglect of duty. In the execution of these powers and duties the said department or any member thereof may call upon prosecuting attorneys or the attorney general, who shall assist in the commencement and prosecution for penalties and forfeiture, liabilities and punishments for violations of the laws of the state in respect to the assessment and taxation of property.

(2) Prescribe all forms of books and blanks to be used in the assessment and collection of taxes, and change such forms when prescribed by law, and recommend to the legislature such changes as may be deemed most economical to the state and counties, and such recommendation shall be accompanied by carefully prepared bill or bills for this end.

(3) Require county, city and town officers to report information as to assessments of property, equalization of taxes, the expenditure of public funds for all purposes, and other information which said department of revenue may request. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 148; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.020. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 5, part; 1935 c 127 § 1, part; 1921 c 7 §§ 50, 53; 1907 c 220 § 1, part; 1905 c 115 § 2, part; RRS § 11091 (second), part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.030 Additional powers—To test work of assessors—Supplemental assessment lists—Audits.** The department of revenue shall examine and test the work of county assessors at any time, and have and possess all rights and powers of such assessors for the examination of persons, and property, and for the discovery of property subject to taxation, and if it shall ascertain that any taxable property is omitted from the assessment list, or not assessed or valued according to law, it shall bring the same to the attention of the assessor of the proper county in writing, and if such assessor shall neglect or refuse to comply with the request of the department of revenue to place such property on the assess-

ment list, or to correct such incorrect assessment or valuation the department of revenue shall have the power to prepare a supplement to such assessment list, which supplement shall include all property required by the department of revenue to be placed on the assessment list and all corrections required to be made. Such supplement shall be filed with the assessor's assessment list and shall thereafter constitute an integral part thereof to the exclusion of all portions of the original assessment list inconsistent therewith, and shall be submitted therewith to the county board of equalization. As part of the examining and testing of the work of county assessors to be accomplished pursuant to this section, the department of revenue shall audit statewide at least one-half of one percent of all personal property accounts listed each calendar year. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 94 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 30; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.030. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 4, part; 1931 c 15 § 1, part; 1927 c 280 § 5, part; 1925 c 18 § 5, part; 1921 c 7 §§ 50, 53; RRS § 11091 (first).]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.040 Additional powers—To keep valuation records—Access to files of other public offices.** The department of revenue shall secure, tabulate, and keep records of valuations of all classes of property throughout the state, and for that purpose, shall have access to all records and files of state offices and departments and county and municipal offices and shall require all public officers and employees whose duties make it possible to ascertain valuations, including valuations of property of public service corporations for rate making purposes to file reports with the department of revenue, giving such information as to such valuation and the source thereof: PROVIDED, That the nature and kind of the tabulations, records of valuation and requirements from public officers, as stated herein, shall be in such form, and cover such valuations, as the department of revenue shall prescribe. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 149; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.040. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 4, part; 1931 c 15 § 1, part; 1927 c 280 § 5, part; 1925 c 18 § 5, part; 1921 c 7 §§ 50, 53; RRS § 11091 (first), part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.050 Additional powers—Access to books and records—Hearings—Investigation of complaints.** (1) The department of revenue shall:

(a) Require individuals, partnerships, companies, associations and corporations to furnish information as to their capital, funded debts, investments, value of property, earnings, taxes and all other facts called for on these subjects so that the department may determine the taxable value of any property or any other fact it may consider necessary to carry out any duties now or hereafter imposed upon it, or may ascertain the relative burdens borne by all kinds and classes of property within the state, and for these purposes their records, books, accounts, papers and memoranda shall be subject to production and inspection, investigation and examination by the department, or any employee thereof designated by the department for such purpose, and any or all real and/or personal property in this state shall be subject to visitation, investigation, examination and/or listing at any and all times by the department or by any employee thereof designated by the department.

(b) Summon witnesses to appear and testify on the subject of capital, funded debts, investments, value of property, earnings, taxes, and all other facts called for on these subjects, or upon any matter deemed material to the proper assessment of property, or to the investigation of the system of taxation, or the expenditure of public funds for state, county, district and municipal purposes: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, No person shall be required to testify outside of the county in which the taxpayer's residence, office or principal place of business, as the case may be, is located. Such summons shall be served in like manner as a subpoena issued out of the superior court and be served by the sheriff of the proper county, and such service certified by him or her to the department without compensation therefor. Persons appearing before the department in obedience to a summons shall in the discretion of the department receive the same compensation as witnesses in the superior court.

(c) Thoroughly investigate all complaints which may be made to it of illegal, unjust or excessive taxation, and shall endeavor to ascertain to what extent and in what manner, if at all, the present system is inequal or oppressive.

(2) Any member of the department or any employee thereof designated for that purpose may administer oaths to witnesses.

(3)(a) In case any witness shall fail to obey the summons to appear, or refuse to testify, or shall fail or refuse to comply with any of the provisions of subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section, such person, for each separate or repeated offense, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than fifty dollars, nor more than five thousand dollars.

(b) Any person who shall testify falsely is guilty of perjury and shall be punished under chapter 9A.72 RCW. [2003 c 53 § 407; 1973 c 95 § 8; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.050. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 5, part; 1935 c 127 § 1, part; 1921 c 7 §§ 50, 53; 1907 c 220 § 1, part; 1905 c 115 § 2, part; RRS § 11091 (second), part.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**84.08.060 Additional powers—Power over county boards of equalization—Reconvening—Limitation on increase in property value in appeals to board of tax appeals from county board of equalization.** The department of revenue shall have power to direct and to order any county board of equalization to raise or lower the valuation of any taxable property, or to add any property to the assessment list, or to perform or complete any other duty required by statute. The department of revenue may require any such board of equalization to reconvene after its adjournment for the purpose of performing any order or requirement made by the department of revenue and may make such orders as it shall determine to be just and necessary. The department may require any county board of equalization to reconvene at any time for the purpose of performing or completing any duty or taking any action it might lawfully have performed or taken at any of its previous meetings. No board may be reconvened later than three years after the date of adjournment of its regularly convened session. If such board of equalization shall fail or refuse forthwith to comply with any such order or requirement of the department of revenue, the department of

revenue shall have power to take any other appropriate action, or to make such correction or change in the assessment list, and such corrections and changes shall be a part of the record of the proceedings of the said board of equalization: PROVIDED, That in all cases where the department of revenue shall raise the valuation of any property or add property to the assessment list, it shall give notice either for the same time and in the same manner as is now required in like cases of county boards of equalization, or if it shall deem such method of giving notice impracticable it shall give notice by publication thereof in a newspaper of general circulation within the county in which the property affected is situated once each week for two consecutive weeks, and the department of revenue shall not proceed to raise such valuation or add such property to the assessment list until a period of five days shall have elapsed subsequent to the date of the last publication of such notice: PROVIDED FURTHER, That appeals to the board of tax appeals by any taxpayer or taxing unit concerning any action of the county board of equalization shall not raise the valuation of the property to an amount greater than the larger of either the valuation of the property by the county assessor or the valuation of the property assigned by the county board of equalization. Such notice shall give the legal description of each tract of land involved, or a general description in case of personal property; the tax record-owner thereof; the assessed value thereof determined by the county board of equalization in case the property is on the assessment roll; and the assessed value thereof as determined by the department of revenue and shall state that the department of revenue proposes to increase the assessed valuation of such property to the amount stated and to add such property to the assessment list at the assessed valuation stated. The necessary expense incurred by the department of revenue in making such reassessment and/or adding such property to the assessment list shall be borne by the county or township in which the property as reassessed and/or so added to the assessment list is situated and shall be paid out of the proper funds of such county upon the order of the department of revenue. [1988 c 222 § 9; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 11; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 150; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.060. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 4, part; 1931 c 15 § 1, part; 1927 c 280 § 5, part; 1925 c 18 § 5, part; 1921 c 7 §§ 50, 53; RRS § 11091 (first), part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.070 Rules and regulations authorized.** The department of revenue shall make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the powers granted by this chapter, and for conducting hearings and other proceedings before it. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 151; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.070. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 4, part; 1931 c 15 § 1, part; 1927 c 280 § 5, part; 1925 c 18 § 5, part; 1921 c 7 §§ 50, 53; RRS § 11091 (first), part. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1935 c 123 § 18 now codified as RCW 84.12.390.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.080 Department to decide questions of interpretation.** The department of revenue shall, with the advice of the attorney general, decide all questions that may arise in reference to the true construction or interpretation of this title, or any part thereof, with reference to the powers and duties of

taxing district officers, and such decision shall have force and effect until modified or annulled by the judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 152; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.080. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 111; 1897 c 71 § 92; 1895 c 176 § 20; 1893 c 124 § 95; RRS § 11272.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.115 Department to prepare explanation of property tax system.** (1) The department shall prepare a clear and succinct explanation of the property tax system, including but not limited to:

(a) The standard of true and fair value as the basis of the property tax.

(b) How the assessed value for particular parcels is determined.

(c) The procedures and timing of the assessment process.

(d) How district levy rates are determined, including the limit under chapter 84.55 RCW.

(e) How the composite tax rate is determined.

(f) How the amount of tax is calculated.

(g) How a taxpayer may appeal an assessment, and what issues are appropriate as a basis of appeal.

(h) A summary of tax exemption and relief programs, along with the eligibility standards and application processes.

(2) Each county assessor shall provide copies of the explanation to taxpayers on request, free of charge. Each revaluation notice shall include information regarding the availability of the explanation. [1997 c 3 § 207 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1991 c 218 § 2.]

**Intent—1997 c 3 §§ 201-207:** See note following RCW 84.55.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.120 Duty to obey orders of department of revenue.** It shall be the duty of every public officer to comply with any lawful order, rule or regulation of the department of revenue made under the provisions of this title, and whenever it shall appear to the department of revenue that any public officer or employee whose duties relate to the assessment or equalization of assessments of property for taxation or to the levy or collection of taxes has failed to comply with the provisions of this title or with any other law relating to such duties or the rules of the department made in pursuance thereof, the department after a hearing on the facts may issue its order directing such public officer or employee to comply with such provisions of law or of its rules, and if such public officer or employee for a period of ten days after service on him of the department's order shall neglect or refuse to comply therewith, the department of revenue may apply to a judge of the superior court or court commissioner of the county in which said public officer or employee holds office for an order returnable within five days from the date thereof to compel such public officer or employee to comply with such provisions of law or of the department's order, or to show cause why he should not be compelled so to do, and any order issued by the judge pursuant thereto shall be final. The remedy herein provided shall be cumulative and shall not exclude the department of revenue from exercising any power or rights otherwise granted. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 155; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.120. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 7; 1927 c 280 § 12; 1925 c 18 § 12; RRS § 11102.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**84.08.130 Appeals from county board of equalization to board of tax appeals—Notice.** (1) Any taxpayer or taxing unit feeling aggrieved by the action of any county board of equalization may appeal to the board of tax appeals by filing with the board of tax appeals in accordance with RCW 1.12.070 a notice of appeal within thirty days after the mailing of the decision of such board of equalization, which notice shall specify the actions complained of; and in like manner any county assessor may appeal to the board of tax appeals from any action of any county board of equalization. There shall be no fee charged for the filing of an appeal. The board shall transmit a copy of the notice of appeal to all named parties within thirty days of its receipt by the board. Appeals which are not filed as provided in this section shall be dismissed. The board of tax appeals shall require the board appealed from to file a true and correct copy of its decision in such action and all evidence taken in connection therewith, and may receive further evidence, and shall make such order as in its judgment is just and proper.

(2) The board of tax appeals may enter an order, pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, that has effect up to the end of the assessment cycle used by the assessor, if there has been no intervening change in the value during that time. [1998 c 54 § 3; 1994 c 301 § 18; 1992 c 206 § 10; 1989 c 378 § 7; 1988 c 222 § 8; 1977 ex.s. c 290 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 156; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.130. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 6; 1927 c 280 § 6; 1925 c 18 § 6; RRS § 11092.]

*Evidence submission in advance of hearing: RCW 82.03.200.*

*Limitation on increase in property value in appeals to board of tax appeals from county board of equalization: RCW 84.08.060.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.140 Appeals from levy of taxing district to department of revenue.** Any taxpayer feeling aggrieved by the levy or levies of any taxing district except levies authorized by a vote of the voters of the district may appeal therefrom to the department of revenue as hereinafter provided. Such taxpayer, upon the execution of a bond, with two or more sufficient sureties to be approved by the county auditor, payable to the state of Washington, in the penal sum of two hundred dollars and conditioned that if the petitioner shall fail in his appeal for a reduction of said levy or levies the taxpayer will pay the taxable costs of the hearings hereinafter provided, not exceeding the amount of such bond, may file a written complaint with the county auditor wherein such taxing district is located not later than ten days after the making and entering of such levy or levies, setting forth in such form and detail as the department of revenue shall by general rule prescribe, the taxpayer's objections to such levy or levies. Upon the filing of such complaint, the county auditor shall immediately transmit a certified copy thereof, together with a copy of the budget or estimates of such taxing district as finally adopted, including estimated revenues and such other information as the department of revenue shall by rule require, to the department of revenue. The department of revenue shall fix a date for a hearing on said complaint at the earliest convenient time after receipt of said record, which hearing shall be held in the county in which said taxing district is located, and notice of such hearing shall be given to the officials of such taxing district, charged with determining the amount of its levies, and to the taxpayer on said complaint by

[Title 84 RCW—page 7]

registered mail at least five days prior to the date of said hearing. At such hearings all interested parties may be heard and the department of revenue shall receive all competent evidence. After such hearing, the department of revenue shall either affirm or decrease the levy or levies complained of, in accordance with the evidence, and shall thereupon certify its action with respect thereto to the county auditor, who, in turn, shall certify it to the taxing district or districts affected, and the action of the department of revenue with respect to such levy or levies shall be final and conclusive. [1994 c 301 § 19; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 157; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.140. Prior: 1927 c 280 § 8; 1925 c 18 § 8; RRS § 11098.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.190 Assessors to meet with department of revenue.** For the purpose of instruction on the subject of taxation, the county assessors of the state shall meet with the department of revenue at the capital of the state, or at such place within the state as they may determine at their previous meeting, on the second Monday of October of each year or on such other date as may be fixed by the department of revenue. Each assessor shall be paid by the county of his residence his actual expenses in attending such meeting, upon presentation to the county auditor of proper vouchers. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 158; 1961 c 15 § 84.08.190. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 16, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 57, part; 1911 c 12 § 1; RRS § 11140, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.08.210 Confidentiality and privilege of tax information—Exceptions—Penalty.** (1) For purposes of this section, "tax information" means confidential income data and proprietary business information obtained by the department in the course of carrying out the duties now or hereafter imposed upon it in this title that has been communicated in confidence in connection with the assessment of property and that has not been publicly disseminated by the taxpayer, the disclosure of which would be either highly offensive to a reasonable person and not a legitimate concern to the public or would result in an unfair competitive disadvantage to the taxpayer.

(2) Tax information is confidential and privileged, and except as authorized by this section, neither the department nor any other person may disclose tax information.

(3) Subsection (2) of this section, however, does not prohibit the department from:

(a) Disclosing tax information to any county assessor or county treasurer;

(b) Disclosing tax information in a civil or criminal judicial proceeding or an administrative proceeding in respect to taxes or penalties imposed under this title or Title 82 RCW or in respect to assessment or valuation for tax purposes of the property to which the information or facts relate;

(c) Disclosing tax information with the written permission of the taxpayer;

(d) Disclosing tax information to the proper officer of the tax department of any state responsible for the imposition or collection of property taxes, or for the valuation of property for tax purposes, if the other state grants substantially similar privileges to the proper officers of this state;

(e) Disclosing tax information that is also maintained by another Washington state or local governmental agency as a public record available for inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW or is a document maintained by a court of record not otherwise prohibited from disclosure;

(f) Disclosing tax information to a peace officer as defined in RCW 9A.04.110 or county prosecutor, for official purposes. The disclosure may be made only in response to a search warrant, subpoena, or other court order, unless the disclosure is for the purpose of criminal tax enforcement. A peace officer or county prosecutor who receives the tax information may disclose the tax information only for use in the investigation and a related court proceeding, or in the court proceeding for which the tax information originally was sought; or

(g) Disclosing information otherwise available under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(4) A violation of this section constitutes a gross misdemeanor. [2005 c 274 § 363; 1997 c 239 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

## Chapter 84.09 RCW GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Sections

84.09.010	Nomenclature—Taxes designated as taxes of year in which payable.
84.09.020	Abbreviations authorized.
84.09.030	Taxing district boundaries—Establishment.
84.09.035	Withdrawal of certain areas of a library district, metropolitan park district, fire protection district, or public hospital district—Date effective.
84.09.037	School district boundary changes.
84.09.040	Penalty for nonperformance of duty by county officers.
84.09.050	Fees and costs allowed in civil actions against county officers.
84.09.060	Property tax advisor.
84.09.070	Authority of operating agencies to levy taxes.

**84.09.010 Nomenclature—Taxes designated as taxes of year in which payable.** All annual taxes and assessments of real and personal property shall hereafter be known and designated as taxes and assessments of the year in which such taxes and assessments, or the initial installment thereof, shall become due and payable. [1961 c 15 § 84.09.010. Prior: 1939 c 136 § 2; RRS § 11112-2. Formerly RCW 84.08.150.]

**84.09.020 Abbreviations authorized.** In all proceedings relative to the levy, assessment or collection of taxes, and any entries required to be made by any officer or by the clerk of the court, letters, figures and characters may be used to denote townships, ranges, sections, parts of sections, lots or blocks, or parts thereof, the year or years for which taxes were due, and the amount of taxes, assessments, penalties, interest and costs. Whenever the abbreviation "do." or the character "'''" or any other similar abbreviations or characters shall be used in any such proceedings, they shall be construed and held as meaning and being the same name, word, initial, letters, abbreviations, figure or figures, as the last one preceding such "do." and "'''" or other similar characters. [1961 c 15 § 84.09.020. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 112, part; 1897 c 71 § 93, part; 1893 c 124 § 97, part; RRS § 11273, part. Formerly RCW 84.08.170.]

**84.09.030 Taxing district boundaries—Establishment.** (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this subsection (1), for the purposes of property taxation and the levy of property taxes, the boundaries of counties, cities, and all other taxing districts shall be the established official boundaries of such districts existing on the first day of August of the year in which the property tax levy is made.

(b) The boundaries for a newly incorporated port district or regional fire protection service authority shall be established on the first day of October if the boundaries of the newly incorporated port district or regional fire protection service authority are coterminous with the boundaries of another taxing district or districts, as they existed on the first day of August of that year.

(c) The boundaries of a school district that is required to receive or annex territory due to the dissolution of a financially insolvent school district under RCW 28A.315.225 must be the established official boundaries of such districts existing on the first day of September of the year in which the property tax levy is made.

(2) In any case where any instrument setting forth the official boundaries of any newly established taxing district, or setting forth any change in the boundaries, is required by law to be filed in the office of the county auditor or other county official, the instrument shall be filed in triplicate. The officer with whom the instrument is filed shall transmit two copies of the instrument to the county assessor.

(3) No property tax levy shall be made for any taxing district whose boundaries are not established as of the dates provided in this section. [2012 c 186 § 17; 2008 c 86 § 501; 2007 c 285 § 3; 2004 c 129 § 19; 1996 c 230 § 1613; 1994 c 292 § 4. Prior: 1989 c 378 § 8; 1989 c 217 § 1; prior: 1987 c 358 § 1; 1987 c 82 § 1; 1984 c 203 § 9; 1981 c 26 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 84.09.030; prior: 1951 c 116 § 1; 1949 c 65 § 1; 1943 c 182 § 1; 1939 c 136 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11106-1. Formerly RCW 84.08.160.]

**Effective date—2012 c 186:** See note following RCW 28A.315.025.

**Rule-making authority—2012 c 186:** See RCW 28A.315.902.

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

**Captions not law—Severability—2004 c 129:** See RCW 52.26.900 and 52.26.901.

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.09.035 Withdrawal of certain areas of a library district, metropolitan park district, fire protection district, or public hospital district—Date effective.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.09.030, the boundaries of a library district, metropolitan park district, fire protection district, or public hospital district that withdraws an area from its boundaries pursuant to RCW 27.12.355, 35.61.360, 52.04.056, or 70.44.235, which area has boundaries that are coterminous with the boundaries of a tax code area, shall be established as of the first day of October in the year in which the area is withdrawn. [1989 c 378 § 9; 1987 c 138 § 5.]

**84.09.037 School district boundary changes.** Each school district affected by a transfer of territory from one school district to another school district under chapter 28A.315 RCW shall retain its preexisting boundaries for the

purpose of the collection of excess tax levies authorized under RCW 84.52.053 before the effective date of the transfer, for such tax collection years and for such excess tax levies as the superintendent of public instruction may approve and order that the transferred territory shall either be subject to or relieved of such excess levies, as the case may be. For the purpose of all other excess tax levies previously authorized under chapter 84.52 RCW and all excess tax levies authorized under RCW 84.52.053 subsequent to the effective date of a transfer of territory, the boundaries of the affected school districts shall be modified to recognize the transfer of territory subject to RCW 84.09.030. [2006 c 263 § 615; 1990 c 33 § 597; 1987 c 100 § 3.]

**Findings—Purpose—Part headings not law—2006 c 263:** See notes following RCW 28A.150.230.

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

**84.09.040 Penalty for nonperformance of duty by county officers.** Every county auditor, county assessor and county treasurer who in any case refuses or knowingly neglects to perform any duty enjoined on him by this title, or who consents to or connives at any evasion of its provisions whereby any proceeding herein provided for is prevented or hindered, or whereby any property required to be listed for taxation is unlawfully exempted, or the valuation thereof is entered on the tax roll at less than its true taxable value, shall, for every such neglect, refusal, consent or connivance, forfeit and pay to the state not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, at the discretion of the court, to be recovered before any court of competent jurisdiction upon the complaint of any citizen who is a taxpayer; and the prosecuting attorney shall prosecute such suit to judgment and execution. [1961 c 15 § 84.09.040. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 109; 1897 c 71 § 89; 1893 c 124 § 92; RRS § 11270. Formerly RCW 84.56.410.]

**84.09.050 Fees and costs allowed in civil actions against county officers.** Whenever a civil action is commenced against any person holding the office of county treasurer, county auditor, or any other officer, for performing or attempting to perform any duty authorized or directed by any statute of this state for the collection of the public revenue, such treasurer, auditor or other officer may, in the discretion of the court before whom such action is brought, by an order made by such court and entered in the minutes thereof, be allowed and paid out of the county treasury, reasonable fees of counsel and other expenses for defending such action. [1961 c 15 § 84.09.050. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 110; 1897 c 71 § 90; 1893 c 124 § 93; RRS § 11271. Formerly RCW 84.56.420.]

**84.09.060 Property tax advisor.** See RCW 84.48.140.

**84.09.070 Authority of operating agencies to levy taxes.** Nothing in this title may be deemed to grant to any operating agency organized under chapter 43.52 RCW, or a project of any such operating agency, the authority to levy any tax or assessment not otherwise authorized by law. [1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 56.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**Chapter 84.12 RCW**  
**ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION OF**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Sections

84.12.200	Definitions.
84.12.210	Property used but not owned deemed sole operating property of owning company.
84.12.220	Jurisdiction to determine operating, nonoperating property.
84.12.230	Annual reports to be filed.
84.12.240	Access to books and records.
84.12.250	Depositions may be taken.
84.12.260	Default valuation by department of revenue—Penalty—Estoppel.
84.12.270	Annual assessment—Sources of information.
84.12.280	Classification of real and personal property.
84.12.300	Valuation of interstate utility—Apportionment of system value to state.
84.12.310	Deduction of nonoperating property.
84.12.320	Persons bound by notice.
84.12.330	Assessment roll—Notice of valuation.
84.12.340	Hearings on assessment, time and place of.
84.12.350	Apportionment of value by department of revenue.
84.12.360	Basis of apportionment.
84.12.370	Certification to county assessor—Entry upon tax rolls.
84.12.380	Assessment of nonoperating property.
84.12.390	Rules and regulations.

**84.12.200 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter and unless otherwise required by the context:

(1) "Department" without other designation means the department of revenue of the state of Washington.

(2) "Railroad company" means and includes any person owning or operating a railroad, street railway, suburban railroad or interurban railroad in this state, whether its line of railroad be maintained at the surface, or above or below the surface of the earth, or by whatever power its vehicles are transported; or owning any station, depot, terminal or bridge for railroad purposes, as owner, lessee or otherwise.

(3) "Airplane company" means and includes any person owning, controlling, operating or managing real or personal property, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the conveyance and transportation of persons and/or property by aircraft, and engaged in the business of transporting persons and/or property for compensation, as owner, lessee or otherwise.

(4) "Electric light and power company" means and includes any person owning, controlling, operating or managing real or personal property, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity in this state, and engaged in the business of furnishing, transmitting, distributing or generating electrical energy for light, heat or power for compensation as owner, lessee or otherwise.

(5) "Telegraph company" means and includes any person owning, controlling, operating or managing any telegraph or cable line in this state, with appliances for the transmission of messages, and engaged in the business of furnishing telegraph service for compensation, as owner, lessee or otherwise.

(6) "Telephone company" means and includes any person owning, controlling, operating or managing real or personal property, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the transmission of communication by telephone in this state \*through owned or controlled exchanges and/or

switchboards, and engaged in the business of furnishing telephonic communication for compensation as owner, lessee or otherwise.

(7) "Gas company" means and includes any person owning, controlling, operating or managing real or personal property, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the manufacture, transportation, or distribution of natural or manufactured gas in this state, and engaged for compensation in the business of furnishing gas for light, heat, power or other use, as owner, lessee or otherwise.

(8) "Pipe line company" means and includes any person owning, controlling, operating or managing real or personal property, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the conveyance or transportation of oils, natural or manufactured gas and/or other substances, except water, by pipe line in this state, and engaged in such business for compensation, as owner, lessee or otherwise.

(9) "Logging railroad company" means and includes any person owning, controlling, operating or managing real or personal property, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the conveyance and transportation of forest products by rail in this state, and engaged in the business of transporting forest products either as private carrier or carrier for hire.

(10) "Person" means and includes any individual, firm, copartnership, joint venture, association, corporation, trust, or any other group acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative or otherwise, and/or trustees or receivers appointed by any court.

(11) "Company" means and includes any railroad company, airplane company, electric light and power company, telegraph company, telephone company, gas company, pipe line company, or logging railroad company; and the term "companies" means and includes all of such companies.

(12) "Operating property" means and includes all property, real and personal, owned by any company, or held by it as occupant, lessee or otherwise, including all franchises and lands, buildings, rights-of-way, water powers, motor vehicles, wagons, horses, aircraft, aerodromes, hangars, office furniture, water mains, gas mains, pipe lines, pumping stations, tanks, tank farms, holders, reservoirs, telephone lines, telegraph lines, transmission and distribution lines, dams, generating plants, poles, wires, cables, conduits, switchboards, devices, appliances, instruments, equipment, machinery, landing slips, docks, roadbeds, tracks, terminals, rolling stock equipment, appurtenances and all other property of a like or different kind, situate within the state of Washington, used by the company in the conduct of its operations; and, in case of personal property used partly within and partly without the state, it means and includes a proportion of such personal property to be determined as in this chapter provided.

(13) "Nonoperating property" means all physical property owned by any company, other than that used during the preceding calendar year in the conduct of its operations. It includes all lands and/or buildings wholly used by any person other than the owning company. In cases where lands and/or buildings are used partially by the owning company in the conduct of its operations and partially by any other person not assessable under this chapter under lease, sublease, or other form of tenancy, the operating and nonoperating property of the company whose property is assessed hereunder shall be

determined by the department of revenue in such manner as will, in its judgment, secure the separate valuation of such operating and nonoperating property upon a fair and equitable basis. The amount of operating revenue received from tenants or occupants of property of the owning company shall not be considered material in determining the classification of such property. [1998 c 335 § 1; 1994 c 124 § 13; 1987 c 153 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 159; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.200. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 36; 1907 c 131 § 2; 1907 c 78 § 2; RRS § 11156-1. Formerly RCW 84.12.010 and 84.12.020, part.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Language was apparently modified during the publication process and has been restored.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.210 Property used but not owned deemed sole operating property of owning company.** Property used but not owned by an operating company shall, whether such use be exclusive or jointly with others, be deemed the sole operating property of the owning company. [1961 c 15 § 84.12.210. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 1, subdivision (19); RRS § 11156-1(19). Formerly RCW 84.12.020, part.]

**84.12.220 Jurisdiction to determine operating, non-operating property.** In all matters relating to assessment and taxation the department of revenue shall have jurisdiction to determine what is operating property and what is nonoperating property. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 160; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.220. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 2; RRS § 11156-2. Formerly RCW 84.12.020, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.230 Annual reports to be filed.** Each company doing business in this state shall annually on or before the 15th day of March, make and file with the department of revenue an annual report, in such manner, upon such form, and giving such information as the department may direct: PROVIDED, That the department, upon written request filed on or before such date and for good cause shown therein, may allow an extension of time for filing not to exceed sixty days. At the time of making such report each company shall also be required to furnish to the department the annual reports of the board of directors, or other officers to the stockholders of the company, duplicate copies of the annual reports made to the interstate commerce commission or its successor agency and to the utilities and transportation commission of this state and duplicate copies of such other reports as the department may direct: PROVIDED, That the duplicate copies of these annual reports shall not be due until such time as they are due to the stockholders or commissioners. [1998 c 311 § 12; 1984 c 132 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 161; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.230. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 3; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 39; 1907 c 131 § 5; 1907 c 78 § 5; 1897 c 71 § 40; 1893 c 124 § 40; 1891 c 140 § 27; 1890 p 541 § 27; RRS § 11156-3. Formerly RCW 84.12.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.240 Access to books and records.** The department of revenue shall have access to all books, papers, documents, statements and accounts on file or of record in any of the departments of the state; and it shall have the power to

issue subpoenas, signed by the director of the department or any duly authorized employee and served in a like manner as a subpoena issued from courts of record, to compel witnesses to appear and give evidence and to produce books and papers. The director of the department or any employee officially designated by the department is authorized to administer oaths to witnesses. The attendance of any witness may be compelled by attachment issued out of any superior court upon application to said court by the director or any duly authorized employee of the department, upon a proper showing that such witness has been duly served with a subpoena and has refused to appear before the said department. In case of the refusal of a witness to produce books, papers, documents, or accounts, or to give evidence on matters material to the hearing, the department may institute proceedings in the proper superior court to compel such witness to testify or to produce such books or papers, and to punish him for such failure or refusal. All process issued by the department shall be served by the sheriff of the proper county or by a duly authorized agent of the department and such service, if made by the sheriff, shall be certified by him to the department of revenue without any compensation therefor. Persons appearing before the department in obedience to a subpoena shall receive the same compensation as witnesses in the superior court. The records, books, accounts and papers of each company shall be subject to visitation, investigation or examination by the department, or any employee thereof officially designated by the department. All real and/or personal property of any company shall be subject to visitation, investigation, examination and/or listing at any and all times by the department, or any person officially designated by the director. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 162; 1973 c 95 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.240. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 4; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 37; 1907 c 131 § 3; 1907 c 78 § 3; RRS § 11156-4. Formerly RCW 84.12.080.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.250 Depositions may be taken.** The department of revenue, in any matter material to the valuation, assessment or taxation of the operating property of any company, may cause the deposition of witnesses residing without the state or absent therefrom, to be taken upon notice to the company interested in like manner as the depositions of witnesses are taken in civil actions in the superior court. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 163; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.250. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 5; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 38; 1907 c 131 § 4; 1907 c 78 § 4; RRS § 11156-5. Formerly RCW 84.12.090.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.260 Default valuation by department of revenue—Penalty—Estoppel.** (1) If any company shall fail to materially comply with the provisions of RCW 84.12.230, the department shall add to the value of such company, as a penalty for such failure, five percent for every thirty days or fraction thereof, not to exceed ten percent, that the company fails to comply.

(2) If any company, or any of its officers or agents shall refuse or neglect to make any report required by this chapter, or by the department of revenue, or shall refuse to permit an inspection and examination of its records, books, accounts, papers or property requested by the department of revenue, or

shall refuse or neglect to appear before the department of revenue in obedience to a subpoena, the department of revenue shall inform itself to the best of its ability of the matters required to be known, in order to discharge its duties with respect to valuation and assessment of the property of such company, and the department shall add to the value so ascertained twenty-five percent as a penalty for such failure or refusal and such company shall be estopped to question or impeach the assessment of the department in any hearing or proceeding thereafter. Such penalty shall be in lieu of the penalty provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The department shall waive or cancel the penalty imposed under subsection (1) of this section for good cause shown.

(4) The department shall waive or cancel the penalty imposed under subsection (1) of this section when the circumstances under which the failure to materially comply with the provisions of RCW 84.12.230 do not qualify for waiver or cancellation under subsection (3) of this section if:

(a) The company fully complies with the reporting provisions of RCW 84.12.230 within thirty days of the due date or any extension granted by the department; and

(b) The company has timely complied with the provisions of RCW 84.12.230 for the previous two calendar years. The requirement that a company has timely complied with the provisions of RCW 84.12.230 for the previous two calendar years is waived for any calendar year in which the company was not required to comply with the provisions of RCW 84.12.230. [2007 c 111 § 201; 1984 c 132 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 164; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.260. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 6; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 41; 1907 c 131 § 7; 1907 c 78 § 6; 1891 c 140 § 37; 1890 p 544 § 36; RRS § 11156-6. Formerly RCW 84.12.100.]

**Application—2007 c 111 §§ 201 and 202:** "Sections 201 and 202 of this act apply with respect to annual reports and annual statements originally due on or after July 22, 2007." [2007 c 111 § 203.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.270 Annual assessment—Sources of information.** The department of revenue shall annually make an assessment of the operating property of all companies; and between the fifteenth day of March and the first day of July of each year shall prepare an assessment roll upon which it shall enter and assess the true and fair value of all the operating property of each of such companies as of the first day of January of the year in which the assessment is made. For the purpose of determining the true and fair value of such property the department of revenue may inspect the property belonging to said companies and may take into consideration any information or knowledge obtained by it from such examination and inspection of such property, or of the books, records, and accounts of such companies, the statements filed as required by this chapter, the reports, statements, or returns of such companies filed in the office of any board, office, or commission of this state or any county thereof, the earnings and earning power of such companies, the franchises owned or used by such companies, the true and fair valuation of any and all property of such companies, whether operating or nonoperating property, and whether situated within or out-

side the state, and any other facts, evidence, or information that may be obtainable bearing upon the value of the operating property: PROVIDED, That in no event shall any statement or report required from any company by this chapter be conclusive upon the department of revenue in determining the amount, character, and true and fair value of the operating property of such company. [2001 c 187 § 3; 1997 c 3 § 113 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 20; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 165; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.270. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 19; 1935 c 123 § 7; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 43; 1907 c 131 § 8; 1907 c 78 § 7; 1891 c 140 §§ 28-31; 1890 p 541 §§ 26-33; RRS § 11156-7. Formerly RCW 84.12.040.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.280 Classification of real and personal property.** In making the assessment of the operating property of any railroad or logging railroad company and in the apportionment of the values and the taxation thereof, all land occupied and claimed exclusively as the right-of-way for railroads, with all the tracks and substructures and superstructures which support the same, together with all side tracks, second tracks, turn-outs, station houses, depots, round houses, machine shops, or other buildings belonging to the company, used in the operation thereof, without separating the same into land and improvements, shall be assessed as real property. And the rolling stock and other movable property belonging to any railroad or logging railroad company shall be considered as personal property and taxed as such: PROVIDED, That all of the operating property of street railway companies shall be assessed and taxed as personal property.

All of the operating property of airplane companies, telegraph companies, pipe line companies, and all of the operating property other than lands and buildings of electric light and power companies, telephone companies, and gas companies shall be assessed and taxed as personal property. [2001 c 187 § 4; 1998 c 335 § 2; 1997 c 3 § 114 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1987 c 153 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.280. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 8; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 44; 1907 c 78 § 8; 1891 c 140 §§ 28-31; 1890 p 541 §§ 26-33; RRS § 11156-8. Formerly RCW 84.12.050.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.300 Valuation of interstate utility—Apportionment of system value to state.** In determining the value of the operating property within this state of any company, the properties of which lie partly within and partly without this state, the department of revenue may, among other things, take into consideration the value of the whole system as a unit, and for such purpose may determine, insofar as the same is reasonably ascertainable, the salvage value, the actual cost new, the cost of reproduction new less depreciation and plus appreciation, the par value, actual value and market value of the company's outstanding stocks and bonds during one or more preceding years, the past, present and prospective gross and net earnings of the whole system as a unit.

In apportioning such system value to the state, the department of revenue shall consider relative costs, relative reproduction cost, relative future prospects and relative track mileage and the distribution of terminal properties within and

without the state and such other matters and things as the department may deem pertinent.

The department may also take into consideration the actual cost, cost of reproduction new, and cost of reproduction new less depreciation, earning capacity and future prospects of the property, located within the state and all other matters and things deemed pertinent by the department of revenue. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 166; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.300. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 9; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 44; 1907 c 78 § 8; RRS § 11156-9. Formerly RCW 84.12.060.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.310 Deduction of nonoperating property.** For the purpose of determining the system value of the operating property of any such company, the department of revenue shall deduct from the true and fair value of the total assets of such company, the actual cash value of all nonoperating property owned by such company. For such purpose the department of revenue may require of the assessors of the various counties within this state a detailed list of such company's properties assessed by them, together with the assessable or assessed value thereof: PROVIDED, That such assessed or assessable value shall be advisory only and not conclusive on the department of revenue as to the value thereof. [2001 c 187 § 5; 1997 c 3 § 115 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 21; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 167; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.310. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 10; RRS § 11156-10. Formerly RCW 84.12.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.320 Persons bound by notice.** Every person, company or companies operating any property in this state as defined in this chapter shall be the representative of every title and interest in the property as owner, lessee or otherwise, and notice to such person shall be notice to all interests in the property for the purpose of assessment and taxation. The assessment and taxation of the property of the company in the name of the owner, lessee or operating company shall be deemed and held an assessment and taxation of all the title and interest in such property of every kind and nature. [1961 c 15 § 84.12.320. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 11; RRS § 11156-11. Formerly RCW 84.12.120.]

**84.12.330 Assessment roll—Notice of valuation.** Upon the assessment roll shall be placed after the name of each company a general description of the operating property of the company, which shall be considered sufficient if described in the language of RCW 84.12.200(12), as applied to the company, following which shall be entered the true and fair value of the operating property as determined by the department of revenue. No assessment shall be invalidated by reason of a mistake in the name of the company assessed, or the omission of the name of the owner or by the entry as owner of a name other than that of the true owner. When the department of revenue shall have prepared the assessment roll and entered thereon the true and fair value of the operating property of the company, as herein required, it shall notify the company by mail of the valuation determined by it and entered upon the roll. [2001 c 187 § 6; 1998 c 335 § 3; 1997 c 3 § 116 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 22; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 168;

(2012 Ed.)

1961 c 15 § 84.12.330. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 12; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 44; 1907 c 78 § 8; 1891 c 140 § 35; 1890 p 543 § 35; RRS § 11156-12. Formerly RCW 84.12.110.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.340 Hearings on assessment, time and place of.** Following the making of an assessment, every company may present a motion for a hearing on the assessment with the department of revenue within the first ten working days of July. The hearing on this motion shall be held within ten working days following the hearing request period. During this hearing, the company may present evidence relating to the value of its operating property and to the value of other taxable property in the counties in which its operating property is situate. Upon request in writing for such hearing, the department shall appoint a time and place therefor, within the period aforesaid, the hearing to be conducted in such manner as the department shall direct. Hearings provided for in this section may be held at such times and in such places throughout the state as the department may deem proper or necessary, may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place and may be conducted by the department of revenue or by such member or members thereof as may be duly delegated to act for it. Testimony taken at this hearing shall be recorded. [1994 c 124 § 14; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 169; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.340. Prior: 1953 c 162 § 1; 1939 c 206 § 20; 1935 c 123 § 13; RRS § 11156-13. Formerly RCW 84.12.130.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.350 Apportionment of value by department of revenue.** Upon determination by the department of revenue of the true and fair value of the property appearing on such rolls it shall apportion such value to the respective counties entitled thereto, as hereinafter provided, and shall determine the equalized assessed valuation of such property in each such county and in the several taxing districts therein, by applying to such actual apportioned value the same ratio as the ratio of assessed to actual value of the general property in such county: PROVIDED, That, whenever the amount of the true and fair value of the operating property of any company otherwise apportionable to any county or other taxing district shall be less than two hundred fifty dollars, such amount need not be apportioned to such county or taxing district but may be added to the amount apportioned to an adjacent county or taxing district. [2001 c 187 § 7; 1997 c 3 § 117 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 23; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 17; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.350. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 21; 1935 c 123 § 14; RRS § 11156-14. Formerly RCW 84.12.140.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.360 Basis of apportionment.** The true and fair value of the operating property assessed to a company, as fixed and determined by the department of revenue, shall be apportioned by the department of revenue to the respective counties and to the taxing districts thereof wherein such property is located in the following manner:

(1) Property of all railroad companies other than street railroad companies, telegraph companies and pipe line companies—upon the basis of that proportion of the value of the

total operating property within the state which the mileage of track, as classified by the department of revenue (in case of railroads), mileage of wire (in the case of telegraph companies), and mileage of pipe line (in the case of pipe line companies) within each county or taxing district bears to the total mileage thereof within the state, at the end of the calendar year last past. For the purpose of such apportionment the department may classify railroad track.

(2) Property of street railroad companies, telephone companies, electric light and power companies, and gas companies—upon the basis of relative value of the operating property within each county and taxing district to the value of the total operating property within the state to be determined by such factors as the department of revenue shall deem proper.

(3) Planes or other aircraft of airplane companies—upon the basis of such factor or factors of allocation, to be determined by the department of revenue, as will secure a substantially fair and equitable division between counties and other taxing districts.

All other property of airplane companies—upon the basis set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

The basis of apportionment with reference to all public utility companies above prescribed shall not be deemed exclusive and the department of revenue in apportioning values of such companies may also take into consideration such other information, facts, circumstances, or allocation factors as will enable it to make a substantially just and correct valuation of the operating property of such companies within the state and within each county thereof. [2001 c 187 § 8; 1998 c 335 § 4; 1997 c 3 § 118 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 24; 1987 c 153 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 170; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.360. Prior: 1955 c 120 § 1; 1935 c 123 § 15; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 47; 1917 c 25 § 1; 1907 c 78 § 11; 1891 c 140 § 33; 1890 p 541 § 30; RRS § 11156-15. Formerly RCW 84.12.150.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.370 Certification to county assessor—Entry upon tax rolls.** When the department of revenue shall have determined the equalized assessed value of the operating property of each company in each of the respective counties and in the taxing districts thereof, as hereinabove provided, the department of revenue shall certify such equalized assessed value to the county assessor of the proper county. The county assessor shall enter the company's real operating property upon the real property tax rolls and the company's personal operating property upon the personal property tax rolls of the county, together with the values so apportioned, and the same shall be and constitute the assessed valuation of the operating property of the company in such county and the taxing districts therein for that year, upon which taxes shall be levied and collected in the same manner as on the general property of such county. [1994 c 301 § 25; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 171; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.370. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 16; RRS § 11156-16. Formerly RCW 84.12.160.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.12.380 Assessment of nonoperating property.** All property of any company not assessed as operating property under the provisions of this chapter shall be assessed by the

assessor of the county wherein the same may be located or situate the same as the general property of the county. [1961 c 15 § 84.12.380. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 17; 1891 c 140 § 34; 1890 p 542 § 33; RRS § 11156-17. Formerly RCW 84.12.180.]

**84.12.390 Rules and regulations.** The department of revenue shall have the power to make such rules and regulations, not inconsistent herewith, as may be convenient and necessary to enforce and carry out the provisions of this chapter. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 172; 1961 c 15 § 84.12.390. Prior: 1935 c 123 § 18; RRS § 11156-18. Formerly RCW 84.08.070, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### Chapter 84.14 RCW NEW AND REHABILITATED MULTIPLE-UNIT DWELLINGS IN URBAN CENTERS

#### Sections

84.14.005	Findings.
84.14.007	Purpose.
84.14.010	Definitions.
84.14.020	Exemption—Duration—Valuation.
84.14.030	Application—Requirements.
84.14.040	Designation of residential targeted area—Criteria—Local designation—Hearing—Standards, guidelines.
84.14.050	Application—Procedures.
84.14.060	Approval—Required findings.
84.14.070	Processing—Approval—Denial—Appeal.
84.14.080	Fees.
84.14.090	Filing requirements for owner upon completion—Determination by city or county—Notice of intention by city or county not to file—Extension of deadline—Appeal.
84.14.100	Report—Filing.
84.14.110	Cancellation of exemption—Notice by owner of change in use—Additional tax—Penalty—Interest—Lien—Notice of cancellation—Appeal—Correction of tax rolls.
84.14.900	Severability—1995 c 375.

*New and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers: RCW 84.14.020.*

**84.14.005 Findings.** The legislature finds:

(1) That in many of Washington's urban centers there is insufficient availability of desirable and convenient residential units, including affordable housing units, to meet the needs of a growing number of the public who would live in these urban centers if these desirable, convenient, attractive, affordable, and livable places to live were available;

(2) That the development of additional and desirable residential units, including affordable housing units, in these urban centers that will attract and maintain a significant increase in the number of permanent residents in these areas will help to alleviate the detrimental conditions and social liability that tend to exist in the absence of a viable mixed income residential population and will help to achieve the planning goals mandated by the growth management act under RCW 36.70A.020; and

(3) That planning solutions to solve the problems of urban sprawl often lack incentive and implementation techniques needed to encourage residential redevelopment in those urban centers lacking a sufficient variety of residential opportunities, and it is in the public interest and will benefit, provide, and promote the public health, safety, and welfare to stimulate new or enhanced residential opportunities, including affordable housing opportunities, within urban centers

through a tax incentive as provided by this chapter. [2007 c 430 § 1; 1995 c 375 § 1.]

**84.14.007 Purpose.** It is the purpose of this chapter to encourage increased residential opportunities, including affordable housing opportunities, in cities that are required to plan or choose to plan under the growth management act within urban centers where the governing authority of the affected city has found there is insufficient housing opportunities, including affordable housing opportunities. It is further the purpose of this chapter to stimulate the construction of new multifamily housing and the rehabilitation of existing vacant and underutilized buildings for multifamily housing in urban centers having insufficient housing opportunities that will increase and improve residential opportunities, including affordable housing opportunities, within these urban centers. To achieve these purposes, this chapter provides for special valuations in residentially deficient urban centers for eligible improvements associated with multiunit housing, which includes affordable housing. It is an additional purpose of this chapter to allow certain counties to stimulate housing opportunities near college campuses to promote dense, transit-oriented, walkable college communities. [2012 c 194 § 1; 2007 c 430 § 2; 1995 c 375 § 2.]

**84.14.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Affordable housing" means residential housing that is rented by a person or household whose monthly housing costs, including utilities other than telephone, do not exceed thirty percent of the household's monthly income. For the purposes of housing intended for owner occupancy, "affordable housing" means residential housing that is within the means of low or moderate-income households.

(2) "Campus facilities master plan" means the area that is defined by the University of Washington as necessary for the future growth and development of its campus facilities for branch campuses authorized under RCW 28B.45.020.

(3) "City" means either (a) a city or town with a population of at least fifteen thousand, (b) the largest city or town, if there is no city or town with a population of at least fifteen thousand, located in a county planning under the growth management act, or (c) a city or town with a population of at least five thousand located in a county subject to the provisions of RCW 36.70A.215.

(4) "County" means a county with an unincorporated population of at least three hundred fifty thousand.

(5) "Governing authority" means the local legislative authority of a city or a county having jurisdiction over the property for which an exemption may be applied for under this chapter.

(6) "Growth management act" means chapter 36.70A RCW.

(7) "High cost area" means a county where the third quarter median house price for the previous year as reported by the Washington center for real estate research at Washington State University is equal to or greater than one hundred thirty percent of the statewide median house price published during the same time period.

(8) "Household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together.

(9) "Low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is at or below eighty percent of the median family income adjusted for family size, for the county where the project is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development. For cities located in high-cost areas, "low-income household" means a household that has an income at or below one hundred percent of the median family income adjusted for family size, for the county where the project is located.

(10) "Moderate-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is more than eighty percent but is at or below one hundred fifteen percent of the median family income adjusted for family size, for the county where the project is located, as reported by the United States department of housing and urban development. For cities located in high-cost areas, "moderate-income household" means a household that has an income that is more than one hundred percent, but at or below one hundred fifty percent, of the median family income adjusted for family size, for the county where the project is located.

(11) "Multiple-unit housing" means a building having four or more dwelling units not designed or used as transient accommodations and not including hotels and motels. Multifamily units may result from new construction or rehabilitated or conversion of vacant, underutilized, or substandard buildings to multifamily housing.

(12) "Owner" means the property owner of record.

(13) "Permanent residential occupancy" means multiunit housing that provides either rental or owner occupancy on a nontransient basis. This includes owner-occupied or rental accommodation that is leased for a period of at least one month. This excludes hotels and motels that predominately offer rental accommodation on a daily or weekly basis.

(14) "Rehabilitation improvements" means modifications to existing structures, that are vacant for twelve months or longer, that are made to achieve a condition of substantial compliance with existing building codes or modification to existing occupied structures which increase the number of multifamily housing units.

(15) "Residential targeted area" means an area within an urban center that has been designated by the governing authority as a residential targeted area in accordance with this chapter. With respect to designations after July 1, 2007, "residential targeted area" may not include a campus facilities master plan.

(16) "Substantial compliance" means compliance with local building or housing code requirements that are typically required for rehabilitation as opposed to new construction.

(17) "Urban center" means a compact identifiable district where urban residents may obtain a variety of products and services. An urban center must contain:

(a) Several existing or previous, or both, business establishments that may include but are not limited to shops, offices, banks, restaurants, governmental agencies;

(b) Adequate public facilities including streets, sidewalks, lighting, transit, domestic water, and sanitary sewer systems; and

(c) A mixture of uses and activities that may include housing, recreation, and cultural activities in association with either commercial or office, or both, use. [2012 c 194 § 2. Prior: 2007 c 430 § 3; 2007 c 185 § 1; 2002 c 146 § 1; 2000 c 242 § 1; 1997 c 429 § 40; 1995 c 375 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—2007 c 185:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 185 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.14.020 Exemption—Duration—Valuation.** (1)(a) The value of new housing construction, conversion, and rehabilitation improvements qualifying under this chapter is exempt from ad valorem property taxation, as follows:

(i) For properties for which applications for certificates of tax exemption eligibility are submitted under chapter 84.14 RCW before July 22, 2007, the value is exempt for ten successive years beginning January 1 of the year immediately following the calendar year of issuance of the certificate; and

(ii) For properties for which applications for certificates of tax exemption eligibility are submitted under chapter 84.14 RCW on or after July 22, 2007, the value is exempt:

(A) For eight successive years beginning January 1st of the year immediately following the calendar year of issuance of the certificate; or

(B) For twelve successive years beginning January 1st of the year immediately following the calendar year of issuance of the certificate, if the property otherwise qualifies for the exemption under chapter 84.14 RCW and meets the conditions in this subsection (1)(a)(ii)(B). For the property to qualify for the twelve-year exemption under this subsection, the applicant must commit to renting or selling at least twenty percent of the multifamily housing units as affordable housing units to low and moderate-income households, and the property must satisfy that commitment and any additional affordability and income eligibility conditions adopted by the local government under this chapter. In the case of projects intended exclusively for owner occupancy, the minimum requirement of this subsection (1)(a)(ii)(B) may be satisfied solely through housing affordable to moderate-income households.

(b) The exemptions provided in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection do not include the value of land or nonhousing-related improvements not qualifying under this chapter.

(2) When a local government adopts guidelines pursuant to RCW 84.14.030(2) and includes conditions that must be satisfied with respect to individual dwelling units, rather than with respect to the multiple-unit housing as a whole or some minimum portion thereof, the exemption may, at the local government's discretion, be limited to the value of the qualifying improvements allocable to those dwelling units that meet the local guidelines.

(3) In the case of rehabilitation of existing buildings, the exemption does not include the value of improvements constructed prior to the submission of the application required under this chapter. The incentive provided by this chapter is in addition to any other incentives, tax credits, grants, or other incentives provided by law.

(4) This chapter does not apply to increases in assessed valuation made by the assessor on nonqualifying portions of building and value of land nor to increases made by lawful order of a county board of equalization, the department of revenue, or a county, to a class of property throughout the county or specific area of the county to achieve the uniformity of assessment or appraisal required by law.

(5) At the conclusion of the exemption period, the new or rehabilitated housing cost shall be considered as new construction for the purposes of chapter 84.55 RCW. [2007 c 430 § 4; 2002 c 146 § 2; 1999 c 132 § 1; 1995 c 375 § 5.]

**84.14.030 Application—Requirements.** An owner of property making application under this chapter must meet the following requirements:

(1) The new or rehabilitated multiple-unit housing must be located in a residential targeted area as designated by the city or county;

(2) The multiple-unit housing must meet guidelines as adopted by the governing authority that may include height, density, public benefit features, number and size of proposed development, parking, income limits for occupancy, limits on rents or sale prices, and other adopted requirements indicated necessary by the city or county. The required amenities should be relative to the size of the project and tax benefit to be obtained;

(3) The new, converted, or rehabilitated multiple-unit housing must provide for a minimum of fifty percent of the space for permanent residential occupancy. In the case of existing occupied multifamily development, the multifamily housing must also provide for a minimum of four additional multifamily units. Existing multifamily vacant housing that has been vacant for twelve months or more does not have to provide additional multifamily units;

(4) New construction multifamily housing and rehabilitation improvements must be completed within three years from the date of approval of the application;

(5) Property proposed to be rehabilitated must fail to comply with one or more standards of the applicable state or local building or housing codes on or after July 23, 1995. If the property proposed to be rehabilitated is not vacant, an applicant must provide each existing tenant housing of comparable size, quality, and price and a reasonable opportunity to relocate; and

(6) The applicant must enter into a contract with the city or county approved by the governing authority, or an administrative official or commission authorized by the governing authority, under which the applicant has agreed to the implementation of the development on terms and conditions satisfactory to the governing authority. [2012 c 194 § 3; 2007 c 430 § 5; 2005 c 80 § 1; 1997 c 429 § 42; 1995 c 375 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.14.040 Designation of residential targeted area—Criteria—Local designation—Hearing—Standards, guidelines.** (1) The following criteria must be met before an area may be designated as a residential targeted area:

(a) The area must be within an urban center, as determined by the governing authority;

(b) The area must lack, as determined by the governing authority, sufficient available, desirable, and convenient resi-

dential housing, including affordable housing, to meet the needs of the public who would be likely to live in the urban center, if the affordable, desirable, attractive, and livable places to live were available;

(c) The providing of additional housing opportunity, including affordable housing, in the area, as determined by the governing authority, will assist in achieving one or more of the stated purposes of this chapter; and

(d) If the residential targeted area is designated by a county, the area must be located in an unincorporated area of the county that is within an urban growth area under RCW 36.70A.110 and the area must include a campus of an institution of higher education, as defined in RCW 28B.92.030, where at least one thousand two hundred students live on campus during the academic year.

(2) For the purpose of designating a residential targeted area or areas, the governing authority may adopt a resolution of intention to so designate an area as generally described in the resolution. The resolution must state the time and place of a hearing to be held by the governing authority to consider the designation of the area and may include such other information pertaining to the designation of the area as the governing authority determines to be appropriate to apprise the public of the action intended.

(3) The governing authority must give notice of a hearing held under this chapter by publication of the notice once each week for two consecutive weeks, not less than seven days, nor more than thirty days before the date of the hearing in a paper having a general circulation in the city or county where the proposed residential targeted area is located. The notice must state the time, date, place, and purpose of the hearing and generally identify the area proposed to be designated as a residential targeted area.

(4) Following the hearing, or a continuance of the hearing, the governing authority may designate all or a portion of the area described in the resolution of intent as a residential targeted area if it finds, in its sole discretion, that the criteria in subsections (1) through (3) of this section have been met.

(5) After designation of a residential targeted area, the governing authority must adopt and implement standards and guidelines to be utilized in considering applications and making the determinations required under RCW 84.14.060. The standards and guidelines must establish basic requirements for both new construction and rehabilitation, which must include:

- (a) Application process and procedures;
- (b) Requirements that address demolition of existing structures and site utilization; and
- (c) Building requirements that may include elements addressing parking, height, density, environmental impact, and compatibility with the existing surrounding property and such other amenities as will attract and keep permanent residents and that will properly enhance the livability of the residential targeted area in which they are to be located.

(6) The governing authority may adopt and implement, either as conditions to eight-year exemptions or as conditions to an extended exemption period under RCW 84.14.020(1)(a)(ii)(B), or both, more stringent income eligibility, rent, or sale price limits, including limits that apply to a higher percentage of units, than the minimum conditions for an extended exemption period under RCW

(2012 Ed.)

84.14.020(1)(a)(ii)(B). For any multiunit housing located in an unincorporated area of a county, a property owner seeking tax incentives under this chapter must commit to renting or selling at least twenty percent of the multifamily housing units as affordable housing units to low and moderate-income households. In the case of multiunit housing intended exclusively for owner occupancy, the minimum requirement of this subsection (6) may be satisfied solely through housing affordable to moderate-income households. [2012 c 194 § 4; 2007 c 430 § 6; 1995 c 375 § 7.]

**84.14.050 Application—Procedures.** An owner of property seeking tax incentives under this chapter must complete the following procedures:

(1) In the case of rehabilitation or where demolition or new construction is required, the owner must secure from the governing authority or duly authorized representative, before commencement of rehabilitation improvements or new construction, verification of property noncompliance with applicable building and housing codes;

(2) In the case of new and rehabilitated multifamily housing, the owner must apply to the city or county on forms adopted by the governing authority. The application must contain the following:

(a) Information setting forth the grounds supporting the requested exemption including information indicated on the application form or in the guidelines;

(b) A description of the project and site plan, including the floor plan of units and other information requested;

(c) A statement that the applicant is aware of the potential tax liability involved when the property ceases to be eligible for the incentive provided under this chapter;

(3) The applicant must verify the application by oath or affirmation; and

(4) The application must be accompanied by the application fee, if any, required under RCW 84.14.080. The governing authority may permit the applicant to revise an application before final action by the governing authority. [2012 c 194 § 5; 2007 c 430 § 7; 1999 c 132 § 2; 1997 c 429 § 43; 1995 c 375 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.14.060 Approval—Required findings.** (1) The duly authorized administrative official or committee of the city or county may approve the application if it finds that:

(a) A minimum of four new units are being constructed or in the case of occupied rehabilitation or conversion a minimum of four additional multifamily units are being developed;

(b) If applicable, the proposed multiunit housing project meets the affordable housing requirements as described in RCW 84.14.020;

(c) The proposed project is or will be, at the time of completion, in conformance with all local plans and regulations that apply at the time the application is approved;

(d) The owner has complied with all standards and guidelines adopted by the city or county under this chapter; and

(e) The site is located in a residential targeted area of an urban center that has been designated by the governing

authority in accordance with procedures and guidelines indicated in RCW 84.14.040.

(2) An application may not be approved after July 1, 2007, if any part of the proposed project site is within a campus facilities master plan, except as provided in RCW 84.14.040(1)(d). [2012 c 194 § 6. Prior: 2007 c 430 § 8; 2007 c 185 § 2; 1995 c 375 § 9.]

**Effective date—2007 c 185:** See note following RCW 84.14.010.

**84.14.070 Processing—Approval—Denial—Appeal.**

(1) The governing authority or an administrative official or commission authorized by the governing authority must approve or deny an application filed under this chapter within ninety days after receipt of the application.

(2) If the application is approved, the city or county must issue the owner of the property a conditional certificate of acceptance of tax exemption. The certificate must contain a statement by a duly authorized administrative official of the governing authority that the property has complied with the required findings indicated in RCW 84.14.060.

(3) If the application is denied by the authorized administrative official or commission authorized by the governing authority, the deciding administrative official or commission must state in writing the reasons for denial and send the notice to the applicant at the applicant's last known address within ten days of the denial.

(4) Upon denial by a duly authorized administrative official or commission, an applicant may appeal the denial to the governing authority within thirty days after receipt of the denial. The appeal before the governing authority must be based upon the record made before the administrative official with the burden of proof on the applicant to show that there was no substantial evidence to support the administrative official's decision. The decision of the governing body in denying or approving the application is final. [2012 c 194 § 7; 1995 c 375 § 10.]

**84.14.080 Fees.** The governing authority may establish an application fee. This fee may not exceed an amount determined to be required to cover the cost to be incurred by the governing authority and the assessor in administering this chapter. The application fee must be paid at the time the application for limited exemption is filed. If the application is approved, the governing authority shall pay the application fee to the county assessor for deposit in the county current expense fund, after first deducting that portion of the fee attributable to its own administrative costs in processing the application. If the application is denied, the governing authority may retain that portion of the application fee attributable to its own administrative costs and refund the balance to the applicant. [1995 c 375 § 11.]

**84.14.090 Filing requirements for owner upon completion—Determination by city or county—Notice of intention by city or county not to file—Extension of deadline—Appeal.** (1) Upon completion of rehabilitation or new construction for which an application for a limited tax exemption under this chapter has been approved and after issuance of the certificate of occupancy, the owner must file with the city or county the following:

(a) A statement of the amount of rehabilitation or construction expenditures made with respect to each housing unit and the composite expenditures made in the rehabilitation or construction of the entire property;

(b) A description of the work that has been completed and a statement that the rehabilitation improvements or new construction on the owner's property qualify the property for limited exemption under this chapter;

(c) If applicable, a statement that the project meets the affordable housing requirements as described in RCW 84.14.020; and

(d) A statement that the work has been completed within three years of the issuance of the conditional certificate of tax exemption.

(2) Within thirty days after receipt of the statements required under subsection (1) of this section, the authorized representative of the city or county must determine whether the work completed, and the affordability of the units, is consistent with the application and the contract approved by the city or county and is qualified for a limited tax exemption under this chapter. The city or county must also determine which specific improvements completed meet the requirements and required findings.

(3) If the rehabilitation, conversion, or construction is completed within three years of the date the application for a limited tax exemption is filed under this chapter, or within an authorized extension of this time limit, and the authorized representative of the city or county determines that improvements were constructed consistent with the application and other applicable requirements, including if applicable, affordable housing requirements, and the owner's property is qualified for a limited tax exemption under this chapter, the city or county must file the certificate of tax exemption with the county assessor within ten days of the expiration of the thirty-day period provided under subsection (2) of this section.

(4) The authorized representative of the city or county must notify the applicant that a certificate of tax exemption is not going to be filed if the authorized representative determines that:

(a) The rehabilitation or new construction was not completed within three years of the application date, or within any authorized extension of the time limit;

(b) The improvements were not constructed consistent with the application or other applicable requirements;

(c) If applicable, the affordable housing requirements as described in RCW 84.14.020 were not met; or

(d) The owner's property is otherwise not qualified for limited exemption under this chapter.

(5) If the authorized representative of the city or county finds that construction or rehabilitation of multiple-unit housing was not completed within the required time period due to circumstances beyond the control of the owner and that the owner has been acting and could reasonably be expected to act in good faith and with due diligence, the governing authority or the city or county official authorized by the governing authority may extend the deadline for completion of construction or rehabilitation for a period not to exceed twenty-four consecutive months.

(6) The governing authority may provide by ordinance for an appeal of a decision by the deciding officer or authority

that an owner is not entitled to a certificate of tax exemption to the governing authority, a hearing examiner, or other city or county officer authorized by the governing authority to hear the appeal in accordance with such reasonable procedures and time periods as provided by ordinance of the governing authority. The owner may appeal a decision by the deciding officer or authority that is not subject to local appeal or a decision by the local appeal authority that the owner is not entitled to a certificate of tax exemption in superior court under RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598, if the appeal is filed within thirty days of notification by the city or county to the owner of the decision being challenged. [2012 c 194 § 8; 2007 c 430 § 9; 1995 c 375 § 12.]

**84.14.100 Report—Filing.** (1) Thirty days after the anniversary of the date of the certificate of tax exemption and each year for the tax exemption period, the owner of the rehabilitated or newly constructed property must file with a designated authorized representative of the city or county an annual report indicating the following:

(a) A statement of occupancy and vacancy of the rehabilitated or newly constructed property during the twelve months ending with the anniversary date;

(b) A certification by the owner that the property has not changed use and, if applicable, that the property has been in compliance with the affordable housing requirements as described in RCW 84.14.020 since the date of the certificate approved by the city or county;

(c) A description of changes or improvements constructed after issuance of the certificate of tax exemption; and

(d) Any additional information requested by the city or county in regards to the units receiving a tax exemption.

(2) All cities or counties, which issue certificates of tax exemption for multiunit housing that conform to the requirements of this chapter, must report annually by December 31st of each year, beginning in 2007, to the department of commerce. The report must include the following information:

(a) The number of tax exemption certificates granted;

(b) The total number and type of units produced or to be produced;

(c) The number and type of units produced or to be produced meeting affordable housing requirements;

(d) The actual development cost of each unit produced;

(e) The total monthly rent or total sale amount of each unit produced;

(f) The income of each renter household at the time of initial occupancy and the income of each initial purchaser of owner-occupied units at the time of purchase for each of the units receiving a tax exemption and a summary of these figures for the city or county; and

(g) The value of the tax exemption for each project receiving a tax exemption and the total value of tax exemptions granted. [2012 c 194 § 9; 2007 c 430 § 10; 1995 c 375 § 13.]

**84.14.110 Cancellation of exemption—Notice by owner of change in use—Additional tax—Penalty—Interest—Lien—Notice of cancellation—Appeal—Correction of tax rolls.** (1) If improvements have been exempted under this chapter, the improvements continue to be exempted for the applicable period under RCW 84.14.020, so long as they

are not converted to another use and continue to satisfy all applicable conditions. If the owner intends to convert the multifamily development to another use, or if applicable, if the owner intends to discontinue compliance with the affordable housing requirements as described in RCW 84.14.020 or any other condition to exemption, the owner must notify the assessor within sixty days of the change in use or intended discontinuance. If, after a certificate of tax exemption has been filed with the county assessor, the authorized representative of the governing authority discovers that a portion of the property is changed or will be changed to a use that is other than residential or that housing or amenities no longer meet the requirements, including, if applicable, affordable housing requirements, as previously approved or agreed upon by contract between the city or county and the owner and that the multifamily housing, or a portion of the housing, no longer qualifies for the exemption, the tax exemption must be canceled and the following must occur:

(a) Additional real property tax must be imposed upon the value of the nonqualifying improvements in the amount that would normally be imposed, plus a penalty must be imposed amounting to twenty percent. This additional tax is calculated based upon the difference between the property tax paid and the property tax that would have been paid if it had included the value of the nonqualifying improvements dated back to the date that the improvements were converted to a nonmultifamily use;

(b) The tax must include interest upon the amounts of the additional tax at the same statutory rate charged on delinquent property taxes from the dates on which the additional tax could have been paid without penalty if the improvements had been assessed at a value without regard to this chapter; and

(c) The additional tax owed together with interest and penalty must become a lien on the land and attach at the time the property or portion of the property is removed from multifamily use or the amenities no longer meet applicable requirements, and has priority to and must be fully paid and satisfied before a recognizance, mortgage, judgment, debt, obligation, or responsibility to or with which the land may become charged or liable. The lien may be foreclosed upon expiration of the same period after delinquency and in the same manner provided by law for foreclosure of liens for delinquent real property taxes. An additional tax unpaid on its due date is delinquent. From the date of delinquency until paid, interest must be charged at the same rate applied by law to delinquent ad valorem property taxes.

(2) Upon a determination that a tax exemption is to be canceled for a reason stated in this section, the governing authority or authorized representative must notify the record owner of the property as shown by the tax rolls by mail, return receipt requested, of the determination to cancel the exemption. The owner may appeal the determination to the governing authority or authorized representative, within thirty days by filing a notice of appeal with the clerk of the governing authority, which notice must specify the factual and legal basis on which the determination of cancellation is alleged to be erroneous. The governing authority or a hearing examiner or other official authorized by the governing authority may hear the appeal. At the hearing, all affected parties may be heard and all competent evidence received.

After the hearing, the deciding body or officer must either affirm, modify, or repeal the decision of cancellation of exemption based on the evidence received. An aggrieved party may appeal the decision of the deciding body or officer to the superior court under RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598.

(3) Upon determination by the governing authority or authorized representative to terminate an exemption, the county officials having possession of the assessment and tax rolls must correct the rolls in the manner provided for omitted property under RCW 84.40.080. The county assessor must make such a valuation of the property and improvements as is necessary to permit the correction of the rolls. The value of the new housing construction, conversion, and rehabilitation improvements added to the rolls is considered as new construction for the purposes of chapter 84.55 RCW. The owner may appeal the valuation to the county board of equalization under chapter 84.48 RCW and according to the provisions of RCW 84.40.038. If there has been a failure to comply with this chapter, the property must be listed as an omitted assessment for assessment years beginning January 1 of the calendar year in which the noncompliance first occurred, but the listing as an omitted assessment may not be for a period more than three calendar years preceding the year in which the failure to comply was discovered. [2012 c 194 § 10; 2007 c 430 § 11; 2002 c 146 § 3; 2001 c 185 § 1; 1995 c 375 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.14.900 Severability—1995 c 375.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1995 c 375 § 15.]

### Chapter 84.16 RCW ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION OF PRIVATE CAR COMPANIES

#### Sections

84.16.010	Definitions.
84.16.020	Annual statement of private car companies.
84.16.030	Annual statement of railroad companies.
84.16.032	Access to books and records.
84.16.034	Depositions may be taken, when.
84.16.036	Default valuation by department of revenue—Penalty—Estopel.
84.16.040	Annual assessment—Sources of information.
84.16.050	Basis of valuation—Apportionment of system value to state.
84.16.090	Assessment roll—Notice of valuation.
84.16.100	Hearings, time and place of.
84.16.110	Apportionment of value to counties by department of revenue.
84.16.120	Basis of apportionment.
84.16.130	Certification to county assessors—Apportionment to taxing districts—Entry upon tax rolls.
84.16.140	Assessment of nonoperating property.

**84.16.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter and unless otherwise required by the context:

(1) The term "department" without other designation means the department of revenue of the state of Washington.

(2) The term "private car company" or "company" shall mean and include any person, copartnership, association, company or corporation owning, controlling, operating or managing stock cars, furniture cars, refrigerator cars, fruit cars, poultry cars, tank cars or any other kind of cars, used for

transportation of property, by or upon railroad lines running in, into or through the state of Washington when such railroad lines are not owned or leased by such person, copartnership, association, company or corporation; or owning, controlling, operating or managing sleeping cars, parlor cars, buffet cars, tourist cars or any other kind of cars, used for transportation of persons by or upon railroads on lines running in, into or through the state of Washington, when such railroad lines are not owned or leased by such person, copartnership, association, company or corporation and upon which an extra charge in addition to the railroad transportation fare is made.

(3) The term "operating property" shall mean and include all rolling stock and car equipment owned by any private car company, or held by it as occupant, lessee or otherwise, including its franchises used and reasonably necessary in carrying on the business of such company; and in the case of rolling stock and car equipment used partly within and partly without the state, shall mean and include a proportion of such rolling stock and car equipment to be determined as in this chapter provided; and all such property shall, for the purposes of this chapter be deemed personal property. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 173; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.010. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 1; RRS § 11172-1; prior: 1907 c 36 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.020 Annual statement of private car companies.** Every private car company shall annually on or before the first day of May, make and file with the department of revenue in such form and upon such blanks as the department of revenue may provide and furnish, a statement, for the year ending December thirty-first next preceding, under the oath of the president, secretary, treasurer, superintendent or chief officer of such company, containing the following facts:

(1) The name of the company, the nature of the business conducted by the company, and under the laws of what state or country organized; the location of its principal office; the name and post office address of its president, secretary, auditor, treasurer, superintendent and general manager; the name and post office address of the chief officer or managing agent or attorney-in-fact in Washington.

(2) The total number of cars of every class used in transacting business on all lines of railroad, within the state and outside the state; together with the original cost and the fair average value per car of all cars of each of such classes.

(3) The total number of miles of railroad main track over which such cars were used within this state and within each county in this state.

(4) The total number of car miles made by all cars on each of the several lines of railroad in this state, and the total number of car miles made by all cars on all railroads within and without the state during the year.

(5) A statement in detail of the entire gross receipts and net earnings of the company during the year within the state and of the entire system, from all sources.

(6) Such other facts or information as the department of revenue may require in the form of return prescribed by it.

The department of revenue shall have power to prescribe directions, rules and regulations to be followed in making the report required herein. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 174; 1961 c 15

§ 84.16.020. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 2; RRS § 11172-2; prior: 1907 c 36 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.030 Annual statement of railroad companies.**

The president or other officer of every railroad company whose lines run in, into or through this state, shall, on or before the first day of April in each year, furnish to the department of revenue a statement, verified by the affidavit of the officer making the same, showing as to every private car company respectively, the name of the company, the class of car and the total number of miles made by each class of cars, and the total number of miles made by all cars on its lines, branches, sidings, spurs or warehouse tracks, within this state during the year ending on the thirty-first day of December next preceding. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 175; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.030. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 3; RRS § 11172-3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.032 Access to books and records.** The department of revenue shall have access to all books, papers, documents, statements and accounts on file or of record in any of the departments of the state; and shall have the power, by summons signed by director and served in a like manner as a subpoena issued from courts of record, to compel witnesses to appear and give evidence and to produce books and papers. The director or any employee officially designated by the director is authorized to administer oaths to witnesses. The attendance of any witness may be compelled by attachment issued out of any superior court upon application to said court by the department, upon a proper showing that such witness has been duly served with a summons and has refused to appear before the said department. In case of the refusal of a witness to produce books, papers, documents or accounts or to give evidence on matters material to the hearing, the department may institute proceedings in the proper superior court to compel such witness to testify, or to produce such books or papers and to punish him for the refusal. All summons and process issued by the department shall be served by the sheriff of the proper county and such service certified by him to the department of revenue without any compensation therefor. Persons appearing before the department in obedience to a summons, shall, in the discretion of the department, receive the same compensation as witnesses in the superior court. The records, books, accounts and papers of each company shall be subject to visitation, investigation or examination by the department, or any employee thereof officially designated by the director. All real and/or personal property of any company shall be subject to visitation, investigation, examination and/or listing at any and all times by the department, or any person employed by the department. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 176; 1973 c 95 § 10; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.032. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 4; RRS § 11172-4; prior: 1907 c 36 § 6. Formerly RCW 84.16.060.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.034 Depositions may be taken, when.** The department of revenue in any matter material to the valuation, assessment or taxation of the property of any company, may cause the deposition of witnesses residing without the state or absent therefrom, to be taken upon notice to the company

(2012 Ed.)

interested in like manner as the deposition of witnesses are taken in civil actions in the superior court. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 177; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.034. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 5; RRS § 11172-5. Formerly RCW 84.16.070.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.036 Default valuation by department of revenue—Penalty—Estoppel.** (1) If any company shall fail to comply with the provisions of RCW 84.16.020, the department shall add to the value of such company, as a penalty for such failure, five percent for every thirty days or fraction thereof, not to exceed ten percent, that the company fails to comply.

(2) If any company, or its officer or agent, shall refuse or neglect to make any report required by this chapter, or by the department of revenue, or shall refuse or neglect to permit an inspection and examination of its records, books, accounts, papers or property requested by the department of revenue, or shall refuse or neglect to appear before the department in obedience to a summons, the department shall inform itself the best it may of the matters to be known, in order to discharge its duties with respect to valuation and assessment of the property of such company; and the department shall add to the value so ascertained twenty-five percent as a penalty for the failure or refusal of such company to make its report and such company shall be estopped to question or impeach the assessment of the department of revenue in any hearing or proceeding thereafter. Such penalty shall be in lieu of the penalty provided for in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The department shall waive or cancel the penalty imposed under subsection (1) of this section for good cause shown.

(4) The department shall waive or cancel the penalty imposed under subsection (1) of this section when the circumstances under which the failure to materially comply with the provisions of RCW 84.16.020 do not qualify for waiver or cancellation under subsection (3) of this section if:

(a) The company fully complies with the reporting provisions of RCW 84.16.020 within thirty days of the due date; and

(b) The company has timely complied with the provisions of RCW 84.16.020 for the previous two calendar years. The requirement that a company has timely complied with the provisions of RCW 84.16.020 for the previous two calendar years is waived for any calendar year in which the company was not required to comply with the provisions of RCW 84.16.020. [2007 c 111 § 202; 1984 c 132 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 178; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.036. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 6; RRS § 11172-6; prior: 1907 c 36 §§ 5, 6. Formerly RCW 84.16.080.]

**Application—2007 c 111 §§ 201 and 202:** See note following RCW 84.12.260.

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.040 Annual assessment—Sources of information.** The department of revenue shall annually make an assessment of the operating property of each private car company; and between the first day of May and the first day of July of each year shall prepare an assessment roll upon which

it shall enter and assess the true and fair value of all the operating property of each of such companies as of the first day of January of the year in which the assessment is made. For the purpose of determining the true and fair value of such property the department of revenue may take into consideration any information or knowledge obtained by it from an examination and inspection of such property, or of the books, records, and accounts of such companies, the statements filed as required by this chapter, the reports, statements, or returns of such companies filed in the office of any board, office, or commission of this state or any county thereof, the earnings and earning power of such companies, the franchises owned or used by such companies, the true and fair valuation of any and all property of such companies, whether operating property or nonoperating property, and whether situated within or without the state, and any other facts, evidences, or information that may be obtainable bearing upon the value of the operating property: PROVIDED, That in no event shall any statement or report required from any company by this chapter be conclusive upon the department of revenue in determining the amount, character, and true and fair value of the operating property of such company. [2001 c 187 § 9; 1997 c 3 § 119 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 26; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 179; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.040. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 22; 1933 c 146 § 7; RRS § 11172-7; prior: 1907 c 36 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.050 Basis of valuation—Apportionment of system value to state.** The department of revenue may, in determining the true and fair value of the operating property to be placed on the assessment roll value the entire property as a unit. If the company owns, leases, operates or uses property partly within and partly without the state, the department of revenue may determine the value of the operating property within this state by the proportion that the value of such property bears to the value of the entire operating property of the company, both within and without this state. In determining the operating property which is located within this state the department of revenue may consider and base such determination on the proportion which the number of car miles of the various classes of cars made in this state bears to the total number of car miles made by the same cars within and without this state, or to the total number of car miles made by all cars of the various classes within and without this state. If the value of the operating property of the company cannot be fairly determined in such manner the department of revenue may use any other reasonable and fair method to determine the value of the operating property of the company within this state. [2001 c 187 § 10; 1997 c 3 § 120 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 27; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 180; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.050. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 8; RRS § 11172-8; prior: 1907 c 36 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.090 Assessment roll—Notice of valuation.** Upon the assessment roll shall be placed after the name of each company a general description of the operating property of the company, which shall be considered sufficient if described in the language of RCW 84.16.010(3) or otherwise, following which shall be entered the true and fair value of the

operating property as determined by the department of revenue. No assessment shall be invalid by a mistake in the name of the company assessed, by omission of the name of the owner or by the entry of a name other than that of the true owner. When the department of revenue shall have prepared the assessment roll and entered thereon the true and fair value of the operating property of the company, as required, it shall notify the company by mail of the valuation determined by it and entered upon the roll; and thereupon such valuation shall become the true and fair value of the operating property of the company, subject to revision or correction by the department of revenue as hereinafter provided; and shall be the valuation upon which, after equalization by the department of revenue as hereinafter provided, the taxes of such company shall be based and computed. [2001 c 187 § 11; 1997 c 3 § 121 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 28; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 181; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.090. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 9; RRS § 11172-9; prior: 1907 c 36 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.100 Hearings, time and place of.** Every company assessed under the provisions of this chapter shall be entitled on its own motion to a hearing and to present evidence before the department of revenue, within the ten working days following the hearing request period, relating to the value of the operating property of such company and to the value of the other taxable property in the counties in which the operating property of such company is situate. Upon request in writing for such hearing, which must be presented to the department of revenue within the first ten working days of July following the making of the assessment, the department shall appoint a time and place therefor, within the respective periods aforesaid, the hearing to be conducted in such manner as the department shall direct. Hearings provided for in this section may be held at such times and in such places throughout the state as the department may deem proper or necessary and may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place. [1994 c 124 § 15; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 182; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.100. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 23; 1933 c 146 § 10; RRS § 11172-10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.110 Apportionment of value to counties by department of revenue.** Upon determination by the department of revenue of the true and fair value of the property appearing on such rolls the department shall apportion such value to the respective counties entitled thereto as hereinafter provided, and shall determine the equalized or assessed valuation of such property in such counties by applying to such actual apportioned value the same ratio as the ratio of assessed to actual value of the general property of the respective counties: PROVIDED, That, whenever the amount of the true and fair value of the operating property of any company otherwise apportionable to any county shall be less than two hundred fifty dollars, such amount need not be apportioned to such county but may be added to the amount apportioned to an adjacent county. [2001 c 187 § 12; 1997 c 3 § 122 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 29; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 18; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.110. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 24; 1933 c 146 § 11; RRS § 11172-11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.120 Basis of apportionment.** The true and fair value of the property of each company as fixed and determined by the department of revenue as herein provided shall be apportioned to the respective counties in the following manner:

(1) If all the operating property of the company is situated entirely within a county and none of such property is located within, extends into, or through or is operated into or through any other county, the entire value thereof shall be apportioned to the county within which such property is situated, located, and operated.

(2) If the operating property of any company is situated or located within, extends into or is operated into or through more than one county, the value thereof shall be apportioned to the respective counties into or through which its cars are operated in the proportion that the length of main line track of the respective railroads moving such cars in such counties bears to the total length of main line track of such respective railroads in this state.

(3) If the property of any company is of such character that it will not be reasonable, feasible or fair to apportion the value as hereinabove provided, the value thereof shall be apportioned between the respective counties into or through which such property extends or is operated or in which the same is located in such manner as may be reasonable, feasible and fair. [2001 c 187 § 13; 1997 c 3 § 123 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 30; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.120. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 12; RRS § 11172-12; prior: 1907 c 36 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.130 Certification to county assessors—Apportionment to taxing districts—Entry upon tax rolls.** When the department of revenue shall have determined the equalized or assessed value of the operating property of each company in the respective counties as hereinabove provided, the department of revenue shall certify such equalized or assessed value to the county assessor of the proper county; and the county assessor shall apportion and distribute such assessed or equalized valuation to and between the several taxing districts of the county entitled to a proportionate value thereof in the manner prescribed in RCW 84.16.120 for apportionment of values between counties. The county assessor shall enter such assessment upon the personal property tax rolls of the county, together with the values so apportioned, and the same shall be and constitute the assessed valuation of the operating company in such county for that year, upon which taxes shall be levied and collected the same as on general property of the county. [1994 c 301 § 31; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 183; 1961 c 15 § 84.16.130. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 25; 1933 c 146 § 13; RRS § 11172-13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.16.140 Assessment of nonoperating property.** All property of any company not assessed as operating property under the provisions of this chapter shall be assessed by the assessor of the county wherein the same may be located or situate the same as the general property of the county. [1961 c 15 § 84.16.140. Prior: 1933 c 146 § 14; RRS § 11172-14.]

(2012 Ed.)

## Chapter 84.20 RCW

### EASEMENTS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

#### Sections

84.20.010	Easements taxable as personality.
84.20.020	Servient estate taxable as realty.
84.20.030	Sale for taxes—Realty to be sold subject to easement.
84.20.040	Realty not subject to tax on easement or property thereon.
84.20.050	Railroads excepted.

**84.20.010 Easements taxable as personality.** Easements and the property constructed upon or occupying such easements owned by public service corporations shall be assessed and taxed together as personal property and the taxes thereon shall be collected as personal property taxes. [1961 c 15 § 84.20.010. Prior: 1929 c 199 § 1; RRS § 11188.]

**84.20.020 Servient estate taxable as realty.** Real estate subject to any such easement shall be assessed and taxed as real estate subject to such easement. [1961 c 15 § 84.20.020. Prior: 1929 c 199 § 2; RRS § 11189.]

**84.20.030 Sale for taxes—Realty to be sold subject to easement.** When any such real estate is sold for delinquent taxes thereon it shall be sold subject to such easement, and the purchaser at any such tax sale shall acquire no title to such easement or the property constructed upon or occupying the same. [1961 c 15 § 84.20.030. Prior: 1929 c 199 § 3; RRS § 11190.]

**84.20.040 Realty not subject to tax on easement or property thereon.** Real estate subject to any such easement shall not be chargeable with any tax levied upon such easement or the property constructed upon or occupying such easement and shall not be sold for the nonpayment of any such tax. [1961 c 15 § 84.20.040. Prior: 1929 c 199 § 4; RRS § 11191.]

**84.20.050 Railroads excepted.** This chapter shall not apply to railroad easements or property. [1961 c 15 § 84.20.050. Prior: 1929 c 199 § 5; RRS § 11192.]

## Chapter 84.26 RCW

### HISTORIC PROPERTY

#### Sections

84.26.010	Legislative findings.
84.26.020	Definitions.
84.26.030	Special valuation criteria.
84.26.040	Application—Fees.
84.26.050	Referral of application to local review board—Agreement—Approval or denial.
84.26.060	Notice to assessor of approval—Certification and filing—Notation of special valuation.
84.26.070	Valuation.
84.26.080	Duration of special valuation—Notice of disqualification.
84.26.090	Disqualification for valuation—Additional tax—Lien—Exceptions from additional tax.
84.26.100	Payment of additional tax—Distribution.
84.26.110	Special valuation—Request for assistance from state historic preservation officer authorized.
84.26.120	Rules.
84.26.130	Appeals from decisions on applications.
84.26.900	Severability—1985 c 449.

**84.26.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds and declares that it is in the public interest of the people of the

state of Washington to encourage maintenance, improvement, and preservation of privately owned historic landmarks as the state approaches its Centennial year of 1989. To achieve this purpose, this chapter provides special valuation for improvements to historic property. [1985 c 449 § 1.]

**84.26.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Historic property" means real property together with improvements thereon, except property listed in a register primarily for objects buried below ground, which is:

(a) Listed in a local register of historic places created by comprehensive ordinance, certified by the secretary of the interior as provided in P.L. 96-515; or

(b) Listed in the national register of historic places.

(2) "Cost" means the actual cost of rehabilitation, which cost shall be at least twenty-five percent of the assessed valuation of the historic property, exclusive of the assessed value attributable to the land, prior to rehabilitation.

(3) "Special valuation" means the determination of the assessed value of the historic property subtracting, for up to ten years, such cost as is approved by the local review board.

(4) "State review board" means the advisory council on historic preservation established under chapter 27.34 RCW, or any successor agency designated by the state to act as the state historic preservation review board under federal law.

(5) "Local review board" means a local body designated by the local legislative authority.

(6) "Owner" means the owner of record.

(7) "Rehabilitation" is the process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the property which are significant to its architectural and cultural values. [1986 c 221 § 1; 1985 c 449 § 2.]

**84.26.030 Special valuation criteria.** Four criteria must be met for special valuation under this chapter. The property must:

(1) Be an historic property;

(2) Fall within a class of historic property determined eligible for special valuation by the local legislative authority;

(3) Be rehabilitated at a cost which meets the definition set forth in RCW 84.26.020(2) within twenty-four months prior to the application for special valuation; and

(4) Be protected by an agreement between the owner and the local review board as described in RCW 84.26.050(2). [1986 c 221 § 2; 1985 c 449 § 3.]

**84.26.040 Application—Fees.** An owner of property desiring special valuation under this chapter shall apply to the assessor of the county in which the property is located upon forms prescribed by the department of revenue and supplied by the county assessor. The application form shall include a statement that the applicant is aware of the potential tax liability involved when the property ceases to be eligible for special valuation. Applications shall be made no later than October 1 of the calendar year preceding the first assessment year for which classification is requested. The assessor may charge only such fees as are necessary to process and record

documents pursuant to this chapter. [1986 c 221 § 3; 1985 c 449 § 4.]

**84.26.050 Referral of application to local review board—Agreement—Approval or denial.** (1) Within ten days after the filing of the application in the county assessor's office, the county assessor shall refer each application for classification to the local review board.

(2) The review board shall approve the application if the property meets the criterion of RCW 84.26.030 and is not altered in a way which adversely affects those elements which qualify it as historically significant, and the owner enters into an agreement with the review board which requires the owner for the ten-year period of the classification to:

(a) Monitor the property for its continued qualification for the special valuation;

(b) Comply with rehabilitation plans and minimum standards of maintenance as defined in the agreement;

(c) Make the historic aspects of the property accessible to public view one day a year, if the property is not visible from the public right-of-way;

(d) Apply to the local review board for approval or denial of any demolition or alteration; and

(e) Comply with any other provisions in the original agreement as may be appropriate.

(3) Once an agreement between an owner and a review board has become effective pursuant to this chapter, there shall be no changes in standards of maintenance, public access, alteration, or report requirements, or any other provisions of the agreement, during the period of the classification without the approval of all parties to the agreement.

(4) An application for classification as an eligible historic property shall be approved or denied by the local review board before December 31 of the calendar year in which the application is made.

(5) The local review board is authorized to examine the records of applicants. [1986 c 221 § 4; 1985 c 449 § 5.]

**84.26.060 Notice to assessor of approval—Certification and filing—Notation of special valuation.** (1) The review board shall notify the county assessor and the applicant of the approval or denial of the application.

(2) If the local review board determines that the property qualifies as eligible historic property, the review board shall certify the fact in writing and shall file a copy of the certificate with the county assessor within ten days. The certificate shall state the facts upon which the approval is based.

(3) The assessor shall record the certificate with the county auditor.

(4) The assessor, as to any historic property, shall value the property under RCW 84.26.070 and, each year the historic property is classified and so valued, shall enter on the assessment list and tax roll that the property is being specially valued as historic property. [1985 c 449 § 6.]

**84.26.070 Valuation.** (1) The county assessor shall, for ten consecutive assessment years following the calendar year in which application is made, place a special valuation on property classified as eligible historic property.

(2) The entitlement of property to the special valuation provisions of this section shall be determined as of January 1. If property becomes disqualified for the special valuation for any reason, the property shall receive the special valuation for that part of any year during which it remained qualified or the owner was acting in the good faith belief that the property was qualified.

(3) At the conclusion of special valuation, the cost shall be considered as new construction. [1986 c 221 § 5; 1985 c 449 § 7.]

**84.26.080 Duration of special valuation—Notice of disqualification.** (1) When property has once been classified and valued as eligible historic property, it shall remain so classified and be granted the special valuation provided by RCW 84.26.070 for ten years or until the property is disqualified by:

(a) Notice by the owner to the assessor to remove the special valuation;

(b) Sale or transfer to an ownership making it exempt from property taxation; or

(c) Removal of the special valuation by the assessor upon determination by the local review board that the property no longer qualifies as historic property or that the owner has failed to comply with the conditions established under RCW 84.26.050.

(2) The sale or transfer to a new owner or transfer by reason of death of a former owner to a new owner does not disqualify the property from the special valuation provided by RCW 84.26.070 if:

(a) The property continues to qualify as historic property; and

(b) The new owner files a notice of compliance with the assessor of the county in which the property is located. Notice of compliance forms shall be prescribed by the state department of revenue and supplied by the county assessor. The notice shall contain a statement that the new owner is aware of the special valuation and of the potential tax liability involved when the property ceases to be valued as historic property under this chapter. The signed notice of compliance shall be attached to the real estate excise tax affidavit provided for in RCW 82.45.150. If the notice of compliance is not signed by the new owner and attached to the real estate excise tax affidavit, all additional taxes calculated pursuant to RCW 84.26.090 shall become due and payable by the seller or transferor at time of sale. The county auditor shall not accept an instrument of conveyance of specially valued historic property for filing or recording unless the new owner has signed the notice of compliance or the additional tax has been paid, as evidenced by the real estate excise tax stamp affixed thereto by the treasurer.

(3) When the property ceases to qualify for the special valuation the owner shall immediately notify the state or local review board.

(4) Before the additional tax or penalty imposed by RCW 84.26.090 is levied, in the case of disqualification, the assessor shall notify the taxpayer by mail, return receipt requested, of the disqualification. [2000 c 103 § 22; 1999 c 233 § 19; 1986 c 221 § 6; 1985 c 449 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.26.090 Disqualification for valuation—Additional tax—Lien—Exceptions from additional tax.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, whenever property classified and valued as eligible historic property under RCW 84.26.070 becomes disqualified for the valuation, there shall be added to the tax an additional tax equal to:

(a) The cost multiplied by the levy rate in each year the property was subject to special valuation; plus

(b) Interest on the amounts of the additional tax at the statutory rate charged on delinquent property taxes from the dates on which the additional tax could have been paid without penalty if the property had not been valued as historic property under this chapter; plus

(c) A penalty equal to twelve percent of the amount determined in (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(2) The additional tax and penalties, together with applicable interest thereon, shall become a lien on the property which shall have priority to and shall be fully paid and satisfied before any recognizance, mortgage, judgment, debt, obligation, or responsibility to or with which the property may become charged or liable.

(3) The additional tax, interest, and penalty shall not be imposed if the disqualification resulted solely from:

(a) Sale or transfer of the property to an ownership making it exempt from taxation;

(b) Alteration or destruction through no fault of the owner; or

(c) A taking through the exercise of the power of eminent domain. [1986 c 221 § 7; 1985 c 449 § 9.]

**84.26.100 Payment of additional tax—Distribution.** The additional tax, penalties, and/or interest provided by RCW 84.26.090 shall be payable in full thirty days after the date which the treasurer's statement therefor is rendered. Such additional tax when collected shall be distributed by the county treasurer in the same manner in which current taxes applicable to the subject land are distributed. [1985 c 449 § 10.]

**84.26.110 Special valuation—Request for assistance from state historic preservation officer authorized.** The local legislative authority and the local review board may request the assistance of the state historic preservation officer in conducting special valuation activities. [1985 c 449 § 11.]

**84.26.120 Rules.** The state review board shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The rules shall include rehabilitation and maintenance standards for historic properties to be used as minimum requirements by local review boards to ensure that the historic property is safe and habitable, including but not limited to:

(1) Elimination of visual blight due to past neglect of maintenance and repair to the exterior of the building, including replacement of broken or missing doors and windows, repair of deteriorated architectural features, and painting of exterior surfaces;

(2) Correction of structural defects and hazards;

(3) Protection from weather damage due to defective roofing, flashings, glazing, caulking, or lack of heat; and

(4) Elimination of any condition on the premises which could cause or augment fire or explosion. [1985 c 449 § 12.]

**84.26.130 Appeals from decisions on applications.**

Any decision by a local review board on an application for classification as historic property eligible for special valuation may be appealed to superior court under RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598 in addition to any other remedy at law. Any decision on the disqualification of historic property eligible for special valuation, or any other dispute, may be appealed to the county board of equalization in accordance with RCW 84.40.038. [2001 c 185 § 2; 1989 c 175 § 178; 1985 c 449 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.26.900 Severability—1985 c 449.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1985 c 449 § 15.]

**Chapter 84.33 RCW****TIMBER AND FOREST LANDS**

## Sections

84.33.010	Legislative findings.
84.33.035	Definitions.
84.33.040	Timber exempt from ad valorem taxation.
84.33.041	State excise tax on harvesters of timber imposed—Credit for county tax—Deposit of moneys in timber tax distribution account.
84.33.046	Excise tax rate July 1, 1988, and thereafter.
84.33.051	County excise tax on harvesters of timber authorized—Rate—Administration and collection—Deposit of moneys in timber tax distribution account—Use.
84.33.074	Excise tax on harvesters of timber—Calculation of tax by small harvesters—Election—Filing form.
84.33.075	Excise tax on harvesters of timber—Exemption for certain nonprofit organizations, associations, or corporations.
84.33.077	Credit for property taxes paid on timber on public land.
84.33.0775	Timber harvest tax credit.
84.33.0776	Timber harvest excise tax agreement credit.
84.33.078	Harvesting and marketing costs for state or local government harvests.
84.33.081	Distributions from timber tax distribution account—Distributions from county timber tax account.
84.33.086	Payment of tax.
84.33.088	Reporting requirements on timber purchase.
84.33.089	Estimates of harvestable public forest land—Adjustments.
84.33.091	Tables of stumpage values—Revised tables—Legislative review—Appeal.
84.33.096	Application of excise taxes' administrative provisions and definitions.
84.33.130	Forest land valuation—Application by owner that land be designated and valued as forest land—Hearing—Rules—Approval, denial of application—Appeal.
84.33.140	Forest land valuation—Notation of forest land designation upon assessment and tax rolls—Notice of continuance—Removal of designation—Compensating tax.
84.33.145	Compensating tax.
84.33.170	Application of chapter to Christmas trees.
84.33.175	Application of tax—Sale of land to governmental agency with reservation of rights to timber—Conveyance by governmental agency of trees.
84.33.200	Legislative review of timber tax system—Information and data to be furnished.
84.33.210	Forest land valuation—Special benefit assessments.
84.33.220	Forest land valuation—Withdrawal from designation or change in use—Liability.
84.33.230	Forest land valuation—Change in designation—Notice.
84.33.240	Forest land valuation—Change in classification or use—Application of payments.
84.33.250	Forest land valuation—Special benefit assessments.
84.33.260	Forest land valuation—Withdrawal from designation or change in use—Benefit assessments.

84.33.270 Forest land valuation—Government future development right—Conserving forest land—Exemptions.

84.33.280 Applicant for forest riparian easement program—Department to rely on certain documents.

**84.33.010 Legislative findings.** As a result of the study and analysis of systems of taxation of standing timber and forest lands by the forest tax committee pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 30 of the 41st session of the legislature, and the recommendations of the committee based thereon, the legislature hereby finds that:

(1) The public welfare requires that this state's system for taxation of timber and forest lands be modernized to assure the citizens of this state and its future generations the advantages to be derived from the continuous production of timber and forest products from the significant area of privately owned forests in this state. It is this state's policy to encourage forestry and restocking and reforestation of such forests so that present and future generations will enjoy the benefits which forest areas provide in enhancing water supply, in minimizing soil erosion, storm and flood damage to persons or property, in providing a habitat for wild game, in providing scenic and recreational spaces, in maintaining land areas whose forests contribute to the natural ecological equilibrium, and in providing employment and profits to its citizens and raw materials for products needed by everyone.

(2) The combination of variations in quantities, qualities and locations of timber and forest lands, the fact that market areas for timber products are nationwide and worldwide and the unique long term nature of investment costs and risks associated with growing timber, all make exceedingly difficult the function of valuing and assessing timber and forest lands.

(3) The existing ad valorem property tax system is unsatisfactory for taxation of standing timber and forest land and will significantly frustrate, to an ever increasing degree with the passage of time, the perpetual enjoyment of the benefits enumerated above.

(4) For these reasons it is desirable, in exercise of the powers to promote the general welfare and to impose taxes; that

(a) the ad valorem system for taxing timber be modified and discontinued in stages over a three year period during which such system will be replaced by one under which timber will be taxed on the basis of stumpage value at the time of harvest, and

(b) forest land remain under the ad valorem taxation system but be taxed only as provided in this chapter and RCW 28A.150.250. [1990 c 33 § 598; 1984 c 204 § 16; 1971 ex.s. c 294 § 1.]

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.035 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Agricultural methods" means the cultivation of trees that are grown on land prepared by intensive cultivation and tilling, such as irrigating, plowing, or turning over the soil, and on which all unwanted plant growth is controlled contin-

uously for the exclusive purpose of raising trees such as Christmas trees and short-rotation hardwoods.

(2) "Average rate of inflation" means the annual rate of inflation as determined by the department averaged over the period of time as provided in RCW 84.33.220 (1) and (2). This rate must be published in the state register by the department not later than January 1st of each year for use in that assessment year.

(3) "Composite property tax rate" for a county means the total amount of property taxes levied upon forest lands by all taxing districts in the county other than the state, divided by the total assessed value of all forest land in the county.

(4) "Contiguous" means land adjoining and touching other property held by the same ownership. Land divided by a public road, but otherwise an integral part of a timber growing and harvesting operation, is considered contiguous. Solely for the purposes of this subsection (4), "same ownership" has the same meaning as in RCW 84.34.020(6).

(5) "Forest land" is synonymous with "designated forest land" and means any parcel of land that is twenty or more acres or multiple parcels of land that are contiguous and total twenty or more acres that is or are devoted primarily to growing and harvesting timber. Designated forest land means the land only and does not include a residential homesite. The term includes land used for incidental uses that are compatible with the growing and harvesting of timber but no more than ten percent of the land may be used for such incidental uses. It also includes the land on which appurtenances necessary for the production, preparation, or sale of the timber products exist in conjunction with land producing these products.

(6) "Harvested" means the time when in the ordinary course of business the quantity of timber by species is first definitely determined. The amount harvested must be determined by the Scribner Decimal C Scale or other prevalent measuring practice adjusted to arrive at substantially equivalent measurements, as approved by the department.

(7) "Harvester" means every person who from the person's own land or from the land of another under a right or license granted by lease or contract, either directly or by contracting with others for the necessary labor or mechanical services, fells, cuts, or takes timber for sale or for commercial or industrial use. When the United States or any instrumentality thereof, the state, including its departments and institutions and political subdivisions, or any municipal corporation therein so fells, cuts, or takes timber for sale or for commercial or industrial use, the harvester is the first person other than the United States or any instrumentality thereof, the state, including its departments and institutions and political subdivisions, or any municipal corporation therein, who acquires title to or a possessory interest in the timber. The term "harvester" does not include persons performing under contract the necessary labor or mechanical services for a harvester.

(8) "Harvesting and marketing costs" means only those costs directly associated with harvesting the timber from the land and delivering it to the buyer and may include the costs of disposing of logging residues. Any other costs that are not directly and exclusively related to harvesting and marketing of the timber, such as costs of permanent roads or costs of

reforesting the land following harvest, are not harvesting and marketing costs.

(9) "Incidental use" means a use of designated forest land that is compatible with its purpose for growing and harvesting timber. An incidental use may include a gravel pit, a shed or land used to store machinery or equipment used in conjunction with the timber enterprise, and any other use that does not interfere with or indicate that the forest land is no longer primarily being used to grow and harvest timber.

(10) "Local government" means any city, town, county, water-sewer district, public utility district, port district, irrigation district, flood control district, or any other municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or other political subdivision authorized to levy special benefit assessments for sanitary or storm sewerage systems, domestic water supply or distribution systems, or road construction or improvement purposes.

(11) "Local improvement district" means any local improvement district, utility local improvement district, local utility district, road improvement district, or any similar unit created by a local government for the purpose of levying special benefit assessments against property specially benefited by improvements relating to the districts.

(12) "Owner" means the party or parties having the fee interest in land, except where land is subject to a real estate contract "owner" means the contract vendee.

(13) "Primarily" or "primary use" means the existing use of the land is so prevalent that when the characteristic use of the land is evaluated any other use appears to be conflicting or nonrelated.

(14) "Short-rotation hardwoods" means hardwood trees, such as but not limited to hybrid cottonwoods, cultivated by agricultural methods in growing cycles shorter than fifteen years.

(15) "Small harvester" means every person who from his or her own land or from the land of another under a right or license granted by lease or contract, either directly or by contracting with others for the necessary labor or mechanical services, fells, cuts, or takes timber for sale or for commercial or industrial use in an amount not exceeding two million board feet in a calendar year. When the United States or any instrumentality thereof, the state, including its departments and institutions and political subdivisions, or any municipal corporation therein so fells, cuts, or takes timber for sale or for commercial or industrial use, not exceeding these amounts, the small harvester is the first person other than the United States or any instrumentality thereof, the state, including its departments and institutions and political subdivisions, or any municipal corporation therein, who acquires title to or a possessory interest in the timber. Small harvester does not include persons performing under contract the necessary labor or mechanical services for a harvester, and it does not include the harvesters of Christmas trees or short-rotation hardwoods.

(16) "Special benefit assessments" means special assessments levied or capable of being levied in any local improvement district or otherwise levied or capable of being levied by a local government to pay for all or part of the costs of a local improvement and which may be levied only for the special benefits to be realized by property by reason of that local improvement.

(17) "Stumpage value of timber" means the appropriate stumpage value shown on tables prepared by the department under RCW 84.33.091. However, for timber harvested from public land and sold under a competitive bidding process, stumpage value means the actual amount paid to the seller in cash or other consideration. The stumpage value of timber from public land does not include harvesting and marketing costs if the timber from public land is harvested by, or under contract for, the United States or any instrumentality of the United States, the state, including its departments and institutions and political subdivisions, or any municipal corporation therein. Whenever payment for the stumpage includes considerations other than cash, the value is the fair market value of the other consideration. If the other consideration is permanent roads, the value of the roads must be the appraised value as appraised by the seller.

(18) "Timber" means forest trees, standing or down, on privately or publicly owned land, and except as provided in RCW 84.33.170 includes Christmas trees and short-rotation hardwoods.

(19) "Timber assessed value" for a county means the sum of: (a) The total stumpage value of timber harvested from publicly owned land in the county multiplied by the public timber ratio, plus; (b) the total stumpage value of timber harvested from privately owned land in the county multiplied by the private timber ratio. The numerator of the public timber ratio is the rate of tax imposed by the county under RCW 84.33.051 on public timber harvests for the year of the calculation. The numerator of the private timber ratio is the rate of tax imposed by the county under RCW 84.33.051 on private timber harvests for the year of the calculation. The denominator of the private timber ratio and the public timber ratio is the composite property tax rate for the county for taxes due in the year of the calculation, expressed as a percentage of assessed value. The department must use the stumpage value of timber harvested during the most recent four calendar quarters for which the information is available. The department must calculate the timber assessed value for each county before October 1st of each year.

(20) "Timber assessed value" for a taxing district means the timber assessed value for the county multiplied by a ratio. The numerator of the ratio is the total assessed value of forest land in the taxing district. The denominator is the total assessed value of forest land in the county. As used in this section, "assessed value of forest land" means the assessed value of forest land for taxes due in the year the timber assessed value for the county is calculated plus an additional value for public forest land. The additional value for public forest land is the product of the number of acres of public forest land that are available for timber harvesting determined under RCW 84.33.089 and the average assessed value per acre of private forest land in the county.

(21) "Timber management plan" means a plan prepared by a trained forester, or any other person with adequate knowledge of timber management practices, concerning the use of the land to grow and harvest timber. Such a plan includes:

- (a) A legal description of the forest land;
- (b) A statement that the forest land is held in contiguous ownership of twenty or more acres and is primarily devoted to and used to grow and harvest timber;

(c) A brief description of the timber on the forest land or, if the timber on the land has been harvested, the owner's plan to restock the land with timber;

(d) A statement about whether the forest land is also used to graze livestock;

(e) A statement about whether the land has been used in compliance with the restocking, forest management, fire protection, insect and disease control, and forest debris provisions of Title 76 RCW; and

(f) If the land has been recently harvested or supports a growth of brush and noncommercial type timber, a description of the owner's plan to restock the forest land within three years. [2011 c 101 § 2; 2004 c 177 § 1; 2003 c 313 § 12. Prior: 2001 c 249 § 1; 2001 c 97 § 1; 1995 c 165 § 1; 1986 c 315 § 1; 1984 c 204 § 1.]

**Effective date—2004 c 177:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2005." [2004 c 177 § 8.]

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.33.040 Timber exempt from ad valorem taxation.**

Timber is exempt from ad valorem taxation. [2004 c 177 § 3; 1984 c 204 § 18; 1983 1st ex.s. c 62 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 294 § 4.]

**Application—2004 c 177 § 3:** "Section 3 of this act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2005 and thereafter." [2004 c 177 § 7.]

**Effective date—2004 c 177:** See note following RCW 84.33.035.

**Short title—Intent—Effective dates—Applicability—1983 1st ex.s. c 62:** See notes following RCW 84.36.477.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.33.041 State excise tax on harvesters of timber imposed—Credit for county tax—Deposit of moneys in timber tax distribution account.**

(1) An excise tax is imposed on every person engaging in this state in business as a harvester of timber on privately or publicly owned land. The tax is equal to the stumpage value of timber harvested for sale or for commercial or industrial use multiplied by the rate provided in this chapter.

(2) A credit is allowed against the tax imposed under this section for any tax paid under RCW 84.33.051.

(3) Moneys received as payment for the tax imposed under this section and RCW 84.33.051 shall be deposited in the timber tax distribution account hereby established in the state treasury. [1991 sp.s. c 13 § 26; 1985 c 57 § 87; 1984 c 204 § 2.]

*Use of collection agencies to collect taxes outside the state: RCW 82.32.265.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.33.046 Excise tax rate July 1, 1988, and thereafter.**

The rate of tax imposed under RCW 84.33.041 for timber harvested July 1, 1988, and thereafter, shall be five percent. [1984 c 204 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.33.051 County excise tax on harvesters of timber authorized—Rate—Administration and collection—Deposit of moneys in timber tax distribution account—Use.**

(1) The legislative body of any county may impose a tax upon every person engaging in the county in business as a harvester effective October 1, 1984. The tax shall be equal to

the stumpage value of timber harvested from privately owned land multiplied by a rate of 4 percent; and equal to the stumpage value of timber harvested from publicly owned land multiplied by the following rates:

- (a) For timber harvested January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005, 1.2 percent;
- (b) For timber harvested January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006, 1.5 percent;
- (c) For timber harvested January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007, 1.8 percent;
- (d) For timber harvested January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, 2.1 percent;
- (e) For timber harvested January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009, 2.4 percent;
- (f) For timber harvested January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, 2.7 percent;
- (g) For timber harvested January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011, 3.1 percent;
- (h) For timber harvested January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012, 3.4 percent;
- (i) For timber harvested January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013, 3.7 percent;
- (j) For timber harvested January 1, 2014, and thereafter, 4.0 percent.

(2) Before the effective date of any ordinance imposing a tax under this section, the county shall contract with the department of revenue for administration and collection of the tax. The tax collected by the department of revenue under this section shall be deposited by the department in the timber tax distribution account. Moneys in the account may be spent only for distributions to counties under RCW 84.33.081 and, after appropriation by the legislature, for the activities undertaken by the department of revenue relating to the collection and administration of the taxes imposed under this section and RCW 84.33.041. Appropriations are not required for distributions to counties under RCW 84.33.081. [2004 c 177 § 2; 1984 c 204 § 8.]

**Effective date—2004 c 177:** See note following RCW 84.33.035.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.074 Excise tax on harvesters of timber—Calculation of tax by small harvesters—Election—Filing form.**

(1) A small harvester may elect to calculate the tax imposed by this chapter in the manner provided in this section.

(2) Timber shall be considered harvested at the time when in the ordinary course of business the quantity thereof by species is first definitely determined. The amount harvested shall be determined by the Scribner Decimal C Scale or other prevalent measuring practice adjusted to arrive at substantially equivalent measurements, as approved by the department of revenue.

(3) Timber values shall be determined by either of the following methods, whichever is most appropriate to the circumstances of the harvest:

(a) When standing timber is sold on the stump, the taxable value is the actual gross receipts received by the landowner from the sale of the standing timber.

(b) When timber is sold after it has been harvested, the taxable value is the actual gross receipts from sale of the harvested timber minus the costs of harvesting and marketing the timber. When the taxpayer is unable to provide docu-

mented proof of harvesting and marketing costs, this deduction for harvesting and marketing costs shall be a percentage of the gross receipts from sale of the harvested timber as determined by the department of revenue but in no case less than twenty-five percent.

(4) The department of revenue shall prescribe a short filing form which shall be as simple as possible. [1984 c 204 § 19; 1981 c 146 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.075 Excise tax on harvesters of timber—Exemption for certain nonprofit organizations, associations, or corporations.** The excise tax imposed by this chapter shall not apply to any timber harvested by a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation from forest lands owned by it, where such lands are exempt from property taxes under RCW 84.36.030, and where all of the income and receipts of the nonprofit organization, association, or corporation derived from such timber sales are used solely for the expense of promoting, operating, and maintaining youth programs which are equally available to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, or religious belief.

In order to determine whether the harvesting of timber by a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation is exempt, the director of the department of revenue shall have access to its books.

For the purposes of this section, a "nonprofit" organization, association, or corporation is one: (1) Which pays no part of its income directly or indirectly to its members, stockholders, officers, directors, or trustees except in the form of services rendered by the organization, association, or corporation in accordance with its purposes and bylaws; and (2) which pays salary or compensation to its officers only for actual services rendered, and at levels comparable to the salary or compensation of like positions within the public services of the state. [1984 c 204 § 20; 1980 c 134 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.077 Credit for property taxes paid on timber on public land.**

The amount of any property taxes paid on timber standing on public land shall be allowed as a credit against any tax imposed with respect to the business of harvesting timber from publicly owned land under RCW 84.33.041. However, the amount of credit allowed shall not exceed the amount of excise tax due in respect to the business of harvesting timber from publicly owned land. [1984 c 204 § 21; 1983 1st ex.s. c 62 § 8.]

**Short title—Intent—Effective dates—Applicability—1983 1st ex.s. c 62:** See notes following RCW 84.36.477.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.0775 Timber harvest tax credit.** (1) A taxpayer is allowed a credit against the tax imposed under RCW 84.33.041 for timber harvested on and after January 1, 2000, under a forest practices notification filed or application approved under RCW 76.09.050 and subject to enhanced aquatic resources requirements.

(2)(a) For a person other than a small harvester who elects to calculate tax under RCW 84.33.074, the credit is equal to the stumpage value of timber harvested for sale or

for commercial or industrial use multiplied by eight-tenths of one percent.

(b) For a small harvester who elects to calculate tax under RCW 84.33.074, the credit is equal to sixteen percent of the tax imposed under this chapter.

(c) The amount of credit claimed by a taxpayer under this section shall be reduced by the amount of any compensation received from the federal government for reduced timber harvest due to enhanced aquatic resource requirements. If the amount of compensation from the federal government exceeds the amount of credit available to a taxpayer in any reporting period, the excess shall be carried forward and applied against credits in future reporting periods. This subsection does not apply to small harvesters as defined in \*RCW 84.33.073.

(d) Refunds may not be given in place of credits. Credit may not be claimed in excess of tax owed. The department of revenue shall disallow any credits, used or unused, upon written notification from the department of natural resources of a final decision that timber for which credit was claimed was not harvested under a forest practices notification filed or application approved under RCW 76.09.050 and subject to enhanced aquatic resources requirements.

(3) As used in this section, a forest practices notification or application is subject to enhanced aquatic resource requirements if it includes, in whole or in part, riparian area, wetland, or steep or unstable slope from which the operator is limited, by rule adopted under RCW 76.09.055, 34.05.090, 43.21C.250, and 76.09.370, or any federally approved habitat conservation plan or department of natural resources approved watershed analysis, from harvesting timber, or if a road is included within or adjacent to the area covered by such notification or application and the road is covered by a road maintenance plan approved by the department of natural resources under rules adopted under chapter 76.09 RCW, the forest practices act, or a federally approved habitat conservation plan.

(4) For forest practices notification or applications submitted after January 1, 2000, the department of natural resources shall indicate whether the notification or application is subject to enhanced aquatic resource requirements and, unless notified of a contrary determination by the pollution control hearings board, the department of revenue shall use such indication in determining the credit to be allowed against the tax assessed under RCW 84.33.041. The department of natural resources shall develop revisions to the form of the forest practices notifications and applications to provide a space for the applicant to indicate and the department of natural resources to confirm or not confirm, whether the notification or application is subject to enhanced aquatic resource requirements. For forest practices notifications or applications submitted before January 1, 2000, the applicant may submit the approved notification or application to the department of natural resources for confirmation that the notification or application is subject to enhanced aquatic resource requirements. Upon any such submission, the department of natural resources will within thirty days confirm or deny that the notification or application is subject to enhanced aquatic resource requirements and will forward separate evidence of each confirmation to the department of revenue. Unless notified of a contrary ruling by the pollution

control hearings board, the department of revenue shall use the separate confirmations in determining the credit to be allowed against the tax assessed under RCW 84.33.041.

(5) A refusal by the department of natural resources to confirm that a notification or application is subject to enhanced aquatic resources requirements may be appealed to the pollution control hearings board.

(6) A person receiving approval of credit must keep records necessary for the department of revenue to verify eligibility under this section. [2010 c 210 § 35; 1999 sp.s. c 5 § 1; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 401.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 84.33.073 was repealed by 2001 c 249 § 16.

**Intent—Effective dates—Application—Pending cases and rules—2010 c 210:** See notes following RCW 43.21B.001.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.0776 Timber harvest excise tax agreement credit.** A credit is allowed against the tax imposed under RCW 84.33.041 and 84.33.051 for a tribal tax imposed under an agreement authorized by RCW 43.06.480. [2007 c 69 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 69:** See note following RCW 43.06.475.

**84.33.078 Harvesting and marketing costs for state or local government harvests.** If the timber from public land is harvested by the state, its departments and institutions and political subdivisions, or any municipal corporation therein, the governmental unit, or governmental units, that harvest or market the timber must provide the harvester purchasing the timber with its harvesting and marketing costs as defined in RCW 84.33.035. [2011 c 101 § 3; 2004 c 177 § 4; 2003 c 313 § 11; 1986 c 65 § 1; 1984 c 204 § 22; 1983 1st ex.s. c 62 § 9.]

**Effective date—2004 c 177:** See note following RCW 84.33.035.

**Findings—Severability—2003 c 313:** See notes following RCW 79.15.500.

**Short title—Intent—Effective dates—Applicability—1983 1st ex.s. c 62:** See notes following RCW 84.36.477.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.081 Distributions from timber tax distribution account—Distributions from county timber tax account.** (1) On the last business day of the second month of each calendar quarter, the state treasurer shall distribute from the timber tax distribution account to each county the amount of tax collected on behalf of each county under RCW 84.33.051, less each county's proportionate share of appropriations for collection and administration activities under RCW 84.33.051, and shall transfer to the state general fund the amount of tax collected on behalf of the state under RCW 84.33.041, less the amount of the distribution under subsection (7) of this section and the state's proportionate share of appropriations for collection and administration activities under RCW 84.33.041. The county treasurer shall deposit moneys received under this section in a county timber tax account which shall be established by each county. Following receipt of moneys under this section, the county treasurer shall make distributions from any moneys available in the county timber tax account to taxing districts in the county, except the state, under subsections (2) through (4) of this section.

(2) From moneys available, there first shall be a distribution to each taxing district having debt service payments due during the calendar year, based upon bonds issued under authority of a vote of the people conducted pursuant to RCW 84.52.056 and based upon excess levies for a capital project fund authorized pursuant to RCW 84.52.053, of an amount equal to the timber assessed value of the district multiplied by the tax rate levied for payment of the debt service and capital projects: PROVIDED, That in respect to levies for a debt service or capital project fund authorized before July 1, 1984, the amount allocated shall not be less than an amount equal to the same percentage of such debt service or capital project fund represented by timber tax allocations to such payments in calendar year 1984. Distribution under this subsection (2) shall be used only for debt service and capital projects payments. The distribution under this subsection shall be made as follows: One-half of such amount shall be distributed in the first quarter of the year and one-half shall be distributed in the third quarter of the year.

(3) From the moneys remaining after the distributions under subsection (2) of this section, the county treasurer shall distribute to each school district an amount equal to one-half of the timber assessed value of the district or eighty percent of the timber roll of such district in calendar year 1983 as determined under this chapter, whichever is greater, multiplied by the tax rate, if any, levied by the district under RCW 84.52.052 or 84.52.053 for purposes other than debt service payments and capital projects supported under subsection (2) of this section. The distribution under this subsection shall be made as follows: One-half of such amount shall be distributed in the first quarter of the year and one-half shall be distributed in the third quarter of the year.

(4) After the distributions directed under subsections (2) and (3) of this section, if any, each taxing district shall receive an amount equal to the timber assessed value of the district multiplied by the tax rate, if any, levied as a regular levy of the district or as a special levy not included in subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

(5) If there are insufficient moneys in the county timber tax account to make full distribution under subsection (4) of this section, the county treasurer shall multiply the amount to be distributed to each taxing district under that subsection by a fraction. The numerator of the fraction is the county timber tax account balance before making the distribution under that subsection. The denominator of the fraction is the account balance which would be required to make full distribution under that subsection.

(6) After making the distributions under subsections (2) through (4) of this section in the full amount indicated for the calendar year, the county treasurer shall place any excess revenue up to twenty percent of the total distributions made for the year under subsections (2) through (4) of this section in a reserve status until the beginning of the next calendar year. Any moneys remaining in the county timber tax account after this amount is placed in reserve shall be distributed to each taxing district in the county in the same proportions as the distributions made under subsection (4) of this section.

(7) On the last business day of the second month of each calendar quarter, the state treasurer shall distribute from the timber tax distribution account to each county an amount of tax collected by the state under RCW 84.33.041 equal to the

amount of any tribal tax credited against the county's tax under an agreement entered into under RCW 43.06.480. [2007 c 69 § 5; 1985 c 184 § 1; 1984 c 204 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—2007 c 69:** See note following RCW 43.06.475. Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.086 Payment of tax.** (1) The taxes imposed under this chapter shall be computed with respect to timber harvested each calendar quarter and shall be due and payable in quarterly installments. Remittance shall be made on or before the last day of the month next succeeding the end of the quarterly period in which the tax accrues. The taxpayer on or before such date shall make out a return, upon such forms and setting forth such information as the department of revenue may require, showing the amount of tax for which the taxpayer is liable for the preceding quarterly period and shall sign and transmit the same to the department of revenue, together with a remittance for the amount of tax.

(2) The taxes imposed by this chapter are in addition to any taxes imposed upon the same persons under chapter 82.04 RCW.

(3) Any harvester incurring less than fifty dollars tax liability under this section in any calendar quarter is excused from the payment of such tax, but may be required by the department of revenue to file a return even though no tax may be due. [1987 c 166 § 1; 1984 c 204 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.088 Reporting requirements on timber purchase. (Expires July 1, 2014.)** (1) A purchaser of privately owned timber in an amount in excess of two hundred thousand board feet in a voluntary sale made in the ordinary course of business shall, on or before the last day of the month following the purchase of the timber, report the particulars of the purchase to the department as required in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The report required in subsection (1) of this section must contain all information relevant to the value of the timber purchased including, but not limited to, the following, as applicable: Purchaser's name, address, and contact information; seller's name, address, and contact information; sale date; termination date in sale agreement; total sale price; legal description of sale area, sale name if applicable; forest practice application/harvest permit number if available; total acreage involved in the sale; estimated net volume of timber purchased by tree species and log grade; and description and value of property improvements. For the purposes of this subsection property improvements may include, but are not limited to: Road construction or road improvements, reforestation, land clearing, stock piling of rock, or any other agreed upon property improvement. A report may be submitted in any reasonable form or, at the purchaser's option, by submitting relevant excerpts of the timber sales contract. A purchaser may comply by submitting the information in the following form:

- Purchaser's name, address, and contact information: . . . . .
- Seller's name, address, and contact information: . . . . .
- Sale date: . . . . .
- Termination date: . . . . .
- Total sale price: . . . . .

Legal description of sale area: . . . . .  
 Sale name (if applicable): . . . . .  
 Forest practice application/Harvest permit  
 number (if available): . . . . .  
 Total acreage involved: . . . . .  
 Estimated net volume of timber purchased by tree species  
 and log grade: . . . . .  
 Description and value of property improvements, such as  
 road construction or road improvements, reforestation, land  
 clearing, stock piling of rock, or any other agreed upon prop-  
 erty improvement: . . . . .

(f) For calendar year 2010, 32.5 percent;  
 (g) For calendar year 2011, 22.5 percent;  
 (h) For calendar year 2012, 15 percent;  
 (i) For calendar year 2013, 7.5 percent; and  
 (j) For calendar year 2014 and thereafter, the department  
 shall not reduce its estimates of the number of acres of public  
 forest land that are available for timber harvesting. [2004 c  
 177 § 6.]

Effective date—2004 c 177: See note following RCW 84.33.035.

(3) A purchaser of privately owned timber involved in a purchase described in subsection (1) of this section, who fails to report a purchase as required, may be liable for a penalty of two hundred fifty dollars for each failure to report, as determined by the department.

(4) Privately purchased timber reports are confidential taxpayer information under RCW 82.32.330.

(5) This section expires July 1, 2014. [2010 c 197 § 1; 2007 c 47 § 1; 2003 c 315 § 1; 2001 c 320 § 16.]

Effective date—2007 c 47: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2007." [2007 c 47 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**84.33.091 Tables of stumpage values—Revised tables—Legislative review—Appeal.** (1) The department of revenue shall designate areas containing timber having similar growing, harvesting, and marketing conditions to be used as units for the preparation and application of stumpage values. Each year on or before December 31 for use the following January through June 30, and on or before June 30 for use the following July through December 31, the department shall prepare tables of stumpage values of each species or subclassification of timber within these units. The stumpage value shall be the amount that each such species or subclassification would sell for at a voluntary sale made in the ordinary course of business for purposes of immediate harvest. These stumpage values, expressed in terms of a dollar amount per thousand board feet or other unit measure, shall be determined in a manner which makes reasonable and adequate allowances for age, size, quality, costs of removal, accessibility to point of conversion, market conditions, and all other relevant factors from:

(a) Gross proceeds from sales on the stump of similar timber of like quality and character at similar locations, and in similar quantities;

(b) Gross proceeds from sales of logs adjusted to reflect only the portion of such proceeds attributable to value on the stump immediately prior to harvest; or

(c) A combination of (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(2) Upon application from any person who plans to harvest damaged timber, the stumpage values for which have been materially reduced from the values shown in the applicable tables due to damage resulting from fire, blow down, ice storm, flood, or other sudden unforeseen cause, the department shall revise the stumpage value tables for any area in which such timber is located and shall specify any additional accounting or other requirements to be complied with in reporting and paying the tax.

(3) The preliminary area designations and stumpage value tables and any revisions thereof are subject to review by the ways and means committees of the house of representatives and senate prior to finalization. Tables of stumpage values shall be signed by the director or the director's designee. A copy thereof shall be mailed to anyone who has submitted to the department a written request for a copy.

(4) On or before the sixtieth day after the date of final adoption of any stumpage value tables, any harvester may appeal to the board of tax appeals for a revision of stumpage values for an area determined pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. [1998 c 311 § 13; 1984 c 204 § 11.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**84.33.096 Application of excise taxes' administrative provisions and definitions.** All sections of chapter 82.32

**84.33.089 Estimates of harvestable public forest land—Adjustments.** (1) The department shall estimate the number of acres of public forest land that are available for timber harvesting. The department shall provide the estimates for each county and for each taxing district within each county by August 30th of each year except that the department may authorize a county, at the county's option, to make its own estimates for public forest land in that county. In estimating the number of acres, the department shall use the best available information to include public land comparable to private land that qualifies as forest land for assessment purposes and exclude other public lands. The department is not required to update the estimates unless improved information becomes available. The department of natural resources shall assist the department with these determinations by providing any data and information in the possession of the department of natural resources on public forest lands, broken out by county and legal description, including a detailed map of each county showing the location of the described lands. The data and information shall be provided to the department by July 15th of each year. In addition, the department may contract with other parties to provide data or assistance necessary to implement this section.

(2) To accommodate the phase-in of the county forest excise tax on the harvest of timber from public lands as provided in RCW 84.33.051, the department shall adjust its actual estimates of the number of acres of public forest land that are available for timber harvesting. The department shall reduce its estimates for the following years by the following amounts:

- (a) For calendar year 2005, 70 percent;
- (b) For calendar year 2006, 62.5 percent;
- (c) For calendar year 2007, 55 percent;
- (d) For calendar year 2008, 47.5 percent;
- (e) For calendar year 2009, 40 percent;

RCW, except RCW 82.32.045 and 82.32.270, apply to the taxes imposed under this chapter. [1984 c 204 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.130 Forest land valuation—Application by owner that land be designated and valued as forest land—Hearing—Rules—Approval, denial of application—Appeal.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, lands that were assessed as classified forest land before July 22, 2001, shall be designated forest land for the purposes of this chapter. The owners of previously classified forest land shall not be required to apply for designation under this chapter. As of July 22, 2001, the land and timber on such land shall be assessed and taxed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) An owner of land desiring that it be designated as forest land and valued under RCW 84.33.140 as of January 1st of any year shall submit an application to the assessor of the county in which the land is located before January 1st of that year. The application shall be accompanied by a reasonable processing fee when the county legislative authority has established the requirement for such a fee.

(3) No application of designation is required when publicly owned forest land is exchanged for privately owned forest land designated under this chapter. The land exchanged and received by an owner subject to ad valorem taxation shall be automatically granted designation under this chapter if the following conditions are met:

(a) The land will be used to grow and harvest timber; and

(b) The owner of the land submits a document to the assessor's office that explains the details of the forest land exchange within sixty days of the closing date of the exchange. However, if the owner fails to submit information regarding the exchange by the end of this sixty-day period, the owner must file an application for designation as forest land under this chapter and the regular application process will be followed.

(4) The application shall be made upon forms prepared by the department and supplied by the assessor, and shall include the following:

(a) A legal description of, or assessor's parcel numbers for, all land the applicant desires to be designated as forest land;

(b) The date or dates of acquisition of the land;

(c) A brief description of the timber on the land, or if the timber has been harvested, the owner's plan for restocking;

(d) A copy of the timber management plan, if one exists, for the land prepared by a trained forester or any other person with adequate knowledge of timber management practices;

(e) If a timber management plan exists, an explanation of the nature and extent to which the management plan has been implemented;

(f) Whether the land is used for grazing;

(g) Whether the land has been subdivided or a plat has been filed with respect to the land;

(h) Whether the land and the applicant are in compliance with the restocking, forest management, fire protection, insect and disease control, and forest debris provisions of Title 76 RCW or any applicable rules under Title 76 RCW;

(i) Whether the land is subject to forest fire protection assessments under RCW 76.04.610;

(j) Whether the land is subject to a lease, option, or other right that permits it to be used for any purpose other than growing and harvesting timber;

(k) A summary of the past experience and activity of the applicant in growing and harvesting timber;

(l) A summary of current and continuing activity of the applicant in growing and harvesting timber;

(m) A statement that the applicant is aware of the potential tax liability involved when the land ceases to be designated as forest land;

(n) An affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true and that the land described in the application meets the definition of forest land in RCW 84.33.035; and

(o) A description and/or drawing showing what areas of land for which designation is sought are used for incidental uses compatible with the definition of forest land in RCW 84.33.035.

(5) The assessor shall afford the applicant an opportunity to be heard if the applicant so requests.

(6) The assessor shall act upon the application with due regard to all relevant evidence and without any one or more items of evidence necessarily being determinative, except that the application may be denied for one of the following reasons, without regard to other items:

(a) The land does not contain a "merchantable stand of timber" as defined in chapter 76.09 RCW and applicable rules. This reason shall not alone be sufficient to deny the application (i) if the land has been recently harvested or supports a growth of brush or noncommercial type timber, and the application includes a plan for restocking within three years or a longer period necessitated by unavailability of seed or seedlings, or (ii) if only isolated areas within the land do not meet the minimum standards due to rock outcroppings, swamps, unproductive soil or other natural conditions;

(b) The applicant, with respect to the land, has failed to comply with a final administrative or judicial order with respect to a violation of the restocking, forest management, fire protection, insect and disease control, and forest debris provisions of Title 76 RCW or any applicable rules under Title 76 RCW; or

(c) The land abuts a body of salt water and lies between the line of ordinary high tide and a line paralleling the ordinary high tide line and two hundred feet horizontally landward from the high tide line. However, if the assessor determines that a higher and better use exists for the land but this use would not be permitted or economically feasible by virtue of any federal, state, or local law or regulation, the land shall be assessed and valued under RCW 84.33.140 without being designated as forest land.

(7) The application shall be deemed to have been approved unless, prior to May 1st of the year after the application was mailed or delivered to the assessor, the assessor notifies the applicant in writing of the extent to which the application is denied.

(8) An owner who receives notice that his or her application has been denied, in whole or in part, may appeal the denial to the county board of equalization in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038. [2003 c 170 § 4. Prior: 2001 c 249 § 2; 2001 c 185 § 4; 1994 c 301 § 32; 1986 c 100

§ 57; 1981 c 148 § 8; 1974 ex.s. c 187 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 294 § 13.]

**Purpose—Intent—2003 c 170:** "During the regular session of the 2001 legislature, RCW 84.33.120 was amended by section 3, chapter 185 and by section 1, chapter 305, and repealed by section 16, chapter 249, each without reference to the other. The purpose of sections 4 through 7 of this act is to resolve any uncertainty about the status of RCW 84.33.120 caused by the enactment of three changes involving RCW 84.33.120 during the 2001 regular legislative session.

(1) Chapter 249, Laws of 2001 both repealed RCW 84.33.120 and incorporated pertinent and vital parts of RCW 84.33.120 into RCW 84.33.140. The technical amendments made to RCW 84.33.120 by section 3, chapter 185, Laws of 2001 were also made to RCW 84.33.140 by section 5, chapter 185, Laws of 2001. The amendments made to RCW 84.33.120 by section 1, chapter 305, Laws of 2001 were also made to RCW 84.33.140 by section 2, chapter 305, Laws of 2001. Therefore, RCW 84.33.140 as amended during the 2001 regular legislative session embodies the pertinent and vital parts of RCW 84.33.120 and the 2001 amendments to RCW 84.33.120.

(2) The legislature intends to confirm the repeal of RCW 84.33.120, including the 2001 regular legislative session amendments to that section, as of the effective date of chapters 185, 249, and 305, Laws of 2001." [2003 c 170 § 1.]

**Purpose—2003 c 170 § 4:** "During the regular session of the 2001 legislature, RCW 84.33.130 was amended by section 4, chapter 185 and by section 2, chapter 249, each without reference to the other. The purpose of section 4 of this act is to reenact and amend RCW 84.33.130 so that it reflects all amendments made by the legislature." [2003 c 170 § 2.]

**Purpose—1981 c 148:** "(1) One of the purposes of this act is to establish the values for ad valorem tax purposes of bare forest land which is primarily devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber without consideration of other potential uses of the land and to provide a procedure for adjusting the values in future years to reflect economic changes which may affect the value established in this act.

(2) Chapter 294, Laws of 1971 ex. sess., as originally enacted, required the department of revenue annually to analyze forest land transactions to ascertain the market value of bare forest land purchased and used exclusively for growing and harvesting timber. Most transactions involving forest land include mature and immature timber with no segregation by the parties between the amounts paid for timber and bare land. The examination of these transactions by the department to ascertain the prices being paid for only the bare land has proven to be very difficult, time consuming, and subject to recurring legal challenge. Samples are small in relation to the total acreage of forest land involved and the administrative time and costs required for the annual analyses are excessive in relation to the changes from year to year which have been observed in the value of bare forest land. This act eliminates most of these administrative costs by establishing the current bare forest land values and by providing a procedure for periodic adjustment of the values which does not require continuing and costly analysis of the numerous forest land transactions throughout the state." [1981 c 148 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.140 Forest land valuation—Notation of forest land designation upon assessment and tax rolls—Notice of continuance—Removal of designation—Compensating tax.** (1) When land has been designated as forest land under RCW 84.33.130, a notation of the designation must be made each year upon the assessment and tax rolls. A copy of the notice of approval together with the legal description or assessor's parcel numbers for the land must, at the expense of the applicant, be filed by the assessor in the same manner as deeds are recorded.

(2) In preparing the assessment roll as of January 1, 2002, for taxes payable in 2003 and each January 1st thereafter, the assessor must list each parcel of designated forest land at a value with respect to the grade and class provided in this subsection and adjusted as provided in subsection (3) of this section. The assessor must compute the assessed value of the land using the same assessment ratio applied generally

in computing the assessed value of other property in the county. Values for the several grades of bare forest land are as follows:

LAND GRADE	OPERABILITY CLASS	VALUES PER ACRE
1	1	\$234
	2	229
	3	217
	4	157
2	1	198
	2	190
	3	183
	4	132
3	1	154
	2	149
	3	148
	4	113
4	1	117
	2	114
	3	113
	4	86
5	1	85
	2	78
	3	77
	4	52
6	1	43
	2	39
	3	39
	4	37
7	1	21
	2	21
	3	20
	4	20
8		1

(3) On or before December 31, 2001, the department must adjust by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW, the forest land values contained in subsection (2) of this section in accordance with this subsection, and must certify the adjusted values to the assessor who will use these values in preparing the assessment roll as of January 1, 2002. For the adjustment to be made on or before December 31, 2001, for use in the 2002 assessment year, the department must:

(a) Divide the aggregate value of all timber harvested within the state between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 2001, by the aggregate harvest volume for the same period, as determined from the harvester excise tax returns filed with the department under RCW 84.33.074; and

(b) Divide the aggregate value of all timber harvested within the state between July 1, 1995, and June 30, 2000, by the aggregate harvest volume for the same period, as determined from the harvester excise tax returns filed with the department under RCW 84.33.074; and

(c) Adjust the forest land values contained in subsection (2) of this section by a percentage equal to one-half of the percentage change in the average values of harvested timber reflected by comparing the resultant values calculated under (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(4) For the adjustments to be made on or before December 31, 2002, and each succeeding year thereafter, the same procedure described in subsection (3) of this section must be followed using harvester excise tax returns filed under RCW 84.33.074. However, this adjustment must be made to the prior year's adjusted value, and the five-year periods for calculating average harvested timber values must be successively one year more recent.

(5) Land graded, assessed, and valued as forest land must continue to be so graded, assessed, and valued until removal of designation by the assessor upon the occurrence of any of the following:

(a) Receipt of notice from the owner to remove the designation;

(b) Sale or transfer to an ownership making the land exempt from ad valorem taxation;

(c) Sale or transfer of all or a portion of the land to a new owner, unless the new owner has signed a notice of forest land designation continuance, except transfer to an owner who is an heir or devisee of a deceased owner, does not, by itself, result in removal of designation. The signed notice of continuance must be attached to the real estate excise tax affidavit provided for in RCW 82.45.150. The notice of continuance must be on a form prepared by the department. If the notice of continuance is not signed by the new owner and attached to the real estate excise tax affidavit, all compensating taxes calculated under subsection (11) of this section are due and payable by the seller or transferor at time of sale. The auditor may not accept an instrument of conveyance regarding designated forest land for filing or recording unless the new owner has signed the notice of continuance or the compensating tax has been paid, as evidenced by the real estate excise tax stamp affixed thereto by the treasurer. The seller, transferor, or new owner may appeal the new assessed valuation calculated under subsection (11) of this section to the county board of equalization in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038. Jurisdiction is hereby conferred on the county board of equalization to hear these appeals;

(d) Determination by the assessor, after giving the owner written notice and an opportunity to be heard, that:

(i) The land is no longer primarily devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber. However, land may not be removed from designation if a governmental agency, organization, or other recipient identified in subsection (13) or (14) of this section as exempt from the payment of compensating tax has manifested its intent in writing or by other official action to acquire a property interest in the designated forest land by means of a transaction that qualifies for an exemption under subsection (13) or (14) of this section. The governmental agency, organization, or recipient must annually provide the assessor of the county in which the land is located reasonable evidence in writing of the intent to acquire the designated land as long as the intent continues or within sixty days of a request by the assessor. The assessor may not request this evidence more than once in a calendar year;

(ii) The owner has failed to comply with a final administrative or judicial order with respect to a violation of the restocking, forest management, fire protection, insect and disease control, and forest debris provisions of Title 76 RCW or any applicable rules under Title 76 RCW; or

(iii) Restocking has not occurred to the extent or within the time specified in the application for designation of such land.

(6) Land may not be removed from designation if there is a governmental restriction that prohibits, in whole or in part, the owner from harvesting timber from the owner's designated forest land. If only a portion of the parcel is impacted by governmental restrictions of this nature, the restrictions cannot be used as a basis to remove the remainder of the forest land from designation under this chapter. For the purposes of this section, "governmental restrictions" includes: (a) Any law, regulation, rule, ordinance, program, or other action adopted or taken by a federal, state, county, city, or other governmental entity; or (b) the land's zoning or its presence within an urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110.

(7) The assessor has the option of requiring an owner of forest land to file a timber management plan with the assessor upon the occurrence of one of the following:

(a) An application for designation as forest land is submitted; or

(b) Designated forest land is sold or transferred and a notice of continuance, described in subsection (5)(c) of this section, is signed.

(8) If land is removed from designation because of any of the circumstances listed in subsection (5)(a) through (c) of this section, the removal applies only to the land affected. If land is removed from designation because of subsection (5)(d) of this section, the removal applies only to the actual area of land that is no longer primarily devoted to the growing and harvesting of timber, without regard to any other land that may have been included in the application and approved for designation, as long as the remaining designated forest land meets the definition of forest land contained in RCW 84.33.035.

(9) Within thirty days after the removal of designation as forest land, the assessor must notify the owner in writing, setting forth the reasons for the removal. The seller, transferor, or owner may appeal the removal to the county board of equalization in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038.

(10) Unless the removal is reversed on appeal a copy of the notice of removal with a notation of the action, if any, upon appeal, together with the legal description or assessor's parcel numbers for the land removed from designation must, at the expense of the applicant, be filed by the assessor in the same manner as deeds are recorded and a notation of removal from designation must immediately be made upon the assessment and tax rolls. The assessor must revalue the land to be removed with reference to its true and fair value as of January 1st of the year of removal from designation. Both the assessed value before and after the removal of designation must be listed. Taxes based on the value of the land as forest land are assessed and payable up until the date of removal and taxes based on the true and fair value of the land are

assessed and payable from the date of removal from designation.

(11) Except as provided in subsection (5)(c), (13), or (14) of this section, a compensating tax is imposed on land removed from designation as forest land. The compensating tax is due and payable to the treasurer thirty days after the owner is notified of the amount of this tax. As soon as possible after the land is removed from designation, the assessor must compute the amount of compensating tax and mail a notice to the owner of the amount of compensating tax owed and the date on which payment of this tax is due. The amount of compensating tax is equal to the difference between the amount of tax last levied on the land as designated forest land and an amount equal to the new assessed value of the land multiplied by the dollar rate of the last levy extended against the land, multiplied by a number, in no event greater than nine, equal to the number of years for which the land was designated as forest land, plus compensating taxes on the land at forest land values up until the date of removal and the prorated taxes on the land at true and fair value from the date of removal to the end of the current tax year.

(12) Compensating tax, together with applicable interest thereon, becomes a lien on the land, which attaches at the time the land is removed from designation as forest land and has priority and must be fully paid and satisfied before any recognizance, mortgage, judgment, debt, obligation, or responsibility to or with which the land may become charged or liable. The lien may be foreclosed upon expiration of the same period after delinquency and in the same manner provided by law for foreclosure of liens for delinquent real property taxes as provided in RCW 84.64.050. Any compensating tax unpaid on its due date will thereupon become delinquent. From the date of delinquency until paid, interest is charged at the same rate applied by law to delinquent ad valorem property taxes.

(13) The compensating tax specified in subsection (11) of this section may not be imposed if the removal of designation under subsection (5) of this section resulted solely from:

(a) Transfer to a government entity in exchange for other forest land located within the state of Washington;

(b) A taking through the exercise of the power of eminent domain, or sale or transfer to an entity having the power of eminent domain in anticipation of the exercise of such power;

(c) A donation of fee title, development rights, or the right to harvest timber, to a government agency or organization qualified under RCW 84.34.210 and 64.04.130 for the purposes enumerated in those sections, or the sale or transfer of fee title to a governmental entity or a nonprofit nature conservancy corporation, as defined in RCW 64.04.130, exclusively for the protection and conservation of lands recommended for state natural area preserve purposes by the natural heritage council and natural heritage plan as defined in chapter 79.70 RCW or approved for state natural resources conservation area purposes as defined in chapter 79.71 RCW. At such time as the land is not used for the purposes enumerated, the compensating tax specified in subsection (11) of this section is imposed upon the current owner;

(d) The sale or transfer of fee title to the parks and recreation commission for park and recreation purposes;

(e) Official action by an agency of the state of Washington or by the county or city within which the land is located that disallows the present use of the land;

(f) The creation, sale, or transfer of forestry riparian easements under RCW 76.13.120;

(g) The creation, sale, or transfer of a conservation easement of private forest lands within unconfined channel migration zones or containing critical habitat for threatened or endangered species under RCW 76.09.040;

(h) The sale or transfer of land within two years after the death of the owner of at least a fifty percent interest in the land if the land has been assessed and valued as classified forest land, designated as forest land under this chapter, or classified under chapter 84.34 RCW continuously since 1993. The date of death shown on a death certificate is the date used for the purposes of this subsection (13)(h); or

(i)(i) The discovery that the land was designated under this chapter in error through no fault of the owner. For purposes of this subsection (13)(i), "fault" means a knowingly false or misleading statement, or other act or omission not in good faith, that contributed to the approval of designation under this chapter or the failure of the assessor to remove the land from designation under this chapter.

(ii) For purposes of this subsection (13), the discovery that land was designated under this chapter in error through no fault of the owner is not the sole reason for removal of designation under subsection (5) of this section if an independent basis for removal exists. An example of an independent basis for removal includes the land no longer being devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber.

(14) In a county with a population of more than six hundred thousand inhabitants or in a county with a population of at least two hundred forty-five thousand inhabitants that borders Puget Sound as defined in RCW 90.71.010, the compensating tax specified in subsection (11) of this section may not be imposed if the removal of designation as forest land under subsection (5) of this section resulted solely from:

(a) An action described in subsection (13) of this section; or

(b) A transfer of a property interest to a government entity, or to a nonprofit historic preservation corporation or nonprofit nature conservancy corporation, as defined in RCW 64.04.130, to protect or enhance public resources, or to preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or otherwise to conserve for public use or enjoyment, the property interest being transferred. At such time as the property interest is not used for the purposes enumerated, the compensating tax is imposed upon the current owner. [2012 c 170 § 1. Prior: 2009 c 354 § 2; 2009 c 255 § 3; 2009 c 246 § 2; 2007 c 54 § 24; 2005 c 303 § 13; 2003 c 170 § 5; prior: 2001 c 305 § 2; 2001 c 249 § 3; 2001 c 185 § 5; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 703; 1999 c 233 § 21; 1997 c 299 § 2; 1995 c 330 § 2; 1992 c 69 § 2; 1986 c 238 § 2; 1981 c 148 § 9; 1980 c 134 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 187 § 7; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 93; 1972 ex.s. c 148 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 294 § 14.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 354:** "(1) The legislature finds that the revenue generated from state forest lands is a vital component of the operating budget in many rural counties. The dependence on a natural resource-based economy is especially underscored in counties with lower population levels and large holdings of public land. The high cost of compliance with the federal endangered species act on state forest lands within these smaller counties is disproportionately burdensome when compared to their total county

budgets.

(2) The intent of this act is to provide sustainable revenue to smaller counties that are heavily dependent on state forest land revenues while promoting long-term protection, conservation, and recovery of marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls. This act provides the necessary tools for the state to maintain long-term working forests by replacing state forest lands with endangered species-based harvest encumbrances with productive, working forest lands." [2009 c 354 § 6.]

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Effective date—2005 c 303 §§ 1-14:** See note following RCW 79A.15.010.

**Purpose—Intent—2003 c 170:** See note following RCW 84.33.130.

**Purpose—Severability—Effective dates—1981 c 148:** See notes following RCW 84.33.130.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.145 Compensating tax.** (1) If no later than thirty days after removal of designation the owner applies for classification under RCW 84.34.020 (1), (2), or (3), then the designated forest land may not be considered removed from designation for purposes of the compensating tax under RCW 84.33.140 until the application for current use classification under chapter 84.34 RCW is denied or the property is removed from classification under RCW 84.34.108. Upon removal of classification under RCW 84.34.108, the amount of compensating tax due under this chapter is equal to:

(a) The difference, if any, between the amount of tax last levied on the land as designated forest land and an amount equal to the new assessed valuation of the land when removed from classification under RCW 84.34.108 multiplied by the dollar rate of the last levy extended against the land, multiplied by

(b) A number equal to:

(i) The number of years the land was designated under this chapter, if the total number of years the land was designated under this chapter and classified under chapter 84.34 RCW is less than ten; or

(ii) Ten minus the number of years the land was classified under chapter 84.34 RCW, if the total number of years the land was designated under this chapter and classified under chapter 84.34 RCW is at least ten.

(2) Nothing in this section authorizes the continued designation under this chapter or defers or reduces the compensating tax imposed upon forest land not transferred to classification under subsection (1) of this section which does not meet the definition of forest land under RCW 84.33.035. Nothing in this section affects the additional tax imposed under RCW 84.34.108.

(3) In a county with a population of more than six hundred thousand inhabitants or in a county with a population of at least two hundred forty-five thousand inhabitants that borders Puget Sound as defined in RCW 90.71.010, no amount of compensating tax is due under this section if the removal from classification under RCW 84.34.108 results from a transfer of property described in RCW 84.34.108(6). [2012 c 170 § 2; 2009 c 354 § 4; 2001 c 249 § 4; 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 704; 1997 c 299 § 3; 1992 c 69 § 3; 1986 c 315 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 354:** See note following RCW 84.33.140.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.170 Application of chapter to Christmas trees.** Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, (2012 Ed.)

this chapter shall not exempt from the ad valorem tax nor subject to the excise tax imposed by this chapter, Christmas trees and short-rotation hardwoods, which are cultivated by agricultural methods, and the land on which the Christmas trees and short-rotation hardwoods stand shall not be taxed as provided in RCW 84.33.140. However, short-rotation hardwoods, which are cultivated by agricultural methods, on land classified as timber land under chapter 84.34 RCW, shall be subject to the excise tax imposed under this chapter. [2001 c 249 § 5; 1995 c 165 § 2; 1984 c 204 § 24; 1983 c 3 § 226; 1971 ex.s. c 294 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.175 Application of tax—Sale of land to governmental agency with reservation of rights to timber—Conveyance by governmental agency of trees.** The excise tax imposed under this chapter applies to forest trees harvested after April 4, 1986, from lands sold to any governmental agency by warranty deed or contract where the seller reserved to itself the right to take all merchantable timber for a specific period of years, or in perpetuity, and to forest trees harvested after April 4, 1986, that any governmental agency, by quit claim deed, as partial consideration for payment of the purchase price, conveyed for a specific period of years, or in perpetuity, all forest trees, standing, growing, or lying on the described land, to the taxpayer, regardless of the date on which the contract was entered. [1986 c 315 § 8.]

**84.33.200 Legislative review of timber tax system—Information and data to be furnished.** (1) The legislature shall review the system of distribution and allocation of all timber excise tax revenues in January 1975 and each year thereafter to provide a uniform and equitable distribution and allocation of such revenues to the state and local taxing districts.

(2) In order to allow legislative review of the rules to be adopted by the department of revenue establishing the stumpage values provided for in RCW 84.33.091, such rules shall be effective not less than thirty days after transmitting to the staffs of the senate and house ways and means committees (or their successor committees) the same proposed rules as have been previously filed with the office of the code reviser pursuant to RCW 34.05.320.

(3) The department of revenue and the department of natural resources shall make available to the revenue committees of the senate and house of representatives of the state legislature information and data, as it may be available, pertaining to the status of forest land grading throughout the state, the collection of timber excise tax revenues, the distribution and allocation of timber excise tax revenues to the state and local taxing districts, and any other information as may be necessary for the proper legislative review and implementation of the timber excise tax system, and in addition, the departments shall provide an annual report of such matters in January of each year to such committees. [2001 c 320 § 17; 1998 c 245 § 170; 1989 c 175 § 179; 1984 c 204 § 25; 1979 c 6 § 4; 1974 ex.s. c 187 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.33.210 Forest land valuation—Special benefit assessments.** (1) Any land that is designated as forest land

under this chapter at the earlier of the times the legislative authority of a local government adopts a resolution, ordinance, or legislative act (a) to create a local improvement district, in which the land is included or would have been included but for the designation, or (b) to approve or confirm a final special benefit assessment roll relating to a sanitary or storm sewerage system, domestic water supply or distribution system, or road construction or improvement, which roll would have included the land but for the designation, shall be exempt from special benefit assessments, charges in lieu of assessment, or rates and charges for storm water control facilities under RCW 36.89.080 for such purposes as long as that land remains designated as forest land, except as otherwise provided in RCW 84.33.250.

(2) Whenever a local government creates a local improvement district, the levying, collection, and enforcement of assessments shall be in the manner and subject to the same procedures and limitations as are provided under the law concerning the initiation and formation of local improvement districts for the particular local government. Notice of the creation of a local improvement district that includes designated forest land shall be filed with the assessor and the legislative authority of the county in which the land is located. The assessor, upon receiving notice of the creation of a local improvement district, shall send a notice to the owners of the designated forest lands listed on the tax rolls of the applicable treasurer of:

- (a) The creation of the local improvement district;
- (b) The exemption of that land from special benefit assessments;
- (c) The fact that the designated forest land may become subject to the special benefit assessments if the owner waives the exemption by filing a notarized document with the governing body of the local government creating the local improvement district before the confirmation of the final special benefit assessment roll; and
- (d) The potential liability, pursuant to RCW 84.33.220, if the exemption is not waived and the land is subsequently removed from designated forest land status.

(3) When a local government approves and confirms a special benefit assessment roll, from which designated forest land has been exempted under this section, it shall file a notice of this action with the assessor and the legislative authority of the county in which the land is located and with the treasurer of that local government. The notice shall describe the action taken, the type of improvement involved, the land exempted, and the amount of the special benefit assessment that would have been levied against the land if it had not been exempted. The filing of the notice with the assessor and the treasurer of that local government shall constitute constructive notice to a purchaser or encumbrancer of the affected land, and every person whose conveyance or encumbrance is subsequently executed or subsequently recorded, that the exempt land is subject to the charges provided in RCW 84.33.220 and 84.33.230, if the land is removed from its designation as forest land.

(4) The owner of the land exempted from special benefit assessments under this section may waive that exemption by filing a notarized document to that effect with the legislative authority of the local government upon receiving notice from said local government concerning the assessment roll hearing

and before the local government confirms the final special benefit assessment roll. A copy of that waiver shall be filed by the local government with the assessor, but the failure to file this copy shall not affect the waiver.

(5) Except to the extent provided in RCW 84.33.250, the local government shall have no duty to furnish service from the improvement financed by the special benefit assessment to the exempted land. [2003 c 394 § 7; 2001 c 249 § 6; 1992 c 52 § 7.]

**84.33.220 Forest land valuation—Withdrawal from designation or change in use—Liability.** Whenever forest land has been exempted from special benefit assessments under RCW 84.33.210, any removal from designation or change in use from forest land under this chapter shall result in the following:

(1) If the bonds used to fund the improvement in the local improvement district have not been completely retired, the land shall immediately become liable for:

(a) The amount of the special benefit assessment listed in the notice provided for in RCW 84.33.210; plus

(b) Interest on the amount determined in (a) of this subsection, compounded annually at a rate equal to the average rate of inflation from the time the initial notice is filed by the governmental entity that created the local improvement district as provided in RCW 84.33.210, to the time the owner or the assessor removes the land from the exemption category provided by this chapter; or

(2) If the bonds used to fund the improvement in the local improvement district have been completely retired, the land shall immediately become liable for:

(a) The amount of the special benefit assessment listed in the notice provided for in RCW 84.33.210; plus

(b) Interest on the amount determined in (a) of this subsection compounded annually at a rate equal to the average rate of inflation from the time the initial notice is filed by the governmental entity that created the local improvement district as provided in RCW 84.33.210, to the time the bonds used to fund the improvement have been retired; plus

(c) Interest on the total amount determined in (a) and (b) of this subsection at a simple per annum rate equal to the average rate of inflation from the time the bonds used to fund the improvement have been retired to the time the owner or the assessor removes the land from the exemption category provided by this chapter;

(3) The amount payable under this section shall become due on the date the land is removed from its forest land designation. This amount shall be a lien on the land prior and superior to any other lien whatsoever except for the lien for general taxes, and shall be enforceable in the same manner as the collection of special benefit assessments are enforced by that local government. [2001 c 249 § 7; 1992 c 52 § 8.]

**84.33.230 Forest land valuation—Change in designation—Notice.** Whenever forest land is removed from its forest land designation, the assessor of the county in which the land is located shall forthwith give written notice of the removal to the local government or its successor that filed with the assessor the notice required by RCW 84.33.210. Upon receipt of the notice from the assessor, the local government shall mail a written statement to the owner of the

land for the amounts payable as provided in RCW 84.33.220. The amounts due shall be delinquent if not paid within one hundred eighty days after the date of mailing of the statement. The amount payable shall be subject to the same interest, penalties, lien priority, and enforcement procedures that are applicable to delinquent assessments on the assessment roll from which that land had been exempted, except that the rate of interest charged shall not exceed the rate provided in RCW 84.33.220. [2001 c 249 § 8; 1992 c 52 § 9.]

**84.33.240 Forest land valuation—Change in classification or use—Application of payments.** Payments collected pursuant to RCW 84.33.220 and 84.33.230, or by enforcement procedures referred to therein, after the payment of the expenses of their collection, shall first be applied to the payment of general or special debt incurred to finance the improvements related to the special benefit assessments, and, if such debt is retired, then into the maintenance fund or general fund of the governmental entity that created the local improvement district, or its successor, for any of the following purposes: (1) Redemption or servicing of outstanding obligations of the district; (2) maintenance expenses of the district; or (3) construction or acquisition of any facilities necessary to carry out the purpose of the district. [1992 c 52 § 10.]

**84.33.250 Forest land valuation—Special benefit assessments.** The department shall adopt rules it shall deem necessary to implement RCW 84.33.210 through 84.33.270, which shall include, but not be limited to, procedures to determine the extent to which a portion of the land otherwise exempt may be subject to a special benefit assessment for: (1) The actual connection to the domestic water system or sewerage facilities; (2) access to the road improvement in relation to its value as forest land as distinguished from its value under more intensive uses; and (3) the lands that benefit from or cause the need for a local improvement district. The provision for limited special benefit assessments shall not relieve the land from liability for the amounts provided in RCW 84.33.220 and 84.33.230 when the land is removed from its forest land designation. [2001 c 249 § 9; 1992 c 52 § 11.]

**84.33.260 Forest land valuation—Withdrawal from designation or change in use—Benefit assessments.** Whenever a portion of a parcel of land that was designated as forest land under this chapter is removed from designation or there is a change in use, and the land has been exempted from any benefit assessments under RCW 84.33.210, the previously exempt benefit assessments shall become due on only that portion of the land that is removed or changed in use. [2001 c 249 § 10; 1992 c 52 § 12.]

**84.33.270 Forest land valuation—Government future development right—Conserving forest land—Exemptions.** (1) Forest land on which the right of future development has been acquired by any local government, the state of Washington, or the United States government shall be exempt from special benefit assessments in lieu of assessment for the purposes in the same manner, and under the same liabilities for payment and interest, as land designated

under this chapter as forest land, for as long as the designation applies.

(2) Any interest, development right, easement, covenant, or other contractual right that effectively protects, preserves, maintains, improves, restores, prevents the future nonforest use of, or otherwise conserves forest land shall be exempt from special benefit assessments as long as the development right or other interest effectively serves to prevent nonforest development of the land. [2001 c 249 § 11; 1992 c 52 § 13.]

**84.33.280 Applicant for forest riparian easement program—Department to rely on certain documents.** The department shall, when contacted by the department of natural resources under RCW 76.13.160, rely on submitted tax-related documents to confirm or deny that an applicant for the forest riparian easement program established in RCW 76.13.120 satisfies the definition of a small forest landowner, as that term is defined in RCW 76.13.120. Nothing in this section, or RCW 76.13.160, prohibits the department from providing the department of natural resources with aggregate or general information. [2004 c 102 § 3.]

Chapter 84.34 RCW

OPEN SPACE, AGRICULTURAL, TIMBER LANDS—CURRENT USE—CONSERVATION FUTURES

Sections

- 84.34.010 Legislative declaration.
- 84.34.020 Definitions.
- 84.34.030 Applications for current use classification—Forms—Fee—Times for making.
- 84.34.035 Applications for current use classification—Approval or denial—Appeal—Duties of assessor upon approval.
- 84.34.037 Applications for current use classification—To whom made—Factors—Review.
- 84.34.041 Application for current use classification—Forms—Public hearing—Approval or denial.
- 84.34.050 Notice of approval or disapproval—Procedure when approval granted.
- 84.34.055 Open space priorities—Open space plan and public benefit rating system.
- 84.34.060 Determination of true and fair value of classified land—Computation of assessed value.
- 84.34.065 Determination of true and fair value of farm and agricultural land—Definitions.
- 84.34.070 Withdrawal from classification.
- 84.34.080 Change in use.
- 84.34.090 Extension of additional tax and penalties on tax roll—Lien.
- 84.34.100 Payment of additional tax, penalties, and/or interest.
- 84.34.108 Removal of classification—Factors—Notice of continuance—Additional tax—Lien—Delinquencies—Exemptions.
- 84.34.111 Remedies available to owner liable for additional tax.
- 84.34.121 Information required.
- 84.34.131 Valuation of timber not affected.
- 84.34.141 Rules and regulations.
- 84.34.145 Advisory committee.
- 84.34.150 Reclassification of land classified under prior law which meets definition of farm and agricultural land.
- 84.34.155 Reclassification of land classified as timber land which meets definition of forest land under chapter 84.33 RCW.
- 84.34.160 Information on current use classification—Publication and dissemination.
- 84.34.200 Acquisition of open space, etc., land or rights to future development by counties, cities, or metropolitan municipal corporations—Legislative declaration—Purposes.
- 84.34.210 Acquisition of open space, land, or rights to future development by certain entities—Authority to acquire—Conveyance or lease back.
- 84.34.220 Acquisition of open space, land, or rights to future development by certain entities—Developmental rights—"Conservation futures"—Acquisition—Restrictions.

- 84.34.230 Acquisition of open space, etc., land or rights to future development by certain entities—Additional property tax levy authorized.
- 84.34.240 Acquisition of open space, etc., land or rights to future development by certain entities—Conservation futures fund—Additional requirements, authority.
- 84.34.250 Nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association defined.
- 84.34.300 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Legislative findings—Purpose.
- 84.34.310 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Definitions.
- 84.34.320 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Exemption from assessment—Procedures relating to exemption—Constructive notice of potential liability—Waiver of exemption.
- 84.34.330 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Withdrawal from classification or change in use—Liability—Amount—Due date—Lien.
- 84.34.340 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Withdrawal or removal from classification—Notice to local government—Statement to owner of amounts payable—Delinquency date—Enforcement procedures.
- 84.34.350 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land—Use of payments collected.
- 84.34.360 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Rules to implement RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380.
- 84.34.370 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Assessments due on land withdrawn or changed.
- 84.34.380 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Application of exemption to rights and interests preventing nonagricultural or nonforest uses.
- 84.34.390 Application—Chapter 79.44 RCW—Assessments against public lands.
- 84.34.900 Severability—1970 ex.s. c 87.
- 84.34.910 Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 87.
- 84.34.920 Severability—1971 ex.s. c 243.
- 84.34.921 Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 212.
- 84.34.922 Severability—1979 c 84.
- 84.34.923 Effective date—1992 c 69.

*Conservation futures on agricultural land—Property tax exemption: RCW 84.36.260, 84.36.500.*

**84.34.010 Legislative declaration.** The legislature hereby declares that it is in the best interest of the state to maintain, preserve, conserve and otherwise continue in existence adequate open space lands for the production of food, fiber and forest crops, and to assure the use and enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the economic and social well-being of the state and its citizens. The legislature further declares that assessment practices must be so designed as to permit the continued availability of open space lands for these purposes, and it is the intent of this chapter so to provide. The legislature further declares its intent that farm and agricultural lands shall be valued on the basis of their value for use as authorized by section 11 of Article VII of the Constitution of the state of Washington. [1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 87 § 1.]

**84.34.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless a different meaning is required by the context:

(1) "Open space land" means (a) any land area so designated by an official comprehensive land use plan adopted by any city or county and zoned accordingly, or (b) any land area, the preservation of which in its present use would (i) conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources, or (ii) protect streams or water supply, or (iii) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes, or (iv) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries or other open space, or (v) enhance recreation opportunities, or (vi)

preserve historic sites, or (vii) preserve visual quality along highway, road, and street corridors or scenic vistas, or (viii) retain in its natural state tracts of land not less than one acre situated in an urban area and open to public use on such conditions as may be reasonably required by the legislative body granting the open space classification, or (c) any land meeting the definition of farm and agricultural conservation land under subsection (8) of this section. As a condition of granting open space classification, the legislative body may not require public access on land classified under (b)(iii) of this subsection for the purpose of promoting conservation of wetlands.

(2) "Farm and agricultural land" means:

(a) Any parcel of land that is twenty or more acres or multiple parcels of land that are contiguous and total twenty or more acres:

(i) Devoted primarily to the production of livestock or agricultural commodities for commercial purposes;

(ii) Enrolled in the federal conservation reserve program or its successor administered by the United States department of agriculture; or

(iii) Other similar commercial activities as may be established by rule;

(b)(i) Any parcel of land that is five acres or more but less than twenty acres devoted primarily to agricultural uses, which has produced a gross income from agricultural uses equivalent to, as of January 1, 1993:

(A) One hundred dollars or more per acre per year for three of the five calendar years preceding the date of application for classification under this chapter for all parcels of land that are classified under this subsection or all parcels of land for which an application for classification under this subsection is made with the granting authority prior to January 1, 1993; and

(B) On or after January 1, 1993, two hundred dollars or more per acre per year for three of the five calendar years preceding the date of application for classification under this chapter;

(ii) For the purposes of (b)(i) of this subsection, "gross income from agricultural uses" includes, but is not limited to, the wholesale value of agricultural products donated to non-profit food banks or feeding programs;

(c) Any parcel of land of less than five acres devoted primarily to agricultural uses which has produced a gross income as of January 1, 1993, of:

(i) One thousand dollars or more per year for three of the five calendar years preceding the date of application for classification under this chapter for all parcels of land that are classified under this subsection or all parcels of land for which an application for classification under this subsection is made with the granting authority prior to January 1, 1993; and

(ii) On or after January 1, 1993, fifteen hundred dollars or more per year for three of the five calendar years preceding the date of application for classification under this chapter. Parcels of land described in (b)(i)(A) and (c)(i) of this subsection will, upon any transfer of the property excluding a transfer to a surviving spouse or surviving state registered domestic partner, be subject to the limits of (b)(i)(B) and (c)(ii) of this subsection;

(d) Any parcel of land that is five acres or more but less than twenty acres devoted primarily to agricultural uses, which meet one of the following criteria:

(i) Has produced a gross income from agricultural uses equivalent to two hundred dollars or more per acre per year for three of the five calendar years preceding the date of application for classification under this chapter;

(ii) Has standing crops with an expectation of harvest within seven years, except as provided in (d)(iii) of this subsection, and a demonstrable investment in the production of those crops equivalent to one hundred dollars or more per acre in the current or previous calendar year. For the purposes of this subsection (2)(d)(ii), "standing crop" means Christmas trees, vineyards, fruit trees, or other perennial crops that: (A) Are planted using agricultural methods normally used in the commercial production of that particular crop; and (B) typically do not produce harvestable quantities in the initial years after planting; or

(iii) Has a standing crop of short rotation hardwoods with an expectation of harvest within fifteen years and a demonstrable investment in the production of those crops equivalent to one hundred dollars or more per acre in the current or previous calendar year;

(e) Any lands including incidental uses as are compatible with agricultural purposes, including wetlands preservation, provided such incidental use does not exceed twenty percent of the classified land and the land on which appurtenances necessary to the production, preparation, or sale of the agricultural products exist in conjunction with the lands producing such products. Agricultural lands also include any parcel of land of one to five acres, which is not contiguous, but which otherwise constitutes an integral part of farming operations being conducted on land qualifying under this section as "farm and agricultural lands";

(f) The land on which housing for employees and the principal place of residence of the farm operator or owner of land classified pursuant to (a) of this subsection is sited if: The housing or residence is on or contiguous to the classified parcel; and the use of the housing or the residence is integral to the use of the classified land for agricultural purposes; or

(g) Any land that is used primarily for equestrian related activities for which a charge is made, including, but not limited to, stabling, training, riding, clinics, schooling, shows, or grazing for feed and that otherwise meet the requirements of (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection.

(3) "Timber land" means any parcel of land that is five or more acres or multiple parcels of land that are contiguous and total five or more acres which is or are devoted primarily to the growth and harvest of timber for commercial purposes. Timber land means the land only and does not include a residential homesite. The term includes land used for incidental uses that are compatible with the growing and harvesting of timber but no more than ten percent of the land may be used for such incidental uses. It also includes the land on which appurtenances necessary for the production, preparation, or sale of the timber products exist in conjunction with land producing these products.

(4) "Current" or "currently" means as of the date on which property is to be listed and valued by the assessor.

(2012 Ed.)

(5) "Owner" means the party or parties having the fee interest in land, except that where land is subject to real estate contract "owner" means the contract vendee.

(6)(a) "Contiguous" means land adjoining and touching other property held by the same ownership. Land divided by a public road, but otherwise an integral part of a farming operation, is considered contiguous.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (6):

(i) "Same ownership" means owned by the same person or persons, except that parcels owned by different persons are deemed held by the same ownership if the parcels are:

(A) Managed as part of a single operation; and

(B) Owned by:

(I) Members of the same family;

(II) Legal entities that are wholly owned by members of the same family; or

(III) An individual who owns at least one of the parcels and a legal entity or entities that own the other parcel or parcels if the entity or entities are wholly owned by that individual, members of his or her family, or that individual and members of his or her family.

(ii) "Family" includes only:

(A) An individual and his or her spouse or domestic partner, child, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, cousin, or sibling;

(B) The spouse or domestic partner of an individual's child, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, cousin, or sibling;

(C) A child, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, cousin, or sibling of the individual's spouse or the individual's domestic partner; and

(D) The spouse or domestic partner of any individual described in (b)(ii)(C) of this subsection (6).

(7) "Granting authority" means the appropriate agency or official who acts on an application for classification of land pursuant to this chapter.

(8) "Farm and agricultural conservation land" means either:

(a) Land that was previously classified under subsection (2) of this section, that no longer meets the criteria of subsection (2) of this section, and that is reclassified under subsection (1) of this section; or

(b) Land that is traditional farmland that is not classified under chapter 84.33 or 84.34 RCW, that has not been irrevocably devoted to a use inconsistent with agricultural uses, and that has a high potential for returning to commercial agriculture. [2011 c 101 § 1; 2010 c 106 § 304. Prior: 2009 c 513 § 1; 2009 c 255 § 1; 2005 c 57 § 1; 2004 c 217 § 1; 2002 c 315 § 1; 2001 c 249 § 12; 1998 c 320 § 7; 1997 c 429 § 31; 1992 c 69 § 4; 1988 c 253 § 3; 1983 c 3 § 227; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 87 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Purpose—2004 c 217 § 1:** "The purpose of the amendatory language in section 1 of this act is to clarify the timber land definition as it relates to tax issues. The language does not affect land use policy or law." [2004 c 217 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.34.030 Applications for current use classification—Forms—Fee—Times for making.** An owner of agricultural land desiring current use classification under subsec-

tion (2) of RCW 84.34.020 shall make application to the county assessor upon forms prepared by the state department of revenue and supplied by the county assessor. An owner of open space or timber land desiring current use classification under subsections (1) and (3) of RCW 84.34.020 shall make application to the county legislative authority upon forms prepared by the state department of revenue and supplied by the county assessor. The application shall be accompanied by a reasonable processing fee if such processing fee is established by the city or county legislative authority. Said application shall require only such information reasonably necessary to properly classify an area of land under this chapter with a notarized verification of the truth thereof and shall include a statement that the applicant is aware of the potential tax liability involved when such land ceases to be designated as open space, farm and agricultural or timber land. Applications must be made during the calendar year preceding that in which such classification is to begin. The assessor shall make necessary information, including copies of this chapter and applicable regulations, readily available to interested parties, and shall render reasonable assistance to such parties upon request. [1989 c 378 § 10; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 87 § 3.]

**84.34.035 Applications for current use classification—Approval or denial—Appeal—Duties of assessor upon approval.** The assessor shall act upon the application for current use classification of farm and agricultural lands under RCW 84.34.020(2), with due regard to all relevant evidence. The application shall be deemed to have been approved unless, prior to the first day of May of the year after such application was mailed or delivered to the assessor, the assessor shall notify the applicant in writing of the extent to which the application is denied. An owner who receives notice that his or her application has been denied may appeal such denial to the board of equalization in the county where the property is located. The appeal shall be filed in accordance with RCW 84.40.038. Within ten days following approval of the application, the assessor shall submit notification of such approval to the county auditor for recording in the place and manner provided for the public recording of state tax liens on real property. The assessor shall retain a copy of all applications.

The assessor shall, as to any such land, make a notation each year on the assessment list and the tax roll of the assessed value of such land for the use for which it is classified in addition to the assessed value of such land were it not so classified. [2001 c 185 § 6; 1992 c 69 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.34.037 Applications for current use classification—To whom made—Factors—Review.** (1) Applications for classification or reclassification under RCW 84.34.020(1) shall be made to the county legislative authority. An application made for classification or reclassification of land under RCW 84.34.020(1) (b) and (c) which is in an area subject to a comprehensive plan shall be acted upon in the same manner in which an amendment to the comprehensive plan is processed. Application made for classification of land which is in an area not subject to a comprehensive plan

shall be acted upon after a public hearing and after notice of the hearing shall have been given by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area at least ten days before the hearing: PROVIDED, That applications for classification of land in an incorporated area shall be acted upon by: (a) A granting authority composed of three members of the county legislative body and three members of the city legislative body in which the land is located in a meeting where members may be physically absent but participating through telephonic connection; or (b) separate affirmative acts by both the county and city legislative bodies where both bodies affirm the entirety of an application without modification or both bodies affirm an application with identical modifications.

(2) In determining whether an application made for classification or reclassification under RCW 84.34.020(1) (b) and (c) should be approved or disapproved, the granting authority may take cognizance of the benefits to the general welfare of preserving the current use of the property which is the subject of application, and shall consider:

(a) The resulting revenue loss or tax shift;

(b) Whether granting the application for land applying under RCW 84.34.020(1)(b) will (i) conserve or enhance natural, cultural, or scenic resources, (ii) protect streams, stream corridors, wetlands, natural shorelines and aquifers, (iii) protect soil resources and unique or critical wildlife and native plant habitat, (iv) promote conservation principles by example or by offering educational opportunities, (v) enhance the value of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations, sanctuaries, or other open spaces, (vi) enhance recreation opportunities, (vii) preserve historic and archaeological sites, (viii) preserve visual quality along highway, road, and street corridors or scenic vistas, (ix) affect any other factors relevant in weighing benefits to the general welfare of preserving the current use of the property; and

(c) Whether granting the application for land applying under RCW 84.34.020(1)(c) will (i) either preserve land previously classified under RCW 84.34.020(2) or preserve land that is traditional farmland and not classified under chapter 84.33 or 84.34 RCW, (ii) preserve land with a potential for returning to commercial agriculture, and (iii) affect any other factors relevant in weighing benefits to the general welfare of preserving the current use of property.

(3) If a public benefit rating system is adopted under RCW 84.34.055, the county legislative authority shall rate property for which application for classification has been made under RCW 84.34.020(1) (b) and (c) according to the public benefit rating system in determining whether an application should be approved or disapproved, but when such a system is adopted, open space properties then classified under this chapter which do not qualify under the system shall not be removed from classification but may be rated according to the public benefit rating system.

(4) The granting authority may approve the application with respect to only part of the land which is the subject of the application. If any part of the application is denied, the applicant may withdraw the entire application. The granting authority in approving in part or whole an application for land classified or reclassified pursuant to RCW 84.34.020(1) may also require that certain conditions be met, including but not limited to the granting of easements. As a condition of grant-

ing open space classification, the legislative body may not require public access on land classified under RCW 84.34.020(1)(b)(iii) for the purpose of promoting conservation of wetlands.

(5) The granting or denial of the application for current use classification or reclassification is a legislative determination and shall be reviewable only for arbitrary and capricious actions. [2009 c 350 § 13; 1992 c 69 § 6; 1985 c 393 § 1; 1984 c 111 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 5.]

**84.34.041 Application for current use classification—Forms—Public hearing—Approval or denial.** An application for current use classification or reclassification under RCW 84.34.020(3) shall be made to the county legislative authority.

(1) The application shall be made upon forms prepared by the department of revenue and supplied by the granting authority and shall include the following elements that constitute a timber management plan:

(a) A legal description of, or assessor's parcel numbers for, all land the applicant desires to be classified as timber land;

(b) The date or dates of acquisition of the land;

(c) A brief description of the timber on the land, or if the timber has been harvested, the owner's plan for restocking;

(d) Whether there is a forest management plan for the land;

(e) If so, the nature and extent of implementation of the plan;

(f) Whether the land is used for grazing;

(g) Whether the land has been subdivided or a plat filed with respect to the land;

(h) Whether the land and the applicant are in compliance with the restocking, forest management, fire protection, insect and disease control, weed control, and forest debris provisions of Title 76 RCW or applicable rules under Title 76 RCW;

(i) Whether the land is subject to forest fire protection assessments pursuant to RCW 76.04.610;

(j) Whether the land is subject to a lease, option, or other right that permits it to be used for a purpose other than growing and harvesting timber;

(k) A summary of the past experience and activity of the applicant in growing and harvesting timber;

(l) A summary of current and continuing activity of the applicant in growing and harvesting timber;

(m) A statement that the applicant is aware of the potential tax liability involved when the land ceases to be classified as timber land.

(2) An application made for classification of land under RCW 84.34.020(3) shall be acted upon after a public hearing and after notice of the hearing is given by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area at least ten days before the hearing. Application for classification of land in an incorporated area shall be acted upon by: (a) A granting authority composed of three members of the county legislative body and three members of the city legislative body in which the land is located in a meeting where members may be physically absent but participating through telephonic connection; or (b) separate affirmative acts by both the county and city legislative bodies where both bodies affirm

the entirety of an application without modification or both bodies affirm an application with identical modifications.

(3) The granting authority shall act upon the application with due regard to all relevant evidence and without any one or more items of evidence necessarily being determinative, except that the application may be denied for one of the following reasons, without regard to other items:

(a) The land does not contain a stand of timber as defined in chapter 76.09 RCW and applicable rules, except this reason shall not alone be sufficient to deny the application (i) if the land has been recently harvested or supports a growth of brush or noncommercial type timber, and the application includes a plan for restocking within three years or the longer period necessitated by unavailability of seed or seedlings, or (ii) if only isolated areas within the land do not meet minimum standards due to rock outcroppings, swamps, unproductive soil, or other natural conditions;

(b) The applicant, with respect to the land, has failed to comply with a final administrative or judicial order with respect to a violation of the restocking, forest management, fire protection, insect and disease control, weed control, and forest debris provisions of Title 76 RCW or applicable rules under Title 76 RCW;

(c) The land abuts a body of salt water and lies between the line of ordinary high tide and a line paralleling the ordinary high tide line and two hundred feet horizontally landward from the high tide line.

(4) The timber management plan must be filed with the county legislative authority either: (a) When an application for classification under this chapter is submitted; (b) when a sale or transfer of timber land occurs and a notice of continuance is signed; or (c) within sixty days of the date the application for reclassification under this chapter or from designated forest land is received. The application for reclassification shall be accepted, but shall not be processed until the timber management plan is received. If the timber management plan is not received within sixty days of the date the application for reclassification is received, the application for reclassification shall be denied.

If circumstances require it, the county assessor may allow in writing an extension of time for submitting a timber management plan when an application for classification or reclassification or notice of continuance is filed. When the assessor approves an extension of time for filing the timber management plan, the county legislative authority may delay processing an application until the timber management plan is received. If the timber management plan is not received by the date set by the assessor, the application or the notice of continuance shall be denied.

The granting authority may approve the application with respect to only part of the land that is described in the application, and if any part of the application is denied, the applicant may withdraw the entire application. The granting authority, in approving in part or whole an application for land classified pursuant to RCW 84.34.020(3), may also require that certain conditions be met.

Granting or denial of an application for current use classification is a legislative determination and shall be reviewable only for arbitrary and capricious actions. The granting authority may not require the granting of easements for land classified pursuant to RCW 84.34.020(3).

The granting authority shall approve or disapprove an application made under this section within six months following the date the application is received. [2009 c 350 § 14; 2002 c 315 § 2; 1992 c 69 § 20.]

**84.34.050 Notice of approval or disapproval—Procedure when approval granted.** (1) The granting authority shall immediately notify the assessor and the applicant of its approval or disapproval which shall in no event be more than six months from the receipt of said application. No land other than farm and agricultural land shall be classified under this chapter until an application in regard thereto has been approved by the appropriate legislative authority.

(2) When the granting authority classifies land under this chapter, it shall file notice of the same with the assessor within ten days. The assessor shall, as to any such land, make a notation each year on the assessment list and the tax roll of the assessed value of such land for the use for which it is classified in addition to the assessed value of such land were it not so classified.

(3) Within ten days following receipt of the notice from the granting authority of classification of such land under this chapter, the assessor shall submit such notice to the county auditor for recording in the place and manner provided for the public recording of state tax liens on real property. [1992 c 69 § 7; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 6; 1970 ex.s. c 87 § 5.]

**84.34.055 Open space priorities—Open space plan and public benefit rating system.** (1)(a) The county legislative authority may direct the county planning commission to set open space priorities and adopt, after a public hearing, an open space plan and public benefit rating system for the county. The plan shall consist of criteria for determining eligibility of lands, the process for establishing a public benefit rating system, and an assessed valuation schedule. The assessed valuation schedule shall be developed by the county assessor and shall be a percentage of market value based upon the public benefit rating system. The open space plan, the public benefit rating system, and the assessed valuations schedule shall not be effective until approved by the county legislative authority after at least one public hearing: PROVIDED, That any county which has complied with the procedural requisites of chapter 393, Laws of 1985, prior to July 28, 1985, need not repeat those procedures in order to adopt an open space plan pursuant to chapter 393, Laws of 1985.

(b) County legislative authorities, in open space plans, public benefit rating systems, and assessed valuation schedules, shall give priority consideration to lands used for buffers that are planted with or primarily contain native vegetation.

(c) "Priority consideration" as used in this section may include, but is not limited to, establishing classification eligibility and maintenance criteria for buffers meeting the requirements of (b) of this subsection.

(d) County legislative authorities shall meet the requirements of (b) of this subsection no later than July 1, 2006, unless buffers already receive priority consideration in the existing open space plans, public benefit rating systems, and assessed valuation schedules.

(2) In adopting an open space plan, recognized sources shall be used unless the county does its own survey of impor-

tant open space priorities or features, or both. Recognized sources include but are not limited to the natural heritage database; the state office of historic preservation; the recreation and conservation office inventory of dry accretion beach and shoreline features; state, national, county, or city registers of historic places; the shoreline master program; or studies by the parks and recreation commission and by the departments of fish and wildlife and natural resources. Features and sites may be verified by an outside expert in the field and approved by the appropriate state or local agency to be sent to the county legislative authority for final approval as open space.

(3) When the county open space plan is adopted, owners of open space lands then classified under this chapter shall be notified in the same manner as is provided in RCW 84.40.045 of their new assessed value. These lands may be removed from classification, upon request of owner, without penalty within thirty days of notification of value.

(4) The open space plan and public benefit rating system under this section may be adopted for taxes payable in 1986 and thereafter. [2007 c 241 § 73; 2005 c 310 § 1; 1994 c 264 § 76; 1988 c 36 § 62; 1985 c 393 § 3.]

**Intent—Effective date—2007 c 241:** See notes following RCW 79A.25.005.

**84.34.060 Determination of true and fair value of classified land—Computation of assessed value.** In determining the true and fair value of open space land and timber land, which has been classified as such under the provisions of this chapter, the assessor shall consider only the use to which such property and improvements is currently applied and shall not consider potential uses of such property. The assessed valuation of open space land shall not be less than the minimum value per acre of classified farm and agricultural land except that the assessed valuation of open space land may be valued based on the public benefit rating system adopted under RCW 84.34.055: PROVIDED FURTHER, That timber land shall be valued according to chapter 84.33 RCW. In valuing any tract or parcel of real property designated and zoned under a comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW as agricultural, forest, or open space land, the appraisal shall not be based on similar sales of parcels that have been converted to nonagricultural, nonforest, or nonopen-space uses within five years after the sale. [1997 c 429 § 32; 1992 c 69 § 8; 1985 c 393 § 2; 1981 c 148 § 10; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 87 § 6.]

**Purpose—Severability—Effective dates—1981 c 148:** See notes following RCW 84.33.130.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.34.065 Determination of true and fair value of farm and agricultural land—Definitions.** The true and fair value of farm and agricultural land shall be determined by consideration of the earning or productive capacity of comparable lands from crops grown most typically in the area averaged over not less than five years, capitalized at indicative rates. The earning or productive capacity of farm and agricultural lands shall be the "net cash rental", capitalized at a "rate of interest" charged on long term loans secured by a mortgage on farm or agricultural land plus a component for property taxes. The current use value of land under \*RCW

84.34.020(2)(e) shall be established as: The prior year's average value of open space farm and agricultural land used in the county plus the value of land improvements such as septic, water, and power used to serve the residence. This shall not be interpreted to require the assessor to list improvements to the land with the value of the land.

For the purposes of the above computation:

(1) The term "net cash rental" shall mean the average rental paid on an annual basis, in cash, for the land being appraised and other farm and agricultural land of similar quality and similarly situated that is available for lease for a period of at least three years to any reliable person without unreasonable restrictions on its use for production of agricultural crops. There shall be allowed as a deduction from the rental received or computed any costs of crop production charged against the landlord if the costs are such as are customarily paid by a landlord. If "net cash rental" data is not available, the earning or productive capacity of farm and agricultural lands shall be determined by the cash value of typical or usual crops grown on land of similar quality and similarly situated averaged over not less than five years. Standard costs of production shall be allowed as a deduction from the cash value of the crops.

The current "net cash rental" or "earning capacity" shall be determined by the assessor with the advice of the advisory committee as provided in RCW 84.34.145, and through a continuing internal study, assisted by studies of the department of revenue. This net cash rental figure as it applies to any farm and agricultural land may be challenged before the same boards or authorities as would be the case with regard to assessed values on general property.

(2) The term "rate of interest" shall mean the rate of interest charged by the farm credit administration and other large financial institutions regularly making loans secured by farm and agricultural lands through mortgages or similar legal instruments, averaged over the immediate past five years.

The "rate of interest" shall be determined annually by a rule adopted by the department of revenue and such rule shall be published in the state register not later than January 1 of each year for use in that assessment year. The department of revenue determination may be appealed to the state board of tax appeals within thirty days after the date of publication by any owner of farm or agricultural land or the assessor of any county containing farm and agricultural land.

(3) The "component for property taxes" shall be a figure obtained by dividing the assessed value of all property in the county into the property taxes levied within the county in the year preceding the assessment and multiplying the quotient obtained by one hundred. [2001 c 249 § 13; 2000 c 103 § 23; 1998 c 320 § 8; 1997 c 429 § 33; 1992 c 69 § 9; 1989 c 378 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 10.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 84.34.020 was amended by 2009 c 513 § 1, changing subsection (2)(e) to subsection (2)(f).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.34.070 Withdrawal from classification.** (1) When land has once been classified under this chapter, it shall remain under such classification and shall not be applied to other use except as provided by subsection (2) of this section for at least ten years from the date of classification and shall

continue under such classification until and unless withdrawn from classification after notice of request for withdrawal shall be made by the owner. During any year after eight years of the initial ten-year classification period have elapsed, notice of request for withdrawal of all or a portion of the land may be given by the owner to the assessor or assessors of the county or counties in which such land is situated. In the event that a portion of a parcel is removed from classification, the remaining portion must meet the same requirements as did the entire parcel when such land was originally granted classification pursuant to this chapter unless the remaining parcel has different income criteria. Within seven days the assessor shall transmit one copy of such notice to the legislative body which originally approved the application. The assessor or assessors, as the case may be, shall, when two assessment years have elapsed following the date of receipt of such notice, withdraw such land from such classification and the land shall be subject to the additional tax and applicable interest due under RCW 84.34.108. Agreement to tax according to use shall not be considered to be a contract and can be abrogated at any time by the legislature in which event no additional tax or penalty shall be imposed.

(2) The following reclassifications are not considered withdrawals or removals and are not subject to additional tax under RCW 84.34.108:

(a) Reclassification between lands under RCW 84.34.020 (2) and (3);

(b) Reclassification of land classified under RCW 84.34.020 (2) or (3) or chapter 84.33 RCW to open space land under RCW 84.34.020(1);

(c) Reclassification of land classified under RCW 84.34.020 (2) or (3) to forest land classified under chapter 84.33 RCW; and

(d) Reclassification of land classified as open space land under RCW 84.34.020(1)(c) and reclassified to farm and agricultural land under RCW 84.34.020(2) if the land had been previously classified as farm and agricultural land under RCW 84.34.020(2).

(3) Applications for reclassification shall be subject to applicable provisions of RCW 84.34.037, 84.34.035, 84.34.041, and chapter 84.33 RCW.

(4) The income criteria for land classified under RCW 84.34.020(2) (b) and (c) may be deferred for land being reclassified from land classified under RCW 84.34.020 (1)(c) or (3), or chapter 84.33 RCW into RCW 84.34.020(2) (b) or (c) for a period of up to five years from the date of reclassification. [1992 c 69 § 10; 1984 c 111 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 8; 1970 ex.s. c 87 § 7.]

**84.34.080 Change in use.** When land which has been classified under this chapter as open space land, farm and agricultural land, or timber land is applied to some other use, except through compliance with RCW 84.34.070, or except as a result solely from any one of the conditions listed in RCW 84.34.108(6), the owner shall within sixty days notify the county assessor of such change in use and additional real property tax shall be imposed upon such land in an amount equal to the sum of the following:

(1) The total amount of the additional tax and applicable interest due under RCW 84.34.108; plus

(2) A penalty amounting to twenty percent of the amount determined in subsection (1) of this section. [1999 sp.s. c 4 § 705; 1992 c 69 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 9; 1970 ex.s. c 87 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.34.090 Extension of additional tax and penalties on tax roll—Lien.** The additional tax and penalties, if any, provided by RCW 84.34.070 and 84.34.080 shall be extended on the tax roll and shall be, together with the interest thereon, a lien on the land to which such tax applies as of January 1st of the year for which such additional tax is imposed. Such lien shall have priority as provided in chapter 84.60 RCW: PROVIDED, That for purposes of all periods of limitation of actions specified in Title 84 RCW, the year in which the tax became payable shall be as specified in RCW 84.34.100. [1970 ex.s. c 87 § 9.]

**84.34.100 Payment of additional tax, penalties, and/or interest.** The additional tax, penalties, and/or interest provided by RCW 84.34.070 and 84.34.080 shall be payable in full thirty days after the date which the treasurer's statement therefor is rendered. Such additional tax when collected shall be distributed by the county treasurer in the same manner in which current taxes applicable to the subject land are distributed. [1980 c 134 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 87 § 10.]

**84.34.108 Removal of classification—Factors—Notice of continuance—Additional tax—Lien—Delinquencies—Exemptions.** (1) When land has once been classified under this chapter, a notation of the classification shall be made each year upon the assessment and tax rolls and the land shall be valued pursuant to RCW 84.34.060 or 84.34.065 until removal of all or a portion of the classification by the assessor upon occurrence of any of the following:

(a) Receipt of notice from the owner to remove all or a portion of the classification;

(b) Sale or transfer to an ownership, except a transfer that resulted from a default in loan payments made to or secured by a governmental agency that intends to or is required by law or regulation to resell the property for the same use as before, making all or a portion of the land exempt from ad valorem taxation;

(c) Sale or transfer of all or a portion of the land to a new owner, unless the new owner has signed a notice of classification continuance, except transfer to an owner who is an heir or devisee of a deceased owner shall not, by itself, result in removal of classification. The notice of continuance shall be on a form prepared by the department. If the notice of continuance is not signed by the new owner and attached to the real estate excise tax affidavit, all additional taxes calculated pursuant to subsection (4) of this section shall become due and payable by the seller or transferor at time of sale. The auditor shall not accept an instrument of conveyance regarding classified land for filing or recording unless the new owner has signed the notice of continuance or the additional tax has been paid, as evidenced by the real estate excise tax stamp affixed thereto by the treasurer. The seller, transferor, or new owner may appeal the new assessed valuation calculated under subsection (4) of this section to the county board of equalization in accordance with the provisions of RCW

84.40.038. Jurisdiction is hereby conferred on the county board of equalization to hear these appeals;

(d) Determination by the assessor, after giving the owner written notice and an opportunity to be heard, that all or a portion of the land no longer meets the criteria for classification under this chapter. The criteria for classification pursuant to this chapter continue to apply after classification has been granted.

The granting authority, upon request of an assessor, shall provide reasonable assistance to the assessor in making a determination whether the land continues to meet the qualifications of RCW 84.34.020 (1) or (3). The assistance shall be provided within thirty days of receipt of the request.

(2) Land may not be removed from classification because of:

(a) The creation, sale, or transfer of forestry riparian easements under RCW 76.13.120; or

(b) The creation, sale, or transfer of a fee interest or a conservation easement for the riparian open space program under RCW 76.09.040.

(3) Within thirty days after the removal of all or a portion of the land from current use classification under subsection (1) of this section, the assessor shall notify the owner in writing, setting forth the reasons for the removal. The seller, transferor, or owner may appeal the removal to the county board of equalization in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038. The removal notice must explain the steps needed to appeal the removal decision, including when a notice of appeal must be filed, where the forms may be obtained, and how to contact the county board of equalization.

(4) Unless the removal is reversed on appeal, the assessor shall revalue the affected land with reference to its true and fair value on January 1st of the year of removal from classification. Both the assessed valuation before and after the removal of classification shall be listed and taxes shall be allocated according to that part of the year to which each assessed valuation applies. Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, an additional tax, applicable interest, and penalty shall be imposed which shall be due and payable to the treasurer thirty days after the owner is notified of the amount of the additional tax. As soon as possible, the assessor shall compute the amount of additional tax, applicable interest, and penalty and the treasurer shall mail notice to the owner of the amount thereof and the date on which payment is due. The amount of the additional tax, applicable interest, and penalty shall be determined as follows:

(a) The amount of additional tax shall be equal to the difference between the property tax paid as "open space land," "farm and agricultural land," or "timber land" and the amount of property tax otherwise due and payable for the seven years last past had the land not been so classified;

(b) The amount of applicable interest shall be equal to the interest upon the amounts of the additional tax paid at the same statutory rate charged on delinquent property taxes from the dates on which the additional tax could have been paid without penalty if the land had been assessed at a value without regard to this chapter;

(c) The amount of the penalty shall be as provided in RCW 84.34.080. The penalty shall not be imposed if the removal satisfies the conditions of RCW 84.34.070.

(5) Additional tax, applicable interest, and penalty, shall become a lien on the land which shall attach at the time the land is removed from classification under this chapter and shall have priority to and shall be fully paid and satisfied before any recognizance, mortgage, judgment, debt, obligation or responsibility to or with which the land may become charged or liable. This lien may be foreclosed upon expiration of the same period after delinquency and in the same manner provided by law for foreclosure of liens for delinquent real property taxes as provided in RCW 84.64.050. Any additional tax unpaid on its due date shall thereupon become delinquent. From the date of delinquency until paid, interest shall be charged at the same rate applied by law to delinquent ad valorem property taxes.

(6) The additional tax, applicable interest, and penalty specified in subsection (4) of this section shall not be imposed if the removal of classification pursuant to subsection (1) of this section resulted solely from:

(a) Transfer to a government entity in exchange for other land located within the state of Washington;

(b)(i) A taking through the exercise of the power of eminent domain, or (ii) sale or transfer to an entity having the power of eminent domain in anticipation of the exercise of such power, said entity having manifested its intent in writing or by other official action;

(c) A natural disaster such as a flood, windstorm, earthquake, or other such calamity rather than by virtue of the act of the landowner changing the use of the property;

(d) Official action by an agency of the state of Washington or by the county or city within which the land is located which disallows the present use of the land;

(e) Transfer of land to a church when the land would qualify for exemption pursuant to RCW 84.36.020;

(f) Acquisition of property interests by state agencies or agencies or organizations qualified under RCW 84.34.210 and 64.04.130 for the purposes enumerated in those sections. At such time as these property interests are not used for the purposes enumerated in RCW 84.34.210 and 64.04.130 the additional tax specified in subsection (4) of this section shall be imposed;

(g) Removal of land classified as farm and agricultural land under RCW 84.34.020(2)(f);

(h) Removal of land from classification after enactment of a statutory exemption that qualifies the land for exemption and receipt of notice from the owner to remove the land from classification;

(i) The creation, sale, or transfer of forestry riparian easements under RCW 76.13.120;

(j) The creation, sale, or transfer of a conservation easement of private forest lands within unconfined channel migration zones or containing critical habitat for threatened or endangered species under RCW 76.09.040;

(k) The sale or transfer of land within two years after the death of the owner of at least a fifty percent interest in the land if the land has been assessed and valued as classified forest land, designated as forest land under chapter 84.33 RCW, or classified under this chapter continuously since 1993. The date of death shown on a death certificate is the date used for the purposes of this subsection (6)(k); or

(l)(i) The discovery that the land was classified under this chapter in error through no fault of the owner. For pur-

poses of this subsection (6)(l), "fault" means a knowingly false or misleading statement, or other act or omission not in good faith, that contributed to the approval of classification under this chapter or the failure of the assessor to remove the land from classification under this chapter.

(ii) For purposes of this subsection (6), the discovery that land was classified under this chapter in error through no fault of the owner is not the sole reason for removal of classification pursuant to subsection (1) of this section if an independent basis for removal exists. Examples of an independent basis for removal include the owner changing the use of the land or failing to meet any applicable income criteria required for classification under this chapter. [2009 c 513 § 2; 2009 c 354 § 3; 2009 c 255 § 2; 2009 c 246 § 3; 2007 c 54 § 25; 2003 c 170 § 6. Prior: 2001 c 305 § 3; 2001 c 249 § 14; 2001 c 185 § 7; prior: 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 706; 1999 c 233 § 22; 1999 c 139 § 2; 1992 c 69 § 12; 1989 c 378 § 35; 1985 c 319 § 1; 1983 c 41 § 1; 1980 c 134 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 12.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2009 c 246 § 3, 2009 c 255 § 2, 2009 c 354 § 3, and by 2009 c 513 § 2, each without reference to the other. All amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Finding—Intent—2009 c 354:** See note following RCW 84.33.140.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Purpose—2003 c 170 § 6:** "During the regular session of the 2001 legislature, RCW 84.34.108 was amended by section 7, chapter 185, by section 14, chapter 249, and by section 3, chapter 305, each without reference to the other. The purpose of section 6 of this act is to reenact and amend RCW 84.34.108 so that it reflects all amendments made by the legislature and to clarify any misunderstanding as to how the exemption contained in chapter 305, Laws of 2001 is to be applied." [2003 c 170 § 3.]

**Purpose—Intent—2003 c 170:** See note following RCW 84.33.130.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.34.111 Remedies available to owner liable for additional tax.** The owner of any land as to which additional tax is imposed as provided in this chapter shall have with respect to valuation of the land and imposition of the additional tax all remedies provided by this title. [1998 c 311 § 14; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 13.]

**84.34.121 Information required.** The assessor may require owners of land classified under this chapter to submit pertinent data regarding the use of the land, productivity of typical crops, and such similar information pertinent to continued classification and appraisal of the land. [1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 14.]

**84.34.131 Valuation of timber not affected.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as in any manner affecting the method for valuation of timber standing on timber land which has been classified under this chapter. [1998 c 311 § 15; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 16.]

**84.34.141 Rules and regulations.** The department of revenue of the state of Washington shall make such rules and regulations consistent with this chapter as shall be necessary or desirable to permit its effective administration. [1998 c 311 § 16; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 17.]

**84.34.145 Advisory committee.** The county legislative authority shall appoint a five member committee representing

the active farming community within the county to serve in an advisory capacity to the assessor in implementing assessment guidelines as established by the department of revenue for the assessment of open space, farms and agricultural lands, and timber lands classified under this chapter. [1998 c 311 § 17; 1992 c 69 § 13; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 11.]

**84.34.150 Reclassification of land classified under prior law which meets definition of farm and agricultural land.** Land classified under the provisions of chapter 84.34 RCW prior to July 16, 1973 which meets the criteria for classification under this chapter, is hereby reclassified under this chapter. This change in classification shall be made without additional tax, applicable interest, penalty, or other requirements, but subsequent to such reclassification, the land shall be fully subject to this chapter. A condition imposed by a granting authority prior to July 16, 1973, upon land classified pursuant to RCW 84.34.020 (1) or (3) shall remain in effect during the period of classification. [1998 c 311 § 18; 1992 c 69 § 14; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 15.]

**84.34.155 Reclassification of land classified as timber land which meets definition of forest land under chapter 84.33 RCW.** Land classified under the provisions of RCW 84.34.020 (2) or (3) which meets the definition of forest land under the provisions of chapter 84.33 RCW, upon request for such change made by the owner to the granting authority, shall be reclassified by the assessor under the provisions of chapter 84.33 RCW. This change in classification shall be made without additional tax, applicable interest, penalty, or other requirements set forth in chapter 84.34 RCW: PROVIDED, That subsequent to such reclassification, the land shall be fully subject to the provisions of chapter 84.33 RCW, as now or hereafter amended. [1992 c 69 § 15; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 19.]

**84.34.160 Information on current use classification—Publication and dissemination.** The department of revenue and each granting authority is hereby directed to publicize the qualifications and manner of making applications for classification. Notice of the qualifications, method of making applications, and availability of further information on current use classification shall be included with every notice of change in valuation. [1992 c 69 § 16; 1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 18.]

**84.34.200 Acquisition of open space, etc., land or rights to future development by counties, cities, or metropolitan municipal corporations—Legislative declaration—Purposes.** The legislature finds that the haphazard growth and spread of urban development is encroaching upon, or eliminating, numerous open areas and spaces of varied size and character, including many devoted to agriculture, the cultivation of timber, and other productive activities, and many others having significant recreational, social, scenic, or esthetic values. Such areas and spaces, if preserved and maintained in their present open state, would constitute important assets to existing and impending urban and metropolitan development, at the same time that they would continue to contribute to the welfare and well-being of the citizens of the state as a whole. The acquisition of interests or rights in real

property for the preservation of such open spaces and areas constitutes a public purpose for which public funds may properly be expended or advanced. [1971 ex.s. c 243 § 1.]

**84.34.210 Acquisition of open space, land, or rights to future development by certain entities—Authority to acquire—Conveyance or lease back.** Any county, city, town, metropolitan park district, metropolitan municipal corporation, nonprofit historic preservation corporation as defined in RCW 64.04.130, or nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association, as such are defined in RCW 84.34.250, may acquire by purchase, gift, grant, bequest, devise, lease, or otherwise, except by eminent domain, the fee simple or any lesser interest, development right, easement, covenant, or other contractual right necessary to protect, preserve, maintain, improve, restore, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve, selected open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land as such are defined in chapter 84.34 RCW for public use or enjoyment. Among interests that may be so acquired are mineral rights. Any county, city, town, metropolitan park district, metropolitan municipal corporation, nonprofit historic preservation corporation as defined in RCW 64.04.130, or nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association, as such are defined in RCW 84.34.250, may acquire such property for the purpose of conveying or leasing the property back to its original owner or other person under such covenants or other contractual arrangements as will limit the future use of the property in accordance with the purposes of chapter 243, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. [1993 c 248 § 1; 1987 c 341 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 22 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 243 § 2.]

*Acquisition of interests in land for conservation, protection, preservation, or open space purposes by certain entities: RCW 64.04.130.*

*Property tax exemption for conservation futures on agricultural land: RCW 84.36.500.*

**84.34.220 Acquisition of open space, land, or rights to future development by certain entities—Developmental rights—"Conservation futures"—Acquisition—Restrictions.** In accordance with the authority granted in RCW 84.34.210, a county, city, town, metropolitan park district, metropolitan municipal corporation, nonprofit historic preservation corporation as defined in RCW 64.04.130, or nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association, as such are defined in RCW 84.34.250, may specifically purchase or otherwise acquire, except by eminent domain, rights in perpetuity to future development of any open space land, farm and agricultural land, and timber land which are so designated under the provisions of chapter 84.34 RCW and taxed at current use assessment as provided by that chapter. For the purposes of chapter 243, Laws of 1971 ex. sess., such developmental rights shall be termed "conservation futures". The private owner may retain the right to continue any existing open space use of the land, and to develop any other open space use, but, under the terms of purchase of conservation futures, the county, city, town, metropolitan park district, metropolitan municipal corporation, nonprofit historic preservation corporation as defined in RCW 64.04.130, or nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association, as such are defined in RCW 84.34.250, may forbid or restrict building thereon, or may require that improvements cannot be

made without county, city, town, metropolitan park district, metropolitan municipal corporation, nonprofit historic preservation corporation as defined in RCW 64.04.130, or nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association, as such are defined in RCW 84.34.250, permission. The land may be alienated or sold and used as formerly by the new owner, subject to the terms of the agreement made by the county, city, town, metropolitan park district, metropolitan municipal corporation, nonprofit historic preservation corporation as defined in RCW 64.04.130, or nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association, as such are defined in RCW 84.34.250, with the original owner. [1993 c 248 § 2; 1987 c 341 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 22 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 243 § 3.]

**84.34.230 Acquisition of open space, etc., land or rights to future development by certain entities—Additional property tax levy authorized.** Conservation futures are a useful tool for counties to preserve lands of public interest for future generations. Counties are encouraged to use some conservation futures as one tool for salmon preservation purposes.

For the purpose of acquiring conservation futures and other rights and interests in real property pursuant to RCW 84.34.210 and 84.34.220, and for maintaining and operating any property acquired with these funds, a county may levy an amount not to exceed six and one-quarter cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation against the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the county. The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 shall not apply to the tax levy authorized in this section. Any rights or interests in real property acquired under this section after July 24, 2005, must be located within the assessing county. Further, the county must determine if the rights or interests in real property acquired with these funds would reduce the capacity of land suitable for development necessary to accommodate the allocated housing and employment growth, as adopted in the countywide planning policies. When actions are taken that reduce capacity to accommodate planned growth, the jurisdiction shall adopt reasonable measures to increase the capacity lost by such actions. [2005 c 449 § 1; 1995 c 318 § 8; 1994 c 301 § 33; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 94; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 145; 1971 ex.s. c 243 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.34.240 Acquisition of open space, etc., land or rights to future development by certain entities—Conservation futures fund—Additional requirements, authority.** Conservation futures are a useful tool for counties to preserve lands of public interest for future generations. Counties are encouraged to use some conservation futures as one tool for salmon preservation purposes.

(1) Any board of county commissioners may establish by resolution a special fund which may be termed a conservation futures fund to which it may credit all taxes levied pursuant to RCW 84.34.230. Amounts placed in this fund may be used for the purpose of acquiring rights and interests in real property pursuant to the terms of RCW 84.34.210 and 84.34.220, and for the maintenance and operation of any property acquired with these funds. The amount of revenue used for maintenance and operations of parks and recreational land may not exceed fifteen percent of the total amount collected

from the tax levied under RCW 84.34.230 in the preceding calendar year. Revenues from this tax may not be used to supplant existing maintenance and operation funding. Any rights or interests in real property acquired under this section must be located within the assessing county. Further, the county must determine if the rights or interests in real property acquired with these funds would reduce the capacity of land suitable for development necessary to accommodate the allocated housing and employment growth, as adopted in the countywide planning policies. When actions are taken that reduce capacity to accommodate planned growth, the jurisdiction shall adopt reasonable measures to increase the capacity lost by such actions.

(2) In counties greater than one hundred thousand in population, the board of county commissioners or county legislative authority shall develop a process to help ensure distribution of the tax levied under RCW 84.34.230, over time, throughout the county.

(3)(a) Between July 24, 2005, and July 1, 2008, the county legislative authority of a county with a population density of fewer than four persons per square mile may enact an ordinance offering a ballot proposal to the people of the county to determine whether or not the county legislative authority may make a one-time emergency reallocation of unspent conservation futures funds to pay for other county government purposes, where such conservation futures funds were originally levied under RCW 84.34.230 but never spent to acquire rights and interests in real property.

(b) Upon adoption by the county legislative authority of a ballot proposal ordinance under (a) of this subsection the county auditor shall: (i) Confer with the county legislative authority and review any proposal to the people as to form and style; (ii) give the ballot proposal a number, which thereafter shall be the identifying number for the proposal; (iii) transmit a copy of the proposal to the prosecuting attorney; and (iv) submit the proposal to the people at the next general or special election that is not less than ninety days after the adoption of the ordinance by the county legislative authority.

(c) The county prosecuting attorney shall within fifteen working days of receipt of the proposal compose a concise statement, posed as a positive question, not to exceed twenty-five words, which shall express and give a true and impartial statement of the proposal. Such concise statement shall be the ballot title.

(d) If the measure is affirmed by a majority voting on the issue it shall become effective ten days after the results of the election are certified.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting in any manner methods and funds otherwise available to a county for financing the acquisition of such rights and interests in real property. [2005 c 449 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 243 § 5.]

**84.34.250 Nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association defined.** As used in RCW 84.34.210, as now or hereafter amended, RCW 84.34.220, as now or hereafter amended, and RCW 79A.15.010, "nonprofit nature conservancy corporation or association" means an organization which qualifies as being tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. section 501(c) (of the Internal Revenue Code) as it exists on June 25, 1976 and one which has as one of its principal purposes the conducting or facilitating of scientific research; the conserv-

ing of natural resources, including but not limited to biological resources, for the general public; or the conserving of open spaces, including but not limited to wildlife habitat to be utilized as public access areas, for the use and enjoyment of the general public. [2009 c 341 § 6; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 22 § 4.]

**84.34.300 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Legislative findings—**

**Purpose.** The legislature finds that farming, timber production, and the related agricultural and forest industries have historically been and currently are central factors in the economic and social lifeblood of the state; that it is a fundamental policy of the state to protect agricultural and timber lands as a major natural resource in order to maintain a source to supply a wide range of agricultural and forest products; and that the public interest in the protection and stimulation of farming, timber production, and the agricultural and forest industries is a basic element of enhancing the economic viability of this state. The legislature further finds that farm land and timber land in urbanizing areas are often subjected to high levels of property taxation and benefit assessment, and that such levels of taxation and assessment encourage and even force the removal of such lands from agricultural and forest uses. The legislature further finds that because of this level of taxation and assessment, such farm land and timber land in urbanizing areas are either converted to nonagricultural and nonforest uses when significant amounts of nearby nonagricultural and nonforest area could be suitably used for such nonagricultural and nonforest uses, or, much of this farm land and timber land is left in an unused state. The legislature further finds that with the approval by the voters of the Fifty-third Amendment to the state Constitution, and with the enactment of chapter 84.34 RCW, the owners of farm lands and timber lands were provided with an opportunity to have such land valued on the basis of its current use and not its "highest and best use" and that such current use valuation is one mechanism to protect agricultural and timber lands. The legislature further finds that despite this potential property tax reduction, farm lands and timber lands in urbanized areas are still subject to high levels of benefit assessments and continue to be removed from farm and forest uses.

It is therefore the purpose of the legislature to establish, with the enactment of RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380, another mechanism to protect agricultural and timber land which creates an analogous system of relief from certain benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land and timber land. It is the intent of the legislature that special benefit assessments not be imposed for the availability of sanitary and/or storm sewerage service, or domestic water service, or for road construction and/or improvement purposes on farm and agricultural lands and timber lands which have been designated for current use classification as farm and agricultural lands or timber lands until such lands are withdrawn or removed from such classification or unless such lands benefit from or cause the need for the local improvement district.

The legislature finds, and it is the intent of RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 and 84.34.922, that special benefit assessments for the improvement or construction of sanitary and/or storm sewerage service, or domestic water service, or certain road construction do not generally benefit

land which has been classified as open space farm and agricultural land or timber land under the open space act, chapter 84.34 RCW, until such land is withdrawn from such classification or such land is used for a more intense and nonagricultural use, or the land is no longer used as timber land. The purpose of RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 and 84.34.922 is to provide an exemption from certain special benefit assessments which do not benefit timber land or open space farm and agricultural land, and to provide the means for local governmental entities to recover such assessments in current dollar value in the event such land is no longer devoted to farming or timber production under chapter 84.34 RCW. Where the owner of such land chooses to make limited use of improvements related to special benefit assessments, RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 provides the means for the partial assessment on open space timber and farm land to the extent the land is directly benefited by the improvement. [1992 c 52 § 14; 1979 c 84 § 1.]

**84.34.310 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Definitions.**

As used in RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380, unless a different meaning is required, the words defined in this section shall have the meanings indicated.

(1) "Farm and agricultural land" shall mean the same as defined in RCW 84.34.020(2).

(2) "Timber land" shall mean the same as defined in RCW 84.34.020(3).

(3) "Local government" shall mean any city, town, county, water-sewer district, public utility district, port district, irrigation district, flood control district, or any other municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or other political subdivision authorized to levy special benefit assessments for sanitary and/or storm sewerage systems, domestic water supply and/or distribution systems, or road construction or improvement purposes.

(4) "Local improvement district" shall mean any local improvement district, utility local improvement district, local utility district, road improvement district, or any similar unit created by a local government for the purpose of levying special benefit assessments against property specially benefited by improvements relating to such districts.

(5) "Owner" shall mean the same as defined in RCW 84.34.020(5) or the applicable statutes relating to special benefit assessments.

(6) The term "average rate of inflation" shall mean the annual rate of inflation as determined by the department of revenue averaged over the period of time as provided in RCW 84.34.330 (1) and (2). Such determination shall be published not later than January 1 of each year for use in that assessment year.

(7) "Special benefit assessments" shall mean special assessments levied or capable of being levied in any local improvement district or otherwise levied or capable of being levied by a local government to pay for all or part of the costs of a local improvement and which may be levied only for the special benefits to be realized by property by reason of that local improvement. [1999 c 153 § 71; 1992 c 52 § 15; 1979 c 84 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.34.320 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Exemption from assessment—Procedures relating to exemption—Constructive notice of potential liability—Waiver of exemption.** Any land classified as farm and agricultural land or timber land pursuant to chapter 84.34 RCW at the earlier of the times the legislative authority of a local government adopts a resolution, ordinance, or legislative act (1) to create a local improvement district, in which such land is included or would have been included but for such classification, or (2) to approve or confirm a final special benefit assessment roll relating to a sanitary and/or storm sewerage system, domestic water supply and/or distribution system, or road construction and/or improvement, which roll would have included such land but for such classification, shall be exempt from special benefit assessments or charges in lieu of assessment for such purposes as long as that land remains in such classification, except as otherwise provided in RCW 84.34.360.

Whenever a local government creates a local improvement district, the levying, collection and enforcement of assessments shall be in the manner and subject to the same procedures and limitations as are provided pursuant to the law concerning the initiation and formation of local improvement districts for the particular local government. Notice of the creation of a local improvement district that includes farm and agricultural land or timber land shall be filed with the county assessor and the legislative authority of the county in which such land is located. The assessor, upon receiving notice of the creation of such a local improvement district, shall send a notice to the owner of the farm and agricultural land or timber land listed on the tax rolls of the applicable county treasurer of: (1) The creation of the local improvement district; (2) the exemption of that land from special benefit assessments; (3) the fact that the farm and agricultural land or timber land may become subject to the special benefit assessments if the owner waives the exemption by filing a notarized document with the governing body of the local government creating the local improvement district before the confirmation of the final special benefit assessment roll; and (4) the potential liability, pursuant to RCW 84.34.330, if the exemption is not waived and the land is subsequently removed from the farm and agricultural land or timber land status. When a local government approves and confirms a special benefit assessment roll, from which farm and agricultural land or timber land has been exempted pursuant to this section, it shall file a notice of such action with the assessor and the legislative authority of the county in which such land is located and with the treasurer of that local government, which notice shall describe the action taken, the type of improvement involved, the land exempted, and the amount of the special benefit assessment which would have been levied against the land if it had not been exempted. The filing of such notice with the assessor and the treasurer of that local government shall constitute constructive notice to a purchaser or encumbrancer of the affected land, and every person whose conveyance or encumbrance is subsequently executed or subsequently recorded, that such exempt land is subject to the charges provided in RCW 84.34.330 and 84.34.340 if such land is withdrawn or removed from its current use classification as farm and agricultural land or timber land.

The owner of the land exempted from special benefit assessments pursuant to this section may waive that exemption by filing a notarized document to that effect with the legislative authority of the local government upon receiving notice from said local government concerning the assessment roll hearing and before the local government confirms the final special benefit assessment roll. A copy of that waiver shall be filed by the local government with the assessor, but the failure of such filing shall not affect the waiver.

Except to the extent provided in RCW 84.34.360, the local government shall have no duty to furnish service from the improvement financed by the special benefit assessment to such exempted land. [1992 c 69 § 17; 1992 c 52 § 16; 1979 c 84 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1992 c 52 § 16 and by 1992 c 69 § 17, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**84.34.330 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Withdrawal from classification or change in use—Liability—Amount—Due date—Lien.** Whenever farm and agricultural land or timber land has once been exempted from special benefit assessments pursuant to RCW 84.34.320, any withdrawal from classification or change in use from farm and agricultural land or timber land under chapter 84.34 RCW shall result in the following:

(1) If the bonds used to fund the improvement in the local improvement district have not been completely retired, such land shall immediately become liable for: (a) The amount of the special benefit assessment listed in the notice provided for in RCW 84.34.320; plus (b) interest on the amount determined in (1)(a) of this section, compounded annually at a rate equal to the average rate of inflation from the time the initial notice is filed by the governmental entity which created the local improvement district as provided in RCW 84.34.320 to the time the owner withdraws such land from the exemption category provided by this chapter; or

(2) If the bonds used to fund the improvement in the local improvement district have been completely retired, such land shall immediately become liable for: (a) The amount of the special benefit assessment listed in the notice provided for in RCW 84.34.320; plus (b) interest on the amount determined in (2)(a) of this section compounded annually at a rate equal to the average rate of inflation from the time the initial notice is filed by the governmental entity which created the local improvement district as provided in RCW 84.34.320, to the time the bonds used to fund the improvement have been retired; plus (c) interest on the total amount determined in (2)(a) and (b) of this section at a simple per annum rate equal to the average rate of inflation from the time the bonds used to fund the improvement have been retired to the time the owner withdraws such lands from the exemption category provided by this chapter.

(3) The amount payable pursuant to this section shall become due on the date such land is withdrawn or removed from its current use or timber land classification and shall be a lien on the land prior and superior to any other lien whatsoever except for the lien for general taxes, and shall be enforceable in the same manner as the collection of special

benefit assessments are enforced by that local government. [1992 c 52 § 17; 1979 c 84 § 4.]

**84.34.340 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Withdrawal or removal from classification—Notice to local government—Statement to owner of amounts payable—Delinquency date—Enforcement procedures.** Whenever farm and agricultural land or timber land is withdrawn or removed from its current use classification as farm and agricultural land or timber land, the county assessor of the county in which such land is located shall forthwith give written notice of such withdrawal or removal to the local government or its successor which had filed with the assessor the notice required by RCW 84.34.320. Upon receipt of the notice from the assessor, the local government shall mail a written statement to the owner of such land for the amounts payable as provided in RCW 84.34.330. Such amounts due shall be delinquent if not paid within one hundred and eighty days after the date of mailing of the statement, and shall be subject to the same interest, penalties, lien priority, and enforcement procedures that are applicable to delinquent assessments on the assessment roll from which that land had been exempted, except that the rate of interest charged shall not exceed the rate provided in RCW 84.34.330. [1992 c 52 § 18; 1979 c 84 § 5.]

**84.34.350 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land—Use of payments collected.** Payments collected pursuant to RCW 84.34.330 and 84.34.340, or by enforcement procedures referred to therein, after the payment of the expenses of their collection, shall first be applied to the payment of general or special debt incurred to finance the improvements related to the special benefit assessments, and, if such debt is retired, then into the maintenance fund or general fund of the governmental entity which created the local improvement district, or its successor, for any of the following purposes: (1) Redemption or servicing of outstanding obligations of the district; (2) maintenance expenses of the district; or (3) construction or acquisition of any facilities necessary to carry out the purpose of the district. [1979 c 84 § 6.]

**84.34.360 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Rules to implement RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380.** The department of revenue shall adopt rules it shall deem necessary to implement RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 which shall include, but not be limited to, procedures to determine the extent to which a portion of the land otherwise exempt may be subject to a special benefit assessment for the actual connection to the domestic water system or sewerage facilities, and further to determine the extent to which all or a portion of such land may be subject to a special benefit assessment for access to the road improvement in relation to its value as farm and agricultural land or timber land as distinguished from its value under more intensive uses. The provision for limited special benefit assessments shall not relieve such land from liability for the amounts provided in RCW 84.34.330 and 84.34.340 when such land is withdrawn or removed from its current use

classification as farm and agricultural land or timber land. [1992 c 69 § 18; 1992 c 52 § 19; 1979 c 84 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1992 c 52 § 19 and by 1992 c 69 § 18, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**84.34.370 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Assessments due on land withdrawn or changed.** Whenever a portion of a parcel of land which was classified as farm and agricultural or timber land pursuant to this chapter is withdrawn from classification or there is a change in use, and such land has been exempted from any benefit assessments pursuant to RCW 84.34.320, the previously exempt benefit assessments shall become due on only that portion of the land which is withdrawn or changed. [1992 c 52 § 20; 1979 c 84 § 8.]

**84.34.380 Special benefit assessments for farm and agricultural land or timber land—Application of exemption to rights and interests preventing nonagricultural or nonforest uses.** Farm and agricultural land or timber land on which the right to future development has been acquired by any local government, the state of Washington, or the United States government shall be exempt from special benefit assessments in lieu of assessment for such purposes in the same manner, and under the same liabilities for payment and interest, as land classified under this chapter as farm and agricultural land or timber land, for as long as such classification applies.

Any interest, development right, easement, covenant, or other contractual right which effectively protects, preserves, maintains, improves, restores, prevents the future nonagricultural or nonforest use of, or otherwise conserves farm and agricultural land or timber land shall be exempt from special benefit assessments as long as such development right or other such interest effectively serves to prevent nonagricultural or nonforest development of such land. [1992 c 52 § 21; 1979 c 84 § 9.]

**84.34.390 Application—Chapter 79.44 RCW—Assessments against public lands.** Nothing in RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.340 or 84.34.360 through 84.34.380 shall amend the provisions of chapter 79.44 RCW. [1992 c 52 § 25.]

**84.34.900 Severability—1970 ex.s. c 87.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1970 ex.s. c 87 § 15.]

**84.34.910 Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 87.** The provisions of this act shall take effect on January 1, 1971. [1970 ex.s. c 87 § 16.]

**84.34.920 Severability—1971 ex.s. c 243.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1971 ex.s. c 243 § 9.]

**84.34.921 Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 212.** If any provision of this 1973 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1973 1st ex.s. c 212 § 20.]

**84.34.922 Severability—1979 c 84.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1979 c 84 § 11.]

**84.34.923 Effective date—1992 c 69.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1993. [1992 c 69 § 22.]

### Chapter 84.36 RCW EXEMPTIONS

#### Sections

84.36.005	Property subject to taxation.	84.36.255	Improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and water quantity—Cooperative assistance to landowners—Certification of best management practice—Limitation—Landowner claim and certification.
84.36.010	Public, certain public-private and tribal property exempt.	84.36.260	Property, interests, etc., used for conservation of ecological systems, natural resources, or open space—Conservation or scientific research organizations.
84.36.015	Property valued at less than five hundred dollars—Exceptions.	84.36.262	Cessation of use giving rise to exemption.
84.36.020	Cemeteries, churches, parsonages, convents, and grounds.	84.36.264	Application for exemption under RCW 84.36.260, conservation of ecological systems.
84.36.030	Property used for character building, benevolent, protective or rehabilitative social services—Camp facilities—Veteran or relief organization owned property—Property of nonprofit organizations that issue debt for student loans or that are guarantee agencies.	84.36.300	Stocks of merchandise, goods, wares or material—Aircraft parts, etc.—When eligible for exemption.
84.36.031	Clarification of exemption in RCW 84.36.030.	84.36.301	Legislative finding and declaration for RCW 84.36.300.
84.36.032	Administrative offices of nonprofit religious organizations.	84.36.310	Requirements for exemption under RCW 84.36.300.
84.36.035	Property used by qualifying blood, tissue, or blood and tissue banks.	84.36.320	Inspection of books and records for exemption under RCW 84.36.300.
84.36.037	Nonprofit organization property connected with operation of public assembly hall or meeting place.	84.36.350	Property owned or used for sheltered workshops for handicapped.
84.36.040	Nonprofit child day care centers, libraries, orphanages, homes or hospitals for the sick or infirm, outpatient dialysis facilities.	84.36.379	Residences—Property tax exemption—Findings.
84.36.041	Nonprofit homes for the aging.	84.36.381	Residences—Property tax exemptions—Qualifications.
84.36.042	Nonprofit organization, corporation, or association property used to provide housing for persons with developmental disabilities.	84.36.383	Residences—Definitions.
84.36.043	Nonprofit organization property used in providing emergency or transitional housing to low-income homeless persons or victims of domestic violence.	84.36.385	Residences—Claim for exemption—Forms—Change of status—Publication and notice of qualifications and manner of making claims.
84.36.045	Nonprofit organization property available without charge for medical research or training of medical personnel.	84.36.387	Residences—Claimants—Penalty for falsification—Reduction by remainderman.
84.36.046	Nonprofit cancer clinic or center.	84.36.389	Residences—Rules and regulations—Audits—Confidentiality—Criminal penalty.
84.36.047	Nonprofit organization property used for transmission or reception of radio or television signals originally broadcast by governmental agencies.	84.36.400	Improvements to single-family dwellings.
84.36.050	Schools and colleges.	84.36.451	Right to occupy or use certain public property, including leasehold interests.
84.36.060	Art, scientific and historical collections and property used to maintain, etc., such collections—Property of associations engaged in production and performance of musical, dance, artistic, etc., works—Fire engines, implements, and buildings of cities, towns, or fire companies—Humane societies.	84.36.470	Agricultural products—Exemption.
84.36.070	Intangible personal property—Appraisal.	84.36.477	Business inventories.
84.36.079	Rights, title, interest, and materials of certain vessels under construction.	84.36.480	Nonprofit fair associations.
84.36.080	Certain ships and vessels.	84.36.487	Air pollution control equipment in thermal electric generation facilities—Records—Payments on cessation of operation.
84.36.090	Exemption for other ships and vessels.	84.36.500	Conservation futures on agricultural land.
84.36.100	Size of vessel immaterial.	84.36.510	Mobile homes in dealer's inventory.
84.36.105	Cargo containers used in ocean commerce.	84.36.550	Nonprofit organizations—Property used for solicitation or collection of gifts, donations, or grants.
84.36.110	Household goods and personal effects—Fifteen thousand dollars actual value to head of family.	84.36.560	Nonprofit organizations that provide rental housing or used space to very low-income households.
84.36.120	Household goods and personal effects—Definitions.	84.36.570	Nonprofit organizations—Property used for agricultural research and education programs.
84.36.130	Airport property in this state for smaller airports belonging to municipalities of adjoining states.	84.36.575	Nonprofit organizations—Aircraft.
84.36.135	Real and personal property of housing finance commission.	84.36.590	Property used in connection with privatization contract at Hanford reservation.
84.36.210	Public right-of-way easements.	84.36.595	Motor vehicles, travel trailers, campers, and vehicles carrying exempt licenses.
84.36.230	Interstate bridges—Reciprocity.	84.36.600	Computer software.
84.36.240	Soil and water conservation districts, personal property.	84.36.605	Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.
84.36.250	Water distribution property owned by nonprofit corporation or cooperative association.	84.36.630	Farming machinery and equipment.
		84.36.635	Property used for the manufacture of alcohol fuel or biodiesel fuel.
		84.36.640	Property used for the manufacture of wood biomass fuel.
		84.36.645	Semiconductor materials.
		84.36.650	Property used by certain nonprofits to solicit or collect money for artists.
		84.36.655	Property related to the manufacture of superefficient airplanes.
		84.36.660	Installation of automatic sprinkler system under RCW 19.27.500 through 19.27.520.
		84.36.665	Military housing.
			GENERAL PROVISIONS
		84.36.800	Definitions.
		84.36.805	Conditions for obtaining exemptions by nonprofit organizations, associations, or corporations.
		84.36.810	Cessation of use under which exemption granted—Collection of taxes.
		84.36.812	Additional tax payable at time of sale—Appeal of assessed values.
		84.36.813	Change in use—Duty to notify county assessor—Examination—Recommendation.
		84.36.815	Tax exempt status—Initial application—Renewal.
		84.36.820	Renewal notice for exempt property—Failure to file before due date, effect.
		84.36.825	Late filing penalty.
		84.36.830	Review of applications for exemption—Procedure—Approval or denial—Notice.
		84.36.833	Application for exemption or renewal may include all contiguous exempt property.
		84.36.835	List of exempt properties to be prepared and furnished each county assessor.
		84.36.840	Statements—Reports—Information—Filing—Requirements.

- 84.36.845 Revocation of exemption approved or renewed due to inaccurate information.
- 84.36.850 Review—Appeals.
- 84.36.855 Property changing from exempt to taxable status—Procedure.
- 84.36.860 Public notice of provisions of act.
- 84.36.865 Rules and regulations.
- 84.36.900 Severability—1973 2nd ex.s. c 40.
- 84.36.905 Effective date—Construction—1973 2nd ex.s. c 40.

*Burying places:* RCW 68.24.220.

*Cemetery associations:* RCW 68.20.110, 68.20.120.

*Columbia Basin project:* RCW 89.12.120.

*Conservation districts:* Chapter 89.08 RCW.

*Consumer loan act:* Chapter 31.04 RCW.

*Credit unions:* Chapter 31.12 RCW.

*Federal agencies and instrumentalities:* State Constitution Art. 7 §§ 1, 3; Title 37 RCW.

*Flood control district property:* RCW 86.09.520.

*Irrigation district property:* RCW 87.03.260.

*Local improvement trust property:* RCW 35.53.010.

*Olympic National Park:* RCW 37.08.210.

*Open space, agricultural, timber lands—Current use—Conservation futures:* Chapter 84.34 RCW.

*Privilege taxes:* Chapter 54.28 RCW.

*Public utility districts—Taxation:* RCW 54.16.080.

*Rainier National Park:* RCW 37.08.200.

*Savings and loan associations:* RCW 33.28.040.

*Termination of tax preferences:* Chapter 43.136 RCW.

*Timber and forest lands:* Chapter 84.33 RCW.

*Timber property tax exemption:* RCW 84.33.040.

**84.36.005 Property subject to taxation.** All property now existing, or that is hereafter created or brought into this state, shall be subject to assessment and taxation for state, county, and other taxing district purposes, upon equalized valuations thereof, fixed with reference thereto on the first day of January at twelve o'clock meridian in each year, excepting such as is exempted from taxation by law. [1961 c 15 § 84.36.005. Prior: 1955 c 196 § 2; prior: 1939 c 206 § 8, part; 1933 ex.s. c 19 § 1, part; 1933 c 115 § 1, part; 1929 c 126 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 7, part; 1915 c 131 § 1, part; 1903 c 178 § 1, part; 1901 c 176 § 1, part; 1899 c 141 § 2, part; 1897 c 71 §§ 1, 5, part; 1895 c 176 § 2, part; 1893 c 124 §§ 1, 5, part; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 5, part; 1890 p 532 §§ 1, 5, part; 1886 p 47 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2829, part; 1871 p 37 § 4, part; 1869 p 176 § 4, part; 1867 p 61 § 2, part; 1854 p 331 § 2, part; RRS § 11111, part. Formerly RCW 84.40.010.]

**84.36.010 Public, certain public-private and tribal property exempt.** (1) All property belonging exclusively to the United States, the state, or any county or municipal corporation; all property belonging exclusively to any federally recognized Indian tribe located in the state, if that property is used exclusively for essential government services; all state route number 16 corridor transportation systems and facilities constructed under chapter 47.46 RCW; all property under a financing contract pursuant to chapter 39.94 RCW or recorded agreement granting immediate possession and use to the public bodies listed in this section or under an order of immediate possession and use pursuant to RCW 8.04.090; and, for a period of forty years from acquisition, all property of a community center; is exempt from taxation. All property belonging exclusively to a foreign national government is

exempt from taxation if that property is used exclusively as an office or residence for a consul or other official representative of the foreign national government, and if the consul or other official representative is a citizen of that foreign nation.

(2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions apply unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Community center" means property, including a building or buildings, determined to be surplus to the needs of a district by a local school board, and purchased or acquired by a nonprofit organization for the purposes of converting them into community facilities for the delivery of nonresidential coordinated services for community members. The community center may make space available to businesses, individuals, or other parties through the loan or rental of space in or on the property.

(b) "Essential government services" means services such as tribal administration, public facilities, fire, police, public health, education, sewer, water, environmental and land use, transportation, and utility services. [2010 c 281 § 1; 2004 c 236 § 1; 1998 c 179 § 8; 1990 c 47 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 260 § 1; 1969 c 34 § 1. Prior: 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 31; 1967 ex.s. c 145 § 35; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.010; prior: 1955 c 196 § 3; prior: 1939 c 206 § 8, part; 1933 ex.s. c 19 § 1, part; 1933 c 115 § 1, part; 1929 c 126 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 7, part; 1915 c 131 § 1, part; 1903 c 178 § 1, part; 1901 c 176 § 1, part; 1899 c 141 § 2, part; 1897 c 71 §§ 1, 5, part; 1895 c 176 § 2, part; 1893 c 124 §§ 1, 5, part; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 5, part; 1890 p 532 §§ 1, 5, part; 1886 p 47 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2829, part; 1871 p 37 § 4, part; 1869 p 176 § 4, part; 1867 p 61 § 2, part; 1854 p 331 § 2, part; RRS § 11111, part. Formerly RCW 84.40.010.]

**Application—2010 c 281:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2011 and thereafter." [2010 c 281 § 4.]

**Finding—1998 c 179:** See note following RCW 35.21.718.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.015 Property valued at less than five hundred dollars—Exceptions.** (1) Each parcel of real property, and each personal property account, that has an assessed value of less than five hundred dollars is exempt from taxation.

(2) This section does not apply to personal property to which the exemption from taxation under RCW 84.36.110(2) may be applied or to real property which qualifies for preferential tax treatment under this chapter or chapter 84.14, 84.26, 84.33, or 84.34 RCW. [1997 c 244 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.020 Cemeteries, churches, parsonages, convents, and grounds. (Effective until December 31, 2020.)** The following real and personal property is exempt from taxation:

(1) All lands, buildings, and personal property required for necessary administration and maintenance, used, or to the extent used, exclusively for public burying grounds or cemeteries without discrimination as to race, color, national origin or ancestry;

(2) All churches, personal property, and the ground, not exceeding five acres in area, upon which a church of any non-profit recognized religious denomination is or will be built, together with a parsonage, convent, and buildings and improvements required for the maintenance and safeguarding

of such property. The area exempted in any case includes all ground covered by the church, parsonage, convent, and buildings and improvements required for the maintenance and safeguarding of such property and the structures and ground necessary for street access, parking, light, and ventilation, but the area of unoccupied ground exempted in such cases, in connection with church, parsonage, convent, and buildings and improvements required for the maintenance and safeguarding of such property, does not exceed the equivalent of one hundred twenty by one hundred twenty feet except where additional unoccupied land may be required to conform with state or local codes, zoning, or licensing requirements. The parsonage and convent need not be on land contiguous to the church property. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, to be exempt the property must be wholly used for church purposes. The loan or rental of property otherwise exempt under this subsection to a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation, or school for use for an eleemosynary activity or for use for activities related to a farmers market, does not nullify the exemption provided in this subsection if the rental income, if any, is reasonable and is devoted solely to the operation and maintenance of the property. However, activities related to a farmers market may not occur on the property more than fifty-three days each assessment year. For the purposes of this section, "farmers market" has the same meaning as "qualifying farmers market" as defined in RCW 66.24.170. [2010 c 186 § 2; 1994 c 124 § 16; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 12; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 64 § 3; 1961 c 103 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.020. Prior: 1955 c 196 § 4; prior: 1939 c 206 § 8, part; 1933 ex.s. c 19 § 1, part; 1933 c 115 § 1, part; 1929 c 126 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 7, part; 1915 c 131 § 1, part; 1903 c 178 § 1, part; 1901 c 176 § 1, part; 1899 c 141 § 2, part; 1897 c 71 §§ 1, 5, part; 1895 c 176 § 2, part; 1893 c 124 §§ 1, 5, part; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 5, part; 1890 p 532 §§ 1, 5, part; 1886 p 47 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2829, part; 1871 p 37 § 4, part; 1869 p 176 § 4, part; 1867 p 61 § 2, part; 1854 p 331 § 2, part; RRS § 11111, part. Formerly RCW 84.40.010.]

**Application—Expiration date—2010 c 186:** See notes following RCW 84.36.037.

*Burial lot for particular person:* RCW 68.24.220.

*Nonprofit cemetery associations, certain exemptions:* RCW 68.20.110, 68.20.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.020 Cemeteries, churches, parsonages, convents, and grounds. (Effective December 31, 2020.)** The following real and personal property shall be exempt from taxation:

All lands, buildings, and personal property required for necessary administration and maintenance, used, or to the extent used, exclusively for public burying grounds or cemeteries without discrimination as to race, color, national origin or ancestry;

All churches, personal property, and the ground, not exceeding five acres in area, upon which a church of any nonprofit recognized religious denomination is or shall be built, together with a parsonage, convent, and buildings and improvements required for the maintenance and safeguarding of such property. The area exempted shall in any case include all ground covered by the church, parsonage, convent, and

buildings and improvements required for the maintenance and safeguarding of such property and the structures and ground necessary for street access, parking, light, and ventilation, but the area of unoccupied ground exempted in such cases, in connection with church, parsonage, convent, and buildings and improvements required for the maintenance and safeguarding of such property, shall not exceed the equivalent of one hundred twenty by one hundred twenty feet except where additional unoccupied land may be required to conform with state or local codes, zoning, or licensing requirements. The parsonage and convent need not be on land contiguous to the church property. To be exempt the property must be wholly used for church purposes: PROVIDED, That the loan or rental of property otherwise exempt under this paragraph to a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation, or school for use for an eleemosynary activity shall not nullify the exemption provided in this paragraph if the rental income, if any, is reasonable and is devoted solely to the operation and maintenance of the property. [1994 c 124 § 16; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 12; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 64 § 3; 1961 c 103 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.020. Prior: 1955 c 196 § 4; prior: 1939 c 206 § 8, part; 1933 ex.s. c 19 § 1, part; 1933 c 115 § 1, part; 1929 c 126 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 7, part; 1915 c 131 § 1, part; 1903 c 178 § 1, part; 1901 c 176 § 1, part; 1899 c 141 § 2, part; 1897 c 71 §§ 1, 5, part; 1895 c 176 § 2, part; 1893 c 124 §§ 1, 5, part; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 5, part; 1890 p 532 §§ 1, 5, part; 1886 p 47 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2829, part; 1871 p 37 § 4, part; 1869 p 176 § 4, part; 1867 p 61 § 2, part; 1854 p 331 § 2, part; RRS § 11111, part. Formerly RCW 84.40.010.]

*Burial lot for particular person:* RCW 68.24.220.

*Nonprofit cemetery associations, certain exemptions:* RCW 68.20.110, 68.20.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.030 Property used for character building, benevolent, protective or rehabilitative social services—Camp facilities—Veteran or relief organization owned property—Property of nonprofit organizations that issue debt for student loans or that are guarantee agencies.** The following real and personal property shall be exempt from taxation:

(1)(a) Property owned by nonprofit organizations or associations, organized and conducted for nonsectarian purposes, which shall be used for character-building, benevolent, protective or rehabilitative social services directed at persons of all ages.

(b) The sale of donated merchandise shall not be considered a commercial use of the property under this section if the proceeds are devoted to the furtherance of the purposes of the selling organization or association as specified in this subsection (1).

(c) In a county with a population of less than twenty thousand, the rental or use of property, owned by a nonprofit organization or association described in (a) of this subsection, by a person, group, or organization in one of the following ways shall not nullify the exemption:

(i) The property may be rented or used for pecuniary gain or for business activities or by individuals, groups, and organizations for private purposes if the rental or use:

(A) Does not exceed fifteen days each assessment year;

(B) No comparable private for-profit facility exists within ten miles of the property that could be used for the same purpose for which the property is loaned or rented; and

(C) All income from the rental or use of the exempt property is used for capital improvements to the exempt property, maintenance and operation of the exempt property, or for exempt purposes; or

(ii) The property is rented or used by a nonprofit community group or other nonprofit organization that might not qualify for exemption if it owned the property as long as the rental or use of the property:

(A) Does not exceed fifteen days each assessment year;

(B) Does not result in pecuniary gain;

(C) Does not involve business activities;

(D) Is always for the general public good; and

(E) All income from the rental or use of the exempt property is used for capital improvements to the exempt property, maintenance and operation of the exempt property, or for exempt purposes.

(2) Property owned by any nonprofit church, denomination, group of churches, or an organization or association, the membership of which is comprised solely of churches or their qualified representatives, which is utilized as a camp facility if used for organized and supervised recreational activities and church purposes as related to such camp facilities. The exemption provided by this paragraph shall apply to a maximum of two hundred acres of any such camp as selected by the church, including buildings and other improvements thereon.

(3) Property, including buildings and improvements required for the maintenance and safeguarding of such property, owned by nonprofit organizations or associations engaged in character building of boys and girls under eighteen years of age, and used for such purposes and uses, provided such purposes and uses are for the general public good: PROVIDED, That if existing charters provide that organizations or associations, which would otherwise qualify under the provisions of this paragraph, serve boys and girls up to the age of twenty-one years, then such organizations or associations shall be deemed qualified pursuant to this section.

(4)(a) Property owned by all organizations and societies of veterans of any war of the United States, recognized as such by the department of defense, which shall have national charters, and which shall have for their general purposes and objects the preservation of the memories and associations incident to their war service and the consecration of the efforts of their members to mutual helpfulness and to patriotic and community service to state and nation. To be exempt such property must be used in such manner as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes and objects of such societies.

(b) The use of the property for pecuniary gain or for business activities, except as provided in this subsection (4), nullifies the exemption otherwise available for the property for the assessment year. The exemption is not nullified by:

(i) The collection of rent or donations if the amount is reasonable and does not exceed maintenance and operation expenses.

(ii) Fund-raising activities conducted by a nonprofit organization.

(ii) The use of the property for pecuniary gain for periods of not more than fifteen days in a year.

(c) An inadvertent use of the property in a manner inconsistent with the purpose for which exemption is granted, if the inadvertent use is not part of a pattern of use. A pattern of use is presumed when an inadvertent use is repeated in the same assessment year or in two or more successive assessment years.

(5) Property owned by all corporations, incorporated under any act of congress, whose principal purposes are to furnish volunteer aid to members of the armed forces of the United States and also to carry on a system of national and international relief and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other national calamities and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.

(6) Property owned by nonprofit organizations exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1954, as amended, that are guarantee agencies under the federal guaranteed student loan program or that issue debt to provide or acquire student loans.

(7) To be exempt under this section, the property must be used exclusively for the purposes for which exemption is granted, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805.

(8) For the purposes of this section, "general public good" means members of the community derive a benefit from the rental or use of the property by the nonprofit community group or organization. [2006 c 305 § 1; 1993 c 327 § 2; 1990 c 283 § 6; 1987 c 433 § 2; 1984 c 220 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 25 § 1; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 2. Prior: 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 70; 1971 ex.s. c 64 § 1; 1969 c 137 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.030; prior: 1955 c 196 § 5; prior: (i) 1939 c 206 § 8, part; 1933 ex.s. c 19 § 1, part; 1933 c 115 § 1, part; 1929 c 126 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 7, part; 1915 c 131 § 1, part; 1903 c 178 § 1, part; 1901 c 176 § 1, part; 1899 c 141 § 2, part; 1897 c 71 §§ 1, 5, part; 1895 c 176 § 2, part; 1893 c 124 §§ 1, 5, part; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 5, part; 1890 p 532 §§ 1, 5, part; 1886 p 47 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2829, part; 1871 p 37 § 4, part; 1869 p 176 § 4, part; 1867 p 61 § 2, part; 1854 p 331 § 2, part; RRS § 11111, part. (ii) 1945 c 109 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11111a.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.031 Clarification of exemption in RCW 84.36.030.** (1) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (2) of this section, property leased, loaned, sold with the option to repurchase, or otherwise made available to organizations described in RCW 84.36.030 is not exempt from taxation.

(2) Property remains eligible for the exemption under RCW 84.36.030, if:

(a) The property is owned by an organization exempt under RCW 84.36.020 or 84.36.030 that loans, leases, or rents the property to another organization for the exempt purposes provided in RCW 84.36.030; or

(b) The property is owned by an entity formed exclusively for the purpose of leasing the property to an organization that will use the property for the exempt purpose provided in RCW 84.36.030, if:

(i) The lessee uses the property for the exempt purposes provided in RCW 84.36.030;

(ii) The immediate previous owner of the property had received an exemption under RCW 84.36.020 or 84.36.030 for the property; and

(iii) The benefit of the exemption inures to the benefit of the lessee organization. [2012 c 76 § 1; 2006 c 305 § 2; 1969 c 137 § 2.]

**84.36.032 Administrative offices of nonprofit religious organizations.** The real and personal property of the administrative offices of nonprofit recognized religious organizations shall be exempt to the extent that the property is used for the administration of the religious programs of the organization and such other programs as would be exempt under RCW 84.36.020 and 84.36.030 as now or hereafter amended. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.035 Property used by qualifying blood, tissue, or blood and tissue banks.** (1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation:

All property, whether real or personal, belonging to or leased by any nonprofit corporation or association and used exclusively in the business of a qualifying blood bank, a qualifying tissue bank, or a qualifying blood and tissue bank, or in the administration of these businesses. If the real or personal property is leased, the benefit of the exemption shall inure to the nonprofit corporation or association.

(2) The definitions in RCW 82.04.324 apply to this section. [2004 c 82 § 4; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 9 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 206 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.037 Nonprofit organization property connected with operation of public assembly hall or meeting place. (Effective until December 31, 2020.)** (1) Real or personal property owned by a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation in connection with the operation of a public assembly hall or meeting place is exempt from taxation. The area exempt under this section includes the building or buildings, the land under the buildings, and an additional area necessary for parking, not exceeding a total of one acre. When property for which exemption is sought is essentially unimproved except for restroom facilities and structures and this property has been used primarily for annual community celebration events for at least ten years, the exempt property shall not exceed twenty-nine acres.

(2) To qualify for this exemption the property must be used exclusively for public gatherings and must be available to all organizations or persons desiring to use the property, but the owner may impose conditions and restrictions which are necessary for the safekeeping of the property and promote the purposes of this exemption. Membership shall not be a prerequisite for the use of the property.

(3) The use of the property for pecuniary gain or for business activities, except as provided in this section, nullifies the exemption otherwise available for the property for the assessment year. The exemption is not nullified by:

(a) The collection of rent or donations if all funds collected are used for capital improvements to the exempt property, maintenance and operation of the exempt property, or for exempt purposes.

(2012 Ed.)

(b) Fund-raising activities conducted by a nonprofit organization.

(c)(i) Except as provided in (c)(ii) of this subsection, the use of the property for pecuniary gain, for business activities for periods of not more than fifteen days each assessment year so long as all income received from rental or use of the exempt property is used for capital improvements to the exempt property, maintenance and operation of the exempt property, or for exempt purposes.

(ii) The use of the property for pecuniary gain or for business activities if the property is used for activities related to a qualifying farmers market, as defined in RCW 66.24.170, for not more than fifty-three days each assessment year, and all income received from rental or use of the exempt property is used for capital improvements to the exempt property, maintenance and operation of the exempt property, or exempt purposes.

(d) In a county with a population of less than twenty thousand, the use of the property to promote the following business activities: Dance lessons, art classes, or music lessons.

(e) An inadvertent use of the property in a manner inconsistent with the purpose for which exemption is granted, if the inadvertent use is not part of a pattern of use. A pattern of use is presumed when an inadvertent use is repeated in the same assessment year or in two or more successive assessment years.

(4) The department of revenue must narrowly construe this exemption. [2010 c 186 § 1; 2006 c 305 § 3. Prior: 1998 c 311 § 19; 1998 c 189 § 1; 1997 c 298 § 1; 1993 c 327 § 1; 1987 c 505 § 80; 1981 c 141 § 2.]

**Application—2010 c 186:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2011 through 2020." [2010 c 186 § 3.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 186:** "This act expires December 31, 2020." [2010 c 186 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.037 Nonprofit organization property connected with operation of public assembly hall or meeting place. (Effective December 31, 2020.)** (1) Real or personal property owned by a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation in connection with the operation of a public assembly hall or meeting place is exempt from taxation. The area exempt under this section includes the building or buildings, the land under the buildings, and an additional area necessary for parking, not exceeding a total of one acre. When property for which exemption is sought is essentially unimproved except for restroom facilities and structures and this property has been used primarily for annual community celebration events for at least ten years, the exempt property shall not exceed twenty-nine acres.

(2) To qualify for this exemption the property must be used exclusively for public gatherings and be available to all organizations or persons desiring to use the property, but the owner may impose conditions and restrictions which are necessary for the safekeeping of the property and promote the purposes of this exemption. Membership shall not be a prerequisite for the use of the property.

(3) The use of the property for pecuniary gain or for business activities, except as provided in this section, nullifies the

exemption otherwise available for the property for the assessment year. The exemption is not nullified by:

(a) The collection of rent or donations if all funds collected are used for capital improvements to the exempt property, maintenance and operation of the exempt property, or for exempt purposes.

(b) Fund-raising activities conducted by a nonprofit organization.

(c) The use of the property for pecuniary gain, for business activities for periods of not more than fifteen days each assessment year so long as all income received from rental or use of the exempt property is used for capital improvements to the exempt property, maintenance and operation of the exempt property, or for exempt purposes.

(d) In a county with a population of less than twenty thousand, the use of the property to promote the following business activities: Dance lessons, art classes, or music lessons.

(e) An inadvertent use of the property in a manner inconsistent with the purpose for which exemption is granted, if the inadvertent use is not part of a pattern of use. A pattern of use is presumed when an inadvertent use is repeated in the same assessment year or in two or more successive assessment years.

(4) The department of revenue shall narrowly construe this exemption. [2006 c 305 § 3. Prior: 1998 c 311 § 19; 1998 c 189 § 1; 1997 c 298 § 1; 1993 c 327 § 1; 1987 c 505 § 80; 1981 c 141 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.040 Nonprofit child day care centers, libraries, orphanages, homes or hospitals for the sick or infirm, outpatient dialysis facilities.** (1) The real and personal property used by, and for the purposes of, the following nonprofit organizations is exempt from property taxation:

(a) Child day care centers as defined in subsection (4) of this section;

(b) Free public libraries;

(c) Orphanages and orphan asylums;

(d) Homes for the sick or infirm;

(e) Hospitals for the sick; and

(f) Outpatient dialysis facilities.

(2) The real and personal property leased to and used by a hospital for hospital purposes is exempt from property taxation if the hospital is established under chapter 36.62 RCW or is owned and operated by a public hospital district established under chapter 70.44 RCW.

(3) To be exempt under this section, the property must be used exclusively for the purposes for which exemption is granted, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805, and the benefit of the exemption must inure to the user.

(4) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, "child day care center" means a nonprofit organization that regularly provides child day care and early learning services for a group of children for periods of less than twenty-four hours. [2010 c 106 § 305; 2001 c 126 § 1; 1989 c 379 § 1; 1987 c 31 § 1; 1984 c 220 § 2; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 119; 1969 ex.s. c 245 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.040. Prior: 1955 c 196 § 6; prior: 1939 c 206 § 8, part; 1933 ex.s. c 19 § 1, part; 1933 c 115 § 1, part; 1929 c 126 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 7, part; 1915 c 131 § 1, part; 1903 c 178 § 1, part;

1901 c 176 § 1, part; 1899 c 141 § 2, part; 1897 c 71 §§ 1, 5, part; 1895 c 176 § 2, part; 1893 c 124 §§ 1, 5, part; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 5, part; 1890 p 532 §§ 1, 5, part; 1886 p 47 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2829, part; 1871 p 37 § 4, part; 1869 p 176 § 4, part; 1867 p 61 § 2, part; 1854 p 331 § 2, part; RRS § 11111, part.]

**Retroactive application—2010 c 106 § 305:** "Section 305(2) of this act applies both prospectively and retroactively beginning with taxes levied for collection in 2002 and thereafter." [2010 c 106 § 405.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.041 Nonprofit homes for the aging.** (1) All real and personal property used by a nonprofit home for the aging that is reasonably necessary for the purposes of the home is exempt from taxation if the benefit of the exemption inures to the home and:

(a) At least fifty percent of the occupied dwelling units in the home are occupied by eligible residents; or

(b) The home is subsidized under a federal department of housing and urban development program. The department of revenue shall provide by rule a definition of homes eligible for exemption under this subsection (1)(b), consistent with the purposes of this section.

(2) All real and personal property used by a nonprofit home for the aging that is reasonably necessary for the purposes of the home is exempt from taxation if the benefit of the exemption inures to the home and the construction, rehabilitation, acquisition, or refinancing of the home is financed under a program using bonds exempt from federal income tax if at least seventy-five percent of the total amount financed uses the tax exempt bonds and the financing program requires the home to reserve a percentage of all dwelling units so financed for low-income residents. The initial term of the exemption under this subsection shall equal the term of the tax exempt bond used in connection with the financing program, or the term of the requirement to reserve dwelling units for low-income residents, whichever is shorter. If the financing program involves less than the entire home, only those dwelling units included in the financing program are eligible for total exemption. The department of revenue shall provide by rule the requirements for monitoring compliance with the provisions of this subsection and the requirements for exemption including:

(a) The number or percentage of dwelling units required to be occupied by low-income residents, and a definition of low income;

(b) The type and character of the dwelling units, whether independent units or otherwise; and

(c) Any particular requirements for continuing care retirement communities.

(3) A home for the aging is eligible for a partial exemption on the real property and a total exemption for the home's personal property if the home does not meet the requirements of subsection (1) of this section because fewer than fifty percent of the occupied dwelling units are occupied by eligible residents, as follows:

(a) A partial exemption shall be allowed for each dwelling unit in a home occupied by a resident requiring assistance with activities of daily living.

(b) A partial exemption shall be allowed for each dwelling unit in a home occupied by an eligible resident.

(c) A partial exemption shall be allowed for an area jointly used by a home for the aging and by a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation currently exempt from property taxation under one of the other provisions of this chapter. The shared area must be reasonably necessary for the purposes of the nonprofit organization, association, or corporation exempt from property taxation under one of the other provisions of this chapter, such as kitchen, dining, and laundry areas.

(d) The amount of exemption shall be calculated by multiplying the assessed value of the property reasonably necessary for the purposes of the home, less the assessed value of any area exempt under (c) of this subsection, by a fraction. The numerator of the fraction is the number of dwelling units occupied by eligible residents and by residents requiring assistance with activities of daily living. The denominator of the fraction is the total number of occupied dwelling units as of December 31st of the first assessment year the home becomes operational for which exemption is claimed and January 1st of each subsequent assessment year for which exemption is claimed.

(4) To be exempt under this section, the property must be used exclusively for the purposes for which the exemption is granted, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805.

(5) A home for the aging is exempt from taxation only if the organization operating the home is exempt from income tax under section 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code as existing on January 1, 1989, or such subsequent date as the director may provide by rule consistent with the purposes of this section.

(6) In order for the home to be eligible for exemption under subsections (1)(a) and (3)(b) of this section, each eligible resident of a home for the aging shall submit an income verification form to the county assessor by July 1st of the assessment year for which exemption is claimed. However, during the first year a home becomes operational, the county assessor shall accept income verification forms from eligible residents up to December 31st of the assessment year. The income verification form shall be prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue. An eligible resident who has filed a form for a previous year need not file a new form until there is a change in status affecting the person's eligibility.

(7) In determining the true and fair value of a home for the aging for purposes of the partial exemption provided by subsection (3) of this section, the assessor shall apply the computation method provided by RCW 84.34.060 and shall consider only the use to which such property is applied during the years for which such partial exemptions are available and shall not consider potential uses of such property.

(8) As used in this section:

(a) "Eligible resident" means a person who:

(i) Occupied the dwelling unit as a principal place of residence as of December 31st of the first assessment year the home becomes operational. In each subsequent year, the eligible resident must occupy the dwelling unit as a principal place of residence as of January 1st of the assessment year for which the exemption is claimed. Confinement of the person to a hospital or nursing home does not disqualify the claim of exemption if the dwelling unit is temporarily unoccupied or if

the dwelling unit is occupied by a spouse or a domestic partner, a person financially dependent on the claimant for support, or both; and

(ii) Is sixty-one years of age or older on December 31st of the year in which the exemption claim is filed, or is, at the time of filing, retired from regular gainful employment by reason of physical disability. Any surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of a person who was receiving an exemption at the time of the person's death shall qualify if the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is fifty-seven years of age or older and otherwise meets the requirements of this subsection; and

(iii) Has a combined disposable income of no more than the greater of twenty-two thousand dollars or eighty percent of the median income adjusted for family size as most recently determined by the federal department of housing and urban development for the county in which the person resides. For the purposes of determining eligibility under this section, a "cotenant" means a person who resides with an eligible resident and who shares personal financial resources with the eligible resident.

(b) "Combined disposable income" means the disposable income of the person submitting the income verification form, plus the disposable income of his or her spouse or domestic partner, and the disposable income of each cotenant occupying the dwelling unit for the preceding calendar year, less amounts paid by the person submitting the income verification form or his or her spouse or domestic partner or cotenant during the previous year for the treatment or care of either person received in the dwelling unit or in a nursing home. If the person submitting the income verification form was retired for two months or more of the preceding year, the combined disposable income of such person shall be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of such person during the months such person was retired by twelve. If the income of the person submitting the income verification form is reduced for two or more months of the preceding year by reason of the death of the person's spouse or domestic partner, the combined disposable income of such person shall be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of such person after the death of the spouse or domestic partner by twelve.

(c) "Disposable income" means adjusted gross income as defined in the federal internal revenue code, as amended prior to January 1, 1989, or such subsequent date as the director may provide by rule consistent with the purpose of this section, plus all of the following items to the extent they are not included in or have been deducted from adjusted gross income:

(i) Capital gains, other than gain excluded from income under section 121 of the federal internal revenue code to the extent it is reinvested in a new principal residence;

(ii) Amounts deducted for loss;

(iii) Amounts deducted for depreciation;

(iv) Pension and annuity receipts;

(v) Military pay and benefits other than attendant-care and medical-aid payments;

(vi) Veterans benefits other than attendant-care and medical-aid payments;

(vii) Federal social security act and railroad retirement benefits;

(viii) Dividend receipts; and

(ix) Interest received on state and municipal bonds.

(d) "Resident requiring assistance with activities of daily living" means a person who requires significant assistance with the activities of daily living and who would be at risk of nursing home placement without this assistance.

(e) "Home for the aging" means a residential housing facility that (i) provides a housing arrangement chosen voluntarily by the resident, the resident's guardian or conservator, or another responsible person; (ii) has only residents who are at least sixty-one years of age or who have needs for care generally compatible with persons who are at least sixty-one years of age; and (iii) provides varying levels of care and supervision, as agreed to at the time of admission or as determined necessary at subsequent times of reappraisal.

(9) A for-profit home for the aging that converts to nonprofit status after June 11, 1992, and would otherwise be eligible for tax exemption under this section may not receive the tax exemption until five years have elapsed since the conversion. The exemption shall then be ratably granted over the next five years. [2008 c 6 § 707; 2001 c 187 § 14. Prior: 1999 c 358 § 16; 1999 c 356 § 1; 1998 c 311 § 20; 1997 c 3 § 124 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1993 c 151 § 1; 1992 c 213 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 24 § 1; 1991 c 203 § 2; 1989 c 379 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.042 Nonprofit organization, corporation, or association property used to provide housing for persons with developmental disabilities.** (1) All real and personal property owned or leased by a nonprofit organization, corporation, or association to provide housing for eligible persons with developmental disabilities is exempt from property taxation.

(a) To qualify for this exemption, the nonprofit organization, corporation, or association must be qualified for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)). It must also have been organized for charitable purposes to create and preserve long-term affordable housing for low-income developmentally disabled persons.

(b) The housing must be occupied by eligible persons who have a low income.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Developmental disability" means the same as defined in RCW 71A.10.020;

(b) "Eligible person" means the same as defined in RCW 71A.10.020; and

(c) "Low income" means the adjusted gross income of the resident is at eighty percent or less of the median income adjusted for family size, as most recently determined by the federal department of housing and urban development for the county in which the housing is located and in effect as of January 1st of the assessment year for which the exemption is sought. "Adjusted gross income" is as defined in the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as it exists on June 11, 1998,

or such subsequent date as the director may provide by rule consistent with the purpose of this section.

(3) To be exempt under this section, the property must be used exclusively for the purposes for which the exemption is granted, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805.

(4) If the real or personal property for which exemption is sought is leased, the benefit of the exemption must inure to the nonprofit organization, corporation, or association leasing the property to provide the housing for developmentally disabled persons. [1998 c 202 § 1.]

**84.36.043 Nonprofit organization property used in providing emergency or transitional housing to low-income homeless persons or victims of domestic violence.**

(1) The real and personal property used by a nonprofit organization in providing emergency or transitional housing for low-income homeless persons as defined in RCW 35.21.685 or 36.32.415 or victims of domestic violence who are homeless for personal safety reasons is exempt from taxation if:

(a) The charge, if any, for the housing does not exceed the actual cost of operating and maintaining the housing; and

(b)(i) The property is owned by the nonprofit organization; or

(ii) The property is rented or leased by the nonprofit organization and the benefit of the exemption inures to the nonprofit organization.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Homeless" means persons, including families, who, on one particular day or night, do not have decent and safe shelter nor sufficient funds to purchase or rent a place to stay.

(b) "Emergency housing" means a project that provides housing and supportive services to homeless persons or families for up to sixty days.

(c) "Transitional housing" means a project that provides housing and supportive services to homeless persons or families for up to two years and that has as its purpose facilitating the movement of homeless persons and families into independent living.

(3) This exemption is subject to the administrative provisions contained in RCW 84.36.800 through 84.36.865. [1998 c 174 § 1; 1991 c 198 § 1; 1990 c 283 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 55 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.045 Nonprofit organization property available without charge for medical research or training of medical personnel.**

All real and personal property owned or used by any nonprofit corporation or association which is available without charge for research by, or for the training of, doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, hospital administrators and staff or other hospital personnel, and which otherwise is used for medical research, the results of which will be available without cost to the public, shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation. If the real or personal property is leased, the benefit of the exemption shall inure to the nonprofit corporation or association.

To be exempt under this section, the property must be used exclusively for the purposes for which exemption is granted, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805. [1998 c 184 § 1; 1984 c 220 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.046 Nonprofit cancer clinic or center.** (1) All real or personal property owned or used by a nonprofit organization, corporation, or association in connection with a nonprofit cancer clinic or center shall be exempt from taxation if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The nonprofit cancer clinic or center must be comprised of or have been formed by an organization, corporation, or association qualified for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)), by a municipal hospital corporation, or by both;

(b) The nonprofit organization, corporation, or association operating the nonprofit clinic or center and applying for the exemption must be qualified for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)); and

(c) The property must be used primarily in connection with the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805.

(2)(a) As used in this section, "nonprofit cancer clinic or center" means a medical facility operated:

(i) By a nonprofit organization, corporation, or association associated with a nonprofit hospital or group of nonprofit hospitals, by a municipal hospital corporation, or by both; and

(ii) For the primary purpose of preventing and detecting cancer and treating cancer patients.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "primary purpose" means that at least fifty-one percent of the patients who receive treatment at the clinic or center do so because they have been diagnosed as having cancer. In carrying out its primary purpose, the nonprofit cancer clinic or center provides any combination of radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and ancillary services, directly related to the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. These ancillary services include, but are not limited to, patient screening, case management, counseling, and access to a tumor registry.

(3) The exemption also applies to administrative offices located within the nonprofit cancer clinic or center that are used exclusively in conjunction with the cancer treatment services provided by the nonprofit cancer clinic or center.

(4) If the real or personal property for which exemption is sought is leased, the benefit of the exemption must inure to the nonprofit cancer clinic or center. [1997 c 143 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.047 Nonprofit organization property used for transmission or reception of radio or television signals originally broadcast by governmental agencies.** The following property shall be exempt from taxation:

Real and personal property owned by or leased to any nonprofit corporation or association and, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805, used exclusively to rebroadcast, amplify, or otherwise facilitate the transmission and/or reception of radio and/or television signals originally broadcast by foreign or domestic governmental agencies for reception by the general public: PROVIDED, That in the event such property is leased, the benefit of the exemption shall inure to the user. [1984 c 220 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 348 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.050 Schools and colleges.** The following property is exempt from taxation:

(1) Property owned or used by or for any nonprofit school or college in this state for educational purposes or cultural or art educational programs as defined in RCW 82.04.4328. Real property so exempt shall not exceed four hundred acres including, but not limited to, buildings and grounds designed for the educational, athletic, or social programs of the institution, the housing of students, religious faculty, and the chief administrator, athletic buildings, and all other school or college facilities, the need for which would be nonexistent but for the presence of the school or college. The property must be principally designed to further the educational, athletic, or social functions of the college or school. If the property is leased, the benefit of the exemption must inure to such school or college.

(2) Real or personal property owned by a not-for-profit foundation that is established for the exclusive support of an institution of higher education, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016. If the property is leased to and used by the institution for college or campus purposes, it must be principally designed to further the educational, athletic, or social functions of the institution. The exemption is only available for property actively utilized by currently enrolled students. The benefit of the exemption must inure to the college.

(3) Subject to subsection (4) of this section, if the property exempt under subsection (1) or (2) of this section is used by an individual or organization not entitled to a property tax exemption, except as provided in this subsection, the exemption is nullified for the assessment year in which such use occurs. The exemption is not nullified as a result of any of the uses listed in (a) or (b) of this subsection:

(a) The property is used by students, alumni, faculty, staff, or other persons or entities in a manner consistent with the educational, social, or athletic programs, including property used for related administrative and support functions, of the school or college and not for pecuniary gain or to promote business activities. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the school or college may contract with and permit the use of school or college property by persons or entities to provide school or college-related programs or services including, but not limited to, the provision of food services to students, faculty, and staff, the operation of a bookstore on campus, and the provision to the school or college of maintenance, operational, or administrative services without nullifying the exemption; or

(b) The property is used for pecuniary gain or to promote business activities for not more than seven days in the calendar year, such uses to be measured separately with respect to each specific portion of such property. If exempt property is used as a sports or educational camp or program taught, operated, or conducted by a faculty member who is required or permitted to do so as part of his or her compensation package, the days when the property is so used will not be included in calculating the seven day limitation of this subsection (3)(b).

(4) The amount of rent or donations, if any, received by the college or school for such uses described in subsection (3)(a) or (b) of this section, or by an organization entitled to a property tax exemption, must be reasonable and not exceed maintenance and operation expenses associated with the use by such user.

(5) The exemption under this section will not be nullified by an inadvertent use of the property in a manner inconsistent with the purpose for which exemption is granted, if the inadvertent use is not part of a pattern of use. A pattern of use is presumed when an inadvertent use is repeated in the same assessment year or in two or more successive assessment years. [2006 c 226 § 2; 2001 c 126 § 2; 1984 c 220 § 5; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 206 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.050. Prior: 1955 c 196 § 7; prior: 1939 c 206 § 8, part; 1933 ex.s. c 19 § 1, part; 1933 c 115 § 1, part; 1929 c 126 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 7, part; 1915 c 131 § 1, part; 1903 c 178 § 1, part; 1901 c 176 § 1, part; 1899 c 141 § 2, part; 1897 c 71 §§ 1, 5, part; 1895 c 176 § 2, part; 1893 c 124 §§ 1, 5, part; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 5, part; 1890 p 532 §§ 1, 5, part; 1886 p 47 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2829, part; 1871 p 37 § 4, part; 1869 p 176 § 4, part; 1867 p 61 § 2, part; 1854 p 331 § 2, part; RRS § 11111, part. Formerly RCW 84.40.010.]

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 226:** "The legislature finds that independent nonprofit schools, colleges, and universities are vital educational resources to the state of Washington. For the state to be competitive in a global economy, all educational resources must be competitive and provide high-quality programs and services for students.

The legislature recognizes that independent nonprofit schools, colleges, and universities are important economic drivers in their communities, and encourages institutions to support local communities, to provide public benefit, and to respond to community expectations that they share facilities, offer programs, and attract students on par with Washington's publicly owned institutions and out-of-state schools and colleges. Further, the legislature encourages innovative programs and educational opportunities, sustainable practices, and increased use of facilities so that operations of institutions can be more cost-effective.

The legislature wishes to remove barriers that discourage institutions from being more collaborative, that make it more difficult to provide high-quality services and necessities to their students, and that discourage appropriate and beneficial use of institutional facilities by the broader community. To this end, the legislature seeks to provide consistent, predictable, and easily administrable rules for reference by the state department of revenue and schools and colleges." [2006 c 226 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.060 Art, scientific and historical collections and property used to maintain, etc., such collections—Property of associations engaged in production and performance of musical, dance, artistic, etc., works—Fire engines, implements, and buildings of cities, towns, or fire companies—Humane societies.** (1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation:

(a) All art, scientific, or historical collections of associations maintaining and exhibiting such collections for the benefit of the general public and not for profit, together with all real and personal property of such associations used exclusively for the safekeeping, maintaining and exhibiting of such collections;

(b) All the real and personal property owned by or leased to associations engaged in the production and performance of musical, dance, artistic, dramatic, or literary works for the benefit of the general public and not for profit, which real and personal property is used exclusively for this production or performance;

(c) All fire engines and other implements used for the extinguishment of fire, and the buildings used exclusively for their safekeeping, and for meetings of fire companies, as long as the property belongs to any city or town or to a fire company; and

(d) All property owned by humane societies in this state in actual use by the societies.

(2) To receive an exemption under subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section:

(a) An organization must be organized and operated exclusively for artistic, scientific, historical, literary, musical, dance, dramatic, or educational purposes and receive a substantial part of its support (exclusive of income received in the exercise or performance by such organization of its purpose or function) from the United States or any state or any political subdivision thereof or from direct or indirect contributions from the general public.

(b) If the property is not currently being used for an exempt purpose but will be used for an exempt purpose within a reasonable period of time, the nonprofit organization, association, or corporation claiming the exemption must submit proof that a reasonably specific and active program is being carried out to construct, remodel, or otherwise enable the property to be used for an exempt purpose. The property does not qualify for an exemption during this interim period if the property is used by, loaned to, or rented to a for-profit organization or business enterprise. Proof of a specific and active program to build or remodel the property so it may be used for an exempt purpose may include, but is not limited to:

(i) Affirmative action by the board of directors, trustees, or governing body of the nonprofit organization, association, or corporation toward an active program of construction or remodeling;

(ii) Itemized reasons for the proposed construction or remodeling;

(iii) Clearly established plans for financing the construction or remodeling; or

(iv) Building permits.

(3) The use of property exempt under subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section by entities not eligible for a property tax exemption under this chapter, except as provided in this section, nullifies the exemption otherwise available for the property for the assessment year. The exemption is not nullified if:

(a) The property is used by entities not eligible for a property tax exemption under this chapter for periods of not more than fifty days in the calendar year;

(b) The property is not used for pecuniary gain or to promote business activities for more than fifteen of the fifty days in the calendar year; and

(c) The property is used for artistic, scientific, or historic purposes, for the production and performance of musical, dance, artistic, dramatic, or literary works, or for community gatherings or assembly, or meetings.

(4) The fifty and fifteen-day limitations in subsection (3) of this section do not include days used for setup and take-down activities preceding or following a meeting or other event by an entity using the property as provided in subsection (3) of this section. [2009 c 58 § 1; 2003 c 121 § 1; 1995 c 306 § 1; 1981 c 141 § 1; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.060. Prior: 1955 c 196 § 8; prior: 1939 c 206 § 8, part; 1933 ex.s. c 19 § 1, part; 1933 c 115 § 1, part; 1929 c 126 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 7, part; 1915 c 131 § 1, part; 1903 c 178 § 1, part; 1901 c 176 § 1, part; 1899 c 141 § 2, part; 1897 c 71 §§ 1, 5, part; 1895 c 176 § 2, part; 1893 c 124 §§ 1, 5, part; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 5, part; 1890 p 532 §§ 1, 5, part;

1886 p 47 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 2829, part; 1871 p 37 § 4, part; 1869 p 176 § 4, part; 1867 p 61 § 2, part; 1854 p 331 § 2, part; RRS § 11111, part. Formerly RCW 84.40.010.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.070 Intangible personal property—Appraisal.**

(1) Intangible personal property is exempt from ad valorem taxation.

(2) "Intangible personal property" means:

(a) All moneys and credits including mortgages, notes, accounts, certificates of deposit, tax certificates, judgments, state, county and municipal bonds and warrants and bonds and warrants of other taxing districts, bonds of the United States and of foreign countries or political subdivisions thereof and the bonds, stocks, or shares of private corporations;

(b) Private nongovernmental personal service contracts, private nongovernmental athletic or sports franchises, or private nongovernmental athletic or sports agreements provided that the contracts, franchises, or agreements do not pertain to the use or possession of tangible personal or real property or to any interest in tangible personal or real property; and

(c) Other intangible personal property such as trademarks, trade names, brand names, patents, copyrights, trade secrets, franchise agreements, licenses, permits, core deposits of financial institutions, noncompete agreements, customer lists, patient lists, favorable contracts, favorable financing agreements, reputation, exceptional management, prestige, good name, or integrity of a business.

(3) "Intangible personal property" does not include zoning, location, view, geographic features, easements, covenants, proximity to raw materials, condition of surrounding property, proximity to markets, the availability of a skilled workforce, and other characteristics or attributes of property.

(4) This section does not preclude the use of, or permit a departure from, generally accepted appraisal practices and the appropriate application thereof in the valuation of real and tangible personal property, including the appropriate consideration of licenses, permits, and franchises granted by a government agency that affect the use of the property. [1997 c 181 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 118 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.070. Prior: 1931 c 96 § 1; RRS § 11111-1. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 5, part, now codified in RCW 84.04.080.]

**Intent—No relation to other state's law—1997 c 181:** "Nothing in this act is intended to incorporate and nothing in this act is based on any other state's statutory or case law." [1997 c 181 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.079 Rights, title, interest, and materials of certain vessels under construction.** All rights, title or interest in or to any vessel of more than one thousand ton burden, and the materials and parts held by the builder of the vessel at the site of construction for the specific purpose of incorporation therein, shall be exempt from taxation while the vessel is under construction within this state. [1961 c 15 § 84.36.079. Prior: 1959 c 295 § 1.]

**84.36.080 Certain ships and vessels.** (1) All ships and vessels which are exempt from excise tax under RCW 82.49.020(2) and excepted from the registration requirements

(2012 Ed.)

of RCW 88.02.570(10) shall be and are hereby made exempt from all ad valorem taxes, except taxes levied for any state purpose.

(2) All ships and vessels listed in the state or federal register of historical places are exempt from all ad valorem taxes. [2011 c 171 § 126; 2000 c 103 § 24; 1998 c 335 § 5; 1986 c 229 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 51; 1983 c 7 § 23; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.080. Prior: 1945 c 82 § 1; 1931 c 81 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11111-2.]

**Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171:** See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

*Listing of taxable ships and vessels with department of revenue:* RCW 84.40.065.

*Valuation of vessels—Apportionment:* RCW 84.40.036.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.090 Exemption for other ships and vessels.** All ships and vessels, other than those partially exempt under RCW 84.36.080 and those described in RCW 84.36.079, are exempt from all ad valorem taxes. [1983 c 7 § 24; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.090. Prior: 1959 c 295 § 2; 1945 c 82 § 2; 1931 c 81 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11111-3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.100 Size of vessel immaterial.** RCW 84.36.080 and 84.36.090 shall apply to all ships, vessels and boats, irrespective of size, and to the taxes thereon becoming due and payable. [1961 c 15 § 84.36.100. Prior: 1945 c 82 § 3; 1931 c 81 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11111-4.]

**84.36.105 Cargo containers used in ocean commerce.** All cargo containers principally used for the transportation of cargo by vessels in ocean commerce shall be exempt from taxation. The term "cargo container" means a receptacle:

(1) Of a permanent character and accordingly strong enough to be suitable for repeated use;

(2) Specially designed to facilitate the carriage of goods, by one or more modes of transport, one of which shall be by vessels, without intermediate reloading;

(3) Fitted with devices permitting its ready handling, particularly its transfer from one mode of transport to another; and

(4) Designed to be easy to fill and empty. [1975 1st ex.s. c 20 § 1.]

**84.36.110 Household goods and personal effects—Fifteen thousand dollars actual value to head of family.** The following property shall be exempt from taxation:

(1) All household goods and furnishings in actual use by the owner thereof in equipping and outfitting his or her residence or place of abode and not for sale or commercial use, and all personal effects held by any person for his or her exclusive use and benefit and not for sale or commercial use.

(2) The personal property, other than specified in subsection (1) of this section, of each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation of which the individual is the actual and bona fide owner to an amount of fifteen thousand dollars of true and fair value. This exemption shall not apply to any private motor vehicle or mobile home. If the county assessor is satisfied that all of the personal property of any person is exempt from taxation under the provisions of this statute or

any other statute providing exemptions for personal property, no listing of such property shall be required. However, if the personal property described in this subsection exceeds in value the amount allowed as exempt, then a complete list of said personal property shall be made as provided by law, and the county assessor shall deduct the amount of the exemption authorized by this subsection from the total amount of the assessment and impose taxes on the remainder. [2006 c 281 § 2; 1988 c 10 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 71; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.110. Prior: 1935 c 27 § 1; RRS § 11111-7.]

**Contingent effective date—2006 c 281:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2007, if the proposed amendment to Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution authorizing an increased personal exemption for the head of a family is validly submitted to and is approved and ratified by the voters at the next general election. If the proposed amendment is not approved and ratified, this act is void in its entirety." [2006 c 281 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—2006 c 281:** "The legislature finds that it is in the public interest of the people of the state of Washington to ease the burden of property taxes paid by the head of a family. To achieve this purpose, this act increases the amount of personal property exemption for the head of a family from three thousand dollars to fifteen thousand dollars. The last time this exemption was increased was 1988. It is the clear and unambiguous intent of the legislature that the property described within this measure shall be exempt for [from] taxation, as authorized by Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution." [2006 c 281 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.120 Household goods and personal effects—Definitions.** For the purposes of RCW 84.36.110 "head of a family" shall be construed to include a surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner who has neither remarried nor entered into a subsequent domestic partnership, any person receiving an old age pension under the laws of this state and any citizen of the United States, over the age of sixty-five years, who has resided in the state of Washington continuously for ten years.

"Personal effects" shall be construed to mean and include such tangible property as usually and ordinarily attends the person such as wearing apparel, jewelry, toilet articles and the like.

"Private motor vehicle" shall be construed to mean and include all motor vehicles used for the convenience or pleasure of the owner and carrying a licensing classification other than motor vehicle for hire, auto stage, auto stage trailer, motor truck, motor truck trailer or dealers' licenses.

"Mobile home" shall be construed to mean and include all trailers of the type designed as facilities for human habitation and which are capable of being moved upon the public streets and highways and which are more than thirty-five feet in length or more than eight feet in width. [2008 c 6 § 708; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 120; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 72; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.120. Prior: 1935 c 27 § 2; RRS § 11111-8.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.130 Airport property in this state for smaller airports belonging to municipalities of adjoining states.** All property, whether real or personal, belonging exclusively to any municipal corporation in an adjoining state legally empowered by the laws of such adjoining state to acquire and hold property within this state, and which property is used primarily for airport purposes and other facilities for landing,

terminals, housing, repair and care of dirigibles, airplanes and seaplanes for the aerial transportation of persons, property or mail, or in the armed forces of the United States, and upon which property there is expended funds by the federal, county or state agencies, or upon which funds are allocated by the federal government agencies on national defense projects, is hereby exempted from ad valorem taxation. The exemption in this section applies only to airports five hundred acres or less in size. [1998 c 201 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.36.130. Prior: 1941 c 13 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11111-10.]

**84.36.135 Real and personal property of housing finance commission.** The real and personal property of the state housing finance commission established by chapter 43.180 RCW are exempt from taxation. [1983 c 161 § 26.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.210 Public right-of-way easements.** Whenever the state, or any city, town, county or other municipal corporation has obtained a written easement for a right-of-way over and across any private property and the written instrument has been placed of record in the county auditor's office of the county in which the property is located, the easement rights shall be exempt from taxation and exempt from general tax foreclosure and sale for delinquent property taxes of the property over and across which the easement exists; and all property tax records of the county and tax statements relating to the servient property shall show the existence of such easement and that it is exempt from the tax; and any notice of sale and tax deed relating to the servient property shall show that such easement exists and is excepted from the sale of the servient property. [1961 c 15 § 84.36.210. Prior: 1947 c 150 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11188-1.]

**84.36.230 Interstate bridges—Reciprocity.** Any bridge, including its approaches, over rivers or bodies of water forming interstate boundaries, which bridge has been constructed or acquired and is being operated by any foreign state bordering upon such common interstate boundary, or which has been constructed or acquired and is being operated by any county, city or other municipality of such foreign state, shall be exempt from all property and other taxes in the state of Washington, if the foreign state exempts from all taxation any bridge or bridges constructed or acquired and being operated by the state of Washington or any county, city or other municipality thereof. [1961 c 15 § 84.36.230. Prior: 1949 c 224 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11111-12.]

**84.36.240 Soil and water conservation districts, personal property.** All personal property belonging solely to soil and water conservation districts shall be exempt from taxation: PROVIDED, That the exemption contained herein shall not apply to property of any such district which engages in contract work for persons or firms not landowners or cooperators of a district. [1963 c 179 § 1.]

**84.36.250 Water distribution property owned by nonprofit corporation or cooperative association.** The following property shall be exempt from taxation:

All property, whether real or personal belonging to any nonprofit corporation or cooperative association and used

exclusively for the distribution of water to its shareholders or members. [1965 ex.s. c 173 § 31.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.255 Improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and water quantity—Cooperative assistance to landowners—Certification of best management practice—Limitation—Landowner claim and certification.** (1) All improvements to real and personal property that benefit fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or water quantity are exempt from taxation if the improvements are included under a written conservation plan approved by a conservation district. The conservation districts shall cooperate with the federal natural resource conservation service, other conservation districts, the department of ecology, the department of fish and wildlife, and nonprofit organizations to assist landowners by working with them to obtain approved conservation plans so as to qualify for the exemption provided for in this section. As provided in subsection (3) of this section and RCW 89.08.440(2), a conservation district shall certify that the best management practice benefits fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or water quantity. A habitat conservation plan under the terms of the federal endangered species act shall not be considered a conservation plan for purposes of this exemption.

(2) The exemption shall remain in effect only if improvements identified in the written best management practices agreement are maintained as originally approved or amended. Improvements made as a requirement to mitigate for impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or water quantity are not eligible for exemption under this section.

(3) A claim for exemption under this section may be filed annually with the county assessor at any time during the year for exemption from taxes levied for collection in the following year when submitted on forms prescribed by the department of revenue developed in consultation with the conservation district. The landowner shall certify each year that the improvements for which exemption is sought are maintained as originally approved or amended in the written conservation plan. The claim must contain the certification by the conservation district that the improvements for which exemption is sought were included under a written conservation plan approved by the conservation district including best management practices that benefit fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or water quantity. [1997 c 295 § 2.]

**Purpose—1997 c 295:** "The purpose of this act is to improve fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and water quantity for the benefit of the public at large. Private property owners should be encouraged to make voluntary improvements to their property as recommended by governmental agencies without the penalty of paying higher property taxes as a result of those improvements." [1997 c 295 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.260 Property, interests, etc., used for conservation of ecological systems, natural resources, or open space—Conservation or scientific research organizations.** All real property interests, including fee simple or any lesser interest, development rights, easements, covenants and conservation futures, as that latter term is defined in RCW 84.34.220 as now or hereafter amended, used exclusively for the conservation of ecological systems, natural resources, or

open space, including park lands, held by any nonprofit corporation or association the primary purpose of which is the conducting or facilitating of scientific research or the conserving of natural resources or open space for the general public, shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation if either of the following conditions are met:

(1) To the extent feasible considering the nature of the property interest involved, such property interests shall be used and effectively dedicated primarily for the purpose of providing scientific research or educational opportunities for the general public or the preservation of native plants or animals, or biotic communities, or works of ancient human beings or geological or geographical formations, of distinct scientific and educational interest, and not for the pecuniary benefit of any person or company, as defined in RCW 82.04.030, and shall be open to the general public for educational and scientific research purposes subject to reasonable restrictions designed for its protection; or

(2) Such property interests shall be subject to an option, accepted in writing by the state, a city or a county, or department of the United States government, for the purchase thereof by the state, a city or a county, or the United States, at a price not exceeding the lesser of the following amounts: (a) The sum of the original purchase cost to such nonprofit corporation or association plus interest from the date of acquisition by such corporation or association at the rate of six percent per annum compounded annually to the date of the exercise of the option; or (b) the appraised value of the property at the time of the granting of the option, as determined by the department of revenue or when the option is held by the United States, or by an appropriate agency thereof. [2009 c 549 § 1034; 1979 ex.s. c 193 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 22 § 3; 1973 c 112 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 43.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.262 Cessation of use giving rise to exemption.** Upon cessation of the use which has given rise to an exemption hereunder, the county treasurer shall collect all taxes which would have been paid had the property not been exempt during the ten years preceding, or the life of such exemption if such be less, together with interest at the same rate and computed in the same way as that upon delinquent property taxes. [1973 c 112 § 2.]

*Additional tax payable at time of sale—Appeal of assessed values:* RCW 84.36.812.

**84.36.264 Application for exemption under RCW 84.36.260, conservation of ecological systems.** Owners of property desiring tax exempt status pursuant to the provisions of RCW 84.36.260 shall make an application for the exemption with the department. If such property qualifies pursuant to RCW 84.36.260(2), a copy of the option shall also be submitted to the department. Such option shall clearly state the purchase price pursuant to the option or the appraisal value as determined by the department of revenue. [1994 c 124 § 17; 1973 c 112 § 3.]

**84.36.300 Stocks of merchandise, goods, wares or material—Aircraft parts, etc.—When eligible for exemption.** There shall be exempt from taxation a portion of each separately assessed stock of merchandise, as that word is

defined in this section, owned or held by any taxpayer on the first day of January of any year computed by first multiplying the total amount of that stock of such merchandise, as determined in accordance with RCW 84.40.020, by a percentage determined by dividing the amount of such merchandise brought into this state by the taxpayer during the preceding year for that stock by the total additions to that stock by the taxpayer during that year, and then multiplying the result of the latter computation by a percentage determined by dividing the total out-of-state shipments of such merchandise by the taxpayer during the preceding year from that stock (and regardless of whether or not any such shipments involved a sale of, or a transfer of title to, the merchandise within this state) by the total shipments of such merchandise by the taxpayer during the preceding year from that stock. As used in this section, the word "merchandise" means goods, wares, merchandise or material which were not manufactured in this state by the taxpayer and which were acquired by him (in any other manner whatsoever, including manufacture by him out-of-state) for the purpose of sale or shipment in substantially the same form in which they were acquired by him within this state or were brought into this state by him. Breaking of packages or of bulk shipments, packaging, repackaging, labeling or relabeling shall not be considered as a change in form within the meaning of this section. A taxpayer who has made no shipments of merchandise, either out-of-state or in-state, during the preceding year, may compute the percentage to be applied to the stock of merchandise on the basis of his experience from March 1 of the preceding year to the last day of February of the current year, in lieu of computing the percentage on the basis of his experience during the preceding year. The rule of strict construction shall not apply to this section.

All rights, title or interest in or to any aircraft parts, equipment, furnishings, or accessories (but not engines or major structural components) which are manufactured outside of the state of Washington and are owned by purchasers of the aircraft constructed, under construction or to be constructed in the state of Washington, and are shipped into the state of Washington for installation in or use in connection with the operation of such aircraft shall be exempt from taxation prior to and during construction of such aircraft and while held in this state for periods preliminary to and during the transportation of such aircraft from the state of Washington. [1973 c 149 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 124 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.301 Legislative finding and declaration for RCW 84.36.300.** The legislature hereby finds and declares that to promote the policy of a free and uninhibited flow of commerce as established by federal constitutional and legislative dictate, it is desirable to exempt from property taxation, according to the provisions of RCW 84.36.300, certain parts and equipment coming into the state of Washington to be placed in vehicles which are then transferred to the possession of out-of-state owners. The legislature further recognizes that the temporary existence of these parts and equipment within the state justifies a tax exempt status which serves to encourage the manufacture and assemblage of vehicles within the state thereby promoting increased economic activity and jobs for our residents. [1973 c 149 § 1.]

**84.36.310 Requirements for exemption under RCW 84.36.300.** Any person claiming the exemption provided for in RCW 84.36.300 shall file such claim with his or her listing of personal property as provided by RCW 84.40.040. The claim shall be in the form prescribed by the department of revenue, and shall require such information as the department deems necessary to substantiate the claim. [2003 c 302 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 124 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.320 Inspection of books and records for exemption under RCW 84.36.300.** An owner or agent filing a claim under RCW 84.36.310 shall consent to the inspection of the books and records upon which the claim has been based, such inspection to be similar in manner to that provided by RCW 84.40.340, or if the owner or agent does not maintain records within this state, the consent shall apply to the records of a warehouse, person or agent having custody of the inventory to which the claim applies. Consent to the inspection of the records shall be executed as a part of the claim. The owner, his agent, or other person having custody of the inventory referred to herein shall retain within this state, for a period of at least two years from the date of the claim, the records referred to above. If adequate records are not made available to the assessor within the county where the claim is made, then the exemption shall be denied. [1969 ex.s. c 124 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.350 Property owned or used for sheltered workshops for handicapped.** (1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation:

(a) Real or personal property owned and used by a non-profit corporation in connection with the operation of a sheltered workshop for handicapped persons, and used primarily in connection with the manufacturing and the handling, sale or distribution of goods constructed, processed, or repaired in such workshops or centers; and

(b) Inventory owned by a sheltered workshop for sale or lease by the sheltered workshop or to be furnished under a contract of service, including raw materials, work in process, and finished products.

(2) Unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, "sheltered workshop" means a rehabilitation facility, or that part of a rehabilitation facility operated by a nonprofit corporation, where any manufacture or handiwork is carried on and operated for the primary purpose of: (a) Providing gainful employment or rehabilitation services to the handicapped as an interim step in the rehabilitation process for those who cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market or during such time as employment opportunities for them in the competitive labor market do not exist; or (b) providing evaluation and work adjustment services for handicapped individuals. [1999 c 358 § 17; 1975 1st ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 81 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.379 Residences—Property tax exemption—Findings.** The legislature finds that the property tax exemption authorized by Article VII, section 10 of the state Constitution should be made available on the basis of a retired person

son's ability to pay property taxes and that the best measure of a retired person's ability to pay taxes is that person's disposable income as defined in RCW 84.36.383. The legislature further finds that veterans with one hundred percent service-connected disabilities have given so much to our country that they deserve property tax relief. [2005 c 248 § 1; 2000 c 103 § 25; 1980 c 185 § 3.]

**Application—2005 c 248:** See note following RCW 84.36.381.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.36.381 Residences—Property tax exemptions—**

**Qualifications.** A person is exempt from any legal obligation to pay all or a portion of the amount of excess and regular real property taxes due and payable in the year following the year in which a claim is filed, and thereafter, in accordance with the following:

(1) The property taxes must have been imposed upon a residence which was occupied by the person claiming the exemption as a principal place of residence as of the time of filing. However, any person who sells, transfers, or is displaced from his or her residence may transfer his or her exemption status to a replacement residence, but no claimant may receive an exemption on more than one residence in any year. Moreover, confinement of the person to a hospital, nursing home, assisted living facility, or adult family home does not disqualify the claim of exemption if:

(a) The residence is temporarily unoccupied;

(b) The residence is occupied by a spouse or a domestic partner and/or a person financially dependent on the claimant for support; or

(c) The residence is rented for the purpose of paying nursing home, hospital, assisted living facility, or adult family home costs;

(2) The person claiming the exemption must have owned, at the time of filing, in fee, as a life estate, or by contract purchase, the residence on which the property taxes have been imposed or if the person claiming the exemption lives in a cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership, such person must own a share therein representing the unit or portion of the structure in which he or she resides. For purposes of this subsection, a residence owned by a marital community or state registered domestic partnership or owned by cotenants is deemed to be owned by each spouse or each domestic partner or each cotenant, and any lease for life is deemed a life estate;

(3)(a) The person claiming the exemption must be:

(i) Sixty-one years of age or older on December 31st of the year in which the exemption claim is filed, or must have been, at the time of filing, retired from regular gainful employment by reason of disability; or

(ii) A veteran of the armed forces of the United States entitled to and receiving compensation from the United States department of veterans affairs at a total disability rating for a service-connected disability.

(b) However, any surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of a person who was receiving an exemption at the time of the person's death will qualify if the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is fifty-seven years of age or older and otherwise meets the requirements of this section;

(4) The amount that the person is exempt from an obligation to pay is calculated on the basis of combined disposable

income, as defined in RCW 84.36.383. If the person claiming the exemption was retired for two months or more of the assessment year, the combined disposable income of such person must be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of such person during the months such person was retired by twelve. If the income of the person claiming exemption is reduced for two or more months of the assessment year by reason of the death of the person's spouse or the person's domestic partner, or when other substantial changes occur in disposable income that are likely to continue for an indefinite period of time, the combined disposable income of such person must be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of such person after such occurrences by twelve. If it is necessary to estimate income to comply with this subsection, the assessor may require confirming documentation of such income prior to May 31 of the year following application;

(5)(a) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a combined disposable income of thirty-five thousand dollars or less is exempt from all excess property taxes; and

(b)(i) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a combined disposable income of thirty thousand dollars or less but greater than twenty-five thousand dollars is exempt from all regular property taxes on the greater of fifty thousand dollars or thirty-five percent of the valuation of his or her residence, but not to exceed seventy thousand dollars of the valuation of his or her residence; or

(ii) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a combined disposable income of twenty-five thousand dollars or less is exempt from all regular property taxes on the greater of sixty thousand dollars or sixty percent of the valuation of his or her residence;

(6)(a) For a person who otherwise qualifies under this section and has a combined disposable income of thirty-five thousand dollars or less, the valuation of the residence is the assessed value of the residence on the later of January 1, 1995, or January 1st of the assessment year the person first qualifies under this section. If the person subsequently fails to qualify under this section only for one year because of high income, this same valuation must be used upon requalification. If the person fails to qualify for more than one year in succession because of high income or fails to qualify for any other reason, the valuation upon requalification is the assessed value on January 1st of the assessment year in which the person requalifies. If the person transfers the exemption under this section to a different residence, the valuation of the different residence is the assessed value of the different residence on January 1st of the assessment year in which the person transfers the exemption.

(b) In no event may the valuation under this subsection be greater than the true and fair value of the residence on January 1st of the assessment year.

(c) This subsection does not apply to subsequent improvements to the property in the year in which the improvements are made. Subsequent improvements to the property must be added to the value otherwise determined under this subsection at their true and fair value in the year in which they are made. [2012 c 10 § 73; 2011 c 174 § 105; 2010 c 106 § 306; 2008 c 6 § 706; 2005 c 248 § 2; 2004 c 270

§ 1; 1998 c 333 § 1; 1996 c 146 § 1; 1995 1st sp.s. c 8 § 1; 1994 sp.s. c 8 § 1; 1993 c 178 § 1; 1992 c 187 § 1. Prior: 1991 c 213 § 3; 1991 c 203 § 1; 1987 c 301 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 11 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 11 § 2; 1980 c 185 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 214 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 268 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 14; 1974 ex.s. c 182 § 1.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**Application—2005 c 248:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2006 and thereafter." [2005 c 248 § 3.]

**Intent—1983 1st ex.s. c 11:** "The legislature finds that inflation has significant detrimental effects on the senior citizen property tax relief program. Inflation increases incomes without increasing real buying power. Inflation also raises the values of homes, and thus the taxes on those homes. This act addresses the problem of inflation in two ways. First, the assessed value exemption is tied to home value so it will increase as values rise. Secondly, though the income of most senior citizens does not keep pace with inflation, it is the legislature's intent that inflationary increases in incomes will not result in program disqualification. Therefore, the income levels are adjusted to reflect the forecasted increase in inflation. The legislature also recommends that similar adjustments be examined by future legislatures." [1983 1st ex.s. c 11 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.383 Residences—Definitions.** As used in RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(1) The term "residence" means a single family dwelling unit whether such unit be separate or part of a multiunit dwelling, including the land on which such dwelling stands not to exceed one acre, except that a residence includes any additional property up to a total of five acres that comprises the residential parcel if this larger parcel size is required under land use regulations. The term also includes a share ownership in a cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership if the person claiming exemption can establish that his or her share represents the specific unit or portion of such structure in which he or she resides. The term also includes a single family dwelling situated upon lands the fee of which is vested in the United States or any instrumentality thereof including an Indian tribe or in the state of Washington, and notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.04.080 and 84.04.090, such a residence is deemed real property.

(2) The term "real property" also includes a mobile home which has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by virtue of its being fixed in location upon land owned or leased by the owner of the mobile home and placed on a foundation (posts or blocks) with fixed pipe, connections with sewer, water, or other utilities. A mobile home located on land leased by the owner of the mobile home is subject, for tax billing, payment, and collection purposes, only to the personal property provisions of chapter 84.56 RCW and RCW 84.60.040.

(3) "Department" means the state department of revenue.

(4) "Combined disposable income" means the disposable income of the person claiming the exemption, plus the disposable income of his or her spouse or domestic partner, and the disposable income of each cotenant occupying the residence for the assessment year, less amounts paid by the person claiming the exemption or his or her spouse or domestic partner during the assessment year for:

(a) Drugs supplied by prescription of a medical practitioner authorized by the laws of this state or another jurisdiction to issue prescriptions;

(b) The treatment or care of either person received in the home or in a nursing home, assisted living facility, or adult family home; and

(c) Health care insurance premiums for medicare under Title XVIII of the social security act.

(5) "Disposable income" means adjusted gross income as defined in the federal internal revenue code, as amended prior to January 1, 1989, or such subsequent date as the director may provide by rule consistent with the purpose of this section, plus all of the following items to the extent they are not included in or have been deducted from adjusted gross income:

(a) Capital gains, other than gain excluded from income under section 121 of the federal internal revenue code to the extent it is reinvested in a new principal residence;

(b) Amounts deducted for loss;

(c) Amounts deducted for depreciation;

(d) Pension and annuity receipts;

(e) Military pay and benefits other than attendant-care and medical-aid payments;

(f) Veterans benefits, other than:

(i) Attendant-care payments;

(ii) Medical-aid payments;

(iii) Disability compensation, as defined in Title 38, part 3, section 3.4 of the code of federal regulations, as of January 1, 2008; and

(iv) Dependency and indemnity compensation, as defined in Title 38, part 3, section 3.5 of the code of federal regulations, as of January 1, 2008;

(g) Federal social security act and railroad retirement benefits;

(h) Dividend receipts; and

(i) Interest received on state and municipal bonds.

(6) "Cotenant" means a person who resides with the person claiming the exemption and who has an ownership interest in the residence.

(7) "Disability" has the same meaning as provided in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 423(d)(1)(A) as amended prior to January 1, 2005, or such subsequent date as the department may provide by rule consistent with the purpose of this section. [2012 c 10 § 74; 2010 c 106 § 307. Prior: 2008 c 182 § 1; 2008 c 6 § 709; 2006 c 62 § 1; 2004 c 270 § 2; 1999 c 358 § 18; 1995 1st sp.s. c 8 § 2; 1994 sp.s. c 8 § 2; 1991 c 213 § 4; 1991 c 219 § 1; 1989 c 379 § 6; 1987 c 155 § 2; 1985 c 395 § 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 11 § 4; 1980 c 185 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 214 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 15; 1974 ex.s. c 182 § 2.]

**Application—2012 c 10:** See note following RCW 18.20.010.

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Application—2008 c 182:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2009 and thereafter." [2008 c 182 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**Application—2006 c 62:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2007 and thereafter." [2006 c 62 § 4.]

**Intent—Applicability—Effective dates—1983 1st ex.s. c 11:** See notes following RCW 84.36.381.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.385 Residences—Claim for exemption—Forms—Change of status—Publication and notice of qualifications and manner of making claims.** (1) A claim for exemption under RCW 84.36.381 as now or hereafter amended, may be made and filed at any time during the year for exemption from taxes payable the following year and thereafter and solely upon forms as prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue. However, an exemption from tax under RCW 84.36.381 continues for no more than six years unless a renewal application is filed as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) A person granted an exemption under RCW 84.36.381 must inform the county assessor of any change in status affecting the person's entitlement to the exemption on forms prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue.

(3) Each person exempt from taxes under RCW 84.36.381 in 1993 and thereafter, must file with the county assessor a renewal application not later than December 31 of the year the assessor notifies such person of the requirement to file the renewal application. Renewal applications must be on forms prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue.

(4) At least once every six years, the county assessor must notify those persons receiving an exemption from taxes under RCW 84.36.381 of the requirement to file a renewal application. The county assessor may also require a renewal application following an amendment of the income requirements set forth in RCW 84.36.381.

(5) If the assessor finds that the applicant does not meet the qualifications as set forth in RCW 84.36.381, as now or hereafter amended, the claim or exemption must be denied but such denial is subject to appeal under the provisions of RCW 84.48.010 and in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038. If the applicant had received exemption in prior years based on erroneous information, the taxes must be collected subject to penalties as provided in RCW 84.40.130 for a period of not to exceed five years.

(6) The department and each local assessor is hereby directed to publicize the qualifications and manner of making claims under RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389, through communications media, including such paid advertisements or notices as it deems appropriate. Notice of the qualifications, method of making applications, the penalties for not reporting a change in status, and availability of further information must be included on or with property tax statements and revaluation notices for all residential property including mobile homes, except rental properties. [2011 c 174 § 106; 2010 c 106 § 308; 2001 c 185 § 8; 1992 c 206 § 13; 1988 c 222 § 10; 1983 1st ex.s. c 11 § 6; 1983 1st ex.s. c 11 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 214 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 268 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 182 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**Intent—Applicability—Effective dates—1983 1st ex.s. c 11:** See notes following RCW 84.36.381.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.387 Residences—Claimants—Penalty for falsification—Reduction by remainderman.** (1) All claims for exemption shall be made and signed by the person entitled to the exemption, by his or her attorney-in-fact or in the event the residence of such person is under mortgage or purchase contract requiring accumulation of reserves out of which the

holder of the mortgage or contract is required to pay real estate taxes, by such holder or by the owner, either before two witnesses or the county assessor or his or her deputy in the county where the real property is located: PROVIDED, That if a claim for exemption is made by a person living in a cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership, such claim shall be made and signed by the person entitled to the exemption and by the authorized agent of such cooperative.

(2) If the taxpayer is unable to submit his or her own claim, the claim shall be submitted by a duly authorized agent or by a guardian or other person charged with the care of the person or property of such taxpayer.

(3) All claims for exemption and renewal applications shall be accompanied by such documented verification of income as shall be prescribed by rule adopted by the department of revenue.

(4) Any person signing a false claim with the intent to defraud or evade the payment of any tax is guilty of perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW.

(5) The tax liability of a cooperative housing association, corporation, or partnership shall be reduced by the amount of tax exemption to which a claimant residing therein is entitled and such cooperative shall reduce any amount owed by the claimant to the cooperative by such exact amount of tax exemption or, if no amount be owed, the cooperative shall make payment to the claimant of such exact amount of exemption.

(6) A remainderman or other person who would have otherwise paid the tax on real property that is the subject of an exemption granted under RCW 84.36.381 for an estate for life shall reduce the amount which would have been payable by the life tenant to the remainderman or other person to the extent of the exemption. If no amount is owed or separately stated as an obligation between these persons, the remainderman or other person shall make payment to the life tenant in the exact amount of the exemption. [2003 c 53 § 408; 1992 c 206 § 14; 1980 c 185 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 16; 1974 ex.s. c 182 § 4.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.389 Residences—Rules and regulations—Audits—Confidentiality—Criminal penalty.** (1) The director of the department of revenue shall adopt such rules and regulations and prescribe such forms as may be necessary and appropriate for implementation and administration of this chapter subject to chapter 34.05 RCW, the administrative procedure act.

(2) The department may conduct such audits of the administration of RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389 and the claims for exemption filed thereunder as it considers necessary. The powers of the department under chapter 84.08 RCW apply to these audits.

(3) Any information or facts concerning confidential income data obtained by the assessor or the department, or their agents or employees, under subsection (2) of this section shall be used only to administer RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, absent written consent by the person about whom the information or facts have been obtained, the confidential

income data shall not be disclosed by the assessor or the assessor's agents or employees to anyone other than the department or the department's agents or employees nor by the department or the department's agents or employees to anyone other than the assessor or the assessor's agents or employees except in a judicial proceeding pertaining to the taxpayer's entitlement to the tax exemption under RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389. Any violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor. [1979 ex.s. c 214 § 4; 1974 ex.s. c 182 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.36.400 Improvements to single-family dwellings.**

Any physical improvement to single-family dwellings upon real property shall be exempt from taxation for the three assessment years subsequent to the completion of the improvement to the extent that the improvement represents thirty percent or less of the value of the original structure. A taxpayer desiring to obtain the exemption granted by this section must file notice of his intention to construct the improvement prior to the improvement being made on forms prescribed by the department of revenue and furnished to the taxpayer by the county assessor: PROVIDED, That this exemption cannot be claimed more than once in a five-year period.

The department of revenue shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary and convenient to properly administer the provisions of this section. [1972 ex.s. c 125 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.451 Right to occupy or use certain public property, including leasehold interests.** (1) The following property shall be exempt from taxation: Any and all rights to occupy or use any real or personal property owned in fee or held in trust by:

(a) The United States, the state of Washington, or any political subdivision or municipal corporation of the state of Washington; or

(b) A public corporation, commission, or authority created under RCW 35.21.730 or 35.21.660 if the property is listed on or is within a district listed on any federal or state register of historical sites; and

(c) Including any leasehold interest arising from the property identified in (a) and (b) of this subsection as defined in RCW 82.29A.020.

(2) The exemption under this section shall not apply to:

(a) Any such leasehold interests which are a part of operating properties of public utilities subject to assessment under chapter 84.12 RCW; or

(b) Any such leasehold interest consisting of three thousand or more residential and recreational lots that are or may be subleased for residential and recreational purposes.

(3) The exemption under this section shall not be construed to modify the provisions of RCW 84.40.230. [2001 c 26 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 196 § 10; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 14.]

*Leasehold excise tax: Chapter 82.29A RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.470 Agricultural products—Exemption.** The following property shall be exempt from taxation: Any agri-

cultural product as defined in RCW 82.04.213 and grown or produced for sale by any person upon the person's own lands or upon lands in which the person has a present right of possession. Taxpayers shall not be required to report, or assessors to list, the inventories covered by this exemption. [1997 c 156 § 6; 1989 c 378 § 12; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 17; 1974 ex.s. c 169 § 8.]

**Legislative intent—Review—Reports—1974 ex.s. c 169:** "This 1974 act is intended to stimulate the economy of the state, and thereby to increase the revenues of the state and its local taxing districts. The department of revenue shall review the impact of this 1974 act upon the economy and revenues of the state and its local taxing districts, and shall report thereon biennially to the legislature. Recommendations for additional legislation shall be included in such reports if such legislation is needed to assure that the economic stimulus provided by this 1974 act is balanced by increased revenues." [1974 ex.s. c 169 § 1.]

*Powers of department of revenue to promulgate rules and prescribe procedures to carry out this section: RCW 84.40.405.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.477 Business inventories.** (1) Business inventories are exempt from property taxation.

(2) As used in this section:

(a)(i) "Business inventories" means all livestock, inventories of finished goods and work in process, and personal property not under lease or rental, acquired, or produced solely for the purpose of sale or lease or for the purpose of consuming the property in producing for sale or lease a new article of tangible personal property of which the property becomes an ingredient or component.

(ii) "Business inventories" also includes:

(A) All grains and flour, fruit and fruit products, unprocessed timber, vegetables and vegetable products, and fish and fish products, while being transported to or held in storage in a public or private warehouse or storage area if actually shipped to points outside the state on or before April 30th of the first year for which they would otherwise be taxable;

(B) All finished plywood, hardboard, and particleboard panels shipped from outside this state to any processing plant within this state, if the panels are moving under a through freight rate to final destination outside this state and the carrier grants the shipper the privilege of stopping the shipment in transit for the purpose of storing, milling, manufacturing, or other processing, while the panels are in the process of being treated or shaped into flat component parts to be incorporated into finished products outside this state and for thirty days after completion of the processing or treatment;

(C) All ore or metal shipped from outside this state to any smelter or refining works within this state, while in process of reduction or refinement and for thirty days after completion of the reduction or refinement; and

(D) All metals refined by electrolytic process into cathode or bar form while in this form and held under negotiable warehouse receipt in a public or private warehouse recognized by an established incorporated commodity exchange and for sale through the exchange.

(iii) "Business inventories" does not include personal property acquired or produced for the purpose of lease or rental if the property was leased or rented at any time during the calendar year immediately preceding the year of assessment and was not thereafter remanufactured, nor does it

include property held within the normal course of business for lease or rental for periods of less than thirty days.

(iv) "Business inventories" does not include agricultural or horticultural property fully or partially exempt under RCW 84.36.470.

(v) "Business inventories" does not include timber that is standing on public land and that is sold under a contract entered into after August 1, 1982;

(b) "Fish and fish products" means all fish and fish products suitable and designed for human consumption, excluding all others;

(c) "Fruit and fruit products" means all raw edible fruits, berries, and hops and all processed products of fruits, berries, or hops, suitable and designed for human consumption, while in the hands of the first processor;

(d) "Processed" means canning, barreling, bottling, preserving, refining, freezing, packing, milling, or any other method employed to keep any grain, fruit, vegetable, or fish in an edible condition or to put it into more suitable or convenient form for consuming, storing, shipping, or marketing;

(e) "Remanufactured" means the restoration of property to essentially its original condition, but does not mean normal maintenance or repairs; and

(f) "Vegetables and vegetable products" means all raw edible vegetables such as peas, beans, beets, sugar beets, and other vegetables, and all processed products of vegetables, suitable and designed for human consumption, while in the hands of the first processor. [2001 c 187 § 15; 1983 1st ex.s. c 62 § 6.]

**Short title—Intent—1983 1st ex.s. c 62:** "(1) This act shall be known as the homeowner's property tax relief act of 1983.

(2) The intent of the inventory tax phaseout was to stimulate the economy of the state and to increase the revenues of the state and local taxing districts by attracting new business, encouraging the expansion of existing businesses thereby increasing economic activity and tax revenue on noninventory property. The inventory tax phaseout will cause certain unforeseen and heretofore unprepared for tax shifts among property owners.

(3) This act is intended to lessen the impact of the property tax shift. Relief is provided by the following means:

(a) The state will provide fourteen million dollars over a four-year period to lessen the impact on the most severely affected districts.

(b) Persons purchasing timber on public lands after August 1, 1982, are required to continue to pay property tax on those timber inventories. They will receive a credit against the timber excise tax for these property tax payments.

(c) Local governments are granted the ability to lessen their short-term reliance on the property tax without reducing their future ability to levy property taxes." [1983 1st ex.s. c 62 § 1.]

*Rules and regulations, procedures:* RCW 84.40.405.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.480 Nonprofit fair associations.** The following property shall be exempt from taxation: The real and personal property of a nonprofit fair association that sponsors or conducts a fair or fairs which receive support from revenues collected pursuant to RCW 67.16.100 and allocated by the director of the department of agriculture. To be exempt under this section, the property must be used exclusively for fair purposes, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805. However, the loan or rental of property otherwise exempt under this section to a private concessionaire or to any person for use as a concession in conjunction with activities permitted under this section shall not nullify the exemption if the concession charges are subject to agreement and the rental income, if

(2012 Ed.)

any, is reasonable and is devoted solely to the operation and maintenance of the property. [1984 c 220 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.487 Air pollution control equipment in thermal electric generation facilities—Records—Payments on cessation of operation.** (1) Air pollution control equipment constructed or installed after May 15, 1997, by businesses engaged in the generation of electric energy at thermal electric generation facilities first placed in operation after December 31, 1969, and before July 1, 1975, shall be exempt from property taxation. The owners shall maintain the records in such a manner that the annual beginning and ending asset balance of the pollution control facilities and depreciation method can be identified.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "air pollution control equipment" means any treatment works, control devices and disposal systems, machinery, equipment, structures, property, property improvements, and accessories, that are installed or acquired for the primary purpose of reducing, controlling, or disposing of industrial waste that, if released to the outdoor atmosphere, could cause air pollution, or that are required to meet regulatory requirements applicable to their construction, installation, or operation.

(3) RCW 82.32.393 applies to this section. [1997 c 368 § 11.]

**Findings—Intent—Rules adoption—Severability—Effective date—1997 c 368:** See notes following RCW 82.08.810.

**84.36.500 Conservation futures on agricultural land.** All conservation futures on agricultural lands acquired pursuant to RCW 64.04.130 or 84.34.200 through 84.34.240, that are held by any nonprofit corporation or association, the primary purpose of which is conserving agricultural lands and preventing the conversion of such lands to nonagricultural uses, shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation if:

(1) The conservation futures are of an unlimited duration;

(2) The conservation futures are effectively restricted to preclude nonagricultural uses on such agricultural land; and

(3) The lands are classified as farm and agricultural lands under chapter 84.34 RCW: PROVIDED, That at such time as these property interests are not used for the purposes enumerated in RCW 84.34.210 and 64.04.130 the additional tax specified in \*RCW 84.34.108(3) shall be imposed. [1984 c 131 § 11.]

\***Reviser's note:** RCW 84.34.108 was amended by 1999 sp.s. c 4 § 706, changing subsection (3) to subsection (4).

**84.36.510 Mobile homes in dealer's inventory.** Any mobile home which is a part of a dealer's inventory and held solely for sale in the ordinary course of the dealer's business and is not used for any other purpose shall be exempt from property taxation: PROVIDED, That this exemption shall not apply to property taxes already levied or delinquent on such mobile home at the time it becomes part of a dealer's inventory. [1985 c 395 § 7.]

**84.36.550 Nonprofit organizations—Property used for solicitation or collection of gifts, donations, or grants.**

[Title 84 RCW—page 71]

The real and personal property owned by nonprofit organizations and used for solicitation or collection of gifts, donations, or grants is exempt from taxation if the organization meets all of the following conditions:

(1) The organization is organized and conducted for non-sectarian purposes.

(2) The organization is affiliated with a state or national organization that authorizes, approves, or sanctions volunteer charitable fund-raising organizations.

(3) The organization is qualified for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code.

(4) The organization is governed by a volunteer board of directors.

(5) The gifts, donations, and grants are used by the organization for character-building, benevolent, protective, or rehabilitative social services directed at persons of all ages, or for distribution under subsection (6) of this section.

(6) The organization distributes gifts, donations, or grants to at least five other nonprofit organizations or associations that are organized and conducted for nonsectarian purposes and provide character-building, benevolent, protective, or rehabilitative social services directed at persons of all ages. [1993 c 79 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.560 Nonprofit organizations that provide rental housing or used space to very low-income households.** (1) The real and personal property owned or used by a nonprofit entity in providing rental housing for very low-income households or used to provide space for the placement of a mobile home for a very low-income household within a mobile home park is exempt from taxation if:

(a) The benefit of the exemption inures to the nonprofit entity;

(b) At least seventy-five percent of the occupied dwelling units in the rental housing or lots in a mobile home park are occupied by a very low-income household; and

(c) The rental housing or lots in a mobile home park were insured, financed, or assisted in whole or in part through one or more of the following sources:

(i) A federal or state housing program administered by the \*department of community, trade, and economic development;

(ii) A federal housing program administered by a city or county government;

(iii) An affordable housing levy authorized under RCW 84.52.105; or

(iv) The surcharges authorized by RCW 36.22.178 and 36.22.179 and any of the surcharges authorized in chapter 43.185C RCW.

(2) If less than seventy-five percent of the occupied dwelling units within the rental housing or lots in the mobile home park are occupied by very low-income households, the rental housing or mobile home park is eligible for a partial exemption on the real property and a total exemption of the housing's or park's personal property as follows:

(a) A partial exemption shall be allowed for each dwelling unit in the rental housing or for each lot in a mobile home park occupied by a very low-income household.

(b) The amount of exemption shall be calculated by multiplying the assessed value of the property reasonably neces-

sary to provide the rental housing or to operate the mobile home park by a fraction. The numerator of the fraction is the number of dwelling units or lots occupied by very low-income households as of December 31st of the first assessment year in which the rental housing or mobile home park becomes operational or on January 1st of each subsequent assessment year for which the exemption is claimed. The denominator of the fraction is the total number of dwelling units or lots occupied as of December 31st of the first assessment year the rental housing or mobile home park becomes operational and January 1st of each subsequent assessment year for which exemption is claimed.

(3) If a currently exempt rental housing unit in a facility with ten units or fewer or mobile home lot in a mobile home park with ten lots or fewer was occupied by a very low-income household at the time the exemption was granted and the income of the household subsequently rises above fifty percent of the median income but remains at or below eighty percent of the median income, the exemption will continue as long as the housing continues to meet the certification requirements of a very low-income housing program listed in subsection (1) of this section. For purposes of this section, median income, as most recently determined by the federal department of housing and urban development for the county in which the rental housing or mobile home park is located, shall be adjusted for family size. However, if a dwelling unit or a lot becomes vacant and is subsequently re-rented, the income of the new household must be at or below fifty percent of the median income adjusted for family size as most recently determined by the federal department of housing and urban development for the county in which the rental housing or mobile home park is located to remain exempt from property tax.

(4) If at the time of initial application the property is unoccupied, or subsequent to the initial application the property is unoccupied because of renovations, and the property is not currently being used for the exempt purpose authorized by this section but will be used for the exempt purpose within two assessment years, the property shall be eligible for a property tax exemption for the assessment year in which the claim for exemption is submitted under the following conditions:

(a) A commitment for financing to acquire, construct, renovate, or otherwise convert the property to provide housing for very low-income households has been obtained, in whole or in part, by the nonprofit entity claiming the exemption from one or more of the sources listed in subsection (1)(c) of this section;

(b) The nonprofit entity has manifested its intent in writing to construct, remodel, or otherwise convert the property to housing for very low-income households; and

(c) Only the portion of property that will be used to provide housing or lots for very low-income households shall be exempt under this section.

(5) To be exempt under this section, the property must be used exclusively for the purposes for which the exemption is granted, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805.

(6) The nonprofit entity qualifying for a property tax exemption under this section may agree to make payments to the city, county, or other political subdivision for improvements, services, and facilities furnished by the city, county,

or political subdivision for the benefit of the rental housing. However, these payments shall not exceed the amount last levied as the annual tax of the city, county, or political subdivision upon the property prior to exemption.

(7) As used in this section:

(a) "Group home" means a single-family dwelling financed, in whole or in part, by one or more of the sources listed in subsection (1)(c) of this section. The residents of a group home shall not be considered to jointly constitute a household, but each resident shall be considered to be a separate household occupying a separate dwelling unit. The individual incomes of the residents shall not be aggregated for purposes of this exemption;

(b) "Mobile home lot" or "mobile home park" means the same as these terms are defined in RCW 59.20.030;

(c) "Occupied dwelling unit" means a living unit that is occupied by an individual or household as of December 31st of the first assessment year the rental housing becomes operational or is occupied by an individual or household on January 1st of each subsequent assessment year in which the claim for exemption is submitted. If the housing facility is comprised of three or fewer dwelling units and there are any unoccupied units on January 1st, the department shall base the amount of the exemption upon the number of occupied dwelling units as of December 31st of the first assessment year the rental housing becomes operational and on May 1st of each subsequent assessment year in which the claim for exemption is submitted;

(d) "Rental housing" means a residential housing facility or group home that is occupied but not owned by very low-income households;

(e) "Very low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose income is at or below fifty percent of the median income adjusted for family size as most recently determined by the federal department of housing and urban development for the county in which the rental housing is located and in effect as of January 1st of the year the application for exemption is submitted; and

(f) "Nonprofit entity" means a:

(i) Nonprofit as defined in RCW 84.36.800 that is exempt from income tax under section 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code;

(ii) Limited partnership where a nonprofit as defined in RCW 84.36.800 that is exempt from income tax under section 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code, a public corporation established under RCW 35.21.660, 35.21.670, or 35.21.730, a housing authority created under RCW 35.82.030 or 35.82.300, or a housing authority meeting the definition in RCW 35.82.210(2)(a) is a general partner; or

(iii) Limited liability company where a nonprofit as defined in RCW 84.36.800 that is exempt from income tax under section 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code, a public corporation established under RCW 35.21.660, 35.21.670, or 35.21.730, a housing authority established under RCW 35.82.030 or 35.82.300, or a housing authority meeting the definition in RCW 35.82.210(2)(a) is a managing member. [2007 c 301 § 1; 2001 1st sp.s. c 7 § 1; 1999 c 203 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.570 Nonprofit organizations—Property used for agricultural research and education programs.** (1) All real and personal property owned by a nonprofit organization, corporation, or association to provide a demonstration farm with research and extension facilities, a public agricultural museum, and an educational tour site, which is used by a state university for agricultural research and education programs, is exempt from property taxation. This exemption includes all real and personal property that may be used in the production and sale of agricultural products, not to exceed fifty acres, if the income is used to further the purposes of the organization, corporation, or association.

(2) To qualify for this exemption:

(a) The nonprofit organization, corporation, or association must be qualified for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)); and

(b) The property must be used exclusively for the purposes for which the exemption is granted, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805. [1999 c 139 § 1.]

**84.36.575 Nonprofit organizations—Aircraft.** (*Expires January 1, 2020.*) An aircraft is exempt from taxation, if:

(1) The aircraft is owned by a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3);

(2) The aircraft is used to provide emergency medical transportation services; and

(3) The exemption inures to the benefit of the nonprofit organization that owns the aircraft. [2010 1st sp.s. c 12 § 1.]

**Application—2010 1st sp.s. c 12:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2011 and thereafter." [2010 1st sp.s. c 12 § 3.]

**Expiration date—2010 1st sp.s. c 12:** "This act expires January 1, 2020." [2010 1st sp.s. c 12 § 4.]

**84.36.590 Property used in connection with privatization contract at Hanford reservation.** (1)(a) Beginning with taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2006, all personal property located on land owned by the United States, or an instrumentality of the United States, at the Hanford reservation that is used exclusively in the performance of a privatization contract to pretreat, treat, vitrify, and immobilize tank waste under subsection (2) of this section is exempt from taxation.

(b) Beginning with taxes levied for collection in calendar year 2002, and until the application of (a) of this subsection, all personal property located on land owned by the United States, or an instrumentality of the United States, at the Hanford reservation that is used exclusively in the performance of a privatization contract to pretreat, treat, vitrify, and immobilize tank waste under subsection (3) of this section is exempt from taxes levied by the state.

(2) To qualify for the exemption provided in subsection (1)(a) of this section, the personal property must be owned by a person that has a privatization contract to pretreat, treat, vitrify, and immobilize tank waste located at the Hanford reservation. For the purposes of this section, a privatization contract means a contract in which the United States, or an instrumentality of the United States, has designated the other

contracting party as a party responsible for carrying out tank waste clean-up operations at the Hanford reservation.

(3) To qualify for the exemption provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section, the personal property must be owned by a person that has, and complies with, a privatization contract to pretreat, treat, vitrify, and immobilize tank waste located at the Hanford reservation. The personal property must be acquired or constructed, and operated, in compliance with the tank waste treatment complex requirements of the Hanford federal facility agreement and consent order, including schedules for tank waste treatment complex start of construction, initiation of hot commissioning, and schedules for tank waste pretreatment processing and vitrification. The privatization contractor shall submit annually, on or before August 1st, a progress report to the Washington state department of ecology documenting compliance with the requirements of the agreement and consent order and the terms of the privatization contract. The department of ecology shall annually issue, on or before October 1st, a determination to the department of revenue indicating whether the privatization contractor is in compliance with the requirements of the agreement and consent order.

(4) An inadvertent use of property, which otherwise qualifies for an exemption under this section, in a manner inconsistent with the purpose for which the exemption is granted, does not nullify the exemption if the inadvertent use is not part of a pattern of use. A pattern of use is presumed when an inadvertent use is repeated in the same assessment year or in two or more successive assessment years. [2000 c 246 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.595 Motor vehicles, travel trailers, campers, and vehicles carrying exempt licenses.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Motor vehicle" means all motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers used, or of the type designed primarily to be used, upon the public streets and highways, for the convenience or pleasure of the owner, or for the conveyance, for hire or otherwise, of persons or property, including fixed loads and facilities for human habitation; but shall not include (i) vehicles carrying exempt licenses; (ii) dock and warehouse tractors and their cars or trailers, lumber carriers of the type known as spiders, and all other automotive equipment not designed primarily for use upon public streets or highways; (iii) motor vehicles or their trailers used entirely upon private property; (iv) mobile homes as defined in RCW 46.04.302; or (v) motor vehicles owned by nonresident military personnel of the armed forces of the United States stationed in the state of Washington, provided personnel were also nonresident at the time of their entry into military service.

(b) "Travel trailer" has the meaning given in RCW 46.04.623. However, if a park trailer, as defined in RCW 46.04.622, has substantially lost its identity as a mobile unit by virtue of its being permanently sited in location and placed on a foundation of either posts or blocks with connections with sewer, water, or other utilities for the operation of installed fixtures and appliances, it will be considered real property and will be subject to ad valorem property taxation imposed in accordance with this title, including the provi-

sions with respect to omitted property, except that a park trailer located on land not owned by the owner of the park trailer will be subject to the personal property provisions of chapter 84.56 RCW and RCW 84.60.040.

(c) "Camper" has the meaning given in RCW 46.04.085.

(2) Motor vehicles, vehicles carrying exempt licenses, travel trailers, and campers are exempt from property taxation. [2004 c 156 § 1; 2000 c 136 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.600 Computer software.** (1) All custom computer software, except embedded software, is exempt from property taxation.

(2) Retained rights in computer software are exempt from property taxation.

(3) Modifications to canned software are exempt from property taxation, but the underlying canned software remains subject to taxation as provided in RCW 84.40.037.

(4) Master or golden copies of computer software are exempt from property taxation. [1991 sp.s. c 29 § 3.]

**Findings, intent—Severability—Application—1991 sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 84.04.150.

**84.36.605 Sales/leasebacks by regional transit authorities.** All real and personal property subject to a sale/leaseback agreement under RCW 81.112.300 is exempt from taxation. [2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 27.]

**Findings—Construction—2000 2nd sp.s. c 4 §§ 18-30:** See notes following RCW 81.112.300.

**84.36.630 Farming machinery and equipment.** (1) All machinery and equipment owned by a farmer that is personal property is exempt from property taxes levied for any state purpose if it is used exclusively in growing and producing agricultural products during the calendar year for which the claim for exemption is made.

(2) "Farmer" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 82.04.213.

(3) A claim for exemption under this section shall be filed with the county assessor together with the statement required under RCW 84.40.190, for exemption from taxes payable the following year. The claim shall be made solely upon forms as prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue. [2003 c 302 § 7; 2001 2nd sp.s. c 24 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.635 Property used for the manufacture of alcohol fuel or biodiesel fuel.** (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Alcohol fuel" means any alcohol made from a product other than petroleum or natural gas, which is used alone or in combination with gasoline or other petroleum products for use as a fuel for motor vehicles, farm implements, and machines or implements of husbandry.

(b) "Anaerobic digester" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.08.900.

(c) "Biodiesel feedstock" means oil that is produced from an agricultural crop for the sole purpose of ultimately producing biodiesel fuel.

(d) "Biodiesel fuel" means a mono alkyl ester of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats

for use in compression-ignition engines and that meets the requirements of the American society of testing and materials specification D 6751 in effect as of January 1, 2003.

(2)(a) All buildings, machinery, equipment, and other personal property which are used primarily for the manufacturing of alcohol fuel, biodiesel fuel, biodiesel feedstock, or the operation of an anaerobic digester, the land upon which this property is located, and land that is reasonably necessary in the manufacturing of alcohol fuel, biodiesel fuel, biodiesel feedstock, or the operation of an anaerobic digester, but not land necessary for growing of crops, which together comprise a new manufacturing facility or an addition to an existing manufacturing facility, are exempt from property taxation for the six assessment years following the date on which the facility or the addition to the existing facility becomes operational.

(b) For manufacturing facilities which produce products in addition to alcohol fuel, biodiesel fuel, or biodiesel feedstock, the amount of the property tax exemption is based upon the annual percentage of the total value of all products manufactured that is the value of the alcohol fuel, biodiesel fuel, and biodiesel feedstock manufactured.

(3) Claims for exemptions authorized by this section must be filed with the county assessor on forms prescribed by the department of revenue and furnished by the assessor. Once filed, the exemption is valid for six years and may not be renewed. The assessor must verify and approve claims as the assessor determines to be justified and in accordance with this section. No claims may be filed after December 31, 2015, except for claims for anaerobic digesters, which may be filed no later than December 31, 2012.

The department of revenue may promulgate such rules, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, as necessary to properly administer this section. [2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 4; 2008 c 268 § 1; 2003 c 261 § 9.]

**Effective date—2008 c 268:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2008." [2008 c 268 § 3.]

**Application—2003 c 261 § 9:** "Section 9 of this act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2004 and thereafter." [2003 c 261 § 12.]

**Effective dates—2003 c 261:** "(1) Sections 9 through 15 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect July 1, 2003.

(2) Sections 1 through 8 of this act take effect July 1, 2004." [2003 c 261 § 13.]

**84.36.640 Property used for the manufacture of wood biomass fuel.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "wood biomass fuel" means a pyrolytic liquid fuel or synthesis gas-derived liquid fuel, used in internal combustion engines, and produced from wood, forest, or field residue, or dedicated energy crops that do not include wood pieces that have been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol, or copper-chrome-arsenic.

(2)(a) All buildings, machinery, equipment, and other personal property which is used primarily for the manufacturing of wood biomass fuel, the land upon which this property is located, and land that is reasonably necessary in the manufacturing of wood biomass fuel, but not land necessary for growing of crops, which together comprise a new manufacturing facility or an addition to an existing manufacturing facility, are exempt from property taxation for the six assess-

(2012 Ed.)

ment years following the date on which the facility or the addition to the existing facility becomes operational.

(b) For manufacturing facilities which produce products in addition to wood biomass fuel, the amount of the property tax exemption is based upon the annual percentage of the total value of all products manufactured that is the value of the wood biomass fuel manufactured.

(3) Claims for exemptions authorized by this section must be filed with the county assessor on forms prescribed by the department of revenue and furnished by the assessor. Once filed, the exemption is valid for six years and may not be renewed. The assessor must verify and approve claims as the assessor determines to be justified and in accordance with this section. No claims may be filed after December 31, 2015.

The department of revenue may promulgate such rules, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, as necessary to properly administer this section. [2010 1st sp.s. c 11 § 5; 2003 c 339 § 9.]

**Application—2003 c 339 § 9:** "Section 9 of this act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2004 and thereafter." [2003 c 339 § 15.]

**Effective dates—2003 c 339:** "(1) Sections 9 through 15 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect July 1, 2003.

(2) Sections 1 through 8 of this act take effect July 1, 2004." [2003 c 339 § 16.]

**84.36.645 Semiconductor materials. (Contingent effective date; contingent expiration date.)** (1) Machinery and equipment exempt under RCW 82.08.02565 or 82.12.02565 used in manufacturing semiconductor materials at a building exempt from sales and use tax and in compliance with the employment requirement under RCW 82.08.965 and 82.12.965 are exempt from property taxation. "Semiconductor materials" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.240(2).

(2) A person seeking this exemption must make application to the county assessor, on forms prescribed by the department.

(3) A person claiming an exemption under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(4) This section is effective for taxes levied for collection one year after \*the effective date of this act and thereafter.

(5) This section expires December 31st of the year occurring twelve years after \*the effective date of this act, for taxes levied for collection in the following year. [2010 c 114 § 150; 2003 c 149 § 10.]

**Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See note following RCW 82.32.585.

\***Contingent effective date—2010 c 114:** See RCW 82.32.790.

**Findings—Intent—2003 c 149:** See note following RCW 82.04.426.

**84.36.650 Property used by certain nonprofits to solicit or collect money for artists.** The real and personal property owned or used by a nonprofit organization is exempt from taxation if the property is used for solicitation or collection of gifts, donations, or grants for the support of individual artists and the organization meets all of the following conditions:

(1) The organization is organized and conducted for non-sectarian purposes.

(2) The organization is qualified for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code.

(3) The organization is governed by a volunteer board of directors of at least eight members.

(4) If the property is leased, the benefit of the exemption inures to the user.

(5) The gifts, donations, and grants are used by the organization for grants, fellowships, information services, and educational resources in support of individual artists engaged in the production or performance of musical, dance, artistic, dramatic, or literary works. [2003 c 344 § 1.]

**Application—2003 c 344:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2004 and thereafter." [2003 c 344 § 3.]

**84.36.655 Property related to the manufacture of superefficient airplanes. (Expires July 1, 2024.)** (1) Effective January 1, 2005, all buildings, machinery, equipment, and other personal property of a lessee of a port district eligible under RCW 82.08.980 and 82.12.980, used exclusively in manufacturing superefficient airplanes, are exempt from property taxation. A person taking the credit under RCW 82.04.4463 is not eligible for the exemption under this section. For the purposes of this section, "superefficient airplane" and "component" have the meanings given in RCW 82.32.550.

(2) In addition to all other requirements under this title, a person claiming the exemption under this section must file a complete annual report with the department under RCW 82.32.534.

(3) Claims for exemption authorized by this section must be filed with the county assessor on forms prescribed by the department and furnished by the assessor. The assessor must verify and approve claims as the assessor determines to be justified and in accordance with this section. No claims may be filed after December 31, 2023. The department may adopt rules, under the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW, as necessary to properly administer this section.

(4) This section applies to taxes levied for collection in 2006 and thereafter.

(5) This section expires July 1, 2024. [2010 c 114 § 151; 2003 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 14.]

**Application—Finding—Intent—2010 c 114:** See notes following RCW 82.32.585.

**Finding—2003 2nd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 82.04.4461.

**84.36.660 Installation of automatic sprinkler system under RCW 19.27.500 through 19.27.520.** (1) Prior to installation of an automatic sprinkler system under RCW 19.27.500 through 19.27.520, an owner or lessee of property who meets the requirements of this section may apply to the assessor of the county in which the property is located for a special property tax exemption. This application shall be made upon forms prescribed by the department of revenue and supplied by the county assessor.

(a)(i) If a lessee of the property has paid for all expenses associated with the installation and purchase of the automatic sprinkler system, then the benefit of the exemption must inure to the lessee.

(ii) A lessee, otherwise eligible to receive the benefit of the exemption under this section, is entitled to receive such benefit only to the extent that the lessee maintains a valid

lease agreement with the property owner for the property in which the automatic sprinkler system was installed pursuant to RCW 19.27.500.

(b) An exemption may be granted under this section only to the property owner or lessee that pays for all expenses associated with the installation and purchase of the automatic sprinkler system. In no event may both the property owner and the lessee receive an exemption under this section in the same calendar year for the installation and purchase of the same automatic sprinkler system.

(c) After December 31, 2009, no new application for a special tax exemption under this section may be: Made by a property owner or lessee; or accepted by the county assessor.

(2) As used in this chapter, "special property tax exemption" means the determination of the assessed value of the property subtracting, for ten years, the increase in value attributable to the installation of an automatic sprinkler system under RCW 19.27.500 through 19.27.520.

(3) The county assessor shall, for ten consecutive assessment years following the calendar year in which application is made, place a special property tax exemption on property classified as eligible. [2007 c 434 § 3; 2005 c 148 § 4.]

**84.36.665 Military housing.** (1) Military housing is exempt from taxation if the housing meets the following requirements:

(a) The military housing must be situated on land owned in fee by the United States;

(b) The military housing must be used for the housing of military personnel and their families; and

(c) The military housing must be a development project awarded under the military housing privatization initiative.

(2) To qualify property for the exemption under this section, the project owner must submit an application to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department. Any change in the use of the property that affects the qualification of the property must be reported to the department.

(3) The definitions in this subsection apply to this section.

(a) "Ancillary supporting facilities" means facilities related to military housing units, including facilities to provide or support elementary or secondary education, child care centers, day care centers, child development centers, tot lots, community centers, housing offices, dining facilities, unit offices, and other similar facilities for the support of military housing.

(b) "Military housing" means military housing units and ancillary supporting facilities.

(c) "Military housing privatization initiative" means the military housing privatization initiative of 1996, 10 U.S.C. Secs. 2871 through 2885, as existing on June 12, 2008, or some later date as the department may provide. [2008 c 84 § 1.]

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**84.36.800 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Church purposes" means the use of real and personal property owned by a nonprofit religious organization for religious worship or related administrative, educational,

eleemosynary, and social activities. This definition is to be broadly construed;

(2) "Convent" means a house or set of buildings occupied by a community of clergy or nuns devoted to religious life under a superior;

(3) "Hospital" means any portion of a hospital building, or other buildings in connection therewith, used as a residence for persons engaged or employed in the operation of a hospital, or operated as a portion of the hospital unit;

(4) "Nonprofit" means an organization, association or corporation no part of the income of which is paid directly or indirectly to its members, stockholders, officers, directors or trustees except in the form of services rendered by the organization, association, or corporation in accordance with its purposes and bylaws and the salary or compensation paid to officers of such organization, association or corporation is for actual services rendered and compares to the salary or compensation of like positions within the public services of the state;

(5) "Parsonage" means a residence occupied by a member of the clergy who has been designated for a particular congregation and who holds regular services therefor. [1998 c 311 § 24; 1998 c 202 § 2. Prior: 1997 c 156 § 7; 1997 c 143 § 2; 1994 c 124 § 18; 1993 c 79 § 2; 1989 c 379 § 3; 1981 c 141 § 3; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.36.805 Conditions for obtaining exemptions by nonprofit organizations, associations, or corporations.**

(1) In order to qualify for an exemption under this chapter, the nonprofit organizations, associations, or corporations must satisfy the conditions in this section.

(2) The property must be used exclusively for the actual operation of the activity for which exemption is granted, unless otherwise provided, and does not exceed an amount reasonably necessary for that purpose, except:

(a) The loan or rental of the property does not subject the property to tax if:

(i) The rents and donations received for the use of the portion of the property are reasonable and do not exceed the maintenance and operation expenses attributable to the portion of the property loaned or rented; and

(ii) Except for the exemptions under RCW 84.36.030(4), 84.36.037, 84.36.050, and 84.36.060(1) (a) and (b), the property would be exempt from tax if owned by the organization to which it is loaned or rented;

(b) The use of the property for fund-raising activities does not subject the property to tax if the fund-raising activities are consistent with the purposes for which the exemption is granted.

(3) The facilities and services must be available to all regardless of race, color, national origin or ancestry.

(4) The organization, association, or corporation must be duly licensed or certified where such licensing or certification is required by law or regulation.

(5) Property sold to organizations, associations, or corporations with an option to be repurchased by the seller shall not qualify for exempt status. This subsection does not apply to property sold to a nonprofit entity, as defined in RCW 84.36.560(7), by:

(a) A nonprofit as defined in RCW 84.36.800 that is exempt from income tax under section 501(c) of the federal internal revenue code;

(b) A governmental entity established under RCW 35.21.660, 35.21.670, or 35.21.730;

(c) A housing authority created under RCW 35.82.030;

(d) A housing authority meeting the definition in RCW 35.82.210(2)(a); or

(e) A housing authority established under RCW 35.82.300.

(6) The department shall have access to its books in order to determine whether the nonprofit organization, association, or corporation is exempt from taxes under this chapter.

(7) This section does not apply to exemptions granted under RCW 84.36.020, 84.36.032, 84.36.250, and 84.36.260. [2006 c 319 § 1; 2006 c 226 § 3; 2003 c 121 § 2; 2001 1st sp.s. c 7 § 2. Prior: 1999 c 203 § 2; 1999 c 139 § 3; prior: 1998 c 311 § 25; 1998 c 202 § 3; 1998 c 184 § 2; prior: 1997 c 156 § 8; 1997 c 143 § 3; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 9 § 2; 1993 c 79 § 3; prior: 1990 c 283 §§ 3 and 7; 1989 c 379 § 4; 1987 c 468 § 1; 1984 c 220 § 7; 1981 c 141 § 4; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 7.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2006 c 226 § 3 and by 2006 c 319 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Findings—Intent—2006 c 226:** See note following RCW 84.36.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.36.810 Cessation of use under which exemption granted—Collection of taxes.**

(1)(a) Upon cessation of a use under which an exemption has been granted pursuant to RCW 84.36.030, 84.36.037, 84.36.040, 84.36.041, 84.36.042, 84.36.043, 84.36.046, 84.36.050, 84.36.060, 84.36.550, 84.36.560, 84.36.570, and 84.36.650, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the county treasurer shall collect all taxes which would have been paid had the property not been exempt during the three years preceding, or the life of such exemption, if such be less, together with the interest at the same rate and computed in the same way as that upon delinquent property taxes. If the property has been granted an exemption for more than ten consecutive years, taxes and interest shall not be assessed under this section.

(b) Upon cessation of use by an institution of higher education of property exempt under RCW 84.36.050(2) the county treasurer shall collect all taxes which would have been paid had the property not been exempt during the seven years preceding, or the life of the exemption, whichever is less.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section applies only when ownership of the property is transferred or when fifty-one percent or more of the area of the property loses its exempt status. The additional tax under subsection (1) of this section shall not be imposed if the cessation of use resulted solely from:

(a) Transfer to a nonprofit organization, association, or corporation for a use which also qualifies and is granted exemption under this chapter;

(b) A taking through the exercise of the power of eminent domain, or sale or transfer to an entity having the power of eminent domain in anticipation of the exercise of such power;

(c) Official action by an agency of the state of Washington or by the county or city within which the property is located which disallows the present use of such property;

(d) A natural disaster such as a flood, windstorm, earthquake, or other such calamity rather than by virtue of the act of the organization, association, or corporation changing the use of such property;

(e) Relocation of the activity and use of another location or site except for undeveloped properties of camp facilities exempted under RCW 84.36.030;

(f) Cancellation of a lease on leased property that had been exempt under this chapter;

(g) A change in the exempt portion of a home for the aging under RCW 84.36.041(3), as long as some portion of the home remains exempt; or

(h) Transfer to an agency of the state of Washington or the city or county within which the property is located.

(3) Subsection (2)(e) and (f) of this section do [does] not apply to property leased to a state institution of higher education and exempt under RCW 84.36.050(2). [2006 c 305 § 4; 2003 c 344 § 2; 2001 c 126 § 3. Prior: 1999 c 203 § 3; 1999 c 139 § 4; prior: 1998 c 311 § 26; 1998 c 202 § 4; prior: 1997 c 156 § 9; 1997 c 143 § 4; 1994 c 124 § 19; 1993 c 79 § 4; 1990 c 283 § 4; 1989 c 379 § 5; 1987 c 468 § 2; 1984 c 220 § 8; 1983 c 185 § 1; 1981 c 141 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 209 § 1; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.812 Additional tax payable at time of sale—Appeal of assessed values.** All additional taxes imposed under RCW 84.36.262 or 84.36.810 shall become due and payable by the seller or transferor at the time of sale. The county auditor shall not accept an instrument of conveyance unless the additional tax has been paid or the department of revenue has determined that the property is not subject to RCW 84.36.262 or 84.36.810. The seller, the transferor, or the new owner may appeal the assessed values upon which the additional tax is based to the county board of equalization in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038. [2001 c 185 § 9; 1984 c 220 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.813 Change in use—Duty to notify county assessor—Examination—Recommendation.** An exempt property owner shall notify the department of revenue of any change of use prior to each assessment year. Any other person believing that a change in the use of exempt property has occurred shall report same to the county assessor, who shall examine the property and if the use is not in compliance with chapter 84.36 RCW he shall report the information to the department with a recommendation that the exempt status be canceled. The final determination shall be made by the department. [1977 ex.s. c 209 § 3.]

**84.36.815 Tax exempt status—Initial application—Renewal.** (1) In order to qualify for exempt status for any real or personal property under this chapter except personal property under RCW 84.36.600, all foreign national governments; cemeteries; nongovernmental nonprofit corporations, organizations, and associations; hospitals owned and operated by a public hospital district for purposes of exemption

under RCW 84.36.040(2); and soil and water conservation districts shall file an initial application on or before March 31st with the state department of revenue. All applications shall be filed on forms prescribed by the department and shall be signed by an authorized agent of the applicant.

(2) In order to requalify for exempt status, all applicants except nonprofit cemeteries shall file an annual renewal declaration on or before March 31st each year. The renewal declaration shall be on forms prescribed by the department of revenue and shall contain a statement certifying the exempt status of the real or personal property owned by the exempt organization. This renewal declaration may be submitted electronically in a format provided or approved by the department. Information may also be required with the renewal declaration to assist the department in determining whether the property tax exemption should continue.

(3) When an organization acquires real property qualified for exemption or converts real property to exempt status, the organization shall file an initial application for the property within sixty days following the acquisition or conversion in accordance with all applicable provisions of subsection (1) of this section. If the application is filed after the expiration of the sixty-day period, a late filing penalty shall be imposed under RCW 84.36.825.

(4) When organizations acquire real property qualified for exemption or convert real property to an exempt use, the property, upon approval of the application for exemption, is entitled to a property tax exemption for property taxes due and payable the following year. If the owner has paid taxes for the year following the year the property qualified for exemption, the owner is entitled to a refund of the amount paid on the property so acquired or converted. [2007 c 111 § 301; 2001 c 126 § 4; 1998 c 311 § 27; 1994 c 123 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 29 § 6; 1988 c 131 § 1; 1984 c 220 § 10; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 18; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 9.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**Findings, intent—Severability—Application—1991 sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 84.04.150.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.820 Renewal notice for exempt property—Failure to file before due date, effect.** On or before January 1st of each year, the department of revenue shall notify the owners of record of property exempted from property taxation at their last known address about the obligation to file an annual renewal declaration for continued exemption. When a continued exemption is not approved, the department shall notify the assessor of the county in which the property is located who, in turn, shall remove the tax exemption from the property. The failure to file an annual renewal declaration for continued exemption and subsequent removal of the exemption shall not be subject to review as provided in RCW 84.36.850. The department of revenue shall review applications received after the March 31st due date, but these applications shall be subject to late filing penalties provided in RCW 84.36.825. [2007 c 111 § 302; 1984 c 220 § 11; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 127 § 1; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 10.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**84.36.825 Late filing penalty.** A late filing penalty of ten dollars per month for each month an application or annual renewal declaration is past due shall be required and shall be deposited in the general fund. [2007 c 111 § 303; 1998 c 311 § 28; 1994 c 123 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 209 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 127 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 19; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 11.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.830 Review of applications for exemption—Procedure—Approval or denial—Notice.** (1) The department of revenue shall review each application for exemption and approve or deny the application before August 1st of the assessment year for which the application is made. However, exemption applications received after March 31st shall be reviewed and determination made thereon within thirty days of the date received or by August 1st, whichever is later.

(2) The department may request additional relevant information as it deems necessary. The department may also physically inspect the property and satisfy itself as to the use of all parcels before approving or denying the application. After approving an application, the department may also physically inspect the property at regular intervals to ensure compliance with this chapter.

(3) When the department has examined the application and, if applicable, the subject property, it shall either approve or deny the request and clearly state the reasons for denial in written notification by mail to the applicant. The department shall also notify the assessor of the county in which the property is located. The county assessor shall place the property on the assessment roll for the current year. [2007 c 111 § 304; 1998 c 310 § 1; 1984 c 220 § 12; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 127 § 3; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 12.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.833 Application for exemption or renewal may include all contiguous exempt property.** Each application for property tax exemption, or renewal thereof, may include all the real and personal property eligible for exempt status under any of the sections of chapter 84.36 RCW which are contiguous and part of a homogenous unit. Properties separated by public streets and roads shall be considered to be contiguous for purposes of this section. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 127 § 4.]

**84.36.835 List of exempt properties to be prepared and furnished each county assessor.** On or before August 31st, the department of revenue shall prepare a list by county of those properties exempted by the department under this chapter and shall forward a list to each county assessor of the property exempt in that county. [1998 c 311 § 29; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 13.]

**84.36.840 Statements—Reports—Information—Filing—Requirements.** (1) In order to determine whether organizations, associations, corporations, or institutions, except those exempted under RCW 84.36.020 and 84.36.030, are exempt from property taxes, and before the exemption

shall be allowed for any year, the superintendent or manager or other proper officer of the organization, association, corporation, or institution claiming exemption from taxation shall file with the department of revenue a statement certifying that the income and the receipts thereof, including donations to it, have been applied to the actual expenses of operating and maintaining it, or for its capital expenditures, and to no other purpose. This report shall also include a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the exempt organization, association, corporation, or institution.

(2) Educational institutions claiming exemption under RCW 84.36.050 shall also file a list of all property claimed to be exempt, the purpose for which it is used, the revenue derived from it for the preceding year, the use to which the revenue was applied, the number of students who attended the school or college, the total revenues of the institution with the source from which they were derived, and the purposes to which the revenues were applied, listing the items of such revenues and expenditures in detail.

(3) The reports required under subsections (1) and (2) of this section may be submitted electronically, in a format provided or approved by the department, or mailed to the department. The reports shall be submitted on or before March 31st of each year. The department shall remove the tax exemption from the property of any organization, association, corporation, or institution that does not file the required report with the department on or before the due date. However, the department shall allow a reasonable extension of time for filing upon receipt of a written request on or before the required filing date and for good cause shown therein. [2007 c 111 § 305; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 14.]

**Part headings not law—2007 c 111:** See note following RCW 82.16.120.

**84.36.845 Revocation of exemption approved or renewed due to inaccurate information.** If subsequent to the time that the exemption of any property is initially approved or renewed, it shall be determined that such exemption was approved or renewed as the result of inaccurate information provided by the authorized agent of the applicant, the exemption shall be revoked and taxes shall be levied against such property pursuant to the provisions of RCW 84.36.810. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 15.]

**84.36.850 Review—Appeals.** Any applicant aggrieved by the department of revenue's denial of an exemption application may petition the state board of tax appeals to review an application for either real or personal property tax exemption and the board shall consider any appeals to determine (1) if the property is entitled to an exemption, and (2) the amount or portion thereof.

A county assessor of the county in which the exempted property is located shall be empowered to appeal to the state board of tax appeals to review any real or personal property tax exemption approved by the department of revenue which he feels is not warranted.

Appeals from a department of revenue decision must be made within thirty days after the mailing of the approval or denial. [1989 c 378 § 13; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.855 Property changing from exempt to taxable status—Procedure.** Property which changes from exempt to taxable status shall be subject to the provisions of RCW 84.36.810 and 84.40.350 through 84.40.390, and the assessor shall also place the property on the assessment roll for taxes due and payable in the following year. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 17.]

**84.36.860 Public notice of provisions of act.** Each county assessor and the director of the department of revenue shall each issue public notice of the provisions of chapter 40, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. in such a manner as will give constructive notice to all taxpayers of that county or of the state, as the case may be, prior to the first year in which an application for exemption is required by RCW 84.36.815 through 84.36.845. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 18.]

**84.36.865 Rules and regulations.** The department of revenue of the state of Washington shall make such rules and regulations consistent with chapter 34.05 RCW and the provisions of this chapter as shall be necessary or desirable to permit its effective administration. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 20; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.36.900 Severability—1973 2nd ex.s. c 40.** If any provision of this 1973 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 22.]

**84.36.905 Effective date—Construction—1973 2nd ex.s. c 40.** This 1973 amendatory act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, shall take effect immediately and shall be effective for assessment in 1973 for taxes due and payable in 1974. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 40 § 23.]

## Chapter 84.37 RCW

### PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM

#### Sections

84.37.010	Findings—Intent.
84.37.020	Definitions.
84.37.030	Deferral program qualifications.
84.37.040	Deferral program administration.
84.37.050	Renewals—Requirement to reside on property.
84.37.060	Right to defer not reduced by contract or agreement.
84.37.070	State lien on property.
84.37.080	Conditions under which deferment ends.
84.37.090	Applicable statutory provisions.
84.37.900	Severability—2007 sp.s. c 2.
84.37.901	Application—2007 sp.s. c 2.
84.37.903	Effective date—2007 sp.s. c 2.

**84.37.010 Findings—Intent.** (1) The legislature finds that there are an increasing number of economic and financial pressures causing hardships to many homeowners in the state of Washington. The legislature finds that the current housing crisis is a key barometer of the insecure economic situation facing working Washington families. The legislature finds that, among those hardships, increases in property taxes lead to undue stress on family budgets causing some homeowners

to be at risk of losing their homes. The legislature finds that financial practices nationwide have led to an increasingly destabilized housing market across the country with impacts now being felt here in Washington. The legislature further finds that by establishing a property tax deferral program homeowners will be able to remain in their homes. The legislature further finds that acting now to stabilize the housing market is an important public purpose.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to: (a) Provide a property tax safe harbor for families in economic crisis; and (b) prevent existing homeowners from being driven from their homes because of overly burdensome property taxes. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 1.]

**84.37.020 Definitions.** The definitions in RCW 84.38.020 apply to this chapter. For purposes of this chapter, references to "this chapter" in any of the definitions in RCW 84.38.020 shall be interpreted to refer to chapter 84.37 RCW, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 3.]

**84.37.030 Deferral program qualifications.** A claimant may defer payment of fifty percent of special assessments or real property taxes, or both, listed on the annual tax statement in any year in which all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The special assessments or property taxes must be imposed upon a residence that was occupied by the claimant as a principal place of residence as of January 1st of the year in which the assessments and taxes are due, subject to the exceptions allowed under RCW 84.36.381(1);

(2) The claimant must have combined disposable income, as defined in RCW 84.36.383, of fifty-seven thousand dollars or less in the calendar year preceding the filing of the declaration;

(3) The claimant must have paid one-half of the total amount of special assessments and property taxes listed on the annual tax statement for the year in which the deferral claim is made;

(4) A deferral is not allowed for special assessments, property taxes, or both, levied for collection in the first five calendar years in which the person owns the residence;

(5) The claimant who defers payment of special assessments or real property taxes, or both, listed on the annual tax statement under this section must also meet the conditions of RCW 84.38.030 (4) and (5);

(6) The total amount deferred by a claimant under this chapter must not exceed forty percent of the amount of the claimant's equity value in the claimant's residence; and

(7) The claimant may not defer taxes under both this chapter and chapter 84.38 RCW in the same tax year. [2010 c 106 § 309; 2007 sp.s. c 2 § 2.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**84.37.040 Deferral program administration.** (1) Each claimant electing to defer payment of special assessments or real property tax obligations, or both, under this chapter shall file with the county assessor, on forms prescribed by the department and supplied by the assessor, a written declaration thereof. The declaration to defer special assessments and/or real property taxes for any year shall be filed no later

than the first day of September of the year for which the deferral is sought: PROVIDED, That for good cause shown, the department may waive this requirement.

(2) The declaration shall designate the property to which the deferral applies, and shall include a statement setting forth (a) a list of all members of the claimant's household, (b) the claimant's equity value in his or her residence, (c) facts establishing the eligibility for the deferral under the provisions of this chapter, and (d) any other relevant information required by the rules of the department. Each copy shall be signed by the claimant subject to the penalties as provided in chapter 9A.72 RCW for false swearing.

(3) The county assessor shall determine if each claimant shall be granted a deferral for each year but the claimant shall have the right to appeal this determination to the county board of equalization, in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038, whose decision shall be final as to the deferral of that year. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 4.]

**84.37.050 Renewals—Requirement to reside on property.** (1) The provisions of RCW 84.38.050(1)(b) apply to declarations to defer special assessments or property taxes, or both, for all years following the first year.

(2) The provisions of RCW 84.38.070 apply to claimants ceasing to reside permanently on the property for which the declaration to defer is made between the date of filing the declaration and December 15th of that year. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 5.]

**84.37.060 Right to defer not reduced by contract or agreement.** A person's right to defer special assessments or property tax obligations, or both, under this chapter may not be reduced by contract or agreement. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 6.]

**84.37.070 State lien on property.** Whenever a person's special assessment or real property tax obligation, or both, is deferred under this chapter, the amount deferred and required to be paid pursuant to RCW 84.38.120 shall become a lien in favor of the state upon his or her property and shall have priority as provided in chapters 35.50 and 84.60 RCW: PROVIDED, That the interest of a mortgage or purchase contract holder who requires an accumulation of reserves out of which real estate taxes are paid shall have priority to said deferred lien. This lien may accumulate up to forty percent of the amount of the claimant's equity value in said property and the rate of interest shall be an average of the federal short-term rate as defined in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 1274(d) plus two percentage points. The rate set for each new year shall be computed by taking an arithmetical average to the nearest percentage point of the federal short-term rate, compounded annually. That average shall be calculated using the rates from four months: January, April, and July of the calendar year immediately preceding the new year, and October of the previous preceding year. The interest shall be calculated from the time it could have been paid before delinquency until said obligation is paid. In the case of a mobile home, the department of licensing shall show the state's lien on the certificate of title for the mobile home. In the case of all other property, the department of revenue shall file a notice of the deferral with the county recorder or auditor. [2010 c 161 § 1167; 2007 sp.s. c 2 § 7.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**84.37.080 Conditions under which deferment ends.** Special assessments or real property tax obligations, or both, deferred under this chapter shall become payable together with interest as provided in RCW 84.37.070:

(1) Upon the sale of property which has a deferred special assessment lien or real property tax lien, or both, upon it;

(2) Upon the death of the claimant with an outstanding deferred special assessment lien or real property tax lien, or both, except a surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner who is qualified under this chapter may elect to incur the special assessment lien or real property tax lien, or both, which shall then be payable by that spouse or that domestic partner as provided in this section;

(3) Upon the condemnation of property with a deferred special assessment lien or real property tax lien, or both, upon it by a public or private body exercising eminent domain power, except as otherwise provided in RCW 84.60.070; or

(4) At such time as the claimant ceases to reside permanently in the residence upon which the deferral has been granted. [2008 c 6 § 710; 2007 sp.s. c 2 § 8.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**84.37.090 Applicable statutory provisions.** The provisions of RCW 84.38.110, 84.38.120, 84.38.140, 84.38.150, 84.38.160, 84.38.170, and 84.38.180 apply to this chapter to the extent that they do not conflict with the provisions of this chapter. For purposes of this chapter, references to "this chapter" in any of the statutes listed in this section shall be interpreted to refer to chapter 84.37 RCW unless the context clearly requires otherwise. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 9.]

**84.37.900 Severability—2007 sp.s. c 2.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 11.]

**84.37.901 Application—2007 sp.s. c 2.** This act applies to taxes due and payable after April 30, 2008, and thereafter. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 12.]

**84.37.903 Effective date—2007 sp.s. c 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [November 29, 2007]. [2007 sp.s. c 2 § 14.]

## Chapter 84.38 RCW DEFERRAL OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PROPERTY TAXES

### Sections

84.38.010	Legislative finding and purpose.
84.38.020	Definitions.
84.38.030	Conditions and qualifications for claiming deferral.
84.38.040	Declaration to defer special assessments and/or real property taxes—Filing—Contents—Appeal.

84.38.050	Renewal of deferral—Forms—Notice to renew—Limitation upon special assessment deferral amount.
84.38.060	Declaration of deferral by agent, guardian, etc.
84.38.070	Ceasing to reside permanently on property subject to deferral declaration.
84.38.080	Right to deferral not reduced by contract or agreement.
84.38.090	Procedure where residence under mortgage or purchase contract.
84.38.100	Lien of state, mortgage or purchase contract holder—Priority—Amount—Interest.
84.38.110	Duties of county assessor.
84.38.120	Payments to local improvement or taxing districts.
84.38.130	When deferred assessments or taxes become payable.
84.38.140	Collection of deferred assessments or taxes.
84.38.150	Election to continue deferral by surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner.
84.38.160	Payment of part or all of deferred taxes authorized.
84.38.170	Collection of personal property taxes not affected.
84.38.180	Forms—Rules and regulations.
84.38.900	Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 291.
84.38.910	Effective dates—1975 1st ex.s. c 291.

**84.38.010 Legislative finding and purpose.** Savings once deemed adequate for retirement living have been rendered inadequate by increased tax rates, increased property values, and the failure of pension systems to adequately reflect such factors. It is therefore deemed necessary that the legislature, in addition to that tax exemption as provided for in RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389 as now or hereafter amended, allow retired persons to defer payment of special assessments on their residences, and to defer their real property tax obligations on their residences, an amount of up to eighty percent of their equity in said property. This deferral program is intended to assist retired persons in maintaining their dignity and a reasonable standard of living by residing in their own homes, providing for their own needs, and managing their own affairs without requiring assistance from public welfare programs. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 26.]

**84.38.020 Definitions.** Unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, the following words and phrases as hereinafter used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Claimant" means a person who either elects or is required under RCW 84.64.050 to defer payment of the special assessments and/or real property taxes accrued on the claimant's residence by filing a declaration to defer as provided by this chapter.

When two or more individuals of a household file or seek to file a declaration to defer, they may determine between them as to who the claimant shall be.

(2) "Department" means the state department of revenue.

(3) "Equity value" means the amount by which the fair market value of a residence as determined from the records of the county assessor exceeds the total amount of any liens or other obligations against the property.

(4) "Local government" means any city, town, county, water-sewer district, public utility district, port district, irrigation district, flood control district, or any other municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or other political subdivision authorized to levy special assessments.

(5) "Real property taxes" means ad valorem property taxes levied on a residence in this state in the preceding calendar year.

(6) "Residence" has the meaning given in RCW 84.36.383.

(7) "Special assessment" means the charge or obligation imposed by a local government upon property specially benefited. [2006 c 62 § 2; 1997 c 93 § 1; 1996 c 230 § 1614; 1995 c 329 § 1; 1991 c 213 § 1; 1984 c 220 § 20; 1979 ex.s. c 214 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 27.]

**Application—2006 c 62:** See note following RCW 84.36.383.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.38.030 Conditions and qualifications for claiming deferral.** A claimant may defer payment of special assessments and/or real property taxes on up to eighty percent of the amount of the claimant's equity value in the claimant's residence if the following conditions are met:

(1) The claimant must meet all requirements for an exemption for the residence under RCW 84.36.381, other than the age and income limits under RCW 84.36.381.

(2) The claimant must be sixty years of age or older on December 31st of the year in which the deferral claim is filed, or must have been, at the time of filing, retired from regular gainful employment by reason of physical disability: PROVIDED, That any surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of a person who was receiving a deferral at the time of the person's death shall qualify if the surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner is fifty-seven years of age or older and otherwise meets the requirements of this section.

(3) The claimant must have a combined disposable income, as defined in RCW 84.36.383, of forty thousand dollars or less.

(4) The claimant must have owned, at the time of filing, the residence on which the special assessment and/or real property taxes have been imposed. For purposes of this subsection, a residence owned by a marital community, owned by domestic partners, or owned by cotenants shall be deemed to be owned by each spouse, each domestic partner, or each cotenant. A claimant who has only a share ownership in cooperative housing, a life estate, a lease for life, or a revocable trust does not satisfy the ownership requirement.

(5) The claimant must have and keep in force fire and casualty insurance in sufficient amount to protect the interest of the state in the claimant's equity value: PROVIDED, That if the claimant fails to keep fire and casualty insurance in force to the extent of the state's interest in the claimant's equity value, the amount deferred shall not exceed one hundred percent of the claimant's equity value in the land or lot only.

(6) In the case of special assessment deferral, the claimant must have opted for payment of such special assessments on the installment method if such method was available. [2008 c 6 § 702; 2006 c 62 § 3; 2004 c 270 § 3; 1995 c 329 § 2; 1991 c 213 § 2; 1988 c 222 § 11; 1984 c 220 § 21; 1979 ex.s. c 214 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 28.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**Application—2006 c 62:** See note following RCW 84.36.383.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.38.040 Declaration to defer special assessments and/or real property taxes—Filing—Contents—Appeal.**

(1) Each claimant electing to defer payment of special assessments and/or real property tax obligations under this chapter shall file with the county assessor, on forms prescribed by the

department and supplied by the assessor, a written declaration thereof. The declaration to defer special assessments and/or real property taxes for any year shall be filed no later than thirty days before the tax or assessment is due or thirty days after receiving notice under RCW 84.64.050, whichever is later: PROVIDED, That for good cause shown, the department may waive this requirement.

(2) The declaration shall designate the property to which the deferral applies, and shall include a statement setting forth (a) a list of all members of the claimant's household, (b) the claimant's equity value in his residence, (c) facts establishing the eligibility for the deferral under the provisions of this chapter, and (d) any other relevant information required by the rules of the department. Each copy shall be signed by the claimant subject to the penalties as provided in chapter 9A.72 RCW for false swearing. The first declaration to defer filed in a county shall include proof of the claimant's age acceptable to the assessor.

(3) The county assessor shall determine if each claimant shall be granted a deferral for each year but the claimant shall have the right to appeal this determination to the county board of equalization, in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038, whose decision shall be final as to the deferral of that year. [2001 c 185 § 10; 1994 c 301 § 34; 1984 c 220 § 22; 1979 ex.s. c 214 § 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 29.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.38.050 Renewal of deferral—Forms—Notice to renew—Limitation upon special assessment deferral amount.** (1)(a) Declarations to defer property taxes for all years following the first year may be made by filing with the county assessor no later than thirty days before the tax is due a renewal form in duplicate, prescribed by the department of revenue and supplied by the county assessor, which affirms the continued eligibility of the claimant.

(b) In January of each year, the county assessor shall send to each claimant who has been granted deferral of ad valorem taxes for the previous year renewal forms and notice to renew.

(2) Declarations to defer special assessments shall be made by filing with the assessor no later than thirty days before the special assessment is due on a form to be prescribed by the department of revenue and supplied by the county assessor. Upon approval, the full amount of special assessments upon such claimant's residence shall be deferred but not to exceed an amount equal to eighty percent of the claimant's equity value in said property. [1979 ex.s. c 214 § 8; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 30.]

**84.38.060 Declaration of deferral by agent, guardian, etc.** If the claimant is unable to make his own declaration of deferral, it may be made by a duly authorized agent or by a guardian or other person charged with care of the person or property of such claimant. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 31.]

**84.38.070 Ceasing to reside permanently on property subject to deferral declaration.** If the claimant declaring his or her intention to defer special assessments or real property tax obligations under this chapter ceases to reside permanently on the property for which the declaration to defer is made between the date of filing the declaration and Decem-

ber 15th of that year, the deferral otherwise allowable under this chapter shall not be allowed on such tax roll. However, this section shall not apply where the claimant dies, leaving a spouse or domestic partner surviving, who is also eligible for deferral of special assessment and/or property taxes. [2008 c 6 § 703; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 32.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**84.38.080 Right to deferral not reduced by contract or agreement.** A person's right to defer special assessments and/or property tax obligations on his residence shall not be reduced by contract or agreement, from January 1, 1976 onward. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 33.]

**84.38.090 Procedure where residence under mortgage or purchase contract.** If any residence is under mortgage or purchase contract requiring accumulation of reserves out of which the holder of the mortgage or contract is required to pay real estate taxes, said holder shall cosign the declaration of deferral either before a notary public or the county assessor or his deputy in the county where the real property is located. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 34.]

**84.38.100 Lien of state, mortgage or purchase contract holder—Priority—Amount—Interest.** Whenever a person's special assessment and/or real property tax obligation is deferred under the provisions of this chapter, the amount deferred and required to be paid pursuant to RCW 84.38.120 shall become a lien in favor of the state upon his or her property and shall have priority as provided in chapters 35.50 and 84.60 RCW: PROVIDED, That the interest of a mortgage or purchase contract holder who is required to cosign a declaration of deferral under RCW 84.38.090, shall have priority to said deferred lien. This lien may accumulate up to eighty percent of the amount of the claimant's equity value in said property and shall bear interest at the rate of five percent per year from the time it could have been paid before delinquency until said obligation is paid: PROVIDED, That when taxes are deferred as provided in RCW 84.64.050, the amount shall bear interest at the rate of five percent per year from the date the declaration is filed until the obligation is paid. In the case of a mobile home, the department of licensing shall show the state's lien on the certificate of title for the mobile home. In the case of all other property, the department of revenue shall file a notice of the deferral with the county recorder or auditor. [2010 c 161 § 1168; 2006 c 275 § 1; 2000 c 103 § 26; 1988 c 222 § 12; 1984 c 220 § 23; 1981 c 322 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 35.]

**Effective date—Intent—Legislation to reconcile chapter 161, Laws of 2010 and other amendments made during the 2010 legislative session—2010 c 161:** See notes following RCW 46.04.013.

**Application—2006 c 275:** "This act only applies to property tax deferrals granted under RCW 84.38.040 after June 7, 2006, for taxes levied for collection in 2007 and thereafter." [2006 c 275 § 2.]

**Finding—DOR report to legislature—2006 c 275:** "The legislature finds that the intent of the property tax deferral program is to assist retired persons in maintaining their dignity and a reasonable standard of living by residing in their own homes, providing for their own needs, and managing their own affairs without requiring assistance from public welfare programs. The department of revenue shall review the adequacy and appropriateness of the interest rate provided in RCW 84.38.100 in relation to these objectives. The department shall report its findings to the finance committee of the

house of representatives and the ways and means committee of the senate by December 1, 2012." [2006 c 275 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.38.110 Duties of county assessor.** The county assessor shall:

(1) Immediately transmit one copy of each declaration to defer to the department of revenue. The department may audit any declaration and shall notify the assessor as soon as possible of any claim where any factor appears to disqualify the claimant for the deferral sought.

(2) Transmit one copy of each declaration to defer a special assessment to the local improvement district which imposed such assessment.

(3) Compute the dollar tax rate for the county as if any deferrals provided by this chapter did not exist.

(4) As soon as possible notify the department of revenue and the county treasurer of the amount of real property taxes deferred for that year and notify the department of revenue and the respective treasurers of municipal corporations of the amount of special assessments deferred for each local improvement district within such unit. [1984 c 220 § 24; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 36.]

**84.38.120 Payments to local improvement or taxing districts.** After receipt of the notification from the county assessor of the amount of deferred special assessments and/or real property taxes the department shall pay, from amounts appropriated for that purpose, to the treasurers of such municipal corporations said amounts, equivalent to the amount of special assessments and/or real property taxes deferred, to be distributed to the local improvement or taxing districts which levied the taxes so deferred: PROVIDED, That when taxes are deferred as provided in RCW 84.64.050, the department shall pay to the treasurer of the county the amount equivalent to all taxes, foreclosure costs, interest, and penalties accrued to the date the declaration to defer is filed. [2000 c 103 § 27; 1988 c 222 § 13; 1984 c 220 § 25; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 37.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Due to a Senate amendment to House Bill No. 1201 (1984 c 220), "section 23" became "section 25." During enrolling, "section 23" was renumbered as "section 25" under the mandate in the amendment to "renumber the sections consecutively and correct any internal references accordingly," but the internal reference to "section 23" was not changed. "Section 23 of this act" consists of the 1984 c 220 amendment to RCW 84.38.100. "Section 25 of this act" consists of the 1984 c 220 amendment to RCW 84.38.120.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.38.130 When deferred assessments or taxes become payable.** Special assessments and/or real property tax obligations deferred under this chapter shall become payable together with interest as provided in RCW 84.38.100:

(1) Upon the sale of property which has a deferred special assessment and/or real property tax lien upon it.

(2) Upon the death of the claimant with an outstanding deferred special assessment and/or real property tax lien except a surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner who is qualified under this chapter may elect to incur the special assessment and/or real property tax lien which shall then be payable by that spouse or that domestic partner as provided in this section.

(3) Upon the condemnation of property with a deferred special assessment and/or real property tax lien upon it by a public or private body exercising eminent domain power, except as otherwise provided in RCW 84.60.070.

(4) At such time as the claimant ceases to reside permanently in the residence upon which the deferral has been granted.

(5) Upon the failure of any condition set forth in RCW 84.38.030. [2008 c 6 § 704; 1984 c 220 § 26; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 38.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**84.38.140 Collection of deferred assessments or taxes.** (1) The department shall collect all the amounts deferred together with interest under this chapter. However, in the event that the department is unable to collect an amount deferred together with interest, that amount deferred together with interest shall be collected by the county treasurer in the manner provided for in chapter 84.56 RCW. For purposes of collection of deferred taxes, the provisions of chapters 84.56, 84.60, and 84.64 RCW shall be applicable.

(2) When any deferred special assessment and/or real property taxes together with interest are collected the moneys shall be deposited in the state general fund. [2001 c 299 § 18; 1984 c 220 § 27; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 39.]

**84.38.150 Election to continue deferral by surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner.** (1) A surviving spouse or surviving domestic partner of the claimant may elect to continue the property in its deferred tax status if the property is the residence of the spouse or domestic partner of the claimant and the spouse or domestic partner meets the requirements of this chapter.

(2) The election under this section to continue the property in its deferred status by the spouse or the domestic partner of the claimant shall be filed in the same manner as an original claim for deferral is filed under this chapter, not later than ninety days from the date of the claimant's death. Thereupon, the property with respect to which the deferral of special assessments and/or real property taxes is claimed shall continue to be treated as deferred property. When the property has been continued in its deferred status by the filing of the spouse or the domestic partner of the claimant of an election under this section, the spouse or the domestic partner of the claimant may continue the property in its deferred status in subsequent years by filing a claim under this chapter so long as the spouse or the domestic partner meets the qualifications set out in this section. [2008 c 6 § 705; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 40.]

**Part headings not law—Severability—2008 c 6:** See RCW 26.60.900 and 26.60.901.

**84.38.160 Payment of part or all of deferred taxes authorized.** Any person may at any time pay a part or all of the deferred taxes but such payment shall not affect the deferred tax status of the property. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 41.]

**84.38.170 Collection of personal property taxes not affected.** Nothing in this chapter is intended to or shall be

construed to prevent the collection, by foreclosure, of personal property taxes which become a lien against tax-deferred property. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 42.]

**84.38.180 Forms—Rules and regulations.** The department of revenue of the state of Washington shall devise the forms and make rules and regulations consistent with chapter 34.05 RCW and the provisions of this chapter as shall be necessary or desirable to permit its effective administration. [1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 43.]

**84.38.900 Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 291.** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**84.38.910 Effective dates—1975 1st ex.s. c 291.** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

### Chapter 84.39 RCW PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION— WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS OF VETERANS

#### Sections

84.39.010	Exemption authorized—Qualifications.
84.39.020	Filing claim for exemption—Requirements.
84.39.030	Continued eligibility—Renewal forms.
84.39.040	Agent or guardian filing claim on behalf of claimant.
84.39.050	Failure to reside on property—Repayment.
84.39.060	Determination of assistance—Biennial budget request.

**84.39.010 Exemption authorized—Qualifications.** A person is entitled to a property tax exemption in the form of a grant as provided in this chapter. The person is entitled to assistance for the payment of all or a portion of the amount of excess and regular real property taxes imposed on the person's residence in the year in which a claim is filed in accordance with the following:

(1) The claimant must meet all requirements for an exemption for the residence under RCW 84.36.381, other than the income limits under RCW 84.36.381.

(2)(a) The person making the claim must be:

(i) Sixty-two years of age or older on December 31st of the year in which the claim is filed, or must have been, at the time of filing, retired from regular gainful employment by reason of physical disability; and

(ii) A widow or widower of a veteran who:

(A) Died as a result of a service-connected disability;

(B) Was rated as one hundred percent disabled by the United States veterans' administration for the ten years prior to his or her death;

(C) Was a former prisoner of war as substantiated by the United States veterans' administration and was rated as one hundred percent disabled by the United States veterans' administration for one or more years prior to his or her death; or

(D) Died on active duty or in active training status as a member of the United States uniformed services, reserves, or national guard; and

(b) The person making the claim must not have remarried.

(3) The claimant must have a combined disposable income of forty thousand dollars or less.

(4) The claimant must have owned, at the time of filing, the residence on which the real property taxes have been imposed. For purposes of this subsection, a residence owned by cotenants shall be deemed to be owned by each cotenant. A claimant who has only a share ownership in cooperative housing, a life estate, a lease for life, or a revocable trust does not satisfy the ownership requirement.

(5) A person who otherwise qualifies under this section is entitled to assistance in an amount equal to regular and excess property taxes imposed on the difference between the value of the residence eligible for exemption under RCW 84.36.381(5) and:

(a) The first one hundred thousand dollars of assessed value of the residence for a person who has a combined disposable income of thirty thousand dollars or less;

(b) The first seventy-five thousand dollars of assessed value of the residence for a person who has a combined disposable income of thirty-five thousand dollars or less but greater than thirty thousand dollars; or

(c) The first fifty thousand dollars of assessed value of the residence for a person who has a combined disposable income of forty thousand dollars or less but greater than thirty-five thousand dollars.

(6) As used in this section:

(a) "Veteran" has the same meaning as provided under RCW 41.04.005.

(b) The meanings attributed in RCW 84.36.383 to the terms "residence," "combined disposable income," "disposable income," and "disability" apply equally to this section. [2005 c 253 § 1.]

**Application—2005 c 253:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2006 and thereafter." [2005 c 253 § 9.]

**84.39.020 Filing claim for exemption—Requirements.** (1) Each claimant applying for assistance under RCW 84.39.010 shall file a claim with the department, on forms prescribed by the department, no later than thirty days before the tax is due. The department may waive this requirement for good cause shown. The department shall supply forms to the county assessor to allow persons to apply for the program at the county assessor's office.

(2) The claim shall designate the property to which the assistance applies and shall include a statement setting forth (a) a list of all members of the claimant's household, (b) facts establishing the eligibility under this section, and (c) any other relevant information required by the rules of the department. Each copy shall be signed by the claimant subject to the penalties as provided in chapter 9A.72 RCW for false swearing. The first claim shall include proof of the claimant's age acceptable to the department.

(3) The following documentation shall be filed with a claim along with any other documentation required by the department:

(a) The deceased veteran's DD 214 report of separation, or its equivalent, that must be under honorable conditions;

(b) A copy of the applicant's certificate of marriage to the deceased;

(c) A copy of the deceased veteran's death certificate; and

(d) A letter from the United States veterans' administration certifying that the death of the veteran meets the requirements of RCW 84.39.010(2).

The department of veterans affairs shall assist an eligible widow or widower in the preparation and submission of an application and the procurement of necessary substantiating documentation.

(4) The department shall determine if each claimant is eligible each year. Any applicant aggrieved by the department's denial of assistance may petition the state board of tax appeals to review the denial and the board shall consider any appeals to determine (a) if the claimant is entitled to assistance and (b) the amount or portion thereof. [2005 c 253 § 2.]

**Application—2005 c 253:** See note following RCW 84.39.010.

#### 84.39.030 Continued eligibility—Renewal forms. (1)

Claims for assistance for all years following the first year may be made by filing with the department no later than thirty days before the tax is due a renewal form in duplicate, prescribed by the department, that affirms the continued eligibility of the claimant.

(2) In January of each year, the department shall send to each claimant who has been granted assistance for the previous year renewal forms and notice to renew. [2005 c 253 § 3.]

**Application—2005 c 253:** See note following RCW 84.39.010.

**84.39.040 Agent or guardian filing claim on behalf of claimant.** If the claimant is unable to make his or her own claim, it may be made by a duly authorized agent or by a guardian or other person charged with care of the person or property of the claimant. [2005 c 253 § 4.]

**Application—2005 c 253:** See note following RCW 84.39.010.

**84.39.050 Failure to reside on property—Repayment.** If the claimant receiving assistance under RCW 84.39.010 ceases to reside permanently on the property for which the claim is made between the date of filing the declaration and December 15th of that year, the amount of assistance otherwise allowable under RCW 84.39.010 shall not be allowed for that portion of the year in which the claimant was not qualified, and that amount shall constitute a lien on the property in favor of the state and shall have priority as provided in chapter 84.60 RCW until repaid to the department. [2005 c 253 § 5.]

**Application—2005 c 253:** See note following RCW 84.39.010.

**84.39.060 Determination of assistance—Biennial budget request.** (1) The department shall consult with the appropriate county assessors and county treasurers to determine the amount of assistance to which each claimant is eligible and the appropriate method of providing the assistance. The department shall pay, from amounts appropriated for this purpose, to the claimant, the claimant's mortgage company, or the county treasurer, as appropriate for each claimant, the amount of assistance to which the claimant is entitled under RCW 84.39.010.

(2) The department shall request in its biennial budget request an appropriation to satisfy its obligations under this section. [2005 c 253 § 6.]

**Application—2005 c 253:** See note following RCW 84.39.010.

## Chapter 84.40 RCW LISTING OF PROPERTY

### Sections

84.40.020	Assessment date—Average inventory basis may be used—Public inspection of listing, documents, and records.
84.40.025	Access to property required.
84.40.030	Basis of valuation, assessment, appraisal—One hundred percent of true and fair value—Exceptions—Leasehold estates—Real property—Appraisal—Comparable sales.
84.40.0301	Determination of value by public official—Review—Revaluation—Presumptions.
84.40.031	Valuation of timber and timberlands—Criteria established.
84.40.032	Valuation of timber and timberlands—"Timberlands" defined and declared lands devoted to reforestation.
84.40.033	Valuation of timber and timberlands—Legislative findings.
84.40.036	Valuation of vessels—Apportionment.
84.40.037	Valuation of computer software—Embedded software.
84.40.038	Petition county board of equalization—Limitation on changes to time limit—Waiver of filing deadline—Direct appeal to state board of tax appeals.
84.40.039	Reducing valuation after government restriction—Petitioning assessor—Establishing new valuation—Notice—Appeal—Refund.
84.40.040	Time and manner of listing.
84.40.042	Valuation and assessment of divided or combined property.
84.40.045	Notice of change in valuation of real property to be given taxpayer—Copy to person making payments pursuant to mortgage, contract, or deed of trust—Procedure—Penalty.
84.40.060	Personal property assessment.
84.40.065	Listing of taxable ships and vessels with department—Assessment—Rights of review.
84.40.070	Companies, associations—Listing.
84.40.080	Listing omitted property or improvements.
84.40.085	Limitation period for assessment of omitted property or value—Notification to taxpayer of omission—Procedure.
84.40.090	Taxing districts to be designated—Separate assessments.
84.40.110	Examination under oath—Default listing.
84.40.120	Oaths, who may administer—Criminal penalty for willful false listing.
84.40.130	Penalty for failure or refusal to list—False or fraudulent listing, additional penalty—Penalty waiver.
84.40.150	Sick or absent persons—May report to board of equalization.
84.40.160	Manner of listing real estate—Maps.
84.40.170	Plat of irregular subdivided tracts—Notice to owner—Surveys—Costs.
84.40.175	Listing of exempt property—Proof of exemption—Valuation of publicly owned property.
84.40.178	Exempt residential property—Maintenance of assessed valuation—Notice of change.
84.40.185	Individuals, corporations, limited liability companies, associations, partnerships, trusts, or estates required to list personally.
84.40.190	Statement of personal property.
84.40.200	Listing of personalty on failure to obtain statement—Statement of valuation to person assessed or listing—Exemption.
84.40.210	Personalty of manufacturer, listing procedure, statement—"Manufacturer" defined.
84.40.220	Merchant's personalty held for sale—Consignment from out of state—Nursery stock assessable as growing crops.
84.40.230	Contract to purchase public land.
84.40.240	Annual list of lands sold or contracted to be sold to be furnished assessor.
84.40.315	Federal agencies and property taxable when federal law permits.
84.40.320	Detail and assessment lists to board of equalization.
84.40.335	Lists, schedules or statements to contain declaration that falsification subject to perjury.
84.40.340	Verification by assessor of any list, statement, or schedule—Confidentiality, penalty.
84.40.343	Mobile homes—Identification of.
84.40.344	Mobile homes—Avoidance of payment of tax—Penalty.
84.40.350	Assessment and taxation of property losing exempt status.
84.40.360	Loss of exempt status—Property subject to pro rata portion of taxes for remainder of year.
84.40.370	Loss of exempt status—Valuation date—Extension on rolls.
84.40.380	Loss of exempt status—When taxes due and payable—Dates of delinquency—Interest.
84.40.390	Loss of exempt status—Taxes constitute lien on property.
84.40.405	Rules for agricultural products and business inventories.
84.40.410	Valuation and assessment of certain leasehold interests.

*Qualifications for persons assessing real property—Examination: RCW 36.21.015.*

**84.40.020 Assessment date—Average inventory basis may be used—Public inspection of listing, documents, and records.** All real property in this state subject to taxation shall be listed and assessed every year, with reference to its value on the first day of January of the year in which it is assessed. Such listing and all supporting documents and records shall be open to public inspection during the regular office hours of the assessor's office: PROVIDED, That confidential income data is hereby exempted from public inspection as noted in RCW 42.56.070 and 42.56.210. All personal property in this state subject to taxation shall be listed and assessed every year, with reference to its value and ownership on the first day of January of the year in which it is assessed: PROVIDED, That if the stock of goods, wares, merchandise or material, whether in a raw or finished state or in process of manufacture, owned or held by any taxpayer on January 1 of any year does not fairly represent the average stock carried by such taxpayer, such stock shall be listed and assessed upon the basis of the monthly average of stock owned or held by such taxpayer during the preceding calendar year or during such portion thereof as the taxpayer was engaged in business. [2005 c 274 § 364; 2001 c 187 § 16. Prior: 1997 c 239 § 2; 1997 c 3 § 103 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1973 c 69 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 35; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.020; prior: (i) 1939 c 137 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 8; 1897 c 71 § 6; 1895 c 176 § 3; 1893 c 124 § 6; 1891 c 140 §§ 1, 6; 1890 p 532 § 6; Code 1881 § 2832; 1871 p 40 § 15; 1869 p 180 § 15; 1867 p 62 § 6; 1854 p 332 § 4; RRS § 11112. (ii) 1937 c 122 § 1; 1890 p 532 § 6; RRS § 11112-1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—2005 c 274:** See RCW 42.56.901 and 42.56.902.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.025 Access to property required.** For the purpose of assessment and valuation of all taxable property in each county, any real or personal property in each county shall be subject to visitation, investigation, examination, discovery, and listing at any reasonable time by the county assessor of the county or by any employee thereof designated for this purpose by the assessor.

In any case of refusal to such access, the assessor shall request assistance from the department of revenue which may invoke the power granted by chapter 84.08 RCW. [1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 10.]

**84.40.030 Basis of valuation, assessment, appraisal—One hundred percent of true and fair value—Exceptions—Leasehold estates—Real property—Appraisal—Comparable sales.** All property shall be valued at one hundred percent of its true and fair value in money and assessed on the same basis unless specifically provided otherwise by law.

Taxable leasehold estates shall be valued at such price as they would bring at a fair, voluntary sale for cash without any deductions for any indebtedness owed including rentals to be paid.

(2012 Ed.)

The true and fair value of real property for taxation purposes (including property upon which there is a coal or other mine, or stone or other quarry) shall be based upon the following criteria:

(1) Any sales of the property being appraised or similar properties with respect to sales made within the past five years. The appraisal shall be consistent with the comprehensive land use plan, development regulations under chapter 36.70A RCW, zoning, and any other governmental policies or practices in effect at the time of appraisal that affect the use of property, as well as physical and environmental influences. An assessment may not be determined by a method that assumes a land usage or highest and best use not permitted, for that property being appraised, under existing zoning or land use planning ordinances or statutes or other government restrictions. The appraisal shall also take into account: (a) In the use of sales by real estate contract as similar sales, the extent, if any, to which the stated selling price has been increased by reason of the down payment, interest rate, or other financing terms; and (b) the extent to which the sale of a similar property actually represents the general effective market demand for property of such type, in the geographical area in which such property is located. Sales involving deed releases or similar seller-developer financing arrangements shall not be used as sales of similar property.

(2) In addition to sales as defined in subsection (1) of this section, consideration may be given to cost, cost less depreciation, reconstruction cost less depreciation, or capitalization of income that would be derived from prudent use of the property, as limited by law or ordinance. Consideration should be given to any agreement, between an owner of rental housing and any government agency, that restricts rental income, appreciation, and liquidity; and to the impact of government restrictions on operating expenses and on ownership rights in general of such housing. In the case of property of a complex nature, or being used under terms of a franchise from a public agency, or operating as a public utility, or property not having a record of sale within five years and not having a significant number of sales of similar property in the general area, the provisions of this subsection shall be the dominant factors in valuation. When provisions of this subsection are relied upon for establishing values the property owner shall be advised upon request of the factors used in arriving at such value.

(3) In valuing any tract or parcel of real property, the true and fair value of the land, exclusive of structures thereon shall be determined; also the true and fair value of structures thereon, but the valuation shall not exceed the true and fair value of the total property as it exists. In valuing agricultural land, growing crops shall be excluded. [2007 c 301 § 2; 2001 c 187 § 17; 1998 c 320 § 9. Prior: 1997 c 429 § 34; 1997 c 134 § 1; 1997 c 3 § 104 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 124 § 20; 1993 c 436 § 1; 1988 c 222 § 14; 1980 c 155 § 2; prior: 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 96; 1973 1st ex.s. c 187 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 125 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 43 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.030; prior: 1939 c 206 § 15; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 52; 1919 c 142 § 4; 1913 c 140 § 1; 1897 c 71 § 42; 1893 c 124 § 44; 1891 c 140 § 44; 1890 p 547 § 48; RRS § 11135. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1939 c 116 § 1, part, now codified in RCW 84.40.220.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.0301 Determination of value by public official—Review—Revaluation—Presumptions.** Upon review by any court, or appellate body, of a determination of the valuation of property for purposes of taxation, it shall be presumed that the determination of the public official charged with the duty of establishing such value is correct but this presumption shall not be a defense against any correction indicated by clear, cogent and convincing evidence. [1994 c 301 § 35; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.031 Valuation of timber and timberlands—Criteria established.** Based upon the study as directed by house concurrent resolution No. 10 of the thirty-seventh session of the legislature relating to the taxation of timber and timberlands, the legislature hereby establishes the criteria set forth in RCW 84.40.031 through 84.40.033 as standards for the valuation of timber and timberlands for tax purposes. [1983 c 3 § 228; 1963 c 249 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.032 Valuation of timber and timberlands—"Timberlands" defined and declared lands devoted to reforestation.** As used in RCW 84.40.031 through 84.40.033 "timberlands" means land primarily suitable and used for growing a continuous supply of forest products, whether such lands be cutover, selectively harvested, or contain merchantable or immature timber, and includes the timber thereon. Timberlands are lands devoted to reforestation within the meaning of Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution as amended. [1983 c 3 § 229; 1963 c 249 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.033 Valuation of timber and timberlands—Legislative findings.** It is hereby found and declared that:

(1) Timber constitutes the primary renewable resource of this state.

(2) It is the public policy of this state that timberlands be managed in such a way as to assure a continuous supply of forest products.

(3) It is in the public interest that forest valuation and taxation policy encourage and permit timberland owners to manage their lands to sustain maximum production of raw materials for the forest industry, to maintain other public benefits, and to maintain a stable and equitable tax base.

(4) Forest management entails continuous and accumulative burdens of taxes, protection, management costs, interest on investment, and risks of loss from fire, insects, disease and the elements over long periods of time prior to harvest and realization of income.

(5) Existing timberland valuation and taxation procedures under the general property tax system are consistent with the public interest and the public policy herein set forth only when due consideration and recognition is given to all relevant factors in determining the true and fair value in money of each tract or lot of timberland.

(6) To assure equality and uniformity of taxation of timberland, uniform principles should be applied for determining the true and fair value in money of such timberlands, taking into account all pertinent factors such as regional differences in species and growing conditions.

(7) The true and fair value in money of timberlands must be determined through application of sound valuation principles based upon the highest and best use of such properties. The highest and best use of timberlands, whether cut-over, selectively harvested, or containing merchantable or immature timber, is to manage, protect and harvest them in a manner which will realize the greatest economic value and assure the maximum continuous supply of forest products. This requires that merchantable timber originally on timberlands be harvested gradually to maintain a continuous supply until immature timber reaches the optimum age or size for harvesting, that immature timber on timberlands be managed and protected for extensive periods until it reaches such optimum age or size and that such timberlands be continually restocked as harvested.

(8) Reforestation entails an integrated forest management program which includes gradual harvesting of existing merchantable timber, management and protection of immature timber during its growth cycle until it reaches the optimum size or age for harvesting and a continual preparation and restocking of areas after harvest. Such management of timberlands is now generally followed and practiced in this state and it is in the public interest that such management be continued and encouraged.

(9) The prices at which merchantable timber is sold generally reflect values based upon immediate harvesting, and the prices at which both merchantable and immature timber are sold frequently reflect circumstances peculiar to the particular purchaser. Such prices generally make little or no allowance for the continuous and accumulative burdens of taxes, protection, management costs, interest on investment, and risks of loss from fire, insects, disease, and the elements which must be borne by the owner of timberlands over long periods of time prior to the time timber is harvested and income is realized. Such prices do not, therefore, provide a reliable measure of the true and fair value in money. Accordingly, both the public policy and the public interest of this state and sound principles of timber valuation require that in the determination of the true and fair value in money of such properties appropriate and full allowance be made for such continuous and accumulative burdens over the period of time between assessment and harvest. [1963 c 249 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.036 Valuation of vessels—Apportionment.** (1) As used in this section, "apportionable vessel" means a ship or vessel which is:

- (a) Engaged in interstate commerce;
- (b) Engaged in foreign commerce; and/or
- (c) Engaged exclusively in fishing, tendering, harvesting, and/or processing seafood products on the high seas or waters under the jurisdiction of other states.

(2) The value of each apportionable vessel shall be apportioned to this state based on the number of days or fractions of days that the vessel is within this state during the preceding calendar year: PROVIDED, That if the total number of days the vessel is within the limits of the state does not exceed one hundred twenty for the preceding calendar year, no value shall be apportioned to this state. For the purposes of this subsection (2), a fraction of a day means more than sixteen hours in a calendar day.

(3) Time during which an apportionable vessel is in the state for one or more of the following purposes shall not be considered as time within this state, if the length of time is reasonable for the purpose:

(a) Undergoing repair or alteration;  
 (b) Taking on or discharging cargo, passengers, or supplies; and

(c) Serving as a tug for a vessel under (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(4) Days during which an apportionable vessel leaves this state only while navigating the high seas in order to travel between points in this state shall be considered as days within this state. [1998 c 335 § 6; 1986 c 229 § 2.]

*Listing of taxable ships and vessels with department: RCW 84.40.065.*

*Partial exemption for ships and vessels: RCW 84.36.080.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.037 Valuation of computer software—Embedded software.** (1) Computer software, except embedded software, shall be valued in the first year of taxation at one hundred percent of the acquisition cost of the software and in the second year at fifty percent of the acquisition cost. Computer software, other than embedded software, shall have no value for purposes of property taxation after the second year.

(2) Embedded software is a part of the computer system or other machinery or equipment in which it is housed and shall be valued in the same manner as the machinery or equipment. [1991 sp.s. c 29 § 4.]

**Findings, intent—Severability—Application—1991 sp.s. c 29:** See notes following RCW 84.04.150.

**84.40.038 Petition county board of equalization—Limitation on changes to time limit—Waiver of filing deadline—Direct appeal to state board of tax appeals.** (1) The owner or person responsible for payment of taxes on any property may petition the county board of equalization for a change in the assessed valuation placed upon such property by the county assessor or for any other reason specifically authorized by statute. Such petition must be made on forms prescribed or approved by the department of revenue and any petition not conforming to those requirements or not properly completed may not be considered by the board. The petition must be filed with the board on or before July 1st of the year of the assessment or determination, within thirty days after the date an assessment, value change notice, or other notice has been mailed, or within a time limit of up to sixty days adopted by the county legislative authority, whichever is later. If a county legislative authority sets a time limit, the authority may not change the limit for three years from the adoption of the limit.

(2) The board of equalization may waive the filing deadline if the petition is filed within a reasonable time after the filing deadline and the petitioner shows good cause for the late filing. However, the board of equalization must waive the filing deadline for the circumstance described under (f) of this subsection if the petition is filed within a reasonable time after the filing deadline. The decision of the board of equalization regarding a waiver of the filing deadline is final and not appealable under RCW 84.08.130. Good cause may be shown by one or more of the following events or circumstances:

(a) Death or serious illness of the taxpayer or his or her immediate family;

(b) The taxpayer was absent from the address where the taxpayer normally receives the assessment or value change notice, was absent for more than fifteen days of the days allowed in subsection (1) of this section before the filing deadline, and the filing deadline is after July 1;

(c) Incorrect written advice regarding filing requirements received from board of equalization staff, county assessor's staff, or staff of the property tax advisor designated under RCW 84.48.140;

(d) Natural disaster such as flood or earthquake;

(e) Delay or loss related to the delivery of the petition by the postal service, and documented by the postal service;

(f) The taxpayer was not sent a revaluation notice under RCW 84.40.045 for the current assessment year and the taxpayer can demonstrate both of the following:

(i) The taxpayer's property value did not change from the previous year; and

(ii) The taxpayer's property is located in an area revalued by the assessor for the current assessment year; or

(g) Other circumstances as the department may provide by rule.

(3) The owner or person responsible for payment of taxes on any property may request that the appeal be heard by the state board of tax appeals without a hearing by the county board of equalization when the assessor, the owner or person responsible for payment of taxes on the property, and a majority of the county board of equalization agree that a direct appeal to the state board of tax appeals is appropriate. The state board of tax appeals may reject the appeal, in which case the county board of equalization must consider the appeal under RCW 84.48.010. Notice of such a rejection, together with the reason therefor, shall be provided to the affected parties and the county board of equalization within thirty days of receipt of the direct appeal by the state board. [2011 c 84 § 1; 2001 c 185 § 11; 1997 c 294 § 1; 1994 c 123 § 4; 1992 c 206 § 11; 1988 c 222 § 19.]

**Application—2011 c 84:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2012 and thereafter." [2011 c 84 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.039 Reducing valuation after government restriction—Petitioning assessor—Establishing new valuation—Notice—Appeal—Refund.** (1) The owner or person responsible for payment of taxes on any real property may petition the assessor for a reduction in the assessed value of the real property at any time within three years of adoption of a restriction by a government entity.

(2) Notwithstanding the revaluation cycle for the county, the assessor shall reconsider the valuation of the real property within one hundred twenty days of the filing of a petition under subsection (1) of this section. If the new valuation is established for the real property after this review, the assessor shall notify the property owner in the manner provided in RCW 84.40.045. Unless the real property would otherwise be revalued that year as a result of the revaluation cycle or new construction, the valuation of the real property shall not be increased as a result of this revaluation. If the new valuation is established after June 1st in any year, the new valuation shall be used for purposes of imposing property taxes in the

following year, but the property owner shall be eligible for a refund under RCW 84.69.020.

(3) A new valuation established under this section may be appealed under RCW 84.40.038.

(4) If the assessor reduces the valuation of real property using the process under this section, the property owner shall be entitled to a refund on property taxes paid on this property calculated as follows:

(a) A property owner is entitled to receive a refund for each year after the restriction was adopted, but not to exceed three years, that the taxpayer paid property taxes on the real property based upon the prior higher valuation; and

(b) The amount of the refund in each year shall be the amount of reduced valuation on the real property for that year, multiplied by the rate of property taxes imposed on the property in that year.

(5) As used in this section, "restriction" means a limitation, requirement, regulation, or restriction that limits the use of the property, including those imposed by the application of ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, policies, statutes, and conditions of land use approval. [1998 c 306 § 1.]

**84.40.040 Time and manner of listing.** The assessor shall begin the preliminary work for each assessment not later than the first day of December of each year in all counties in the state. The assessor shall also complete the duties of listing and placing valuations on all property by May 31st of each year, except that the listing and valuation of construction and mobile homes under RCW 36.21.080 and 36.21.090 shall be completed by August 31st of each year, and in the following manner, to wit:

The assessor shall actually determine as nearly as practicable the true and fair value of each tract or lot of land listed for taxation and of each improvement located thereon and shall enter one hundred percent of the true and fair value of such land and value of such improvements, together with the total of such one hundred percent valuations, opposite each description of property on the assessment list and tax roll.

The assessor shall make an alphabetical list of the names of all persons in the county liable to assessment of personal property, and require each person to make a correct list and statement of such property according to the standard form prescribed by the department of revenue, which statement and list shall include, if required by the form, the year of acquisition and total original cost of personal property in each category of the prescribed form. However, the assessor may list and value improvements on publicly owned land in the same manner as real property is listed and valued, including conformance with the revaluation program required under chapter 84.41 RCW. Such list and statement shall be filed on or before the last day of April. The assessor shall on or before the 1st day of January of each year mail, or electronically transmit, a notice to all such persons at their last known address that such statement and list is required. This notice must be accompanied by the form on which the statement or list is to be made. The notice mailed, or electronically transmitted, by the assessor to each taxpayer each year shall, if practicable, include the statement and list of personal property of the taxpayer for the preceding year. Upon receipt of such statement and list the assessor shall thereupon determine the true and fair value of the property included in such

statement and enter one hundred percent of the same on the assessment roll opposite the name of the party assessed; and in making such entry in the assessment list, the assessor shall give the name and post office address of the party listing the property, and if the party resides in a city the assessor shall give the street and number or other brief description of the party's residence or place of business. The assessor may, after giving written notice of the action to the person to be assessed, add to the assessment list any taxable property which should be included in such list. [2003 c 302 § 1; 2001 c 187 § 18; 1997 c 3 § 106 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1988 c 222 § 15; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 97; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 36; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.040. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 16, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 57, part; 1897 c 71 § 46, part; 1895 c 176 § 5, part; 1893 c 124 § 48, part; 1891 c 140 § 48, part; RRS § 11140, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.042 Valuation and assessment of divided or combined property.** (1) When real property is divided in accordance with chapter 58.17 RCW, the assessor shall carefully investigate and ascertain the true and fair value of each lot and assess each lot on that same basis, unless specifically provided otherwise by law. For purposes of this section, "lot" has the same definition as in RCW 58.17.020.

(a) For each lot on which an advance tax deposit has been paid in accordance with RCW 58.08.040, the assessor shall establish the true and fair value by October 30th of the year following the recording of the plat, replat, or altered plat. The value established shall be the value of the lot as of January 1st of the year the original parcel of real property was last revalued. An additional property tax shall not be due on the land until the calendar year following the year for which the advance tax deposit was paid if the deposit was sufficient to pay the full amount of the taxes due on the property.

(b) For each lot on which an advance tax deposit has not been paid, the assessor shall establish the true and fair value not later than the calendar year following the recording of the plat, map, subdivision, or replat. For purposes of this section, "subdivision" means a division of land into two or more lots.

(c) For each subdivision, all current year and delinquent taxes and assessments on the entire tract must be paid in full in accordance with RCW 58.17.160 and 58.08.030 except when property is being acquired by a government for public use. For purposes of this section, "current year taxes" means taxes that are collectible under RCW 84.56.010 subsequent to completing the tax roll for current year collection.

(2) When the assessor is required by law to segregate any part or parts of real property, assessed before or after July 27, 1997, as one parcel or when the assessor is required by law to combine parcels of real property assessed before or after July 27, 1997, as two or more parcels, the assessor shall carefully investigate and ascertain the true and fair value of each part or parts of the real property and each combined parcel and assess each part or parts or each combined parcel on that same basis. [2009 c 350 § 1; 2008 c 17 § 1; 2002 c 168 § 8; 1997 c 393 § 17.]

**84.40.045 Notice of change in valuation of real property to be given taxpayer—Copy to person making pay-**

**ments pursuant to mortgage, contract, or deed of trust—Procedure—Penalty.** The assessor shall give notice of any change in the true and fair value of real property for the tract or lot of land and any improvements thereon no later than thirty days after appraisal: PROVIDED, That no such notice shall be mailed during the period from January 15 to February 15 of each year: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no notice need be sent with respect to changes in valuation of forest land made pursuant to chapter 84.33 RCW.

The notice shall contain a statement of both the prior and the new true and fair value, stating separately land and improvement values, and a brief statement of the procedure for appeal to the board of equalization and the time, date, and place of the meetings of the board.

The notice shall be mailed by the assessor to the taxpayer.

If any taxpayer, as shown by the tax rolls, holds solely a security interest in the real property which is the subject of the notice, pursuant to a mortgage, contract of sale, or deed of trust, such taxpayer shall, upon written request of the assessor, supply, within thirty days of receipt of such request, to the assessor the name and address of the person making payments pursuant to the mortgage, contract of sale, or deed of trust, and thereafter such person shall also receive a copy of the notice provided for in this section. Willful failure to comply with such request within the time limitation provided for herein shall make such taxpayer subject to a maximum civil penalty of five thousand dollars. The penalties provided for herein shall be recoverable in an action by the county prosecutor, and when recovered shall be deposited in the county current expense fund. The assessor shall make the request provided for by this section during the month of January. [2001 c 187 § 19; 1997 c 3 § 107 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 36; 1977 ex.s. c 181 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 187 § 8; 1972 ex.s. c 125 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 16; 1967 ex.s. c 146 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.060 Personal property assessment.** Upon receipt of the statement of personal property, the assessor shall assess the value of such property. If any property is listed or assessed on or after the 31st day of May, the same shall be legal and binding as if listed and assessed before that time. [2003 c 302 § 2; 1988 c 222 § 16; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 37; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.060. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 17; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 58; 1897 c 71 § 47; 1893 c 124 § 49; 1891 c 140 § 49; 1890 p 548 § 49; RRS § 11141.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.065 Listing of taxable ships and vessels with department—Assessment—Rights of review.** (1) Every individual, corporation, association, partnership, trust, and estate shall list with the department of revenue all ships and vessels which are subject to their ownership, possession, or control and which are not entirely exempt from property taxation, and such listing shall be subject to the same requirements and penalties provided in this chapter for all other personal property in the same manner as provided in this chapter, except as may be specifically provided otherwise with respect to ships and vessels.

(2012 Ed.)

(2) The listing of ships and vessels shall be accomplished in the manner and upon forms prescribed by the department. Upon listing, the department shall assign a tax identification number for each vessel listed.

(3) The department shall assess all ships and vessels and shall, on or before January 31st of each year, mail to the owner of a ship or vessel, or to the person listing the ship or vessel if different from the owner, a notice showing the valuation of the ship or vessel assessed. Taxes due the following year shall be based upon the valuation. On or after February 15, but no later than thirty days before April 30, the department shall mail to the owner of a ship or vessel, or to the person listing the ship or vessel if different from the owner, a tax statement showing the valuation for the previous year of the ship or vessel assessed and the amount of tax owed for the current year.

(4) Any ship or vessel owner, or person listing the ship or vessel if different from the owner, disputing the assessment or disputing whether the ship or vessel is subject to taxation under this section shall have the same rights of review as any other ship or vessel owner subject to the excise tax contained in chapter 82.49 RCW in accordance with RCW 82.49.060. [1993 c 33 § 2; 1986 c 229 § 3; 1984 c 250 § 5. Formerly RCW 84.08.200.]

*Collection of ad valorem taxes:* RCW 84.56.440.

*Partial exemption for ships and vessels:* RCW 84.36.080.

*Valuation of vessels—Apportionment:* RCW 84.40.036.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.070 Companies, associations—Listing.** The president, secretary or principal accounting officer or agent of any company or association, whether incorporated or unincorporated, except as otherwise provided for in this title, shall make out and deliver to the assessor a statement of its property, setting forth particularly (1) the name and location of the company or association; (2) the real property of the company or association, and where situated; and (3) the nature and value of its personal property. The real and personal property of such company or association shall be assessed the same as other real and personal property. In all cases of failure or refusal of any person, officer, company, or association to make such return or statement, it shall be the duty of the assessor to make such return or statement from the best information he can obtain. [2003 c 302 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.070. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 27; 1897 c 71 § 20; 1893 c 124 § 20; 1891 c 140 § 20; 1890 p 538 § 21; Code 1881 § 2839; RRS § 11131.]

**84.40.080 Listing omitted property or improvements.** An assessor shall enter on the assessment roll in any year any property shown to have been omitted from the assessment roll of any preceding year, at the value for the preceding year, or if not then valued, at such value as the assessor shall determine for the preceding year, and such value shall be stated separately from the value of any other year. Where improvements have not been valued and assessed as a part of the real estate upon which the same may be located, as evidenced by the assessment rolls, they may be separately valued and assessed as omitted property under this section. No such assessment shall be made in any case where a bona fide purchaser, encumbrancer, or contract buyer has acquired

any interest in said property prior to the time such improvements are assessed. When such an omitted assessment is made, the taxes levied thereon may be paid within one year of the due date of the taxes for the year in which the assessment is made without penalty or interest. In the assessment of personal property, the assessor shall assess the omitted value not reported by the taxpayer as evidenced by an inspection of either the property or the books and records of said taxpayer by the assessor. [1995 c 134 § 14. Prior: 1994 c 301 § 37; 1994 c 124 § 21; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 8 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.080; prior: 1951 1st ex.s. c 8 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 59; 1897 c 71 § 48; RRS § 11142.]

**84.40.085 Limitation period for assessment of omitted property or value—Notification to taxpayer of omission—Procedure.** No omitted property or omitted value assessment shall be made for any period more than three years preceding the year in which the omission is discovered. The assessor, upon discovery of such omission, shall forward a copy of the amended personal property affidavit along with a letter of particulars informing the taxpayer of the findings and of the taxpayer's right of appeal to the county board of equalization. Upon request of either the taxpayer or the assessor, the county board of equalization may be reconvened to act on the omitted property or omitted value assessments. [1994 c 124 § 22; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 8 § 2.]

**84.40.090 Taxing districts to be designated—Separate assessments.** It shall be the duty of assessors, when assessing real or personal property, to designate the name or number of each taxing district in which each person and each description of property assessed is liable for taxes. When the real and personal property of any person is assessable in several taxing districts, the amount in each shall be assessed separately. [1994 c 301 § 38; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.090. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 62; 1897 c 71 § 51; 1893 c 124 § 52; 1891 c 140 § 52; 1890 p 551 § 57; RRS § 11145.]

**84.40.110 Examination under oath—Default listing.** When the assessor shall be of opinion that the person listing property for himself or for any other person, company or corporation, has not made a full, fair and complete list of such property, he may examine such person under oath in regard to the amount of the property he is required to list, and if such person shall refuse to answer under oath, and a full discovery make, the assessor may list the property of such person, or his principal, according to his best judgment and information. [1961 c 15 § 84.40.110. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 24; 1897 c 71 § 17; 1893 c 124 § 17; 1891 c 140 § 17; 1890 p 535 § 15; Code 1881 § 2831; 1867 p 62 § 8; RRS § 11128.]

**84.40.120 Oaths, who may administer—Criminal penalty for willful false listing.** (1) Any oath authorized to be administered under this title may be administered by any assessor or deputy assessor, or by any other officer having authority to administer oaths.

(2) Any person willfully making a false list, schedule, or statement under oath is guilty of perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW. [2003 c 53 § 409; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.120. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 67; 1897 c 71 § 57; 1893 c 124 § 58; 1891 c 140 § 58; 1890 p 553 § 63; RRS § 11150.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**84.40.130 Penalty for failure or refusal to list—False or fraudulent listing, additional penalty—Penalty waiver.**

(1) If any person or corporation fails or refuses to deliver to the assessor, on or before the date specified in RCW 84.40.040, a list of the taxable personal property which is required to be listed under this chapter, unless it is shown that such failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, there must be added to the amount of tax assessed against the taxpayer on account of such personal property five percent of the amount of such tax, not to exceed fifty dollars per calendar day, if the failure is for not more than one month, with an additional five percent for each additional month or fraction thereof during which such failure continues not exceeding twenty-five percent in the aggregate. Such penalty must be collected in the same manner as the tax to which it is added and distributed in the same manner as other property tax interest and penalties.

(2) If any person or corporation willfully gives a false or fraudulent list, schedule or statement required by this chapter, or, with intent to defraud, fails or refuses to deliver any list, schedule or statement required by this chapter, such person or corporation is liable for the additional tax properly due or, in the case of willful failure or refusal to deliver such list, schedule or statement, the total tax properly due; and in addition such person or corporation is liable for a penalty of one hundred percent of such additional tax or total tax as the case may be. Such penalty is in lieu of the penalty provided for in subsection (1) of this section. A person or corporation giving a false list, schedule or statement is not subject to this penalty if it is shown that the misrepresentations contained therein are entirely attributable to reasonable cause. The taxes and penalties provided for in this subsection must be recovered in an action in the name of the state of Washington on the complaint of the county assessor or the county legislative authority and must, when collected, be paid into the county treasury to the credit of the current expense fund. The provisions of this subsection are additional and supplementary to any other provisions of law relating to recovery of property taxes.

(3)(a) The county legislative authority may authorize the assessor to waive penalties otherwise due under this section for assessment years 2011 and prior for a person or corporation failing or refusing to deliver to the assessor a list of taxable personal property, if all of the following circumstances are met:

(i) On or before July 1, 2012, the taxpayer files with the assessor:

(A) A correct list and statement of the taxable personal property required to be listed under this chapter; and

(B) A completed application for penalty waiver in the form and manner prescribed by the assessor; and

(ii) On or before September 1, 2012, the taxpayer remits full payment to the county of the entire balance due on all tax liabilities for which a penalty waiver under this section is requested, other than the penalty amount eligible for waiver under this section.

(b) A taxpayer receiving penalty relief under this subsection (3) may not seek a refund or otherwise challenge the amount of any tax liability paid under (a)(ii) of this subsection.

tion (3). Personal property listed under (a)(i) of this subsection (3) is subject to verification by the assessor, and any unreported or misreported property discovered by the assessor remains subject to taxes, penalties, and interest. [2012 c 59 § 1; 2004 c 79 § 5; 1988 c 222 § 17; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 38; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.130. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 51; 1897 c 71 § 41; 1893 c 124 § 41; 1891 c 140 § 41; 1890 p 546 § 45; Code 1881 § 2835; RRS § 11132.]

**Effective date—2012 c 59:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 20, 2012]." [2012 c 59 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.150 Sick or absent persons—May report to board of equalization.** If any person required to list property for taxation and provide the assessor with the list, is prevented by sickness or absence from giving to the assessor such statement, such person or his or her agent having charge of such property, may, at any time before the close of the session of the board of equalization, make out and deliver to said board a statement of the same as required by this title, and the board shall, in such case, make an entry thereof, and correct the corresponding item or items in the return made by the assessor, as the case may require; but no such statement shall be received by the said board from any person who refused or neglected to make oath to his or her statement when required by the assessor as provided herein; nor from any person unless he or she makes and files with the said board an affidavit that he or she was absent from his or her county, without design to avoid the listing of his or her property, or was prevented by sickness from giving the assessor the required statement when called on for that purpose. [1993 c 33 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.150. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 66; 1897 c 71 § 55; 1893 c 124 § 56; 1891 c 141 § 56; 1890 p 553 § 62; RRS § 11149.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.160 Manner of listing real estate—Maps.** The assessor shall list all real property according to the largest legal subdivision as near as practicable. The assessor shall make out in the plat and description book in numerical order a complete list of all lands or lots subject to taxation, showing the names and owners, if to him known and if unknown, so stated; the number of acres and lots or parts of lots included in each description of property and the value per acre or lot: PROVIDED, That the assessor shall give to each tract of land where described by metes and bounds a number, to be designated as Tax No. . . . , which said number shall be placed on the tax rolls to indicate that certain piece of real property bearing such number, and described by metes and bounds in the plat and description book herein mentioned, and it shall not be necessary to enter a description by metes and bounds on the tax roll of the county, and the assessor's plat and description book shall be kept as a part of the tax collector's records: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the board of county commissioners of any county may by order direct that the property be listed numerically according to lots and blocks or section, township and range, in the smallest platted or government subdivision, and when so listed the value of each block, lot or tract, the value of the improvements

thereon and the total value thereof, including improvements thereon, shall be extended after the description of each lot, block or tract, which last extension shall be in the column headed "Total value of each tract, lot or block of land assessed with improvements as returned by the assessor." In carrying the values of said property into the column representing the equalized value thereof, the county assessor shall include and carry over in one item the equalized valuation of all lots in one block, or land in one section, listed consecutively, which belong to any one person, firm or corporation, and are situated within the same taxing district, and in the assessed value of which the county board of equalization has made no change. Where assessed valuations are changed, the equalized valuation must be extended and shown by item.

The assessor shall prepare and possess a complete set of maps drawn to indicate parcel configuration for lands in the county. The assessor shall continually update the maps to reflect transfers, conveyances, acquisitions, or any other transaction or event that changes the boundaries of any parcel and shall renumber the parcels or prepare new map pages for any portion of the maps to show combinations or divisions of parcels. [1997 c 135 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.160. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 54; 1901 c 79 § 1; 1899 c 141 § 3; 1897 c 71 § 43; 1895 c 176 § 4; 1893 c 124 § 45; 1891 c 140 § 45; 1890 p 548 § 49; RRS § 11137.]

**84.40.170 Plat of irregular subdivided tracts—Notice to owner—Surveys—Costs.** (1) In all cases of irregular subdivided tracts or lots of land other than any regular government subdivision the assessor shall outline a plat of such tracts or lots and notify the owner or owners thereof with a request to have the same surveyed by the county engineer, and cause the same to be platted into numbered (or lettered) lots or tracts. If any county has in its possession the correct field notes of any such tract or lot of land a new survey shall not be necessary and such tracts may be mapped from such field notes. In case the owner of such tracts or lots neglects or refuses to have the same surveyed or platted, the assessor shall notify the county legislative authority in and for the county, who may order and direct the county engineer to make the proper survey and plat of the tracts and lots. A plat shall be made on which said tracts or lots of land shall be accurately described by lines, and numbered (or lettered), which numbers (or letters) together with number of the section, township and range shall be distinctly marked on such plat, and the field notes of all such tracts or lots of land shall describe each tract or lot according to the survey, and such tract or lot shall be numbered (or lettered) to correspond with its number (or letter) on the map. The plat shall be given a designated name by the surveyor thereof. When the survey, plat, field notes and name of plat, shall have been approved by the county legislative authority, the plat and field notes shall be filed and recorded in the office of the county auditor, and the description of any tract or lot of land described in said plats by number (or letter), section, township and range, shall be a sufficient and legal description for revenue and all other purposes.

(2) Upon the request of eighty percent of the owners of the property to be surveyed and the approval of the county legislative authority, the county assessor may charge for actual costs and file a lien against the subject property if the

costs are not repaid within ninety days of notice of completion, which may be collected as if such charges had been levied as a property tax. [1994 c 301 § 39; 1994 c 124 § 23; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.170. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 53; 1901 c 124 §§ 1, 2, 3; 1891 c 140 § 45; RRS § 11136.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1994 c 124 § 23 and by 1994 c 301 § 39, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**84.40.175 Listing of exempt property—Proof of exemption—Valuation of publicly owned property.** At the time of making the assessment of real property, the assessor shall enter each description of property exempt under the provisions of chapter 84.36 RCW, and value and list the same in the manner and subject to the same rule as the assessor is required to assess all other property, designating in each case to whom such property belongs. However, with respect to publicly owned property exempt from taxation under provisions of RCW 84.36.010, the assessor shall value only such property as is leased to or occupied by a private person under an agreement allowing such person to occupy or use such property for a private purpose when a request for such valuation is received from the department of revenue or the lessee of such property for use in determining the taxable rent as provided for in chapter 82.29A RCW: PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section shall not prohibit any assessor from valuing any public property leased to or occupied by a private person for private purposes. [1994 c 124 § 24; 1986 c 285 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 61 § 15; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.175. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 9; 1891 c 140 § 5; 1890 p 532 § 5; RRS § 11113. Formerly RCW 84.36.220.]

*Leasehold excise tax: Chapter 82.29A RCW.*

**84.40.178 Exempt residential property—Maintenance of assessed valuation—Notice of change.** The assessor shall maintain an assessed valuation in accordance with the approved revaluation cycle for a residence owned by a person qualifying for exemption under RCW 84.36.381 in addition to the valuation required under RCW 84.36.381(6). Upon a change in the true and fair value of the residence, the assessor shall notify the person qualifying for exemption under RCW 84.36.381 of the new true and fair value and that the new true and fair value will be used to compute property taxes if the property fails to qualify for exemption under RCW 84.36.381. [1995 1st sp.s. c 8 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.185 Individuals, corporations, limited liability companies, associations, partnerships, trusts, or estates required to list personalty.** Every individual, corporation, limited liability company, association, partnership, trust, or estate shall list all personal property in his or its ownership, possession, or control which is subject to taxation pursuant to the provisions of this title. Such listing shall be made and delivered in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [1995 c 318 § 5; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 41.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.190 Statement of personal property.** Every person required by this title to list property shall make out and deliver to the assessor, or to the department as required by RCW 84.40.065, either in person, by mail, or by electronic transmittal if available, a statement of all the personal property in his or her possession or under his or her control, and which, by the provisions of this title, he or she is required to list for taxation, either as owner or holder thereof. When any list, schedule, or statement is made, the principal required to make out and deliver the same shall be responsible for the contents and the filing thereof and shall be liable for the penalties imposed pursuant to RCW 84.40.130. No person shall be required to list for taxation in his statement to the assessor any share or portion of the capital stock, or of any of the property of any company, association or corporation, which such person may hold in whole or in part, where such company, being required so to do, has listed for assessment and taxation its capital stock and property with the department of revenue, or as otherwise required by law. [2003 c 302 § 4; 2001 c 185 § 13; 1993 c 33 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 39; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.190. Prior: 1945 c 56 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 22; 1897 c 71 § 15; 1893 c 124 § 15; 1891 c 140 § 15; 1890 p 535 § 15; Code 1881 § 2834; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11126.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.200 Listing of personalty on failure to obtain statement—Statement of valuation to person assessed or listing—Exemption.** (1) In all cases of failure to obtain a statement of personal property, from any cause, it shall be the duty of the assessor to ascertain the amount and value of such property and assess the same at such amount as he or she believes to be the true value thereof.

(2) The assessor, in all cases of the assessment of personal property, shall deliver or mail to the person assessed, or to the person listing the property, a copy of the statement of property hereinbefore required, showing the valuation of the property so listed.

(3) This section does not apply to the listing required under RCW 84.40.065. [1993 c 33 § 5; 1987 c 319 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.200. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 18; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 64; 1897 c 71 § 53; 1893 c 124 § 54; 1891 c 140 § 54; 1890 p 551 § 59; RRS § 11147.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.210 Personalty of manufacturer, listing procedure, statement—"Manufacturer" defined.** Every person who purchases, receives or holds personal property of any description for the purpose of adding to the value thereof by any process of manufacturing, refining, rectifying, or by the combination of different materials with the view of making gain or profit by so doing shall be held to be a manufacturer, and he shall, when required to, make and deliver to the assessor a statement of the amount of his other personal property subject to taxes, also include in his statement the value of all articles purchased, received or otherwise held for the purpose of being used in whole or in part in any process or processes of manufacturing, combining, rectifying or refining. Every person owning a manufacturing establishment of any kind and every manufacturer shall list as part of his manufacturer's stock the value of all engines and machinery of every description used or designed to be used in any process of refining or

manufacturing except such fixtures as have been considered as part of any parcel of real property, including all tools and implements of every kind, used or designed to be used for the first aforesaid purpose. [1961 c 168 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.210. Prior: 1939 c 66 § 1; 1927 c 282 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 26; 1921 c 60 § 1; 1897 c 71 § 19; 1893 c 124 § 19; 1891 c 140 § 19; 1890 p 538 § 20; RRS § 11130.]

**84.40.220 Merchant’s personalty held for sale—Consignment from out of state—Nursery stock assessable as growing crops.** Whoever owns, or has in his possession or subject to his control, any goods, merchandise, grain or produce of any kind, or other personal property within this state, with authority to sell the same, which has been purchased either in or out of this state, with a view to being sold at an advanced price or profit, or which has been consigned to him from any place out of this state for the purpose of being sold at any place within the state, shall be held to be a merchant, and when he is by this title required to make out and to deliver to the assessor a statement of his other personal property, he shall state the value of such property pertaining to his business as a merchant. No consignee shall be required to list for taxation the value of any property the product of this state, nor the value of any property consigned to him from any other place for the sole purpose of being stored or forwarded, if he has no interest in such property nor any profit to be derived from its sale. The growing stock of nurserymen, which is owned by the original producer thereof or which has been held or possessed by the nurserymen for one hundred eighty days or more, shall, whether personal or real property, be considered the same as growing crops on cultivated lands: PROVIDED, That the nurserymen be licensed by the department of agriculture: PROVIDED FURTHER, That an original producer, within the meaning of this section, shall include a person who, beginning with seeds, cuttings, bulbs, corms, or any form of immature plants, grows such plants in the course of their development into either a marketable partially grown product or a marketable consumer product. [1974 ex.s. c 83 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 18 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.220. Prior: 1939 c 116 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 25; 1897 c 71 § 18; 1893 c 124 § 18; 1891 c 140 § 18; 1890 p 537 § 19; Code 1881 § 2839; RRS § 11129. Formerly RCW 84.40.030, part, and 84.40.220.]

**84.40.230 Contract to purchase public land.** When any real property is sold on contract by the United States of America, the state, or any county or municipality, and the contract expresses or implies that the vendee is entitled to the possession, use, benefits and profits thereof and therefrom so long as the vendee complies with the terms of the contract, it shall be deemed that the vendor retains title merely as security for the fulfillment of the contract, and the property shall be assessed and taxed in the same manner as other similar property in private ownership is taxed, and the tax roll shall contain, opposite the description of the property so assessed the following notation: "Subject to title remaining in the vendor" or other notation of similar significance. No foreclosure for delinquent taxes nor any deed issued pursuant thereto shall extinguish or otherwise affect the title of the vendor. In any case under former law where the contract and not the property was taxed no deed of the property described in such

(2012 Ed.)

contract shall ever be executed and delivered by the state or any county or municipality until all taxes assessed against such contract and local assessments assessed against the land described thereon are fully paid. [1994 c 124 § 25; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.230. Prior: 1947 c 231 § 1; 1941 c 79 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 137 § 33; 1897 c 71 § 26; 1893 c 124 § 26; 1891 c 140 § 26; 1890 p 540 § 25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11133.]

**84.40.240 Annual list of lands sold or contracted to be sold to be furnished assessor.** The assessor of each county shall, on or before the first day of January of each year, obtain from the department of natural resources, and from the local land offices of the state, lists of public lands sold or contracted to be sold during the previous year in his county, and certify them for taxation, together with the various classes of state lands sold during the same year, and it shall be the duty of the department of natural resources to certify a list or lists of all public lands sold or contracted to be sold during the previous year, on application of the assessor of any county applying therefor. [1961 c 15 § 84.40.240. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 10; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 10; 1897 c 71 § 91; 1893 c 124 § 94; 1891 c 140 § 26; 1890 p 540 § 25; RRS § 11114.]

**84.40.315 Federal agencies and property taxable when federal law permits.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.36.010 or anything to the contrary in the laws of the state of Washington, expressed or implied, the United States and its agencies and instrumentalities and their property are hereby declared to be taxable, and shall be taxed under the existing laws of this state or any such laws hereafter enacted, whenever and in such manner as such taxation may be authorized or permitted under the laws of the United States. [1961 c 15 § 84.40.315. Prior: 1945 c 142 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11150-1. Formerly RCW 84.08.180.]

**84.40.320 Detail and assessment lists to board of equalization.** The assessor shall add up and note the amount of each column in the detail and assessment lists in such manner as prescribed or approved by the state department of revenue, as will provide a convenient and permanent record of assessment. The assessor shall also make, under proper headings, a certification of the assessment rolls and on the 15th day of July shall file the same with the clerk of the county board of equalization for the purpose of equalization by the said board. Such certificate shall be verified by an affidavit, substantially in the following form:

State of Washington, . . . . . County, ss.  
 I, . . . . ., Assessor . . . . ., do solemnly swear that the assessment rolls and this certificate contain a correct and full list of all the real and personal property subject to taxation in this county for the assessment year 19. . . ., so far as I have been able to ascertain the same; and that the assessed value set down in the proper column, opposite the several kinds and descriptions of property, is in each case, except as otherwise provided by law, one hundred percent of the true and fair value of such property, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that the assessment rolls and this certificate are correct, as I verily believe.

. . . . ., Assessor.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this . . . . day of . . . . ., 19. . .  
(L. S.) . . . . ., Auditor of . . . . . county.

PROVIDED, That the failure of the assessor to complete the certificate shall in nowise invalidate the assessment. After the same has been duly equalized by the county board of equalization, the same shall be delivered to the county assessor. [1988 c 222 § 18; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 195; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 98; 1961 c 15 § 84.40.320. Prior: 1937 c 121 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 65; 1897 c 71 § 54; 1893 c 124 § 55; 1891 c 140 § 55; 1890 p 552 § 60; RRS § 11148.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.335 Lists, schedules or statements to contain declaration that falsification subject to perjury.** Except for personal property under RCW 84.40.190, any list, schedule or statement required by this chapter shall contain a written declaration that any person signing the same and knowing the same to be false shall be subject to the penalties of perjury. [2003 c 302 § 5; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 42.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.340 Verification by assessor of any list, statement, or schedule—Confidentiality, penalty.** (1) For the purpose of verifying any list, statement, or schedule required to be furnished to the assessor by any taxpayer, any assessor or his or her trained and qualified deputy at any reasonable time may visit, investigate and examine any personal property, and for this purpose the records, accounts and inventories also shall be subject to any such visitation, investigation and examination which shall aid in determining the amount and valuation of such property. Such powers and duties may be performed at any office of the taxpayer in this state, and the taxpayer shall furnish or make available all such information pertaining to property in this state to the assessor although the records may be maintained at any office outside this state.

(2) Any information or facts obtained pursuant to this section shall be used by the assessor only for the purpose of determining the assessed valuation of the taxpayer's property: PROVIDED, That such information or facts shall also be made available to the department of revenue upon request for the purpose of determining any sales or use tax liability with respect to personal property, and except in a civil or criminal judicial proceeding or an administrative proceeding in respect to penalties imposed pursuant to RCW 84.40.130, to such sales or use taxes, or to the assessment or valuation for tax purposes of the property to which such information and facts relate, shall not be disclosed by the assessor or the department of revenue without the permission of the taxpayer to any person other than public officers or employees whose duties relate to valuation of property for tax purposes or to the imposition and collection of sales and use taxes, and any violation of this secrecy provision is a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 410; 1997 c 239 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 74 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 149 § 40; 1961 ex.s. c 24 § 6.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.343 Mobile homes—Identification of.** In the assessment of any mobile home, the assessment record shall contain a description of the mobile home including the make, model, and serial number. The property tax roll shall identify any mobile home. [1985 c 395 § 8.]

**84.40.344 Mobile homes—Avoidance of payment of tax—Penalty.** Every person who wilfully avoids the payment of personal property taxes on mobile homes subject to such tax under the laws of this state shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1971 ex.s. c 299 § 75.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.350 Assessment and taxation of property losing exempt status.** Real property, previously exempt from taxation, shall be assessed and taxed as provided in RCW 84.40.350 through 84.40.390 when transferred to private ownership by any exempt organization including the United States of America, the state or any political subdivision thereof by sale or exchange or by a contract under conditions provided for in RCW 84.40.230 or when the property otherwise loses its exempt status. [1984 c 220 § 13; 1971 ex.s. c 44 § 2.]

**84.40.360 Loss of exempt status—Property subject to pro rata portion of taxes for remainder of year.** Property which no longer retains its exempt status shall be subject to a pro rata portion of the taxes allocable to the remaining portion of the year after the date that the property lost its exempt status. If a portion of the property has lost its exempt status, only that portion shall be subject to tax under this section. [1984 c 220 § 14; 1971 ex.s. c 44 § 3.]

**84.40.370 Loss of exempt status—Valuation date—Extension on rolls.** The assessor shall list the property and assess it with reference to its value on the date the property lost its exempt status unless such property has been previously listed and assessed. He shall extend the taxes on the tax roll using the rate of percent applicable as if the property had been assessed in the previous year. [1984 c 220 § 15; 1971 ex.s. c 44 § 4.]

**84.40.380 Loss of exempt status—When taxes due and payable—Dates of delinquency—Interest.** All taxes made payable pursuant to the provisions of RCW 84.40.350 through 84.40.390 shall be due and payable to the county treasurer on or before the thirtieth day of April in the event the date of execution of the instrument of transfer occurs prior to that date unless the time of payment is extended under the provisions of RCW 84.56.020. Such taxes shall be due and payable on or before the thirty-first day of October in the event the date the property lost its exempt status is subsequent to the thirtieth day of April but prior to the thirty-first day of October. In all other cases such taxes shall be due and payable within thirty days after the date the property lost its exempt status. In no case, however, shall the taxes be due and payable less than thirty days from the date the property lost its exempt status. All taxes due and payable after the dates herein shall become delinquent, and interest at the rate specified in RCW 84.56.020 for delinquent property taxes shall be

charged upon such unpaid taxes from the date of delinquency until paid. [1984 c 220 § 16; 1971 ex.s. c 44 § 5.]

**84.40.390 Loss of exempt status—Taxes constitute lien on property.** Taxes made due and payable under RCW 84.40.350 through 84.40.390 shall be a lien on the property from the date the property lost its exempt status. [1984 c 220 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 44 § 6.]

**84.40.405 Rules for agricultural products and business inventories.** The department of revenue shall promulgate such rules and regulations, and prescribe such procedures as it deems necessary to carry out RCW 84.36.470 and 84.36.477. [2001 c 187 § 20; 2000 c 103 § 28; 1985 c 7 § 156; 1983 1st ex.s. c 62 § 10; 1974 ex.s. c 169 § 9.]

**Short title—Intent—Effective dates—Applicability—1983 1st ex.s. c 62:** See notes following RCW 84.36.477.

**Severability—Effective date—Intent—1974 ex.s. c 169:** See notes following RCW 82.04.444.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.40.410 Valuation and assessment of certain leasehold interests.** A leasehold interest consisting of three thousand or more residential and recreational lots that are or may be subleased for residential and recreational purposes, together with any improvements thereon, shall be assessed and taxed in the same manner as privately owned real property. The sublessee of each lot, or the lessee if not subleased, is liable for the property tax on the lot and improvements thereon. If property tax for a lot or improvements thereon remains unpaid for more than three years from the date of delinquency, including any property taxes that are delinquent as of July 22, 2001, the county treasurer may proceed to collect the tax in the same manner as for other property, except that the lessor's interest in the property shall not be extinguished as a result of any action for the collection of tax. Collection of property taxes assessed on any such lot shall be enforceable by foreclosure proceedings in accordance with real property foreclosure proceedings authorized in chapter 84.64 RCW. [2003 c 169 § 1; 2001 c 26 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

84.41.170 Annual property revaluation grant account.

84.41.180 Annual property revaluation grant program administration.

**84.41.010 Declaration of policy.** Recent comprehensive studies by the legislative council have disclosed gross inequality and nonuniformity in valuation of real property for tax purposes throughout the state. Serious nonuniformity in valuations exists both between similar property within the various taxing districts and between general levels of valuation of the various counties. Such nonuniformity results in inequality in taxation contrary to standards of fairness and uniformity required and established by the Constitution and is of such flagrant and widespread occurrence as to constitute a grave emergency adversely affecting state and local government and the welfare of all the people.

Traditional public policy of the state has vested large measure of control in matters of property valuation in county government, and the state hereby declares its purpose to continue such policy. However, present statutes and practices thereunder have failed to achieve the measure of uniformity required by the Constitution; the resultant widespread inequality and nonuniformity in valuation of property can and should no longer be tolerated. It thus becomes necessary to require general revaluation of property throughout the state. [1961 c 15 § 84.41.010. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 1.]

**84.41.020 Scope of chapter.** This chapter does not, and is not intended to affect procedures whereby taxes are imposed either for local or state purposes. This chapter concerns solely the administrative procedures by which the true and fair value in money of property is determined. The process of valuation, which is distinct and separate from the process of levying and imposing a tax, does not result either in the imposition of a tax or the determination of the amount of a tax. This chapter is intended to, and applies only to procedures and methods whereby the value of property is ascertained. [1961 c 15 § 84.41.020. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 2.]

**84.41.030 Revaluation program to be on continuous basis—Revaluation schedule—Effect of other proceedings on valuation.** (1) Each county assessor shall maintain an active and systematic program of revaluation on a continuous basis, and shall establish a revaluation schedule which will result in revaluation of all taxable real property within the county at least once each four years and physical inspection of all taxable real property within the county at least once each six years. Each county assessor may disregard any program of revaluation, if requested by a property owner, and change, as appropriate, the valuation of real property upon the receipt of a notice of decision received under RCW 36.70B.130 or chapter 35.22, 35.63, 35A.63, or 36.70 RCW pertaining to the value of the real property.

(2) Not later than January 1, 2014, all taxable real property within a county must be revalued annually and all taxable real property within a county must be physically inspected at least once each six years. This mandate is conditional upon the department of revenue providing the necessary guidance and financial assistance to those counties that are not on an annual revaluation cycle so that they may convert to an annual revaluation cycle including, but not limited to, appropriate data collection methods and coding, neighbor-

## Chapter 84.41 RCW

### REVALUATION OF PROPERTY

#### Sections

84.41.010	Declaration of policy.
84.41.020	Scope of chapter.
84.41.030	Revaluation program to be on continuous basis—Revaluation schedule—Effect of other proceedings on valuation.
84.41.041	Physical inspection and valuation of taxable property required—Adjustments during intervals based on statistical data.
84.41.050	Budget, levy, to provide funds.
84.41.060	Assistance by department of revenue at request of assessor.
84.41.070	Finding of unsatisfactory progress—Notice—Duty of county legislative authority.
84.41.080	Contracts for special assistance.
84.41.090	Department to establish statistical methods—Publication of rules, regulations, and guides—Compliance required.
84.41.100	Assessor may appoint deputies and engage expert appraisers.
84.41.110	Appraisers to act in advisory capacity.
84.41.120	Assessor to keep records—Orders of department of revenue, compliance enjoined, remedies.
84.41.130	Assessor's annual reports.

hood and market delineation, statistical analysis, valuation guidelines, and training. The department will provide advisory appraisals of industrial properties valued at twenty-five million dollars or more in real and personal property value when requested by the county assessor.

(3) In recognition of the need for immediate action, the department of revenue is directed to conduct a pilot project on at least one county that is prepared to move from cyclical to annual revaluation by December 31, 2009. The pilot project will develop the expertise necessary to provide counties with neighborhood and market delineation, statistical analysis, valuation guidelines, and training. The department of revenue must use the expertise gained in this pilot project to facilitate the conversion of cyclical counties to annual revaluation and ongoing refinement of assessment processes statewide. The department may contract with a local government association representing county assessors and other county elected officials in carrying out the requirements of this subsection. [2009 c 308 § 1; 1996 c 254 § 7; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 84.41.030. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.41.041 Physical inspection and valuation of taxable property required—Adjustments during intervals based on statistical data.** Each county assessor shall cause taxable real property to be physically inspected and valued at least once every six years in accordance with RCW 84.41.030, and in accordance with a plan filed with and approved by the department of revenue. Such revaluation plan shall provide that a reasonable portion of all taxable real property within a county shall be revalued and these newly determined values placed on the assessment rolls each year. Until January 1, 2014, the department may approve a plan that provides that all property in the county be revalued every two years. If the revaluation plan provides for physical inspection at least once each four years, during the intervals between each physical inspection of real property, the valuation of such property may be adjusted to its current true and fair value, such adjustments to be based upon appropriate statistical data. If the revaluation plan provides for physical inspection less frequently than once each four years, during the intervals between each physical inspection of real property, the valuation of such property shall be adjusted to its current true and fair value, such adjustments to be made once each year and to be based upon appropriate statistical data.

The assessor may require property owners to submit pertinent data respecting taxable property in their control including data respecting any sale or purchase of said property within the past five years, the cost and characteristics of any improvement on the property and other facts necessary for appraisal of the property. [2009 c 308 § 2; 2001 c 187 § 21; 1997 c 3 § 108 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1987 c 319 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 214 § 9; 1974 ex.s. c 131 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.41.050 Budget, levy, to provide funds.** Each county assessor in budgets hereafter submitted, shall make adequate provision to effect countywide revaluations as herein directed. The several boards of county commissioners

in passing upon budgets submitted by the several assessors, shall authorize and levy amounts which in the judgment of the board will suffice to carry out the directions of this chapter. [1961 c 15 § 84.41.050. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 5.]

**84.41.060 Assistance by department of revenue at request of assessor.** Any county assessor may request special assistance from the department of revenue in the valuation of property which either (1) requires specialized knowledge not otherwise available to the assessor's staff, or (2) because of an inadequate staff, cannot be completed by the assessor within the time required by this chapter. After consideration of such request the department of revenue shall advise the assessor that such request is either approved or rejected in whole or in part. Upon approval of such request, the department of revenue may assist the assessor in the valuation of such property in such manner as the department of revenue, in its discretion, considers proper and adequate. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 197; 1961 c 15 § 84.41.060. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.41.070 Finding of unsatisfactory progress—Notice—Duty of county legislative authority.** If the department of revenue finds upon its own investigation, or upon a showing by others, that the revaluation program for any county is not proceeding for any reason as herein directed, the department of revenue shall advise both the county legislative authority and the county assessor of such finding. Within thirty days after receiving such advice, the county legislative authority, at regular or special session, either (1) shall authorize such expenditures as will enable the assessor to complete the revaluation program as herein directed, or (2) shall direct the assessor to request special assistance from the department of revenue for aid in effectuating the county's revaluation program. [1994 c 301 § 40; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 198; 1961 c 15 § 84.41.070. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.41.080 Contracts for special assistance.** Upon receiving a request from the county assessor, either upon his initiation or at the direction of the board of county commissioners, for special assistance in the county's revaluation program, the department of revenue may, before undertaking to render such special assistance, negotiate a contract with the board of county commissioners of the county concerned. Such contracts as are negotiated shall provide that the county will reimburse the state for fifty percent of the costs of such special assistance within three years of the date of expenditure of such costs. All such reimbursements shall be paid to the department of revenue for deposit to the state general fund. The department of revenue shall keep complete records of such contracts, including costs incurred, payments received, and services performed thereunder. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 199; 1961 c 15 § 84.41.080. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.41.090 Department to establish statistical methods—Publication of rules, regulations, and guides—Compliance required.** The department of revenue shall by rule establish appropriate statistical methods for use by assessors

in adjusting the valuation of property between physical inspections. The department of revenue shall make and publish such additional rules, regulations and guides which it determines are needed to supplement materials presently published by the department of revenue for the general guidance and assistance of county assessors. Each assessor is hereby directed and required to value property in accordance with the standards established by RCW 84.40.030 and in accordance with the applicable rules, regulations and valuation manuals published by the department of revenue. [1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 200; 1961 c 15 § 84.41.090. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.41.100 Assessor may appoint deputies and engage expert appraisers.** See RCW 36.21.011.

**84.41.110 Appraisers to act in advisory capacity.** Appraisers whose services may be obtained by contract or who may be assigned by the department of revenue to assist any county assessor shall act in an advisory capacity only, and valuations made by them shall not in any manner be binding upon the assessor, it being the intent herein that all valuations made pursuant to this chapter shall be made and entered by the assessor pursuant to law as directed herein. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 201; 1961 c 15 § 84.41.110. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.41.120 Assessor to keep records—Orders of department of revenue, compliance enjoined, remedies.** Each county assessor shall keep such books and records as are required by the rules and regulations of the department of revenue and shall comply with any lawful order, rule or regulation of the department of revenue.

Whenever it appears to the department of revenue that any assessor has failed to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter relating to his duties or the rules of the department of revenue made in pursuance thereof, the department of revenue, after a hearing on the facts, may issue an order directing such assessor to comply with such provisions of this chapter or rules of the department of revenue. Such order shall be mailed by registered mail to the assessor at the county court house. If, upon the expiration of fifteen days from the date such order is mailed, the assessor has not complied therewith or has not taken measures that will insure compliance within a reasonable time, the department of revenue may apply to a judge of the superior court or court commissioner of the county in which such assessor holds office, for an order returnable within five days from the date thereof to compel him to comply with such provisions of law or of the order of the department of revenue or to show cause why he should not be compelled so to do. Any order issued by the judge pursuant to such order to show cause shall be final. The remedy herein provided shall be cumulative and shall not exclude the department of revenue from exercising any powers or rights otherwise granted. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 202; 1961 c 15 § 84.41.120. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

(2012 Ed.)

**84.41.130 Assessor's annual reports.** Each county assessor, before October 15th each year, shall prepare and submit to the department of revenue a detailed report of the progress made in the revaluation program in his or her county to the date of the report and be made a matter of public record. Such report shall be submitted upon forms supplied by the department of revenue and shall consist of such information as the department of revenue requires. [1998 c 245 § 171; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 203; 1961 c 15 § 84.41.130. Prior: 1955 c 251 § 13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.41.170 Annual property revaluation grant account. (Expires July 1, 2014.)** (1) The annual property revaluation grant account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. Moneys from RCW 82.45.180(4) must be deposited into the account. An appropriation is not required for expenditures and the account is not subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW. Moneys in the account may be used only for grants as provided in RCW 84.41.180.

(2) Any funds remaining in the annual property revaluation grant account on July 1, 2014, must be deposited in the real estate and property tax administration assistance account created in RCW 82.45.180(5).

(3) This section expires July 1, 2014. [2009 c 308 § 3.]

**84.41.180 Annual property revaluation grant program administration. (Expires July 1, 2014.)** (1) The department of revenue shall administer a grant program to assist counties with, in priority order: (a) Converting to an annual revaluation system for property tax valuation; (b) replacing computer software used for revaluations in counties where the software was purchased from commercial vendors and will not be supported by the vendor or others after January 1, 2010; or (c) the acquisition of software and integral hardware in counties currently administering an annual revaluation program where the assessor's property records are not stored in an electronic format or where the current software does not have the capacity to store, manage, and process property record components used in the valuation process. A county may use grant money to purchase computer hardware or software, repair or upgrade existing computer hardware or software, or provide necessary training related to computer hardware or software. No county is eligible for grants under this section totaling more than five hundred thousand dollars.

(2) This section expires July 1, 2014. [2009 c 308 § 4.]

## Chapter 84.44 RCW

### TAXABLE SITUS

#### Sections

84.44.010	Situs of personalty generally.
84.44.020	Gas, electric, water companies—Mains and pipes, as personalty.
84.44.030	Lumber and sawlogs.
84.44.050	Personalty of automobile transportation companies—Vessels, boats and small craft.
84.44.080	Owner moving into state or to another county after January 1st.
84.44.090	Disputes over situs to be determined by department of revenue.

**84.44.010 Situs of personalty generally.** Personal property, except such as is required in this title to be listed and assessed otherwise, shall be listed and assessed in the county where it is situated. [1994 c 301 § 41; 1961 c 15 § 84.44.010. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 16; RRS § 11120; prior: 1897 c 71 § 9; 1893 c 124 § 9; 1891 c 140 § 9; 1890 p 533 § 8; 1871 p 39 § 9; 1869 p 179 § 9.]

**84.44.020 Gas, electric, water companies—Mains and pipes, as personalty.** The personal property of gas, electric and water companies shall be listed and assessed in the town or city where the same is located. Gas and water mains and pipes laid in roads, streets or alleys, shall be held to be personal property. [1961 c 15 § 84.44.020. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 18; RRS § 11122; prior: 1897 c 71 § 11; 1893 c 124 § 11; 1891 c 140 § 11; 1890 p 534 § 10.]

**84.44.030 Lumber and sawlogs.** Lumber and sawlogs shall be assessed and taxed in the county and taxing district where the same may be situated at noon on the first day of January of the assessment year: PROVIDED, That if any lumber or sawlogs shall, at said time, be in intrastate transit from one point to another within the state, the same shall be assessed and taxed in the county and taxing districts of their destination. [1961 c 15 § 84.44.030. Prior: 1941 c 155 § 1; 1939 c 206 § 12; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11117; prior: 1907 c 108 § 3.]

**84.44.050 Personalty of automobile transportation companies—Vessels, boats and small craft.** The personal property of automobile transportation companies owning, controlling, operating or managing any motor propelled vehicle used in the business of transporting persons and/or property for compensation over any public highway in this state between fixed termini or over a regular route, shall be listed and assessed in the various counties where such vehicles are operated, in proportion to the mileage of their operations in such counties: PROVIDED, That vehicles subject to chapter 82.44 RCW and trailer units exempt under \*RCW 82.44.020(4) shall not be listed or assessed for ad valorem taxation so long as chapter 82.44 RCW remains in effect. All vessels of every class which are by law required to be registered, licensed or enrolled, must be assessed and the taxes thereon paid only in the county of their actual situs: PROVIDED, That such interest shall be taxed but once. All boats and small craft not required to be registered must be assessed in the county of their actual situs. [1998 c 321 § 42 (Referendum Bill No. 49, approved November 3, 1998); 1993 c 123 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.44.050. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 17; RRS § 11121; prior: 1897 c 71 § 10; 1893 c 124 § 10; 1891 c 140 § 10; 1890 p 533 § 9.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 82.44.020 was repealed by 2000 1st sp.s. c 1 § 2.

**Purpose—Severability—1998 c 321:** See notes following RCW 82.14.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.44.080 Owner moving into state or to another county after January 1st.** The owner of personal property removing from one county to another between the first day of January and the first day of July shall be assessed in either in

which he is first called upon by the assessor. The owner of personal property moving into this state from another state between the first day of January and the first day of July shall list the property owned by him on the first day of January of such year in the county in which he resides: PROVIDED, That if such person has been assessed and can make it appear to the assessor that he is held for the tax of the current year on the property in another state or county, he shall not be again assessed for such year. [1961 c 15 § 84.44.080. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 13; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 14; RRS § 11118; prior: 1891 c 140 § 7; 1890 p 534 § 13.]

**84.44.090 Disputes over situs to be determined by department of revenue.** In all questions that may arise under this title as to the proper place to list personal property, or where the same cannot be listed as stated in this title, if between several places in the same county, or between different counties, or places in different counties, the place for listing and assessing shall be determined and fixed by the department of revenue; and when fixed in either case shall be as binding as if fixed by this title. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 205; 1961 c 15 § 84.44.090. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 21; RRS § 11125; prior: 1897 c 71 § 14; 1893 c 124 § 14; 1891 c 140 § 14; 1890 p 535 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 84.48 RCW

### EQUALIZATION OF ASSESSMENTS

#### Sections

84.48.010	County board of equalization—Formation—Per diem—Meetings—Duties—Records—Correction of rolls—Extending taxes—Change in valuation, release or commutation of taxes by county legislative authority prohibited.
84.48.014	County board of equalization—Composition of board—Appointment—Qualifications.
84.48.018	County board of equalization—Chairman—Quorum.
84.48.022	County board of equalization—Meetings.
84.48.026	County board of equalization—Terms—Removal.
84.48.028	County board of equalization—Clerk—Assistants.
84.48.032	County board of equalization—Appraisers.
84.48.034	County board of equalization—Duration of order.
84.48.036	County board of equalization—Annual budget.
84.48.038	County board of equalization—Legal advisor.
84.48.042	County board of equalization—Training school.
84.48.046	County board of equalization—Operating manual.
84.48.050	Abstract of rolls—State action if assessor does not transmit, when.
84.48.065	Cancellation and correction of erroneous assessments and assessments on property on which land use designation is changed.
84.48.075	County indicated ratio—Determination by department—Submission of preliminary ratio to assessor—Rules—Use classes—Review of preliminary ratio—Certification—Examination of assessment procedures—Adjustment of ratio.
84.48.080	Equalization of assessments—Taxes for state purposes—Procedure—Levy and apportionment—Hypothetical levy for establishing consolidated levy—Rules—Record.
84.48.110	Transcript of proceedings to county assessors—Delinquent tax for certain preceding years included.
84.48.120	Extension of state taxes.
84.48.130	Certification of assessed valuation to taxing districts.
84.48.140	Property tax advisor.
84.48.150	Valuation criteria including comparative sales to be made available to taxpayer—Change.
84.48.200	Rules.

*Appeals from county board of equalization: RCW 84.08.130*

*Reconvening county board of equalization: RCW 84.08.060.*

**84.48.010 County board of equalization—Formation—Per diem—Meetings—Duties—Records—Correction of rolls—Extending taxes—Change in valuation, release or commutation of taxes by county legislative authority prohibited.** Prior to July 15th, the county legislative authority shall form a board for the equalization of the assessment of the property of the county. The members of said board shall receive a per diem amount as set by the county legislative authority for each day of actual attendance of the meeting of the board of equalization to be paid out of the current expense fund of the county: PROVIDED, That when the county legislative authority constitute the board they shall only receive their compensation as members of the county legislative authority. The board of equalization shall meet in open session for this purpose annually on the 15th day of July and, having each taken an oath fairly and impartially to perform their duties as members of such board, they shall examine and compare the returns of the assessment of the property of the county and proceed to equalize the same, so that each tract or lot of real property and each article or class of personal property shall be entered on the assessment list at its true and fair value, according to the measure of value used by the county assessor in such assessment year, which is presumed to be correct under RCW 84.40.0301, and subject to the following rules:

First. They shall raise the valuation of each tract or lot or item of real property which is returned below its true and fair value to such price or sum as to be the true and fair value thereof, after at least five days' notice shall have been given in writing to the owner or agent.

Second. They shall reduce the valuation of each tract or lot or item which is returned above its true and fair value to such price or sum as to be the true and fair value thereof.

Third. They shall raise the valuation of each class of personal property which is returned below its true and fair value to such price or sum as to be the true and fair value thereof, and they shall raise the aggregate value of the personal property of each individual whenever the aggregate value is less than the true valuation of the taxable personal property possessed by such individual, to such sum or amount as to be the true value thereof, after at least five days' notice shall have been given in writing to the owner or agent thereof.

Fourth. They shall reduce the valuation of each class of personal property enumerated on the detail and assessment list of the current year, which is returned above its true and fair value, to such price or sum as to be the true and fair value thereof; and they shall reduce the aggregate valuation of the personal property of such individual who has been assessed at too large a sum to such sum or amount as was the true and fair value of the personal property.

Fifth. The board may review all claims for either real or personal property tax exemption as determined by the county assessor, and shall consider any taxpayer appeals from the decision of the assessor thereon to determine (1) if the taxpayer is entitled to an exemption, and (2) if so, the amount thereof.

The clerk of the board shall keep an accurate journal or record of the proceedings and orders of said board showing the facts and evidence upon which their action is based, and the said record shall be published the same as other proceedings of county legislative authority, and shall make a true

(2012 Ed.)

record of the changes of the descriptions and assessed values ordered by the county board of equalization. The assessor shall correct the real and personal assessment rolls in accordance with the changes made by the said county board of equalization, and the assessor shall make duplicate abstracts of such corrected values, one copy of which shall be retained in the office, and one copy forwarded to the department of revenue on or before the eighteenth day of August next following the meeting of the county board of equalization.

The county board of equalization shall meet on the 15th day of July and may continue in session and adjourn from time to time during a period not to exceed four weeks, but shall remain in session not less than three days: PROVIDED, That the county board of equalization with the approval of the county legislative authority may convene at any time when petitions filed exceed twenty-five, or ten percent of the number of appeals filed in the preceding year, whichever is greater.

No taxes, except special taxes, shall be extended upon the tax rolls until the property valuations are equalized by the department of revenue for the purpose of raising the state revenue.

County legislative authorities as such shall at no time have any authority to change the valuation of the property of any person or to release or commute in whole or in part the taxes due on the property of any person. [2001 c 187 § 22; 1997 c 3 § 109 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1988 c 222 § 20; 1979 c 13 § 1. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 290 § 2; 1977 c 33 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.48.010; prior: 1939 c 206 § 35; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 68; RRS § 11220; prior: 1915 c 122 § 1; 1907 c 129 § 1; 1897 c 71 § 58; 1893 c 124 § 59; 1890 p 555 § 73; Code 1881 §§ 2873-2879. Formerly RCW 84.48.010, 84.48.020, 84.48.030, 84.48.040, and 84.48.060.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.014 County board of equalization—Composition of board—Appointment—Qualifications.** The board of equalization of each county shall consist of not less than three nor more than seven members including alternates. Such members shall be appointed by a majority of the members of the county legislative authority, and shall be selected based upon the qualifications established by rule by the department of revenue and shall not be a holder of any elective office nor be an employee of any elected official: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, The county legislative authority may itself constitute the board at its discretion. Any member who does not attend the school required by RCW 84.48.042 within one year of appointment or reappointment shall be barred from serving as a member of the board of equalization unless this requirement is waived for the member by the department for just cause. [1988 c 222 § 21; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.018 County board of equalization—Chairman—Quorum.** The members of each board of equalization shall meet and choose a chairman. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum. [1970 ex.s. c 55 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.022 County board of equalization—Meetings.**

All meetings of the board of equalization shall be held at the county courthouse, or other suitable place within the county, and the county legislative authority shall make provision for a suitable meeting place. [1994 c 124 § 26; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.026 County board of equalization—Terms—**

**Removal.** The terms of each appointed member of the board shall be for three years or until their successors are appointed. Each appointed member may be removed by a majority vote of the county legislative authority. [1994 c 124 § 27; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.028 County board of equalization—Clerk—**

**Assistants.** The board may appoint a clerk of the board and any assistants the board might need, all to serve at the pleasure of the members of the board, and the clerk or assistant shall attend all sessions thereof, and shall keep the record. Neither the assessor nor any of the assessor's staff may serve as clerk. [1994 c 124 § 28; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.032 County board of equalization—Appraisers.**

The board may hire one or more appraisers accredited by the department of revenue or certified by the Washington state department of licensing, society of real estate appraisers, American institute of real estate appraisers, or international association of assessing officers, and not otherwise employed by the county, and other necessary personnel for the purpose of aiding the board and carrying out its functions and duties. In addition, the boards of the various counties may make reciprocal arrangements for the exchange of the appraisers with other counties. Such appraisers need not be residents of the county. [1994 c 124 § 29; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.034 County board of equalization—Duration**

**of order.** The board of equalization may enter an order that has effect up to the end of the assessment cycle used by the assessor, if there has been no intervening change in the value during that time. [1994 c 301 § 47.]

**84.48.036 County board of equalization—Annual**

**budget.** The county legislative authority may provide an adequate annual budget and funds for operation and needs of the board of equalization, including, but not limited to the costs and expenses of the board, such as the meeting place, the necessary equipment and facilities, materials, the salaries of the clerk of the board and the clerk's assistants, the expenses of the members of the board during the sessions, travel, in-service training, and payment of salaries of all such employees hired by the board, to facilitate its work. [1994 c 124 § 30; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.038 County board of equalization—Legal**

**advisor.** The prosecuting attorney of each county shall serve as

legal advisor to the board of equalization. [1970 ex.s. c 55 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.042 County board of equalization—Training**

**school.** The department of revenue shall establish a school for the training of members of the several boards of equalization throughout the state. Sessions of such schools shall, so far as practicable, be held in each district of the Washington state association of counties. Every member of the board of equalization of each county shall attend such school within one year following appointment or reappointment. [1988 c 222 § 22; 1970 ex.s. c 55 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.046 County board of equalization—Operating**

**manual.** The department of revenue shall provide a manual for the operation procedures of the several boards of equalization so that uniformity of assessment may be obtained throughout the state, and the several boards of equalization shall follow such manual in all of its operations and procedures. [1970 ex.s. c 55 § 12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.050 Abstract of rolls—State action if assessor does not transmit, when.**

(1) The county assessor must, on or before the fifteenth day of January in each year, prepare a complete abstract of the tax rolls of the county, showing the number of acres that have been assessed and the total value of the real property, including the structures on the real property; the total value of all taxable personal property in the county; the aggregate amount of all taxable property in the county; the total amount as equalized and the total amount of taxes levied in the county for state, county, city, and other taxing district purposes, for that year.

(2) If an assessor of any county fails to transmit to the department of revenue the abstract provided for in RCW 84.48.010, and if a county fails to collect and pay to the state its due proportion of the state tax for any year because of that failure, the department of revenue must ascertain what amount of state tax the county failed to collect. The department must certify to the county auditor the amount of state tax the county failed to collect. This sum is due and payable immediately by warrant in favor of the state on the current expense fund of the county. [2010 c 106 § 311; 1995 c 134 § 15. Prior: 1994 c 301 § 42; 1994 c 124 § 31; 1961 c 15 § 84.48.050; prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 69; RRS § 11221; prior: 1890 p 557 § 74. Formerly RCW 84.48.050 and 84.48.070.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**84.48.065 Cancellation and correction of erroneous assessments and assessments on property on which land use designation is changed.**

(1) The county assessor or treasurer may cancel or correct assessments on the assessment or tax rolls which are erroneous due to manifest errors in description, double assessments, clerical errors in extending the rolls, and such manifest errors in the listing of the property which do not involve a revaluation of property, except in the case that a taxpayer produces proof that an authorized land use authority has made a definitive change in the property's land use designation. In such a case, correction of the

assessment or tax rolls may be made notwithstanding the fact that the action involves a revaluation of property. Manifest errors that do not involve a revaluation of property include the assessment of property exempted by law from taxation or the failure to deduct the exemption allowed by law to the head of a family. When the county assessor cancels or corrects an assessment, the assessor shall send a notice to the taxpayer in accordance with RCW 84.40.045, advising the taxpayer that the action has been taken and notifying the taxpayer of the right to appeal the cancellation or correction to the county board of equalization, in accordance with RCW 84.40.038. When the county assessor or treasurer cancels or corrects an assessment, a record of such action shall be prepared, setting forth therein the facts relating to the error. The record shall also set forth by legal description all property belonging exclusively to the state, any county, or any municipal corporation whose property is exempt from taxation, upon which there remains, according to the tax roll, any unpaid taxes. No manifest error cancellation or correction, including a cancellation or correction made due to a definitive change of land use designation, shall be made for any period more than three years preceding the year in which the error is discovered.

(2)(a) In the case of a definitive change of land use designation, an assessor shall make corrections that involve a revaluation of property to the assessment roll when:

(i) The assessor and taxpayer have signed an agreement as to the true and fair value of the taxpayer's property setting forth in the agreement the valuation information upon which the agreement is based; and

(ii) The assessment roll has previously been certified in accordance with RCW 84.40.320.

(b) In all other cases, an assessor shall make corrections that involve a revaluation of property to the assessment roll when:

(i) The assessor and taxpayer have signed an agreement as to the true and fair value of the taxpayer's property setting forth in the agreement the valuation information upon which the agreement is based; and

(ii) The following conditions are met:

(A) The assessment roll has previously been certified in accordance with RCW 84.40.320;

(B) The taxpayer has timely filed a petition with the county board of equalization pursuant to RCW 84.40.038 for the current assessment year;

(C) The county board of equalization has not yet held a hearing on the merits of the taxpayer's petition.

(3) The assessor shall issue a supplementary roll or rolls including such cancellations and corrections, and the assessment and levy shall have the same force and effect as if made in the first instance, and the county treasurer shall proceed to collect the taxes due on the rolls as modified. [2001 c 187 § 23; 1997 c 3 § 110 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1996 c 296 § 1; 1992 c 206 § 12; 1989 c 378 § 14; 1988 c 222 § 25.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.075 County indicated ratio—Determination by department—Submission of preliminary ratio to assessor—Rules—Use classes—Review of preliminary ratio—Certification—Examination of assessment procedures—**

(2012 Ed.)

**Adjustment of ratio.** (1) The department of revenue shall annually, prior to the first Monday in September, determine and submit to each assessor a preliminary indicated ratio for each county: PROVIDED, That the department shall establish rules and regulations pertinent to the determination of the indicated ratio, the indicated real property ratio and the indicated personal property ratio: PROVIDED FURTHER, That these rules and regulations may provide that data, as is necessary for said determination, which is available from the county assessor of any county and which has been audited as to its validity by the department, shall be utilized by the department in determining the indicated ratio.

(2) To such extent as is reasonable, the department may define use classes of property for the purposes of determination of the indicated ratio. Such use classes may be defined with respect to property use and may include agricultural, open space, timber and forest lands.

(3) The department shall review each county's preliminary ratio with the assessor, a landowner, or an owner of an intercounty public utility or private car company of that county, if requested by the assessor, a landowner, or an owner of an intercounty public utility or private car company of that county, respectively, between the first and third Mondays of September. Prior to equalization of assessments pursuant to RCW 84.48.080 and after the third Monday of September, the department shall certify to each county assessor the real and personal property ratio for that county.

(4) The department of revenue shall also examine procedures used by the assessor to assess real and personal property in the county, including calculations, use of prescribed value schedules, and efforts to locate all taxable property in the county. If any examination by the department discloses other than market value is being listed on the county assessment rolls of the county by the assessor and, after due notification by the department, is not corrected, the department of revenue shall, in accordance with rules adopted by the department, adjust the ratio of that type of property, which adjustment shall be used for determining the county's indicated ratio. [2001 c 187 § 24; 1997 c 3 § 111 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1988 c 222 § 23; 1982 1st ex.s. c 46 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 284 § 3.]

**Purpose—Intent—1977 ex.s. c 284:** "It is the intent of the legislature that the methodology used in the equalization of property values for the purposes of the state levy, public utility assessment, and other purposes, shall be designed to ensure uniformity and equity in taxation throughout the state to the maximum extent possible.

It is the purpose of this 1977 amendatory act to provide certain guidelines for the determination of the ratio of assessed value to the full true and fair value of the general property in each county." [1977 ex.s. c 284 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.080 Equalization of assessments—Taxes for state purposes—Procedure—Levy and apportionment—Hypothetical levy for establishing consolidated levy—Rules—Record.** (1) Annually during the months of September and October, the department of revenue shall examine and compare the returns of the assessment of the property in the several counties of the state, and the assessment of the property of railroad and other companies assessed by the department, and proceed to equalize the same, so that each county in the state shall pay its due and just proportion of the taxes for state purposes for such assessment year, according

[Title 84 RCW—page 103]

to the ratio the valuation of the property in each county bears to the total valuation of all property in the state.

(a) The department shall classify all property, real and personal, and shall raise and lower the valuation of any class of property in any county to a value that shall be equal, so far as possible, to the true and fair value of such class as of January 1st of the current year for the purpose of ascertaining the just amount of tax due from each county for state purposes. In equalizing personal property as of January 1st of the current year, the department shall use valuation data with respect to personal property from the three years immediately preceding the current assessment year in a manner it deems appropriate. Such classification may be on the basis of types of property, geographical areas, or both. For purposes of this section, for each county that has not provided the department with an assessment return by December 1st, the department shall proceed, using facts and information and in a manner it deems appropriate, to estimate the value of each class of property in the county.

(b) The department shall keep a full record of its proceedings and the same shall be published annually by the department.

(2) The department shall levy the state taxes authorized by law. The amount levied in any one year for general state purposes shall not exceed the lawful dollar rate on the dollar of the assessed value of the property of the entire state, which assessed value shall be one hundred percent of the true and fair value of the property in money. The department shall apportion the amount of tax for state purposes levied by the department, among the several counties, in proportion to the valuation of the taxable property of the county for the year as equalized by the department: PROVIDED, That for purposes of this apportionment, the department shall recompute the previous year's levy and the apportionment thereof to correct for changes and errors in taxable values reported to the department after October 1 of the preceding year and shall adjust the apportioned amount of the current year's state levy for each county by the difference between the apportioned amounts established by the original and revised levy computations for the previous year. For purposes of this section, changes in taxable values mean a final adjustment made by a county board of equalization, the state board of tax appeals, or a court of competent jurisdiction and shall include additions of omitted property, other additions or deletions from the assessment or tax rolls, any assessment return provided by a county to the department subsequent to December 1st, or a change in the indicated ratio of a county. Errors in taxable values mean errors corrected by a final reviewing body.

(3) The department shall have authority to adopt rules and regulations to enforce obedience to its orders in all matters in relation to the returns of county assessments, the equalization of values, and the apportionment of the state levy by the department.

(4) After the completion of the duties prescribed in this section, the director of the department shall certify the record of the proceedings of the department under this section, the tax levies made for state purposes and the apportionment thereof among the counties, and the certification shall be available for public inspection. [2008 c 86 § 502; 2001 c 185 § 12; 1997 c 3 § 112 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1995 2nd sp.s. c 13 § 3; 1994 c 301 § 43;

1990 c 283 § 1; 1988 c 222 § 24; 1982 1st ex.s. c 28 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 86 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 99; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 9; 1961 c 15 § 84.48.080. Prior: 1949 c 66 § 1; 1939 c 206 § 36; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 70; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11222; prior: 1917 c 55 § 1; 1915 c 7 § 1; 1907 c 215 § 1; 1899 c 141 § 4; 1897 c 71 § 60; 1893 c 124 § 61; 1890 p 557 § 75. Formerly RCW 84.48.080, 84.48.090, and 84.48.100.]

**Severability—Savings—Part headings not law—2008 c 86:** See notes following RCW 82.14.030.

**Reviser's note:** No proposed amendment to Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution was submitted to the voters.

**Intent—1995 2nd sp.s. c 13:** "With property valuations continuing to increase, property taxes have been steadily increasing. At the same time, personal incomes have not continued to rise at the same rate. Property taxes are becoming increasingly more difficult to pay. Many residential property owners complain about the overall level of taxes and about the continuing increase in tax from year to year. Taxpayers want property tax relief. The legislature intends to establish an on-going program of state property tax reductions the amount of which is to be determined by the legislature on a yearly basis based on the level of general fund tax revenues." [1995 2nd sp.s. c 13 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.110 Transcript of proceedings to county assessors—Delinquent tax for certain preceding years included.** After certifying the record of the proceedings of the department in accordance with RCW 84.48.080, the department shall transmit to each county assessor a copy of the record of the proceedings of the department, specifying the amount to be levied and collected for state purposes for such year, and in addition thereto it shall certify to each county assessor the amount due to each state fund and unpaid from such county for the fifth preceding year, and such delinquent state taxes shall be added to the amount levied for the current year. The department shall close the account of each county for the fifth preceding year and charge the amount of such delinquency to the tax levy of the current year. These delinquent taxes shall not be subject to chapter 84.55 RCW. All taxes collected on and after the first day of July last preceding such certificate, on account of delinquent state taxes for the fifth preceding year shall belong to the county and by the county treasurer be credited to the current expense fund of the county in which collected. [1994 c 301 § 44; 1994 c 124 § 32; 1987 c 168 § 1; 1984 c 132 § 4; 1981 c 260 § 17. Prior: 1979 ex.s. c 86 § 4; 1979 c 151 § 185; 1973 c 95 § 11; 1961 c 15 § 84.48.110; prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 71; RRS § 11223; prior: 1899 c 141 § 5; 1897 c 71 § 61; 1893 c 124 § 62; 1890 p 558 § 76.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1994 c 124 § 32 and by 1994 c 301 § 44, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.120 Extension of state taxes.** It shall be the duty of the assessor of each county, when the assessor shall have received from the state department of revenue the assessed valuation of the property of railroad and other companies assessed by the department of revenue and apportioned to the county, and placed the same on the tax rolls, and received the report of the department of revenue of the amount of taxes levied for state purposes, to compute the required percent on the assessed value of property in the county, and such state

taxes shall be extended on the tax rolls. The rates so computed shall not be such as to raise a surplus of more than five percent over the total amount required by the department of revenue. Any surplus raised shall be remitted to the state in accordance with RCW 84.56.280. [1994 c 301 § 45; 1994 c 124 § 33; 1987 c 168 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 86 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 206; 1961 c 15 § 84.48.120. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 37; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 72; RRS § 11224; prior: 1890 p 544 § 38.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1994 c 124 § 33 and by 1994 c 301 § 45, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.130 Certification of assessed valuation to taxing districts.** It shall be the duty of the assessor of each county, when the assessor shall have received from the state department of revenue the certificate of the assessed valuation of the property of railroad and/or other companies assessed by the department of revenue and apportioned to the county, and shall have distributed the value so certified, to the several taxing districts in the county entitled to a proportionate value thereof, and placed the same upon the tax rolls of the county, to certify to the county legislative authority and to the officers authorized by law to estimate expenditures and/or levy taxes for any taxing district coextensive with the county, the total assessed value of property in the county as shown by the completed tax rolls, and to certify to the officers authorized by law to estimate expenditures and/or levy taxes for each taxing district in the county not coextensive with the county, the total assessed value of the property in such taxing district. [1994 c 124 § 34; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 207; 1961 c 15 § 84.48.130. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 38; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 73; RRS § 11234.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.140 Property tax advisor.** The county legislative authority of any county may designate one or more persons to act as a property tax advisor to any person liable for payment of property taxes in the county. A person designated as a property tax advisor shall not be an employee of the assessor's office or have been associated in any way with the determination of any valuation of property for taxation purposes that may be the subject of an appeal. A person designated as a property tax advisor may be compensated on a fee basis or as an employee by the county from any funds available to the county for use in property evaluation including funds available from the state for use in the property tax revaluation program.

The property tax advisor shall perform such duties as may be set forth by resolution of the county legislative authority.

If any county legislative authority elects to designate a property tax advisor, it shall publicize the services available. [1994 c 124 § 35; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.48.150 Valuation criteria including comparative sales to be made available to taxpayer—Change.** The assessor shall, upon the request of any taxpayer who petitions the board of equalization for review of a tax claim or valuation

dispute, make available to said taxpayer a compilation of comparable sales utilized by the assessor in establishing such taxpayer's property valuation. If valuation criteria other than comparable sales were used, the assessor shall furnish the taxpayer with such other factors and the addresses of such other property used in making the determination of value.

The assessor shall within sixty days of such request but at least fourteen business days, excluding legal holidays, prior to such taxpayer's appearance before the board of equalization make available to the taxpayer the valuation criteria and/or comparable sales which shall not be subsequently changed by the assessor unless the assessor has found new evidence supporting the assessor's valuation, in which situation the assessor shall provide such additional evidence to the taxpayer and the board of equalization at least fourteen business days prior to the hearing at the board of equalization. A taxpayer who lists comparable sales on a notice of appeal shall not subsequently change such sales unless the taxpayer has found new evidence supporting the taxpayer's proposed valuation in which case the taxpayer shall provide such additional evidence to the assessor and board of equalization at least seven business days, excluding legal holidays, prior to the hearing. If either the assessor or taxpayer does not meet the requirements of this section the board of equalization may continue the hearing to provide the parties an opportunity to review all evidence or, upon objection, refuse to consider sales not submitted in a timely manner. [1994 c 301 § 46; 1973 1st ex.s. c 30 § 1.]

**84.48.200 Rules.** The department of revenue shall make such rules consistent with this chapter as shall be necessary or desirable to permit its effective administration. The rules may provide for changes of venue for the various boards of equalization. [1988 c 222 § 26.]

**Chapter 84.52 RCW  
LEVY OF TAXES**

Sections	
84.52.010	Taxes levied or voted in specific amounts—Effect of constitutional and statutory limitations.
84.52.018	Calculation of tax levy rates when the assessment of highly valued property is in dispute.
84.52.020	City and district budgets to be filed with county legislative authority.
84.52.025	Budgets of taxing districts filed with county commissioners to indicate estimate of cash balance.
84.52.030	Time of levy.
84.52.040	Levies to be made on assessed valuation.
84.52.043	Limitations upon regular property tax levies.
84.52.044	Limitations upon regular property tax levies—Participating fire protection jurisdictions.
84.52.050	Limitation of levies.
84.52.0502	Rules for administration.
84.52.052	Excess levies authorized—When—Procedure.
84.52.053	Levies by school districts authorized—When—Procedure.
84.52.0531	Levies by school districts—Maximum dollar amount for maintenance and operation support—Restrictions—Maximum levy percentage—Levy reduction funds—Rules.
84.52.054	Excess levies—Ballot contents—Eventual dollar rate on tax rolls.
84.52.056	Excess levies for capital purposes authorized.
84.52.063	Rural library district levies.
84.52.065	State levy for support of common schools.
84.52.067	State levy for support of common schools—Disposition of funds.
84.52.069	Emergency medical care and service levies.
84.52.070	Certification of levies to assessor.

84.52.080	Extension of taxes on rolls—Form of certificate—Delivery to treasurer.
84.52.085	Property tax errors.
84.52.105	Affordable housing levies authorized—Declaration of emergency and plan required.
84.52.120	Metropolitan park districts—Protection of levy from prorationing—Ballot proposition.
84.52.125	Fire protection districts—Protection from levy prorationing.
84.52.130	Fire protection district excess levies.
84.52.135	County levy for criminal justice purposes.
84.52.140	Additional regular property tax levy authorized.
84.52.700	County airport district levy authorized.
84.52.703	Mosquito control district levies authorized.
84.52.706	Rural county library district levy authorized.
84.52.709	Intercounty rural library district levy authorized.
84.52.712	Reduction of city levy if part of library district.
84.52.713	Island library district levy authorized.
84.52.718	Levy by receiver of disincorporated city authorized.
84.52.719	Second-class city levies.
84.52.721	Unclassified city sewer fund levy authorized.
84.52.724	City accident fund levy authorized.
84.52.727	City emergency fund levy authorized.
84.52.730	City lowlands and waterway projects levy authorized.
84.52.733	Metropolitan municipal corporation levy authorized.
84.52.736	Metropolitan park district levy authorized.
84.52.739	Code city accident fund levy authorized.
84.52.742	County lands assessment fund levy authorized.
84.52.745	General county levy authorized.
84.52.749	County rail district tax levies authorized.
84.52.750	Solid waste disposal district—Excess levies authorized.
84.52.751	County hospital maintenance levy authorized.
84.52.754	Park and recreation service area levies authorized.
84.52.757	Park and recreation district levies authorized.
84.52.760	County road fund levy authorized.
84.52.761	Road and bridge service district levies authorized.
84.52.763	City firemen's pension fund levy authorized.
84.52.769	Reduction of city levy if part of fire protection district.
84.52.772	Fire protection district levies authorized.
84.52.775	Port district levies authorized.
84.52.778	Public utility district levy authorized.
84.52.784	Water-sewer district levies authorized.
84.52.786	Cultural arts, stadium and convention district tax levies authorized.
84.52.787	Cemetery district levy authorized.
84.52.790	Public hospital district levy authorized.
84.52.793	Air pollution control agency levy authorized.
84.52.799	Veteran's relief fund levy authorized.
84.52.802	Acquisition of open space, etc., land or rights to future development by certain entities—Property tax levy authorized.
84.52.808	River improvement fund levy authorized.
84.52.811	Intercounty river control agreement levy authorized.
84.52.814	Flood control zone district levy authorized.
84.52.815	Flood control zone district—Coextensive with county—Prorationing protection.
84.52.817	Irrigation and rehabilitation district special assessment authorized.
84.52.820	Reclamation district levy authorized.
84.52.823	Levy for tax refund funds.

Levy for refunds: RCW 84.68.040.

Levy for services for persons with developmental disabilities or mental health services: RCW 71.20.110.

**84.52.010 Taxes levied or voted in specific amounts—Effect of constitutional and statutory limitations. (Effective until January 1, 2018.)** (1) Except as is permitted under RCW 84.55.050, all taxes must be levied or voted in specific amounts.

(2) The rate percent of all taxes for state and county purposes, and purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, must be determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the assessed valuation of the property of the county, as shown by the completed tax rolls of the county, and the rate percent of all taxes levied for purposes of taxing districts within any county must be determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the respective counties, within the limitations provided by law,

upon the assessed valuation of the property of the taxing districts respectively.

(3) When a county assessor finds that the aggregate rate of tax levy on any property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in RCW 84.52.043 or 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in either of these sections, the assessor must recompute and establish a consolidated levy in the following manner:

(a) The full certified rates of tax levy for state, county, county road district, and city or town purposes must be extended on the tax rolls in amounts not exceeding the limitations established by law; however any state levy takes precedence over all other levies and may not be reduced for any purpose other than that required by RCW 84.55.010. If, as a result of the levies imposed under RCW 36.54.130, 84.34.230, 84.52.069, 84.52.105, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that was protected under RCW 84.52.120, 84.52.125, 84.52.135, 84.52.140, and the protected portion of the levy under RCW 86.15.160 by flood control zone districts in a county with a population of seven hundred seventy-five thousand or more that are coextensive with a county, the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then these levies must be reduced as follows:

(i) The portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that has a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand and is located in a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more that is protected under RCW 84.52.120 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(ii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the protected portion of the levy imposed under RCW 86.15.160 by a flood control zone district in a county with a population of seven hundred seventy-five thousand or more that is coextensive with a county must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(iii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a county under RCW 84.52.140 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(iv) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy by a fire protection district that is protected under RCW 84.52.125 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(v) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a county under RCW 84.52.135 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(vi) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a ferry district under RCW 36.54.130 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(vii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district with a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more that is protected under RCW 84.52.120 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(viii) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then the levies imposed under RCW 84.34.230, 84.52.105, and any portion of the levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 that is in excess of thirty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, must be reduced on a pro rata basis until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated; and

(ix) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then the thirty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of tax levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated.

(b) The certified rates of tax levy subject to these limitations by all junior taxing districts imposing taxes on such property must be reduced or eliminated as follows to bring the consolidated levy of taxes on such property within the provisions of these limitations:

(i) First, the certified property tax levy rates of those junior taxing districts authorized under RCW 36.68.525, 36.69.145, 35.95A.100, and 67.38.130 must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

(ii) Second, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of flood control zone districts other than the portion of a levy protected under RCW 84.52.815 must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

(iii) Third, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of all other junior taxing districts, other than fire protection districts, regional fire protection service authorities, library districts, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for metropolitan park districts, and the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for public hospital districts, must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

(iv) Fourth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for metropolitan park districts created on or after January 1, 2002, must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

(v) Fifth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates autho-

rized to fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.140 and 52.16.160 and regional fire protection service authorities under RCW 52.26.140(1) (b) and (c) must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated; and

(vi) Sixth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized for fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.130, regional fire protection service authorities under RCW 52.26.140(1)(a), library districts, metropolitan park districts created before January 1, 2002, under their first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levy, and public hospital districts under their first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levy, must be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated. [2011 1st sp.s. c 28 § 2; 2011 c 275 § 1; 2009 c 551 § 7; 2007 c 54 § 26; 2005 c 122 § 2. Prior: 2004 c 129 § 21; 2004 c 80 § 3; 2003 c 83 § 310; prior: 2002 c 248 § 15; 2002 c 88 § 7; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 13 § 4; 1995 c 99 § 2; 1994 c 124 § 36; 1993 c 337 § 4; 1990 c 234 § 4; 1988 c 274 § 7; 1987 c 255 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 101; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 146; 1971 ex.s. c 243 § 6; 1970 ex.s. c 92 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.010; prior: 1947 c 270 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 74; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11235; prior: 1920 ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1897 c 71 § 62; 1893 c 124 § 63.]

**Contingent effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 28 § 2:** "(1) Section 1 of this act takes effect if section 1, chapter 275, Laws of 2011 is not enacted into law.

(2) Section 2 of this act takes effect if section 1, chapter 275, Laws of 2011 is enacted into law." [2011 1st sp.s. c 28 § 6.]

**Application—2011 1st sp.s. c 28:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2012 through 2017." [2011 1st sp.s. c 28 § 5.]

**Expiration date—2011 1st sp.s. c 28:** "This act expires January 1, 2018." [2011 1st sp.s. c 28 § 7.]

**Application—Expiration date—2011 c 275:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Application—2005 c 122:** See note following RCW 84.52.125.

**Captions not law—Severability—2004 c 129:** See RCW 52.26.900 and 52.26.901.

**Effective date—2004 c 80:** See note following RCW 84.52.135.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**Intent—1995 2nd sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 84.48.080.

**Finding—1993 c 337:** See note following RCW 84.52.105.

**Purpose—1988 c 274:** "The legislature finds that, due to statutory and constitutional limitations, the interdependence of the regular property tax levies of the state, counties, county road districts, cities and towns, and junior taxing districts can cause significant reductions in the otherwise authorized levies of those taxing districts, resulting in serious disruptions to essential services provided by those taxing districts. The purpose of this act is to avoid unnecessary reductions in regular property tax revenue without exceeding existing statutory and constitutional tax limitations on cumulative regular property tax levy rates. The legislature declares that it is a purpose of the state, counties, county road districts, cities and towns, public hospital districts, library districts, fire protection districts, metropolitan park districts, and other taxing districts to participate in the methods provided by this act by which revenue levels supporting the services provided by all taxing districts might be maintained." [1988 c 274 § 1.]

**Intent—1970 ex.s. c 92:** "It is the intent of this 1970 amendatory act to prevent a potential doubling of property taxes that might otherwise result from the enforcement of the constitutionally required fifty percent assessment ratio as of January 1, 1970, and to adjust property tax millage rates for subsequent years to levels which will conform to the requirements of any constitutional amendment imposing a one percent limitation on property taxes. It is the further intent of this 1970 amendatory act that the statutory authority of any taxing district to impose excess levies shall not be impaired by reason of the reduction in millage rates for regular property tax levies.

This 1970 amendatory act shall be construed to effectuate the legislative intent expressed in this section." [1970 ex.s. c 92 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.010 Taxes levied or voted in specific amounts—Effect of constitutional and statutory limitations.** (*Effective January 1, 2018.*) Except as is permitted under RCW 84.55.050, all taxes shall be levied or voted in specific amounts.

The rate percent of all taxes for state and county purposes, and purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, shall be determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the assessed valuation of the property of the county, as shown by the completed tax rolls of the county, and the rate percent of all taxes levied for purposes of taxing districts within any county shall be determined, calculated and fixed by the county assessors of the respective counties, within the limitations provided by law, upon the assessed valuation of the property of the taxing districts respectively.

When a county assessor finds that the aggregate rate of tax levy on any property, that is subject to the limitations set forth in RCW 84.52.043 or 84.52.050, exceeds the limitations provided in either of these sections, the assessor shall recompute and establish a consolidated levy in the following manner:

(1) The full certified rates of tax levy for state, county, county road district, and city or town purposes shall be extended on the tax rolls in amounts not exceeding the limitations established by law; however any state levy shall take precedence over all other levies and shall not be reduced for any purpose other than that required by RCW 84.55.010. If, as a result of the levies imposed under RCW 36.54.130, 84.34.230, 84.52.069, 84.52.105, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that was protected under RCW 84.52.120, 84.52.125, 84.52.135, and 84.52.140, the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then these levies shall be reduced as follows:

(a) The levy imposed by a county under RCW 84.52.140 shall be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or shall be eliminated;

(b) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy by a fire protection district that is protected under RCW 84.52.125 shall be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or shall be eliminated;

(c) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the levy imposed by a county under RCW 84.52.135 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(d) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the levy

imposed by a ferry district under RCW 36.54.130 must be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or must be eliminated;

(e) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, the portion of the levy by a metropolitan park district that is protected under RCW 84.52.120 shall be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or shall be eliminated;

(f) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then the levies imposed under RCW 84.34.230, 84.52.105, and any portion of the levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 that is in excess of thirty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or shall be eliminated; and

(g) If the combined rate of regular property tax levies that are subject to the one percent limitation still exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property, then the thirty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of tax levy imposed under RCW 84.52.069 shall be reduced until the combined rate no longer exceeds one percent of the true and fair value of any property or eliminated.

(2) The certified rates of tax levy subject to these limitations by all junior taxing districts imposing taxes on such property shall be reduced or eliminated as follows to bring the consolidated levy of taxes on such property within the provisions of these limitations:

(a) First, the certified property tax levy rates of those junior taxing districts authorized under RCW 36.68.525, 36.69.145, 35.95A.100, and 67.38.130 shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

(b) Second, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of flood control zone districts shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

(c) Third, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates of all other junior taxing districts, other than fire protection districts, regional fire protection service authorities, library districts, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for metropolitan park districts, and the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for public hospital districts, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

(d) Fourth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levies for metropolitan park districts created on or after January 1, 2002, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated;

(e) Fifth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized to fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.140 and 52.16.160 and regional fire protection service authorities under RCW 52.26.140(1) (b) and (c) shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated; and

(f) Sixth, if the consolidated tax levy rate still exceeds these limitations, the certified property tax levy rates authorized for fire protection districts under RCW 52.16.130, regional fire protection service authorities under RCW 52.26.140(1)(a), library districts, metropolitan park districts created before January 1, 2002, under their first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levy, and public hospital districts under their first fifty cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation levy, shall be reduced on a pro rata basis or eliminated. [2009 c 551 § 7; 2007 c 54 § 26; 2005 c 122 § 2. Prior: 2004 c 129 § 21; 2004 c 80 § 3; 2003 c 83 § 310; prior: 2002 c 248 § 15; 2002 c 88 § 7; 1995 2nd sp.s. c 13 § 4; 1995 c 99 § 2; 1994 c 124 § 36; 1993 c 337 § 4; 1990 c 234 § 4; 1988 c 274 § 7; 1987 c 255 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 101; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 146; 1971 ex.s. c 243 § 6; 1970 ex.s. c 92 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.010; prior: 1947 c 270 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 74; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11235; prior: 1920 ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1897 c 71 § 62; 1893 c 124 § 63.]

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

**Application—2005 c 122:** See note following RCW 84.52.125.

**Captions not law—Severability—2004 c 129:** See RCW 52.26.900 and 52.26.901.

**Effective date—2004 c 80:** See note following RCW 84.52.135.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**Intent—1995 2nd sp.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 84.48.080.

**Finding—1993 c 337:** See note following RCW 84.52.105.

**Purpose—1988 c 274:** "The legislature finds that, due to statutory and constitutional limitations, the interdependence of the regular property tax levies of the state, counties, county road districts, cities and towns, and junior taxing districts can cause significant reductions in the otherwise authorized levies of those taxing districts, resulting in serious disruptions to essential services provided by those taxing districts. The purpose of this act is to avoid unnecessary reductions in regular property tax revenue without exceeding existing statutory and constitutional tax limitations on cumulative regular property tax levy rates. The legislature declares that it is a purpose of the state, counties, county road districts, cities and towns, public hospital districts, library districts, fire protection districts, metropolitan park districts, and other taxing districts to participate in the methods provided by this act by which revenue levels supporting the services provided by all taxing districts might be maintained." [1988 c 274 § 1.]

**Intent—1970 ex.s. c 92:** "It is the intent of this 1970 amendatory act to prevent a potential doubling of property taxes that might otherwise result from the enforcement of the constitutionally required fifty percent assessment ratio as of January 1, 1970, and to adjust property tax millage rates for subsequent years to levels which will conform to the requirements of any constitutional amendment imposing a one percent limitation on property taxes. It is the further intent of this 1970 amendatory act that the statutory authority of any taxing district to impose excess levies shall not be impaired by reason of the reduction in millage rates for regular property tax levies. This 1970 amendatory act shall be construed to effectuate the legislative intent expressed in this section." [1970 ex.s. c 92 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.018 Calculation of tax levy rates when the assessment of highly valued property is in dispute.** Whenever any property value or claim for exemption or cancellation of a property assessment is appealed to the state board of tax appeals or court of competent jurisdiction and the dollar difference between the total value asserted by the taxpayer and the total value asserted by the opposing party exceeds one-fourth of one percent of the total assessed value of property in the county, the assessor shall use only that portion of the total value which is not in controversy for purposes of computing the levy rates and extending the tax on the tax roll

(2012 Ed.)

in accordance with this chapter, unless the state board of tax appeals has issued its determination at the time of extending the tax.

When the state board of tax appeals or court of competent jurisdiction makes its final determination, the proper amount of tax shall be extended and collected for each taxing district if this has not already been done. The amount of tax collected and extended shall include interest at the rate of nine percent per year on the amount of the board's final determination minus the amount not in controversy. The interest shall accrue from the date the taxes on the amount not in controversy were first due and payable. Any amount extended in excess of that permitted by chapter 84.55 RCW shall be held in abeyance and used to reduce the levy rates of the next succeeding levy. [1994 c 124 § 37; 1989 c 378 § 15; 1987 c 156 § 1.]

**84.52.020 City and district budgets to be filed with county legislative authority.** It shall be the duty of the city council or other governing body of every city, other than a city having a population of three hundred thousand or more, the board of directors of school districts of the first class, the superintendent of each educational service district for each constituent second-class school district, commissioners of port districts, commissioners of metropolitan park districts, and of all officials or boards of taxing districts within or coextensive with any county required by law to certify to the county legislative authority, for the purpose of levying district taxes, budgets or estimates of the amounts to be raised by taxation on the assessed valuation of the property in the city or district, through their chair and clerk, or secretary, to make and file such certified budget or estimates with the clerk of the county legislative authority on or before the thirtieth day of November. [2005 c 52 § 1; 1994 c 81 § 85; 1988 c 222 § 27; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 118 § 33; 1975 c 43 § 33; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.020. Prior: 1939 c 37 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 75; RRS § 11236; prior: 1909 c 138 § 1; 1893 c 71 §§ 2, 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.025 Budgets of taxing districts filed with county commissioners to indicate estimate of cash balance.** The governing body of all taxing districts within or coextensive with any county, which are required by law to certify to a board of county commissioners, for the purpose of levying district taxes, budgets or estimates of the amounts to be raised by taxation on the assessed valuation of the property in the district, shall clearly indicate an estimate of cash balance at the beginning and ending of each budget period in said budget or estimate. [1961 c 52 § 1.]

**84.52.030 Time of levy.** For the purpose of raising revenue for state, county, and other taxing district purposes, the county legislative authority of each county, and all other officials or boards authorized by law to levy taxes for taxing district purposes, must levy taxes on all the taxable property in the county or district, as the case may be, sufficient for such purposes, and within the limitations permitted by law. [2010 c 106 § 312; 1994 c 124 § 38; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.030. Prior: 1927 c 303 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 77; RRS § 11238; prior: 1903 c 165 § 1; 1897 c 71 § 63; 1893 c 124 § 64; 1890 p 559 § 78; Code 1881 § 2880.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

**84.52.040 Levies to be made on assessed valuation.**

Whenever any taxing district or the officers thereof shall, pursuant to any provision of law or of its charter or ordinances, levy any tax, the assessed value of the property of such taxing district shall be taken and considered as the taxable value upon which such levy shall be made. [1961 c 15 § 84.52.040. Prior: 1919 c 142 § 3; RRS § 11228.]

**84.52.043 Limitations upon regular property tax levies. (Effective until January 1, 2018.)** Within and subject to the limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 as amended, the regular ad valorem tax levies upon real and personal property by the taxing districts hereafter named are as follows:

(1) Levies of the senior taxing districts are as follows:

(a) The levy by the state may not exceed three dollars and sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue to be used exclusively for the support of the common schools; (b) the levy by any county may not exceed one dollar and eighty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value; (c) the levy by any road district may not exceed two dollars and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value; and (d) the levy by any city or town may not exceed three dollars and thirty-seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. However any county is hereby authorized to increase its levy from one dollar and eighty cents to a rate not to exceed two dollars and forty-seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for general county purposes if the total levies for both the county and any road district within the county do not exceed four dollars and five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and no other taxing district has its levy reduced as a result of the increased county levy.

(2) The aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior taxing districts, other than the state, may not exceed five dollars and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The term "junior taxing districts" includes all taxing districts other than the state, counties, road districts, cities, towns, port districts, and public utility districts. The limitations provided in this subsection do not apply to: (a) Levies at the rates provided by existing law by or for any port or public utility district; (b) excess property tax levies authorized in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution; (c) levies for acquiring conservation futures as authorized under RCW 84.34.230; (d) levies for emergency medical care or emergency medical services imposed under RCW 84.52.069; (e) levies to finance affordable housing for very low-income housing imposed under RCW 84.52.105; (f) the portions of levies by metropolitan park districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.120; (g) levies imposed by ferry districts under RCW 36.54.130; (h) levies for criminal justice purposes under RCW 84.52.135; (i) the portions of levies by fire protection districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.125; (j) levies by counties for transit-related purposes under RCW 84.52.140; and (k) the protected portion of the levies imposed under RCW 86.15.160 by flood control zone districts in a county with a population of seven hundred seventy-five thousand or more that are coextensive with a county. [2011 c 275

§ 2; 2009 c 551 § 6; 2005 c 122 § 3; 2004 c 80 § 4; 2003 c 83 § 311; 1995 c 99 § 3; 1993 c 337 § 3; 1990 c 234 § 1; 1989 c 378 § 36; 1988 c 274 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 134.]

**Application—2011 c 275:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2012 through 2017." [2011 c 275 § 4.]

**Expiration date—2011 c 275:** "This act expires January 1, 2018." [2011 c 275 § 5.]

**Application—2005 c 122:** See note following RCW 84.52.125.

**Effective date—2004 c 80:** See note following RCW 84.52.135.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**Finding—1993 c 337:** See note following RCW 84.52.105.

**Purpose—Severability—1988 c 274:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.043 Limitations upon regular property tax levies. (Effective January 1, 2018.)** Within and subject to the limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 as amended, the regular ad valorem tax levies upon real and personal property by the taxing districts hereafter named shall be as follows:

(1) Levies of the senior taxing districts shall be as follows: (a) The levy by the state shall not exceed three dollars and sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue to be used exclusively for the support of the common schools; (b) the levy by any county shall not exceed one dollar and eighty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value; (c) the levy by any road district shall not exceed two dollars and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value; and (d) the levy by any city or town shall not exceed three dollars and thirty-seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. However any county is hereby authorized to increase its levy from one dollar and eighty cents to a rate not to exceed two dollars and forty-seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for general county purposes if the total levies for both the county and any road district within the county do not exceed four dollars and five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and no other taxing district has its levy reduced as a result of the increased county levy.

(2) The aggregate levies of junior taxing districts and senior taxing districts, other than the state, shall not exceed five dollars and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The term "junior taxing districts" includes all taxing districts other than the state, counties, road districts, cities, towns, port districts, and public utility districts. The limitations provided in this subsection shall not apply to: (a) Levies at the rates provided by existing law by or for any port or public utility district; (b) excess property tax levies authorized in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution; (c) levies for acquiring conservation futures as authorized under RCW 84.34.230; (d) levies for emergency medical care or emergency medical services imposed under RCW 84.52.069; (e) levies to finance affordable housing for very low-income housing imposed under RCW 84.52.105; (f) the portions of levies by metropolitan park districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.120; (g) levies imposed by ferry districts under RCW 36.54.130; (h) levies for criminal justice purposes under RCW 84.52.135; (i) the portions of levies by fire pro-

tection districts that are protected under RCW 84.52.125; and (j) levies by counties for transit-related purposes under RCW 84.52.140. [2009 c 551 § 6; 2005 c 122 § 3; 2004 c 80 § 4; 2003 c 83 § 311; 1995 c 99 § 3; 1993 c 337 § 3; 1990 c 234 § 1; 1989 c 378 § 36; 1988 c 274 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 134.]

**Application—2005 c 122:** See note following RCW 84.52.125.

**Effective date—2004 c 80:** See note following RCW 84.52.135.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**Finding—1993 c 337:** See note following RCW 84.52.105.

**Purpose—Severability—1988 c 274:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.044 Limitations upon regular property tax levies—Participating fire protection jurisdictions.** (1) If a fire protection district is a participating fire protection jurisdiction in a regional fire protection service authority, the regular property tax levies of the fire protection district are limited as follows:

(a) The regular levy of the district under RCW 52.16.130 shall not exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of taxable property in the district less the amount of any levy imposed by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1)(a);

(b) The levy of the district under RCW 52.16.140 shall not exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of taxable property in the district less the amount of any levy imposed by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1)(b); and

(c) The levy of the district under RCW 52.16.160 shall not exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of taxable property in the district less the amount of any levy imposed by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1)(c).

(2) If a city or town is a participating fire protection jurisdiction in a regional fire protection service authority, the regular levies of the city or town shall not exceed the applicable rates provided in RCW 27.12.390, 52.04.081, and 84.52.043(1) less the aggregate rates of any regular levies made by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1).

(3) If a port district is a participating fire protection jurisdiction in a regional fire protection service authority, the regular levy of the port district under RCW 53.36.020 shall not exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of taxable property in the district less the aggregate rates of any regular levies imposed by the authority under RCW 52.26.140(1).

(4) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district; and

(b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection service authority or annexed into a regional fire protection service authority. [2011 c 271 § 3; 2011 c 141 § 4; 2004 c 129 § 20.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2004 c 129:** See RCW 52.26.900 and 52.26.901.

**84.52.050 Limitation of levies.** Except as hereinafter provided, the aggregate of all tax levies upon real and personal property by the state and all taxing districts, now existing or hereafter created, shall not in any year exceed one percentum of the true and fair value of such property in money: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates now provided by law by or for any port or public utility district. The term "taxing district" for the purposes of this section shall mean any political subdivision, municipal corporation, district, or other governmental agency authorized by law to levy, or have levied for it, ad valorem taxes on property, other than a port or public utility district. Such aggregate limitation or any specific limitation imposed by law in conformity therewith may be exceeded only as authorized by law and in conformity with the provisions of Article VII, section 2(a), (b), or (c) of the Constitution of the state of Washington.

Nothing herein contained shall prohibit the legislature from allocating or reallocating the authority to levy taxes between the taxing districts of the state and its political subdivisions in a manner which complies with the aggregate tax limitation set forth in this section. [1973 1st ex.s. c 194 § 1; 1973 c 2 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 44, approved November 7, 1972). Prior: 1972 ex.s. c 124 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 24; 1970 ex.s. c 92 § 5; 1970 ex.s. c 8 § 4; prior: 1969 ex.s. c 262 § 65; 1969 ex.s. c 216 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 133 § 3; 1961 c 143 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.050; prior: 1957 c 262 § 1; 1953 c 175 § 1; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 23 § 2; 1951 c 255 § 1, part; 1950 ex.s. c 11 § 1, part; 1945 c 253 § 1, part; 1941 c 176 § 1, part; 1939 c 83 § 1, part; 1939 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 129); 1937 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 114); 1935 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 94); 1933 c 4 (Initiative Measure No. 64); cf. RRS § 11238, 11238-1a, 11238-1b, 11238-1c, 11238-1d; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11238; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11238-1e.]

**Intent—Effective date—Application—1970 ex.s. c 92:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

*Limitation on levies: State Constitution Art. 7 § 2.*

*State levy for support of common schools: RCW 84.52.065 and 84.52.067.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.0502 Rules for administration.** The department of revenue shall adopt such rules consistent with chapter 274, Laws of 1988 as shall be necessary or desirable to permit its effective administration. [2000 c 103 § 29; 1988 c 274 § 9.]

**Purpose—Severability—1988 c 274:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

**84.52.052 Excess levies authorized—When—Procedure.** The limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056, and RCW 84.52.043 shall not prevent the levy of additional taxes by any taxing district, except school districts and fire protection districts, in which a larger levy is necessary in order to prevent the impairment of the obligation of contracts. As used in this section, the term "taxing district" means any county, metropolitan park district, park and recreation service area, park and recreation district, water-sewer district, solid waste disposal district, public facilities district, flood control zone district, county rail district, service district, public hospital district, road district, rural county library district, island library district, rural partial-county library district, intercounty rural library district, cemetery district, city, town, transportation benefit district, emergency medical service district with a population density of less than one thou-

sand per square mile, cultural arts, stadium, and convention district, ferry district, city transportation authority, or regional fire protection service authority.

Any such taxing district may levy taxes at a rate in excess of the rate specified in RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056 and 84.52.043, or 84.55.010 through 84.55.050, when authorized so to do by the voters of such taxing district in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state at a special or general election to be held in the year in which the levy is made.

A special election may be called and the time therefor fixed by the county legislative authority, or council, board of commissioners, or other governing body of any such taxing district, by giving notice thereof by publication in the manner provided by law for giving notices of general elections, at which special election the proposition authorizing such excess levy shall be submitted in such form as to enable the voters favoring the proposition to vote "yes" and those opposed thereto to vote "no." [2004 c 129 § 22; 2003 c 83 § 312. Prior: 2002 c 248 § 16; 2002 c 180 § 1; 1996 c 230 § 1615; 1993 c 284 § 4; 1991 c 138 § 1; 1989 c 53 § 4; 1988 ex.s. c 1 § 18; prior: 1983 c 315 § 10; 1983 c 303 § 16; 1983 c 130 § 11; 1983 c 2 § 19; prior: 1982 1st ex.s. c 22 § 17; 1982 c 175 § 7; 1982 c 123 § 19; 1981 c 210 § 20; 1977 ex.s. c 325 § 1; 1977 c 4 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 102; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 147; 1973 c 3 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 26; 1965 ex.s. c 113 § 1; 1963 c 112 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.052; prior: 1959 c 304 § 8; 1959 c 290 § 1; 1957 c 58 § 15; 1957 c 32 § 1; 1955 c 93 § 1; 1953 c 189 § 1; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 23 § 3; prior: 1951 c 255 § 1, part; 1950 ex.s. c 11 § 1, part; 1945 c 253 § 1, part; 1941 c 176 § 1, part; 1939 c 83 § 1, part; 1939 c 2 (Init. Meas. No. 129); 1937 c 1 (Init. Meas. No. 114); 1935 c 2 (Init. Meas. No. 94); 1933 c 4 (Init. Meas. No. 64); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11238-1e, part.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2004 c 129:** See RCW 52.26.900 and 52.26.901.

**Findings—Intent—Captions, part headings not law—Severability—Effective date—2003 c 83:** See notes following RCW 36.57A.200.

**Contingent effective date—2002 c 180:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2003, if the proposed amendment to Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution authorizing multiyear excess property tax levies is validly submitted to and approved by the voters at the next general election. If the proposed amendment is not approved, this act is void in its entirety." [2002 c 180 § 4.] The proposed amendment to Article VII, section 2 was approved at the November 2002 election.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.053 Levies by school districts authorized—When—Procedure.** (1) The limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056, and 84.52.043 shall not prevent the levy of taxes by school districts, when authorized so to do by the voters of such school district in the manner and for the purposes and number of years allowable under Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state. Elections for such taxes shall be held in the year in which the levy is made or, in the case of propositions authorizing two-year through four-year levies for maintenance and operation support of a school district, authorizing two-year levies for transportation vehicle funds established in RCW 28A.160.130, or authorizing two-year through six-year levies to support the construction, modernization, or remodeling of school facili-

ties, which includes the purposes of RCW 28A.320.330(2) (f) and (g), in the year in which the first annual levy is made.

(2)(a) Once additional tax levies have been authorized for maintenance and operation support of a school district for a two-year through four-year period as provided under subsection (1) of this section, no further additional tax levies for maintenance and operation support of the district for that period may be authorized, except for additional levies to provide for subsequently enacted increases affecting the district's levy base or maximum levy percentage.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, any school district that is required to annex or receive territory pursuant to a dissolution of a financially insolvent school district pursuant to RCW 28A.315.225 may call either a replacement or supplemental levy election within the school district, including the territory annexed or transferred, as follows:

(i) An election for a proposition authorizing two-year through four-year levies for maintenance and operation support of a school district may be called and held before the effective date of dissolution to replace existing maintenance and operation levies and to provide for increases due to the dissolution.

(ii) An election for a proposition authorizing additional tax levies may be called and held before the effective date of dissolution to provide for increases due to the dissolution.

(iii) In the event a replacement levy election under (b)(i) of this subsection is held but does not pass, the affected school district may subsequently hold a supplemental levy election pursuant to (b)(ii) of this subsection if the supplemental levy election is held before the effective date of dissolution. In the event a supplemental levy election is held under subsection (b)(ii) of this subsection but does not pass, the affected school district may subsequently hold a replacement levy election pursuant to (b)(i) of this subsection if the replacement levy election is held before the effective date of dissolution. Failure of a replacement levy or supplemental levy election does not affect any previously approved and existing maintenance and operation levy within the affected school district or districts.

(c) For the purpose of applying the limitation of this subsection (2), a two-year through six-year levy to support the construction, modernization, or remodeling of school facilities shall not be deemed to be a tax levy for maintenance and operation support of a school district.

(3) A special election may be called and the time therefor fixed by the board of school directors, by giving notice thereof by publication in the manner provided by law for giving notices of general elections, at which special election the proposition authorizing such excess levy shall be submitted in such form as to enable the voters favoring the proposition to vote "yes" and those opposed thereto to vote "no." [2012 c 186 § 18; 2010 c 237 § 4; 2009 c 460 § 2; 2007 c 129 § 3; 1997 c 260 § 1; 1994 c 116 § 1; 1987 1st ex.s. c 2 § 103; 1986 c 133 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 325 § 3.]

**Effective date—2012 c 186:** See note following RCW 28A.315.025.

**Rule-making authority—2012 c 186:** See RCW 28A.315.902.

**Intent—2010 c 237:** See note following RCW 84.52.0531.

**Effective date—2010 c 237 §§ 1 and 3-9:** See note following RCW 84.52.0531.

**Intent—2007 c 129:** See note following RCW 28A.320.330.

**Intent—Severability—Effective date—1987 1st ex.s. c 2:** See notes following RCW 84.52.0531.

*School district boundary changes:* RCW 84.09.037.

*School funds enumerated—Deposits—Uses:* RCW 28A.320.330.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.0531 Levies by school districts—Maximum dollar amount for maintenance and operation support—Restrictions—Maximum levy percentage—Levy reduction funds—Rules. (Effective until January 1, 2018.)** The maximum dollar amount which may be levied by or for any school district for maintenance and operation support under the provisions of RCW 84.52.053 shall be determined as follows:

(1) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 1997, the maximum dollar amount shall be calculated pursuant to the laws and rules in effect in November 1996.

(2) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 1998 and thereafter, the maximum dollar amount shall be the sum of (a) plus or minus (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection minus (e) of this subsection:

(a) The district's levy base as defined in subsections (3) and (4) of this section multiplied by the district's maximum levy percentage as defined in subsection (6) of this section;

(b) For districts in a high/nonhigh relationship, the high school district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced and the nonhigh school district's maximum levy amount shall be increased by an amount equal to the estimated amount of the nonhigh payment due to the high school district under RCW 28A.545.030(3) and 28A.545.050 for the school year commencing the year of the levy;

(c) Except for nonhigh districts under (d) of this subsection, for districts in an interdistrict cooperative agreement, the nonresident school district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced and the resident school district's maximum levy amount shall be increased by an amount equal to the per pupil basic education allocation included in the nonresident district's levy base under subsection (3) of this section multiplied by:

(i) The number of full-time equivalent students served from the resident district in the prior school year; multiplied by:

(ii) The serving district's maximum levy percentage determined under subsection (6) of this section; increased by:

(iii) The percent increase per full-time equivalent student as stated in the state basic education appropriation section of the biennial budget between the prior school year and the current school year divided by fifty-five percent;

(d) The levy bases of nonhigh districts participating in an innovation academy cooperative established under RCW 28A.340.080 shall be adjusted by the office of the superintendent of public instruction to reflect each district's proportional share of student enrollment in the cooperative;

(e) The district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced by the maximum amount of state matching funds for which the district is eligible under RCW 28A.500.010.

(3) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 2005 and thereafter, a district's levy base shall be the sum of allocations in (a) through (c) of this subsection received by the district for the prior school year and the amounts determined under subsection (4) of this section, including allocations for

compensation increases, plus the sum of such allocations multiplied by the percent increase per full time equivalent student as stated in the state basic education appropriation section of the biennial budget between the prior school year and the current school year and divided by fifty-five percent. A district's levy base shall not include local school district property tax levies or other local revenues, or state and federal allocations not identified in (a) through (c) of this subsection.

(a) The district's basic education allocation as determined pursuant to RCW 28A.150.250, 28A.150.260, and 28A.150.350;

(b) State and federal categorical allocations for the following programs:

(i) Pupil transportation;

(ii) Special education;

(iii) Education of highly capable students;

(iv) Compensatory education, including but not limited to learning assistance, migrant education, Indian education, refugee programs, and bilingual education;

(v) Food services; and

(vi) Statewide block grant programs; and

(c) Any other federal allocations for elementary and secondary school programs, including direct grants, other than federal impact aid funds and allocations in lieu of taxes.

(4) For levy collections in calendar years 2005 through 2017, in addition to the allocations included under subsection (3)(a) through (c) of this section, a district's levy base shall also include the following:

(a)(i) For levy collections in calendar year 2010, the difference between the allocation the district would have received in the current school year had \*RCW 84.52.068 not been amended by chapter 19, Laws of 2003 1st sp. sess. and the allocation the district received in the current school year pursuant to \*\*RCW 28A.505.220;

(ii) For levy collections in calendar years 2011 through 2017, the allocation rate the district would have received in the prior school year using the Initiative 728 rate multiplied by the full-time equivalent student enrollment used to calculate the Initiative 728 allocation for the prior school year; and

(b) The difference between the allocations the district would have received the prior school year using the Initiative 732 base and the allocations the district actually received the prior school year pursuant to RCW 28A.400.205.

(5) For levy collections in calendar years 2011 through 2017, in addition to the allocations included under subsections (3)(a) through (c) and (4)(a) and (b) of this section, a district's levy base shall also include the difference between an allocation of fifty-three and two-tenths certificated instructional staff units per thousand full-time equivalent students in grades kindergarten through four enrolled in the prior school year and the allocation of certificated instructional staff units per thousand full-time equivalent students in grades kindergarten through four that the district actually received in the prior school year, except that the levy base for a school district whose allocation in the 2009-10 school year was less than fifty-three and two-tenths certificated instructional staff units per thousand full-time equivalent students in grades kindergarten through four shall include the difference between the allocation the district actually received in the

2009-10 school year and the allocation the district actually received in the prior school year.

(6)(a) A district's maximum levy percentage shall be twenty-four percent in 2010 and twenty-eight percent in 2011 through 2017 and twenty-four percent every year thereafter;

(b) For qualifying districts, in addition to the percentage in (a) of this subsection the grandfathered percentage determined as follows:

(i) For 1997, the difference between the district's 1993 maximum levy percentage and twenty percent; and

(ii) For 2011 through 2017, the percentage calculated as follows:

(A) Multiply the grandfathered percentage for the prior year times the district's levy base determined under subsection (3) of this section;

(B) Reduce the result of (b)(ii)(A) of this subsection by any levy reduction funds as defined in subsection (7) of this section that are to be allocated to the district for the current school year;

(C) Divide the result of (b)(ii)(B) of this subsection by the district's levy base; and

(D) Take the greater of zero or the percentage calculated in (b)(ii)(C) of this subsection.

(7) "Levy reduction funds" shall mean increases in state funds from the prior school year for programs included under subsections (3) and (4) of this section: (a) That are not attributable to enrollment changes, compensation increases, or inflationary adjustments; and (b) that are or were specifically identified as levy reduction funds in the appropriations act. If levy reduction funds are dependent on formula factors which would not be finalized until after the start of the current school year, the superintendent of public instruction shall estimate the total amount of levy reduction funds by using prior school year data in place of current school year data. Levy reduction funds shall not include moneys received by school districts from cities or counties.

(8) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(a) "Prior school year" means the most recent school year completed prior to the year in which the levies are to be collected.

(b) "Current school year" means the year immediately following the prior school year.

(c) "Initiative 728 rate" means the allocation rate at which the student achievement program would have been funded under chapter 3, Laws of 2001, if all annual adjustments to the initial 2001 allocation rate had been made in previous years and in each subsequent year as provided for under chapter 3, Laws of 2001.

(d) "Initiative 732 base" means the prior year's state allocation for annual salary cost-of-living increases for district employees in the state-funded salary base as it would have been calculated under chapter 4, Laws of 2001, if each annual cost-of-living increase allocation had been provided in previous years and in each subsequent year.

(9) Funds collected from transportation vehicle fund tax levies shall not be subject to the levy limitations in this section.

(10) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop rules and inform school districts of the pertinent data necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(11) For calendar year 2009, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall recalculate school district levy authority to reflect levy rates certified by school districts for calendar year 2009. [2012 1st sp.s. c 10 § 8. Prior: 2010 c 237 § 1; 2010 c 99 § 11; (2010 c 99 § 10 expired January 1, 2012); 2009 c 4 § 908; 2006 c 119 § 2; 2004 c 21 § 2; 1997 c 259 § 2; 1995 1st sp.s. c 11 § 1; 1994 c 116 § 2; 1993 c 465 § 1; 1992 c 49 § 1; 1990 c 33 § 601; 1989 c 141 § 1; 1988 c 252 § 1; 1987 1st ex.s. c 2 § 101; 1987 c 185 § 40; 1985 c 374 § 1; prior: 1981 c 264 § 10; 1981 c 168 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 172 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 325 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 84.52.068 was repealed by 2009 c 479 § 75.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 28A.505.220 was repealed by 2012 1st sp.s. c 10 § 9.

**Purpose—Construction—2012 1st sp.s. c 10:** "(1) Legislation enacted in 2009 (chapter 548, Laws of 2009) and in 2010 (chapter 236, Laws of 2010) revised the definition of the program of basic education, established new methods for distributing state funds to school districts to support this program of basic education, and provided an outline of specific enhancements to the program of basic education that are required to be implemented by 2018. In order to meet the required deadlines to implement full funding of the enhancements, the joint task force in section 2 of this act is created to develop and recommend options for a permanent funding mechanism.

(2) Initiative Measure No. 728 (chapter 3, Laws of 2001) dedicated a portion of state revenues to fund class size reductions and other education improvements. Because class size reductions and similar improvements are incorporated in the reforms that were enacted in chapter 548, Laws of 2009, and chapter 236, Laws of 2010, and that are being incrementally implemented through 2018, Initiative Measure No. 728 is repealed in order to make these dedicated revenues available for implementation of basic education reform and to facilitate the funding reform recommendations of the joint task force in section 2 of this act.

(3) Nothing in chapter 10, Laws of 2012 1st sp. sess. alters or amends the elements included in the school district levy base set forth in RCW 84.52.0531." [2012 1st sp.s. c 10 § 1.]

**Expiration date—2012 1st sp.s. c 10 § 8:** "Section 8 of this act expires January 1, 2018." [2012 1st sp.s. c 10 § 10.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 237 §§ 1, 5, and 6:** "Sections 1, 5, and 6 of this act expire January 1, 2018." [2010 c 237 § 9.]

**Effective date—2010 c 237 §§ 1 and 3-9:** "Sections 1 and 3 through 9 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [March 29, 2010]." [2010 c 237 § 11.]

**Intent—2010 c 237:** "The legislature recognizes that school districts request voter approval for two-year through four-year levies based on their projected levy capacities at the time that the levies are submitted to the voters. It is the intent of the legislature to permit school districts with voter-approved maintenance and operation levies to seek an additional approval from the voters, if subsequently enacted legislation would permit a higher levy." [2010 c 237 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 99 § 11:** "Section 11 of this act takes effect January 1, 2012." [2010 c 99 § 15.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 99 § 10:** "Section 10 of this act expires January 1, 2012." [2010 c 99 § 14.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 99:** See note following RCW 28A.340.080.

**Effective date—2009 c 4:** See note following RCW 43.79.460.

**Expiration date—2009 c 4 § 908:** "Section 908 of this act expires January 1, 2012." [2009 c 4 § 909.]

**Expiration date—2010 c 237; 2006 c 119; 2004 c 21:** "This act expires January 1, 2018." [2010 c 237 § 8; 2006 c 119 § 3; 2004 c 21 § 3.]

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

**Intent—1987 1st ex.s. c 2:** "The legislature intends to establish the limitation on school district maintenance and operations levies at twenty percent, with ten percent to be equalized on a statewide basis. The legislature further intends to establish a modern school financing system for compensation of school staff and provide a class size reduction in grades kindergarten through three. The legislature intends to give the highest funding priority to

strengthening support for existing school programs.

The legislature finds that providing for the adoption of a statewide salary allocation schedule for certificated instructional staff will encourage recruitment and retention of able individuals to the teaching profession, and limit the administrative burden associated with implementing state teacher salary policies." [1987 1st ex.s. c 2 § 1.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

*Payments to high school districts for educating nonhigh school district students: Chapter 28A.545 RCW.*

*Purposes: RCW 28A.545.030.*

*Rules to effect purposes and implement provisions: RCW 28A.545.110.*

*Superintendent's annual determination of estimated amount due—Process: RCW 28A.545.070.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.0531 Levies by school districts—Maximum dollar amount for maintenance and operation support—Restrictions—Maximum levy percentage—Levy reduction funds—Rules. (Effective January 1, 2018.)** The maximum dollar amount which may be levied by or for any school district for maintenance and operation support under the provisions of RCW 84.52.053 shall be determined as follows:

(1) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 1997, the maximum dollar amount shall be calculated pursuant to the laws and rules in effect in November 1996.

(2) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 1998 and thereafter, the maximum dollar amount shall be the sum of (a) plus or minus (b), (c), and (d) of this subsection minus (e) of this subsection:

(a) The district's levy base as defined in subsection (3) of this section multiplied by the district's maximum levy percentage as defined in subsection (4) of this section;

(b) For districts in a high/nonhigh relationship, the high school district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced and the nonhigh school district's maximum levy amount shall be increased by an amount equal to the estimated amount of the nonhigh payment due to the high school district under RCW 28A.545.030(3) and 28A.545.050 for the school year commencing the year of the levy;

(c) Except for nonhigh districts under (d) of this subsection, for districts in an interdistrict cooperative agreement, the nonresident school district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced and the resident school district's maximum levy amount shall be increased by an amount equal to the per pupil basic education allocation included in the nonresident district's levy base under subsection (3) of this section multiplied by:

(i) The number of full-time equivalent students served from the resident district in the prior school year; multiplied by:

(ii) The serving district's maximum levy percentage determined under subsection (4) of this section; increased by:

(iii) The percent increase per full-time equivalent student as stated in the state basic education appropriation section of the biennial budget between the prior school year and the current school year divided by fifty-five percent;

(d) The levy bases of nonhigh districts participating in an innovation academy cooperative established under RCW 28A.340.080 shall be adjusted by the office of the superintendent

(2012 Ed.)

of public instruction to reflect each district's proportional share of student enrollment in the cooperative;

(e) The district's maximum levy amount shall be reduced by the maximum amount of state matching funds for which the district is eligible under RCW 28A.500.010.

(3) For excess levies for collection in calendar year 1998 and thereafter, a district's levy base shall be the sum of allocations in (a) through (c) of this subsection received by the district for the prior school year, including allocations for compensation increases, plus the sum of such allocations multiplied by the percent increase per full time equivalent student as stated in the state basic education appropriation section of the biennial budget between the prior school year and the current school year and divided by fifty-five percent. A district's levy base shall not include local school district property tax levies or other local revenues, or state and federal allocations not identified in (a) through (c) of this subsection.

(a) The district's basic education allocation as determined pursuant to RCW 28A.150.250, 28A.150.260, and 28A.150.350;

(b) State and federal categorical allocations for the following programs:

(i) Pupil transportation;

(ii) Special education;

(iii) Education of highly capable students;

(iv) Compensatory education, including but not limited to learning assistance, migrant education, Indian education, refugee programs, and bilingual education;

(v) Food services; and

(vi) Statewide block grant programs; and

(c) Any other federal allocations for elementary and secondary school programs, including direct grants, other than federal impact aid funds and allocations in lieu of taxes.

(4)(a) A district's maximum levy percentage shall be twenty-four percent in 2010 and twenty-eight percent in 2011 through 2017 and twenty-four percent every year thereafter;

(b) For qualifying districts, in addition to the percentage in (a) of this subsection the grandfathered percentage determined as follows:

(i) For 1997, the difference between the district's 1993 maximum levy percentage and twenty percent; and

(ii) For 2011 through 2017, the percentage calculated as follows:

(A) Multiply the grandfathered percentage for the prior year times the district's levy base determined under subsection (3) of this section;

(B) Reduce the result of (b)(ii)(A) of this subsection by any levy reduction funds as defined in subsection (5) of this section that are to be allocated to the district for the current school year;

(C) Divide the result of (b)(ii)(B) of this subsection by the district's levy base; and

(D) Take the greater of zero or the percentage calculated in (b)(ii)(C) of this subsection;

(ii) For 2018 and thereafter, the percentage shall be calculated as follows:

(A) Multiply the grandfathered percentage for the prior year times the district's levy base determined under subsection (3) of this section;

(B) Reduce the result of (b)(iii)(A) of this subsection by any levy reduction funds as defined in subsection (5) of this section that are to be allocated to the district for the current school year;

(C) Divide the result of (b)(iii)(B) of this subsection by the district's levy base; and

(D) Take the greater of zero or the percentage calculated in (b)(iii)(C) of this subsection.

(5) "Levy reduction funds" shall mean increases in state funds from the prior school year for programs included under subsection (3) of this section: (a) That are not attributable to enrollment changes, compensation increases, or inflationary adjustments; and (b) that are or were specifically identified as levy reduction funds in the appropriations act. If levy reduction funds are dependent on formula factors which would not be finalized until after the start of the current school year, the superintendent of public instruction shall estimate the total amount of levy reduction funds by using prior school year data in place of current school year data. Levy reduction funds shall not include moneys received by school districts from cities or counties.

(6) For the purposes of this section, "prior school year" means the most recent school year completed prior to the year in which the levies are to be collected.

(7) For the purposes of this section, "current school year" means the year immediately following the prior school year.

(8) Funds collected from transportation vehicle fund tax levies shall not be subject to the levy limitations in this section.

(9) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop rules and regulations and inform school districts of the pertinent data necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. [2010 c 237 § 2; 2010 c 99 § 11; 1997 c 259 § 2; 1995 1st sp.s. c 11 § 1; 1994 c 116 § 2; 1993 c 465 § 1; 1992 c 49 § 1; 1990 c 33 § 601; 1989 c 141 § 1; 1988 c 252 § 1; 1987 1st ex.s. c 2 § 101; 1987 c 185 § 40; 1985 c 374 § 1. Prior: 1981 c 264 § 10; 1981 c 168 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 172 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 325 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2010 c 99 § 11 and by 2010 c 237 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—2010 c 237:** "The legislature recognizes that school districts request voter approval for two-year through four-year levies based on their projected levy capacities at the time that the levies are submitted to the voters. It is the intent of the legislature to permit school districts with voter-approved maintenance and operation levies to seek an additional approval from the voters, if subsequently enacted legislation would permit a higher levy." [2010 c 237 § 3.]

**Effective date—2010 c 237 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act takes effect January 1, 2018." [2010 c 237 § 10.]

**Findings—Intent—2010 c 99:** See note following RCW 28A.340.080

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

**Intent—1987 1st ex.s. c 2:** "The legislature intends to establish the limitation on school district maintenance and operations levies at twenty percent, with ten percent to be equalized on a statewide basis. The legislature further intends to establish a modern school financing system for compensation of school staff and provide a class size reduction in grades kindergarten through three. The legislature intends to give the highest funding priority to strengthening support for existing school programs.

The legislature finds that providing for the adoption of a statewide salary allocation schedule for certificated instructional staff will encourage recruitment and retention of able individuals to the teaching profession, and

limit the administrative burden associated with implementing state teacher salary policies." [1987 1st ex.s. c 2 § 1.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

*Payments to high school districts for educating nonhigh school district students: Chapter 28A.545 RCW.*

*Purposes: RCW 28A.545.030.*

*Rules to effect purposes and implement provisions: RCW 28A.545.110.*

*Superintendent's annual determination of estimated amount due—Process: RCW 28A.545.070.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.054 Excess levies—Ballot contents—Eventual dollar rate on tax rolls.** The additional tax provided for in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution, and specifically authorized by RCW 84.52.052, 84.52.053, 84.52.0531, and 84.52.130, shall be set forth in terms of dollars on the ballot of the proposition to be submitted to the voters, together with an estimate of the dollar rate of tax levy that will be required to produce the dollar amount; and the county assessor, in spreading this tax upon the rolls, shall determine the eventual dollar rate required to produce the amount of dollars so voted upon, regardless of the estimate of dollar rate of tax levy carried in said proposition. In the case of a school district or fire protection district proposition for a particular period, the dollar amount and the corresponding estimate of the dollar rate of tax levy shall be set forth for each of the years in that period. The dollar amount for each annual levy in the particular period may be equal or in different amounts. [2007 c 54 § 27; 1986 c 133 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 325 § 2; 1977 c 4 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 103; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.054. Prior: 1955 c 105 § 1.]

**Severability—2007 c 54:** See note following RCW 82.04.050.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.056 Excess levies for capital purposes authorized.** (1) Any municipal corporation otherwise authorized by law to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes may, at an election duly held after giving notice thereof as required by law, authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for capital purposes only, which does not include the replacement of equipment, and provide for the payment of the principal and interest of such bonds by annual levies in excess of the tax limitations contained in RCW 84.52.050 to 84.52.056, inclusive and RCW 84.52.043. Such an election may not be held more often than twice a calendar year, and the proposition to issue any such bonds and to exceed the tax limitation must receive the affirmative vote of a three-fifths majority of those voting on the proposition and the total number of persons voting at the election must constitute not less than forty percent of the voters in the municipal corporation who voted at the last preceding general state election.

(2) Any taxing district has the right by vote of its governing body to refund any general obligation bonds of said district issued for capital purposes only, and to provide for the interest thereon and amortization thereof by annual levies in excess of the tax limitations provided for in RCW 84.52.050 to 84.52.056, inclusive and RCW 84.52.043.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "bond" includes a municipal corporation's obligation to make payments to the state in connection with a financing contract entered into by

the state by or on behalf of a municipal corporation under chapter 39.94 RCW. [2010 c 115 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 104; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 148; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.056. Prior: 1959 c 290 § 2; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 23 § 4; prior: 1951 c 255 § 1, part; 1950 ex.s. c 11 § 1, part; 1945 c 253 § 1, part; 1941 c 176 § 1, part; 1939 c 83 § 1, part; 1939 c 2 (Init. Meas. No. 129); 1937 c 1 (Init. Meas. No. 114); 1935 c 2 (Init. Meas. No. 94); 1933 c 4 (Init. Meas. No. 64); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11238-1e, part.]

**Authority—2010 c 115:** See note following RCW 39.94.030.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.063 Rural library district levies.** A rural library district may impose a regular property tax levy in an amount equal to that which would be produced by a levy of fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value multiplied by an assessed valuation equal to one hundred percent of the true and fair value of the taxable property in the rural library district, as determined by the department of revenue's indicated county ratio: PROVIDED, That when any county assessor shall find that the aggregate rate of levy on any property will exceed the limitation set forth in RCW 84.52.043 and 84.52.050, as now or hereafter amended, before recomputing and establishing a consolidated levy in the manner set forth in RCW 84.52.010, the assessor shall first reduce the levy of any rural library district, by such amount as may be necessary, but the levy of any rural library district shall not be reduced to less than fifty cents per thousand dollars against the value of the taxable property, as determined by the county, prior to any further adjustments pursuant to RCW 84.52.010. For purposes of this section "regular property tax levy" shall mean a levy subject to the limitations provided for in Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution and/or by statute. [2001 c 187 § 25; 1997 c 3 § 125 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 105; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 150; 1970 ex.s. c 92 § 9.]

**Intent—Effective date—Application—1970 ex.s. c 92:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.065 State levy for support of common schools.** Subject to the limitations in RCW 84.55.010, in each year the state shall levy for collection in the following year for the support of common schools of the state a tax of three dollars and sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value upon the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the state adjusted to the state equalized value in accordance with the indicated ratio fixed by the state department of revenue.

As used in this section, "the support of common schools" includes the payment of the principal and interest on bonds issued for capital construction projects for the common schools. [1991 sp.s. c 31 § 16; 1979 ex.s. c 218 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 106; 1971 ex.s. c 299 § 25; 1969 ex.s. c 216 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 133 § 1.]

*Limitation of levies: RCW 84.52.050.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.067 State levy for support of common schools—Disposition of funds.** All property taxes levied by the state for the support of common schools shall be paid into the general fund of the state treasury as provided in RCW

84.56.280. [2009 c 479 § 73; 2001 c 3 § 7 (Initiative Measure No. 728, approved November 7, 2000); 1967 ex.s. c 133 § 2.]

**Effective date—2009 c 479:** See note following RCW 2.56.030.

**Short title—Purpose—Intent—Construction—Effective dates—2001 c 3 (Initiative Measure No. 728):** See notes following RCW 67.70.240.

#### **84.52.069 Emergency medical care and service levies.**

(1) As used in this section, "taxing district" means a county, emergency medical service district, city or town, public hospital district, urban emergency medical service district, regional fire protection service authority, or fire protection district.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, a taxing district may impose additional regular property tax levies in an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars of the assessed value of property in the taxing district. The tax is imposed (a) each year for six consecutive years, (b) each year for ten consecutive years, or (c) permanently. A permanent tax levy under this section, or the initial imposition of a six-year or ten-year levy under this section, must be specifically authorized by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election, at which election the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district at the last preceding general election when the number of registered voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election; or by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters thereof voting on the proposition when the number of registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the total number of voters voting in such taxing district in the last preceding general election. The uninterrupted continuation of a six-year or ten-year tax levy under this section must be specifically authorized by a majority of the registered voters thereof approving a proposition authorizing the levies submitted at a general or special election. Ballot propositions must conform with RCW 29A.36.210. A taxing district may not submit to the voters at the same election multiple propositions to impose a levy under this section.

(3) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section shall provide for separate accounting of expenditures of the revenues generated by the levy. The taxing district must maintain a statement of the accounting which must be updated at least every two years and must be available to the public upon request at no charge.

(4)(a) A taxing district imposing a permanent levy under this section must provide for a referendum procedure to apply to the ordinance or resolution imposing the tax. This referendum procedure must specify that a referendum petition may be filed at any time with a filing officer, as identified in the ordinance or resolution. Within ten days, the filing officer must confer with the petitioner concerning form and style of the petition, issue the petition an identification number, and secure an accurate, concise, and positive ballot title from the designated local official. The petitioner has thirty days in which to secure the signatures of not less than fifteen percent of the registered voters of the taxing district, as of the last

general election, upon petition forms which contain the ballot title and the full text of the measure to be referred. The filing officer must verify the sufficiency of the signatures on the petition and, if sufficient valid signatures are properly submitted, must certify the referendum measure to the next election within the taxing district if one is to be held within one hundred eighty days from the date of filing of the referendum petition, or at a special election to be called for that purpose in accordance with RCW 29A.04.330.

(b) The referendum procedure provided in this subsection (4) is exclusive in all instances for any taxing district imposing the tax under this section and supersedes the procedures provided under all other statutory or charter provisions for initiative or referendum which might otherwise apply.

(5) Any tax imposed under this section may be used only for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical care or emergency medical services.

(6) If a county levies a tax under this section, no taxing district within the county may levy a tax under this section. If a regional fire protection service authority imposes a tax under this section, no other taxing district that is a participating fire protection jurisdiction in the regional fire protection service authority may levy a tax under this section. No other taxing district may levy a tax under this section if another taxing district has levied a tax under this section within its boundaries: PROVIDED, That if a county levies less than fifty cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value of property, then any other taxing district may levy a tax under this section equal to the difference between the rate of the levy by the county and fifty cents: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if a taxing district within a county levies this tax, and the voters of the county subsequently approve a levying of this tax, then the amount of the taxing district levy within the county must be reduced, when the combined levies exceed fifty cents. Whenever a tax is levied countywide, the service must, insofar as is feasible, be provided throughout the county: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no countywide levy proposal may be placed on the ballot without the approval of the legislative authority of each city exceeding fifty thousand population within the county: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section and RCW 36.32.480 shall not prohibit any city or town from levying an annual excess levy to fund emergency medical services: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if a county proposes to impose tax levies under this section, no other ballot proposition authorizing tax levies under this section by another taxing district in the county may be placed before the voters at the same election at which the county ballot proposition is placed: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any taxing district emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration and that is authorized subsequent to a county emergency medical service levy that is limited in duration, expires concurrently with the county emergency medical service levy. A fire protection district that has annexed an area described in subsection (10) of this section may levy the maximum amount of tax that would otherwise be allowed, notwithstanding any limitations in this subsection (6).

(7) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 do not apply to the tax levy authorized in this section.

(8) If a ballot proposition approved under subsection (2) of this section did not impose the maximum allowable levy amount authorized for the taxing district under this section, any future increase up to the maximum allowable levy amount must be specifically authorized by the voters in accordance with subsection (2) of this section at a general or special election.

(9) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first levy imposed pursuant to this section following the approval of such levy by the voters pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(10) For purposes of imposing the tax authorized under this section, the boundary of a county with a population greater than one million five hundred thousand does not include all of the area of the county that is located within a city that has a boundary in two counties, if the locally assessed value of all the property in the area of the city within the county having a population greater than one million five hundred thousand is less than two hundred fifty million dollars.

(11) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district; and

(b) "Participating fire protection jurisdiction" means a fire protection district, city, town, Indian tribe, or port district that is represented on the governing board of a regional fire protection service authority. [2012 c 115 § 1; 2011 c 365 § 2; 2004 c 129 § 23; 1999 c 224 § 1; 1995 c 318 § 9; 1994 c 79 § 2; 1993 c 337 § 5; 1991 c 175 § 1; 1985 c 348 § 1; 1984 c 131 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 200 § 1.]

**Findings—Intent—2011 c 365:** "(1) The legislature finds that King county currently imposes an emergency medical services levy throughout the entire county. The legislature further finds that the city of Milton is located partially within King and Pierce counties and the residents of Milton within King county pay the county emergency medical services levy. The legislature further finds that King county, through an interlocal agreement with the city of Milton, has not provided emergency medical services to the city for many years and instead has remitted the county emergency medical services levy collected within the city back to the city. The legislature further finds that the city of Milton has collected only twenty cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation under its city emergency medical services levy, and not the full fifty cents authorized by the city's voters, because state law limits the city's levy, as well as any other taxing district's emergency medical services levy, if the county also imposes the tax. The legislature further finds that the city of Milton is exploring the possibility of being annexed by a fire protection district located in Pierce county; however, if the district annexes the entire city, including the portion in King county, the district would have to lower its emergency medical services levy as required under state law.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to address this unusual situation by excluding the portion of the city of Milton within King county from the county emergency medical services levy. It is the further intent of the legislature to clarify that a fire protection district is able to levy the full amount of emergency medical services levy otherwise allowed by law throughout the entire city." [2011 c 365 § 1.]

**Application—2011 c 365:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2012 and thereafter." [2011 c 365 § 3.]

**Captions not law—Severability—2004 c 129:** See RCW 52.26.900 and 52.26.901.

**Finding—1993 c 337:** See note following RCW 84.52.105.

**Purpose—1984 c 131 §§ 3-9:** See note following RCW 29A.36.210.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.070 Certification of levies to assessor.** (1) It is the duty of the county legislative authority of each county, on or before the thirtieth day of November in each year, to certify to the county assessor the amount of taxes levied upon the property in the county for county purposes, and the respective amounts of taxes levied by the board for each taxing district, within or coextensive with the county, for district purposes.

(2) It is the duty of the council of each city having a population of three hundred thousand or more, and of the council of each town, and of all officials or boards of taxing districts within or coextensive with the county, authorized by law to levy taxes directly and not through the county legislative authority, on or before the thirtieth day of November in each year, to certify to the county assessor the amount of taxes levied upon the property within the city, town, or district for city, town, or district purposes.

(3) If a levy amount is certified to the county assessor after the thirtieth day of November, the county assessor may use no more than the certified levy amount for the previous year for the taxing district. This subsection (3) does not apply to the state levy or when the assessor has not certified assessed values as required by RCW 84.48.130 at least twelve working days before November 30th. [2010 c 106 § 313; 1994 c 81 § 86; 1988 c 222 § 28; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.070. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 78; RRS § 11239; prior: 1890 p 558 §§ 77, 78; Code 1881 § 2881.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.080 Extension of taxes on rolls—Form of certificate—Delivery to treasurer.** (1) The county assessor must extend the taxes upon the tax rolls in the form prescribed in this section. The rate percent necessary to raise the amounts of taxes levied for state and county purposes, and for purposes of taxing districts coextensive with the county, must be computed upon the assessed value of the property of the county. The rate percent necessary to raise the amount of taxes levied for any taxing district within the county must be computed upon the assessed value of the property of the district. All taxes assessed against any property must be added together and extended on the rolls in a column headed consolidated or total tax. In extending any tax, whenever the tax amounts to a fractional part of a cent greater than one-half of a cent it must be rounded up to one cent, and whenever it amounts to one-half of a cent or less it must be dropped. The amount of all taxes must be entered in the proper columns, as shown by entering the rate percent necessary to raise the consolidated or total tax and the total tax assessed against the property.

(2) For the purpose of computing the rate necessary to raise the amount of any excess levy in a taxing district entitled to a distribution under RCW 84.33.081, other than the state, the county assessor must add the district's timber assessed value, as defined in RCW 84.33.035, to the assessed value of the property. However, for school districts maintenance and operations levies, only one-half of the district's timber assessed value or eighty percent of the timber roll of the district in calendar year 1983 as determined under chapter 84.33 RCW, whichever is greater, must be added to the assessed value of the property.

(3) Upon the completion of such tax extension, it is the duty of the county assessor to make in each assessment book, tax roll or list a certificate in the following form:

I, . . . . ., assessor of . . . . . county, state of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct list of taxes levied on the real and personal property in the county of . . . . . for the year two thousand . . . . .

Witness my hand this . . . . day of . . . . ., 20. . .

. . . . ., County Assessor

(4) The county assessor must deliver the tax rolls to the county treasurer, on or before the fifteenth day of January, taking a receipt from the treasurer. At the same time, the county assessor must provide the county auditor with an abstract of the tax rolls showing the total amount of taxes collectible in each of the taxing districts. [2010 c 106 § 314; 1989 c 378 § 16; 1988 c 222 § 29; 1985 c 184 § 2; 1984 c 204 § 14; 1965 ex.s. c 7 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.52.080. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 79; RRS § 11240; prior: 1909 c 230 § 4; 1905 c 128 § 1; 1897 c 71 §§ 64, 65; 1893 c 124 §§ 65, 66; 1890 p 566 §§ 79, 81; Code 1881 §§ 2883, 2884.]

**Effective date—2010 c 106:** See note following RCW 35.102.145.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.085 Property tax errors.** (1) If an error has occurred in the levy of property taxes that has caused all taxpayers within a taxing district, other than the state, to pay an incorrect amount of property tax, the assessor shall correct the error by making an appropriate adjustment to the levy for that taxing district in the succeeding year. The adjustment shall be made without including any interest. If the governing authority of the taxing district determines that the amount of the adjustment in the succeeding year is so large as to cause a hardship for the taxing district or the taxpayers within the district, the adjustment may be made on a proportional basis over a period of not more than three consecutive years.

(a) A correction of an error in the levying of property taxes shall not be made for any period more than three years preceding the year in which the error is discovered.

(b) When calculating the levy limitation under chapter 84.55 RCW for levies made following the discovery of an error, the assessor shall determine and use the correct levy amount for the year or years being corrected as though the error had not occurred. The amount of the adjustment determined under this subsection (1) shall not be considered when calculating the levy limitation.

(c) If the taxing district in which a levy error has occurred does not levy property taxes in the year the error is discovered, or for a period of more than three years subsequent to the year the error was discovered, an adjustment shall not be made.

(2) If an error has occurred in the distribution of property taxes so that property tax collected has been incorrectly distributed to a taxing district or taxing districts wholly or partially within a county, the treasurer of the county in which the error occurred shall correct the error by making an appropriate adjustment to the amount distributed to that taxing district or districts in the succeeding year. The adjustment shall be made without including any interest. If the treasurer, in consultation with the governing authority of the taxing district or districts affected, determines that the amount of the adjust-

ment in the succeeding year is so large as to cause a hardship for the taxing district or districts, the adjustment may be made on a proportional basis over a period of not more than three consecutive years. A correction of an error in the distribution of property taxes shall not be made for any period more than three years preceding the year in which the error is discovered. [2001 c 185 § 14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.105 Affordable housing levies authorized—Declaration of emergency and plan required.** (1) A county, city, or town may impose additional regular property tax levies of up to fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of property in each year for up to ten consecutive years to finance affordable housing for very low-income households when specifically authorized to do so by a majority of the voters of the taxing district voting on a ballot proposition authorizing the levies. If both a county, and a city or town within the county, impose levies authorized under this section, the levies of the last jurisdiction to receive voter approval for the levies shall be reduced or eliminated so that the combined rates of these levies may not exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation in any area within the county. A ballot proposition authorizing a levy under this section must conform with RCW 84.52.054.

(2) The additional property tax levies may not be imposed until:

(a) The governing body of the county, city, or town declares the existence of an emergency with respect to the availability of housing that is affordable to very low-income households in the taxing district; and

(b) The governing body of the county, city, or town adopts an affordable housing financing plan to serve as the plan for expenditure of funds raised by a levy authorized under this section, and the governing body determines that the affordable housing financing plan is consistent with either the locally adopted or state-adopted comprehensive housing affordability strategy, required under the Cranston-Gonzalez national affordable housing act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12701, et seq.), as amended.

(3) For purposes of this section, the term "very low-income household" means a single person, family, or unrelated persons living together whose income is at or below fifty percent of the median income, as determined by the United States department of housing and urban development, with adjustments for household size, for the county where the taxing district is located.

(4) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 shall not apply to the tax levy authorized in this section. [1995 c 318 § 10; 1993 c 337 § 2.]

**Finding—1993 c 337:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Many very low-income residents of the state of Washington are unable to afford housing that is decent, safe, and appropriate to their living needs;

(2) Recent federal housing legislation conditions funding for affordable housing on the availability of local matching funds;

(3) Current statutory debt limitations may impair the ability of counties, cities, and towns to meet federal matching requirements and, as a consequence, may impair the ability of such counties, cities, and towns to develop appropriate and effective strategies to increase the availability of safe, decent, and appropriate housing that is affordable to very low-income households; and

(4) It is in the public interest to encourage counties, cities, and towns to

develop locally based affordable housing financing plans designed to expand the availability of housing that is decent, safe, affordable, and appropriate to the living needs of very low-income households of the counties, cities, and towns." [1993 c 337 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.52.120 Metropolitan park districts—Protection of levy from prorationing—Ballot proposition.** (*Effective until January 1, 2018.*) A metropolitan park district with a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more, or any metropolitan park district located in a county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more, may submit a ballot proposition to voters of the district authorizing the protection of the district's tax levy from prorationing under RCW 84.52.010(3)(b) by imposing all or any portion of the district's twenty-five cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation tax levy outside of the five dollar and ninety cent per thousand dollar of assessed valuation limitation established under RCW 84.52.043(2), if those taxes otherwise would be prorated under RCW 84.52.010(3)(b)(iii), for taxes imposed in any year on or before the first day of January six years after the ballot proposition is approved. A simple majority vote of voters voting on the proposition is required for approval. [2011 1st sp.s. c 28 § 3; 1995 c 99 § 1.]

**Application—Expiration date—2011 1st sp.s. c 28:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

**84.52.120 Metropolitan park districts—Protection of levy from prorationing—Ballot proposition.** (*Effective January 1, 2018.*) A metropolitan park district with a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more may submit a ballot proposition to voters of the district authorizing the protection of the district's tax levy from prorationing under RCW 84.52.010(2) by imposing all or any portion of the district's twenty-five cent per thousand dollars of assessed valuation tax levy outside of the five dollar and ninety cent per thousand dollar of assessed valuation limitation established under RCW 84.52.043(2), if those taxes otherwise would be prorated under RCW 84.52.010(2)(c), for taxes imposed in any year on or before the first day of January six years after the ballot proposition is approved. A simple majority vote of voters voting on the proposition is required for approval. [1995 c 99 § 1.]

**84.52.125 Fire protection districts—Protection from levy prorationing.** A fire protection district may protect the district's tax levy from prorationing under \*RCW 84.52.010(2) by imposing up to a total of twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of the tax levies authorized under RCW 52.16.140 and 52.16.160 outside of the five dollars and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation limitation established under RCW 84.52.043(2), if those taxes otherwise would be prorated under \*RCW 84.52.010(2)(e). [2005 c 122 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 84.52.010 was amended by 2011 c 275 § 1, changing subsection (2) and (2)(e) to subsection (3)(b) and (3)(b)(v), respectively.

**Application—2005 c 122:** "This act applies to taxes levied for collection in 2006 and thereafter." [2005 c 122 § 4.]

**84.52.130 Fire protection district excess levies.** The limitations imposed by RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056,

and 84.52.043 shall not prevent the levy of taxes by a fire protection district, when authorized so to do by the voters of a fire protection district in the manner and for the purposes and number of years allowable under Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state. Elections for taxes shall be held in the year in which the levy is made, or in the case of propositions authorizing two-year through four-year levies for maintenance and operation support of a fire district, or authorizing two-year through six-year levies to support the construction, modernization, or remodeling of fire district facilities, in the year in which the first annual levy is made. Once additional tax levies have been authorized for maintenance and operation support of a fire protection district for a two-year through four-year period, no further additional tax levies for maintenance and operation support of the district for that period may be authorized.

A special election may be called and the time fixed by the fire protection district commissioners, by giving notice by publication in the manner provided by law for giving notices of general elections, at which special election the proposition authorizing the excess levy shall be submitted in a form as to enable the voters favoring the proposition to vote "yes" and those opposed to vote "no." [2002 c 180 § 2.]

**Contingent effective date—2002 c 180:** See note following RCW 84.52.052.

**84.52.135 County levy for criminal justice purposes.**

(1) A county with a population of ninety thousand or less may impose additional regular property tax levies in an amount equal to fifty cents or less per thousand dollars of the assessed value of property in the county in accordance with the terms of this section.

(2) The tax proposition may be submitted at a general or special election.

(3) The tax may be imposed each year for six consecutive years when specifically authorized by the registered voters voting on the proposition, subject to the following:

(a) If the number of registered voters voting on the proposition does not exceed forty percent of the total number of voters voting in the taxing district at the last general election, the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall constitute at least three-fifths of a number equal to forty percent of the total number of voters voting in the taxing district at the last general election.

(b) If the number of registered voters voting on the proposition exceeds forty percent of the total number of voters voting in the taxing district at the last preceding general election, the number of persons voting "yes" on the proposition shall be at least three-fifths of the registered voters voting on the proposition.

(4) Ballot propositions shall conform with RCW 29A.36.210.

(5) Any tax imposed under this section shall be used exclusively for criminal justice purposes.

(6) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 do not apply to the tax authorized in this section.

(7) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first tax levy imposed pursuant to this section following the approval of the levy by the voters pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. [2004 c 80 § 1.]

(2012 Ed.)

**Effective date—2004 c 80:** "This act takes effect July 1, 2004." [2004 c 80 § 5.]

**84.52.140 Additional regular property tax levy authorized.** (1) A county with a population of one million five hundred thousand or more may impose an additional regular property tax levy in an amount not to exceed seven and one-half cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value of property in the county in accordance with the terms of this section.

(2) Any tax imposed under this section shall be used as follows:

(a) The first one cent for expanding transit capacity along state route number 520 by adding core and other supporting bus routes;

(b) The remainder for transit-related expenditures.

(3) The limitations in RCW 84.52.043 do not apply to the tax authorized in this section.

(4) The limitation in RCW 84.55.010 does not apply to the first tax levy imposed under this section. [2009 c 551 § 5.]

**84.52.700 County airport district levy authorized.** See RCW 14.08.290.

**84.52.703 Mosquito control district levies authorized.** See RCW 17.28.100, 17.28.252, and 17.28.260.

**84.52.706 Rural county library district levy authorized.** See RCW 27.12.050 and 27.12.222.

**84.52.709 Intercounty rural library district levy authorized.** See RCW 27.12.150 and 27.12.222.

**84.52.712 Reduction of city levy if part of library district.** See RCW 27.12.390.

**84.52.713 Island library district levy authorized.** See RCW 27.12.420 and 27.12.222.

**84.52.718 Levy by receiver of disincorporated city authorized.** See RCW 35.07.180.

**84.52.719 Second-class city levies.** See RCW 35.23.470.

**84.52.721 Unclassified city sewer fund levy authorized.** See RCW 35.30.020.

**84.52.724 City accident fund levy authorized.** See RCW 35.31.060.

**84.52.727 City emergency fund levy authorized.** See RCW 35.32A.060.

**84.52.730 City lowlands and waterway projects levy authorized.** See RCW 35.56.190.

**84.52.733 Metropolitan municipal corporation levy authorized.** See RCW 35.58.090.

**84.52.736 Metropolitan park district levy authorized.** See RCW 35.61.210.

**84.52.739 Code city accident fund levy authorized.** See RCW 35A.31.070.

**84.52.742 County lands assessment fund levy authorized.** See RCW 36.33.120 and 36.33.140.

**84.52.745 General county levy authorized.** See RCW 36.40.090.

**84.52.749 County rail district tax levies authorized.** See RCW 36.60.040.

**84.52.750 Solid waste disposal district—Excess levies authorized.** See RCW 36.58.150.

**84.52.751 County hospital maintenance levy authorized.** See RCW 36.62.090.

**84.52.754 Park and recreation service area levies authorized.** See RCW 36.68.520 and 36.68.525.

**84.52.757 Park and recreation district levies authorized.** See RCW 36.69.140 and 36.69.145.

**84.52.760 County road fund levy authorized.** See RCW 36.82.040.

**84.52.761 Road and bridge service district levies authorized.** See RCW 36.83.030 and 36.83.040.

**84.52.763 City firemen's pension fund levy authorized.** See RCW 41.16.060.

**84.52.769 Reduction of city levy if part of fire protection district.** See RCW 52.04.081.

**84.52.772 Fire protection district levies authorized.** See RCW 52.16.130, 52.16.140, and 52.16.160.

**84.52.775 Port district levies authorized.** See RCW 53.36.020, 53.36.070, 53.36.100, and 53.47.040.

**84.52.778 Public utility district levy authorized.** See RCW 54.16.080.

**84.52.784 Water-sewer district levies authorized.** See RCW 57.04.050, 57.20.019, and 57.20.105.

**84.52.786 Cultural arts, stadium and convention district tax levies authorized.** See RCW 67.38.110 and 67.38.130.

**84.52.787 Cemetery district levy authorized.** See RCW 68.52.290 and 68.52.310.

**84.52.790 Public hospital district levy authorized.** See RCW 70.44.060.

**84.52.793 Air pollution control agency levy authorized.** See RCW 70.94.091.

**84.52.799 Veteran's relief fund levy authorized.** See RCW 73.08.080.

**84.52.802 Acquisition of open space, etc., land or rights to future development by certain entities—Property tax levy authorized.** See RCW 84.34.230.

**84.52.808 River improvement fund levy authorized.** See RCW 86.12.010.

**84.52.811 Intercounty river control agreement levy authorized.** See RCW 86.13.010 and 86.13.030.

**84.52.814 Flood control zone district levy authorized.** See RCW 86.15.160.

**84.52.815 Flood control zone district—Coextensive with county—Prorationing protection.** (*Expires January 1, 2018.*) A flood control zone district in a county with a population of seven hundred seventy-five thousand or more that is coextensive with a county may protect the levy under RCW 86.15.160(1) from prorationing under RCW 84.52.010(3)(b)(ii) by imposing up to a total of twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value of the tax levy authorized under RCW 86.15.160 outside of the five dollars and ninety cents per thousand dollars of assessed value limitation under RCW 84.52.043(2), if those taxes otherwise would be prorated under RCW 84.52.010(3)(b)(ii). [2011 1st sp.s. c 28 § 4; 2011 c 275 § 3.]

**Application—Expiration date—2011 1st sp.s. c 28:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

**Application—Expiration date—2011 c 275:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**84.52.817 Irrigation and rehabilitation district special assessment authorized.** See RCW 87.84.070.

**84.52.820 Reclamation district levy authorized.** See RCW 89.30.391 through 89.30.397.

**84.52.823 Levy for tax refund funds.** See RCW 84.68.040.

#### Chapter 84.55 RCW LIMITATIONS UPON REGULAR PROPERTY TAXES

##### Sections

84.55.005	Definitions.
84.55.010	Limitations prescribed.
84.55.0101	Limit factor—Authorization for taxing district to use one hundred one percent or less—Ordinance or resolution.
84.55.015	Restoration of regular levy.
84.55.020	Limitation upon first levy for district created from consolidation.
84.55.030	Limitation upon first levy following annexation.
84.55.035	Inapplicability of limitation to newly-formed taxing district created other than by consolidation or annexation.
84.55.040	Increase in statutory dollar rate limitation.
84.55.045	Applicability of chapter to levy by port district for industrial development district purposes.
84.55.047	Applicability of chapter to community revitalization financing increment areas.

- 84.55.050 Election to authorize increase in regular property tax levy—Limited propositions—Procedure.
- 84.55.060 Rate rules—Educational program—Other necessary action.
- 84.55.070 Inapplicability of chapter to levies for certain purposes.
- 84.55.092 Protection of future levy capacity.
- 84.55.100 Determination of limitations.
- 84.55.110 Withdrawal of certain areas of a library district, metropolitan park district, fire protection district, or public hospital district—Calculation of taxes due.
- 84.55.120 Public hearing—Taxing district's revenue sources—Adoption of tax increase by ordinance or resolution.
- 84.55.125 Limitation adjustment for certain leasehold interests.

**84.55.005 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Inflation" means the percentage change in the implicit price deflator for personal consumption expenditures for the United States as published for the most recent twelve-month period by the bureau of economic analysis of the federal department of commerce in September of the year before the taxes are payable;

(2) "Limit factor" means:

(a) For taxing districts with a population of less than ten thousand in the calendar year prior to the assessment year, one hundred one percent;

(b) For taxing districts for which a limit factor is authorized under RCW 84.55.0101, the lesser of the limit factor authorized under that section or one hundred one percent;

(c) For all other districts, the lesser of one hundred one percent or one hundred percent plus inflation; and

(3) "Regular property taxes" has the meaning given it in RCW 84.04.140. [2007 sp.s. c 1 § 1. Prior: 1997 c 393 § 20; 1997 c 3 § 201 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 49; 1983 1st ex.s. c 62 § 11.]

**Reviser's note:** On November 8, 2007, Initiative Measure No. 747 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *Washington Citizens Action of Washington v. State*, Washington State Supreme Court (No. 78844-8).

**Application—Effective date—2007 sp.s. c 1:** See notes following RCW 84.55.0101.

**Intent—1997 c 3 §§ 201-207:** See note following RCW 84.55.010.

**Short title—Intent—Effective dates—Applicability—1983 1st ex.s. c 62:** See notes following RCW 84.36.477.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.010 Limitations prescribed.** Except as provided in this chapter, the levy for a taxing district in any year shall be set so that the regular property taxes payable in the following year shall not exceed the limit factor multiplied by the amount of regular property taxes lawfully levied for such district in the highest of the three most recent years in which such taxes were levied for such district plus an additional dollar amount calculated by multiplying the increase in assessed value in that district resulting from new construction, increases in assessed value due to construction of electric generation wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to property, and any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed property by the regular property tax levy rate of that district for the preceding year. [2006 c 184 § 1; 1997 c 3 § 202 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1979 ex.s. c 218 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 67 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 20.]

**Reviser's note:** Throughout chapter 84.55 RCW the phrase "this 1971 amendatory act" has been changed to "this chapter." For codification of "this 1971 amendatory act" [1971 ex.s. c 288], see Codification Tables.

**Intent—1997 c 3 §§ 201-207:** "It is the intent of sections 201 through 207 of this act to lower the one hundred six percent limit while still allowing (2012 Ed.)

taxing districts to raise revenues in excess of the limit if approved by a majority of the voters as provided in RCW 84.55.050." [1997 c 3 § 208 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997).]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.0101 Limit factor—Authorization for taxing district to use one hundred one percent or less—Ordinance or resolution.** Upon a finding of substantial need, the legislative authority of a taxing district other than the state may provide for the use of a limit factor under this chapter of one hundred one percent or less. In districts with legislative authorities of four members or less, two-thirds of the members must approve an ordinance or resolution under this section. In districts with more than four members, a majority plus one vote must approve an ordinance or resolution under this section. The new limit factor shall be effective for taxes collected in the following year only. [2007 sp.s. c 1 § 2; 1997 c 3 § 204 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997).]

**Reviser's note:** On November 8, 2007, Initiative Measure No. 747 was declared unconstitutional in its entirety in *Washington Citizens Action of Washington v. State*, Washington State Supreme Court (No. 78844-8).

**Application—2007 sp.s. c 1:** "This act applies both prospectively and retroactively to taxes levied for collection in 2002 and thereafter." [2007 sp.s. c 1 § 3.]

**Effective date—2007 sp.s. c 1:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [November 29, 2007]." [2007 sp.s. c 1 § 4.]

**Intent—1997 c 3 §§ 201-207:** See note following RCW 84.55.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.015 Restoration of regular levy.** If a taxing district has not levied since 1985 and elects to restore a regular property tax levy subject to applicable statutory limitations then such first restored levy shall be set so that the regular property tax payable shall not exceed the amount which was last levied, plus an additional dollar amount calculated by multiplying the increase in assessed value in the district since the last levy resulting from new construction, increases in assessed value due to construction of electric generation wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to property, and any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed property by the property tax rate which is proposed to be restored, or the maximum amount which could be lawfully levied in the year such a restored levy is proposed. [2006 c 184 § 2; 1999 c 96 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 218 § 4.]

**84.55.020 Limitation upon first levy for district created from consolidation.** Notwithstanding the limitation set forth in RCW 84.55.010, the first levy for a taxing district created from consolidation of similar taxing districts shall be set so that the regular property taxes payable in the following year shall not exceed the limit factor multiplied by the sum of the amount of regular property taxes lawfully levied for each component taxing district in the highest of the three most recent years in which such taxes were levied for such district plus the additional dollar amount calculated by multiplying the increase in assessed value in each component district resulting from new construction, increases in assessed value due to construction of electric generation wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to prop-

erty, and any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed property by the regular property tax rate of each component district for the preceding year. [2006 c 184 § 3; 1997 c 3 § 203 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 21.]

**Intent—1997 c 3 §§ 201-207:** See note following RCW 84.55.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.030 Limitation upon first levy following annexation.** For the first levy for a taxing district following annexation of additional property, the limitation set forth in RCW 84.55.010 shall be increased by an amount equal to (1) the aggregate assessed valuation of the newly annexed property as shown by the current completed and balanced tax rolls of the county or counties within which such property lies, multiplied by (2) the dollar rate that would have been used by the annexing unit in the absence of such annexation, plus (3) the additional dollar amount calculated by multiplying the increase in assessed value in the annexing district resulting from new construction, increases in assessed value due to construction of electric generation wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, improvements to property, and any increase in the assessed value of state-assessed property by the regular property tax levy rate of that annexing taxing district for the preceding year. [2006 c 184 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 107; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.035 Inapplicability of limitation to newly-formed taxing district created other than by consolidation or annexation.** RCW 84.55.010 shall not apply to the first levy by or for a newly-formed taxing district created other than by consolidation or annexation.

This section shall be retroactive in effect and shall be deemed to validate any levy within its scope, even though the levy has been made prior to June 4, 1979. [1979 ex.s. c 218 § 5.]

**84.55.040 Increase in statutory dollar rate limitation.** If by reason of the operation of RCW 84.52.043 and 84.52.050, as now or hereafter amended the statutory dollar rate limitation applicable to the levy by a taxing district has been increased over the statutory millage limitation applicable to such taxing district's levy in the preceding year, the limitation on the dollar rate amount of a levy provided for in this chapter shall be increased by multiplying the otherwise dollar limitation by a fraction, the numerator of which is the increased dollar limitation and the denominator of which is the dollar limitation for the prior year. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 108; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 151; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 23.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.045 Applicability of chapter to levy by port district for industrial development district purposes.** For purposes of applying the provisions of this chapter:

(1) A levy by or for a port district pursuant to RCW 53.36.100 shall be treated in the same manner as a separate regular property tax levy made by or for a separate taxing district; and

(2) The first levy by or for a port district pursuant to RCW 53.36.100 after April 1, 1982, shall not be subject to RCW 84.55.010. [1982 1st ex.s. c 3 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.047 Applicability of chapter to community revitalization financing increment areas.** Limitations on regular property taxes that are provided in this chapter shall continue in a taxing district whether or not an increment area exists within the taxing district as provided under chapter 39.89 RCW. [2001 c 212 § 24.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.050 Election to authorize increase in regular property tax levy—Limited propositions—Procedure.**

(1) Subject to any otherwise applicable statutory dollar rate limitations, regular property taxes may be levied by or for a taxing district in an amount exceeding the limitations provided for in this chapter if such levy is authorized by a proposition approved by a majority of the voters of the taxing district voting on the proposition at a general election held within the district or at a special election within the taxing district called by the district for the purpose of submitting such proposition to the voters. Any election held pursuant to this section shall be held not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the proposed levy is to be made, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section. The ballot of the proposition shall state the dollar rate proposed and shall clearly state the conditions, if any, which are applicable under subsection (4) of this section.

(2)(a) Subject to statutory dollar limitations, a proposition placed before the voters under this section may authorize annual increases in levies for multiple consecutive years, up to six consecutive years, during which period each year's authorized maximum legal levy shall be used as the base upon which an increased levy limit for the succeeding year is computed, but the ballot proposition must state the dollar rate proposed only for the first year of the consecutive years and must state the limit factor, or a specified index to be used for determining a limit factor, such as the consumer price index, which need not be the same for all years, by which the regular tax levy for the district may be increased in each of the subsequent consecutive years. Elections for this purpose must be held at a primary or general election. The title of each ballot measure must state the limited purposes for which the proposed annual increases during the specified period of up to six consecutive years shall be used.

(b)(i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (2)(b), funds raised by a levy under this subsection may not supplant existing funds used for the limited purpose specified in the ballot title. For purposes of this subsection, existing funds means the actual operating expenditures for the calendar year in which the ballot measure is approved by voters. Actual operating expenditures excludes lost federal funds, lost or expired state grants or loans, extraordinary events not likely to reoccur, changes in contract provisions beyond the control of the taxing district receiving the services, and major nonrecurring capital expenditures.

(ii) The supplanting limitations in (b)(i) of this subsection do not apply to levies approved by the voters in calendar years 2009, 2010, and 2011, in any county with a population

of one million five hundred thousand or more. This subsection (2)(b)(ii) only applies to levies approved by the voters after July 26, 2009.

(iii) The supplanting limitations in (b)(i) of this subsection do not apply to levies approved by the voters in calendar year 2009 and thereafter in any county with a population less than one million five hundred thousand. This subsection (2)(b)(iii) only applies to levies approved by the voters after July 26, 2009.

(3) After a levy authorized pursuant to this section is made, the dollar amount of such levy may not be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies provided for in this chapter, unless the ballot proposition expressly states that the levy made under this section will be used for this purpose.

(4) If expressly stated, a proposition placed before the voters under subsection (1) or (2) of this section may:

(a) Use the dollar amount of a levy under subsection (1) of this section, or the dollar amount of the final levy under subsection (2) of this section, for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies provided for in this chapter;

(b) Limit the period for which the increased levy is to be made under (a) of this subsection;

(c) Limit the purpose for which the increased levy is to be made under (a) of this subsection, but if the limited purpose includes making redemption payments on bonds, the period for which the increased levies are made shall not exceed nine years;

(d) Set the levy or levies at a rate less than the maximum rate allowed for the district; or

(e) Include any combination of the conditions in this subsection.

(5) Except as otherwise expressly stated in an approved ballot measure under this section, subsequent levies shall be computed as if:

(a) The proposition under this section had not been approved; and

(b) The taxing district had made levies at the maximum rates which would otherwise have been allowed under this chapter during the years levies were made under the proposition. [2009 c 551 § 3; 2008 c 319 § 1; 2007 c 380 § 2; 2003 1st sp.s. c 24 § 4; 1989 c 287 § 1; 1986 c 169 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 218 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 109; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 24.]

**Application—2008 c 319:** "This act applies prospectively only to levy lid lift ballot propositions under RCW 84.55.050 that receive voter approval on or after April 1, 2008." [2008 c 319 § 2.]

**Effective date—2008 c 319:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 1, 2008]." [2008 c 319 § 3.]

**Finding—Intent—Effective date—Severability—2003 1st sp.s. c 24:** See notes following RCW 82.14.450.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.060 Rate rules—Educational program—Other necessary action.** The department of revenue shall adopt rules relating to the calculation of tax rates and the limitation in RCW 84.55.010, conduct an educational program on this subject, and take any other action necessary to insure compliance with the statutes and rules on this subject. [1979 ex.s. c 218 § 6.]

(2012 Ed.)

**84.55.070 Inapplicability of chapter to levies for certain purposes.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply to a levy, including the state levy, or that portion of a levy, made by or for a taxing district:

(1) For the purpose of funding a property tax refund paid under the provisions of chapter 84.68 RCW;

(2) Under RCW 84.69.180; or

(3) Attributable to amounts of state taxes withheld under RCW 84.56.290 or the provisions of chapter 84.69 RCW, or otherwise attributable to state taxes lawfully owing by reason of adjustments made under RCW 84.48.080. [2009 c 350 § 11; 1982 1st ex.s. c 28 § 2; 1981 c 228 § 3.]

**Application—2009 c 350 §§ 10 and 11:** See note following RCW 84.69.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.092 Protection of future levy capacity.** The regular property tax levy for each taxing district other than the state may be set at the amount which would be allowed otherwise under this chapter if the regular property tax levy for the district for taxes due in prior years beginning with 1986 had been set at the full amount allowed under this chapter including any levy authorized under RCW 52.16.160 that would have been imposed but for the limitation in RCW 52.18.065, applicable upon imposition of the benefit charge under chapter 52.18 RCW.

The purpose of this section is to remove the incentive for a taxing district to maintain its tax levy at the maximum level permitted under this chapter, and to protect the future levy capacity of a taxing district that reduces its tax levy below the level that it otherwise could impose under this chapter, by removing the adverse consequences to future levy capacities resulting from such levy reductions. [1998 c 16 § 3; 1988 c 274 § 4; 1986 c 107 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** Restored to the RCW September 20, 2001, under the Washington Supreme Court decision in *City of Burien et al v. Frederick C Kiga et al*, 31 P.3d 659, 144 Wn.2d 819, which declared Initiative Measure No. 722 (2001 c 2) unconstitutional in its entirety.

**Purpose—Severability—1988 c 274:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.100 Determination of limitations.** The property tax limitation contained in this chapter shall be determined by the county assessors of the respective counties in accordance with the provisions of this chapter: PROVIDED, That the limitation for any state levy shall be determined by the department of revenue and the limitation for any intercounty rural library district shall be determined by the library district in consultation with the respective county assessors. [1983 c 223 § 1.]

**84.55.110 Withdrawal of certain areas of a library district, metropolitan park district, fire protection district, or public hospital district—Calculation of taxes due.** Whenever a withdrawal occurs under RCW 27.12.355, 35.61.360, 52.04.056, or 70.44.235, restrictions under chapter 84.55 RCW on the taxes due for the library district, metropolitan park district, fire protection district, or public hospital district, and restrictions under chapter 84.55 RCW on the taxes due for the city or town if an entire city or town area is withdrawn from a library district or fire protection district,

shall be calculated as if the withdrawn area had not been part of the library district, metropolitan park district, fire protection district, or public hospital district, and as if the library district or fire protection district had not been part of the city or town. [1987 c 138 § 6.]

**84.55.120 Public hearing—Taxing district's revenue sources—Adoption of tax increase by ordinance or resolution.** A taxing district, other than the state, that collects regular levies shall hold a public hearing on revenue sources for the district's following year's current expense budget. The hearing must include consideration of possible increases in property tax revenues and shall be held prior to the time the taxing district levies the taxes or makes the request to have the taxes levied. The county legislative authority, or the taxing district's governing body if the district is a city, town, or other type of district, shall hold the hearing. For purposes of this section, "current expense budget" means that budget which is primarily funded by taxes and charges and reflects the provision of ongoing services. It does not mean the capital, enterprise, or special assessment budgets of cities, towns, counties, or special purpose districts.

If the taxing district is otherwise required to hold a public hearing on its proposed regular tax levy, a single public hearing may be held on this matter.

No increase in property tax revenue, other than that resulting from the addition of new construction, increases in assessed value due to construction of electric generation wind turbine facilities classified as personal property, and improvements to property and any increase in the value of state-assessed property, may be authorized by a taxing district, other than the state, except by adoption of a separate ordinance or resolution, pursuant to notice, specifically authorizing the increase in terms of both dollars and percentage. The ordinance or resolution may cover a period of up to two years, but the ordinance shall specifically state for each year the dollar increase and percentage change in the levy from the previous year. [2006 c 184 § 6; 1997 c 3 § 209 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1995 c 251 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.55.125 Limitation adjustment for certain leasehold interests.** For taxes levied for collection in 2002, the limitation set forth in RCW 84.55.010 for a taxing district shall be increased by an amount equal to the aggregate assessed valuation of leasehold interests subject to tax by the district under RCW 84.40.410, multiplied by the regular property tax levy rate of that district for the preceding year. [2001 c 26 § 4.]

## Chapter 84.56 RCW COLLECTION OF TAXES

### Sections

84.56.010	Establishment of tax rolls by treasurer—Public record—Tax roll account—Authority to receive, collect taxes.
84.56.020	Taxes collected by treasurer—Dates of delinquency—Tax statement notice concerning payment by check—Interest—Penalties—Extensions during state of emergency.
84.56.022	Tax statement to show voter-approved levies.

84.56.025	Waiver of interest and penalties—Circumstances—Provision of death certificate and affidavit for certain waivers.
84.56.035	Special assessments, excise taxes, or rates and charges—Collection by county treasurer authorized.
84.56.050	Treasurer's duties on receiving rolls—Notice of taxes due.
84.56.060	Tax receipts—Current tax only may be paid.
84.56.070	Personal property—Distrain and sale, notice, property incapable of manual delivery, property about to be removed or disposed of.
84.56.075	Issuance of warrant by court for property subject to distraint.
84.56.090	Distrain and sale of property about to be removed, dissipated, sold, or disposed of—Computation of taxes, entry on rolls, tax liens.
84.56.120	Removal of property from county or state after assessment without paying tax.
84.56.150	Removal of personalty—Certification of tax by treasurer.
84.56.160	Certification of statement of taxes and delinquency.
84.56.170	Collection of certified taxes—Remittance.
84.56.200	Removal of timber or improvements on which tax is delinquent—Penalty.
84.56.210	Severance of standing timber assessed as realty—Timber tax may be collected as personalty tax.
84.56.220	Lien of personalty tax follows insurance.
84.56.230	Monthly distribution of taxes collected.
84.56.240	Cancellation of uncollectible personalty taxes.
84.56.250	Penalty for willful noncollection or failure to file delinquent list.
84.56.260	Continuing responsibility to collect taxes, special assessments, fees, rates, or other charges.
84.56.270	Court cancellation of personalty taxes more than four years delinquent.
84.56.280	Settlement with state for state taxes—Penalty.
84.56.290	Adjustment with state for reduced or canceled taxes and for taxes on assessments not on the certified assessment list.
84.56.300	Annual report of collections to county auditor.
84.56.310	Interested person may pay real property taxes—Limitation.
84.56.320	Recovery by occupant or tenant paying realty taxes.
84.56.330	Payment by mortgagee or other lien holder.
84.56.340	Payment on part of parcel or tract or on undivided interest or fractional interest—Division—Certification—Appeal.
84.56.345	Alteration of property lines—Payment of taxes and assessments.
84.56.360	Separate ownership of improvements—Separate payment authorized.
84.56.370	Separate ownership of improvements—Procedure for segregation of improvement tax.
84.56.380	Separate ownership of improvements—Segregation or payment not to release lien.
84.56.430	Relisting and relevy of tax adjudged void.
84.56.440	Ships and vessels—Collection of taxes—Delinquent taxes—Valuation and assessment of unlisted ships or vessels—Extensions during state of emergency.

**84.56.010 Establishment of tax rolls by treasurer—Public record—Tax roll account—Authority to receive, collect taxes.** On or before the first Monday in January next succeeding the date of levy of taxes the county treasurer shall establish tax rolls of his or her county as certified by the county assessor for such assessment year, and said rolls shall be preserved as a public record in the office of the county treasurer. The amount of said taxes levied and extended upon said rolls shall be charged to the treasurer in an account to be designated as treasurer's "Tax roll account" for . . . . and said rolls shall be full and sufficient authority for the county treasurer to receive and collect all taxes therein levied: PROVIDED, That the county treasurer shall in no case collect such taxes or issue receipts for the same or enter payment or satisfaction of such taxes upon said assessment rolls before the county treasurer has completed the tax roll for the current year's collection and provided the notification required by RCW 84.56.020. [2007 c 105 § 1; 1994 c 301 § 50; (1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 1 expired December 31, 1976); 1965 ex.s. c 7 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.010. Prior: 1935 c 30 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 82; RRS § 11243; prior: 1890 p 561 § 83.]

**84.56.020 Taxes collected by treasurer—Dates of delinquency—Tax statement notice concerning payment by check—Interest—Penalties—Extensions during state of emergency.** (1) The county treasurer must be the receiver and collector of all taxes extended upon the tax rolls of the county, whether levied for state, county, school, bridge, road, municipal or other purposes, and also of all fines, forfeitures or penalties received by any person or officer for the use of his or her county. No treasurer may accept tax payments or issue receipts for the same until the treasurer has completed the tax roll for the current year's collection and provided notification of the completion of the roll. Notification may be accomplished electronically, by posting a notice in the office, or through other written communication as determined by the treasurer. All taxes upon real and personal property made payable by the provisions of this title are due and payable to the treasurer on or before the thirtieth day of April and, except as provided in this section, shall be delinquent after that date.

(2) Each tax statement must include a notice that checks for payment of taxes may be made payable to "Treasurer of . . . . . County" or other appropriate office, but tax statements may not include any suggestion that checks may be made payable to the name of the individual holding the office of treasurer nor any other individual.

(3) When the total amount of tax or special assessments on personal property or on any lot, block or tract of real property payable by one person is fifty dollars or more, and if one-half of such tax be paid on or before the thirtieth day of April, the remainder of such tax is due and payable on or before the thirty-first day of October following and shall be delinquent after that date.

(4) When the total amount of tax or special assessments on any lot, block or tract of real property or on any mobile home payable by one person is fifty dollars or more, and if one-half of such tax be paid after the thirtieth day of April but before the thirty-first day of October, together with the applicable interest and penalty on the full amount of tax payable for that year, the remainder of such tax is due and payable on or before the thirty-first day of October following and is delinquent after that date.

(5) Delinquent taxes under this section are subject to interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum computed on a monthly basis on the full year amount of tax unpaid from the date of delinquency until paid. Interest must be calculated at the rate in effect at the time of payment of the tax, regardless of when the taxes were first delinquent. In addition, delinquent taxes under this section are subject to penalties as follows:

(a) A penalty of three percent of the full year amount of tax unpaid is assessed on the tax delinquent on June 1st of the year in which the tax is due.

(b) An additional penalty of eight percent is assessed on the amount of tax delinquent on December 1st of the year in which the tax is due.

(6) Subsection (5) of this section notwithstanding, no interest or penalties may be assessed during any period of armed conflict on delinquent taxes imposed on the personal residences owned by active duty military personnel who are participating as part of one of the branches of the military

(2012 Ed.)

involved in the conflict and assigned to a duty station outside the territorial boundaries of the United States.

(7) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the county treasurer, on his or her own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may grant extensions of the due date of any taxes payable under this section as the treasurer deems proper.

(8) For purposes of this chapter, "interest" means both interest and penalties.

(9) All collections of interest on delinquent taxes must be credited to the county current expense fund; but the cost of foreclosure and sale of real property, and the fees and costs of distraint and sale of personal property, for delinquent taxes, must, when collected, be credited to the operation and maintenance fund of the county treasurer prosecuting the foreclosure or distraint or sale; and must be used by the county treasurer as a revolving fund to defray the cost of further foreclosure, distraint and sale for delinquent taxes without regard to budget limitations.

(10)(a) For purposes of this chapter, and in accordance with this section and RCW 36.29.190, the treasurer may collect taxes, assessments, fees, rates, and charges by electronic bill presentment and payment. Electronic bill presentment and payment may be utilized as an option by the taxpayer, but the treasurer may not require the use of electronic bill presentment and payment. Electronic bill presentment and payment may be on a monthly or other periodic basis as the treasurer deems proper for prepayments. All prepayments must be paid in full by the due date specified in (c) of this subsection.

(b) The treasurer must provide, by electronic means, a payment agreement that may include prepayment collection charges. The payment agreement must be signed by the taxpayer and treasurer prior to the sending of an electronic bill.

(c) All taxes upon real and personal property made payable by the provisions of this title are due and payable to the treasurer on or before the thirtieth day of April and are delinquent after that date. The remainder of the tax is due and payable on or before the thirty-first day of October following and is delinquent after that date. All other assessments, fees, rates, and charges are delinquent after the due date.

(d) The treasurer must pay any collection costs, investment earnings, or both on prepayments to the credit of a county treasurer service fund account to be created and used only for the payment of expenses incurred by the treasurer, without limitation, in administering the system for collecting prepayments.

(11) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Electronic bill presentment and payment" means statements, invoices, or bills that are created, delivered, and paid using the internet. The term includes an automatic electronic payment from a person's checking account, debit account, or credit card.

(b) "Internet" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 19.270.010. [2010 c 200 § 1; 2008 c 181 § 510; 2007 c 105 § 2; 2005 c 502 § 7; 2004 c 161 § 6; 1996 c 153 § 1. Prior: 1991 c 245 § 16; 1991 c 52 § 1; 1988 c 222 § 30; 1987 c 211 § 1; 1984 c 131 § 1; 1981 c 322 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 196 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 116 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 216 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.020; prior: 1949 c 21 § 1; 1935 c 30 §

2; 1931 c 113 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 83; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11244; prior: 1917 c 141 § 1; 1899 c 141 § 6; 1897 c 71 § 68; 1895 c 176 § 14; 1893 c 124 § 69; 1890 p 561 § 84; Code 1881 § 2892. Formerly RCW 84.56.020 and 84.56.030.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

**Application—2005 c 502 § 7:** "Section 7 of this act applies to all taxes levied for collection in 2005 and thereafter." [2005 c 502 § 10.]

**Effective date—2005 c 502:** See note following RCW 1.12.070.

**Effective date—2004 c 161:** See note following RCW 28B.10.270.

*Advance deposit of taxes on certain platted property:* RCW 58.08.040.

*Payment of taxes upon loss of exempt status:* RCW 84.40.380.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.56.022 Tax statement to show voter-approved levies.** Each tax statement shall show the amount of voter-approved: (1) Regular levies except those authorized in RCW 84.55.050; and (2) excess levies. Such amounts may be shown either as a dollar amount or as a percentage of the total amount of taxes. [1995 c 180 § 1; 1994 c 301 § 48.]

**84.56.025 Waiver of interest and penalties—Circumstances—Provision of death certificate and affidavit for certain waivers.** (1) The interest and penalties for delinquencies on property taxes shall be waived by the county treasurer if the notice for these taxes due, as provided in RCW 84.56.050, was not sent to a taxpayer due to error by the county. Where waiver of interest and penalties has occurred, the full amount of interest and penalties shall be reinstated if the taxpayer fails to pay the delinquent taxes within thirty days of receiving notice that the taxes are due. Each county treasurer shall, subject to guidelines prepared by the department of revenue, establish administrative procedures to determine if taxpayers are eligible for this waiver.

(2) In addition to the waiver under subsection (1) of this section, the interest and penalties for delinquencies on property taxes shall be waived by the county treasurer under the following circumstances:

(a) The taxpayer fails to make one payment under RCW 84.56.020 by the due date on the taxpayer's personal residence because of hardship caused by the death of the taxpayer's spouse if the taxpayer notifies the county treasurer of the hardship within sixty days of the tax due date; or

(b) The taxpayer fails to make one payment under RCW 84.56.020 by the due date on the taxpayer's parent's or stepparent's personal residence because of hardship caused by the death of the taxpayer's parent or stepparent if the taxpayer notifies the county treasurer of the hardship within sixty days of the tax due date.

(3) Before allowing a hardship waiver under subsection (2) of this section, the county treasurer may require a copy of the death certificate along with an affidavit signed by the taxpayer. [2003 c 12 § 1; 1998 c 327 § 1; 1984 c 185 § 1.]

**84.56.035 Special assessments, excise taxes, or rates and charges—Collection by county treasurer authorized.** A local government authorized both to impose and to collect any special assessments, excise taxes, or rates or charges may contract with the county treasurer or treasurers within which the local government is located to collect the special assessments, excise taxes, rates, or charges. If such a contract is

entered into, notice of the special assessments, excise taxes, or rates or charges due may be included on the notice of property taxes due, may be included on a separate notice that is mailed with the notice of property taxes due, or may be sent separately from the notice of property taxes due. County treasurers may impose an annual fee for collecting special assessments, excise taxes, or rates or charges not to exceed one percent of the dollar value of special assessments, excise taxes, or rates or charges collected. [1987 c 355 § 1.]

**84.56.050 Treasurer's duties on receiving rolls—Notice of taxes due.** On receiving the tax rolls the treasurer shall post all real and personal property taxes from the rolls to the treasurer's tax roll, and shall carry forward to the current tax rolls a memorandum of all delinquent taxes on each and every description of property, and enter the same on the property upon which the taxes are delinquent showing the amounts for each year. The treasurer shall notify each taxpayer in the county, at the expense of the county, of the amount of the real and personal property, and the current and delinquent amount of tax due on the same; and the treasurer shall have printed on the notice the name of each tax and the levy made on the same. The county treasurer shall be the sole collector of all delinquent taxes and all other taxes due and collectible on the tax rolls of the county: PROVIDED, That the term "taxpayer" as used in this section shall mean any person charged, or whose property is charged, with property tax; and the person to be notified is that person whose name appears on the tax roll herein mentioned: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if no name so appears the person to be notified is that person shown by the treasurer's tax rolls or duplicate tax receipts of any preceding year as the payer of the tax last paid on the property in question. [1991 c 245 § 17; 1963 c 94 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.050. Prior: 1941 c 32 § 1; 1939 c 206 § 41; 1937 c 121 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 84; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11245; prior: 1897 c 71 § 69; 1893 c 124 § 70; 1890 p 561 § 85; Code 1881 §§ 2894, 2895.]

**84.56.060 Tax receipts—Current tax only may be paid.** The county treasurer upon receiving any tax paid in cash, shall give to the person paying the same a receipt. The treasurer shall record the payment of all taxes in the treasurer's records by parcel. The owner or owners of property against which there are delinquent taxes, shall have the right to pay the current tax without paying any delinquent taxes there may be against the property. [1991 c 245 § 18; 1971 ex.s. c 35 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.060. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 85; RRS § 11246; prior: 1897 c 71 § 70; 1893 c 124 § 71; 1890 p 561 § 86; Code 1881 § 2899.]

**84.56.070 Personal property—Distraint and sale, notice, property incapable of manual delivery, property about to be removed or disposed of.** The county treasurer shall proceed to collect all personal property taxes after first completing the tax roll for the current year's collection. The treasurer shall give notice by mail to all persons charged with personal property taxes, and if such taxes are not paid before they become delinquent, the treasurer shall forthwith proceed to collect the same. In the event that he or she is unable to collect the same when due, the treasurer shall prepare papers in distraint, which shall contain a description of the personal

property, the amount of taxes, the amount of the accrued interest at the rate provided by law from the date of delinquency, and the name of the owner or reputed owner. The treasurer shall without demand or notice distraint sufficient goods and chattels belonging to the person charged with such taxes to pay the same, with interest at the rate provided by law from the date of delinquency, together with all accruing costs, and shall proceed to advertise the same by posting written notices in three public places in the county in which such property has been distrained, one of which places shall be at the county court house, such notice to state the time when and place where such property will be sold. The county treasurer, or the treasurer's deputy, shall tax the same fees for making the distraint and sale of goods and chattels for the payment of taxes as are allowed by law to sheriffs for making levy and sale of property on execution; traveling fees to be computed from the county seat of the county to the place of making distraint. If the taxes for which such property is distrained, and the interest and costs accruing thereon, are not paid before the date appointed for such sale, which shall be not less than ten days after the taking of such property, such treasurer or treasurer's designee shall proceed to sell such property at public auction, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to pay such taxes, with interest and costs, and if there be any excess of money arising from the sale of any personal property, the treasurer shall pay such excess less any cost of the auction to the owner of the property so sold or to his or her legal representative: PROVIDED, That whenever it shall become necessary to distraint any standing timber owned separately from the ownership of the land upon which the same may stand, or any fish trap, pound net, reef net, set net or drag seine fishing location, or any other personal property as the treasurer shall determine to be incapable or reasonably impracticable of manual delivery, it shall be deemed to have been distrained and taken into possession when the treasurer shall have, at least thirty days before the date fixed for the sale thereof, filed with the auditor of the county wherein such property is located a notice in writing reciting that the treasurer has distrained such property, describing it, giving the name of the owner or reputed owner, the amount of the tax due, with interest, and the time and place of sale; a copy of the notice shall also be sent to the owner or reputed owner at his last known address, by registered letter at least thirty days prior to the date of sale: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That if the county treasurer has reasonable grounds to believe that any personal property, including mobile homes, manufactured homes, or park model trailers, upon which taxes have been levied, but not paid, is about to be removed from the county where the same has been assessed, or is about to be destroyed, sold or disposed of, the county treasurer may demand such taxes, without the notice provided for in this section, and if necessary may forthwith distraint sufficient goods and chattels to pay the same. [2009 c 350 § 2; 2007 c 295 § 5; 1991 c 245 § 19; (1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 2 expired December 31, 1976); 1961 c 15 § 84.56.070. Prior: 1949 c 21 § 2; 1935 c 30 § 4; 1933 c 33 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 86; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11247; prior: 1915 c 137 § 1; 1911 c 24 § 2; 1899 c 141 § 7; 1897 c 71 § 71; 1895 c 176 § 15; 1893 c 124 § 72; 1890 p 561 § 87; Code 1881 § 2903. Formerly RCW 84.56.070, 84.56.080, and 84.56.100.]

*Issuance of warrant: RCW 84.56.075.*

(2012 Ed.)

**84.56.075 Issuance of warrant by court for property subject to distraint.** (1) When there is probable cause to believe that there is property within the county subject to distraint pursuant to RCW 84.56.070 or 84.56.090, any judge of the superior court or district court in the county in which such property is located may, upon the request of the county treasurer or their deputy, issue a warrant directed to the county treasurer or their deputy commanding the search for and seizure of the property described in the request for warrant at the place or places described in the request for warrant.

(2) The procedure for the issuance and execution and return of the warrant authorized by this section and for return of any property seized shall be the criminal rules of the superior court and the district court.

(3) Property seized under this section shall be disposed of as provided in RCW 84.56.070 or 84.56.090.

(4) This section does not require the application for or issuance of any warrant not otherwise required by law. [2006 c 286 § 1.]

**84.56.090 Distraint and sale of property about to be removed, dissipated, sold, or disposed of—Computation of taxes, entry on rolls, tax liens.** Whenever in the judgment of the assessor or the county treasurer personal property is being removed or is about to be removed without the limits of the state, or is being dissipated or about to be dissipated, or is being or about to be sold, disposed of, or removed from the county so as to jeopardize collection of taxes, the treasurer shall immediately prepare papers in distraint, which shall contain a description of the personal property, including mobile homes, manufactured homes, or park model trailers, being or about to be removed, dissipated, sold, disposed of, or removed from the county so as to jeopardize collection of taxes, the amount of the tax, the amount of accrued interest at the rate provided by law from the date of delinquency, and the name of the owner or reputed owner, and he shall without demand or notice distraint sufficient goods and chattels belonging to the person charged with such taxes to pay the same with interest at the rate provided by law from the date of delinquency, together with all accruing costs, and shall advertise and sell said property as provided in RCW 84.56.070.

If said personal property is being removed or is about to be removed from the limits of the state, is being dissipated or about to be dissipated, or is being or about to be sold, disposed of, or removed from the county so as to jeopardize collection of taxes, at any time subsequent to the first day of January in any year, and prior to the levy of taxes thereon, the taxes upon such property so distrained shall be computed upon the rate of levy for state, county and local purposes for the preceding year; and all taxes collected in advance of levy under this section and RCW 84.56.120, together with the name of the owner and a brief description of the property assessed shall be entered forthwith by the county treasurer upon the personal property tax rolls of such preceding year, and all collections thereon shall be considered and treated in all respects, and without recourse by either the owner or any taxing unit, as collections for such preceding year. Property on which taxes are thus collected shall thereupon become discharged from the lien of any taxes that may thereafter be levied in the year in which payment or collection is made.

Whenever property has been removed from the county wherein it has been assessed, on which the taxes have not been paid, then the county treasurer, or his deputy, shall have the same power to distraint and sell said property for the satisfaction of said taxes as he would have if said property were situated in the county in which the property was taxed, and in addition thereto said treasurer, or his deputy, in the distraint and sale of property for the payment of taxes, shall have the same powers as are now by law given to the sheriff in making levy and sale of property on execution. [2007 c 295 § 6; 1985 c 83 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.090. Prior: 1949 c 21 § 3; 1939 c 206 § 43; 1937 c 20 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 89; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11250; prior: 1907 c 29 § 1. Formerly RCW 84.56.090, 84.56.110, 84.56.130, and 84.56.140.]

*Issuance of warrant: RCW 84.56.075.*

**84.56.120 Removal of property from county or state after assessment without paying tax.** After personal property has been assessed, it shall be unlawful for any person to remove the personal property subject to tax liens created pursuant to RCW 84.60.010 and 84.60.020 from the county in which the property was assessed and from the state until taxes and interest are paid, or until notice has been given to the county treasurer describing the property to be removed and in case of public or private sales of personal property, a list of the property desired to be sold shall be sent to the treasurer, the tax will be computed upon the consolidated tax levy for the previous year. Any taxes owed shall become an automatic lien upon the proceeds of any auction and shall be remitted to the county treasurer before final distribution to any person, as defined in this section. If proceeds are distributed in violation of this section, the seller or agent of the seller shall assume all liability for taxes, interest, and penalties owed to the county treasurer. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For the purposes of this section, "person" includes a property owner, mortgagor, creditor, or agent. [2004 c 79 § 6; 2003 c 23 § 2; 1991 c 245 § 20; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.120. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 88; RRS § 11249; prior: 1907 c 29 § 2.]

**84.56.150 Removal of personalty—Certification of tax by treasurer.** If any person, firm or corporation shall remove from one county to another in this state personal property which has been assessed in the former county for a tax which is unpaid at the time of such removal, the treasurer of the county from which the property is removed shall certify to the treasurer of the county to which the property has been removed a statement of the tax together with all delinquencies and penalties. [1961 c 15 § 84.56.150. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 90; RRS § 11251; prior: 1899 c 32 § 1.]

**84.56.160 Certification of statement of taxes and delinquency.** The treasurer of any county of this state shall have the power to certify a statement of taxes and delinquencies of any person, firm, company or corporation, or of any tax on personal property together with all penalties and delinquencies, which statement shall be under seal and contain a transcript of the tax collection records and so much of the tax roll as shall affect the person, firm, company or corporation or personal property to the treasurer of any county of this state, wherein any such person, firm, company or corporation

has any real or personal property. [1994 c 301 § 51; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.160. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 91; RRS § 11252; prior: 1899 c 32 § 2.]

**84.56.170 Collection of certified taxes—Remittance.** The treasurer of any county of this state receiving the certified statement provided for in RCW 84.56.150 and 84.56.160, shall have the same power to collect the taxes, penalties and delinquencies so certified as the treasurer has to collect the personal taxes levied on personal property in his or her own county, and as soon as the said taxes are collected they shall be remitted, less the cost of collecting same, to the treasurer of the county to which said taxes belong, by the treasurer collecting them. [1994 c 301 § 52; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.170. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 92; RRS § 11253; prior: 1899 c 32 § 3.]

**84.56.200 Removal of timber or improvements on which tax is delinquent—Penalty.** It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to remove any timber from timbered lands, no portion of which is occupied for farming purposes by the owner thereof, or to remove any building or improvements from lands, upon which taxes are delinquent until the taxes thereon have been paid.

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1961 c 15 § 84.56.200. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 11; RRS § 11115.]

**84.56.210 Severance of standing timber assessed as realty—Timber tax may be collected as personalty tax.** Whenever standing timber which has been assessed as real estate is severed from the land as part of which it was so assessed, it may be considered by the county assessor as personal property, and the county treasurer shall thereafter be entitled to pursue all of the rights and remedies provided by law for the collection of personal property taxes in the collection of taxes levied against such timber: PROVIDED, That whenever the county assessor elects to treat severed timber as personalty under the provisions of this section, he shall immediately give notice by mail to the person or persons charged with the tax of the fact of his election, and the amount of tax standing against the timber. [1961 c 15 § 84.56.210. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 42; 1929 c 70 § 1; RRS § 11247-1.]

**84.56.220 Lien of personalty tax follows insurance.** In the event of the destruction of personal property, the lien of the personal property tax shall attach to and follow any insurance that may be upon the property and the insurer shall pay to the county treasurer from the insurance money all taxes, interest and costs that may be due. [1991 c 245 § 21; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.220. Prior: 1935 c 30 § 5; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 87; RRS § 11248; prior: 1921 c 117 § 1; 1911 c 24 § 3.]

**84.56.230 Monthly distribution of taxes collected.** On the first day of each month the county treasurer shall distribute pro rata to those taxing districts for which the county treasurer also serves as the district treasurer, according to the rate of levy for each fund, the amount collected as consolidated tax during the preceding month: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the county treasurer, at his or her option, may distribute

the total amount of such taxes collected according to the ratio that the levy of taxes made for each taxing district in the county bears to such total amount collected. On or before the tenth day of each month the county treasurer shall remit to the respective city treasurers and all other taxing districts for which the county treasurer does not serve as district treasurer, their pro rata share of all taxes collected for the previous month as provided for in RCW 36.29.110. [2002 c 81 § 1; 1991 c 245 § 22; 1973 1st ex.s. c 43 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.230. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 93; RRS § 11254; prior: 1890 p 564 § 95.]

**84.56.240 Cancellation of uncollectible personalty taxes.** If the county treasurer is unable, for the want of goods or chattels whereupon to levy, to collect by distress or otherwise, the taxes, or any part thereof, which may have been assessed upon the personal property of any person or corporation, or an executor or administrator, guardian, receiver, accounting officer, agent or factor, the treasurer shall file with the county legislative authority, on the first day of February following, a list of such taxes, with an affidavit of the treasurer or of the deputy treasurer entrusted with the collection of the taxes, stating that the treasurer had made diligent search and inquiry for goods and chattels wherewith to make such taxes, and was unable to make or collect the same. The county legislative authority shall cancel such taxes as the county legislative authority is satisfied cannot be collected. [1997 c 393 § 14; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.240. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 94; RRS § 11255; prior: 1899 c 141 § 8; 1897 c 71 § 72; 1895 c 176 § 16; 1893 c 124 § 73; 1890 p 562 § 88.]

**84.56.250 Penalty for willful noncollection or failure to file delinquent list.** If any county treasurer willfully refuses or neglects to collect any taxes assessed upon personal property, where the same is collectible, or to file the delinquent list and affidavit, as herein provided, the treasurer shall be held, in his or her next settlement with the county legislative authority, liable for the whole amount of such taxes uncollected, and the same shall be deducted from his or her salary and applied to the several funds for which they were levied. [2001 c 299 § 19; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.250. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 95; RRS § 11256; prior: 1897 c 71 § 73; 1893 c 124 § 74; 1890 p 563 § 91.]

**84.56.260 Continuing responsibility to collect taxes, special assessments, fees, rates, or other charges.** The power and duty to levy on property and collect any tax due and unpaid shall be the responsibility of the county treasurer until the tax is paid; and the certification of the assessment roll shall continue in force and confer authority upon the treasurer to whom the same was issued to collect any tax due and uncollected thereon. This section shall apply to all assessment rolls, special assessments, fees, rates, or other charges for which the treasurer has the responsibility for collection. [1991 c 245 § 23; 1984 c 250 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.260. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 96; RRS § 11257; prior: 1897 c 71 § 74; 1893 c 124 § 75.]

**84.56.270 Court cancellation of personalty taxes more than four years delinquent.** The county treasurer of any county of the state of Washington, after he has first

received the approval of the board of county commissioners of such county, through a resolution duly adopted, is hereby empowered to petition the superior court in or for his county to finally cancel and completely extinguish the lien of any delinquent personal property tax which appears on the tax rolls of his county, which is more than four years delinquent, which he attests to be beyond hope of collection, and the cancellation of which will not impair the obligation of any bond issue nor be precluded by any other legal impediment that might invalidate such cancellation. The superior court shall have jurisdiction to hear any such petition and to enter such order as it shall deem proper in the premises. [1984 c 132 § 5; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.270. Prior: 1945 c 59 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11265-1.]

**84.56.280 Settlement with state for state taxes—Penalty.** Immediately after the last day of each month, the county treasurer shall pay over to the state treasurer the amount collected by the county treasurer and credited to the various state funds, but every such payment shall be subject to correction for error discovered. If they are not paid to the state treasurer before the twentieth day of the month the state treasurer shall make a sight draft on the county treasurer for such amount. Should any county treasurer fail or refuse to honor the draft or make payment of the amount thereon, except for manifest error or other good and sufficient cause, the county treasurer shall be guilty of nonfeasance in office and upon conviction thereof shall be punished according to law. [1991 c 245 § 24; 1979 ex.s. c 86 § 7; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.280. Prior: 1955 c 113 § 2; prior: 1949 c 69 § 1, part; 1933 c 35 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 97, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11258, part; prior: 1899 c 141 § 9, part; 1897 c 71 § 76, part; 1895 c 176 § 17, part; 1893 c 124 § 77, part; 1890 p 565 § 96, part; Code 1881 § 2942, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.56.290 Adjustment with state for reduced or canceled taxes and for taxes on assessments not on the certified assessment list.** Whenever any tax shall have been heretofore, or shall be hereafter, canceled, reduced or modified in any final judicial, county board of equalization, state board of tax appeals, or administrative proceeding; or whenever any tax shall have been heretofore, or shall be hereafter canceled by sale of property to any irrigation district under foreclosure proceedings for delinquent irrigation district assessments; or whenever any contracts or leases on public lands shall have been heretofore, or shall be hereafter, canceled and the tax thereon remains unpaid for a period of two years, the director of revenue shall, upon receipt from the county treasurer of a certified copy of the final judgment, order, or decree canceling, reducing, or modifying taxes, or of a certificate from the county treasurer of the cancellation by sale to an irrigation district, or of a certificate from the commissioner of public lands and the county treasurer of the cancellation of public land contracts or leases and nonpayment of taxes thereon, as the case may be, make corresponding entries and corrections on the director's records of the state's portion of reduced or canceled tax.

Upon canceling taxes deemed uncollectible, the county commissioners shall notify the county treasurer of such action, whereupon the county treasurer shall deduct on the

treasurer's records the amount of such uncollectible taxes due the various state funds and shall immediately notify the department of revenue of the treasurer's action and of the reason therefor; which uncollectible tax shall not then nor thereafter be due or owing the various state funds and the necessary corrections shall be made by the county treasurer upon the quarterly settlement next following.

When any assessment of property is made which does not appear on the assessment list certified by the county board of equalization to the department of revenue the county assessor shall indicate to the county treasurer the assessments and the taxes due therefrom when the list is delivered to the county treasurer on December 15th. The county treasurer shall then notify the department of revenue of the taxes due the state from the assessments which did not appear on the assessment list certified by the county board of equalization to the department of revenue. The county treasurer shall make proper accounting of all sums collected as either advance tax, compensating or additional tax, or supplemental or omitted tax and shall notify the department of revenue of the amounts due the various state funds according to the levy used in extending such tax, and those amounts shall immediately become due and owing to the various state funds, to be paid to the state treasurer in the same manner as taxes extended on the regular tax roll. [1991 c 245 § 37; 1987 c 168 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 86 § 8; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.290. Prior: 1955 c 113 § 3; prior: 1949 c 69 § 1, part; 1933 c 35 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 97, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11258, part; prior: 1899 c 141 § 9, part; 1897 c 71 § 76, part; 1895 c 176 § 17, part; 1893 c 124 § 77, part; 1890 p 565 § 96, part; Code 1881 § 2942, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.56.300 Annual report of collections to county auditor.** On the first Monday of February of each year the county treasurer shall balance up the tax rolls as of December 31 of the prior year in the treasurer's hands and with which the treasurer stands charged on the roll accounts of the county auditor. The treasurer shall then report to the county auditor in full the amount of taxes collected and specify the amount collected on each fund. The treasurer shall also report the amount of taxes that remain uncollected and delinquent upon the tax rolls, which, with collections and credits on account of errors and double assessments, should balance the tax rolls as the treasurer stands charged. The treasurer shall then report the amount of collections on account of interest since the taxes became delinquent, and as added to the original amounts when making such collections, and with which the treasurer is now to be charged by the auditor, such reports to be duly verified by affidavit. [1997 c 393 § 15; 1973 1st ex.s. c 45 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.300. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 98; RRS § 11259; prior: 1899 c 141 § 10; 1897 c 71 § 77; 1895 c 176 § 18; 1893 c 124 § 78; 1890 p 565 § 99.]

**84.56.310 Interested person may pay real property taxes—Limitation.** Any person being the owner or having an interest in an estate or claim to real property against which taxes have not been paid may pay the same and satisfy the lien at any time before the filing of a certificate of delinquency against the real property. The person or authority who shall collect or receive the same shall give a certificate

that such taxes have been so paid to the person or persons entitled to demand such certificate. After the filing of a certificate of delinquency, the redemption rights shall be controlled by RCW 84.64.060. [2005 c 502 § 8; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.310. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 100; RRS § 11261; prior: 1897 c 71 § 79; 1893 c 124 § 84.]

**Effective date—2005 c 502:** See note following RCW 1.12.070.

**84.56.320 Recovery by occupant or tenant paying realty taxes.** When any tax on real property is paid by or collected of any occupant or tenant, or any other person, which, by agreement or otherwise, ought to have been paid by the owner, lessor or other party in interest, such occupant, tenant or other person may recover by action the amount which such owner, lessor or party in interest ought to have paid, with interest thereon at the rate of ten percent per annum, or he may retain the same from any rent due or accruing from him to such owner or lessor for real property on which such tax is so paid; and the same shall, until paid, constitute a lien upon such real property. [1961 c 15 § 84.56.320. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 102; RRS § 11263; prior: 1897 c 71 § 81; 1893 c 124 § 86; 1890 p 583 § 133.]

**84.56.330 Payment by mortgagee or other lien holder.** Any person who has a lien by mortgage or otherwise, upon any real property upon which any taxes have not been paid, may pay such taxes, and the interest, penalty and costs thereon; and the receipt of the county treasurer or other collecting official shall constitute an additional lien upon such land, to the amount therein stated, and the amount so paid and the interest thereon at the rate specified in the mortgage or other instrument shall be collectible with, or as a part of, and in the same manner as the amount secured by the original lien: PROVIDED, That the person paying such taxes shall pay the same as mortgagee or other lien holder and shall procure the receipt of the county treasurer therefor, showing the mortgage or other lien relationship of the person paying such taxes, and the same shall have been recorded with the county auditor of the county wherein the said real estate is situated, within ten days after the payment of such taxes and the issuance of such receipt. It shall be the duty of any treasurer issuing such receipt to make notation thereon of the lien relationship claim of the person paying such taxes. It shall be the duty of the county auditor in such cases to index and record such receipts in the same manner as provided for the recording of liens on real estate, upon the payment to the county auditor of the appropriate recording fees by the person presenting the same for recording: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That in the event the above provision be not complied with, the lien created by any such payment shall be subordinate to the liens of all mortgages or encumbrances upon such real property, which are senior to the mortgage or other lien of the person so making such payment. [1999 c 233 § 23; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.330. Prior: 1933 c 171 § 1; RRS § 11263-1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.56.340 Payment on part of parcel or tract or on undivided interest or fractional interest—Division—Certification—Appeal.** Any person desiring to pay taxes upon any part or parts of real property heretofore or hereafter

assessed as one parcel, or tract, or upon such person's undivided fractional interest in such a property, may do so by applying to the county assessor, who must carefully investigate and ascertain the relative or proportionate value said part or part interest bears to the whole tract assessed, on which basis the assessment must be divided, and the assessor shall forthwith certify such proportionate value to the county treasurer: PROVIDED, That excepting when property is being acquired for public use, or where a person or financial institution desires to pay the taxes and any penalties and interest on a mobile home upon which they have a lien by mortgage or otherwise, no segregation of property for tax purposes shall be made under this section unless all current year and delinquent taxes and assessments on the entire tract have been paid in full. The county treasurer, upon receipt of certification, shall duly accept payment and issue receipt on the apportionment certified by the county assessor. In cases where protest is filed to said division appeal shall be made to the county legislative authority at its next regular session for final division, and the county treasurer shall accept and receipt for said taxes as determined and ordered by the county legislative authority. Any person desiring to pay on an undivided interest in any real property may do so by paying to the county treasurer a sum equal to such proportion of the entire taxes charged on the entire tract as interest paid on bears to the whole. [2003 c 23 § 3; 1997 c 393 § 16; 1996 c 153 § 2; 1994 c 301 § 53; 1985 c 395 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 48 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.56.340. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 44; 1933 c 171 § 2; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 103; RRS § 11264; prior: 1899 c 141 § 11; 1897 c 71 § 82; 1893 c 124 § 87; 1890 p 583 § 134. Formerly RCW 84.56.340 and 84.56.350.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.56.345 Alteration of property lines—Payment of taxes and assessments.** Every person who offers a document to the auditor of the proper county for recording that results in any division, alteration, or adjustment of real property boundary lines, except as provided for in RCW 58.04.007(1) and 84.40.042(1)(c), shall present a certificate of payment from the proper officer who is in charge of the collection of taxes and assessments for the affected property or properties. All taxes and assessments, both current and delinquent must be paid. For purposes of chapter 502, Laws of 2005, liability shall begin on January 1st. Taxes not yet levied and certified shall be collected as an advance tax under RCW 58.08.040. [2005 c 502 § 6.]

**Effective date—2005 c 502:** See note following RCW 1.12.070.

**84.56.360 Separate ownership of improvements—Separate payment authorized.** In any case where buildings, structures or improvements are held in separate ownership from the fee as a part of which they have been assessed for the purpose of taxation, any person desiring to pay separately the tax upon the buildings, structures or improvements may do so under the provisions of this section, RCW 84.56.370 and 84.56.380. [1961 c 15 § 84.56.360. Prior: 1939 c 155 § 1; RRS § 11264-1.]

**84.56.370 Separate ownership of improvements—Procedure for segregation of improvement tax.** Such person may apply to the county assessor for a certificate showing

the total assessed value of the land together with all buildings, structures or improvements located thereon and the assessed value of the building, structure or improvement the tax upon which the applicant desires to pay. It shall be the duty of the county assessor to issue such certificate of segregation upon written application accompanied by an affidavit attesting to the fact of separate ownership of land and improvements. Upon presentation of such certificate of segregation to the county treasurer, that officer shall segregate the total tax in accordance therewith and accept and receipt for the payment of that proportion of total tax which is shown to be due against any building, structure or improvement upon which the applicant desires to pay. [1961 c 15 § 84.56.370. Prior: 1939 c 155 § 2; RRS § 11264-2.]

**84.56.380 Separate ownership of improvements—Segregation or payment not to release lien.** A segregation or payment under RCW 84.56.360 and 84.56.370 shall not release the land or the building, structure or improvement paid on from any tax lien to which it would otherwise be subject. [1961 c 15 § 84.56.380. Prior: 1939 c 155 § 3; RRS § 11264-3.]

**84.56.430 Relisting and relevy of tax adjudged void.** If any tax or portion of any tax heretofore or hereafter levied on any property liable to taxation is prevented from being collected for any year or years, by reason of any erroneous proceeding connected with either the assessment, listing, equalization, levying or collection thereof, or failure of any taxing, assessing or equalizing officer or board to give notice of any hearing or proceeding connected therewith, or, if any such tax or any portion of any such tax heretofore or hereafter levied has heretofore or is hereafter recovered back after payment by reason of any such erroneous proceedings, the amount of such tax or portion of such tax which should have been paid upon such property except for such erroneous proceeding, shall be added to the tax levied on such property for the year next succeeding the entry of final judgment adjudging such tax or portion of tax to have been void. If any tax or portion of a tax levied against any property for any year has been, or is hereafter adjudged void because of any such erroneous proceeding as hereinbefore set forth, the county and state officers authorized to levy and assess taxes on said property shall proceed, in the year next succeeding, to relist and reassess said property and to reequalize such assessment, and to relevy and collect the taxes thereon as of the year that said void tax or portion of tax was levied, in the same manner, and with the same effect as though no part of said void tax had ever been levied or assessed upon said property: PROVIDED, That such tax as reassessed and relevied shall be figured and determined at the same tax-rate as such erroneous tax was or should have been figured and determined, and in paying the tax so reassessed and relevied the taxpayer shall be credited with the amount of any taxes paid upon property retaxed for the year or years for which the reassessment is made. [1961 c 15 § 84.56.430. Prior: 1927 c 290 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 108; RRS § 11269; prior: 1897 c 71 § 87; 1893 c 124 § 90. Formerly RCW 84.24.080.]

**84.56.440 Ships and vessels—Collection of taxes—Delinquent taxes—Valuation and assessment of unlisted**

**ships or vessels—Extensions during state of emergency.**

(1) The department of revenue shall collect all ad valorem taxes upon ships and vessels listed with the department in accordance with RCW 84.40.065 and all applicable interest and penalties.

The taxes shall be due and payable to the department on or before the thirtieth day of April and shall be delinquent after that date.

(2) If payment of the tax is not received by the department by the due date, there shall be imposed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received within thirty days after the due date, there shall be imposed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received within sixty days after the due date, there shall be imposed a total penalty of twenty percent of the amount of the tax. No penalty so added shall be less than five dollars.

(3) Delinquent taxes under this section are subject to interest at the rate set forth in RCW 82.32.050 from the date of delinquency until paid. Interest or penalties collected on delinquent taxes under this section shall be paid by the department into the general fund of the state treasury.

(4) If upon information obtained by the department it appears that any ship or vessel required to be listed according to the provisions of RCW 84.40.065 is not so listed, the department shall value the ship or vessel and assess against the owner of the vessel the taxes found to be due and shall add thereto interest at the rate set forth in RCW 82.32.050 from the original due date of the tax until the date of payment. The department shall notify the vessel owner by mail of the amount and the same shall become due and shall be paid by the vessel owner within thirty days of the date of the notice. If payment is not received by the department by the due date specified in the notice, the department shall add a penalty of ten percent of the tax found due. A person who willfully gives a false listing or willfully fails to list a ship or vessel as required by RCW 84.40.065 shall be subject to the penalty imposed by RCW 84.40.130(2), which shall be assessed and collected by the department.

(5) Delinquent taxes under this section, along with all penalties and interest thereon, shall be collected by the department according to the procedures set forth in chapter 82.32 RCW for the filing and execution of tax warrants, including the imposition of warrant interest. In the event a warrant is issued by the department for the collection of taxes under this section, the department shall add a penalty of five percent of the amount of the delinquent tax, but not less than ten dollars.

(6) The department shall also collect all delinquent taxes pertaining to ships and vessels appearing on the records of the county treasurers for each of the counties of this state as of December 31, 1993, including any applicable interest or penalties. The provisions of subsection (5) of this section shall apply to the collection of such delinquent taxes.

(7) During a state of emergency declared under RCW 43.06.010(12), the department, on its own motion or at the request of any taxpayer affected by the emergency, may grant extensions of the due date of any taxes payable under this section as the department deems proper. [2008 c 181 § 511; 1993 c 33 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—2008 c 181:** See note following RCW 43.06.220.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 84.60 RCW LIEN OF TAXES

### Sections

84.60.010	Priority of tax lien.
84.60.020	Attachment of tax liens.
84.60.040	Charging personalty tax against realty.
84.60.050	Acquisition by governmental unit of property subject to tax lien or placement under agreement or order of immediate possession or use—Effect.
84.60.070	Acquisition by governmental unit of property subject to tax lien or placement under agreement or order of immediate possession or use—Segregation of taxes if only part of parcel required.

**84.60.010 Priority of tax lien.** All taxes and levies which may hereafter be lawfully imposed or assessed shall be and they are hereby declared to be a lien respectively upon the real and personal property upon which they may hereafter be imposed or assessed, which liens shall include all charges and expenses of and concerning the said taxes which, by the provisions of this title, are directed to be made. The said lien shall have priority to and shall be fully paid and satisfied before any recognizance, mortgage, judgment, debt, obligation or responsibility to or with which said real and personal property may become charged or liable. [1969 ex.s. c 251 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.60.010. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 99; RRS § 11260; prior: 1897 c 71 § 78; 1895 c 176 § 19; 1893 c 124 § 79; 1890 p 584 § 135.]

**84.60.020 Attachment of tax liens.** The taxes assessed upon real property, including mobile homes assessed thereon, and other mobile homes as defined in RCW 82.50.010 shall be a lien thereon from and including the first day of January in the year in which they are levied until the same are paid, but as between the grantor or vendor and the grantee or purchaser of any real property or any such mobile home, when there is no express agreement as to payment of the taxes thereon due and payable in the calendar year of the sale or the contract to sell, the grantor or vendor shall be liable for the same proportion of such taxes as the part of the calendar year prior to the day of the sale or the contract to sell bears to the whole of such calendar year, and the grantee or purchaser shall be liable for the remainder of such taxes and subsequent taxes. The lien for the property taxes assessed on a mobile home shall be terminated and absolved for the year subsequent to the year of its removal from the state, when notice is given to the county treasurer describing the mobile home, if all property taxes due at the time of removal are satisfied. The taxes assessed upon each item of personal property assessed shall be a lien upon such personal property except mobile homes as above provided from and after the date upon which the same is listed with and valued by the county assessor, and no sale or transfer of such personal property shall in any way affect the lien for such taxes upon such property. The taxes assessed upon personal property shall be a lien upon each item of personal property of the person assessed, distrained by the treasurer as provided in RCW 84.56.070, from and after the date of the distraint and no sale or transfer of such

personal property so distrained shall in any way affect the lien for such taxes upon such property. The taxes assessed upon personal property shall be a lien upon the real property of the person assessed, selected by the county treasurer and designated and charged upon the tax rolls as provided in RCW 84.60.040, from and after the date of such selection and charge and no sale or transfer of such real property so selected and charged shall in any way affect the lien for such personal property taxes upon such property. [1985 c 395 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 22 § 8; 1961 c 15 § 84.60.020. Prior: 1943 c 34 § 1; 1939 c 206 § 45; 1935 c 30 § 7; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 104; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11265; prior: 1903 c 59 § 3; 1897 c 71 § 83; 1895 c 176 § 21; 1893 c 124 § 88. Formerly RCW 84.60.020 and 84.60.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.60.040 Charging personalty tax against realty.**

When it becomes necessary, in the opinion of the county treasurer, to charge the tax on personal property against real property, in order that such personal property tax may be collected, such county treasurer shall select for that purpose some particular tract or lots of real property owned by the person owing such personal property tax, and in his tax roll and certificate of delinquency shall designate the particular tract or lots of real property against which such personal property tax is charged, and such real property shall be chargeable therewith. [1961 c 15 § 84.60.040. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 112, part; RRS § 11273, part; prior: 1897 c 71 § 93, part; 1893 c 124 § 97, part.]

**84.60.050 Acquisition by governmental unit of property subject to tax lien or placement under agreement or order of immediate possession or use—Effect.** (1) When real property is acquired by purchase or condemnation by the state of Washington, any county or municipal corporation or is placed under a recorded agreement for immediate possession and use or an order of immediate possession and use pursuant to RCW 8.04.090, such property shall continue to be subject to the tax lien for the years prior to the year in which the property is so acquired or placed under such agreement or order, of any tax levied by the state, county, municipal corporation or other tax levying public body, except as is otherwise provided in RCW 84.60.070.

(2) The lien for taxes applicable to the real property being acquired or placed under immediate possession and use for the year in which such real property is so acquired or placed under immediate possession and use shall be for only the pro rata portion of taxes allocable to that portion of the year prior to the date of execution of the instrument vesting title, date of recording such agreement of immediate possession and use, date of such order of immediate possession and use, or date of judgment. No taxes levied or tax lien on such property allocable to a period subsequent to the dates identified in this subsection shall be valid and any such taxes levied shall be canceled as provided in RCW 84.48.065. In the event the owner has paid taxes allocable to that portion of the year subsequent to the dates identified in this subsection he or she shall be entitled to a pro rata refund of the amount paid on the property so acquired or placed under a recorded agreement or an order of immediate possession and use. If the dates identified in this subsection precede the completion of

the property tax rolls for the current year's collection in the year in which such taxes become payable, no lien for such taxes shall be valid and any such taxes levied but not payable shall be canceled as provided in RCW 84.48.065. [2009 c 350 § 4; 1994 c 301 § 54; 1994 c 124 § 39; 1971 ex.s. c 260 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 145 § 36; 1961 c 15 § 84.60.050. Prior: 1957 c 277 § 1.]

*Exemption of property under order of immediate possession and use: RCW 84.36.010.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.60.070 Acquisition by governmental unit of property subject to tax lien or placement under agreement or order of immediate possession or use—Segregation of taxes if only part of parcel required.** When only part of a parcel of real property is required by a public body either of the parties may require the assessor to segregate the taxes and the assessed valuation as between the portion of property so required and the remainder thereof. If the assessed valuation of the portion of the property not required exceeds the amount of all delinquent taxes and taxes payable on the entire parcel, and if the owner so elects the lien for the taxes owing and payable on all the property shall be set over to the property retained by the owner. All county assessors are hereby authorized and required to segregate taxes as provided above. [1971 ex.s. c 260 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.60.070. Prior: 1957 c 277 § 3.]

### **Chapter 84.64 RCW**

#### **LIEN FORECLOSURE**

(Formerly: Certificates of delinquency)

##### Sections

84.64.040	Prosecuting attorney to foreclose on request.
84.64.050	Certificate to county—Foreclosure—Notice—Sale of certain residential property eligible for deferral prohibited.
84.64.060	Payment by interested person before day of sale.
84.64.070	Redemption before day of sale—Redemption of property of minors and legally incompetent persons.
84.64.080	Foreclosure proceedings—Judgment—Sale—Notice—Form of deed—Recording.
84.64.120	Appellate review—Deposit.
84.64.130	Certified copies of records as evidence.
84.64.180	Deeds as evidence—Estoppel by judgment.
84.64.190	Certified copy of deed as evidence.
84.64.200	Prior taxes deemed delinquent—County as bidder at sale—Purchaser to pay all delinquent taxes, interest, or costs.
84.64.215	Deed recording fee—Transmittal to county auditor and purchaser.

**84.64.040 Prosecuting attorney to foreclose on request.** The county prosecuting attorney shall furnish to holders of certificates of delinquency, at the expense of the county, forms of applications for judgment and forms of notice and summons when the same are required, and shall prosecute to final judgment all actions brought by holders of certificates under the provisions of this chapter for the foreclosure of tax liens, when requested so to do by the holder of any certificate of delinquency: PROVIDED, Said holder has duly paid to the clerk of the court the sum of two dollars for each action brought as per RCW 84.64.120: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent said holder from employing other and additional counsel, or prosecuting said action independent of and without assistance from the prosecuting attorney, if he so desires, but in such

cases, no other and further costs or charge whatever shall be allowed than the costs provided in this section and RCW 84.64.120: AND PROVIDED, ALSO, That in no event shall the county prosecuting attorney collect any fee for the services herein enumerated. [1961 c 15 § 84.64.040. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 116; RRS § 11277; prior: 1903 c 165 § 1; 1899 c 141 § 14.]

**84.64.050 Certificate to county—Foreclosure—Notice—Sale of certain residential property eligible for deferral prohibited.** After the expiration of three years from the date of delinquency, when any property remains on the tax rolls for which no certificate of delinquency has been issued, the county treasurer shall proceed to issue certificates of delinquency on the property to the county for all years' taxes, interest, and costs: PROVIDED, That the county treasurer, with the consent of the county legislative authority, may elect to issue a certificate for fewer than all years' taxes, interest, and costs to a minimum of the taxes, interest, and costs for the earliest year.

Certificates of delinquency shall be prima facie evidence that:

- (1) The property described was subject to taxation at the time the same was assessed;
- (2) The property was assessed as required by law;
- (3) The taxes or assessments were not paid at any time before the issuance of the certificate;
- (4) Such certificate shall have the same force and effect as a lis pendens required under chapter 4.28 RCW.

The county treasurer may include in the certificate of delinquency any assessments which are due on the property and are the responsibility of the county treasurer to collect. For purposes of this chapter, "taxes, interest, and costs" include any assessments which are so included by the county treasurer, and "interest" means interest and penalties unless the context requires otherwise.

The treasurer shall file the certificates when completed with the clerk of the court at no cost to the treasurer, and the treasurer shall thereupon, with legal assistance from the county prosecuting attorney, proceed to foreclose in the name of the county, the tax liens embraced in such certificates. Notice and summons must be served or notice given in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the owner or owners, and any person having a recorded interest in or lien of record upon the property, of the foreclosure action to appear within thirty days after service of such notice and defend such action or pay the amount due. Either (a) personal service upon the owner or owners and any person having a recorded interest in or lien of record upon the property, or (b) publication once in a newspaper of general circulation, which is circulated in the area of the property and mailing of notice by certified mail to the owner or owners and any person having a recorded interest in or lien of record upon the property, or, if a mailing address is unavailable, personal service upon the occupant of the property, if any, is sufficient. If such notice is returned as unclaimed, the treasurer shall send notice by regular first-class mail. The notice shall include the legal description on the tax rolls, the year or years for which assessed, the amount of tax and interest due, and the name of owner, or reputed owner, if known, and the notice must include the local street address, if any, for informational purposes only. The certifi-

cates of delinquency issued to the county may be issued in one general certificate in book form including all property, and the proceedings to foreclose the liens against the property may be brought in one action and all persons interested in any of the property involved in the proceedings may be made codefendants in the action, and if unknown may be therein named as unknown owners, and the publication of such notice shall be sufficient service thereof on all persons interested in the property described therein, except as provided above. The person or persons whose name or names appear on the treasurer's rolls as the owner or owners of the property shall be considered and treated as the owner or owners of the property for the purpose of this section, and if upon the treasurer's rolls it appears that the owner or owners of the property are unknown, then the property shall be proceeded against, as belonging to an unknown owner or owners, as the case may be, and all persons owning or claiming to own, or having or claiming to have an interest therein, are hereby required to take notice of the proceedings and of any and all steps thereunder: PROVIDED, That prior to the sale of the property, the treasurer shall order or conduct a title search of the property to be sold to determine the legal description of the property to be sold and the record title holder, and if the record title holder or holders differ from the person or persons whose name or names appear on the treasurer's rolls as the owner or owners, the record title holder or holders shall be considered and treated as the owner or owners of the property for the purpose of this section, and shall be entitled to the notice provided for in this section. Such title search shall be included in the costs of foreclosure.

The county treasurer shall not sell property which is eligible for deferral of taxes under chapter 84.38 RCW but shall require the owner of the property to file a declaration to defer taxes under chapter 84.38 RCW. [1999 c 18 § 7; 1991 c 245 § 25; 1989 c 378 § 37; 1986 c 278 § 64. Prior: 1984 c 220 § 19; 1984 c 179 § 2; 1981 c 322 § 4; 1972 ex.s. c 84 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.050; prior: 1937 c 17 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 117; RRS § 11278; prior: 1917 c 113 § 1; 1901 c 178 § 3; 1899 c 141 § 15; 1897 c 71 § 98.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.64.060 Payment by interested person before day of sale.** Any person owning a recorded interest in lands or lots upon which judgment is prayed, as provided in this chapter, may in person or by agent pay the taxes, interest and costs due thereon to the county treasurer of the county in which the same are situated, at any time before the day of the sale; and for the amount so paid he or she shall have a lien on the property liable for taxes, interest and costs for which judgment is prayed; and the person or authority who shall collect or receive the same shall give a receipt for such payment, or issue to such person a certificate showing such payment. If paying by agent, the agent shall provide notarized documentation of the agency relationship. [2003 c 23 § 4; 2002 c 168 § 9; 1963 c 88 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.060. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 118; RRS § 11279; prior: 1897 c 71 § 99.]

**84.64.070 Redemption before day of sale—Redemption of property of minors and legally incompetent persons.** Real property upon which certificates of delinquency have been issued under the provisions of this chapter, may be

redeemed at any time before the close of business the day before the day of the sale, by payment, as prescribed by the county treasurer, to the county treasurer of the proper county, of the amount for which the certificate of delinquency was issued, together with interest at the statutory rate per annum charged on delinquent general real and personal property taxes from date of issuance of the certificate of delinquency until paid. The person redeeming such property shall also pay the amount of all taxes, interest and costs accruing after the issuance of such certificate of delinquency, together with interest at the statutory rate per annum charged on delinquent general real and personal property taxes on such payment from the day the same was made. No fee shall be charged for any redemption. Tenants in common or joint tenants shall be allowed to redeem their individual interest in real property for which certificates of delinquency have been issued under the provisions of this chapter, in the manner and under the terms specified in RCW 84.64.060 for the redemption of real property other than that of persons adjudicated to be legally incompetent or minors for purposes of this section. If the real property of any minor, or any person adjudicated to be legally incompetent, be sold for nonpayment of taxes, the same may be redeemed at any time within three years after the date of sale upon the terms specified in this section, on the payment of interest at the statutory rate per annum charged on delinquent general real and personal property taxes on the amount for which the same was sold, from and after the date of sale, and in addition the redemptioner shall pay the reasonable value of all improvements made in good faith on the property, less the value of the use thereof, which redemption may be made by themselves or by any person in their behalf. [2002 c 168 § 10; 1991 c 245 § 26; 1963 c 88 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.070. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 119; RRS § 11280; prior: 1917 c 142 § 4; 1899 c 141 § 17; 1897 c 71 § 102; 1895 c 176 § 25; 1893 c 124 § 121.]

**84.64.080 Foreclosure proceedings—Judgment—Sale—Notice—Form of deed—Recording.** The court shall examine each application for judgment foreclosing tax lien, and if defense (specifying in writing the particular cause of objection) be offered by any person interested in any of the lands or lots to the entry of judgment against the same, the court shall hear and determine the matter in a summary manner, without other pleadings, and shall pronounce judgment as the right of the case may be; or the court may, in its discretion, continue such individual cases, wherein defense is offered, to such time as may be necessary, in order to secure substantial justice to the contestants therein; but in all other cases the court shall proceed to determine the matter in a summary manner as above specified. In all judicial proceedings of any kind for the collection of taxes, and interest and costs thereon, all amendments which by law can be made in any personal action pending in such court shall be allowed, and no assessments of property or charge for any of the taxes shall be considered illegal on account of any irregularity in the tax list or assessment rolls or on account of the assessment rolls or tax list not having been made, completed or returned within the time required by law, or on account of the property having been charged or listed in the assessment or tax lists without name, or in any other name than that of the owner, and no error or informality in the proceedings of any

of the officers connected with the assessment, levying or collection of the taxes, shall vitiate or in any manner affect the tax or the assessment thereof, and any irregularities or informality in the assessment rolls or tax lists or in any of the proceedings connected with the assessment or levy of such taxes or any omission or defective act of any officer or officers connected with the assessment or levying of such taxes, may be, in the discretion of the court, corrected, supplied and made to conform to the law by the court. The court shall give judgment for such taxes, interest and costs as shall appear to be due upon the several lots or tracts described in the notice of application for judgment or complaint, and such judgment shall be a several judgment against each tract or lot or part of a tract or lot for each kind of tax included therein, including all interest and costs, and the court shall order and direct the clerk to make and enter an order for the sale of such real property against which judgment is made, or vacate and set aside the certificate of delinquency or make such other order or judgment as in the law or equity may be just. The order shall be signed by the judge of the superior court, shall be delivered to the county treasurer, and shall be full and sufficient authority for him or her to proceed to sell the property for the sum as set forth in the order and to take such further steps in the matter as are provided by law. The county treasurer shall immediately after receiving the order and judgment of the court proceed to sell the property as provided in this chapter to the highest and best bidder for cash. The acceptable minimum bid shall be the total amount of taxes, interest, and costs. All sales shall be made at a location in the county on a date and time (except Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays) as the county treasurer may direct, and shall continue from day to day (Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excepted) during the same hours until all lots or tracts are sold, after first giving notice of the time, and place where such sale is to take place for ten days successively by posting notice thereof in three public places in the county, one of which shall be in the office of the treasurer. The notice shall be substantially in the following form:

TAX JUDGMENT SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to real property tax judgment of the superior court of the county of . . . . . in the state of Washington, and an order of sale duly issued by the court, entered the . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . ., in proceedings for foreclosure of tax liens upon real property, as per provisions of law, I shall on the . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . ., at . . . . o'clock a.m., at . . . . . in the city of . . . . ., and county of . . . . ., state of Washington, sell the real property to the highest and best bidder for cash, to satisfy the full amount of taxes, interest and costs adjudged to be due.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . .

.....  
Treasurer of . . . . .  
county.

No county officer or employee shall directly or indirectly be a purchaser of such property at such sale.

If any buildings or improvements are upon an area encompassing more than one tract or lot, the same must be advertised and sold as a single unit.

If the highest amount bid for any such separate unit tract or lot is in excess of the minimum bid due upon the whole property included in the certificate of delinquency, the excess shall be refunded following payment of all recorded water-sewer district liens, on application therefor, to the record owner of the property. The record owner of the property is the person who held title on the date of issuance of the certificate of delinquency. Assignments of interests, deeds, or other documents executed or recorded after filing the certificate of delinquency shall not affect the payment of excess funds to the record owner. In the event no claim for the excess is received by the county treasurer within three years after the date of the sale he or she shall at expiration of the three year period deposit such excess in the current expense fund of the county which shall extinguish all claims by any owner to the excess funds. The county treasurer shall execute to the purchaser of any piece or parcel of land a tax deed. The deed so made by the county treasurer, under the official seal of his or her office, shall be recorded in the same manner as other conveyances of real property, and shall vest in the grantee, his or her heirs and assigns the title to the property therein described, without further acknowledgment or evidence of such conveyance, and shall be substantially in the following form:

State of Washington }  
County of . . . . . } ss.

This indenture, made this . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . . ., between . . . . ., as treasurer of . . . . . county, state of Washington, party of the first part, and . . . . ., party of the second part:

Witnesseth, that, whereas, at a public sale of real property held on the . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . . ., pursuant to a real property tax judgment entered in the superior court in the county of . . . . . on the . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . . ., in proceedings to foreclose tax liens upon real property and an order of sale duly issued by the court, . . . . . duly purchased in compliance with the laws of the state of Washington, the following described real property, to wit: (Here place description of real property conveyed) and that the . . . . . has complied with the laws of the state of Washington necessary to entitle (him, or her or them) to a deed for the real property.

Now, therefore, know ye, that, I . . . . ., county treasurer of the county of . . . . ., state of Washington, in consideration of the premises and by virtue of the statutes of the state of Washington, in such cases provided, do hereby grant and convey unto . . . . ., his or her heirs and assigns, forever, the real property hereinbefore described.

Given under my hand and seal of office this . . . . day of . . . . ., A.D. . . . .

.....  
County Treasurer.

[2004 c 79 § 7; 2003 c 23 § 5. Prior: 1999 c 153 § 72; 1999 c 18 § 8; 1991 c 245 § 27; 1981 c 322 § 5; 1965 ex.s. c 23 § 4; 1963 c 8 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.080; prior: 1951 c 220 § 1; 1939 c 206 § 47; 1937 c 118 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 20; RRS § 11281; prior: 1909 c 163 § 1; 1903 c 59 § 5; 1899 c 141 § 18; 1897 c 71 § 103; 1893 c 124 § 105; 1890 p 573 §

112; Code 1881 § 2917. Formerly RCW 84.64.080, 84.64.090, 84.64.100, and 84.64.110.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

**84.64.120 Appellate review—Deposit.** Appellate review of the judgment of the superior court may be sought as in other civil cases. However, review must be sought within thirty days after the entry of the judgment and the party taking such appeal shall deposit a sum equal to all taxes, interest, and costs with the clerk of the court, conditioned that the appellant shall prosecute the appeal with effect, and will pay the amount of any taxes, interest and costs which may be finally adjudged against the real property involved in the appeal by any court having jurisdiction of the cause. No appeal shall be allowed from any judgment for the sale of land or lot for taxes unless the party taking such appeal shall before the time of giving notice of such appeal, and within thirty days herein allowed within which to appeal, deposit with the clerk of the court of the county in which the land or lots are situated, an amount of money equal to the amount of the judgment and costs rendered in such cause by the trial court. If, in case of an appeal, the judgment of the lower court shall be affirmed, in whole or in part, the supreme court or the court of appeals shall enter judgment for the amount of taxes, interest and costs, with damages not to exceed twenty percent, and shall order that the amount deposited with the clerk of the court, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be credited upon the judgment so rendered, and execution shall issue for the balance of the judgment, damages and costs. The clerk of the supreme court or the clerk of the division of the court of appeals in which the appeal is pending shall transmit to the county treasurer of the county in which the land or lots are situated a certified copy of the order of affirmance, and it shall be the duty of such county treasurer upon receiving the same to apply so much of the amount deposited with the clerk of the court, as shall be necessary to satisfy the amount of the judgment of the supreme court, and to account for the same as collected taxes. If the judgment of the superior court shall be reversed and the cause remanded for a rehearing, and if, upon a rehearing, judgment shall be rendered for the sale of the land or lots for taxes, or any part thereof, and such judgment be not appealed from, as herein provided, the clerk of such superior court shall certify to the county treasurer the amount of such judgment, and thereupon it shall be the duty of the county treasurer to certify to the county clerk the amount deposited with the clerk of the court, and the county clerk shall credit such judgment with the amount of such deposit, or so much thereof as will satisfy the judgment, and the county treasurer shall be chargeable and accountable for the amount so credited as collected taxes. Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring an additional deposit in case of more than one appeal being prosecuted in the proceeding. If, upon a final hearing, judgment shall be refused for the sale of the land or lots for the taxes, interest, and costs, or any part thereof, in the proceedings, the county treasurer shall pay over to the party who shall have made such deposit, or his or her legally authorized agent or representative, the amount of the deposit, or so much thereof as shall remain after the satisfaction of the judgment against the land or lots in respect to which such deposit shall have been made. [1999 c 18 § 9; 1991 c 245 § 28; 1988 c 202 § 70; 1971 c 81 § 154; 1961 c 15

§ 84.64.120. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 121; RRS § 11282; prior: 1903 c 59 § 4; 1897 c 71 § 104; 1893 c 124 § 106.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. RAP 5.2, 8.1, 18.22.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

#### **84.64.130 Certified copies of records as evidence.**

The books and records belonging to the office of county treasurer, certified by said treasurer, shall be deemed prima facie evidence to prove the issuance of any certificate, the sale of any land or lot for taxes, the redemption of the same or payment of taxes thereon. The county treasurer shall, at the expiration of his term of office, pay over to his successor in office all moneys in his hands received for redemption from sale for taxes on real property. [1961 c 15 § 84.64.130. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 123; RRS § 11284; prior: 1897 c 71 § 108; 1893 c 124 § 123.]

#### **84.64.180 Deeds as evidence—Estoppel by judgment.**

Deeds executed by the county treasurer, as aforesaid, shall be prima facie evidence in all controversies and suits in relation to the right of the purchaser, his heirs and assigns, to the real property thereby conveyed of the following facts: First, that the real property conveyed was subject to taxation at the time the same was assessed, and had been listed and assessed in the time and manner required by law; second, that the taxes were not paid at any time before the issuance of deed; third, that the real property conveyed had not been redeemed from the sale at the date of the deed; fourth, that the real property was sold for taxes, interest and costs, as stated in the deed; fifth, that the grantee in the deed was the purchaser, or assignee of the purchaser; sixth, that the sale was conducted in the manner required by law. And any judgment for the deed to real property sold for delinquent taxes rendered after January 9, 1926, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall estop all parties from raising any objections thereto, or to a tax title based thereon, which existed at or before the rendition of such judgment, and could have been presented as a defense to the application for such judgment in the court wherein the same was rendered, and as to all such questions the judgment itself shall be conclusive evidence of its regularity and validity in all collateral proceedings, except in cases where the tax has been paid, or the real property was not liable to the tax. [1961 c 15 § 84.64.180. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 127; RRS § 11288; prior: 1897 c 71 § 114; 1893 c 124 § 132; 1890 p 574 § 114.]

**84.64.190 Certified copy of deed as evidence.** Whenever it shall be necessary in any action in any court of law or equity, wherein the title to any real property is in controversy, to prove the conveyance to any county of such real property in pursuance of a foreclosure of a tax certificate and sale thereunder, a copy of the tax deed issued to the county containing a description of such real property, exclusive of the description of all other real property therein described, certified by the county auditor of the county wherein the real property is situated, to be such, shall be admitted in evidence by the court, and shall be proof of the conveyance of the real property in controversy to such county, to the same extent as would a certified copy of the entire record of such tax deed. [1961 c 15 § 84.64.190. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 128; RRS § 11289; prior: 1890 p 575 § 115.]

(2012 Ed.)

**84.64.200 Prior taxes deemed delinquent—County as bidder at sale—Purchaser to pay all delinquent taxes, interest, or costs.** All lots, tracts and parcels of land upon which taxes levied prior to January 9, 1926 remain due and unpaid at the date when such taxes would have become delinquent as provided in the act under which they were levied shall be deemed to be delinquent under the provisions of this title, and the same proceedings may be had to enforce the payment of such unpaid taxes, with interest and costs, and payment enforced and liens foreclosed under and by virtue of the provisions of this chapter. For the purposes of foreclosure under this chapter, the date of delinquency shall be construed to mean the date when the taxes first became delinquent. At all sales of property for which certificates of delinquency are held by the county, if no other bids are received, the county shall be considered a bidder for the full area of each tract or lot to the amount of all taxes, interest and costs due thereon, and where no bidder appears, acquire title in trust for the taxing districts as absolutely as if purchased by an individual under the provisions of this chapter; all bidders except the county at sales of property for which certificates of delinquency are held by the county shall pay the full amount of taxes, interest and costs for which judgment is rendered, together with all taxes, interest and costs which are delinquent at the time of sale, regardless of whether the taxes, interest, or costs are included in the judgment. [2007 c 295 § 7; 1981 c 322 § 6; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.200. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 130 § 129; RRS § 11290; prior: 1901 c 178 § 4; 1899 c 141 § 24; 1897 c 71 § 116; 1893 c 124 § 136.]

**84.64.215 Deed recording fee—Transmittal to county auditor and purchaser.** In addition to a five dollar fee for preparing the deed, the treasurer shall collect the proper recording fee. This recording fee together with the deed shall then be transmitted by the treasurer to the county auditor who will record the same and mail the deed to the purchaser. [1991 c 245 § 29; 1961 c 15 § 84.64.215. Prior: 1947 c 60 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11295a. Formerly RCW 84.64.210, part.]

### **Chapter 84.68 RCW**

#### **RECOVERY OF TAXES PAID OR PROPERTY SOLD FOR TAXES**

##### Sections

84.68.010	Injunctions prohibited—Exceptions.
84.68.020	Payment under protest—Claim not required.
84.68.030	Judgment—Payment—County tax refund fund.
84.68.040	Levy for tax refund fund.
84.68.050	Venue of action—Intercounty property.
84.68.060	Limitation of actions.
84.68.070	Remedy exclusive—Exception.
84.68.080	Action to recover property sold for taxes—Tender is condition precedent.
84.68.090	Action to recover property sold for taxes—Complaint.
84.68.100	Action to recover property sold for taxes—Restrictions construed as additional.
84.68.110	Small claims recoveries—Recovery of erroneous taxes without court action.
84.68.120	Small claims recoveries—Petition—Procedure of county officers—Transmittal of findings to department of revenue.
84.68.130	Small claims recoveries—Procedure of department of revenue.
84.68.140	Small claims recoveries—Payment of refunds—Procedure.
84.68.150	Small claims recoveries—Limitation as to time and amount of refund.

**84.68.010 Injunctions prohibited—Exceptions.**

Injunctions and restraining orders shall not be issued or granted to restrain the collection of any tax or any part thereof, or the sale of any property for the nonpayment of any tax or part thereof, except in the following cases:

- (1) Where the law under which the tax is imposed is void;
- (2) Where the property upon which the tax is imposed is exempt from taxation; or
- (3) Where the sale is a result of an error made by an officer or employee of the county, and the board of county commissioners or other legislative authority of the county issues an order. [2000 c 103 § 30; 1972 ex.s. c 84 § 3; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.010. Prior: 1931 c 62 § 1; RRS § 11315-1.]

**84.68.020 Payment under protest—Claim not required.** In all cases of the levy of taxes for public revenue which are deemed unlawful or excessive by the person, firm or corporation whose property is taxed, or from whom such tax is demanded or enforced, such person, firm or corporation may pay such tax or any part thereof deemed unlawful, under written protest setting forth all of the grounds upon which such tax is claimed to be unlawful or excessive; and thereupon the person, firm or corporation so paying, or their legal representatives or assigns, may bring an action in the superior court or in any federal court of competent jurisdiction against the state, county or municipality by whose officers the same was collected, to recover such tax, or any portion thereof, so paid under protest: PROVIDED, That RCW 84.68.010 through 84.68.070 shall not be deemed to enlarge the grounds upon which taxes may now be recovered: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That no claim need be presented to the state or county or municipality, or any of their respective officers, for the return of such protested tax as a condition precedent to the institution of such action. [1994 c 124 § 40; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.020. Prior: 1937 c 11 § 1; 1931 c 62 § 2; 1927 c 280 § 7; 1925 c 18 § 7; RRS § 11315-2.]

**84.68.030 Judgment—Payment—County tax refund fund.** In case it be determined in such action that said tax, or any portion thereof, so paid under protest, was unlawfully collected, judgment for recovery thereof and interest thereon at the rate specified in RCW 84.69.100 from date of payment, together with costs of suit, shall be entered in favor of plaintiff. In case the action is against a county and the judgment shall become final, the amount of such judgment, including interest at the rate specified in RCW 84.69.100 and costs where allowed, shall be paid out of the treasury of such county by the county treasurer upon warrants drawn by the county auditor against a fund in said treasury hereby created to be known and designated as the county tax refund fund. Such warrants shall be so issued upon the filing with the county auditor and the county treasurer of duly authenticated copies of such judgment, and shall be paid by the county treasurer out of any moneys on hand in said fund. If no funds are available in such county tax refund fund for the payment of such warrants, then such warrants shall bear interest in such cases and shall be callable under such conditions as are provided by law for county warrants, and such interest, if any, shall also be paid out of said fund. [1989 c 378 § 28; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.030. Prior: 1931 c 62 § 3; RRS § 11315-3.]

**84.68.040 Levy for tax refund fund.** Annually, at the time required by law for the levying of taxes for county purposes, the proper county officers required by law to make and enter such tax levies shall make and enter a tax levy or levies for said county tax refund fund, which said levy or levies shall be given precedence over all other tax levies for county and/or taxing district purposes, as follows:

(1) A levy upon all of the taxable property within the county for the amount of all taxes collected by the county for county and/or state purposes held illegal and recoverable by such judgments rendered against the county within the preceding twelve months, including legal interest and a proper share of the costs, where allowed, together with the additional amounts hereinafter provided for;

(2) A levy upon all of the taxable property of each taxing district within the county for the amount of all taxes collected by the county for the purposes of such taxing district, and which have been held illegal and recoverable by such judgments rendered against the county within the preceding twelve months, including legal interest and a proper share of the costs, where allowed.

The aforesaid levy or levies shall also include a proper share of the interest paid out of the county tax refund fund during said twelve months upon warrants issued against said fund in payment of such judgments, legal interests and costs, plus such an additional amount as such levying officers shall deem necessary to meet the obligations of said fund, taking into consideration the probable portions of such taxes that will not be collected or collectible during the year in which they are due and payable, and also any unobligated cash on hand in said fund. [1961 c 15 § 84.68.040. Prior: 1937 c 11 § 2; 1931 c 62 § 4; RRS § 11315-4.]

**84.68.050 Venue of action—Intercounty property.** The action for the recovery of taxes so paid under protest shall be brought in the superior court of the county wherein the tax was collected or in any federal court of competent jurisdiction: PROVIDED, That where the property against which the tax is levied consists of the operating property of a railroad company, telegraph company or other public service company whose operating property is located in more than one county and is assessed as a unit by any state board or state officer or officers, the complaining taxpayer may institute such action in the superior court of any one of the counties in which such tax is payable, or in any federal court of competent jurisdiction, and may join as parties defendant in said action all of the counties to which the tax or taxes levied upon such operating property were paid or are payable, and may recover in one action from each of the county defendants the amount of the tax, or any portion thereof, so paid under protest, and adjudged to have been unlawfully collected, together with interest thereon at the rate specified in RCW 84.69.100 from date of payment, and costs of suit. [1989 c 378 § 29; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.050. Prior: 1937 c 11 § 3; 1931 c 62 § 5; RRS § 11315-5.]

**84.68.060 Limitation of actions.** No action instituted pursuant to this chapter or otherwise to recover any tax levied or assessed shall be commenced after the 30th day of the next succeeding June following the year in which said tax became

payable. [1961 c 15 § 84.68.060. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 48; 1931 c 62 § 6; RRS § 11315-6.]

*Limitation of action to cancel tax deed: RCW 4.16.090.*

**84.68.070 Remedy exclusive—Exception.** Except as permitted by RCW 84.68.010 through 84.68.070 and chapter 84.69 RCW, no action shall ever be brought or defense interposed attacking the validity of any tax, or any portion of any tax: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this section shall not be construed as depriving the defendants in any tax foreclosure proceeding of any valid defense allowed by law to the tax sought to be foreclosed therein except defenses based upon alleged excessive valuations, levies or taxes. [1989 c 378 § 30; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.070. Prior: 1939 c 206 § 49; 1931 c 62 § 7; RRS § 11315-7.]

**84.68.080 Action to recover property sold for taxes—Tender is condition precedent.** Hereafter no action or proceeding shall be commenced or instituted in any court of this state for the recovery of any property sold for taxes, unless the person or corporation desiring to commence or institute such action or proceeding shall first pay, or cause to be paid, or shall tender to the officer entitled under the law to receive the same, all taxes, penalties, interest and costs justly due and unpaid from such person or corporation on the property sought to be recovered. [1961 c 15 § 84.68.080. Prior: 1888 c 22 (p 43) § 1; RRS § 955.]

*Limitation of action to cancel tax deed: RCW 4.16.090.*

**84.68.090 Action to recover property sold for taxes—Complaint.** In all actions for the recovery of lands or other property sold for taxes, the complainant must state and set forth specially in the complaint the tax that is justly due, with penalties, interest and costs, that the taxes for that and previous years have been paid; and when the action is against the person or corporation in possession thereof that all taxes, penalties, interest and costs paid by the purchaser at tax-sale, the purchaser's assignees or grantees have been fully paid or tendered, and payment refused. [1994 c 124 § 41; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.090. Prior: 1888 c 22 (p 44) § 2; RRS § 956.]

**84.68.100 Action to recover property sold for taxes—Restrictions construed as additional.** The provisions of RCW 84.68.080 and 84.68.090 shall be construed as imposing additional conditions upon the complainant in actions for the recovery of property sold for taxes. [1961 c 15 § 84.68.100. Prior: 1888 c 22 (p 44) § 3; RRS § 957.]

**84.68.110 Small claims recoveries—Recovery of erroneous taxes without court action.** Whenever a taxpayer believes or has reason to believe that, through error in description, double assessments or manifest errors in assessment which do not involve a revaluation of the property, he has been erroneously assessed or that a tax has been incorrectly extended against him upon the tax rolls, and the tax based upon such erroneous assessment or incorrect extension has been paid, such taxpayer may initiate a proceeding for the cancellation or reduction of the assessment of his property and the tax based thereon or for correction of the error in extending the tax on the tax rolls, and for the refund of the claimed erroneous tax or excessive portion thereof, by filing

a petition therefor with the county assessor of the county in which the property is or was located or taxed, which petition shall legally describe the property, show the assessed valuation and tax placed against the property for the year or years in question and the taxpayer's reasons for believing that there was an error in the assessment within the meaning of RCW 84.68.110 through 84.68.150, or in extending the tax upon the tax rolls and set forth the sum to which the taxpayer desires to have the assessment reduced or the extended tax corrected. [1961 c 15 § 84.68.110. Prior: 1939 c 16 § 1; RRS § 11241-1.]

**84.68.120 Small claims recoveries—Petition—Procedure of county officers—Transmittal of findings to department of revenue.** Upon the filing of the petition with the county assessor that officer shall proceed forthwith to conduct such investigation as may be necessary to ascertain and determine whether or not the assessment in question was erroneous or whether or not the tax was incorrectly extended upon the tax rolls and if he finds there is probable cause to believe that the property was erroneously assessed, and that such erroneous assessment was due to an error in description, double assessment or manifest error in assessment which does not involve a revaluation of the property, or that the tax was incorrectly extended upon the tax rolls, he shall endorse his findings upon the petition, and thereupon within ten days after the filing of the petition by the taxpayer forward the same to the county treasurer. If the assessor's findings be in favor of cancellation or reduction or correction he shall include therein a statement of the amount to which he recommends that the assessment and tax be reduced. It shall be the duty of the county treasurer, upon whom a petition with endorsed findings is served, as in RCW 84.68.110 through 84.68.150 provided, to endorse thereon a statement whether or not the tax against which complaint is made has in fact been paid and, if paid, the amount thereof, whereupon the county treasurer shall immediately transmit the petition to the prosecuting attorney and the prosecuting attorney shall make such investigation as he deems necessary and, within ten days after receipt of the petition and findings by him, transmit the same to the state department of revenue with his recommendation in respect to the granting or denial of the petition. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 208; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.120. Prior: 1939 c 16 § 2; RRS § 11241-2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.68.130 Small claims recoveries—Procedure of department of revenue.** Upon receipt of the petition, findings and recommendations the state department of revenue shall proceed to consider the same, and it may require evidence to be submitted and make such investigation as it deems necessary and for such purpose the department of revenue shall be empowered to subpoena witnesses in order that all material and relevant facts may be ascertained. Upon the conclusion of its consideration of the petition and within thirty days after receipt thereof, the department of revenue shall enter an order either granting or denying the petition and if the petition be granted the department of revenue may order the assessment canceled or reduced or the extended tax corrected upon the tax rolls in any amount it deems proper but in no event to exceed the amount of reduction or correc-

tion recommended by the county assessor. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 209; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.130. Prior: 1939 c 16 § 3; RRS § 11241-3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.68.140 Small claims recoveries—Payment of refunds—Procedure.** Certified copies of the order of the department of revenue shall be forwarded to the county assessor, the county auditor and the taxpayer, and the taxpayer shall immediately be entitled to a refund of the difference, if any, between the tax already paid and the canceled or reduced or corrected tax based upon the order of the department with interest on such amount from the date of payment of the original tax. Upon receipt of the order of the department the county auditor shall draw a warrant against the county tax refund fund in the amount of any tax reduction so ordered, plus interest at the rate specified in RCW 84.69.100 to the date such warrant is issued, and such warrant shall be paid by the county treasurer out of any moneys on hand in said fund. If no funds are available in the county tax refund fund for the payment of such warrant the warrant shall bear interest and shall be callable under such conditions as are provided by law for county warrants and such interest, if any, shall also be paid out of said fund. The order of the department shall for all purposes be considered as a judgment against the county tax refund fund and the obligation thereof shall be discharged in the same manner as provided by law for the discharge of judgments against the county for excessive taxes under the provisions of RCW 84.68.010 through 84.68.070 or any act amendatory thereof. [1989 c 378 § 31; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 210; 1961 c 15 § 84.68.140. Prior: 1939 c 16 § 4; RRS § 11241-4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.68.150 Small claims recoveries—Limitation as to time and amount of refund.** No petition for cancellation or reduction of assessment or correction of tax rolls and the refund of taxes based thereon under RCW 84.68.110 through 84.68.150 shall be considered unless filed within three years after the year in which the tax became payable or purported to become payable. The maximum refund under the authority of RCW 84.68.110 through 84.68.150 for each year involved in the taxpayer's petition shall be two hundred dollars. Should the amount of excess tax for any such year be in excess of two hundred dollars, a refund of two hundred dollars shall be allowed under RCW 84.68.110 through 84.68.150, without prejudice to the right of the taxpayer to proceed as may be otherwise provided by law to recover the balance of the excess tax paid by him. [1961 c 15 § 84.68.150. Prior: 1949 c 158 § 1; 1941 c 154 § 1; 1939 c 16 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11241-5.]

## Chapter 84.69 RCW REFUNDS

### Sections

84.69.010	Definitions.
84.69.020	Grounds for refunds—Determination—Payment—Report.
84.69.030	Procedure to obtain order for refund.
84.69.040	Refunds may include amounts paid to state, and county and taxing district taxes.
84.69.050	Refund with respect to amounts paid state.

84.69.060	Refunds with respect to county, state, and taxing district taxes.
84.69.070	Refunds with respect to taxing districts—Administrative expenses—Disposition of funds upon expiration of refund orders.
84.69.080	Refunds with respect to taxing districts—Not to be paid from county funds.
84.69.090	To whom refund may be paid.
84.69.100	Refunds shall include interest—Written protests not required—Rate of interest.
84.69.110	Expiration date of refund orders.
84.69.120	Action on rejected claim—Time for commencement.
84.69.130	Claim prerequisite to action—Recovery limited to ground asserted.
84.69.140	Interest shall be allowed on amount recovered.
84.69.150	Refunds within sixty days.
84.69.160	Chapter does not supersede existing law.
84.69.170	Payment under protest not required.
84.69.180	Property tax authority for funding refunds and abatements.

**84.69.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) "Taxing district" means any county, city, town, port district, school district, road district, metropolitan park district, water-sewer district, or other municipal corporation now or hereafter authorized by law to impose burdens upon property within the district in proportion to the value thereof, for the purpose of obtaining revenue for public purposes, as distinguished from municipal corporations authorized to impose burdens, or for which burdens may be imposed, for such purposes, upon property in proportion to the benefits accruing thereto.

(2) "Tax" includes penalties and interest. [1999 c 153 § 73; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.010. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.69.020 Grounds for refunds—Determination—Payment—Report.** On the order of the county treasurer, ad valorem taxes paid before or after delinquency shall be refunded if they were:

- (1) Paid more than once;
- (2) Paid as a result of manifest error in description;
- (3) Paid as a result of a clerical error in extending the tax rolls;
- (4) Paid as a result of other clerical errors in listing property;
- (5) Paid with respect to improvements which did not exist on assessment date;
- (6) Paid under levies or statutes adjudicated to be illegal or unconstitutional;
- (7) Paid as a result of mistake, inadvertence, or lack of knowledge by any person exempted from paying real property taxes or a portion thereof pursuant to RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389, as now or hereafter amended;
- (8) Paid as a result of mistake, inadvertence, or lack of knowledge by either a public official or employee or by any person with respect to real property in which the person paying the same has no legal interest;
- (9) Paid on the basis of an assessed valuation which was appealed to the county board of equalization and ordered reduced by the board;
- (10) Paid on the basis of an assessed valuation which was appealed to the state board of tax appeals and ordered reduced by the board: PROVIDED, That the amount refunded under subsections (9) and (10) of this section shall only be for the difference between the tax paid on the basis of

the appealed valuation and the tax payable on the valuation adjusted in accordance with the board's order;

(11) Paid as a state property tax levied upon property, the assessed value of which has been established by the state board of tax appeals for the year of such levy: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the amount refunded shall only be for the difference between the state property tax paid and the amount of state property tax which would, when added to all other property taxes within the one percent limitation of Article VII, section 2 of the state Constitution equal one percent of the assessed value established by the board;

(12) Paid on the basis of an assessed valuation which was adjudicated to be unlawful or excessive: PROVIDED, That the amount refunded shall be for the difference between the amount of tax which was paid on the basis of the valuation adjudged unlawful or excessive and the amount of tax payable on the basis of the assessed valuation determined as a result of the proceeding;

(13) Paid on property acquired under RCW 84.60.050, and canceled under RCW 84.60.050(2);

(14) Paid on the basis of an assessed valuation that was reduced under RCW 84.48.065;

(15) Paid on the basis of an assessed valuation that was reduced under RCW 84.40.039; or

(16) Abated under RCW 84.70.010.

No refunds under the provisions of this section shall be made because of any error in determining the valuation of property, except as authorized in subsections (9), (10), (11), and (12) of this section nor may any refunds be made if a bona fide purchaser has acquired rights that would preclude the assessment and collection of the refunded tax from the property that should properly have been charged with the tax. Any refunds made on delinquent taxes shall include the proportionate amount of interest and penalties paid. However, no refunds as a result of an incorrect payment authorized under subsection (8) of this section made by a third party payee shall be granted. The county treasurer may deduct from moneys collected for the benefit of the state's levy, refunds of the state levy including interest on the levy as provided by this section and chapter 84.68 RCW.

The county treasurer of each county shall make all refunds determined to be authorized by this section, and by the first Monday in February of each year, report to the county legislative authority a list of all refunds made under this section during the previous year. The list is to include the name of the person receiving the refund, the amount of the refund, and the reason for the refund. [2005 c 502 § 9; 2002 c 168 § 11; 1999 sp.s. c 8 § 2. Prior: 1998 c 306 § 2; 1997 c 393 § 18; 1996 c 296 § 2; 1994 c 301 § 55; 1991 c 245 § 31; 1989 c 378 § 17; 1981 c 228 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 291 § 21; 1974 ex.s. c 122 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 126 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 288 § 14; 1969 ex.s. c 224 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.020; prior: 1957 c 120 § 2.]

**Effective date—2005 c 502:** See note following RCW 1.12.070.

**Purpose—1974 ex.s. c 122:** "The legislature recognizes that the operation of the provisions of RCW 84.52.065 and 84.48.080, providing for adjustments in the county-determined assessed value of property for purposes of the state property tax for schools, may, with respect to certain properties, result in a total regular property tax payment in excess of the one percent limitation provided for in Article 7, section 2 (Amendment 59) of the state Constitution. The primary purpose of this 1974 amendatory act is to provide a procedure for administrative relief in such cases, such relief to be

(2012 Ed.)

in addition to the presently existing procedure for judicial relief through a refund action provided for in RCW 84.68.020." [1974 ex.s. c 122 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.69.030 Procedure to obtain order for refund.** No orders for a refund under this chapter shall be made except on a claim:

(1) Verified by the person who paid the tax, the person's guardian, executor or administrator; and

(2) Filed with the county treasurer within three years after the due date of the payment sought to be refunded; and

(3) Stating the statutory ground upon which the refund is claimed. [2009 c 350 § 9; 1991 c 245 § 32; 1989 c 378 § 32; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.030. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 3.]

**84.69.040 Refunds may include amounts paid to state, and county and taxing district taxes.** Refunds ordered by the county legislative authority may include:

(1) A portion of amounts paid to the state treasurer by the county treasurer as money belonging to the state; and also

(2) County taxes and taxes collected by county officers for taxing districts. [1991 c 245 § 33; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.040. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 4.]

**84.69.050 Refund with respect to amounts paid state.**

The part of the refund representing amounts paid to the state, including interest as provided in RCW 84.69.100, shall be paid from the county general fund and the department of revenue shall, upon the next succeeding settlement with the county, certify this amount refunded to the county: PROVIDED, That when a refund of tax funds pursuant to state levies is required, the department of revenue shall authorize adjustment procedures whereby counties may deduct from property tax remittances to the state the amount required to cover the state's portion of the refunds. [2003 c 23 § 6; 1988 c 222 § 31; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 5 § 1; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.050. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 5.]

**84.69.060 Refunds with respect to county, state, and taxing district taxes.** Refunds ordered under this chapter with respect to county, state, and taxing district taxes shall be paid by checks drawn upon the appropriate fund by the county treasurer: PROVIDED, That in making refunds on a levy code or tax code basis, the county treasurer may make an adjustment on the subsequent year's property tax payment due for the amount of the refund. [1991 c 245 § 34; 1989 c 378 § 18; 1988 c 222 § 32; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 5 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.060. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 6.]

**84.69.070 Refunds with respect to taxing districts—Administrative expenses—Disposition of funds upon expiration of refund orders.** Refunds ordered with respect to taxing districts, including interest as provided in RCW 84.69.100, shall be paid by checks drawn by the county treasurer upon such available funds, if any, as the taxing districts may have on deposit in the county treasury, or in the event such funds are insufficient, then out of funds subsequently accruing to such taxing district and on deposit in the county treasury. When such refunds are made as a result of taxes paid under levies or statutes adjudicated to be illegal or unconstitutional all administrative costs including interest

paid on the refunds incurred by the county treasurer in making such refunds shall be a charge against the funds of such districts and/or the state on a pro rata basis until the county current expense fund is fully reimbursed for the administrative expenses incurred in making such refund: PROVIDED, That whenever orders for refunds of ad valorem taxes promulgated by the county treasurer or county legislative authority and unpaid checks shall expire and become void as provided in RCW 84.69.110, then any moneys remaining in a refund account established by the county treasurer for any taxing district may be transferred by the county treasurer from such refund account to the county current expense fund to reimburse the county for the administrative expense incurred in making refunds as prescribed herein. Any excess then remaining in the taxing district refund account may then be transferred by the county treasurer to the current expense fund of the taxing district for which the tax was originally levied and collected. [2003 c 23 § 7; 1991 c 245 § 38; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 5 § 3; 1963 c 114 § 1; 1961 c 270 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.070. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 7.]

**84.69.080 Refunds with respect to taxing districts—Not to be paid from county funds.** Neither any county nor its officers shall refund amounts on behalf of a taxing district from county funds. [1961 c 15 § 84.69.080. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 8.]

**84.69.090 To whom refund may be paid.** The payment of refunds shall be made payable, at the election of the appropriate treasurer, to the taxpayer, his guardian, executor, or administrator or the owner of record of the property taxed, his guardian, executor, or administrator. [1961 c 15 § 84.69.090. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 9.]

**84.69.100 Refunds shall include interest—Written protests not required—Rate of interest.** Unless otherwise stated, refunds of taxes made pursuant to RCW 84.69.010 through 84.69.090 shall include interest from the date of collection of the portion refundable: PROVIDED, That refunds on a state, county, or district wide basis shall not commence to accrue interest until six months following the date of the final order of the court. No written protest by individual taxpayers need to be filed to receive a refund on a state, county, or district wide basis. The rate of interest shall be the equivalent coupon issue yield (as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System) of the average bill rate for twenty-six week treasury bills as determined at the first bill market auction conducted after June 30th of the calendar year preceding the date the taxes were paid. The department of revenue shall adopt this rate of interest by rule. [2002 c 168 § 12; 1997 c 67 § 1; 1989 c 14 § 6; 1987 c 319 § 1; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 5 § 4; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.100. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.69.110 Expiration date of refund orders.** Every order for refund of ad valorem taxes promulgated by the county treasurer or county legislative authority under authority of this chapter as hereafter amended shall expire and be void three years from the date of the order and all unpaid

checks shall become void. [1991 c 245 § 39; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.110. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 11.]

**84.69.120 Action on rejected claim—Time for commencement.** If the county treasurer rejects a claim or fails to act within six months from the date of filing of a claim for refund in whole or in part, the person who paid the taxes, the person's guardian, executor, or administrator may within one year after the date of the filing of the claim commence an action in the superior court against the county to recover the taxes which the county treasurer has refused to refund. [1991 c 245 § 40; 1989 c 378 § 33; 1981 c 228 § 2; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.120. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 12.]

**84.69.130 Claim prerequisite to action—Recovery limited to ground asserted.** No action shall be commenced or maintained under this chapter unless a claim for refund shall have been filed in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, and no recovery of taxes shall be allowed in any such action upon a ground not asserted in the claim for refund. [1961 c 15 § 84.69.130. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 13.]

**84.69.140 Interest shall be allowed on amount recovered.** In any action in which recovery of taxes is allowed by the court, the plaintiff is entitled to interest on the taxes for which recovery is allowed at the rate specified in RCW 84.69.100 from the date of collection of the tax to the date of entry of judgment, and such accrued interest shall be included in the judgment. [1989 c 378 § 34; 1988 c 222 § 33; 1961 c 15 § 84.69.140. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 14.]

**84.69.150 Refunds within sixty days.** Notwithstanding any other laws to the contrary, any taxes paid before or after delinquency may be refunded, without interest, by the county treasurer within sixty days after the date of payment if:

- (1) Paid more than once; or
- (2) The amount paid exceeds the amount due on the property as shown on the roll. [1961 c 15 § 84.69.150. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 15.]

**84.69.160 Chapter does not supersede existing law.** This chapter is enacted as a concurrent refund procedure and shall not be construed to displace or supersede any portion of the existing laws relating to refunding procedures. [1961 c 15 § 84.69.160. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 16.]

**84.69.170 Payment under protest not required.** The remedies herein provided shall be available regardless of whether the taxes in question were paid under protest. [1961 c 15 § 84.69.170. Prior: 1957 c 120 § 17.]

**84.69.180 Property tax authority for funding refunds and abatements.** Taxing districts other than the state may levy a tax upon all the taxable property within the district for the purpose of:

- (1) Funding refunds paid or to be paid under this chapter, except for refunds under RCW 84.69.020(1), including interest, as ordered by the county treasurer or county legislative authority within the preceding twelve months; and
- (2) Reimbursing the taxing district for taxes abated under RCW 84.70.010 within the preceding twelve months. This

subsection (2) only applies to abatements that do not require a refund under this chapter. Abatements that require a refund are included within the scope of subsection (1) of this section. [2009 c 350 § 10.]

**Application—2009 c 350 §§ 10 and 11:** "Sections 10 and 11 of this act apply retroactively to January 1, 2009, and apply to taxes levied under section 10 of this act for collection in 2010 and thereafter." [2009 c 350 § 12.]

**Chapter 84.70 RCW  
DESTROYED PROPERTY—  
ABATEMENT OR REFUND**

Sections

- 84.70.010 Reduction in value—Abatement—Formulas—Appeal.
- 84.70.040 Arson destroyed property.

**84.70.010 Reduction in value—Abatement—Formulas—Appeal.** (1) If, on or before December 31 in any calendar year, any real or personal property placed upon the assessment roll of that year is destroyed in whole or in part, or is in an area that has been declared a disaster area by the governor or the county legislative authority and has been reduced in value by more than twenty percent as a result of a natural disaster, the true and fair value of such property shall be reduced for that assessment year by an amount determined by taking the true and fair value of such taxable property before destruction or reduction in value and deduct therefrom the true and fair value of the remaining property after destruction or reduction in value.

(2) Taxes levied for collection in the year in which the true and fair value has been reduced under subsection (1) of this section shall be abated in whole or in part as provided in this subsection. The amount of taxes to be abated shall be determined by first multiplying the amount deducted from the true and fair value under subsection (1) of this section by the rate of levy applicable to the property in the tax year. Then divide the product by the number of days in the year and multiply the quotient by the number of days remaining in the calendar year after the date of the destruction or reduction in value of the property. If taxes abated under this section have been paid, the amount paid shall be refunded under RCW 84.69.020. The tax relief provided for in this section for the tax year in which the damage or destruction occurred does not apply to property damaged or destroyed voluntarily.

(3) No reduction in the true and fair value or abatements shall be made more than three years after the date of destruction or reduction in value.

(4) The assessor shall make such reduction on his or her own motion; however, the taxpayer may make application for reduction on forms prepared by the department and provided by the assessor. The assessor shall notify the taxpayer of the amount of reduction.

(5) If destroyed property is replaced prior to the valuation dates contained in RCW 36.21.080 and 36.21.090, the total taxable value for that assessment year shall not exceed the value as of the appropriate valuation date in RCW 36.21.080 or 36.21.090, whichever is appropriate.

(6) The taxpayer may appeal the amount of reduction to the county board of equalization in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.40.038. The board shall reconvene, if necessary, to hear the appeal. [2005 c 56 § 1; 2001 c 187 §

(2012 Ed.)

26; 1999 sp.s. c 8 § 1; 1997 c 3 § 126 (Referendum Bill No. 47, approved November 4, 1997); 1994 c 301 § 56; 1987 c 319 § 6; 1981 c 274 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 120 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 196 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** No proposed amendment to Article VII, section 1 of the state Constitution was submitted to the voters.

*Refund of property taxes: Chapter 84.69 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.70.040 Arson destroyed property.** No relief under this chapter shall be given to any person who is convicted of arson with regard to the property for which relief is sought. [1987 c 319 § 7; 1974 ex.s. c 196 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**Chapter 84.72 RCW  
FEDERAL PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES**

Sections

- 84.72.010 State treasurer authorized to receive in lieu payments—Department of revenue to apportion.
- 84.72.020 Basis of apportionment.
- 84.72.030 Certification of apportionment to state treasurer—Distribution to county treasurers.

**84.72.010 State treasurer authorized to receive in lieu payments—Department of revenue to apportion.** The state treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to receive any moneys that may be paid to the state by the United States or any agency thereof in lieu of ad valorem property taxes, and to transfer the same to the respective county treasurers in compliance with apportionments made by the state department of revenue; and the state treasurer shall immediately notify the department of revenue of the receipt of any such payment. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 211; 1961 c 15 § 84.72.010. Prior: 1941 c 199 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11337-15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.72.020 Basis of apportionment.** Any such moneys so paid to the state treasurer shall be apportioned to the state and to the taxing districts thereof that would be entitled to share in the property taxes in lieu of which such payments are made in the same proportion that the state and such taxing units would have shared in such property taxes if the same had been levied. The basis of apportionment shall be the same as that of property taxes first collectible in the year in which such lieu payment is made: PROVIDED, That if any such lieu payment cannot be so apportioned the apportionment shall be made on such basis as the department of revenue shall deem equitable and proper. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 212; 1961 c 15 § 84.72.020. Prior: 1941 c 199 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11337-16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**84.72.030 Certification of apportionment to state treasurer—Distribution to county treasurers.** The department of revenue may indicate either the exact apportionment to taxing units or it may direct in general terms that county treasurers shall apportion any such lieu payment in the manner provided in RCW 84.72.020. In either event the department of revenue shall certify to the state treasurer the basis of apportionment and the state treasurer shall thereupon forth-

with transmit any such lieu payment, together with a statement of the basis of apportionment, to the county treasurer in accordance with such certification. [1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 213; 1961 c 15 § 84.72.030. Prior: 1941 c 199 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11337-17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 84.98 RCW CONSTRUCTION

### Sections

84.98.010	Continuation of existing law.
84.98.020	Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.
84.98.030	Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.
84.98.040	Repeals and saving.
84.98.050	Emergency—1961 c 15.

**84.98.010 Continuation of existing law.** The provisions of this title insofar as they are substantially the same as statutory provisions repealed by this chapter, and relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations, and not as new enactments. [1961 c 15 § 84.98.010.]

**84.98.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.** Title headings, chapter headings, and section or subsection headings, as used in this title, do not constitute any part of the law. [1961 c 15 § 84.98.020.]

**84.98.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.** If any section, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word of this title for any reason shall be adjudged invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this title but shall be confined in its operation to the section, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. If any tax imposed under this title shall be adjudged invalid as to any person, corporation, association or class of persons, corporations or associations included within the scope of the general language of this title such invalidity shall not affect the liability of any person, corporation, association or class of persons, corporations or associations as to which such tax has not been adjudged invalid. It is hereby expressly declared that had any section, subdivision of a section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or any person, corporation, association or class of persons, corporations or associations as to which this title is declared invalid been eliminated from the title at the time the same was considered the title would have nevertheless been enacted with such portions eliminated. [1961 c 15 § 84.98.030.]

**84.98.040 Repeals and saving.** See 1961 c 15 § 84.98.040.

**84.98.050 Emergency—1961 c 15.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. [1961 c 15 § 84.98.050.]